



World Cup win gives hope to Japanese – and U.S. – Christians

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

MITO, Japan — Though she was rooting for the U.S. women's soccer team in the recent World Cup finals, Staci Maloney can't help but be happy for the victorious Japanese.

"It's good to have something positive to talk about with my coworkers," said Maloney, who teaches English in the Mito, Japan, school system with her husband, Daniel. "I think they deserve a win. They got hit pretty hard this year."



Maloney

On March 11, a magnitude 9.0 earthquake and tsunami claimed more than 15,000 lives. The Mito Church of Christ, which the Maloneys attend, has collected aid and sent relief teams to coastal towns devastated by the tsunami.

"There are plenty of reasons why we can give up in the world," said the church's minister, Atsushi Tsuneki.

Japan's team, a heavy underdog in the women's World Cup, also had reason to give up, "but they didn't," Tsuneki said. "That gives the whole nation hope."

SPECIAL REPORT FROM JAPAN

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Ministry in Mormon country

FOR CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN UTAH, reaching a state dominated by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints poses an immense challenge. But members remain 'strong in spirit' as they plant seeds of New Testament Christianity.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

SALT LAKE CITY

To Mormons, the Salt Lake Temple — a magnificent granite structure built in the 1800s — stands as a sacred icon and monument of pioneer faith.

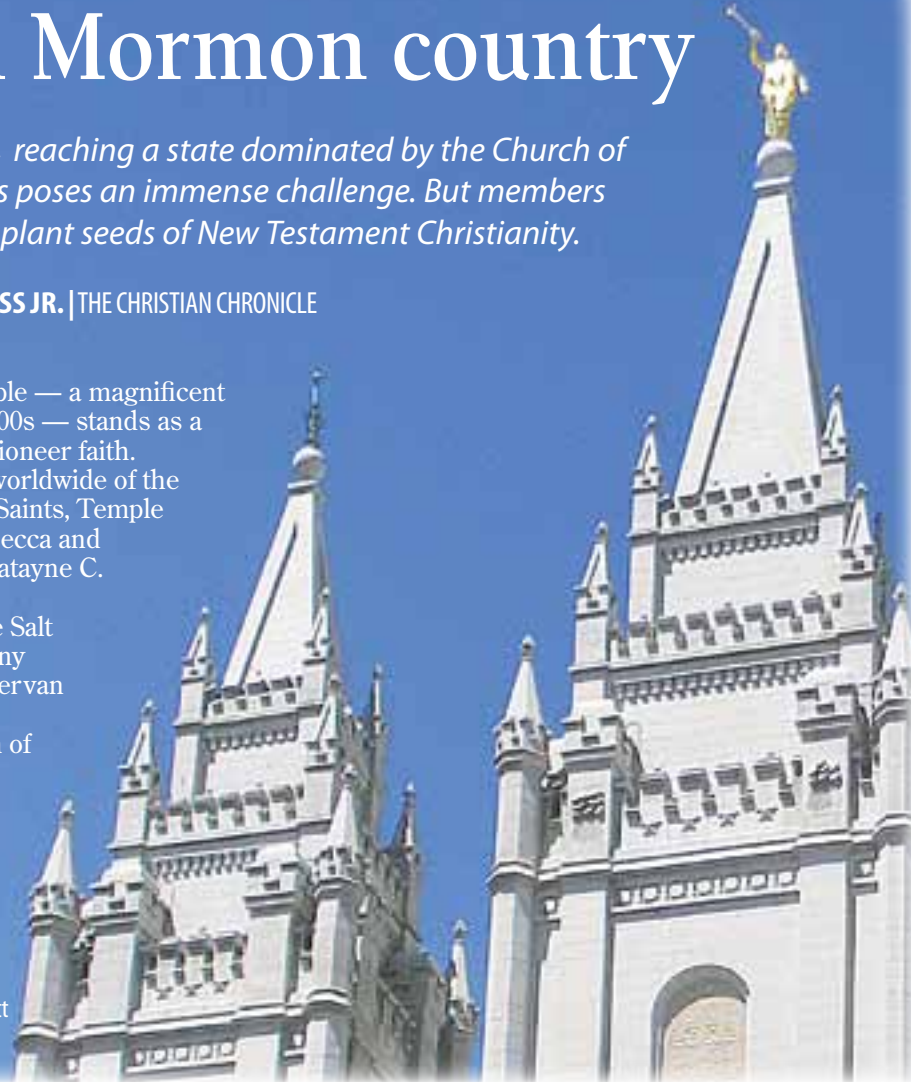
For the 14 million adherents worldwide of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Temple Square represents "Jerusalem and Mecca and Shangri-La all rolled into one," said Latayne C. Scott, a former Mormon.

"I myself wore a silver charm of the Salt Lake Temple around my neck for many years," said Scott, author of the Zondervan book "The Mormon Mirage" and a member of the Mountainside Church of Christ in Albuquerque, N.M.

On a recent morning, a dozen teenagers from Texas made their way to the center of Utah's capital city to tour the Mormon world headquarters. The teens' aim: familiarize

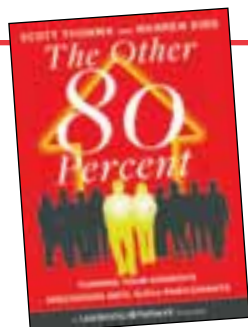
See **MORMON**, Page 12

INSIDE: Author and former Mormon Latayne C. Scott gives an insider's view of the faith. See Page 14.



BOBBY ROSS JR.

A statue of "Angel Moroni," a messenger whom Mormons believe appeared to Joseph Smith, can be seen atop the Salt Lake Temple.



Slackers at church?

Tips for involving more members in Lord's work. **30**



Summer splash

Fun and fellowship at a church camp in Tennessee. **6**



Hearts of service

Military veterans help bring clean water to Africa. **31**

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— Rogers Hornsby

Talk about an awesome time: A recent Friday night found me in the right-field bleachers at Safeco Field in Seattle, sipping Diet Coke from a souvenir cup and watching my favorite

Inside Story



Bobby Ross Jr.

team, the Texas Rangers, play the hometown Mariners. James A. Maxwell, minister of the Holgate Church of Christ in Seattle, invited me to the game while I was in town working on a story.

Maxwell, whom I first met at the National Lectureship in Philadelphia last year, sported a brand-new Mariners cap. His 12-year-old son, Brooks, chowed down ballpark garlic fries as we enjoyed America's favorite pastime.

With Seattle fans all around me, I wore a red Rangers shirt with All-Star outfielder Josh Hamilton's No. 32 on the back. I cheered politely — but not too loudly — for defending American League champion Texas. (My team won!)

I have mentioned before that I love God, my family and baseball — mostly in that order. My time with the *Chronicle* has provided amazing opportunities to embrace all three of those loves.

See **BASEBALL**, Page 4



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Anahi Cabral, right, and fellow youths from the San Elizario Iglesia de Cristo (Church of Christ) in El Paso, Texas, practice new praise songs at the National Youth Conference in Oklahoma City.

No translation required

LATINO YOUTHS in the U.S. worship in Spanish, are fluent in English and sometimes feel like they live between two worlds

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

OKLAHOMA CITY

More than 200 youths, from as far away as Las Vegas and San Diego, traveled to the heart of the U.S. to hear preachers talk about holiness and to sing songs of praise — all in Spanish.

In the hallways of the Oakcrest Church of Christ, the teens fellowshiped — and flirted — bilingually, floating in between Spanish and English.

The fourth "Reunion Nacional Juvenil" ("National Youth Conference") was designed to "preach the Gospel to the young people," said Felix Martinez, minister for the Southeast Church of Christ in Oklahoma



Martinez

City. The Spanish-speaking congregation hosted the event, using the facility of the Oakcrest congregation.

The conference, launched by a group of Spanish-speaking ministers in the U.S., is similar to youth events in Mexico, said Victorino Martinez, minister for a Church of Christ in Rogers, Ark. The minister grew up in Mexico and graduated from the Baxter Institute, a ministry training school, before moving to the U.S.

One goal of the conference is to show young, Spanish-speaking Christians who grow up in small congregations that they are part of a larger body of faith, Victorino Martinez said.

See **LATINO YOUTHS**, Page 22

INSIDE: Pepperdine University's Daniel A. Rodriguez presents models for reaching U.S.-born Latinos in "A Future for the Latino Church." See a review of the new book on Page 32.

Believers pray for victims and accused in Norway attacks

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

"No one is safe in Scandinavia anymore."

That's how Sigridur Hilmarsdottir described her reaction to twin attacks in Norway that claimed 76 lives.

"We are shocked, more than words can say, over these senseless, cold-blooded murders in our friends' country," said Hilmarsdottir, a member of a tiny Church of Christ in Reykjavik, Iceland. "We are grieved and praying fervently for God's mercy and comfort to the stricken."

In Norway, Christians also are praying for victims of the July 22 bombing in the capital, Oslo, and a shooting rampage at an island youth camp.

"This is a really sad and painful incident for the whole nation," said Colin Beharie, a church member in Sandnes, Norway.

Anders Behring Breivik, the man accused of the killings, also is the subject of prayers among Norwegian Christians, said Borgar Andersen, a church member in Bergen, Norway.

"We pray for the terrorist as well," he said, "that he will think over what he has done, repent and not sin anymore."

A handful of Churches of Christ meet in Norway, Andersen said. He and his wife, Sana, worship in homes with three other Christians.

In neighboring Sweden, Christians mourn for the victims of the attacks, said Gabrielle Nilsson Opoku, who worships with a small Church of Christ in Sweden's capital, Stockholm.

Many of the victims "probably never have heard the Gospel," she said, "and their chance will never come again."

"Therefore, we are pleading for missionaries ... to come to Sweden and other Scandinavian countries for the sake of the Gospel to be spread."



Andersen



Opoku

MISSIONS

Ramon Gonzalez defines the concept of Heritage Christian University missions. After participating in the HCU campaign program each semester as a part of his curriculum, he knew that he was capable of leading his own mission team. And he knew just where to take them. In 2009, he organized a team of HCU students to join him in his home country of Peru, where they conducted Bible studies and did outreach. Now, as an HCU alumnus and graduate student, he is planning a second trip. From being led to leading... that's the goal of the Christian Service and campaign programs. Ramon plans to return to Peru after graduation, but he will have left a legacy of leadership... and a dream in the hearts of other students. That's the type of missions experience you can expect from HCU. It's our focus.



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• **Questions about Mormonism?:** Pose questions for author and former Mormon Latayne C. Scott. Search for "Latayne" at www.christianchronicle.org/blog.

• **Japan:** See videos and additional photos from Erik Tryggestad's recent reporting trip.

• **Breaking news:** Don't wait to read all the latest news or check out exclusive online features. Sign up for e-mail news alerts. Contact tamie.ross@christianchronicle.org.

BASEBALL: Time at the ballpark hits a home run

FROM PAGE 3

In 2006, on the way to cover a church unity event in Louisville, Ky., my family and I made a detour to Great American Ball Park in Cincinnati. We witnessed Reds star Ken Griffey Jr.'s 550th career home run.

That same year, at Minute Maid Park in Houston, I interviewed Astros bench coach and future manager Cecil Cooper, a member of the Anderson Street Church of Christ in Sealy, Texas. Fellow baseball fanatic David Duncan, minister of the Memorial Church of Christ in Houston, came along as the photographer.

In 2008, before going to St. Louis to report on the Florissant Church of Christ, I was disappointed to discover that a Fourth of July game between the Cardinals and Chicago Cubs was sold out. But Terry Rush, minister of the Memorial Drive Church of Christ in Tulsa, Okla., and the world's most devoted Cardinals fan, tipped me off when a few tickets became available. My family and I witnessed Cardinals star Albert Pujols' 300th career home run.

That same year, my son Brady and I toured Fenway Park in Boston after attending a men's retreat at Gander Brook Christian Camp in Raymond, Maine. We didn't see an actual Red Sox game, but we explored the nooks and crannies of that historic ballpark.

In 2009, I traveled to New York to interview NBC anchor Lester Holt and report on the Northeastern Lectureship at the Apollo Theater. Brian Nicklaus, minister of the Echo Lake Church of Christ in Westfield, N.J., offered me a guest room at his house and helped me maneuver the subway system.

Most importantly (smile), he secured a church member's season tickets for a New York Mets game at Citi Field.

That same year, I tagged along with domestic missionary Wes Woodell and a group from the Lake Merced Church of Christ in San Francisco to see a Giants game at AT&T Park.

In 2010, while in Washington, D.C., for a professional meeting, I interviewed slugger Josh Willingham at Nationals Park. Willingham, a member of the Cross Point Church of Christ in Florence, Ala., introduced me to one of my all-time favorite players: future Hall of Fame catcher Ivan "Pudge" Rodriguez, a former longtime Rangers star.

That same spring, while at Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif., I drove to Angels Stadium in Anaheim and

interviewed Brad Ziegler, a relief pitcher for the visiting Oakland Athletics and a member of the East Grand Church of Christ in Springfield, Mo. Al Sturgeon, a former minister of the Ocean Springs Church of Christ in Mississippi who left to study law at Pepperdine, joined me. I first met Sturgeon in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Over the press-box buffet, we talked baseball and caught up on church and family happenings.

Just last month, you may have seen our story on the Future Preachers Training Camp sponsored by the Bear Valley Church of Christ in Denver. Would you believe that the Colorado Rockies were playing at home that weekend?

This may come as a shock, but I just could not resist buying a ticket.

CONTACT BOBBY ROSS JR. at bobby.ross@christianchronicle.org



Bobby Ross Jr., Brooks Maxwell and James A. Maxwell enjoy a game at Safeco Field in Seattle.

ARKANSAS

JONESBORO — A video on the Southwest Church of Christ's website aims to dispel a lot of the excuses people have for not coming to church.

"Church is for wimpy, girly men," says one of the excuses offered on the video.

"You want to say that again?" a bulky man with a husky voice replies.

The video touts the congregation as a place with room for one more hypocrite. To watch it, search for "girly men" at www.christianchronicle.org/blog.

PARAGOULD — The last time the Pine Knot Church of Christ canceled a Sunday worship service — for weather or otherwise?

Try *never*.

That's saying something, considering that the congregation — described by its leaders as the oldest Church of Christ west of the Mississippi River — began meeting in 1841.

The Pine Knot church recently hosted its annual homecoming and celebrated 170 years of worship, the *Paragould Daily Press* reported. Bill Drake serves as pulpit minister.

OKLAHOMA

IDABEL — "Sound preaching and hard work still pay off," says J.J. Hendrix, preacher for the Lynn Lane Church of Christ. Hendrix reports 11 baptisms and four restorations so far in 2011. Members are "just working hard to reach out and study."

OREGON

EUGENE — The Eugene Church of Christ provides emergency clothing and personal items to children removed from their homes by state protective services.

Started in 1995, the ministry is called "Kare-n-Bear." The name derives from the handsewn stuffed bears included in kits that also contain pajamas, socks, underwear or diapers, combs, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste and other items.

TENNESSEE

KNOXVILLE — A standing-room-only crowd packed the Laurel Church of Christ as loved ones paid tribute to an Army National Guard pilot killed in a Tennessee helicopter crash July 9.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Daniel Cole, 41, was laid to rest July 15 at Tennessee Veterans Cemetery.

He and 1st Lt. Thomas Joseph



ROD DOLLINS

Missouri youths 'step up' for God at VBS

Those aren't St. Louis Cardinals jerseys. They're matching red T-shirts for the fifth annual Vacation Bible School at the Fairgrounds Road Church of Christ in Troy, Mo. The VBS theme, "Step Up to the Plate for God," created a ballpark-like atmosphere inside the church's auditorium, deacon of education Rod Dollins said. The recent event drew 429 people over three days. "That's amazing, considering the Fairground church averages 80 for Sunday worship services," Dollins said.

Williams Jr., 26, were killed when their chopper went down near Exit 141 on Interstate 75.



Cole

The crash's cause is under investigation.

NASHVILLE — Minister Jim Olive and his wife, Beth, have served the Jackson Park Church of Christ for 40 years.

The congregation marked the milestone with a recent monthlong series of events, concluding with a celebration dinner.

Church elders plan to establish an endowed scholarship in the couple's

honor at Lipscomb University.

Jim Olive began work with the congregation as educational director in 1971. When preacher Joe Sanders retired the following year, Olive assumed the pulpit minister duties.

TEXAS

BURLESON — Construction is progressing on a new, \$6.2 million building for the Burleson Church of Christ.

The 51,000-square-foot facility will feature a 1,373-seat auditorium as well as classroom and fellowship space.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JACKSON PARK CHURCH

Jim and Beth Olive mark 40 years of service.

SPOTLIGHT

Freedom ramps

MT. VERNON, Mo. — Some people who rely on wheelchairs to get around are "absolutely prisoners in their own house" because they don't have a ramp, Wade Atkeson says.

Atkeson, a member of the Mt. Vernon Church of Christ, offers freedom.

He coordinates a volunteer effort by church men to build wheelchair ramps for those who need them, the *Lawrence County Record* reported. "We were looking for something that the men could do together that would also help the community and those who really need it," Atkeson told the *Record*.

Linda Gregersen, wife of minister David Gregersen, told *The Christian Chronicle* the effort has opened doors for evangelism.



RALPH MCCLURG

Members of the church construction team.

More than 40 years old, the current building has reached capacity, crowding classrooms and the parking lot.

Average Sunday attendance tops 850.

"We see this new building as more than concrete and pews," said Don Kuhn, children's minister of 35 years. "Our vision through the entire project is to use this building for activities and ministries that would connect the community with Jesus."

WEST VIRGINIA

PARKERSBURG — About 450 students and other volunteers traveled throughout the valley to paint homes for needy residents.

Sponsored by Churches of Christ, the recent 13th annual Mid-Ohio Work Camp brought together teenagers focused on helping residents who could not do the work themselves.

Happy campers

For 45 summers, young people from across Tennessee and Kentucky have come together for worship, Bible study, games, swimming and other activities at Lylewood Christian Camp. The camp is perched on a hill overlooking the Cumberland River in Middle Tennessee, south of the Kentucky state line. It's supported by Churches of Christ. For more information, see www.lylewood.org.

PHOTOS BY SCOTT RAWLINS



In an exercise of trust, a camper runs through a gauntlet of chopping arms at Lylewood Christian Camp in Tennessee. Each person moves his or her arms as the runner progresses through the two lines so that he is never touched, camp board member Scott Rawlins said.



Aaron Johnson baptizes Elliot Smith in the swimming pool at Lylewood Christian Camp.



Middle school campers and staff members pose in the shape of a cross at Lylewood.



Austin Kilcullen, Ben Mimms and Robert Huffman play and cool down in the mud after a thunderstorm. It rained all day, so campers made their own fun in the volleyball area.



Peyton Lewis listens intently during a Bible class at Lylewood Christian Camp.

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- I Am The Vine
- Ready To Suffer
- Just As I Am
- My Jesus I Love Thee
- Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind
- Lord, We Come Before Thee Now
- I'm In The Glory Land Way
- Sun Of My Soul
- God Is Calling The Prodigal
- The Church's One Foundation
- Have Thine Own Way Lord
- I Love Thy Kingdom Lord
- Purer In Heart Oh God
- Near To The Heart Of God
- Who Will Follow Jesus?
- Sweeter As The Years Go By



"THERE'S A FOUNTAIN FREE"

- I Need Thee Every Hour
- Softly And Tenderly
- He Leadeth Me
- There's A Great Day Coming
- Be With Me Lord
- The Old Rugged Cross
- Let Him Have His Way With Thee
- Will You Not Tell It Today?
- If I Walk In The Path Way of Duty
- Blest Be The Tie That Binds
- There's A Fountain Free
- We Shall See The King Someday
- Have Thine Own Way
- I Want To Be A Worker For The Lord
- Never Grow Old
- Are You Coming To Jesus Tonight?
- I Can Hear My Savior Calling
- Were You There?
- Why Not Tonight?
- Trust And Obey

"WHO AT THE DOOR IS STANDING"

- No Not One
- The Great Physician
- Jesus I Come
- The Sands Of Time Are Sinking
- Voices Are Calling
- Lord I Commit My Life To Thee
- Safe In The Harbor
- Sunrise In Glory
- O God, Our Help In Ages Past
- Eternal Father Strong To Save
- My God And I
- Who At The Door Is Standing?
- Give Me The Bible
- Be Still My Soul
- There's Something About That Name
- Alleluia
- Almost Persuaded
- Nearer Still Nearer
- Sweet, Sweet Spirit
- Each Step I Take
- The Lord Bless You and Keep You



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- When We Meet In Sweet Communion
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- In Heavenly Love Abiding
- The Last Mile Of The Way
- Wonderful Story Of Love
- Does Jesus Care?
- Careless Soul
- Jesus Savior Pilot Me
- Count Your Blessings
- What Will Your Answer Be?
- Tarry With Me
- True Hearted, Whole Hearted
- Yield Not To Temptation
- My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less
- Beneath The Cross Of Jesus
- Must Jesus Bear The Cross Alone?
- Nearer My God To Thee
- One Day
- When My Love To Christ Grows Weak
- Abide With Me



"HE LIFTED ME"

- Sweet Hour Of Prayer
- There Is A Place Of Quiet Rest
- Showers Of Blessing
- Sweet Will Of God
- I Gave My Life For Thee
- Day Is Dying In The West
- He Lifted Me
- Work For The Night Is Coming
- I Am Resolved
- Wonderful Love Of Jesus
- Far And Near
- More About Jesus
- I Know The Lord Will
- Make A Way For Me
- Beauty For Ashes
- What A Friend We Have In Jesus
- Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah
- Hark The Gentle Voice Of Jesus Falleth
- There's A Stranger At The Door
- Tho' The Way We Journey
- God Be With You Till We Meet Again

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- I Sing Praises To Your Name
- My Tribute (To God Be The Glory)
- We Shall Rise
- In Moments Like These
- The Greatest Commands
- Rejoice In The Lord Always
- Spirit Of The Living God
- How Majestic Is Your Name
- Jesus Is Lord (Interlude)
- He
- Come Into His Presence
- Highest Place
- Yes, I'll Live In Glory
- Adoration (Worship The Lord)
- Lord, Be There
- We Shall Assemble
- His Name Is Life
- Poured Out Like Wine
- Come Share The Lord
- Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus
- Holy, Holy, Holy Is The Lord Of Host
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- Majesty
- Sweet, Sweet Spirit
- God's Family
- We Have Come Into His House
- Hear, O Israel
- A Wonderful Savior (Boyd)



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- Jesus Is Tenderly Calling
- Jesus, Keep Me Near The Cross
- Pass Me Not!
- Praise Him! Praise Him!
- Rescue The Perishing
- Safe In The Arms Of Jesus
- Savior, More Than Life To Me
- Some Day The Silver Cord Will Break
- Take The World, But Give Me Jesus
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- Though Your Sins Be As Scarlet
- 'Tis the Blessed Hour Of Prayer
- To The Work
- When Jesus Comes

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- Speed Away
- To God Be The Glory
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- Meet Me There
- Nearer The Cross
- One Blessed Hour With Jesus
- Redeemed
- The Lord In Zion Reigneth
- Give Me Jesus
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- Unsearchable Riches
- Welcome For Me
- The Half I Cannot Tell



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- He Is Lord
- Bind Us Together
- Worthy Is The Lamb
- Jesus Name Above All Names
- Humble Yourself
- Sing, Amen
- Love, Love, Love, Love
- Teach Me Lord
- The Greatest Commands
- A Common Love
- Open My Eyes
- Praise God
- I Will Call Upon The Lord
- Sing Hallelujah To The Lord
- The Steadfast Love Of The Lord
- I Want Jesus To Walk With Me
- Soon And Very Soon
- I Want To Know Christ
- Were You There
- Hear, O Israel
- There Is A Balm In Gilead
- Poured Out Like Wine
- Thank You Lord
- He Paid A Debt He Did Not Owe
- Sing, Amen

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BENIN

ZINVIÉ — Fifteen Christians from the U.S. and native church members conducted a two-day youth seminar in this West African nation. About 250 youths attended the seminar on a satellite campus of the Benin Bible Training Center, minister George Akpabli said.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Emmanuel Sanogo holds his "Most Motivated Student" award in Benin.

a 70-year-old retired military officer who was named "Most Motivated Student."

The mission team also hosted a workshop for the Nukafu Church of Christ in neighboring Togo, attended by more than 200 people, Akpabli said. The team also participated in a graduation ceremony at the Benin Bible Training Center.

Fifteen students graduated, including Emmanuel Sanogo,

CHINA

CHENGDU — Believers from Russia, China and the U.S. conducted a retreat for people of the Sichuan province, which suffered a devastating earthquake in 2008.

About 35 people attended the retreat, said Gary Jackson, a church member who lives in Beijing. Two members of a Church of Christ in Moscow conducted lessons, translated from Russian to Chinese. One young man asked to be immersed, Jackson said.

"This event made a powerful impact on the teenage men," Jackson said. "There were a number of good questions from them about becoming Christians."

INDIA

VUNDESWARAPURAM — Church members hosted an "eye camp" for people in this rural village of south-eastern India. About 140 people came to the camp for testing, said Ricky Gootam, a minister in Kakinada. Twenty patients received eyeglasses, and 40 were referred for surgery.

**Gootam**

Medical professionals from the city of Pitapuram conducted the eye tests. Five church members



PHOTO PROVIDED

Despite financial crisis, 'there is hope for Croatia'

Nineteen-year-old Mario Kocet celebrates after his baptism in Varazdin, Croatia. At right is minister Mladen Dominic. The Church of Christ in Varazdin recently had more than 50 people in attendance for Sunday worship, the minister said, adding that the church is outgrowing its facility.

Churches of Christ in the Central European nation hosted an annual conference recently. A Croatian TV station covered the event, focusing on the churches' efforts to help the unemployed, impoverished and elderly as the country suffers — along with much of Europe — through a prolonged recession. "Those who belong to the Churches of Christ in Croatia are aware of the responsibilities of the times and community in which they live," the report says. "They believe that there is hope for Croatia and a way out of the financial crisis. What's most important is to find faith in Jesus Christ."

SEE THE REPORT at www.christianchronicle.org/blog

from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Okla., also attended and sang for the patients.

PERU

LIMA — About 200 people attended the first annual "Gran Fiesta" — featuring inflatable air castles, soccer games and lots of free food — hosted by church members in this South American capital.

The event was the culmination of a "season of outreach" by the Mission Lima church-planting team, said team member John Mark Davidson. Now the team enters a "season of discipleship," with the goal of establishing "mission-minded communities of faith in Lima," supported and led by Peruvians, Davidson said.

Peruvian Christians took lead roles in organizing the fiesta, Davidson added, with help from a team of Aggies for Christ, the campus ministry of the A&M Church of Christ in College Station, Texas.

SOUTH SUDAN

KONGOR — When John Gak sees a Christian school in his hometown, "I will be dancing," he told a TV reporter.

Gak, a who grew up in this East African village, is a member of the Swope Parkway Church of Christ in Kansas City, Mo., and founder of Brother's Organization for

**Gak****SPOTLIGHT****Angola at last**

LUANDA, Angola — Nine years ago, this southern African nation declared peace after a 27-year civil war that claimed more than 300,000 lives.

That same year, a small group of Christians started making plans to move to the impoverished nation and work with local Christians to plant churches and share God's love with those who suffer.

Now, after nearly six years of language training in Portugal and multiple rounds of visa applications, the Angola mission team has begun its migration to Africa. The team plans to work in the city of Huambo.

**Yarbrough**

"After months of waiting and wondering why, we are finally going to Angola," said team member Jordan Yarbrough, referring to the frustrating wait for visas. Accompanying Yarbrough to Angola are Nathan Holland, Robert and Teague Meyer (with children Efesson and Biruk), and Danny and Katie Reese (with children Eliana and Sophia). Rusty and Laura Campbell (with children Alex and Stephen) plan to join the team after the birth of their third child in Portugal.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, see www.angolateam.org

Relief, a nonprofit that helps the people of South Sudan, which became a sovereign nation on July 9.

A Kansas City TV station followed Gak on a recent visit to Kongor, where he is building a Christian school. To see videos from the trip and for more information, see www.swopeparkway.org/gak.

SINGAPORE

Church members from China, Singapore, Malaysia and Taiwan gathered for the sixth Chinese Asia Bible Lectureship, hosted by the Jurong Church of Christ in Singapore.

John Yo, minister for the Taichung Church of Christ in Taiwan, was a featured speaker.

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Charles Cook - ccook00@gmail.com or call 806/401-6910
 Sunset Office - 806/788-3241
<http://www.sibi.cc>



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"How to Effectively Teach God's Word"

Ray Young (Tuesdays, January - March, 2012)

"The Christian Home, Marriage, Family"

Doyle Gilliam (Thursdays, January - March, 2012)

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HELMUT GARCIA

Children search the Scriptures in Peru

Children line the pews with Bibles and notebooks at the Montecarlo Church of Christ in Lima, Peru. The church celebrated its 12th anniversary recently, minister Helmut Garcia said, and joined with other congregations to mark 50 years of Churches of Christ in Peru.

Longtime missionary nurse Avril Keoughan dies in Ghana after fall

KUMASI, Ghana — In 1990, Avril Keoughan resigned from the hospital in Hamilton, Ontario, where she had worked as a nurse for 20 years. She gave away most of her belongings and moved to Africa.

For more than two decades, Keoughan served at the Church of Christ Mission Clinic in Kumasi, Ghana. She taught health care clinics in rural communities throughout the country.

Keoughan traveled to the northern Ghanaian city of Tamale, where she taught about health in a Bible school. On June 27, she fell in the shower and died shortly after she was taken to a hospital. She was 62.

Born in the British Channel Islands, Keoughan grew up in Canada and attended the West Hamilton Church of Christ in Ontario. There she met missionary Ralph Perry, who told her about the needs in Africa. Though she never had participated in a mission trip before, she decided to move to Ghana.

"Avril enjoyed teaching many students — especially preachers at Ghana Bible College — to practice primary health care so that they could minister to the sick where they were preaching," said



WWW.IHCF.NET

Avril Keoughan examines a child in Ghana.

Glenn Boyd, director of International Health Care Foundation, a Searcy, Ark.-based ministry that sponsors medical missions in Africa. Keoughan worked for the foundation for 15 of the past 20 years, Boyd said. The College Church of Christ in Searcy supported Keoughan.

Her sister, Cheryl Nieuwold, said that Keoughan "not only loved the land but especially loved the people of Ghana." In keeping with Keoughan's wishes, the Christian nurse was buried in Ghana.

MEMORIAL GIFTS may be sent to IHCF/African Christian Hospitals. See www.ihcf.net.

THE SEARCH FOR OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY'S 6TH PRESIDENT

A call for nominations and candidates for the presidency of Oklahoma Christian University is extended by a presidential search committee on behalf of the Board of Trustees. Oklahoma Christian's sixth president will articulate and exemplify the mission, convictions, and accomplishments of the university. A prospectus is located at www.oc.edu/presidentialsearch.

Presidential leadership will impact the following broad contexts for the compelling promotion of OC and its mission to internal and external constituencies. The President will lead by:

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- Sharing the OC story in ways that encourage and win financial support for the university's growing endowment;
- Championing academic excellence where it already flourishes at OC and nurturing it across all the university's liberal arts, sciences, and professional programs for both undergraduate and graduate degrees;
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- Strengthening our unity by exemplifying the character, identity, history, and future of the university and its community.

To assist in gathering nominations, candidates, and dossiers, the OC Board of Trustees has authorized a Search Committee composed of representatives selected by its constituencies, including alumni, board members, faculty, staff, and students.

Applications will be received until the position is filled, but to assure full consideration, applicants must have all required materials on file by Sept. 30, 2011.

Nominations and Letters of Interest should be directed to:

Presidential Search Committee
Oklahoma Christian University
PO Box 11000
Oklahoma City, OK 73136
presidentialsearch@oc.edu



Dr. L.R. Wilson



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OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

MORMONS: Conversion efforts difficult, time-consuming



BOBBY ROSS JR.

A Mormon wedding party assembles outside the Salt Lake Temple. Mormons believe that a temple wedding seals a marriage to last for eternity.



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Randy Clay serves as minister of the Southside Church of Christ in Salt Lake City. Clay holds degrees from Harding University in Searcy, Ark., and Abilene Christian University in Texas.

FROM PAGE 1

themselves with the region's predominant religion before starting a week-long mission trip here.

The youth group came from the 1,200-member Sunset Church of Christ in Lubbock — a West Texas congregation with more members than all the Churches of Christ in Utah combined.

"I wanted the Texas kids to get a perspective" on Mormon life, said Mike Wiist, minister of the Murray Park Church of Christ, a 100-member congregation just south of Salt Lake City that hosted the group.

Mormons believe God gave additional Scriptures beyond the Bible to a self-styled prophet named Joseph Smith in the 19th century. These writings claim Jesus Christ visited the Americas, reject traditional Christian understandings of the trinity and original sin and admonish followers to avoid alcohol and caffeine.

"I guess, if you're just looking at it from a distance, people might say, 'Oh, I can't believe people believe that. It's ridiculous,'" Wiist said. "But to see people who are really passionate about what they believe, to see real people behind the beliefs, real hearts, real faces — maybe the group can take that perspective with them."

The teens were joined by adult spon-

sors and four short-term missionaries to Salt Lake City: Beth Horn, her brother Dustin Horn, Jacob Norwood and Glenna Schultz, all serving through Sunset International Bible Institute's Adventures in Missions program, known as AIM.

"Mormonism is in my roots, so I really wanted to come be a part of it," said Sunset member Laura Collier, who joined her daughter, Rhonda, 17, on the trip.

Laura Collier grew up in Wyoming and was baptized as a Mormon at age 8. Ironically, a Bible study as part of a Mormon before-school program prompted her search for the truth.

"We came across the Scripture about how you're not married in heaven or given in marriage ... and I knew that didn't agree with what Mormons



SALT LAKE CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

The Salt Lake Temple can be seen amid other tall buildings in the capital city's downtown.

believed," said Collier, whose questions led to her conversion at age 18.

FREEDOM IN CHRIST, FOR MORMONS

After touring Temple Square, the Texas teens painted, sorted canned goods and cleaned floors at a Volunteers of America homeless outreach center downtown.

The rest of the week, they focused on evangelistic outreach, service projects and a Vacation Bible School for the Murray Park neighborhood. The youth group distributed 1,000 "gospel cards" with information about the church and talked to a number of people, Sunset youth minister Justin Cardwell said.

"Our conversations with Mormons were quite pleasant, but immediate fruit was few and far between," said Cardwell, noting that the campaign did not result in any baptisms. "We viewed our work as seed-sowing, with prayers that long-term ministries will lead to freedom for them."

The Sunset group's experience epitomizes that of Churches of Christ in Utah, where the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints maintains a dominating presence. Christians occasionally convert Mormons but only after months or years of study and relationship, church leaders said.

"We don't go out and try to convert

Mormons," said Jeff Oliverson, an elder with the Southside Church of Christ in Salt Lake City, the state's largest congregation with 300 members. "I don't want to hit anyone over the head with the Bible. I think they have to reach the point where they want to start asking questions."

Oliverson speaks from personal experience: He's a descendant of one of Joseph Smith's wives and grew up Mormon. His parents, two sisters and a brother remain Latter-day Saints.

While his family hasn't excluded or blackballed him, that's not the experience for every Mormon who converts, he said.

In Oliverson's case, he sought answers in the Bible when the Book of Mormon failed to satisfy his questions.

"The truth has set me free," he said.

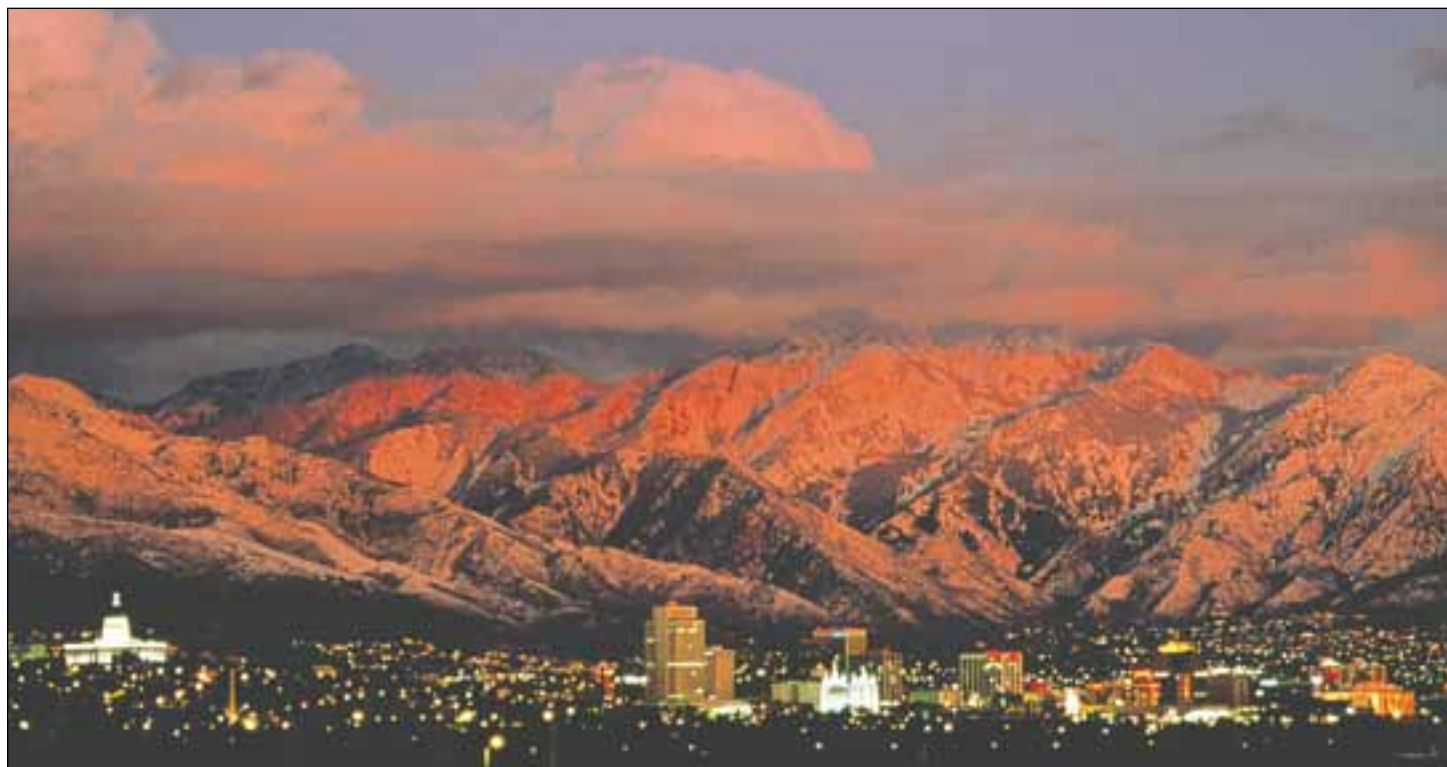
CHURCH STRONG IN FAITH, NOT IN NUMBERS

Mormons comprise roughly 60 percent of Utah's 2.8 million residents.

By contrast, fewer than 1,200 souls make up Utah's 19 a cappella Churches of Christ, according to the 2009 edition of *Churches of Christ in the United States*.

"The group that meets here is small in number but strong in spirit and faithful to the Lord," said Gerald R. Molzahn, who works with the Brigham City Church of Christ, 50 miles north of Salt Lake City.

The church, in a community named



SALT LAKE CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

With the mountains as a backdrop, the night lights illuminate the skyline of Salt Lake City, Utah's capital city and the home of the world headquarters of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, also known as the Mormon Church.

after 19th-century Mormon leader Brigham Young, averages Sunday attendance between 12 and 20.

In southeastern Utah, Martin and Julie Johnson serve with the Moab Church of Christ, which has a membership in the 20s. The closest sister congregation is 100 miles away, said Martin Johnson, a graduate of Sunset and Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn.

"We have members who have never seen another Church of Christ, never been to a lectureship, never been to a gospel meeting at another congregation. We're trying to change that," said Johnson, who organized a trip to the Tahoe Family Encampment in California and plans to take members to the Bear Valley Lectures in Colorado.

South of Salt Lake City, about 40 people worship with the Mid Valley Church of Christ in Sandy. Members include a Liberian refugee family and a number of people in their 70s and older.

The church's small size contributes to its close-knit family atmosphere, said Donna Moore, a longtime member along with her husband, Michael.



Moore

"I think that's part of the uniqueness," she said. "Your church family is your family because most of us are transplants."

LIFE IN A MORMON CULTURE

Thirty years ago, a new Christian named David Hurley graduated from medical school and moved to Utah for an internship. The pediatrician never left.

One of the Murray Park church's two elders, Hurley said he appreciates the positive aspects of Mormon culture.

Often, he said, an out-of-state visitor will remark in a Bible class or church fellowship, "It must be hard here with all these Mormons." Inevitably, Hurley groans, knowing that — typically — a Mormon or two is in the audience.

"Mormons are good people," Hurley said. "It's a good place to live. The crime rate's low. Family is valued. Education is valued. There are a lot of good things about having Mormon neighbors."

The best time to share Christ, in Hurley's view, is not when someone is comfortable in his current situation but when that person is hurt or confused.

"That's the time to let them know that Jesus is the answer," he said.

Murray Park members teach a Tuesday night Bible study at a drug rehabilitation center. Every other Sunday afternoon, a church group goes to the

center and sings with the residents.

"These are people, mostly drug addicts, abused women, who have no place to go," Hurley said.

To distinguish themselves from the young Mormon missionaries so prevalent in Salt Lake City, the AIM missionaries avoid white dress shirts (for the guys) and skirts (for the girls).

Dustin Horn, 20, said he has discovered that most residents are either Mormons who would be ostracized by family if they gave up their faith or non-Mormons so tired of proselytizing efforts that they won't open their doors.

The Horns and Schultz volunteer at a therapeutic clinic where children with physical and mental disabilities ride horses. That experience has opened the door to friendships with other volun-



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Jacob Norwood, Beth Horn, Glenna Schultz and Dustin Horn visit Temple Square.



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Sunset youth group member Marshall Dixon sorts canned goods at a homeless center.

teers — many of them Mormons.

Still, persuading those friends to delve deeper into matters of faith has proven difficult. "You can't really reason with them. You can't really convert them," Dustin Horn said. "You have to become friends with them and live your life in a way that makes them ask questions."

Randy Clay, Southside's minister for 18 years, said the church preaches a simple message of salvation through Jesus and emphasizes the necessity of baptism.

At the same time, the congregation works with believers outside Churches of Christ whenever possible, he said.

"When you're up against it and know that there's a small band on your side, you band together," Clay said.

However, that plea for Christian unity does not extend to Mormons.

"If you know much about LDS theology, they're as wrong as wrong can be," he said. "Now, they're good people. I think a lot of them are sincere, as we are. But it's just not a Christian church."

Clay lived about three minutes from Southside's old building.

On his short drive to worship, he'd pass 12 Mormon congregations, he said.

"Every corner, you see it," he said. "So constantly, I'm reminded that I'm in a state that needs the grace and truth of Jesus Christ."

A conversation with Latayne C. Scott

CHRISTIAN AUTHOR AND SPEAKER gives an insider's view of Mormonism and life in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Latayne C. Scott thought she'd convert her future husband to Mormonism.

Instead, he introduced her to New Testament Christianity.

"It was the grace and mercy of God: nothing I wanted and certainly nothing I deserved," she said of leaving behind the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The former Mormon brings a unique perspective to her writings, which include her book "The Mormon Mirage," published 32 years ago by Zondervan and now in its 20th printing. In all, she's the author of 15 books and more than 1,000 secular and religious magazine articles, book reviews, poems and other short pieces of fiction and nonfiction.

In 1990, Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif., honored her with the Distinguished Christian Service Award for her writing. She blogs regularly at Latayne.com (on Mormonism and writing), at Novelmatters.com and SheReads.com (Christian fiction) and at RepresentationalResearch.com and RStudies.wordpress.com (theology and Bible studies).

A frequent speaker at Christian university lectureships and other church events, Scott earned a Ph.D. in biblical studies from Trinity Southwest University. She and her husband, Dan Scott, an elder at the Mountainside Church of Christ in Albuquerque, N.M., have two adult children and three grandchildren.

What was it like growing up as a Mormon?

I was baptized into Mormonism at age 11 after missionaries came to our home. It was thrilling to learn about the history of Native Americans who were descendants of ancient Jews and that people who never heard of Mormonism could

have proxy baptisms done for them after death. (I was later baptized 45 times in Mormon temples on behalf of deceased persons.) I loved living the health laws and lifestyle of the Mormon Church, loved its scriptures, loved its doctrines and explanations, loved its god.

What were the circumstances of your conversion to New Testament Christianity?

I lacked just over a semester to graduate from Brigham Young University and came home to Albuquerque for the summer break. I met a young man, Dan Scott, a member of the Church of Christ, and believed I could convert him to Mormonism as I had others.

He didn't know much about Mormonism, but his minister, Lon Elkins, and Dan's brother-in-law, a minister named Charles Williamson, gave me books that assessed Mormonism, but which balanced accurate and probing criticisms with kindness of approach.

What I learned about the history and archaeology of Mormonism — things not taught to me at BYU — devastated me. It broke my heart. Dan and the people of the Pennsylvania Street Church of Christ (now named Mountainside) loved me and accepted me, but it took me over 10 years to begin to recover. There is no loss like the loss of a beloved god; no betrayal so deep.

What prompted you to research and write about Mormons, and what have you learned through that process?

God did it. I never thought to write a book about Mormonism until a Christian author and her publisher asked me to do so. That book, "The Mormon



Latayne C. Scott

Mirage," is now an audiobook and an extended-text e-book as well.

However, I came to realize that not everyone can process all the information in such a highly documented book. For that reason, I wrote a novel, "Latter-day Cipher" (published by Moody), which describes, almost as a parable, the lifestyle of 21st century Mormonism and the cost of finding out its false claims.

Interwoven into the action of the book are details about Mormonism's doctrines and practices. In addition, there are hundreds of informational links and a section called "365 Reasons Why I Won't Return to Mormonism" on my website, Latayne.com.

'I like to say that everything that is truly good about Mormonism is Christian ... and you don't need all the "extras" that Mormonism tacks on.'

Latayne C. Scott

Do you believe you can become a god or goddess? Do you believe that the Bible is so flawed and in error that it gives Satan power over people who read and believe it? Do you believe that Jesus didn't keep his promise to protect his church against the gates of hell?

When I was a Mormon, I would have heartily said "yes" to each of those questions. (Well, maybe not the last one — I never thought through that a total 1,700-year apostasy implied that.) Furthermore, Mormons use the same terms that Christians do, such as "God," "salvation" and "seminary," but they mean very different things. It makes

communication with a Mormon difficult because it can seem that we are agreeing, saying the same thing, when we have different definitions of the same terms.

Mormons seem to be role models in many ways. Could we in Churches of Christ learn from them?

I like to say that everything that is truly good about Mormonism is Christian — scripture study, missionary work, emphasis on family and loyalty to your God — and you don't need all the "extras" that Mormonism tacks on.

When I became a Christian, the membership numbers of the LDS Church and the Churches of Christ were just about equal. I'd like to say we have "held our own," but the LDS church has more than doubled. However, they are beginning to lose members in droves because people are learning the truth, mainly via the Internet, about Mormonism.

We don't have such "secrets," but the Bible itself has become our unread secret. Whereas the Body of Christ with which I united myself in 1979 had a well-deserved reputation for deep and extensive Bible knowledge, I observe that the average member of the Church of Christ no longer has that devotion to Bible knowledge and understanding. I was determined that this would not be the case with my own children.

What advice would you give to a fellow Christian interested in evangelizing a Mormon friend, neighbor or relative?

When I was a Mormon, I believed all Christians were secretly unhappy, yearning unknowingly for the completion that Mormonism could bring them. (This seemed to be affirmed every time I knocked doors and a Christian slammed the door or insulted me.) So my first advice is to be proactive in sharing the joy you have in the Lord and your sense of satisfaction with the Bible — emphasizing that you don't need anything beyond that. If those young men knocking doors in your community met that response repeatedly from Christians, they would be amazed.

Of course, that implies you are at peace with God and are intimately familiar with the Bible — which is the mind of God in written form — and have confidence that it does indeed provide what you need for life and godliness.



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PHOTOS BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Four months after the March 11 earthquake and tsunami, cleanup continues in Shizugawa, near Minamisanriku, Japan. About 1,700 of the area's 17,000 residents died.

‘God, why did you do this?’

JAPANESE CHRISTIANS cope with unimaginable loss as they work with U.S. volunteers, rebuilding after an earthquake and tsunami

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

SENDAI, Japan

For one hour, there were no atheists here.

That hour began at 2:46 p.m. Friday, March 11, as tectonic plates scraped against each other beneath the Pacific Ocean, 43 miles east of this coastal Japanese city.

Enduring earthquakes is a way of life in Sendai, a city of 1 million souls about 190 miles north of Tokyo. There's a saying here that you can survive any tremor that lasts up to a minute.

This one lasted three.

When the earth finally settled, sirens blared. The people of Sendai's low-lying coastal communities had only an hour — maybe less — before a massive tidal wave. Roads were gridlocked.

As they raced from their cars, ran

through tunnels or sprinted to the upper levels of buildings, “everyone prayed to their god,” said Mokoto Hosoi, one of a handful of Christians who comprise the Church of Christ in Sendai.



Hosoi

Only about 1 percent of Japanese claim Christ as Lord. Some pray to the sky and stars, Hosoi said. Some practice Shinto or Buddhism. Many profess no faith at all.

But in that moment, “everyone prayed,” he said. “Even though we all prayed to different gods, we all prayed.” Then the waves came.

‘I TRY TO BELIEVE IN GOD STILL’

The magnitude 9.0 earthquake generated a tsunami with waves nearly 133 feet high that reached up to six miles

inland. It was the fifth-strongest earthquake recorded since 1900 — more than 1,000 times stronger than the quake that destroyed Port-au-Prince, Haiti, last year.

So powerful was the “Higashi Nihon Daishinsai” (“Great Earthquake of Eastern Japan”) that it increased the Earth's wobble on its axis and sped up the planet's rotation. It cracked reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, sparking a series of meltdowns.

Japan's prime minister called it the most difficult crisis his country has faced since the end of World War II. Police have confirmed more than 15,500 deaths, with nearly 5,000 people still missing.

Though four months have passed since the quake, “it feels like five years ago,” said Yuko Kawamura, another member of the Sendai Church of Christ.

Kawamura was at a junior college, where she works as a secretary, when

the quake hit. She hid under her desk and tried to comfort a student from South Korea.

“She cried and cried,” Kawamura remembered. “That made me more scared.”



Kawamura

After the quake, Kawamura tried desperately to reach her close friend, Aya, a young mother of two who lived near the coast. The power was out and cell towers were down.

Eight days later, she got a phone call from Aya's parents. Her friend's body, and the bodies of Aya's 5-year-old son and 2-year-old daughter, were found in the debris. “If you want to see them, come to the ceremony hall,” they told her.

CONTINUED

‘Love on Japan’



A sign near Ishinomaki's shopping mall asks people to pray for the city.



At a karate dojo near Ishinomaki, church planter Chad Huddleston and relief workers review a list of needs and opportunities to serve tsunami victims.



Gordon Dowell, Savannah Smith and Timothy Momose scoop dead fish and debris from a playground in Ishinomaki, Japan. Later the same day, children used the playground for the first time since the tsunami.

‘You’re going to see people that, a generation from now, are Christians because of what’s happening now.’

— **Larry Musick**, Global Samaritan Resources



Larry Musick and Jonathan Straker replace pavers on a sewer.



Tokyo church member Ellen Uehara grills sausages in Ishinomaki.



Sheran Rollin chats with tsunami survivors during a cookout in Ishinomaki.

CONTINUED

In the months since, Kawamura has kept in close contact with her friend's family. She has returned to work, though often she feels guilty for getting back to her own life.

She remembers the day of her baptism — June 29, 2004 — after months of studying Scripture with missionaries from the U.S. She shared her conversion story with Aya, who said she was interested in Christianity but not ready to commit.

“When I remember conversations with her, I pray to God, ‘Please take care of her,’” Kawamura said. “I want her in heaven, but I don’t know.”

She finds comfort in Jeremiah 29:11: “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.’”

But she also struggles with the experience, which she said both strengthened and shook her faith.

“I try to believe in God still,” she said. “When I doubt God, I pray to him, ‘God, why did you do this?’”

ASKING AND SERVING

People across the islands of Japan ask similar questions, said Junichi Uzawa, campus minister for the 50-member Omika Church of Christ in Hitachi City.

“I have no answer. Only God knows,” Uzawa said. “What I can say is, whether this tragedy happened or not, everyone dies. “For those of us who survived, it creates an opportunity to ask, ‘Why?’”

As they ponder that question, Japanese Christians — joined by volunteers from around the globe — face the herculean task of rebuilding their nation.

Uzawa serves Ibaraki Christian University, a 4,000-student school with roots in Churches of Christ. Not long after the quake, the campus became a base for Christian Relief, Assistance, Support and Hope, or CRASH, Japan, a network that supports Christian groups doing relief work around the world. As it responds to the quake, CRASH has adopted the motto “Love on Japan.”

Global Samaritan Resources,

a ministry in Abilene, Texas, supported by Churches of Christ, sent four teams to participate in CRASH trips. Jonathan Straker, a former missionary to Sendai, delayed completion of his master's degree at Abilene Christian University to coordinate the volunteers' schedules — and to work alongside them.



Uzawa

Ibaraki's campus, dubbed “Hitachi base.” Along the coast, Japanese people need help clearing debris and rebuilding their homes. Thousands more are moving from shelters to temporary housing and need furniture. For many, the shock of the disaster is wearing off, and they need counseling to deal with the sense of loss.

At Hitachi base, Jim Batten, Ibaraki Christian's chancellor and

a coordinator for CRASH, gave the six-member team an orientation about the work ahead.

“You’re not coming as saviors,” Batten told them. “You’re coming as people who are aware of their dependence on God.”

Soon after, the windows of the guest house rattled — an after-shock from the quake.

The team spent two days buying food, jumpsuits and work boots. Batten issued them dosimeters — pen-like devices that measure radiation — but explained that the dosage to which they would be exposed would be less than they absorbed on the plane ride from the U.S.

After Sunday worship, the team traveled five hours north to Ishinomaki, a coastal town near Sendai devastated by the tsunami. They unrolled sleeping bags on the padded floor of a karate dojo. The owner, or “sensei,” allows mission groups to stay there.

In all, 40 volunteers lined the walls of the dojo. Some came from a community church in California. A group of counselors

traveled from Hawaii.

Three women — Sachiyo Aikawa, Ryu Young Sook and Ellen Uehara — came from Tokyo, where they worship with the Ochanomizu Church of Christ. The 120-member church has sent teams on an almost weekly basis to help in Ishinomaki.

“I wanted to go help somewhere, anywhere,” said Aikawa, a 63-year-old grandmother. She enjoyed participating in a morning devotional with the other faith groups at the dojo.

Regardless of nationality, “we’re all the same,” she said. “We have the same bond.”

Chad Huddleston, a church planter in Japan supported by Christian churches, spoke during the devotional. Huddleston is repairing a house in Ishinomaki, named the “Be One” house, to serve as the meeting place for a future church.

He reminded the volunteers that their task was more than a clean-up operation.

“We also want to start making connections, see churches

started and disciples made,” he said. “Let’s go out with joy.”

GOODWILL AND COOKOUTS

The volunteers spent a drizzly morning in Ishinomaki raking broken glass, mud-caked cell phone chargers and rotting fish from a lot near the Be One house.

The group took frequent breaks, as local residents ran from their homes and handed them ice pops and juice boxes. An elderly man knelt on the edge of his driveway and shielded the workers with an umbrella as he offered them a plate of orange slices, insisting that they eat each one.

“That’s something my *ojiisan* would have done,” said Sharon Arnold, using the Japanese word for grandfather. Arnold, the daughter of a U.S. Air Force master sergeant and Japanese mother, lived in Japan until she was 14. Now a teacher in Abilene and a member of the South 11th and Willis Church of Christ, she organized fundraisers for Japan in Texas and came as part of the CRASH team.

“I pray that more Japanese will come to know the Lord,” she said. “Even though we’re only going to be here for a short time, I pray that we will touch lives.”

The next day, as some of the volunteers prepared for a cookout in Ishinomaki, others cleared rotting drywall from the home of

Tameko Baba. She and her family — including three grandchildren — survived the tsunami. She lives with friends now but doesn’t want to leave Ishinomaki, since the Buddhist shrines to her deceased in-laws are here. She said she was thankful for the Christians’ help, thankful “that they have goodwill.”

Larry Musick, president of Global Samaritan Resources, said the people of Ishinomaki “are seeing Christians of all stripes and denominations come together and work arm-in-arm.”

Musick has spent six weeks in Japan since the quake and has

served on three CRASH teams.

“I’m not a numbers man,” Musick said. “I want as many people as possible to become Christians and for us all to be in heaven one day ... (but) I don’t think receptivity and numbers necessarily are equal.”

In Japan, “you’re going to see people that, a generation from now, are Christians because of what’s happening now,” he said. “And God can count that — we can’t.”

Working alongside the volunteers was Maya Konno, a native of Ishinomaki who befriended the Christians and has learned some basic English from them.

“You know, there is something different about your eyes,” Konno told the volunteers. “You have something different.”

TRAGEDY AND LIGHT

Churches of Christ in Japan also are different from the way they were on March 10, Straker said.

“I’ve never seen this level of communication,” said the former missionary to Sendai.

Congregations are cooperating with groups outside their circle of faith as they serve those who survived the disaster.

The people of Sendai are noticing that camaraderie. During a visit to the city, Straker and his wife, Michiko, were approached by a woman who lives near the church building. She told them how impressed she was to see relief teams going in and out of the facility.

Hosoi, an official with Sendai’s health and welfare foundation and a member of the church, and his wife, Kiyomi, suffered a disaster of their own five years ago when their daughter, a high school sophomore, was killed by a drunk driver. The couple nearly

dropped out of church life.

Now, in the wake of the disaster, the Hosois have committed themselves to Christ. They try to comfort families who lost children of their own.

Thinking back to March 11, Kiyomi Hosoi remembers finding hope even then. After a day of unimaginable destruction, she looked at the sky and asked God, “Why?” The power was out, and streetlights were dark. All she could see were twinkling stars. She described them as “tiny lights for the future.”

“It was a strange feeling,” she said. “Tragedy, tragedy, but God gave us these beautiful stars. It was very sad, but we have a light. I never will forget that sky.”



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

A girl in Ishinomaki, Japan, waits for a balloon during a cookout for earthquake survivors.

JAPAN EARTHQUAKE: HOW TO HELP

Volunteers and donations are needed as Churches of Christ aid survivors of the March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami. For more information, see:

• **Church of Christ East Japan Aid** (eastjapanrelief.wordpress.com) — Church members from Mito, Japan, and other parts of the country post stories and photos from relief work.

• **Working and Praying for Japan** (www.workingandprayingforjapan.org): Find opportunities to volunteer and contribute.

• **Straker family** (www.strakerhouse.com): Jonathan Straker posts updates, maps, videos and photos.

Contributions for Japan relief may be sent to the following ministries and churches:

• **Global Samaritan Resources** (globalsamaritan.org)

— PO Box 3431, Abilene TX 79604, (325) 676-9991.
• **Healing Hands International** (www.hhi.org) — 455 McNally Drive, Nashville, TN 37211, (615) 832-2000.

• **White's Ferry Road Relief** (www.wfrchurch.org/relief) — 3201 N. 7th Street, West Monroe, LA 71291, (318) 396-6000.

• **Park Avenue Church of Christ** (www.parkave.org) (ATTN: Dwight Albright), 5295 Park Ave. Memphis, TN 38119-3543, (901) 682-1220.

• **Highway 36 Church of Christ**, 10576 State Highway 36 S, Abilene, TX 79602-9200.

• **Bramalea Church of Christ** (ATTN: Walter Straker), www.bramaleacofc.ca, 750 Clark Blvd., Brampton, ON L6T 3Y2, CANADA, (905) 792-2297.

SEE MORE PHOTOS and videos from Japan at www.christianchronicle.org.



Healing a hurting Japan: Believers share stories

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

MITO, Japan — East meets West on Sunday mornings at the Mito Church of Christ. A Japanese Christian is as likely to say a prayer in English as a U.S. — or Canadian — believer is to give a communion devotional in Japanese. The church sings in both languages.

The 100-member congregation has close ties to the West — particularly Oklahoma. So does Ibaraki Christian University, a school with roots in Churches of Christ located about 30 minutes from Mito in Hitachi City.

Christians in both cities felt the earthquake on March 11, 2011, and have played roles in relief efforts in the months since the devastating earthquake and tsunami.

Following are a few of their stories:

• “We’ve always hated these poles,” **Atsushi Tsuneki** said, pointing to the massive round supports that obstruct the view in the Mito church’s auditorium. But the columns likely kept the building from sustaining severe damage during the earthquake.

Tsuneki, minister for the Mito church for about two years, has faced the task of balancing physical and emotional support for the people of Mito with the needs of those in the hard-hit

coastal areas. The church has spearheaded relief efforts and sends teams to communities devastated by the tsunami, including Ishinomaki.

“I sometimes wish this didn’t happen,” he said. “It’s been very challenging. At the same time, we are learning unity.”

Tsuneki

• The quake delayed **Rieko Asperheim’s** wedding. She and her fiancé, Dan, were scheduled to be married on March 27, but the chaos after the quake postponed the ceremony until May 1.

Rieko Asperheim is a school nurse at Ibaraki Christian. She provided blankets and looked after children who sought shelter at the school during the frigid night after the quake.

Like many Japanese, she struggles with guilt and said her faith has been challenged by the events of that terrible day. During the quake, she prayed for her family’s safety, but “the people who lost loved ones — they prayed too,” she said. “Why did they die?”



Asperheim

“I feel a lot of times in my life like God is saying ‘Come back to me,’” she said. “Now, I feel it again.”

• “As an Ethiopian, I grew up being helped,” **Allen Thompson** said. “Now, I’m on the other side.”

Thompson moved from East Africa to live with his adopted family in Wisconsin at age 14. He graduated from Oklahoma Christian University, where he met his wife, Laura. The couple teaches English in the Mito school system.

Seeing piles of debris in Ishinomaki was overwhelming, Thompson said, “so I tried not to think about the whole pile. I learned how to be patient. I was reminded that we are all weak, but (God) will use whoever is willing to go through the storm.”

• **Miranda Logwood** and her husband, Derrick, also teach English in Mito and attend the Mito church.

“Over the years, this group of people has become my Japanese family,” she said. “I have at least three or four mothers who would do anything for me.”

Logwood helped remove debris in Ishinomaki. “At the beginning of the day, it was hard to feel like we were

making a difference,” she said. “But the people really did appreciate us.”

Unlike relief work in developing nations, “three months ago, they were living just like me,” she added.

• **Hitomi Yabe**, a dual citizen of Japan and the U.S., grew up in a typical, nonreligious Japanese home.

Her life changed when she enrolled at Ibaraki Christian. She participated in the school’s exchange program with Oklahoma Christian and served on a mission trip to the Navajo Reservation in Tuba City, Ariz., where she saw Christians at work. On April 5, 2009, she was baptized. Now she teaches English on the Japanese island of Okinawa.

In the months since the quake, “I have witnessed what Christians have done,” she said during a visit to the Mito church. “This devotion makes my faith grow.” Despite the trials ahead “I will be smiling back at God, saying, ‘Thank you for giving me suffering, perseverance and hope.’”



Thompson



Logwood



Yabe

Is God calling you to join other Christians working and praying for Japan?

In May I led the first of three groups to assist with relief efforts after the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. I soon realized God had placed Japan on my heart for the long term. After spending much time in prayer an answer returned through conversations with other Christians in Japan. They asked me to continue to bring campaign groups to Japan to assist with the work.



Many experts believe it will take 10 years for Japan to fully recover from one of the worst natural disasters. This is 10 years for Christians to show God's love in a powerful way! Non-believers in Japan are recognizing Christians as the faith group that is coming and making a difference.

Contact me, Larry Musick, if you are interested in joining a team of volunteers to work and pray for Japan. During the past two decades I have organized multiple campaign teams – teams ranging from four members to 90 members. I can structure a campaign for your church members only or assist you in joining a team of members from different churches.

For more information email me: larry@workingandprayingforjapan.org

www.workingandprayingforjapan.org

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Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18

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(Excerpt from *The Bible and "Social" Drinking* by W.D. Jeffcoat page 192)

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ERIK TRYGGSTAD

Participants in the youth conference sing "Alabado Sea Jehova" ("Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah").

LATINO YOUTH: A vital link in churches

FROM PAGE 3

The Rogers church brought a group of 35 to the conference, including 14-year-old Carla Martinez and 15-year-old Patty Rivera. Both were born in the U.S., the daughters of immigrants from Mexico and Guatemala. On Sundays they worship in Spanish with their congregation. During the week, they speak English at school.

Many of the youths, including those from Rogers, attend churches that are entirely Spanish-speaking. Some attend congregations with separate English and Spanish services. U.S.-born Latinos, who are fluent in both languages, can provide a vital link between the language groups, Felix Martinez said.

But the children of immigrants also can feel that they don't fit in with either group, according to Dan Rodriguez, a third-generation Hispanic-American and associate professor of religion and Hispanic studies at Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif.

Rodriguez has researched churches and found that many Latino youths are "lost in the hallway between the fellowship hall and the main auditorium," he said, referring to the common meeting places of Spanish and English services.

Rivera said that she has seen some of the youths at her church leave the faith after they move away from home.

She's also seen others who have grown in their faith, becoming devoted followers of Christ as they mature, she said.

One such follower is Ben Hobbes,

an Oklahoma Christian University graduate who was born and raised in Guatemala, where his parents served as missionaries. Addressing the youths at the conference, Hobbes asked how many of them were born outside the U.S. A few hands went up.

Then he asked them how many had family born outside the U.S. Almost all the attendees raised their hands.

"Add that to the fact that we follow Christ and his teachings, and you realize that we're a pretty unique group of people," Hobbes said.

That uniqueness often leads to questions, including, "How am I supposed to grow and develop if part of me feels like it's almost in another world?" Hobbes said. "How do I take these parts of me and put them together in a way that honors and glorifies God?"

He challenged the youths to study God's Word — particularly the stories of God's people in exile, living in foreign lands.

Despite the struggles, God still used such people to do great things, Hobbes said.

"It could be that God has a specific plan for you just because of who you are and just because of where you came from," he said.



Rivera



Hobbes



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Warning • Jacob Hawk

Tuesday, 7 p.m., Benson Auditorium

Obeying • Dr. Spencer Furby

Wednesday, 11 a.m., Administration Auditorium

Loving • Dr. Kevin Youngblood

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CAMPUS MINISTRY

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — The Christian Student Center will devote its Wednesday night Bible study this fall to helping students use their degrees to serve the Lord.

Professionals from different occupations will speak to the students. Topics include using engineering to get clean water to Guatemalan villages, using business skills to finance micro-loans in West Africa, using medical training to serve at a clinic on wheels in Appalachia and using psychology to help orphans cope with stress.

The goal of the classes is to help students “combine a career with a Kingdom-bound core,” said Matt Holt, Christian Student Center president.

HIGHER EDUCATION

FREED-HARDEMAN UNIVERSITY

HENDERSON, Tenn. — More than 30 Freed-Hardeman students used the summer to prepare for ministry careers. The students participated in youth ministry internships and mission field labs.

Preparation for this program began in February, when interested students were interviewed and hired during Freed-Hardeman’s annual Lectureship.

Youth ministry interns were involved in teaching Bible classes, planning youth group activities and participating in Vacation Bible Schools. Some interns also had the opportunity to work at summer camps near their congregation.

FLORIDA COLLEGE

TEMPLE TERRACE, Fla. — The National Association of Schools of Music has approved Florida College’s associate membership. President H.E. “Buddy” Payne described the approval as a “huge step forward” in efforts to enhance the credibility of the college’s four-year programs.

“Parents can be further assured that the liberal arts education their young people receive at Florida College will not only establish them in their faith in God and his Word but will also provide them a solid academic foundation upon which to build their future,” he said.

HARDING UNIVERSITY

SEARCY, Ark. — The Pied Pipers, Harding’s improvisational children’s theater



VICTOR CRISTALES, ABILENE REPORTER-NEWS

Football camp at ACU features ‘the real McCoy’

Cleveland Browns quarterback Colt McCoy keeps things lighthearted during his recent football camp at Abilene Christian University in Texas. The Church of Christ member and former University of Texas star wowed more than 100 young campers. McCoy told the *Abilene Reporter-News* he wanted to teach the campers not only football fundamentals but also about “the second aspect of playing football — character development.”

troupe, spent nearly three weeks in Scotland this summer, helping Churches of Christ reach out to communities in Sterling and Aberdeen.

HERITAGE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

FLORENCE, Ala. — The Association for Biblical Higher Education has approved Heritage Christian’s request to offer a Master of Divinity degree starting with the fall semester.

“This is another major milestone for HCU,” President Dennis Jones said.

LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A revision of “Crying in the Wilderness,” a comprehensive biography of David Lipscomb, debuted at a recent panel discussion and book-signing.

The influential Restoration Movement preacher’s namesake university first published the biography in 1979. Written by longtime Lipscomb

University history and politics department chairman Robert E. Hooper, the book delves into the times in which Lipscomb lived and how those circumstances shaped his thinking and, in turn, Restoration history.

The 2011 version includes new material that highlights how Lipscomb’s ideas are shaping modern churches and theologians, the university said.

YORK COLLEGE

YORK, Neb. — York has received the go-ahead from its accrediting agency to launch a master’s degree in education — the college’s first graduate program. President Steve Eckman said he expects the program to “elevate the institution.”

“As we see success in this initial effort, we will explore other programs that fit our mission and provide for our constituents,” Eckman said.

Education is York’s most popular undergraduate major with 173 students.

SPORTS

New girl on guy’s tour

BROKEN ARROW, Okla. — For the first time, a woman has earned a playing card on a men’s professional golf tour.

That woman: Isabelle Beisiegel, a member of the Broken Arrow Church of Christ. The 32-year-old native of Montreal, Quebec, earned her spot in the Canadian Professional Golf Tour’s recent qualifying school.



Tim Pyles, the Broken Arrow church’s preaching minister, describes Beisiegel, who played collegiate golf at the University of Oklahoma, and her husband, Daniel, as “wonderful people.” Beisiegel, known as “Izzy,” credits God for her accolades.

Oklahoma Christian University (OC) seeks a full-time **Nursing Faculty** member: Instructor / Assistant / Associate Professor rank to begin on or before August 2012 (contingent upon funding). A completed Master of Science degree in Nursing is strongly preferred. Active RN licensure in Oklahoma or the ability to obtain Oklahoma licensure is required. A minimum of 5 years of professional teaching and/or clinical experience is preferred.

All applicants should be active members of the Church of Christ and should be committed to the mission of the university. Faculty members are expected to maintain active participation in research, scholarship, college governance, service, academic advisement and professional development activities. The nursing program at OC offers a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing for RNs.

OC is dedicated to superior teaching and proud of its heritage as a liberal arts institution within a Christian tradition. The candidate will provide didactic and clinical/laboratory instruction for baccalaureate students and will provide leadership in curricular review,



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design and implementation of course, evaluation of students, outcomes measurement, continual improvement and full implementation of curriculum.

Interested applicants should provide a letter of application describing teaching and research interests, current vita, transcripts, 3 letters of recommendation (one must be a source from a home church congregation), a writing sample, evidence of professional teaching and clinical experience (including statement of teaching philosophy which specifically addresses the integration of faith and learning) to the address below:

Linda Fly (linda.fly@oc.edu), Chair and Assistant Professor of Nursing, Oklahoma Christian University, Box 11000, Oklahoma City, OK 73136 and to Dean David Lowry (david.lowry@oc.edu), Dean of College of Arts and Sciences.

Questions may be directed to Linda Fly at 405.425.1920 or linda.fly@oc.edu.

Oklahoma Christian University is an equal opportunity employer.

Director of Children's Services

This is a full-time position with benefits. A minimum of a Master's degree in social work or a human services related field is required. This position requires at least 3 years of supervisory experience in a child-related field and a license in Child Care Administration.

The successful candidate will: Demonstrate exceptional leadership skills; Be able to respond to and diffuse a crisis situation; Oversee staffing patterns and provide or arrange for emergency respite care for house parents; Create and enforce policies; Demonstrate effective time-management skills; Maintain professional relationships with children in care, their families and schools; Communicate needs to churches and individuals for effective donation drives; Assist development team in grant-writing; Create family visitation and relief schedules; Perform other duties as assigned by the Executive Director.



Houseparent

Married couples are invited to apply for houseparent positions. A high school diploma or GED is required, and some college as well as a minimum of one year of child-care or related experience is preferred. Individuals must be at least 23 years old and be faithful Christians with a stable marriage and family unit. We require applicants to pass a background check and drug test. Exceptional time management and detail-oriented skills are required, as is the ability to exhibit successful home management skills on a continuous basis. Successful candidates will: Comply with all policies, guidelines and programs; attend all staff training and mandatory meetings; Cooperate and work as a team with all Christ's Haven staff members; Ensure the physical and emotional safety of youths in our care; Provide a loving Christian home environment; Provide a Christian example and work to instill Christian values and beliefs in youths; Transport youths to and attend Church of Christ worship services in the area.

Submit resumes to marylauren@christshaven.org.
Visit www.christshaven.org for more information.

NEWSMAKERS

AWARDED: Randy Lowry, president of Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn., the Otis Floyd Jr. Award for Excellence in Administration by the Tennessee College Public Relations Association. Recipients are recognized for innovation, leadership, vision and communication.



Lowry

NAMED: Sue Roush, communications assistant to Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman. Roush previously served as communication and alumni relations director at York College, York, Neb. **Jim Dvorak**, director, North Institute for Teaching and Learning at Oklahoma Christian University, Oklahoma City, Okla. Dvorak previously served as an associate professor of Greek and New Testament at OC. **Don Lallathin**, director of development, Continent of Great Cities, Addison, Texas. Lallathin previously served as vice president for advancement at Ohio Valley University, Vienna, W.Va.



Roush

NEW MINISTER: Joe Roberts, Collegedale church, Cookeville, Tenn.

SELECTED: Landry Kamdem Kamdem, recipient of the 2011 American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics Young Investigator Award. He is assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences at Harding University, Searcy, Ark.



Kamdem

ANNIVERSARIES: 66th: Foy and Dorace Guin, Birmingham, Ala. 60th: Clyde and Sheila Austin, Abilene, Texas.

BIRTHDAYS: 99th: Herman N. Holmes, Indianapolis. 98th: Walter Bryan, Edmond, Okla. 96th: Larue Ashley, Frankston, Texas. 92nd: Johnson Kell, Frankston, Texas. 92nd: Dina Mitchell, Frankston, Texas. 91st: Dixie Cox, Frankston, Texas. 90th: Isabel Gable, Frankston, Texas.

PASSAGES: Gerald W. Lawrence, 67, June 16, Augusta, Ark. Longtime preacher and veteran. Eunice Moody, 90, June 21, retired nurse and devoted member of the Kingman, Kan., church. David Branson, 80, July 3, Edmond, Okla. Veteran and longtime member of the Edmond church.

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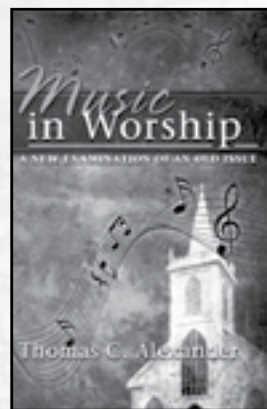
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Oklahoma Christian University is a liberal arts university affiliated with the Churches of Christ. Each applicant should be an active member of the Church of Christ and have a personal life that reflects the teachings, example, and love of Jesus Christ. Interested applicants should send their resume/CV, transcripts, two letters of recommendation from academic or professional sources, one letter of recommendation from a church leader, a writing sample of your scientific work, and a teaching philosophy which specifically addresses integration of faith and learning to **David.Lowry@oc.edu** or by mail to:

Dr. David Lowry
Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
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Aug. 12-18 Polishing the Pulpit

2011. Sevierville, Tenn., Events Center. Contact www.polishingthepulpit.com or (877) 338-3397.

Aug. 19-20 Walled Lake Youth Rally.

Walled Lake, Mich., church. Contact greg1730@sbcglobal.net or (248) 624-4600.

Aug. 19-20 Debate On Authority.

David W. Hester, Springville Road Church of Christ, and Robert Sungenis, Catholic Apologetics International. Pinson Valley High School, Pinson, Ala. Contact (205) 681-3252 or dwhest@bellsouth.net.

Aug. 26-28 Texas Women's Empowerment Conference.

"My Position, My Promise, My Purpose — Becoming a Woman of Promise." Plano Marriott at Legacy Town Center, Plano, Texas. Contact www.seesayseize.org.

Aug. 27-28 50th Anniversary Reunion of the Ward Street Church of Christ.

Wallingford, Ct. Contact (203) 269-9898.

Aug. 28-Sept. 1 Crusade for Christ.

Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C. Contact www.cofccrusade.org.

Sept. 11 50th Anniversary of Manchester, Conn., church.

Contact www.manchesterchurchofchrist.org, mcc50th@manchesterchurchofchrist.org or (860) 646-2903.

Sept. 13-16 National Christian Camping Workshop.

Gulf Coast Bible Camp, Lucedale, Miss. Contact www.naccamps.org.

Sept. 22 Clarksville Christian School Benefit Dinner.

Keynote speaker: Coach Don Meyer. Contact ClarksvilleChristianSchool.org/dinner.

Oct. 2-4 Quest Lectureship.

Oklahoma Christian University. Contact www.oc.edu/quest2011.

Oct. 7 Grief Symposium.

Hampton Inn and Suites, Mesquite, Texas. Presented by Christian Care Hospice. Contact <http://christiancarecenters.org/hospice/>.

Oct. 14 Celebrating Brother and Sister Merlon Thompson's 40 years of service.

Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, Phoenix. Sponsored by Tonto Street church. Contact (602) 309-6688 or nphillips50@aol.com.

Oct. 19-22 Global Missions Conference.

Legacy church, Fort Worth, Texas. Contact Jay Jarboe at (817) 267-2727 or jay.jarboe@mrnet.org or www.globalmissionsconference.org.

Oct. 28-30 Shepherds Network.

Sponsored by the Church Leaders Resource Network. Contact Eddie Randolph at (901) 432-7724 or e.randolph@hst.edu.

COMPLETE CALENDAR at www.christianchronicle.org

Academic Freedom.... Where it is Might Surprise you!

There have been cries for academic freedom in American higher education for several decades.

The prevailing sense is that public colleges and universities provide the environment that promotes freedom of expression and thought. For many issues that may be true. But as we become an increasingly secular society, the irony is that conversations about God and faith are increasingly unwelcome in such institutions.

There seems to be the freedom to discuss anything — except a Christian perspective of the world.

Stated clearly by the former president of Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee, "Today, research universities are thoroughly secular and comprise one of the few places in America where openly acknowledged religion is not a life option. Consequently, academic freedom has become a casualty at these institutions."

Obviously, there are exceptions. Many faculty at public colleges and universities possess a dynamic faith and through it are Christian examples to their students. In addition, there are dedicated ministers who have accepted the call to campus ministry and serve Christian students at such institutions in admirable ways. It would be difficult, if not impossible, however, to prove that they are the norm rather than the exception to the norm of secular thinking and secular teaching on the public campus.

Ironically, the place where academic freedom exists as it relates to religion and faith are our Christian colleges. It is in our Christian colleges that the existence of God can be freely proclaimed. It is in our Christian colleges that important societal issues can be discussed with the Christian perspective asserted. It is in our Christian colleges that faith can be proclaimed as integrated into all of life, not just a subset of life.

Those opportunities no longer exist in most of American higher education and particularly not at state-supported colleges and universities.

What does this mean? For most people it simply does not matter. But for tomorrow's college students and their parents, it is the difference between an

education that supports a vital Christian faith and one that will not. In a Christian college, academic freedom will allow life's most important questions to be asked, beliefs to be explored and faith to be expressed. As a Christian college environment demands critical thinking and pragmatic preparation for success in the real world, it also proclaims that God, faith and the Christian walk are part of that world, the world God created.

Academic freedom. Public colleges and universities talk about it. Christian colleges deliver it. Those of us in Christian higher education believe the difference is important...eternally important. What about you?



*L. Randolph Lowry
President, Lipscomb University*

If you have comments on Christian higher education please contact me at compellingmission@lipscomb.edu.



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Randy

EDITORIAL

Lighting a fire under pew warmers

Many Christians never seem to contribute much at all — in time, sweat or money — to the work of the body.

Pew warmers, we call them.

They're the focus of "The Other 80 Percent: Turning Your Church's Spectators into Active Participants," a new book by Scott Thumma and Warren Bird.

Thumma and Bird tackle what they describe as the problem of churches allowing "half or more of their membership to be completely disconnected and uninvolved."

"It is amazing to me," Thumma, a sociologist of religion at Hartford Seminary in Connecticut, tells *The Christian Chronicle*, "that nearly every (minister) is OK with one-third to one-half of their membership never attending, and if they are lucky, 20 percent of members ever doing anything in service, leadership and commitment to the congregation's life together — a far cry from the Good Shepherd leaving the 99 to find the one lost sheep."

Notes Bird, with the Dallas-based Leadership Network, the book's publisher: "Churches are often better at outreach than in-reach. And we're all in favor

of outreach, but there are an awful lot of people connected to your church who say they'd like to reconnect. But for some reason, they haven't or they don't know how."

The researchers suggest making a formal assessment of members' patterns of involvement.

They argue, too, for strengthening activities that engage members.

And they stress that participation in the work of the body stems from spiritual growth and a person's spiritual fulfillment.

As the authors put it, "80 percent participation isn't the goal — spiritual fervor and growth is."

Beyond the issues raised by the authors, we'd urge church leaders to ask:

- **Does the problem lie** just with the interest, motivation and maturity of the 80 percent? Or are there realities among the 20 percent that complicate the challenge — such as territorialism by longtime members, tight mini-circles of fellowship that are difficult to break into or a "we've always done it this way" approach to church life?

- **How do we define involvement?** Do we confuse "busyness" (multiple church-related activi-

ties per week) with faithfulness and fruitfulness? Does our concept of involvement equate to spiritual growth and maturity?

- **Do we value mentoring** and personal discipleship of others? Are we personally involved with others and encouraging their sharing in the life of the congregation? Or do we just communicate "be involved" from the distance of the pulpit or church bulletin?

- **Do we offer new member** orientations and seminars, led by the shepherds and/or ministry staff, that consistently communicate up front that "membership" has its responsibilities, not just its privileges?

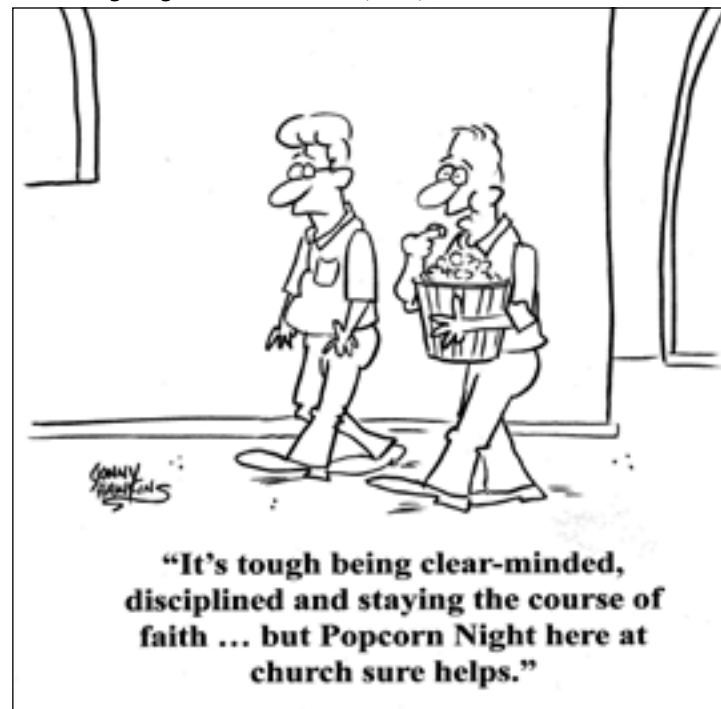
Many inactive members simply may not know how or where to get involved. Perhaps they need a personal invitation to serve in a specific way.

God gave each of us talents. Not everyone can preach or lead singing or teach a class. Some might be called to mow the church lawn or bake a casserole for a funeral or develop the HTML code for the church website.

But all can serve in some way. With God's help, let's take steps to transform pew warmers into high performers for the Lord.

Ever-Laughing Life

by Jonny Hawkins



TO OUR READERS

Mauck named Reviews Editor

The *Christian Chronicle* welcomes its new Reviews Editor: Kimberly Mauck.

She succeeds Harold Shank, who stepped down as he became president of Ohio Valley University.

Mauck, 29, earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Oklahoma and a master's degree in education from Southeastern

Oklahoma State University.

She and her husband, Jay, are the proud parents of two daughters with a third due in the fall.

They attend the Northwest Church of Christ in Durant, Okla.



Mauck



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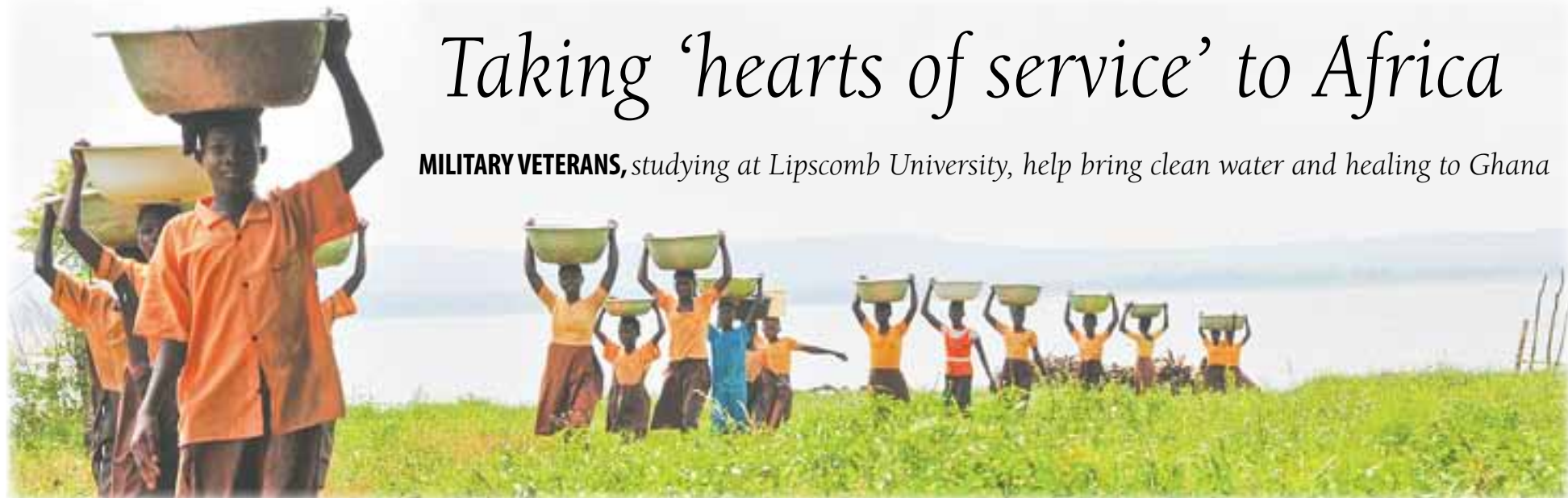
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Taking 'hearts of service' to Africa

MILITARY VETERANS, studying at Lipscomb University, help bring clean water and healing to Ghana



PHOTOS BY DAVID K. HUGHES

Women in Bakpa, Ghana, carry water from Lake Volta to fill a 900-gallon water tank installed by a team from Lipscomb University to provide clean drinking water for the villagers.

For nearly two decades, I have written about service projects and mission trips taken by students, faculty and staff at Lipscomb University.

It wasn't until this summer that I participated in my first mission trip. It was an amazing chance to observe our students serving others firsthand. And it changed my life.

I had the good fortune of co-leading a team of six student veterans representing three branches of military service, along with my colleague David K. Hughes,

Views



Kim Chaudoin

director of Lipscomb's Yellow Ribbon Program. We wanted to provide a special opportunity for our student veterans to immerse themselves in the experience.

We embarked on a journey that took us more than 12,000 miles — via plane, bus and boat — to the village of Kete Krache on Lake Volta in Ghana.

We partnered with Dr. David Vanderpool and his team from Mobile Medical

Disaster Relief to install water purification systems and conduct medical clinics.

I had the opportunity to witness this special group of students get their hands dirty

and put others' needs above their own. In choosing the military, they made the ultimate commitment to serve. That heart for service remains with them long after they leave the military. So the fact that they were eager to serve others on this trip did not surprise me.

But the depth to which they embraced this opportunity was humbling. Each day the student veterans saw needs and filled them, always looking for ways to help, never having to be told what to do.

Our work conditions weren't easy. We found lodging on the top floor of a partially air-conditioned credit union. For the majority of the trip, we were

without toilets, electricity or running water.

No one complained. All were just grateful for what they did have. We found ourselves amazed at the joy we saw in the people we served — who live in those conditions their entire lives.

The mission took our team to the islands of Bakpa, Manayekpo and Lala on Lake Volta, the very polluted source of drinking water for the region. We worked with the Touch a

Life Foundation and the Village of Life orphanage to identify locations to serve.

We began each day eating breakfast at the orphanage before embarking on an hour-and-a-half-long ride across Lake Volta in a boat that was barely hanging together but faithfully delivered us.

Each day's work included installing 900-gallon water tanks with purification systems that provide clean drinking water to villagers as well as conducting medical clinics to treat scabies,

ringworm, cuts and other medical needs. The team treated nearly 1,000 men, women and children over five days.

Some of the most touching moments were watching our students wash the legs and feet of the villagers that were caked with mud. Often, they would sing to and talk to those they were treating — even when they didn't speak the same language.

They treated everyone with love. And the villagers loved them back.

Our student veterans are great reflections of what we hope all Lipscomb students represent. I know that my life has been forever impacted because of these humble servants.

We laughed together. We held each other up when we were weary. We cried together. And we loved each other — and the people of Ghana.



The Lipscomb mission team works with villagers in Lala to fill a tank that will provide clean water.



Elijah Fetzko plays with the children at the Village of Life Orphanage in Kete Krache, Ghana.

KIM CHAUDOIN is director of communication and marketing for Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn. She attends the Otter Creek Church of Christ in Brentwood, Tenn.

Not your 'abuelo's' church: Reaching U.S.-born Latinos

BY BILLIE SILVEY | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

I don't speak Spanish, but I've spent the past 46 years working with two churches in Los Angeles, both of which are multiethnic, multilingual, multicultural and multigenerational.

The first was black, white, Spanish-speaking and Asian. The second has services in English, Spanish, Korean and Chinese. I've watched these churches respond more or less successfully to the challenges posed by demographic changes.

It's happening in churches all over the United States as immigrants from around the world move into our cities and become part of local churches. That's why I was eager to read Daniel A. Rodriguez's **"A Future for the Latino Church."**

Rodriguez, who holds a doctorate in intercultural studies from Fuller Theological Seminary, is an associate professor of religion and Hispanic studies at Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif.

Based on a five-year study of churches across the country, he points out that U.S.-born descendants of the immigrant generation are overlooked in missions and in church culture.

It reminded me of the ethnic evan-

gelism seminars that Calvin Bowers, Michio Nagai, Evertt Huffard and I started in the 70s. Huffard, in particular, used studies of assimilation patterns.

When people from a different culture move into an area dominated by an established culture, they tend to turn toward

the new culture. Then they turn away as faults become evident in the new culture and as assimilation is harder than it first appeared to be.

Eventually, though, most make peace with both cultures, learning, as Rodriguez puts it, "to live in the hyphen," selecting those characteristics they appreciate or benefit from and rejecting the ones they don't.

During the 1980s and '90s, Hispanic growth came from immigration, both legal and undocumented. Now, growth is coming from the natural increase of the existing population. Where the earlier, foreign-born Hispanics were overwhelmingly Spanish dominant, U.S.-born Hispanics are English dominant. By

the third generation, the overwhelming majority of Latinos speak only English.

Later generations aren't comfortable in the Spanish-speaking churches of their ancestors, where they may be ashamed of not speaking Spanish well or may be socioeconomically and culturally different from the rest

of the congregation. However, they aren't comfortable in English-speaking churches, where they may find themselves treated as perpetual newcomers or second-class citizens.

Through his studies, Rodriguez identified "a growing number of dedicated and visionary first-generation Hispanic pastors (who) have discovered creative ways to minister to multiple generations of Latinos under the same roof." These ministries are conducted in English, but with a distinctive Latin flavor. They indicate a commitment to serve, evangelize and disciple U.S.-born Latinos.

One example is in Baldwin Park, Calif., where first-generation Mexican-American minister Aureliano Flores recognized a "moment of transition" when his children began to prefer English over Spanish.

He realized that God didn't call him to preach the Gospel in English or Spanish — just to preach the Gospel.

Flores worked hard to become proficient in both languages. Ten years later, his son, Paul, succeeded him and was dedicated to becoming "as proficient in Spanish as his father became in English."

Paul Flores felt that "to maintain unity in a two-language church, there must be one vision."

Growth has characterized the other

churches Rodriguez studied. Some target middle-class, upwardly-mobile Latinos, while others reach out to social outcasts such as the poor, substance abusers and gang members. Some emphasize dynamic worship. Others emphasize leadership training. Typical of these ministries is a banner prepared

by a church in Miami Lakes, Fla., that reads: "Not your abuelo's (grandfather's) church!"

According to Rodriguez, U.S.-born, English-dominant Latinos should not merely be "targets of mission," but agents of mission — cross-cultural missionaries, planting and growing multiethnic churches in the U.S. and around the world.

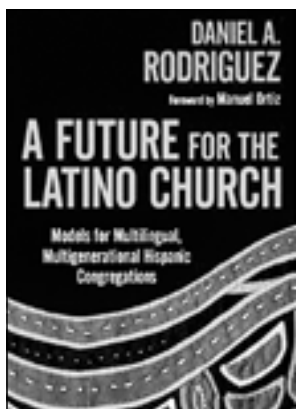
Rodriguez has written a useful and needed addition to the discussion of Hispanic churches in America, though some might wish for a more

personal account that reads less like a series of case histories.

The book should be read by Hispanics who aspire to leadership positions in local congregations as well as Anglo leaders of churches engaged in and considering outreach to the growing population of Latinos in the U.S.

BILLIE SILVEY is an author, editor and member of the Culver Palms Church of Christ in Los Angeles. Contact her at www.billiesilvey.com.

'Later generations aren't comfortable in the Spanish-speaking churches of their ancestors, where they may be ashamed of not speaking Spanish well or may be socioeconomically or culturally different from the rest of the congregation.'



Daniel A. Rodriguez. **A Future for the Latino Church: Models for Multilingual, Multigenerational Hispanic Congregations.** Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP Academic, 2011. 168 pages. \$19.

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

MINISTRY

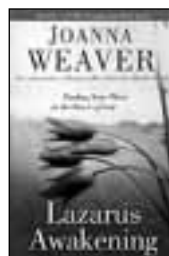
Brian Simmons. **Wandering in the Wilderness: Changes and Challenges to Emerging Adults' Christian Faith.** Abilene, Texas: ACU Press, 2011. 176 pages. \$14.99.



Surveying research on "Twenties" (people aged 18-30), Simmons gives a scholarly snapshot to show how that generation views faith, church, family and relationships. Discussion questions help readers apply the statistics and anecdotes to their churches' ministries.

CHRISTIAN LIVING

Joanna Weaver. **Lazarus Awakening: Finding Your Place in the Heart of God.** Colorado Springs, Colo.: WaterBrook Press, 2011. 240 pages. \$19.99.



The author of "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World" returns to the siblings from Bethany. This time, she focuses on the sibling whose death caused Jesus to weep — and how Christians today should awaken to the love of Christ and live with joy. The book includes a study guide for small groups.

HISTORICAL FICTION

Dan Walsh. **The Deepest Waters.** Grand Rapids, Mich.: Revell Books, 2011. 304 pages. \$14.99.



This novel, set in 1857, first appears to be a romance about a honeymooning couple on a steamship off the Atlantic coast. But when a hurricane strikes, the story changes to one of survival and suspense.

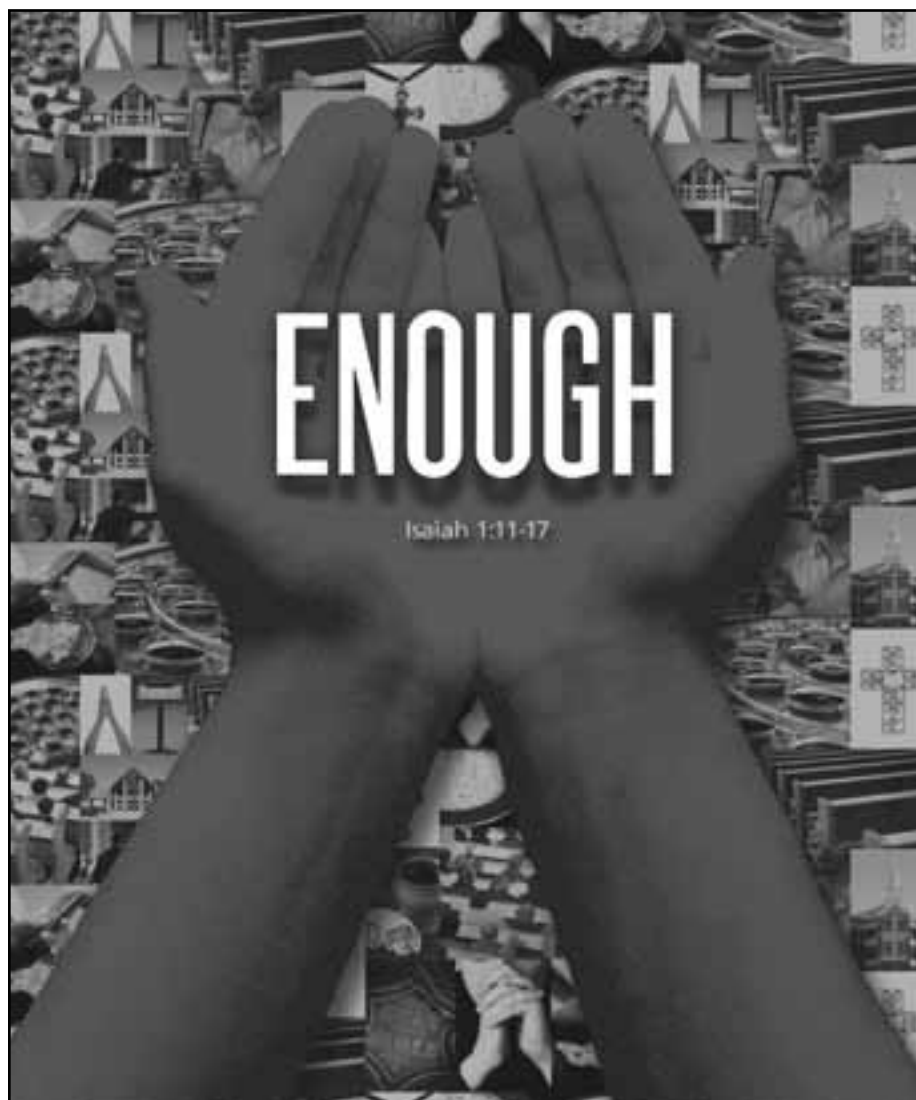
The author is a preacher-turned-author, and this is his third work of fiction.

PREACHING

John Piper, D.A. Carson. **The Pastor as Scholar and the Scholar as Pastor: Reflections on Life and Ministry.** Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 2011. 128 pages. \$9.99.



A professor and a preacher come together to present the ways that each should participate in the other's fields to keep their own primary ministries vital. Both men are prolific Christian evangelical authors who appeal to theological and lay audiences.



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House Parents

Arms of Hope-Medina Campus is seeking a married couple who has a passion for today's youth and a calling to Christian residential care. At Arms of Hope we have the unique opportunity to serve youth who come from disadvantaged backgrounds and need adult leadership to help guide them educationally, emotionally and spiritually. It is our mission to provide these children with a therapeutic environment in which they can develop and prosper. This mission opportunity offers a very competitive salary in addition to housing, food, health insurance, a retirement plan and generous vacation and leave time.

If interested in these positions, please visit **www.ArmsOfHope.org** to obtain an application on the "About Us" page. You can also contact Allen Williams at lawilliams@armsofhope.org.



ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
acu.edu

College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Charles Mattis, Dean
ACU Box 29210, Abilene, Texas 79699-9210

Chemistry and Biochemistry

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Abilene Christian University invites applications for a tenure-track position in organic chemistry beginning Fall 2012. The successful candidate will demonstrate a commitment to excellence in teaching and in research appropriate for an exceptional undergraduate department. Teaching responsibilities will include organic chemistry lecture and lab and other chemistry courses as appropriate. Ph.D. in organic chemistry is required, with post-doctoral experience preferred. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/academics/cas/chemistry.

Engineering

ACU seeks an experienced engineer to develop an engineering program. This new position will work closely with the ACU Department of Physics that currently offers an engineering physics degree. The department unanimously supports this venture and encourages the inclusion of the department's internationally recognized research groups into the engineering program. The faculty member will have the opportunity to use his or her experience, drive, connections and tenacity to develop a world-class engineering program. The ideal candidate will have experience with the ABET accreditation process and proven leadership skills to ensure a successful accreditation process. Rank will be commensurate with experience. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/physics.

Sociology

The Department of Sociology and Family Studies invites applications for a tenure-track position in sociology or a closely related field (e.g., criminal justice). Applicants at all levels of instructional rank will be considered; a terminal degree or ABD status is preferred. Responsibilities include teaching general undergraduate sociology courses, pursuing scholarly research, and performing service for the department and the university community. The successful applicant will demonstrate an ability to work in collaborative, collegial relationships in a multi-discipline department.

In a letter to the dean, applicants should address their qualifications for the position. They should include in the application a statement of how faith informs their teaching and/or administration; a discussion of their spiritual journey; a curriculum vita; transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work; and names, addresses and phone numbers of five references. Review of applicants will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Nominations of and applications from qualified women and minorities are especially encouraged.

ACU is affiliated with the fellowship of the Churches of Christ. All applicants must be professing Christians and be active, faithful members of a congregation of the Churches of Christ and deeply committed to service in Christian higher education. The mission of ACU is to educate students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world.

ACU does not unlawfully discriminate in employment opportunities.

110324-0711

Praying for marriage in America

Marriage is in trouble in the United States. While it's true that recent census statistics show married couples are staying together longer than they have in years, it's also true that more and more young couples are deciding that it is simpler to live together than to go through the ritual of marriage. The latest figures from the federal government show that more couples are living together outside of marriage than ever before.

The pace of American life does not allow much time for couples to develop strong connections and close relationships. Technology is replacing intimacy. Couples live together, but they are often isolated from each other because of their iPads, cell phones, computers and televisions.

Man was never intended to live alone. When God took a rib from the side of Adam to create woman, Adam declared, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."

According to my reading, it is God who then said: "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh." Much later, Jesus added a key statement: "Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate" (Matthew 5:6).

I celebrate the societal changes that have recognized the value of women and their equality with men. Men and women alike need to develop a conscientious attitude about the commitment they make when they make a marriage covenant.

Both parties need to recognize that the extreme individualism fostered by American culture is destructive to meaningful relationships.

Couples have the best chances of creating a lasting marriage when each feels an acute need for the qualities of the other. Marriages are most fulfilling when they are viewed as a total partnership based on clear, open and honest communication and on valuing the qualities of the partner.

I do believe that old saying: "The first hundred years of marriage are the hardest." Couples should schedule regular times when they talk about budgets, their feelings about people in their circle of friends, their personal needs in the relationship and how they

will use their time. Couples should work to create a supportive relationship where openness is fundamental and should not talk about personal issues with friends or family but only with a trained counselor who is objective and willing to spend time working with them.

Insight



Bailey McBride

I am a great advocate for marriage because my marriage has been so good for me. I was blessed to marry an amazing woman who has never had a bad day. Together we have grown in every way, even though we are fundamentally different.

We are blessed that our lives have had few crises, and we have each been able to use our talents for our family, for our community and for God. At different times we have challenged each other.

We began with faith, trust and love. Fifty-five years later, we have more faith, more trust and more love.

Because of the importance of my marriage and those in my family, I am praying for marriages. I want the climate for marriages to become nurturing. I want a culture where commitment is so fundamental to life that people hold firmly to their ideals and promises. I eagerly long for a time when love in its ideal form prevails in all relationships, especially marriage.

Your church can help strengthen marriages. First, you need teams for premarital counseling to help couples be realistic about their relationships and to prepare for the complexities of marriage. Second, that team needs to work with newly married couples to help the union go smoothly. Third, that team needs to be available to help with any crisis that develops in a marriage. Fourth, churches should utilize mature, successful couples to mentor those who are just starting out or are experiencing problems.

I am praying for marriage as an institution in the life of the United States. I also am praying for marriage as a meaningful, godly union where people develop rich, full lives blended by the Holy Spirit.

CONTACT bailey.mcbride@christianchronicle.org.



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Shults Lewis CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

Executive Leadership Position Available

Shults-Lewis Child and Family services, a residential treatment facility, in Valparaiso, IN, ministering to children and families in the Midwest is accepting resumes for Executive Director.

Currently the minimum requirements are as follows:

- faithful member of the Church of Christ
- strong passion for the mission of Shults-Lewis
- bachelor degree in human service field or administration, business, or a related field
- seven plus years work experience in a leadership role
- two years associated with a human services agency/organization
- leadership, management, and communication skills
- strong public communication skills
- ability to deal with uncertainty and stressful situations
- good understanding of financial liability and management
- ability to raise operating and endowment funds



Send all resumes and inquires to Ron Englehart, Chairman of the Executive Director Search Committee, at renglehart@wowway.com or mail to

3656 Edinborough Drive, Rochester Hills, MI 48306.

*You can help take the Gospel
to the newest nation on earth!*



On July 9, 2011, South Sudan becomes the world's 193rd nation. Refugees from the country's 25-year civil war are coming home!

They are eager for freedom.

They are hungry for food, medicine and education.

And they are starving for the Gospel.

Now Churches of Christ are springing to life across South Sudan. **Will you help the Christians of this new nation take the Good News to their people?**

The Sudan Project, a ministry of the Mt. Juliet Church of Christ in Tennessee, is partnering with Churches of Christ in South Sudan to provide preacher training, clean water, medical care and education.

For more information, contact The Sudan Project,
P.O. Box 248, Mt. Juliet, TN 37121-0248, (615) 470-5032;
E-mail don@sudan-project.org or find us online at www.sudan-project.org

QUEST

OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Lectureship

October 2-4, 2011

**“We also believe and
therefore speak”**
2 Corinthians 4:13



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 7 PM

Howard Norton

“I Believe the New Testament
Church is Our Model.”

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 7 PM

Chuck Monan

“I Believe Jesus was Raised
from the Dead.”

Monday, October 3

Seminar for Small Churches Dr. Stafford North, Kent Allen, Bob Rowley

Women's Day on “I Believe in the Promises of God” Lynn Jones

Mother/Daughter Banquet - 5:30 p.m. Summer, Judi, and Mia Lashley

Tuesday, October 4

Lightfoot Lectures on Preaching - 1 Thessalonians Dr. Howard Norton

Studies for Elders Dr. David Duncan, Dr. Terry Johnson, Ty Hale

Dinner Honoring Preachers, Elders, and Wives - 6:00 p.m. Dr. Terry Johnson



Dr. David Duncan



Dr. Terry Johnson



Lynn Jones



Chuck Monan



Dr. Curt Niccum



Dr. Howard Norton



Gene Stallings



Davis Burton

**For more information, go to
www.oc.edu/quest
or call 405.425.5141.**