



Wanted: Leaders for Latin America

DESPITE RAPID GROWTH, few Churches of Christ have appointed elders, deacons.

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras — Juan Jose Flores could've picked a more upbeat topic for a devotional.

Addressing nearly 200 church members at the Baxter Institute, the minister from Ibarra, Ecuador, might have focused on the providence of God in Latin America, where Churches of Christ have flourished in the past half-century.

Instead, Flores flipped the pages of his Bible to Judges 19 — the story of Gibeah, an Israelite city that adopted the ways of the world and committed sexual atrocities.

Flores urged his brethren to learn from the story and live out the faith they proclaim.

"We have excellent theology, but we don't show the true church to the world," he said.



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

In Honduras, participants in the Baxter seminar study examples of fasting in the Old and New testaments.

Again and again, speakers stressed the need for spirituality and transformed lives during the "seminario," an annual gathering of graduates, students and supporters of Baxter, a ministry training school in this Central American capital.

For 48 years, the institute has equipped Christians, including Flores, to evangelize their homelands. Now Churches of Christ exist in every Latin American country — from Mexico to Argentina.

But only a handful has the kind of leadership described in the New Testament.

In Honduras, fewer than five of the country's 200-plus congregations have elders,

See **LATIN AMERICA**, Page 14



MORE COVERAGE

PROFILE: BAXTER INSTITUTE	17
PANAMA: FAITH IN AN INDIAN VILLAGE	19
MAP: CHURCHES IN LATIN AMERICA	20
DIALOGUE: PAKISTAN'S HADAYAT DIN	22

Future looks brighter for Mich. college

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

ROCHESTER HILLS, Mich. — Each semester, Rochester College President Rubel Shelly teaches a required freshman course called "Introduction to the Christian Faith."

At a college where less than a quarter of traditional undergraduate students identify with Churches of Christ, the class exposes some 18- and 19-year-olds to the Scriptures for the first time.



Shelly

Shelly chuckles as he recalls one student who came up after the final exam and asked the professor to sign his \$9.95 copy of the New Revised Standard Version. The paperback Bible — with page numbers that Shelly can reference along with the book, chapter and verse — serves as the textbook.

"You do understand that I didn't write this book?" Shelly said he asked the young man.

See **ROCHESTER**, Page 12



Truth in fiction

Church members share faith through prose.

3

Class of 2011

Churches across the nation pay tribute to graduating high school seniors.

3, 7



Faithful duo

Trade puts Willingham, Ziegler on same team.

29

INSIDE

CALENDAR	32
CURRENTS	19
DIALOGUE	22
INSIGHT	38
INTERNATIONAL	9
LETTERS	35
NATIONAL	5
OPINION	34
PARTNERS	27
PEOPLE	29
REVIEWS	34

BOX 11000

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

73136-1100

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
OKLAHOMA CITY OK
PERMIT # 276

EASTERN EUROPEAN MISSION *CELEBRATING* 50 *1961 - 2011* *YEARS*



THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN WILL RECEIVE A BIBLE AND TEACHING IN CAMP THIS SUMMER...THE SAME CAMPS THAT USED TO TEACH COMMUNISM.

Fifty years ago who would have believed we would be teaching the Bible in the very places the communists used to indoctrinate their young people? Now communism is gone, but children still go to the camps each summer. EEM has been asked to teach and supply the Bible in the hundreds of summer camps in Ukraine. Through this process thousands of children have the opportunity to learn about God in camp and get their own Bible. They will read it and take it home for their families to read. It's impacting lives all across the nation of Ukraine.

EEM works with congregations and universities, forming teams to take the Bible into the youth camps and to teach. They are making the Bible the basis for the future. What a way to celebrate fifty years. Join us as the journey continues.



1-800-486-1818 • WWW.EEM.ORG

SINCE 1961, WE'VE BEEN DELIVERING THE SAME MESSAGE.
THE BIBLE. WE WANT EVERYONE TO GET IT.

Why it takes a church family to raise a child

My 17-year-old son, Brady, and I celebrated his high school graduation by making a three-hour drive down Interstate 35 and going to see our beloved Texas Rangers play.

We sat eight rows behind home plate one night and 10 rows behind first base the next afternoon.

"I have the best dad ever," my son wrote on his Facebook page.

Hurrah!

Dad hits a home run! Honestly, though, I have struck out way too often in raising this incredible young man. On too many occasions, I have been too distracted, too short-tempered, too selfish.

As Brady prepares for the next stage of his life, I pop straight up in bed and wonder if I have done my part to fulfill Proverbs 22:6: *"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."*

Fortunately, I have not had to raise my firstborn child alone. I am blessed with a remarkable Christian wife. Tamie is, in many ways, everything I am not: nurturing, patient, focused on the tiniest details of our three children's lives.

Yet she, like me, is far from perfect. If we were the only influences in Brady's life, I am afraid he would not have grown into the fine young Christian he has become.

See **GRADUATE**, Page 4

Inside Story



Bobby Ross Jr.

The Truth in fiction

CHRISTIAN NOVELISTS use stories, character development to share their faith, show Jesus.

BY KIMBERLY MAUCK | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

For as long as she can remember, Laura Anderson Kurk has loved writing.

She didn't find her story, though, until two years ago. That's when she experienced a deeply upsetting dream.

"I was in a house that wasn't familiar to me, and I heard a girl crying," said Kurk, a member of the A&M Church of Christ in College Station, Texas. "I looked and looked for her, afraid that it might be my own daughter."

"I found her in an upstairs room looking out a window, crying that cry of true grief," said the mother of two, who received a bachelor's degree in English from Abilene Christian University in 1991 and earned her master's from Texas A&M University in 1992. "She wouldn't talk to me, and I felt helpless."

That girl became Meg Kavanaugh, the main character in Kurk's debut novel, *"Glass Girl,"* published in 2010 by WestBow Press, a division of Thomas Nelson. The story takes a teenage girl from the darkness of grief to the light of hope.

Kurk said the darkness of young adult fiction frustrated her — vampires, werewolves and zombies but few real teens with real problems. Real teens need hope, and so did that girl in her dream.

Kurk couldn't let that girl — or that message — go.

"When I saw that it wasn't going to go away, I said, 'OK, God, let's find a way to turn darkness into light, despair into hope, in a story that appeals to all the teenagers who are this sad,'" Kurk said.

Kurk found her voice — and her ministry.

"I had this faith that this story was coming out of a really pure part of my heart, and I didn't think God would have put it there if he didn't plan on using it,"



PHOTO PROVIDED BY LAURA ANDERSON KURK

Texas church member Laura Anderson Kurk is the author of the novel *"Glass Girl."*

said Kurk, who worked in public relations and marketing before becoming a stay-at-home mom.

MINISTRY OF WORDS

Does God use novels — and the writers who spend countless hours writing, editing and seeking publication — to widen his kingdom?

This might be difficult for some of the "people of the Book" to believe, but Kurk is just one of many fiction authors in Churches of Christ who see their writing as a vital ministry.

Fiction can reach some people where other ministries might not, said James Andrews, owner of Publishing Designs Inc., a Huntsville, Ala.-based publishing house associated with Churches of Christ.

See **CHRISTIAN FICTION**, Page 24



Preacher's wife survives deadly Joplin tornado

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

For three hours after a massive tornado ripped through Joplin, Mo., on May 22, Kim Spink was missing.

Spink, wife of Greg Spink, minister for the Mt. Hope Church of Christ, had gone shopping at a Walmart where one wall was left standing, her husband said.

"She was behind it," Greg Spink said. "God blessed her and took care of her. She's one of the few that walked out. She stepped over bodies on her way out."

At press time, southwestern Missouri's death toll stood at 116.

The tornado heavily damaged the 26th and Connecticut Church of Christ building, leaders said.

The Mt. Hope church building did not sustain damages and has become a hub of relief efforts by individuals, congregations and ministries, including Nashville, Tenn.-based Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort. Donations can be sent to the Mt. Hope church at 2830 Mt. Hope Road, Webb City, MO 74870.

The tornado spared Ozark Christian College, which is associated with instrumental Christian Churches. Victor Knowles, founder and president of Joplin-based Peace on Earth Ministries, said the storm devastated south Joplin.

"Ozark Christian College is in north Joplin, where a lot of the ministries are located, and all are OK," Knowles said.

EXPANDED COVERAGE: www.christianchronicle.org/blog



PHOTO BY COURTNEY SPINK

Greg Spink looks for his wife, Kim, in her flipped-over SUV as daughter Stacy cries.



enVision...

**An encouraging one-day workshop
for church leaders and spouses**

Wednesday, June 29
8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.
(Summer Celebration begins that evening)

Inspirational and challenging messages from:

Lynn Anderson
Founder of Hope Network Ministries

Scott Hamilton
Olympic Gold Medalist

Randy Lowry
President, Lipscomb University

Practical "clinics" on pertinent topics:
Conflict Management in the Church
Leading God's People into Deeper Waters
Leading a Five-Generation Church



Advance registration for enVision is required
\$30 per person/\$50 per couple
(includes breakfast, lunch & materials)

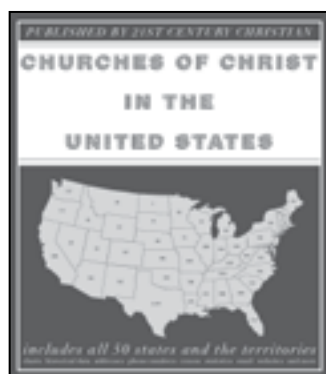
Visit us online for registration,
housing information and more:

summercelebration.lipscomb.edu

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U.S.A. 2012 EDITION IS COMING!

The Churches of Christ in the United States information sheets have been mailed out. Please take just a few moments to tell us about your congregation. Help us answer questions such as...

- Where are the churches?
- How do I contact a church?
- How many are in attendance?



Available early 2012

Listing your congregation is always FREE!

You may also make your updates online at

www.21stcc.com/ccusa



www.christianchronicle.org

Go online to find news updates, an expanded calendar, classifieds and much more.

- **Honduras:** See videos of singing from Erik Tryggstad's reporting trip to the Baxter Institute.
- **Class of 2011:** See a video from the senior celebration of the Campus Church of Christ in Norcross, Ga., and more reflections from high school graduates across the nation.
- **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.

GRADUATE: Son is first and foremost God's child

FROM PAGE 3

"How do those who aren't Christians and don't have their faith or a spiritual family get through times like these?"

You hear well-meaning people say that all the time when individuals endure a health crisis or grieve the tragic loss of a loved one. The same rings true for parents.

If it takes a village to raise a child, how much more does it take our heavenly father and a church family to raise that child in faith?

And how do parents without that spiritual support system keep their sanity through the sleep deprivation, the decision-making and the unqualified love that we pour into our children each day?

Brady is first and foremost God's child.

As his 18th birthday approaches, I can't help but think of the Sunday school teachers who helped teach Brady about Jesus from his earliest days. I can't help but think of the Leadership Training for Christ coaches who worked with him on song leading, Scripture reading, sermon delivery and even puppets. I can't help but think of the youth ministers who organized Bible studies, mission trips and service projects.

I can't help but think of people like children's ministry director Brenda Gordon, minister Kent Risley and many others at our home congregation — the Edmond Church of Christ in Oklahoma — who never missed an opportunity to greet Brady with smiles and hugs and make him feel extra special.

I can't help but think of the elders at the Greenwood Church of Christ, the rural congregation near Decatur, Texas, where my father, Bob Ross, ministers. The Greenwood elders gave Brady his

first opportunity to preach. And they keep inviting him back!

As Brady dons his cap and gown, I can't help but thank God for the wonderful Christian family — serving Jesus all over the world — that he has given all of us.

I'm writing this the day before the Edmond church honors its graduating seniors. That's probably a good thing,

as I'm not certain I'd be able to type for the tears if I waited until the elders presented Brady with a Bible and prayed for him and his future.

I'm so proud of Brady as he prepares to enter Oklahoma Christian University, his parents' alma mater, and pursue a double major in preaching and youth ministry. Yet Tamie and I know that he's going to face many obstacles.

Seldom, if ever, is ministry easy.

My wife and I don't

want to see Brady hurt by the world. We especially don't want to see him hurt by the church.

"I think about Samuel's mother, Hannah, and wonder if she had the same fears," Tamie said. "I think about Elizabeth, raising a child she knew would go out and proclaim Jesus and baptize many in his name. And, of course, I think about Mary. All were women of deep faith, unwavering trust in what God had in store for their sons. Surely I can allow him to use mine for his plan, too."

Tamie and I pray that God will watch out for our child — *his* child — as Brady endeavors to serve him.

"I have the best dad ever," Brady said.

Indeed, he does. Just not the one he was talking about. Praise God for that.



BOBBY ROSS JR.

**Brady Ross, with his mother,
Tamie, after his graduation.**

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

CALIFORNIA

SAN FRANCISCO — The youth group at the Lake Merced Church of Christ baked brownies, made lemonade and sold the items to help Alabama tornado victims.

"They made a little over \$160," said Rhonda Blythe, wife of minister Richard Blythe. "That, I know, is not a lot, but it is quite a bit for our small group."

The students donated the funds to the Central Church of Christ in Tuscaloosa, Ala., which lost its building.

WOODLAND — With a little help from Chase Bank, the Kentucky Avenue Church of Christ is about to undergo one the largest changes in its relatively brief history.

The bank has agreed to give the church the property it needs to build an auditorium that could one day house hundreds, the *Daily Democrat* reported.

In the 1990s, the church was a group of 12 who met in rented rooms. Since then, the ranks have swelled to more than 100 members, doubling in the last three years, elder Jim Morgan said. For an expanded report, see www.christianchronicle.org/blog and search for "Kentucky Avenue."

COLORADO

FRISCO — It's probably safe to describe worship with the Summit County Church of Christ as a mountaintop experience.

At 8,900 feet above sea level, the congregation describes itself as America's highest.

The membership includes a mountaineer who has climbed every peak over 14,000 feet in Colorado, skiers, snowboarders, kayakers, fly fishermen, hikers, mountain bikers, nature photographers and four-wheel-drive enthusiasts, member Jeff McAbee said.

"People tell us all the time that they've been coming to Summit County for years and didn't even know that we were here," McAbee said.

GEORGIA

VALDOSTA — "Indiana Jones" teaches Bible to kids at a Church of Christ in south Georgia.

Actually, it's Kerry Morris — the Central Avenue Church of Christ's answer to the big-screen adventurer — who shares the Word in the congregation's Living Museum of Bible History.

The new museum is part of Faith Avenue, a children's program at the church, the *Valdosta Daily Times*



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Boston Bruins goalie 'loves the Lord'

Tim Thomas is a star hockey player. The Boston Bruins goalkeeper is also a faithful Christian, says Tony Thompson, preaching minister for the Burlington Church of Christ in Massachusetts. "Our church family has really enjoyed Tim's success in hockey, including an Olympic silver medal and winning the Vezina Trophy as the best goalie in the NHL," Thompson said. "Obviously, much more important ... is the fact that Tim loves the Lord and the church and is devoted to his family."

reported. For an expanded report, see www.christianchronicle.org/blog and search for "Indiana Jones."

KENTUCKY

CALVERT CITY — Paula Harrington is looking for a few good Bible class teachers. (Aren't we all?)

Seriously, Harrington is compiling a book and looking for teachers to offer advice, humorous stories and encouragement for those pressed into service.

A member of the Calvert City Church of Christ, Harrington is the author of books including "A Sunday Afternoon with the Preachers' Wives" and "A Common Bond." Reach her by e-mail at harringtonseven@yahoo.com.



Harrington

TEXAS

FARMERS BRANCH — The PT Cruzers, as the seniors group at the Webb Chapel Church of Christ is known, are concerned about more than social activities.

Led by Charles and Julie Thacker, the Cruzers dedicate themselves to good works — including packing medical supplies for Healing Hands International, a humanitarian aid ministry associated with Churches of Christ.

RICHARDSON — More than 700 mothers, grandmothers, sisters and daughters ages 9 to 90, many wearing various shades of pink, gathered recently for the 26th annual Adolescent and Ladies Symposium at the Greenville Avenue Church of Christ.

The theme was "Life by the Spirit: Overcoming Obstacles," and attendees

SPOTLIGHT**Model servants**

MALIBU, Calif. — *The Christian Chronicle* honored Dan and Katherine Cooper with the Christian Service Award at the recent Pepperdine University Bible Lectures.

The Coopers have served Churches of Christ in New Jersey since 1973. For 27 years, Dan has preached for the Pitman Church of Christ.

Emily Lemley, a *Chronicle* trustee, presented the honor.

"Dan and Katherine have modeled commitment in ministry, marriage, evangelism and spiritual mentoring and in their love for the Lord, his church and all people," the award plaque said.

The Pitman church recently celebrated the opening of its new, 28,000-square-foot building.



RON HALL

Dan and Katherine Cooper

came from as far away as California, *The Dallas Morning News* reported.

Founder Mildred Bell told the *News* she created the symposium as a way to follow the teachings of the Bible, "which instructs the older women to teach the younger women to live reverently."

VIRGINIA

FALLS CHURCH — The Fourth of July is a time for food, fireworks — and fellowship.

On July 3-4, the Church of Christ in Falls Church plans its fourth annual Independence Day event for college students — be they interns, tourists or area residents.

Along with seeing the fireworks show in the nation's capital, students will enjoy opportunities for spiritual growth and hear from guest speakers. For more information, see www.fallschurchcoc.org.

ChurchofChristMusic.com

We have a HUGE selection of favorites, like these from PROVIDENCE!

1 "HEAVENLY LOVE"

- Hilltops Of Glory / Salvation Has Been Brought Down / Yes, I'll Live In Glory
- Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind
- When I See The Blood (Live)
- There's A Lighthouse
- He's Got The Whole World In His Hands
- When The Saints Go Marching In
- Tis' The Old Time Religion
- Onward Christian Soldiers
- Will The Circle Be Unbroken?
- There Is A Place Of Refuge
- Until Then (Live)
- When I Survey The Wondrous Cross
- O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee
- You'll Never Walk Alone (Live)
- A Mighty Fortress
- Sweet Beulah Land (Live)
- Deep River (Live)
- There Is Strength In The Name Of The Lord
- Go Light My World (Featuring Lynn Reeves with Guest Performer Amy McCoy)
- Holy Father Grant Us Peace
- Sing Hallelujah To The Lord
- The Steadfast Love Of The Lord
- Do You Know My Jesus?
- Awesome Power
- Savior, Lead Me Lest I Stray
- Heavenly Love (Live)
- Amazing Grace
- Turn Your Radio On (Live)

2 "STAND BY ME"

- Stand By Me
- My Eyes Are Dry
- Known Only To Him
- Who Am I?
- Heavenly Father, We Appreciate You
- Lamb Of God
- I Will Serve You
- He Touched Me
- By And By
- Come Share The Lord
- Lead Me, Guide Me
- Poor, Wayfaring Stranger
- Thank You, Lord
- Hear, O Israel
- Spirit Of The Living God
- Hallelujah
- Reach Out To Jesus
- How Shall The Young Secure Their Hearts?
- You Are My All In All
- Lord, Take Control
- Somebody Bigger Than You And I
- The Steadfast Love Of The Lord
- The Love Of God
- In My Father's House Are Many Mansions
- Why Me Lord?
- He Is Able
- There's Room At The Cross For You

**PROVIDENCE
WITH
Rodney Britt!**

3 "I GO TO THE ROCK"

- Help Me
- Everybody Ought To Know
- I Believe
- We Call On Him
- Come Praise The Lord
- So High
- Till The Storm Passes By
- I Don't Know About Tomorrow
- I Know Who Holds Tomorrow
- He'll Understand And Say Well Done
- Religion In Glory
- Lord Be There
- How Long Has It Been?
- My God Is Real
- Faithful Love
- When Jesus Comes
- Lead Me Lord
- My Life, My Love
- You're The Lifter Of My Name
- Hilltops Of Glory
- Salvation Has Been Brought Down
- In My Life, Lord
- We Are One
- Gentle Shepherd
- Turn My Heart
- I Go To The Rock
- Open My Eyes
- I'd Like To Live Here Longer
- Jesus Is Lord Of All

4 "PROVIDENCE - TOTALLY PROVIDENCE"

- Never Been This Home Sick Before
- Too Much To Gain To Lose
- Remind Me, Dear Lord
- He Is Ever Over Me
- And Can It Be?
- Jesus Flow Like A River
- Crying In The Chapel
- There's A Goldmine In The Sky
- Thomas' Song
- Mansion Robe And Crown
- No Tears In Heaven
- Hold To God's Unchanging Hand
- Lord Feed Your Children
- I'm Telling The World About His Love
- If I Stand
- Glory
- O Come, Angel Band
- Farther Along
- Little Jimmy Brown
- The Old Lamp Lighter
- It Is No Secret
- I Saw The Light
- May The Good Lord Bless And Keep You
- Give The World A Smile Each Day
- On The Wings Of A Dove
- Listen To Our Hearts
- There's A Grand Old Highway
- God Will Make A Way
- The Wonder Of You

*Providence
Quartet™
with
Rodney Britt!*

PERFECT GIFT FOR ANY OCCASION! Don't forget to give some of these popular albums to your loved ones...or yourself! They will provide hours of uplifting listening.

5 "JESUS IS LORD"

- I Can Only Imagine
- Jesus Is Lord
- Jesus, Name Above All Names
- Thomas' Song
- Jesus, Flow Like A River
- Heavenly Love
- Awesome Power
- Nobody Fills My Heart Like Jesus
- There Is Strength In The Name Of The Lord
- I'm Telling The World About His Love
- Reach Out To Jesus
- He Is Ever Over Me
- Jesus, Savior Pilot Me
- Instruments Of Your Peace
- We Are One In The Spirit
- There's A Stranger At The Door
- Go Light Your World
- No Not One
- The Steadfast Love Of The Lord
- Sing Hallelujah To The Lord
- Holy Father, Grant Us Peace
- Do You Know My Jesus?
- Tho Your Sins Be As Scarlet
- There's A Stirring
- The Lily Of The Valley
- Savior, Lead Me Lest I Stray
- Alleluia
- Under The Water
- I Awaited
- Down In The River To Pray

HARDING!



6 "MOST REQUESTED TRADITIONAL HYMNS"

- Holy, Holy, Holy
- Precious Memories
- No Tears In Heaven
- Blessed Assurance
- Crossing The Bar
- O Love That Will Not Let Me Go
- Rock Of Ages
- Beyond The Sunset
- Come Ye Disconsolate
- Old Rugged Cross
- Only In Thee
- Safe In The Arms Of Jesus
- The Garden Of Prayer
- In The Sweet By And By
- Never Grow Old
- An Empty Mansion
- Amazing Grace
- It Is Well With My Soul
- Fairest Lord Jesus
- Whispering Hope
- My God And I
- Savior Breathe An Evening Blessing

7 "I CAN HEAR MY SAVIOR CALLING"

- Be With Me Lord
- He Leadeth Me
- Jesus, Savior Pilot Me
- Does Jesus Care?
- I Can Hear My Savior Calling
- Walking Alone At Eve
- Have Thine Own Way Lord
- Blest Be The Tie That Binds
- O God, Our Help In Ages Past
- Eternal Father, Strong To Save
- The Sands Of Time Are Sinking
- The Lord Bless You And Keep You
- Day Is Dying In The West
- How Great Thou Art
- Face To Face
- In The Land Of Fadeless Day
- Wonderful Words Of Life
- Yes, For Me He Careth
- O Jesus, I Have Promised
- Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind
- God's Family
- Because He Lives
- If That Isn't Love
- Morning Has Broken
- I Love The Lord
- Home



10 "MANSIONS OVER THE HILLTOP"

- I Come To The Garden Alone
- Nobody Knows But Jesus
- Mine Eye Has Seen The Glory
- His Eye Is On The Sparrow
- Mansions Over The Hilltop
- There Is A Balm In Gilead
- Our God, He Is Alive
- The Love Of God
- O Happy Day
- Beyond The Sunset's Radiant Glow
- This Is My Father's World
- I Hear The Voice Of Jesus Say
- Poor Wayfaring Stranger
- Jesus Is All The World To Me
- Take Time To Be Holy
- Let The Lower Lights Be Burning
- Wonderful Story Of Love
- God Moves In A Mysterious Way
- The Old Rugged Cross

8 "I NEED THEE EVERY HOUR"

- What A Friend We Have In Jesus
- I Need Thee Every Hour
- Softly And Tenderly
- In The Hour Of Trial
- There Is A Place Of Quiet Rest
- Sweet Will Of God
- He Lifted Me
- The Last Mile Of The Way
- In Heavenly Love Abiding
- God Be With You Till We Meet Again
- Nearer My God To Thee



- My Faith Looks Up To Thee
- Abide With Me
- Beneath The Cross Of Jesus
- Must Jesus Bear The Cross Alone
- When My Love To Christ Grows Weak
- Purer In Heart, O God
- Sweeter As The Years Go By
- Sun Of My Soul
- More Love To Thee
- My Jesus, I Love Thee
- Nearer, Still Nearer



- O Lord, Our Lord
- Beautiful Isle Of Somewhere
- They Are Nailed To The Cross
- What A Friend We Have In Jesus



9 "FOLLOW ME"

- Boundless Love
- Follow Me
- The Love Of God
- Learning To Lean
- Praise God
- Thou Art Worthy, Great Jehovah
- His Grace Reaches Me
- He Is Exalted
- Blessed Be The Lord God Almighty
- He Has Made Me Glad
- Sing, Amen!
- When He Comes In Glory
- By And By
- Each Step I Take
- The Battle Belongs To The Lord
- The Family Of God
- Let Us Break Bread Together
- I Keep Falling In Love With Him
- Great Is The Lord Almighty
- I Just Came To Praise The Lord
- Easter Song
- Peace In The Valley
- Shine, Jesus, Shine
- Above All Else
- You Are My All In All
- Lord, Let Us Now Depart In Peace

- He Touched Me
- Step By Step
- Holy God, We Praise Your Name
- He Lives
- Lead Me To Calvary
- Oh, The Depth Of The Riches
- Freely, Freely
- Awesome God
- Sanctuary

TREMENDOUS BLEND OF BOTH NEW AND OLD SONGS, FEATURING THE GOLDEN SOUNDS OF HARDING.



Call Toll Free 1-800-654-5918 • Fax 972-385-9430

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

DALLAS CHRISTIAN SOUND, INC. • P.O. BOX 796072 • DALLAS, TX 75379

Recorded using the
"Songs Of The Church"
and "Church Gospel
Songs And Hymns"
songbooks

CDs - \$13⁹⁹ ea.

Please Add \$4.00
To Your Total Order For Shipping



Please circle
all the recordings
you wish to order.

WE ACCEPT



Congregations pay tribute to the Class of 2011

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Baby picture displays. Bible presentations. Banquets after Sunday services.

It's the time of year when many Churches of Christ across the nation recognize graduating seniors.

"We start by singing 'A Common Love' as the seniors enter our worship assembly," said Corey Trevathan, student minister for the Campus Church of Christ in Norcross, Ga. "It's a way for our church family to say and share the love we have for these seniors in the Lord."



At the A&M Church of Christ in College Station, Texas, senior boys lead a special worship service. Elders present graduates with Bibles and thank God for them.

That night, juniors serve senior classmates at a catered dinner that features plenty of laughter as well as tears.

"We present each graduate with an award for something funny they have said or done while with the youth group," said Monty McCully, A&M's youth and family minister.

"Then we have a special time of blessing by each graduate's parents. We ask each mom to share a funny story about their son or daughter, and we ask each dad to say a short blessing over their son or daughter."

Besides Bibles, seniors at the Pleasant Valley Church of Christ in Little Rock, Ark., receive laundry baskets — to collect gifts from the congregation and, presumably, to store dirty clothes when they leave home, missions minister Roger Pritchett said.

The Fairgrounds Road Church of Christ in Troy, Mo., promotes

Christian education by offering a \$500 scholarship to any graduate who chooses a college or university associated with Churches of Christ, deacon of education Rod Dollins said.

At the San Leandro Church of Christ in California, each senior takes the microphone.

Graduates talk about future plans and offer advice

for younger members.

"Everyone really enjoys hearing from our seniors and honoring them," said Judy Square, wife of San Leandro family minister Woody Square. "It can be especially moving when seniors share a favorite memory and thank the church. Older members realize that all the time and energy they pour into teens and children is appreciated by them."

PHOTOS BY MARK SISCO

Bibles serve as graduation gifts for a Georgia church's seniors.

church. Older members realize that all the time and energy they pour into teens and children is appreciated by them."

Amid all the "Pomp and Circumstance," *The Christian Chronicle* asked a few members of the Class of 2011 about their "hero in the faith."

Among the responses:

"The hero of my faith is my mother, Shelly Kellis.

"She has led by her example.



Kellis

She has taught me that living inside my comfort zone was never Jesus' intention for my faith and wouldn't help me grow into the person and purpose he has planned for me. She has pushed me to put my faith first, others second and myself last."

Rebekah Kellis | Greater Portland Church of Christ, Maine



Katie Sisco, center, Alex Shakkour and other high school seniors at the Campus Church of Christ in Norcross, Ga., bow as an elder prays for them, their families and the graduates' transition to the next phase of their lives.

"Skyler Ellis is my hero. He is my best friend, and he has been since the seventh grade.

"He has always invited me to church. But for some reason, I always turned him down. It took me until my junior year to finally accept his offer. God worked through him to help me in my time of need.



Rataphan

"He never gave up on me, just like God never would, and we've grown so much in our faith together. I look at him as a role model as he spreads the Word and represents Jesus Christ in everything he does.

"We were always best friends, but Christ elevated our friendship to a new level. I am

so blessed to have a friend like him, as I have no idea where I would be without him. God worked through Skyler, and it ultimately saved me."

Natt Rataphan | Greenville Oaks Church of Christ, Allen, Texas

"My hero in the faith is my grandmother, Mary Crosswhite, a member of the Lawson Chapel Church of Christ in Clay County, Miss.



Morris

"She is a strong, wise, faithful and humble Christian woman who exemplifies what it means to be the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31."

Mary Beth Morris | Henderson Church of Christ, Tennessee

"If I had to pick my hero in the faith, it would be my brother David Ray. He was the one that baptized me.

"We have always been able to be real with each other. If I have a problem, he is one of the first people I go to. I know that if I talk to him about something, he's not going to judge me for it.

"He's understanding and helps me be a better person by keeping me in check on my spiritual walk. He's my brother, and I love him. Me and him live out Proverbs 27:17: 'As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.'"

Aaron Ray | Alliance Church of Christ, Ohio

IN THE VOICES COLUMN on Page 35, graduating seniors reflect on the role of the church in the development of their faith.



IS YOUR CHURCH GROWING?

**DO YOU WANT TO
REACH YOUR COMMUNITY?**

Come home with us.

Together, let's do more to reach Americans. With WBS **Connect**, your church can use WBS tools and your own promotional efforts to seek, enroll, and teach your own WBS students—around the world and **right in your own community.**

www.worldbibleschool.net/Connect



As Larry Brady was returning home from church one Sunday, he was devastated by a call telling him his 29-year-old son Chris had committed suicide. Learn from the Brady family's experience as Larry explains the importance of an early diagnosis of mental illness in children.

Larry Brady
UNDIAGNOSED
losing the son I didn't know

Available through
Late Publishing
\$18.99
or as an e-book on
Amazon.com
\$9.99

in cooperation with
BARDON&MORSE
PUBLISHING

**Get the Super-Cool
Waterproof Bible!**
from your discount Bible store

**Mention this ad and
save 30% off the retail price**

100% Waterproof
Comes in 5 popular versions
Perfect for missions, camps,
poolside & outdoor sports

AllBibles.com

- * **FREE SHIPPING** on orders of \$50+
- * Over 4,000 different Bibles to choose from
- * Logo and name imprinting on most of our Bibles
- * Save on Bible accessories and communionware too

Save 30% off the retail price offer valid thru 7/31/11

Your Discount Bible Source
1-800-970-2425

**Albuquerque
Christian
Children's Home**

**Do you have a heart for children?
Come join our team!**

The Albuquerque Christian Children's Home provides a loving, safe home for neglected and at-risk children. The Home is located on six acres by the historic Rio Grande River. We are looking for a faithful couple to serve as houseparents. Applicants need to be members of a Church of Christ in good standing. We provide a nice benefits package, medical insurance, long- and short-term disability, annual leave, and much more.

All interested couples should send both of their resumes plus a cover letter of interest to Everett White by email to ewhite@acch4kids.org or fax to 505-899-4341. You can also view this information on our website: www.acch4kids.org

ALBANIA

DURRES — Members of 11 congregations in this south-eastern European nation attended a recent retreat. Guest speakers were William Wharton, John Massie and Dino Roussos.

“We considered the meeting a historical event in the life and work of the Lord’s church in Albania,” said Alfred Zike, a minister in Durres. “I confess to you that it helped us to grow in God’s word and in loving one another.”

BRAZIL

RECIFE — About 55 church leaders in the Recife area attended a seminar on church growth, said missionary Josh Pruitt. “We discussed the many aspects of a healthy church, such as leadership training, equipping members, discovering God’s mission and vision for the congregation,” Pruitt said.

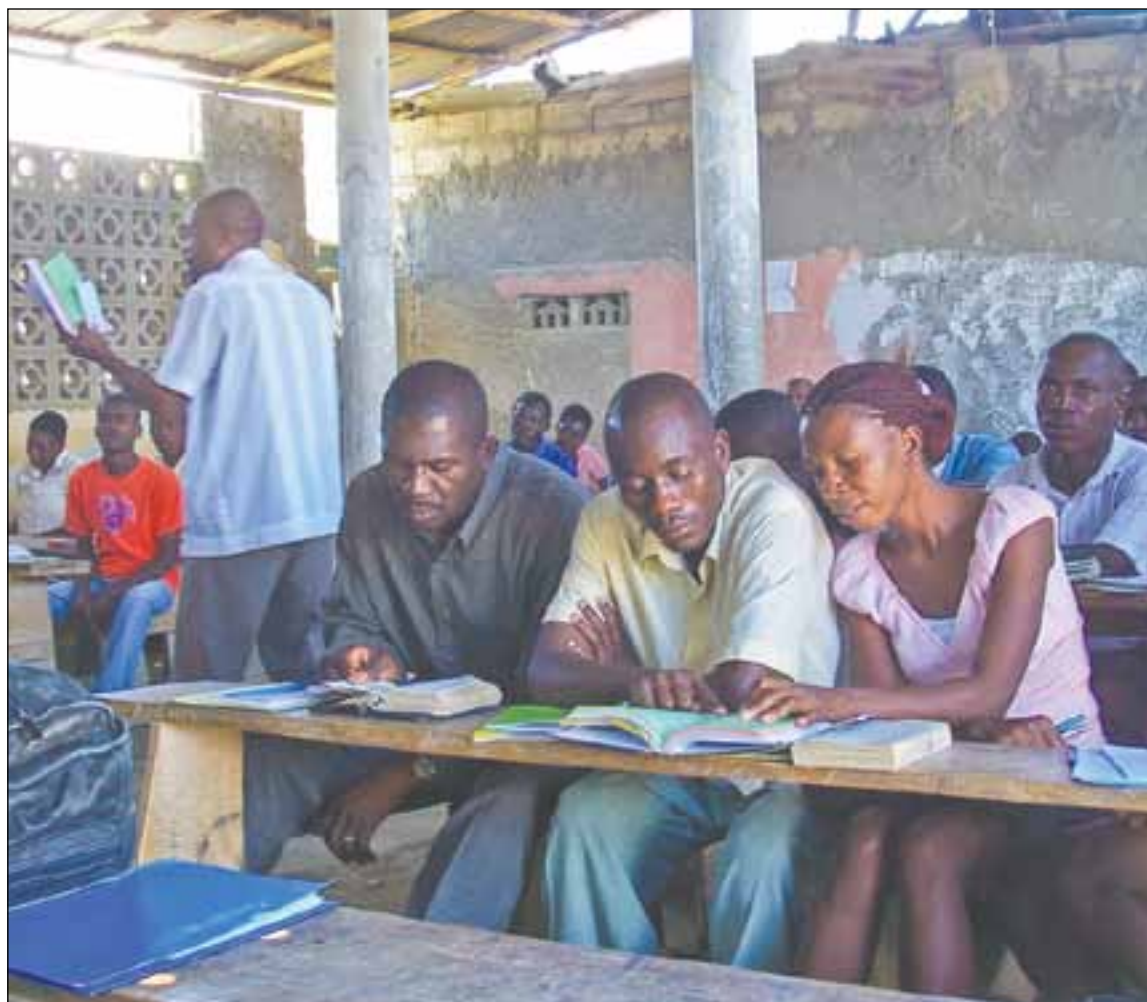
NEPAL

KHATITHOK — Stan and Janis Hurd, members of the Gooding County Church of Christ in Wendell, Idaho, traveled to Nepal’s mid-hills region to teach and fellowship with Christians there. The couple worked with Alabama minister Mike Brooks, a longtime missionary to Nepal and Bangladesh.

“The church in this rural area has a strong, faithful group of more than 150,” Stan Hurd said. “The results of the Lord’s power at these meetings were nine new souls giving their lives to Christ. This brought the total for new converts at



PHOTO PROVIDED BY STAN HURD

A Church of Christ in Khatithok.

DAVID MAY

Singing a new song in northwestern Haiti

Christians share books as they learn a new song at the Church of Christ in Port-de-Paix, Haiti. Church members on Haiti’s northern coast attended a seminar featuring speakers Charlie McGee, minister for the St. Joseph Church of Christ in Michigan, and David May, a Christian author from St. Paul, Minn. Fatton Dieumeme preaches for the Port-de-Paix church.

Khatithok in 2011 to 38.”

Additional baptisms followed the couple’s visit, he added.

SWITZERLAND

THANGEN — More than 200 church members gathered to strike, steal and sing during the eighth annual Church of Christ soccer tournament, organized by congregations in the Swiss cities of Schaffhausen and Zurich.

“Two days of intense competition was the focus of brotherly fellowship, highlighted by devotions and the Sunday morning sharing of the Lord’s Table in three languages,” said Doyle

Kee, a minister in Geneva.

Sixteen teams competed. The Lausanne, Switzerland, team won the amateur competition, and the team from Geneva won the “pro” cup, Kee said.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY DOYLE KEE

Soccer players in Switzerland.**ZAMBIA**

INONGE — A gospel meeting — attended by more than 800 people from 20 congregations — turned tragic when an improvised log bench collapsed, killing a 9-month-old baby, said minister Kennedy Mukuka.

The next day, Saturday, organizers canceled a door-to-door evangelism program to attend the infant’s funeral.

The program resumed Sunday, resulting in seven baptisms.

Mukuka and other representatives of Mapepe Bible College attended to help with Bible classes and evangelism.

SPOTLIGHT**Back to Bolivia**

SUCRE, Bolivia — Jenny Reyes is thankful to God for the Christians who rallied around her as she battled liposarcoma, a malignant tumor in her left leg.

Reyes and her husband, Erik, returned to South America, where they serve on a mission team, after surgery in Texas to remove the tumor. The surgeon and the anesthesiologist

**Reyes**

provided their services for free.

Nonetheless, the Reyes faced high medical bills. *The Christian Chronicle* reported on the family’s needs, and readers responded. The couple returned to Bolivia debt-free.

“Thank you so much,” Erik Reyes said. “God opened the door there, and people responded. Praise God.”

Just weeks after the surgery, Jenny can walk, jump rope and jog. A physical therapist who watched her recovery said it was a miracle. Her husband agreed.

READ THE REYES’ BLOG at sucreteam.blogspot.com.

ZIMBABWE

HARARE — African Christians prayed, sang and baptized new believers during the opening service of the Harare Central Church of Christ, a new congregation in Zimbabwe’s capital.

Leonard Magayo, a graduate of Southern Africa Bible College in Benoni, South Africa, ministers for the church.

“When he was a student at SABC back in 2003, he was teaching and bringing people for baptism about every week,” missionary Jerry Hogg said of Magayo. “In Harare, he conducts Bible studies with individuals and converts many.”

LCU ONLINE GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN BIBLICAL STUDIES

- MA Biblical Interpretation
- MS Bible & Ministry
- MS Youth & Family Ministry
- MS Christian Ministry
- MS Family Ministry
- Masters of Divinity

Associate member, Association of Theological Schools



For more information contact Donna Taylor
donna.taylor@lcu.edu or 806.720.7662

How do I...
Minister to someone who is addicted?
Start an addiction-recovery
group at my church?
Stop drinking, drugging, gambling,
over-eating, or using porn?

Here's how.

AskCASA.com

for Bible-based solutions & resources
relating to addiction recovery.

2011 National Christian Camping Workshop

September 13-16

Gulf Coast Bible Camp
Lucedale, Mississippi



Workshop details will be
posted on the NACC web-
site: www.naccamps.org



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ARNOLD DZAH

Women in West Africa show skills in Bible bowl

Members of the Church of Christ in Dakar, Senegal, hold their children and a "Certificate of Excellence" after winning a Bible quiz competition in the neighboring nation of Gambia. For the second year, women from congregations in Senegal and Gambia went head-to-head in friendly competition, said Arnold Dzah, a minister in Senegal who served as quiz master.

Last year, churches in Senegal hosted the competition, which was won by women from Gambian churches. This year, the Senegalese women traveled to Gambia and won.

"The style of the questions and the performance of the ladies of both congregations have generated some interest in all the ladies who attended," Dzah said. The captain of the winning team and Dzah's wife, Agnes Faith Dzah, said that the women now want to compete against the men of the congregation, "and she is sure they will win," Arnold Dzah said.

In India, churches build without walls

CHIPURUPALLI, India — Missionary Hershel Bearden said he has asked God to provide funds for 50 "Buildings Without Walls" for Churches of Christ in southern India in 2011.

As the name indicates, the buildings are simple structures with a roof, support pillars and no walls. Each facility can seat 125 church members.

In 1996, missionary Royce Frederick and Bearden launched the program, which has resulted in 292 church buildings thus far. Bearden, sponsored by the Angelina Church of Christ in Lufkin, Texas, evangelizes, helps churches mature and provides material aid to congregations in India's Andhra Pradesh state. He also helped



PHOTO PROVIDED BY BECKI BASHAM

A church building "without walls" in India.

launch the Courtney Swann/Matthew McCartney Children's Home in Chipurupalli. Sponsors are needed for 40 children at the home.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact the Angelina Church of Christ at (936) 634-4555.

DOORS

Panama

David and Lisa Carter request funds to upgrade their communication with supporters of evangelistic and humanitarian projects in Panama. Funds may be

sent to: West Orange Church of Christ, 1450 Daniels Rd., Winter Garden, FL 34787. Contact www.cocwo.com or (407) 656-2770. Send questions to DLCHBS@yahoo.com or (407) 429-0287.

SERVICE

When Gary Washer began his studies at Heritage Christian University in 2007, he never dreamed where life was about to take him. The Tennessee native planned to complete his ministry studies on campus, but when his new bride's job took them to Malaysia, Gary never missed a beat.

HCU's online program allowed him to continue his studies from the moment his boots hit the ground, and the Distance Learning staff is keeping him on track... so Gary can minister to the people of Malaysia and continue working toward his degree. That's the kind of service you can expect from HCU. It's our focus.

www.hcu.edu • 256.766.6610 • 800.367.3565
3625 Helton Drive • P.O. Box HCU
Florence, AL 35630



HERITAGE
CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

INTO THE HEART OF GOD

Global MISSIONS CONFERENCE



October 19–22, 2011
Fort Worth, TX

A comprehensive missions gathering to advance domestic and global outreach. Planning is led by a Steering Committee of missions leaders across the nation. Conference features include:



- **International Presenters**
- **Practical Missions Sessions**
- **Missions Exhibits and Networking**
- **Programs for Children and Teens**
- **University Students Welcome**

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Fred Asare
Accra, Ghana

Jim McGuigan
Belfast, Ireland

Howard Norton
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Evertt Huffard
Memphis, Tennessee

Randy Harris
Abilene, Texas

Daniel Rodriguez
Malibu, California

Shon Smith
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

A collaborative effort of churches of Christ

Missions Resource Network

Register online at www.globalmissionsconference.org or visit with us at 817.267.2727.

ROCHESTER: Small Christian college came close to shutting down

FROM PAGE 1
“Yes, sir,” the student replied. “But this is the first Bible I’ve ever owned, and you’ve taught me how to read it.”
Welcome to Shelly’s world — a mission field doubling as a college campus, about 25 miles north of Detroit.
The opportunity to introduce young people to Jesus explains why Shelly — with a background in ministry, not higher education — has worked so hard to keep this struggling Christian college alive.
Leading a visitor on a tour of the 80-acre campus overlooking the Clinton River, Klint Pleasant, vice president of institutional advancement, shows off the digs for Rochester’s new nursing program.
The program — a partnership with nearby Crittenton Hospital Medical Center — highlights the creative approaches that Rochester has taken under Shelly, Pleasant said.
“He’s Mighty Mouse,” Pleasant said. “I tell people, and I believe this, ‘I think this campus would be a Wal-Mart if it weren’t for his leadership.’”
“I agree. He saved us,” said Lora Hutson, a communications professor.

DOUBLE BLOW: DEBT AND RECESSION
For 27 years, Shelly served as pulpit minister of the Woodmont Hills Church of Christ in Nashville, Tenn.
When he left in 2005, he joined Rochester’s religion faculty part time, voicing a desire to help prepare future preachers. He became a full-time professor the next year.
But in 2008, Rochester trustees asked Shelly to fill a much larger role, tapping him as “interim” president when the

former head, Mike Westerfield, resigned. Before long, the “interim” tag was removed.
Shelly inherited the reins of a college — inspired by Church of Christ members who came to work in Detroit’s automotive industry after World War II — in deep financial trouble.
The college was awash in building debt and had taken out loans from supporters to meet operating expenses with no ability to repay them, said Jim Randolph, chairman of Rochester’s 14-person board of trustees, all members of Churches of Christ.
“That created not only a debt-servicing issue but a real credibility problem with people who were friends of the college,” said Randolph, a retired automotive manager who serves as executive minister of the Rochester Church of Christ, next to campus.
Compounding the internal problems: A national recession that hit Michigan worse than most.
Asked how close Rochester came to closing, Randolph replied bluntly, “Close enough that we could clearly see over the cliff.”
After Shelly’s promotion, Rochester refinanced more than \$20 million in capital debt through the Church Development Fund Inc. CDF, based in Irvine, Calif., makes loans to Restoration Movement ministries.
Without that refinancing, the college would not have survived, Shelly said.
In the meantime, leaders explored a variety of options, including selling the college to K-12, an online education company.
The idea was that the sale



Students Kyle Blue, Rogers Biina, Jasmine Baker and Liz Stockwell enjoy a spring day between classes.

would allow the college to keep training Christian leaders while the for-profit company provided funds to deal with financial concerns.
That plan fizzled when the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities — Rochester’s accrediting agency — balked.
But the lessons learned about the college’s core strengths and potential for serving new markets — such as online students — proved fruitful, Shelly said.
“It educated us on strategic moves to make,” he said.
The difference-maker in Rochester’s survival?
“It is my personal opinion that the institution would not have survived had it not been for Rubel Shelly and the leadership team that he assembled,” Randolph said, praising the contributions of chief financial officer Mark VanRheenen, vice president of academic affairs John Barton, Klint Pleasant and others.

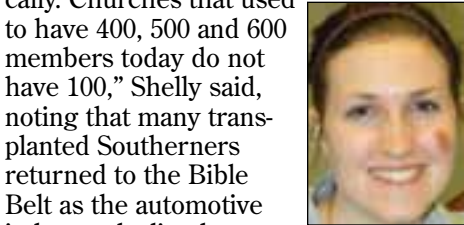
OUT OF THE CRITICAL CARE UNIT
The patient is no longer on life support. Still, she’s working to regain full strength.
That’s Shelly’s assessment of the school formerly known as Michigan Christian College. The name change came in 1997 amid misconceptions that the one-time junior college offered only religious training and was not accredited, leaders said.
“The school has survived a hard time,” Shelly told *The Christian Chronicle*. “We’re in place now; closing is not an option that’s being considered. The options being considered here are healthy options.”
Besides creating the nursing degree and making plans to expand online course offerings, Rochester has partnered with the Pontiac School District to offer an early-college program for urban students. Moreover, it has entered a formal relationship with debt-management guru Dave Ramsey to provide an accredited college-level course in personal finance.
But new initiatives aren’t the

only reason for optimism.
“The economy has improved, and student numbers have gone up rather dramatically,” Shelly said. In fall 2010, enrollment hit a record of nearly 1,100 students.
That included 600 traditional students — about 200 of whom lived on campus. The other 500 students were enrolled in Rochester’s Center for Extended Learning, a degree-completion program for working adults.
“I’d like to say the solution has been the brilliant leadership of the college’s administration,” Shelly said. “I could never sell that. God’s been very, very good.”

SURVIVING WITH A DECLINING BASE
Despite the strides made, challenges remain.
Key among them: How to embrace Rochester’s Church of Christ heritage even as the college increasingly recruits



Grant



Brackney

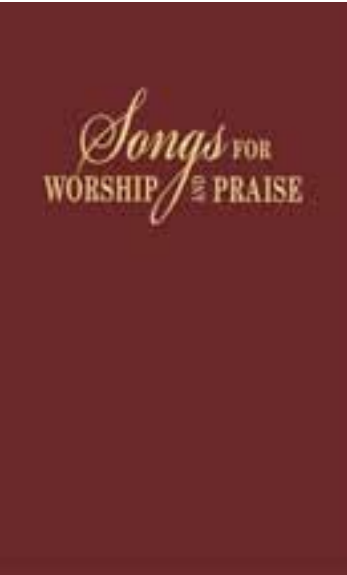
Recent Rochester graduate Emily Polet talks with psychology professor Gordon MacKinnon.
from a wider Christian — and even non-Christian — market.
In a recent school year, 24 percent of Rochester students gave their religious affiliation as Church of Christ. That’s down from 55 percent a decade ago.
“If you did a demographic study of Churches of Christ in Michigan, you’d find that they’ve declined just dramatically. Churches that used to have 400, 500 and 600 members today do not have 100,” Shelly said, noting that many transplanted Southerners returned to the Bible Belt as the automotive industry declined.
“I can’t change the fact that there are fewer Churches of Christ in the area,” he added. “I want a strong and healthy relationship with the remaining churches ... and we draw a lot of support from those people. It’s just the reality that if we are going to continue to function, we are going to have to serve a broader base.”
Rochester senior Rachel Grant, 20, grew up in the Oswego Church of Christ in New York. Recruited to play volleyball, Grant said she expected to find more students with her faith back-

ground. But her Rochester experience has not disappointed her.
“In a way, it’s helped make my faith stronger and improved my ability to find answers for myself,” she said of the late-night conversations over beliefs that she’s enjoyed with fellow students.
Likewise, junior Katelyn Brackney, 19, from the Valley Church of Christ in Burton, Mich., said Rochester’s religious diversity has challenged her.
“It helps you kind of evolve your own perspective on things, and it’s really cool to see how so many different religious backgrounds can come together,” Brackney said.
Along with adding general education programs, Rochester has established a master’s degree in missional leadership designed to serve church leaders in Michigan and beyond.
Shelly said he can’t imagine that most church members would advocate maintaining Christian colleges only in areas where the fellowship remains strong.
“Why not invest as a mission enterprise in some smaller Christian colleges in areas where Churches of Christ are weak and let some strength build out from those places?” he said. “I think that makes more sense than concentrating in a few in the Bible Belt.”

NEW *BLENDED* HYMNAL

Songs FOR WORSHIP AND PRAISE

NOW AVAILABLE



Features include:

- ☑ Largest selection of hymns, 1007
- ☑ Highest quality paper and binding for reduced weight
- ☑ Expanded number of traditional songs with familiar arrangements
- ☑ Latest contemporary Praise and Worship songs
- ☑ Hymns arranged by topic into eighteen sections
- ☑ Scripture text on each song
- ☑ Key and start pitch on each song
- ☑ All songs available in Power Point for projection
- ☑ Destined to become the next great hymnal

“Incredible!”

“Very impressive!”

“Beautiful book!”

“Well balanced selections!”

Thousands already singing from this great, new blended hymnal.

Songs for Worship and Praise reaches back to preserve the timeless expressions of faith and hope we’ve grown to love, and extends forward to encompass the new, fresh expressions of today.

Hymnbooks \$12.99 each**
B1020 - Maroon or B1021 - Blue
Soft Bonded Leather \$34.99 each
B1023 - Maroon or B1024 - Blue
S311 - PowerPoint Software \$799.00
w/50 books or more \$699.00
**40-99 \$12.49; 100-199 \$11.99; 200-399 \$11.49; 400 up \$10.99



TAYLOR PUBLICATIONS
1-800-995-2802
www.taylorpublications.com

ANOTHER GREAT PRODUCT BY TAYLOR PUBLICATIONS

LATIN AMERICA: Without leaders, 'the church is not going to develop by itself'

FROM PAGE 1

said Miguel Aguilar, a longtime teacher at Baxter and the institute's director of spiritual life.

For biblical leaders to emerge in Latin America, Christians need more than Bible knowledge, Aguilar said.

"You have to be an example," Aguilar he said. "I know sometimes we forget who we are, and we don't want to change, but we can't preach what we don't live."



Aguilar

FASTING, TRAINING, WORKING

Bibles open and pens fluttering, church members poured over the Scriptures during a seminar class, seeking examples of fasting in the Old Testament, the life of Christ and Paul's letters to first-century churches.

Rene Rosa rushed between the tables of students, almost frantically, handing out sheets of butcher paper and shouting instructions.

"Tiempo, hermanos, tiempo!" ("Time, brothers, time!") he yelled, calling the groups back together. They circled the room and discussed posters produced by each group on fasting.

Churches of Christ in Latin America don't spend a lot of time discussing spiritual disciplines, including fasting, said Rosa, a Baxter graduate and minister in Santa Rosa de Copan, Honduras. One participant in the class argued that Latin Americans shouldn't fast at all, claiming the practice is better suited for wealthy "gringos" in the U.S.

Knowing how to engage in such discussions is important for future church leaders, Rosa said.

In the past half-century, Baxter and other training programs have prepared preachers to plant new congregations across Central and South America. Baxter partners with church-supported missions, including Continent of Great Cities, and

sends teams of Latin Americans to Colombia, the Dominican Republic and Mexico.

"We know the people, know the culture, know the places, talk the same language," said David Colorado Campos, a 1997 Baxter graduate from El Salvador who preaches for the Tocumen Church of Christ near Panama City, Panama. The 100-member church has appointed elders, Campos said.

But that doesn't always happen, Rosa said. Some churches come to rely on their ministers to shepherd the flock solo and do most of the evangelistic work. Membership reaches a plateau, and the church's spiritual life stagnates.

"If the church has no trained leadership, the church is not going to develop by itself," Rosa said.

In the Honduran city of Catacamas, it took the death of a longtime minister to ignite a spark of life in the church, said Samuel Diaz, a former member of the congregation and a Baxter graduate who served on a mission team in Colombia.

Since the Catacamas minister's death about a year ago, the church has more than doubled in size to about 120 members, Diaz said.

Why? Because "now everybody in the church does evangelism," said church member Sebastian Ordonez. When he's not working as a mechanic, Ordonez studies the Bible with his neighbors and teaches Sunday school.

Losing their minister helped church members realize that reaching the lost was their responsibility, Ordonez said, so "the church started to work."

FATHERS AND DOLLARS

Over steaming plates of fried eggs and refried beans in Baxter's cafeteria, Phil Waldron and Lowell White



Ordenez



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Hundreds worship at a special Sunday service at the Baxter Institute.

discussed another challenge to indigenous leadership in Latin America — broken families.

The two men, both from the U.S., work with Mission Upreach in Honduras, a team composed of five nationalities, mostly Latin American. Encouraging fathers to be faithful is one focus of the ministry.

Waldron quoted statistics from the United Nations and survey groups that show more than a quarter of families in many Latin American countries are headed by females.

"I would bet it's closer to 50 percent," Waldron said. Many Latin American homes have adult males present — but not long-term. During the course of their lives, Honduran children often have four or five adult males drift in and out of their homes. Legal marriage is the exception, not the rule, Waldron said. Some children become mothers at age 14 or younger, Lowell added.

"Just like in the States, we need to teach kids to abstain until they're married," Lowell said, "and there's very little material in Spanish on that."

While strong fathers are

needed in Latin American churches, paternalistic relationships with U.S. churches are not, Waldron said. He's seen financial dependency cripple congregations, preventing them from developing leaders.

"We're not willing to let go," Waldron said of U.S. churches. As a result, "we rob the local church of the blessing of supporting their local community."

As the U.S. economy falters, Latin Americans realize that they can't depend on U.S. dollars, said Santos Espinoza, a Baxter graduate and minister in Nacaome, Honduras.

The church in Nacaome uses Baxter's correspondence courses to teach potential leaders. The goal is to develop elders and deacons who can shepherd congregations without U.S. money, Espinoza said.

Nonetheless, U.S. churches can play a vital role in Latin America, said Jason Tenison, a U.S. Christian who works with Nicaraguan minister Jairo Quiroz in a church-planting effort in Talanga, about an hour north of Baxter.

The idea for the church plant came not from the U.S. but

from the Guanacaste Church of Christ in Tegucigalpa, a congregation with elders.

"A lot of times, churches from the U.S. don't know the situation down here," Tenison said. But Guanacaste's leaders could oversee the work.



Tenison

The Park Plaza Church of Christ in Tulsa, Okla., supplied funds — and Tenison — and Guanacaste recruited Quiroz.

"Praise God, we've had 18 baptisms," Tenison said. The Talanga church, less than a year old, has about 25 adults attending each Sunday.

TAKE THE MESSAGE TO THE PEWS

Indigenous leadership is taking root in some Latin American churches. In San Pedro Sula, Honduras, the Cabanas Church of Christ recently appointed elders and, in the past three months, it has experienced 15 baptisms, said church member Lucia Leyva.

The church is winning souls "because of the love they show people," Leyva said. "They see the unity."

More Churches of Christ need to lay the foundations for biblical leadership, said Bruno Valle, a Baxter graduate, preacher and

author from Nicaragua. In the final speech of the recent seminar, Valle summarized what participants had learned about spirituality and accountability.

Valle urged the attendees to take that message to members in their churches' pews — members who may one day lead the church.

"Teach this to others," he said. "This seminar was excellent, but we need to spread the Word."

RELATED STORY, Page 17

LOCAL CHURCHES... WE'RE HERE FOR YOU!

Congregations across America and around the world are recapturing the mission to which God has called them. Missions Resource Network exists to help your church retool for that mission. We're here for you!

"MRN has helped Madison lay the appropriate framework for how to go about reaching the lost, not by telling us what to do and how to do it, but facilitating our leadership on how we can be led by the Holy Spirit to know about the God of Missions and the Mission of God to redeem His lost children."

Greg Huffine, Missions Chairman
Madison Church of Christ – Madison, Tennessee

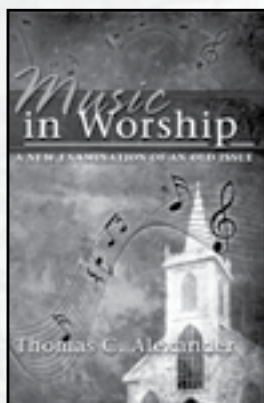


Missions Resource Network

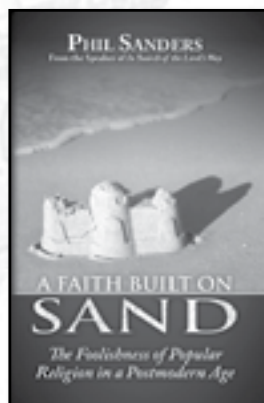
For more information, visit or call: www.MRNet.org • 888.641.2229

Jay Jarboe,
Director for
Church Equipping

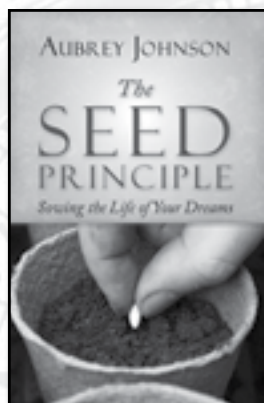
Navigate Life's Obstacles With Gospel Advocate Books



G55726 \$12.99



G55795 \$10.99



G55788 \$10.99

**GOSPEL
ADVOCATE**
A TRUSTED NAME SINCE 1855

Order from Gospel Advocate
1-800-251-8446
www.gospeladvocate.com

Our product has been known to wake churchgoers from a sound sleep.

Singing seems a little dead lately at your church? Maybe the congregation has their heads buried in their hymn books. Sounds like it's time to consider using The Paperless Hymnal® to present the words and music on the screen. It'll get Sister McKinzie's head up and her voice out. You may get a "thank you" from her, but don't expect one from Brother McKinzie. His Sunday morning nap time will never be the same.



The perfect gift for ministerial students and graduates

The Funeral and Wedding Handbook



AVAILABLE AT:

CSS Publishing Co:
(800) 537-1030
21st Century Christian Gospel Advocate
Moyer's Family Bookstore
Amazon.com

or your local book store

Paperback **21⁹⁵**

www.robertblairbooks.com

www.WhatMustIDo.com

www.QueDeboHacer.com

Christian Village of Abilene

Retire at ACU's doorstep.

Christian Village is a retirement community consisting of 59 apartments located on four acres of the Abilene Christian University campus. This location offers a perfect balance between the quietness of residential living and the convenience of major city services. An enticing variety of shopping, dining, financial and medical services are located only a few short blocks away. Stop in today and become a part of our growing family.

Experience your options at Christian Village:

- Choose from three residency plans: rent, purchase or rent to purchase.
- Relax or entertain in your spacious, fully equipped apartments.
- Attend classes, sporting, drama, musical and other events just a few steps from your door!



633 E.N. 19th Street
Abilene, TX 79601
(325) 673-1917
www.acu.edu/CVA



Is your faith important to you? Are you looking for a college degree that affirms your beliefs as well as equips you for the life path you're called to?

Discover the perfect place for higher learning at Ohio Valley University.



OHIO VALLEY UNIVERSITY

FOR LEARNING. FOR FAITH. FOR LIFE.

Developing Christian Leaders.

1 Campus View Drive, Vienna, WV 26105-8000 | 877.446.8668 | www.ovu.edu

Baxter trains Latinos to reach Latin America – and the U.S.

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras

Howard Norton asked the Lord for one more mountain. And he got it.

Fifty years ago, Norton boarded a boat for Sao Paulo, Brazil, to serve as part of a church-planting team. In the years since, Norton served as a pulpit minister and educator at Christian universities in the U.S. In 2008, he preached a sermon at the College Church of Christ in Searcy, Ark., titled “Give me this mountain,” inspired by the teachings of renowned minister Reuel Lemmons.

“Even as I preached, I was thinking to myself, ‘I really would like to have another mountain,’” Norton said.

The mountain he received is a literal one — the Baxter Institute, a ministry training school for Latin American Christians that rises among the peaks of Honduras, surrounded by lush mango trees and majestic European pines.

Launched about three years after Norton sailed for Brazil, Baxter is a focal point for missions in Central and South America. In mid-2009, Norton traded his Portuguese for Spanish and became the institute’s president.

“It would be hard for me to find an educational model better than this one,” he said from his modest office on the school’s campus. “You could take what our students learn about the Bible in four years and compare it to a four-year program at Abilene Christian, Harding University, Oklahoma Christian, Lipscomb, Freed-Hardeman,

and it would hold up just fine.”

The institute had its genesis in the suburbs of Mexico City. Harris Goodwin, an entrepreneur and minister for the Hollywood Church of Christ in California, opened a factory there to turn the region’s high-grade silver into custom tea sets for Hollywood’s rich and famous.

Goodwin noticed local ministers struggling to scratch out a living, and he wanted to help.

He named the school after Leta Baxter, the aunt of longtime Church of Christ preacher Batsell Barrett Baxter. Leta Baxter had a heart for “people who had been chewed up by Hollywood” and

showed them compassion, Goodwin said.

In 1978, due to difficulties with the Mexican government, Goodwin moved the institute to an old coffee plantation in Tegucigalpa. Getting permission from the Honduran government wasn’t easy, but God “moved the people that opened the gates, and they keep opening the gates,” said Goodwin, now 85 and living in the Honduran capital.

When Baxter moved to Honduras,

the nation had only two or three Churches of Christ, said Miguel Aguilar, one of the first Hondurans baptized here by missionary Dan Coker. The institute helped launch more than 200 congregations across the nation, said Aguilar, who now serves as Baxter’s director of spiritual life.

Now, the institute has about



PHOTOS BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Stairways and verandas line the campus of the Baxter Institute.



Norton



Yulan Forero from Colombia and Nahum Romero from Honduras take notes during the Baxter seminar.

25 full-time staff and 65 on-campus students from 11 nations. Like U.S. universities, they must take “obligatorios” — required courses in math, science and history — in addition to Bible classes, said Bob Young, chairman of the institute’s board of directors. Students also spend time as interns, working with Central American churches.

Osel and Madelin Triana came from the island nation of Cuba to train at Baxter. After they complete the program, the Trianas hope to plant congregations in the Cuban province of Mayabeque, home to half a million souls and only two Churches of Christ.

Baxter offers a weekend program for ministers in the Tegucigalpa region and a correspondence program for ministers who live farther away. Ministers across Latin America — even in remote locales — have Baxter correspondence diplomas hanging on their walls.

While many Baxter students plant churches in Latin America, some move to the U.S. Marlon W. Grande, a native of El Salvador, graduated in 1986. He now works as a counselor in Maryland and preaches for a 50-member Spanish service at the Dale City Church of Christ in Virginia.



Grande

“Baxter changed my life in so many ways,” Grande said. “It gave me character and direction, gave me the opportunity to be a better man.”

The institute also gave him the ability to see new mission opportunities. In conversations with U.S. Christians, he said, “I have said ... you guys are doing ministry efforts in other countries, but the biggest opportunity to evangelize the world is in the United States.”



ABOUT THIS SERIES

Churches of Christ are changing. Less than a century ago, most of the members were concentrated in the United States. Now the epicenters of church growth have shifted to the Global South — Africa, the Indian sub-continent, Southeast Asia and Latin America. Increasingly, Christians from these regions are taking the lead in evangelizing their own people and reaching beyond their borders.

The Christian Chronicle launched Global South in 2009 to spotlight indigenous-led ministries, including the Baxter Institute. Other features describe how the changing demographics of faith are transforming Churches of Christ in the U.S. and Europe.

See www.christianchronicle.org for more stories in the Global South series. Look for the “articles” tab and click on “continuing coverage.”



New at Summer Celebration!
Learning Labs for today's church.

Focused and practical training

Choose from two important and pertinent topics

Experience two powerful and inspiring days

The Missional Church:
Taking Churches to New Heights
How to build churches that transform communities

Led by Jimmy Adcox, Dave Clayton, Stan Granberg and others

Life in the Spiritual Disciplines
How to experience and encourage successful spiritual growth

Led by Frank Guertin, Gary Holloway, Jackie Halstead and Earl Lavender

Thursday & Friday, June 30 & July 1



Advance registration for Learning Labs is requested

Visit us online for registration, housing information and more:

summercelebration.lipscomb.edu

"Building foundations for Christian service and living"

Kentuckiana

BIBLE COLLEGE

Louisville, Kentucky

Earn your degree

Bachelor of Biblical Studies

Bachelor of Christian Service

Bachelor of Youth Ministry

Associate of Preaching Ministry

Associate of Christian Service

**Low tuition*

**Scholarships available*

Member of Kentuckiana Consortium of Restoration Colleges
Licensed by Kentucky Council on Higher Education Colleges

502-499-2702



Alan W. Phillips



PHILLIPS CONSULTING
Fund Raising Consultants

— Current Clients Include —



Gary G. Chambliss

Christ's Haven for Children
Health Talents International
Fort Worth Christian School

Missions Resource Network
Southern Africa Bible College
Sunset International Bible Institute

Dallas
817-874-0881

www.phillipsconsulting.org

Atlanta
678-522-3552



CARING IS OUR CALLING.

HEALTH CARE CENTERS

- Hilltop Haven
- Hillside at Hilltop Haven
- Christian Care Center
- Lakewood Village

ASSISTED LIVING

- Bentley Assisted Living
- The Courtyard (Alzheimer's Assisted Living)
- Cummings Assisted Living

RETIREMENT LIVING

- Howard Apartments
- Lakewood Village
- Hartin & McMillan Apartments
- Greenway Village

ANCILLARY SERVICES

- Wellness Center
- Home Health
- Hospice

Welcome to CHRISTIAN CARE CENTERS. Established in 1947, we currently serve more seniors in our three locations than any other faith-based, not-for-profit provider in the Metroplex. Our success is based on our commitment to compassionate care and services, while giving our residents the dignity and respect they deserve. We invite you to explore our website, and discover the many services offered in our communities.



MESQUITE, FORT WORTH, GUNTER
Christian Care Centers
TEXAS

"Caring Is Our Calling"

Mesquite Fort Worth Gunter
972-686-2400 817-451-8001 866-992-4111
www.christiancarecenters.org



Christian Care Centers is a faith-based, not-for-profit family of service living communities.



A mother and daughter, members of the Church of Christ in Ipeti Kuna, Panama, wear traditional dresses of the Kuna people.

PHOTOS BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD

It takes a village

AFTER YEARS OF BUILDING TRUST, *Christians win souls among Panama's Kuna people.*

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

IPETI KUNA, Panama

Women in this tiny Central American village put on their Sunday best — blouses of brilliant purples and blues, skirts with bright prints and hundreds of tiny beads, woven together in intricate arm and leg bands.

The dresses are a tradition for the Kuna, an indigenous people who have lived in Panama and neighboring Colombia for centuries. In the 1920s, Panama's colonial authorities tried to repress the Kuna's autonomy and traditions, leading to revolt. As a result, the Kuna often distrust outsiders.

A medical team from Alabama-based Panama Missions first visited Ipeti Kuna in the 1990s with permission from village leaders, said Larry Brady, the mission's director. The village had one convert at the time.

Christians continued to visit, offering medical care and building relationships with the village's residents — especially the children. In recent years, children who grew up knowing the missionaries have asked to be baptized.

About 25 adults comprise the congregation, Brady said. A church member from Long Beach, Miss., gave funds to help construct a meeting place on the outskirts of the village, near the highway. Now, one of the first things passers-by see in the village is a large, lilac-colored building emblazoned with the words "Iglesia de Cristo" ("Church of Christ").

"It's been a very difficult work," Brady said. But church members slowly have gained the trust — and love — of the Kuna people.

"That's what the Gospel does," Brady said.



Kuna women stand outside the village's church building.



L A T I N A M E R I C A

From dirt roads to urban pavement, Churches of Christ take root

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

MACZUL SEXTO, Guatemala — The paved road — and the dirt road — end quite some distance from this tiny village in the mountains of Central America.

Doctors, nurses and dentists with Health Talents International hoist tote bags full of medical instruments and medicine on their shoulders as they follow a winding path to reach their destination. When they crest the ridge overlooking the village, some gasp at what they see — a massive, bright yellow building bearing, in blue letters, “Aqui se reune La Iglesia de Cristo. Bienvenido.” (“Here meets the Church of Christ. Welcome.”)

Members of the congregation tell the medical missionaries that about 150 people gather here on Sundays to worship the Lord. Five elders shepherd the congregation, and every year the church hosts a gospel meeting

attended by nearly 2,000 souls.

Churches of Christ have grown in fertile soil among the people of Latin America. The fellowship here has roots that date back more than 80 years, when a Mexican convert crossed the border and took the Gospel to his native country. Pioneering evangelists and doctors crossed additional borders, planting churches in the nations of Central and South America.

Now Churches of Christ exist in every nation of the region — and not just in rural villages.

In Cuenca, Ecuador, the Gonzalez Suarez Church of Christ has about 450 members, two elders and three evan-

gelists. The church ministers, with several sister congregations, to a metropolitan area of more than 600,000 people.

Assisting in the work is the Theological Institute of Cuenca, a ministry training school among the Spanish colonial buildings of the city’s downtown. An Ecuadoran, Bolivar Vazconez, oversees the institute.

Catholicism and syncretism — the combining of Christian faith with indigenous beliefs — are strong influences throughout Latin America. Charismatic faith groups, including Pentecostals, also have grown rapidly in many nations, including Ecuador,

said Jaime Cobos, who teaches at the

institute. Many churches promise divine healing and financial gain to congregants and have huge followings among the impoverished.

In Ecuador, Churches of Christ focus on reaching people of all economic levels, Cobos said. Members sponsor a feeding program at the institute for the hundreds of day laborers who come to Cuenca looking for work. They also offer marriage and family counseling for Ecuador’s emerging middle class.

Dane Boyles, a former missionary to Ecuador and the institute’s former director, said that U.S. Christians can best support Churches of Christ in Latin America by partnering in ways that allow Latin American churches to use their strengths to reach the lost.

“These people have been through so much for the faith,” Boyles said. “They are great warriors in the Kingdom of God and inspirational to all of us for their sacrifices.”



MEXICO — Pedro Rivas, a Mexican national, was baptized at a Church of Christ in Harlingen, Texas, and attended Freed-Hardeman College in Tennessee in 1929. He returned to his homeland and preached in Torreon, Mexico, with support from the Central Church of Christ in Houston. Missionaries including J. Willie Treat and Haven Miller made inroads farther south. About 1950, another native Christian, Agustin Figueroa, studied at Abilene Christian College in Texas before moving to the capital, Mexico City, to plant a church. Now Christians in Torreon have a mailing list of 300-plus Churches of Christ in Mexico, spread across the country’s 31 states and its federal district. Additional home-based congregations exist throughout Mexico, church members say. The country has a population of 113.7 million. Growing congregations exist in Toluca, Leon and Monterrey. Churches established children’s homes in Cozumel, Ensenada and other locales. Cities in northern Mexico, including Tijuana, Aquiles and Piedras Negras, were the focus of mission efforts by U.S. churches, but drug-related violence has resulted in churches canceling or scaling back trips.

HONDURAS, EL SALVADOR, NICARAGUA — Church growth in Honduras, home to 8.1 million people, is linked closely to the Baxter Institute, which moved here in 1978. Dan Coker and other missionaries planted churches. After Hurricane Mitch destroyed much of the country’s infrastructure in 1998, the nation became the focal point of many humanitarian mission efforts. Predisan, a medical and evangelistic ministry, operates a clinic and drug rehabilitation program in Catacamas, Honduras. Native Honduran Amanda Madrid pioneered much of the work.

Despite armed conflicts and political upheavals in El Salvador and Nicaragua in the 1980s, Churches of Christ experienced rapid growth. Large congregations meet in the Salvadoran cities of San Salvador and San Miguel. Christians from El Salvador planted Churches of Christ in Nicaragua, now home to 8,000-plus church members.

COSTA RICA, PANAMA — About a dozen church members met in Costa Rica’s capital, San Jose, when missionaries Ray Bynum and Norman Fox arrived in 1967. About 44 Churches of Christ with a combined membership of 2,000 meet in Costa Rica now. The country enjoys prosperity and stability unknown by its neighbors. The 160-member Hatillo Church of Christ is “completely self-supporting, self-propagating and self-governing,” member Carlos Ulate said.

Panama has about 3.4 million inhabitants. The Pan American Bible Institute in Panama City trains ministers who plant churches across Latin America. Churches of Christ exist among the Embera and Kuna Indians. Alvareno Ponce is a minister for a church in Ipeti Kuna, Panama.

VENEZUELA, COLOMBIA, ECUADOR — Oil worker and church member Norman Merritt began spreading the Gospel in Venezuela’s capital, Caracas, in 1957. Now there are about 70 Churches of Christ in this nation of 27.6 million people, with an average membership of 50. The largest, in Barquisimeto, has about 300 members.

In the late 1950s, church member Evert Pickartz distributed gospel tracts in many South American nations, including Colombia. Today growing congregations exist in Bogota and Medellin, which hosts an annual youth conference for about 190 Christians from Colombia and nearby countries.

Pickartz and Carlos Reyes helped establish the first Church of Christ in Ecuador in the city of Guayaquil in 1966. Missionaries including Kent Marcum, Jerry Wilson and Louis McBride continued the work, assisting congregations in Quito, Riobamba and Cuenca.

The Quito School of Biblical Studies prepares ministers for mission fields across the continent. The school shares its facility with North Quito Church of Christ, one of the largest in the country. “The love of God is bright,” North Quito member Yolanda Mena Tigse said. “I try to tell people how God is working in every person.”

PERU, BOLIVIA — Oscar Aguilar helped establish a Church of Christ in Peru’s capital, Lima, in 1961 at the request of missionary Evert Pickartz. U.S. missionaries Glenn and Janice Kramar arrived a year later to assist in the work. The Panamericana Norte Church of Christ recently hosted a lectureship in celebration of 50 years of Peruvian evangelism, said Helmut Garcia, a minister in Lima. Recent church-planting teams have focused on the Peruvian cities of Cusco and Arequipa.

Christians from the U.S. and Chile first worked in the Bolivian cities of La Paz and Santa Cruz about 40 years ago. Church growth in Bolivia has been slow, members say. In recent years Latin American and U.S. church members have formed teams to plant churches in Cochabamba and Sucre.

CHILE, ARGENTINA — Evert Pickartz lived in Chile’s capital, Santiago, for 10 years. Atilio Pinto was the first Chilean convert. Now native Christians in Santiago minister to small churches scattered up and down this narrow nation of 16.8 million souls. Mission teams also work with growing congregations in Santiago and its suburbs. A team of U.S. Christians plans to plant new congregations in Concepcion.

Churches of Christ began working in Argentina in 1957. At least 15 congregations exist in this nation of 41.7 million people. Church growth has been slow in Argentina, one of Latin America’s largest economies, members say. Leaders of the Caballito Church of Christ in Argentina’s capital, Buenos Aires, recently launched a ministry training school.

GUATEMALA, BELIZE — Missionaries from Churches of Christ have worked in Guatemala since the 1960s, though most were forced to leave due to political turmoil in 1981. Now the nation of 13.8 million souls has thriving congregations, led by elders, in its capital, Guatemala City. Medical mission groups and local evangelists have evangelized the country’s indigenous people, descendants of the Mayans. Adan Benavente preaches for a congregation in Solala, Guatemala, and studies the Bible with the region’s Quiche people.

In 1967, Luther Savage made a survey trip to Belize. Today the English- and Spanish-speaking country of 321,000 people is the focus of mission efforts, though it has no located missionaries. Congregations meet in Belize City, Belmopan and island communities, including San Pedro.



Benavente

GUYANA, SURINAME, FRENCH GUIANA — Home to 744,000 people, Guyana is the focus of medical mission efforts by Churches of Christ. Several congregations meet near its capital, Georgetown, and missionaries have planted churches among the Amerindians of its interior. A few congregations exist in neighboring Suriname, and French-speaking Christians from Quebec work among Haitian immigrants in French Guiana.



BRAZIL, URUGUAY, PARAGUAY — In the mid-1950s, Church of Christ members began working in the Brazilian city of Sao Paulo. In 1961, a team of 13 families arrived in Sao Paulo to plant churches.

Brazil Break Through, another church-planting effort, was launched in 1976 by Ellis and Doris Long. The effort, later renamed Continent of Great Cities, resulted in new Brazilian congregations. Now the ministry sends teams to metropolitan areas across Latin America.

The population of Brazil is about 203.4 million. Estimates of church membership vary from 10,000 to 20,000-plus. Native Brazilians, including Maria Dutton, have played vital roles in ministry. Joaquim da Silva and other Brazilians have graduated from Bible institutes with the goal of planting new churches.

Missionary D.H. Hadwin traveled to Uruguay in 1952. Christians from Chile and Brazil continued the work. Now several congregations exist in or near Montevideo, the capital of this nation of 3.3 million souls. Abilene Christian University in Texas sponsors a study abroad program in Uruguay.

Churches of Christ began working in Paraguay in 1965. Evangelists from Brazil and Uruguay have hosted campaigns in its capital, Asuncion. A team of U.S. Christians works with a growing congregation in Asuncion, but to date there is only a handful of Churches of Christ in this landlocked nation of 6.4 million people, former missionary Enoch Rinks said.



Dutton



Da Silva

SOURCES: “The World Factbook,” compiled by the CIA, interviews and “Churches of Christ Around the World,” compiled by Mac Lynn. PAGE DESIGN: Erik Tryggstad



A conversation with Hadayat Din

PAKISTANI MINISTER discusses faith in a land dominated by Islam.

BY LYNN McMILLON AND ERIK TRYGGESTAD
THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

For Christians, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is among the toughest mission fields in the world. More than 95 percent of the 184 million souls who live in Pakistan claim Islam as their faith. The country has anti-conversion laws for Muslims and has served as the base of operations for extremists. The Taliban formed in Pakistan among a group of refugees from neighboring Afghanistan. In May, the Pakistani city of Abbottabad was revealed as the hiding place of Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden.

But the Gospel has taken root in Pakistan, says Hadayat Din, a native of Sialkot, in Pakistan's northeastern Punjab province.

Converted in the U.S., Din returned to his native land and helped plant churches. Now 74, he and his wife live in Cordova, Tenn. Their two children are active church members. The couple also has seven grandchildren. Din corresponds with and encourages small groups of church members who pray for a spiritual awakening in Pakistan.

How did you become a Christian?

Before my conversion I lived a worldly life and was dead in sin. I was raised in a Muslim environment without a religious family background. I pursued secular education. I studied diligently and earned Master of Arts and Master of Education degrees from the top university of Pakistan. I worked as a teacher for 12 years.

My desire was to get higher education in America. I came to America, leaving my family behind. While I was a post-graduate student at Indiana Univer-

sity in Bloomington in 1976, I found a church bulletin on the campus. It was for the North Central Church of Christ, which was close to the campus.

The Holy Spirit guided me to contact brother Oliver E. Rogers, then the minister of this church. He conducted Bible studies with me for a few weeks. I started attending worship services. The brotherly love of the congregation and the teaching of brother Oliver persuaded me to study the Bible personally.

This congregation had a gospel meeting in October 1976. The evangelist delivered a powerful message on salvation. I confessed my sins and was baptized into Christ on Oct. 17, 1976.

Is it difficult for people in Pakistan to become Christians?

Though there are several hindrances for evangelism in Pakistan, everything is possible for Almighty God.

Pakistan is a Muslim country, but it tolerates non-Muslims to some extent. The constitution of Pakistan has given limited religious freedom to non-Muslims. The conversion of a Muslim into Christianity is very dangerous — both for the convert and the teacher, sometimes even resulting in death. Family and social rules make the life of the convert very difficult.

However, there are almost 7 million non-Muslims in Pakistan, and there is great opportunity for evangelism among these people. Erring Pakistani Christians are also open to learning the truth.

How are Pakistani Christians affected by the presence of groups such as Al-Qaeda and the Taliban?

Religious and political authorities have a tremendous impact on Christians. We know that Jesus, his disciples and the church in the first century also



PHOTO PROVIDED

Hadayat Din

were victims of such powers.

We have the same situation in Pakistan. There are both moderate and extreme Muslims in Pakistan, but the Muslim clerics have influence upon all Pakistani Muslims. The extremist Muslims and Taliban are dangerous for Pakistani Christians. Because they are anti-Western, they think that Christianity is a Western religion. Hence, any action of Westerners against the cause of Islam becomes an excuse for extremist Muslims to take revenge on Pakistani Christians. Sometimes they burn church buildings, kill Christian worshipers and kidnap Christian preachers.

We thank God that the Christians are surviving in such a difficult situation.

Tell us about your church-planting work in Pakistan. Are there Churches of Christ there today?

Having been a new, born-again Christian in 1976, I was motivated by the Great Commission for world evangelism. I prayed and committed myself to do mission work in Pakistan and expressed my desire to the elders of the North Central church. The elders agreed to sponsor the mission work in Pakistan.

After attending Harding University Graduate School of Religion for two years, I went back to Pakistan and converted my immediate family. My wife joined with me in this mission work. We

prayed, struggled and experienced opposition trusting in the Lord absolutely.

We sowed the seed, and God gave the increase. In this spiritual war we had both gains and losses. There have been more than 700 baptisms. We established 20 congregations, built two small church buildings, started a school of preaching, adult education program, did medical mission work on very small scale.

Unfortunately, 500 converts became unfaithful, and we lost a dozen congregations. At present we have seven small congregations, 200 church members, two trained preachers and a few volunteer church workers.

The Lord's church at Sialkot is surviving and growing slowly, even in an adverse situation. I have heard that there also are a few Churches of Christ in Karachi, Sahiwal and Lahore.

Have Churches of Christ in Pakistan grown by converting Muslims or by converting members of Christian denominations?

It is illegal to convert a Muslim to another religion in Pakistan, but it is lawful to convert a non-Muslim to Islam. Before 1947, when this land was a part of India under the British rule, millions of Hindus and Muslims were converted by foreign denominational missionaries into Christianity. When Pakistan came into being, the law was reversed.

Now the Lord's church has a scope of evangelism among erring Christians. We have converted the erring Christians from denominations into the Lord's church. The denominational people are open for evangelism. The Restoration Movement and true

teaching of the Bible have a great impact upon these converts.

What is your dream for Churches of Christ in Pakistan?

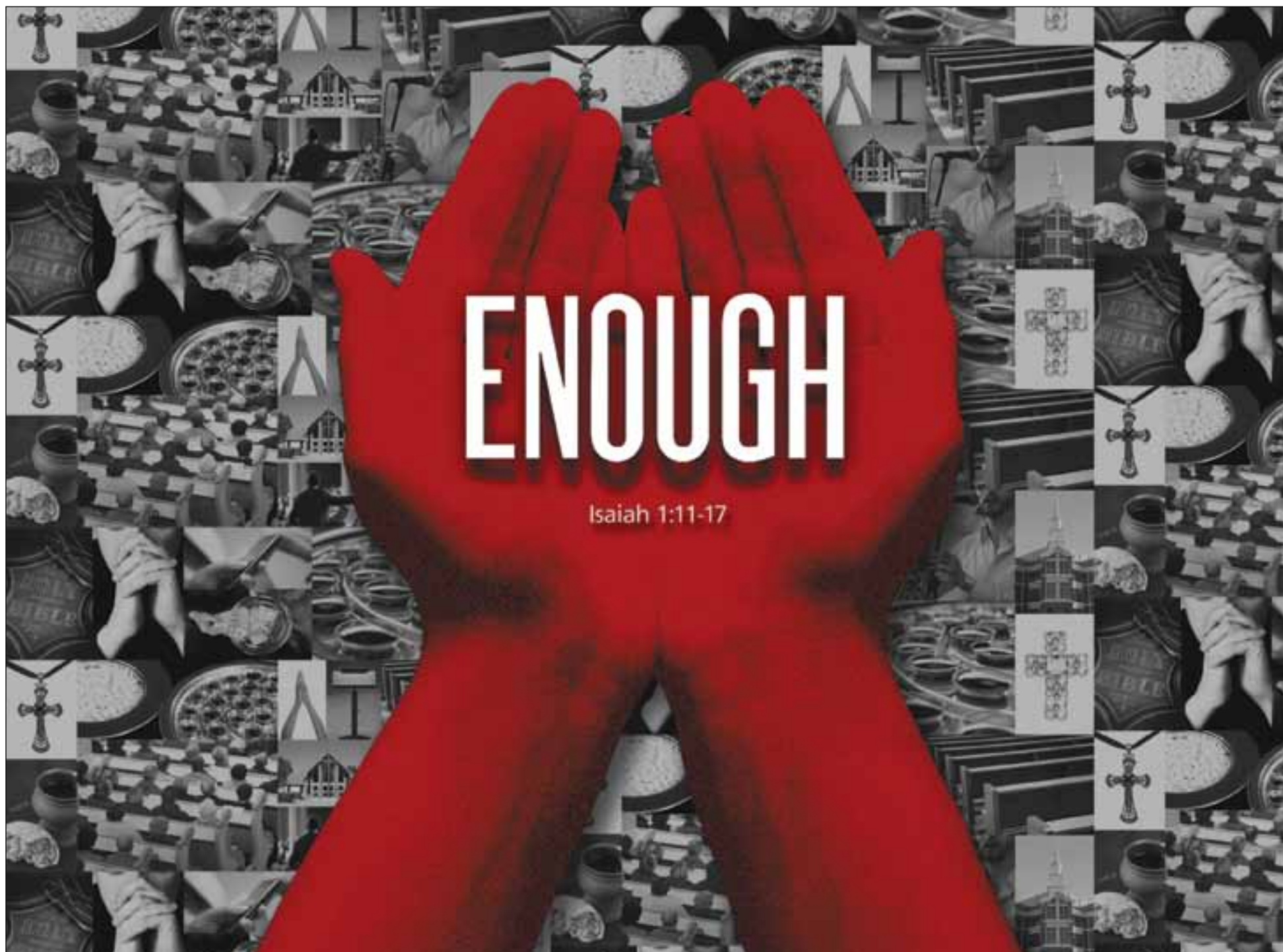
God has promised his people, "I will not forsake you. I will be with you always."

I have hopeful and beautiful dreams for the Church of Christ at Sialkot. I dream about the Christians growing spiritually, educationally, economically and numerically.

I believe in the grace of God. The Great Shepherd will keep and protect his spiritual family in Pakistan.

'Though there are several hindrances for evangelism in Pakistan, everything is possible for Almighty God.'

Hadayat Din



105th Annual

Summit



ARIZONA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

September 18-21, 2011

acu.edu/summit**Enough: Hearing God Through Isaiah**

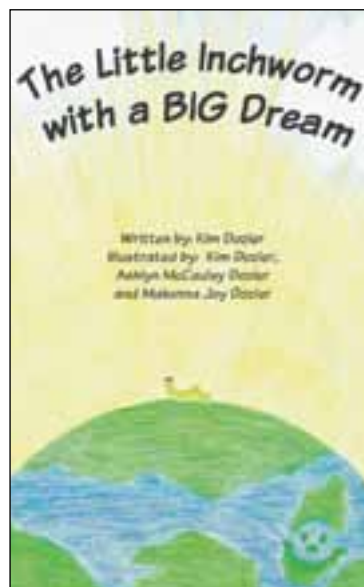
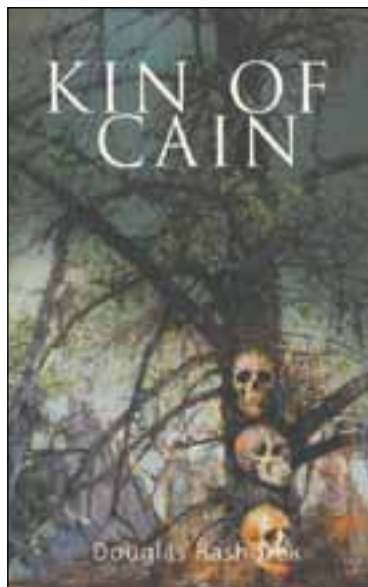
"Enough" demands examination of whether our practice matches our belief. The prophet Isaiah neither soothes religious conscience nor affirms our status quo religious practice. Come for a conference that pushes us deep below the surface and into the heart of pure faith.

Theme Speakers

- Billy Curl
- Barron Jones
- Rick Marrs
- Dusty Rush
- Mark Hamilton
- Dan Rodriguez
- Harold Shank

Also Featuring

- Sharon Cohn Wu
- Rachel Held Evans
- Max Lucado
- Walt Mueller
- Randy Frazee
- Susan Campbell
- Mindy Smith



FICTION WRITERS

These are just a sampling of members of Churches of Christ who write Christian fiction. If you know of other writers, please go to christianchronicle.org/blog, search for "Christian fiction" and leave a comment.

- **Becky Wooley** is the author of "Non-Prophet Murders: A Grit and Grace Mystery," available from ChristianBook.com, Amazon.com, or publisher WipfandStock.com (Use coupon code Wooley to receive a discount.).
- **Caron Guillo** is the author of "An Uncommon Crusade," available at Amazon.com or BarnesandNoble.com.
- **Christine Lynxwiler** is the author of 16 Christian romance novels and novellas, available from most Christian bookstores and from Amazon.com.
- **Doug Kashorek** is the author of "Kin of Cain," available from DougKashorek.com.
- **Janet Lee Barton** is the author of 15 romance novels, available at most Christian bookstores, or from ChristianBook.com or Amazon.com.
- **Kim Dozier** is the author of 10 picture books, available from MKADesigns.com.
- **Kristy Shelton** is the author of the young adult historical novel "Blinders," available from Amazon.com or BarnesandNoble.com.
- **Lacy Williams** is the author of "Marrying Miss Marshal," available in August at most Christian bookstores and Walmarts and from Amazon.com or ChristianBook.com.
- **Laura Anderson Kurk** is the author of "Glass Girl," available from Amazon.com or BarnesandNoble.com.
- **Linda Pope Bingham** is the author of four romance novels, available via e-mail at deanbingham@sbcglobal.net.
- **Richard Trout** is the author of seven young adult adventure novels, available at Amazon.com.

CHRISTIAN FICTION: Ministry, not money, motivates writers

FROM PAGE 3

"Jesus taught in parables, and we have stories in the Bible that are not intended to be real," Andrews said. "The story Nathan told David about the little lamb was pretty powerful. Fiction is a powerful thing."

A teenager in a juvenile detention center recently sent Janet Lee Barton a letter after reading one of her Christian romance novels. To Barton, the letter illustrated the power of a story.

"He said he wanted to be a good man and there for people

who loved him the most," said Barton, a member of the Edmond Church of Christ in Oklahoma, who has had 15 books published with Barbour Books.

Then there's the e-mail that Kurk received from a teenager who read "Glass Girl."

"She'd not studied the Bible, and after reading it, she was researching baptism on her own," Kurk said. "Getting that one letter was enough for me. The angels sing over one soul."

'AN OPEN DOOR'

Doug Kashorek, an author and preacher for the Plattsburgh Church of Christ in New York, said he hopes his fiction writing drives readers to the best nonfiction book of all time: the Bible.

"If Christian fiction can get kids and young adults excited about reading Scripture, then that's a good thing," Kashorek said.

His debut book, "Kin of Cain," is the first in a planned fantasy trilogy. It weaves together fiction, history and myth with storylines from the

Old English poem Beowulf, pre-flood biblical history and the Adirondacks area of New England.

Kashorek and other Christian fiction authors say they know the plan of salvation can't be written any better than it already has been in God's Word.

"If my books can get someone to read the Bible and find the truth, I've done what God wanted me to do," Barton said.

But in the hands of an unbeliever, Christian fiction authors said, a paperback novel can seem less imposing than a Bible.

"Fiction is an open door more so than listening to a testimony," said Lacy Williams, president of the Oklahoma Christian Fiction Writers and author of "Marrying Miss Marshal," a historical romance set for release in August by Steeple Hill Books.

"Someone might pick up a book where they would never

ask me 'Why do you believe what you do?' or 'Why do you go to that church?'" added Williams, a member of the Memorial Road Church of Christ in Edmond.

If nothing else, writing is a leap of faith, these authors say.

'Jesus taught in parables, and we have stories in the Bible that are not intended to be real. The story Nathan told David about the little lamb was pretty powerful. Fiction is a powerful thing.'

James Andrews
Publishing Designs Inc.
Huntsville, Ala.

sometimes, that is all the encouragement they need to keep writing.

For these writers, this ministry is not about making money. In fact, many opt to self-publish their novels, publicizing their writing through Facebook, blogs and word-of-mouth.

"I've been able to touch and be touched, and that has given me a lot of courage and a voice that I haven't had before," Kurk said.

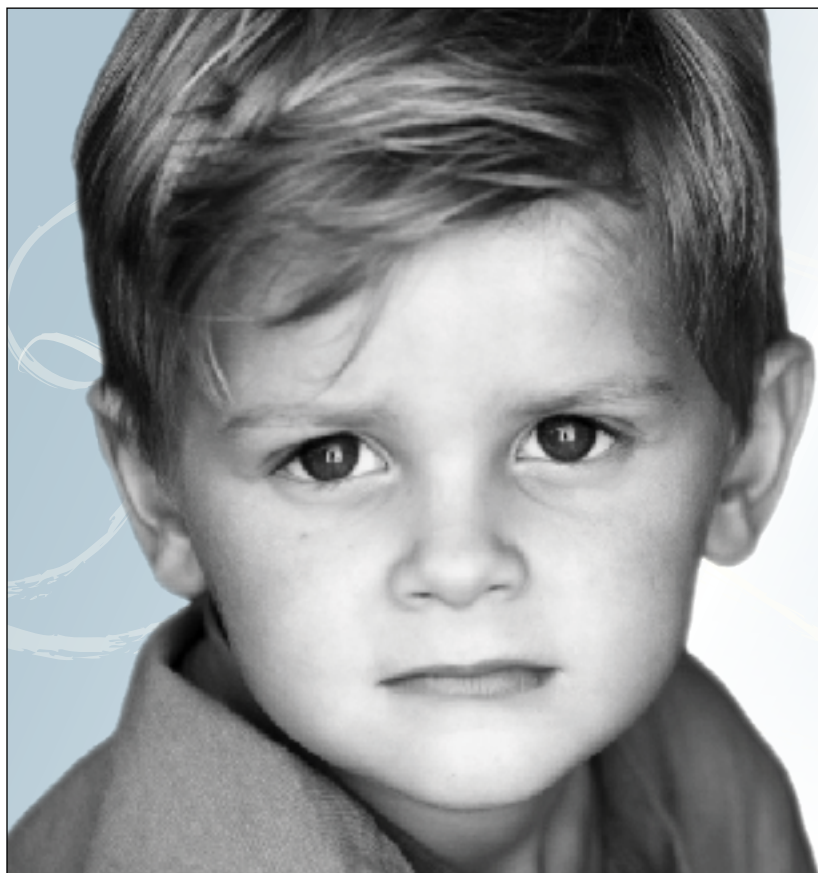


PHOTO PROVIDED BY LACY WILLIAMS

Oklahoma church member Lacy Williams writes Christian fiction.



Kashorek



For churches that believe their children deserve the *very best* in Bible school materials

A New Generation
NEW LIFE
THROUGH HIS WORD

*Life***LINKS**
to God

From 21st Century Christian
"The Curriculum People"

Order by calling 800.251.2477 or visiting www.21stcc.com or from your local Christian Bookstore

***The fastest growing adult curriculum
in churches of Christ***

FLEX

a spiritual workout that fits YOUR schedule



- Written by faithful members of the Lord's church
- Undated for your flexible use
- Suitable for lecture, small group, or individual study
- New studies will continue to be added to the series
- Each title contains 13 lessons in 88 pages with discussion questions

\$3.75 ea. PowerPoint outlines are available from www.21stcc.com for \$4.99.

Women Opening the Word

published by 21st Century Christian

by Casandra Martin



Open your Bible to Exodus, and experience the free indeed life God has in mind for you. Read through history, and discover that its words reveal your story. Commit yourself to living fully in the presence of God, and shake off the chains that hold you to this world.

ISBN: 978-0-89098-302-7

\$14.99

Other titles available at www.21stcc.com

**21ST CENTURY
CHRISTIAN**

"The Curriculum People"



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 Spring or 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.

Foreign Languages

The Department of Foreign Languages invites applications for a tenure-track position. The ideal applicant will hold a terminal degree in Spanish or linguistics. The primary need is for teaching linguistics applied to elementary and intermediate language levels. Innovative opportunities exist for leadership in language pedagogy and within the Dialektos language program. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/cas.

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.

110324-0511

Do you have a heart for children? **HOUSEPARENTS** wanted

... to join our ministry of providing Homes for children.

Salary, housing, utilities, groceries, cook/housekeeper and benefits furnished. Medical insurance fully paid.
Houseparents-in-training position also available.

The New Mexico Christian Children's Home
(Portales, NM) has opportunities for full-time ministry available.

Great rewards result from serving the Lord by taking care of children!

Call Charles Anderson or Rod Self at (575) 356-5372 or 356-8414.
Visit our web page at www.nmcch.org or email nmcch@yucca.net.



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.



RON HALL

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the Pepperdine Bible Lectures

Children of attendees take the stage to sing during the recent 68th annual Pepperdine University Bible Lectures in Malibu, Calif. Leading the young singers is Ken Young, director of

the Hallal Worship team. The Pepperdine lectureship drew more than 5,000 participants from across the nation. It's one of the largest annual events among Churches of Christ.

BIBLE CAMPS

GANDER BROOK CHRISTIAN CAMP

RAYMOND, Maine — The newly created Gander Brook Center for Church Leadership will aim to address “an alarming lack of trained leadership” in New England churches, organizers said.

Most of the region's Churches of Christ have no elderships, and many do not have regular preachers, said Park Linscomb, the camp board's president and minister of the Manchester Church of Christ in New Hampshire.

Linscomb said a story in *The Christian Chronicle* about preacher training camps helped inspire the new program. For more information, see www.ganderbrook.org.

HIGHER EDUCATION

ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

ABILENE, Texas — Jeff Childers, a professor in ACU's Graduate School of Theology, got a chance to study his favorite subject at the Vatican's library.

Late last year, Childers received the final approval to research some of the world's greatest ancient collections of Christian texts. The focus of his study: the Syriac manuscripts of Chrysostom.

“Chrysostom celebrates the beauty of Scripture and administers its pastoral benefits to his audience — including one latecomer, a 21st-century researcher from the Graduate School of Theology at Abilene Christian University,” Childers wrote on his blog.

HARDING UNIVERSITY

SEARCY, Ark. — The Oglesby Preaching Studio has made its debut at Harding.

The studio is named for Robert Oglesby, pulpit minister of the Waterview Church of Christ in Richardson, Texas, for 48 years.

The Waterview church committed to donate \$200,000 to build a state-of-the-art preaching studio.

“We are very impressed with the commitment that Harding has made to aggressively deal with the crisis of a shortage of preachers,” said Danny Hawk, a Waterview elder.

The studio will allow preaching students to watch and learn from their own presentations and film sermons that can be sent to churches when they begin the interview process, Hawk said.

LUBBOCK CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

LUBBOCK, Texas — It took 23 years of college courses and 80 years of living, but Betty Simmons finally got to move the tassel across her graduation mortarboard.

Simmons, the first octogenarian to graduate from Lubbock Christian, was among 270 students who received degrees during LCU's spring commencement ceremony, the *Avalanche Journal* reported.

MISSIONS MINISTRIES

EASTERN EUROPEAN MISSION

OKLAHOMA CITY — Former Bible smugglers and communists gathered recently in a hotel banquet hall to celebrate EEM's 50th anniversary.

Lynn and Barbara Camp helped launch the ministry in Vienna, Austria, in the 1960s. Lynn Camp, now president of EEM, recalled the ministry's early days, including stops at border crossings into Eastern Europe where guards searched cars for what they considered to be the biggest threats to the Soviet Union — guns and Bibles.

Igor Egirev, who directs the Institute for Theology and Christian Ministry in St. Petersburg, Russia, and Ukrainian church-planter Alexander “Sasha” Prokopchuk spoke at an Oklahoma City fund-raising dinner for the mission.

The ministers talked about EEM's role in transforming Eastern Europe through Bible printing and other programs.

SPORTS

Yellow Ribbon graduates

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — In its 120th year, Lipscomb University recently awarded 570 diplomas, the most in its history.

Graduates included the first three veterans to earn tuition-free degrees at Lipscomb through the post-9/11 “Yellow Ribbon” scholarship program.

April Herrington, an accounting major, and Susannah Leonard, a marketing major, both served in the U.S. Air Force.

Chase Manning, an English major, served in the U.S. Army.



KRISTI JONES

Susannah Leonard, Chase Manning and April Herrington pose after graduation.

A BUSINESS DEGREE




HARDING
UNIVERSITY

DESIGNED FOR YOU

@ HARDING UNIVERSITY

Harding's Degree Completion Program offers the Bachelor of Arts in:

- Leadership & Management
- Leadership & Marketing

Classes offered for the non-traditional student 23 years of age or older with 60 or more college credits.

Call 501-279-4853
or visit
www.harding.edu/dcp_business
for more information.



We Need Your Help

Your financial gifts help us provide a good home and loving family to children in need

Manuelito Navajo Children's Home, Inc.
PO Box 58 | Gallup, New Mexico 87305
505-863-5530 | mnch.org | Facebook

The 30-year-old AMEN Ministry connects Christians in the United States military with local churches of Christ both overseas and in the U.S. Please send name, contact information and especially e-mail addresses to:

AMEN Ministry
<http://amenministry.info>
135 Larchmont Drive
Hendersonville, NC 28791
Phone: (828) 891-4480
E-mail: amen@amenministry.info



More than a million hits per year

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

DOWNLOADABLE ADVANCED BIBLE STUDIES
& A CAPPELLA SINGING



www.mainstreet-churchofchrist.com



Tennessee Children's Home Job Openings

- **Case Manager:** The Spring Hill campus is in need of a qualified Case Manager to work with adolescent boys. Qualified candidates will have a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work or a related field.
- **Houseparents:** The Spring Hill and West TN campuses are recruiting couples to come live on campus and provide care for up to 8 adolescent boys. Previous childcare experience is required.
- **Teacher's Aide:** Individual to assist the Teachers at the West TN on-campus school.

Come be a part of this ministry! We offer competitive pay and excellent full-time benefits including medical, dental, life insurance, disability, retirement and paid time off. To apply, visit us online at www.tennesseechildrenshome.org or contact our HR Manager at **931-486-2274 x231**.



The **Department of Chemistry and Physics** at Oklahoma Christian University invites applications for a **tenure-track position in Physics**. Ph.D. or ABD candidates will be accepted. Successful candidates should have a strong commitment to teaching foundational undergraduate physics courses, including laboratory sections, in both algebra-based and calculus-based classes. Duties of the faculty position include:

- Manage, maintain and upgrade laboratory experiments and equipment in the area of physics.
- Support the University's Core Curriculum (general education program) by teaching a non-majors course in Astronomy, Earth Science, or General Physical Science, as needed.
- Support undergraduate research by providing opportunities for students during the summer.
- Attend monthly meetings of the Department of Chemistry & Physics.
- Attend monthly meetings of the University faculty.
- Attend faculty sessions called by the VPAA in the week prior to the start of fall classes and in the week immediately following the end of spring classes. Also work 2 weeks (80 hours) in support of the department during the summer.
- Other duties in support of the department, as needed.

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, Oklahoma Christian University, Box 11000, OKC, OK 73136-1100. Oklahoma Christian University is an equal opportunity employer.

Faithful duo: 'Boys of Summer' enjoy playing together

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

ARLINGTON, Texas — In a major-league clubhouse, pitchers and position players don't always connect.

But when Washington Nationals slugger Josh Willingham was traded to Oakland this past winter, Athletics reliever Brad Ziegler knew the two had at least one thing in common.

Their faith.

The new teammates — both members of Churches of Christ — crossed paths for the first time at a media event in January.

"I met him there and tried to make a connection," Ziegler, 31, a member of the East Grand Church of Christ in Springfield, Mo., told *The Christian Chronicle* before a recent game with the Texas Rangers.

In the visitors' clubhouse, "Major League" — the 1989 comedy about a team of lovable losers who turn their season around — blared from a big-screen television.

Returning from taking swings in an indoor cage, Willingham, 32, talked over the din of Bob Uecker portraying fictional broadcaster Harry Doyle.

"Just getting to know Brad has been a blessing," said Willingham, a member of the Cross Point Church of Christ in Florence, Ala. "Our relationship, I'm sure, will continue to grow."

Last year, the *Chronicle* featured Ziegler and Willingham in side-by-side profiles. The "Boys of Summer" package highlighted major-leaguers known for living out their faith on the field and off.

At the time, Willingham and Ziegler did not know each other and had no idea they'd play together this season.



MICHAEL ZAGARIS, OAKLAND ATHLETICS

Slugger Josh Willingham is Oakland's left fielder and cleanup hitter.

"We have a lot of good Christian guys in this locker room," Ziegler said. "It's a good clubhouse to be a part of, and Josh makes it better."

A right-handed submariner, Ziegler burst onto the major-league scene in 2008 when he pitched a major-league record 39 consecutive scoreless innings to start his career.

His father, Greg, a preacher, and his mother, Lisa, have served the Odessa Church of Christ in Missouri for 26 years. Brad Ziegler has a 4-year-old daughter, Kaylin.

When he signs autographs — unless it's a team ball and space is an issue — Brad Ziegler scribbles "1 John 5:5" by his name.

He's hopeful that fans will look up that Scripture, which

reads: *"Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God."*

Willingham, Oakland's left fielder and cleanup hitter, has smashed 20 or more home runs in a season three times.

The veteran power hitter played high school baseball at Mars Hills Bible School in Florence, where his mother, Denise, has taught elementary school for 26 years and his father, David, serves as vice president. Josh Willingham and his wife, Ginger, have two young sons, Rhett and Ryder.

Willingham's favorite Bible passage is James 1:2-4: *"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."*

That Scripture seems appro-

priate given the trials faced by Willingham's home state.

The outfielder's family and his hometown of Florence were spared major damage by the April 27 tornadoes that cut a deadly path of destruction across Alabama and the South.

However, Ginger Willingham and fellow Christians joined the relief effort in Hackleburg, Ala., where more than two dozen people died and the Church of Christ building was ravaged.

Teammates couldn't help but notice Josh Willingham's concern for his home state.

"I know he's going through a lot right now with the tornadoes," Ziegler said. "And so the whole team tried to come together and help do some stuff through his foundation and help out down there because he's an integral part of this team already."

Willingham's nonprofit foundation raised roughly \$50,000 from teammates and Major League Baseball to benefit victims.

"The response has been pretty overwhelming, and we're going to be able to do a lot with that money and help a lot of people," Willingham said.

Both Ziegler and Willingham have a fan in Texas Rangers star Josh Hamilton, an evan-

gelical Christian known for overcoming his drug addiction through faith in Jesus.

Hamilton, the reigning American League Most Valuable Player, describes Ziegler as "just a solid dude."

"Brad is one of those guys, when you talk to him and you walk up to him, from the first time you can tell there's something different about him," Hamilton said. "He's a big encourager. He always encourages me when we're able to spend time together and talk to each other about anything."

As for Willingham, Hamilton described the 6-foot-2, 215-pound slugger this way: "Josh is a beast." As with Ziegler, "When you meet (Willingham), there's something different about him. ... Josh is a big man, but he's got a soft side to him and loves the Lord."

Most Sundays during the season, Willingham and Ziegler join about 15 to 20 A's teammates for a pregame chapel service.

During homestands, some A's players conduct a regular Bible study. Willingham said he invites teammates to join the group.

"I'm not one that's going to push anybody," he said. "I just try to lead by example, for the most part."



BOBBY MOORE

American League MVP Josh Hamilton is a fan of Brad Ziegler and Josh Willingham.



MICHAEL ZAGARIS, OAKLAND ATHLETICS

Brad Ziegler is a right-handed submariner who set a major-league record by starting his career with 39 consecutive scoreless innings in 2008.

MINISTERING EVANGELIST

The **Swope Parkway Church of Christ** in Kansas City, Missouri is seeking an experienced individual to serve as our **Ministering Evangelist**. The Swope Parkway Church of Christ is a congregation of approximately 500 members located in the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan area.

We are seeking a man who will provide leadership to the overall ministry operations, and will capably meet the obligations of preaching, teaching and facilitating the continued growth of the congregation.

Visit our website at www.swopeparkway.org and click on the "Our Leadership" and "Minister Search" tabs for more information, applications and instructions.

Associate Minister Needed

The **Antlers Church of Christ**, located in the scenic southeast part of Oklahoma, is looking for an associate minister who is willing to make a long-term commitment to our congregation and community. We are looking for someone to work with our youth and families, as well as our education and outreach programs. We are seeking someone who is motivated and able to motivate. This person needs to be able to become a part of our rural community (pop. 2,900) and congregation (150 members). We are willing to provide a generous salary and benefits. Since we are looking for the right person, rather than just qualifications, education and experience minimums are not being set. We are a stable, mature congregation with a good reputation in our area that wishes to grow, as well as nurture our own members. If you are willing to work hard and be treated great, send your resume to: Antlers Church of Christ, PO Box 606, Antlers, OK 74523.

TIPTON HOME

"helping children in need"

HOUSE PARENTS

Position available for mature Christian couple to work as house parents.

Competitive salary in addition to lodging, transportation, food, health & dental insurance, retirement plan participation, and other benefits.

For more information about this rewarding ministry in Christian Child Care, contact **Susie Boyd** at sboyd@tiptonhome.com or **1-580-667-5221**

www.tiptonhome.com

Employment Opportunity



Amberton University Introduces Master of Arts In Christian Counseling!

- Designed to Match Unique Ministry Settings
- Practical "Hands On" Experience
- Distance Learning and Lecture Formats
- Convenient 10 Week Sessions
- Affordable Tuition
- Fully Accredited & Nationally Recognized

Enroll Now For The Summer Session!

AMBERTON
UNIVERSITY



Garland • Frisco • Online
972.279.6511 • www.Amberton.edu

NEED A BUS?



Clearance Sale!
Call for a complete
list of our
Best-Priced Buses!

call **Carpenter**
BUS SALES
going the extra mile since 1953

Visit www.carpenterbus.com to see over
100 New & Used Buses in Stock.
We buy buses and welcome Trade-Ins.

CALL TOLL FREE: 800.370.6180

NEWSMAKERS

NAMED: J. Warren Casey, dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, Harding University, Searcy, Ark. Casey also was appointed as dean of the Honors College in 2010 and will serve in both capacities.

Greg Davenport, academic director for the Physician Assistant Program, Harding University. **Lisa Cantrell**, Director of Online Learning, York College, York, Neb.

David Duncan and **Michelle Eggleston**, trustees, Oklahoma Christian University, Oklahoma City, Okla. Duncan is pulpit minister for the Memorial church in Houston and Eggleston a shareholder and attorney for Eggleston & Eggleston in Amarillo, Texas.



Cantrell

CONGRATULATIONS: Taylor Woodard, a member of the North MacArthur church in Oklahoma City, Okla., elected vice president of the Central Division of the Oklahoma Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) at the state convention. Woodard is the daughter of Myra Fleming and granddaughter of Dan and J'Nevlyne Shrock, all of whom attend North MacArthur. **Karen Witemeyer**, ACU's coordinator of University Testing, finalist in the Best First Book category of the 2011 RITA awards for her Christian romance novel, *A Tailor-Made Bride*.



Witemeyer

AWARDED: Deby K. Samuels, vice president for communication and marketing at Lipscomb University, Nashville, Tenn., 2011 Distinguished Marketer of the Year, Nashville Chapter of the American Marketing Association.

ANNIVERSARIES: 65th: Carl and Cora Mai Hall, Kansas City, Mo. **65th:** Howard and Dorothy King, Scott City, Kan. **64th:** Virgil and Lou Lawyer, Searcy, Ark. **60th:** Jim and Marge Morton, Centennial, Colo.

BIRTHDAYS: 96th: Katie Long, Altus, Okla. **90th:** Robert Harold Deal, Hendersonville, Tenn.



Fulbright

PASSAGES: James Edward Fulbright, 88, May 21, Abilene, Texas, longtime staffer at Abilene Christian University and minister for congregations in rural Texas.



Minister for the Deaf needed in Phoenix

Camelback Church of Christ in Phoenix, AZ is seeking a minister for the deaf for the congregation's Deaf Ministry. Applicants must have a solid Bible education, a strong desire for ministering to the deaf and evangelism and be fluent in American Sign Language. Please send resume with references to: Camelback Church of Christ: attn. elders, 5225 E Camelback Road Phoenix, AZ 85018.

www.camelbackchurchofchrist.org



Hope Harbor Children's Home & Family Ministries in Claremore, Okla., has an immediate opening for a **master's level counselor** to work on-site at the Children's Home. Hope Harbor's on-campus services are provided to both boys and girls, generally between the ages of 11 and 17.

The counselor will provide individual, group, and family therapy, as well as performing other case management duties. Successful applicants will have a master's degree in counseling, social work or a related field, will have excellent communication skills and a passion for working with children and families, and will be dedicated members of the Church of Christ. Supervision and training are provided.

For more information, call Ralph Richardson at **(918) 343-0003, ext. 230**, or e-mail Ralph@hopeharborinc.org.

Preacher needed

11th & Birdwell Lane Church of Christ in Big Spring, Texas is looking for a full time preacher.

Salary is negotiable. For more information contact Robert Thompson, 432-263-6233 e-mail rcthompson64@suddenlink.net; Bill Cunningham, 432-263-2020; Bruce Griffith, 432-263-0965 e-mail bgriffith@lonestarwtx.com.

Minister / Evangelist Needed The Kingfisher Church of Christ

a 100-plus congregation in north-central Oklahoma, is seeking a minister. The candidate must be able to communicate well, both orally and in writing, and have good computer skills. Applicants may send a resume and sermon to The Elders, Kingfisher Church of Christ, PO Box 164, Kingfisher, OK 73750.



HARDING

U N I V E R S I T Y

FACULTY POSITIONS AVAILABLE FALL 2011

All candidates must be active members of the church of Christ and committed to Christian education.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION. Seeking full-time faculty member to teach counselor education, both clinical and school, beginning fall 2011 at the Northwest Arkansas Professional Center in Bentonville, Ark. Successful candidates will have earned their doctorate from a CACREP-approved program, have experience teaching in higher education, hold their license or be license eligible as a counselor, have experience and knowledge in clinical mental and/or school counseling, and have knowledge and/or experience with distance education. Responsibilities include teaching courses on campus and online via the Moodle platform, advising and supervising students, developing distance courses, and doing limited research and publishing. Direct questions to Dr. Jenene Alexander at jalexander@harding.edu or 501-279-4150.

Seeking full-time faculty member to teach early childhood education. Successful candidates will have a doctorate in early childhood education or closely related area. Should have experience teaching in a K-12 setting, preferably with experience teaching in higher education with research and statistics as well. Experience working with accrediting agencies such as NCATE and NAEYC would be helpful. Responsibilities include teaching, advising, serving on committees and other assigned tasks. Additionally, the successful candidate will also serve as director of the early childhood education program and would include working with the chair of teacher education and college dean in administrative responsibilities as well as writing to the NAEYC standards for accreditation.

Seeking full-time faculty member in educational leadership beginning fall 2011. Successful candidates will have earned a doctorate from an approved program, have experience teaching in higher education, be licensed or license-eligible as a school district level administrator, and have experience as superintendent/central office, which is essential. Candidates will be teaching courses on the main campus, at satellite campuses and online via Moodle platform; advising and supervising candidates; developing education leadership courses; and doing limited research and publishing. Summer assignments will be required under a separate contract. Direct questions to Dr. David Bangs at dbangs@harding.edu, 501-279-4514 or 501-279-4117.

Applicants adding to the diversity of the faculty are encouraged, including underrepresented populations and those with disabilities. For any of the positions, submit introductory letter, curriculum vita and contact information to Dr. Donny Lee, associate dean, at dlee@harding.edu or Harding University, Box 12254, Searcy, AR 72149.

Harding had a record enrollment this year of more than 6,800 students from 49 states and 53 foreign countries. Comprised of eight colleges, it is the largest private university in Arkansas and attracts more National Merit Scholars than any other private university in the state. Harding also maintains campuses in Australia, Chile, England, France, Greece, Italy and Zambia.

All positions are contingent upon funding.

SAVE THE DATE
OCT. 3 & 4, 2011
MOSER
MINISTRY
CONFERENCE

Family Ministry:
Serving Families in the Church
with



Dr. Michael Hardin Dr. Royce Money Dr. Steven Bonner



For more information contact Donna Taylor
donna.taylor@lcu.edu or 806.720.7662



Director, North Institute for Teaching and Learning

Oklahoma Christian University is seeking applicants for the position of Director, North Institute for Teaching and Learning.

The Director will be responsible for expanding, integrating and managing a comprehensive system of support for faculty excellence and innovation in the use of instructional technologies, instructional design, instructional delivery, assessment of student learning and scholarly/creative activity. Candidates should have extensive experience in instructional design and distributed learning. A master's degree in a related field is required and a Ph.D. is preferred.

For a full description of this position and other employment opportunities at Oklahoma Christian University, please visit <http://www.oc.edu/hr>

Minister needed

The Bellevue Church of Christ in Bellevue, Ohio, 44811, is looking for a part-time minister for a congregation of 35 members. We need a person to work the community to help our church grow. Bellevue is a town of 8,000 people and we are the only Church of Christ, so there is plenty of opportunity for growth. Please contact Dennis.Rogers@Nidec-Motor.com or call 419.554.9879 for more information.

The **Southwest Church of Christ** in Topeka, Kansas, is seeking a **full-time minister**. We are a small congregation that is Bible-based in our theology and worship.

Individuals who apply need to be able to assist with all aspects of shepherding a small congregation and implementing a vision for growth in the local community.

Salary negotiable.

E-mail resumes to

swcoc.minister.search@gmail.com



SAN JOSE
Costa Rica



48TH PAN AMERICAN LECTURESHIP
October 29 - November 5, 2011
(including travel days)

A ministry of the churches of Christ
Sponsor: Jackson Street Church of Christ • Monroe, LA
Pan American Lectureship • P.O. Box 1175 • Minden, LA 71058
(800) 533-7660 • www.lectureship.org





- Inspirational
- Uplifting
- Exciting
- Motivational
- Challenging
- Informative
- Life Changing
- Mission Focused
- CHRIST Centered

Coordinators

- Dan Coker
- Adrian DeLukie
- Jim Frazier
- Howard Norton
- Don DeLukie

June 13-18 Missionary Renewal Retreat. "Strength for the Journey." Lake Texoma, Texas. Contact gina.waldron@MRNet.org or (888) 641-2229.

June 14-18 Quest 2011. Wisconsin Christian Youth Camp, Black River Falls, Wis. Contact Jim Frost (312) 420-0859 or www.wcyc.org.

June 16-18 Christian Scholars Conference. "The Path of Discovery: Science, Theology and the Academy." Pepperdine University, Malibu, Calif. Contact www.pepperdine.edu/csc2011.

June 24-26 50th Anniversary of Newark, Del., church. Contact newarkchurch@comcast.net.

June 26-30 National Deaf Christian Workshop. "Golden Jubilee." Fairfax, Va., church. Contact deafworkshop.com or David Hinckley at dhinckley@verizon.com.

June 29-July 1 Summer Celebration. "In Christ Alone: Learning Kingdom Life from Jesus." Lipscomb University, Nashville, Tenn. Contact summercelebration.lipscomb.edu or (800) 333 4358, ext. 6609.

July 7-10 Campus Ministry United Conference. "Get Lit: Passing the Torch to the Next Generation." Harding University, Searcy, Ark. Contact www.campusministryunited.org.

July 15-17 100th Anniversary, Laings, Ohio, church. Contact (740) 472-5508 or www.laingschurchofchrist.org.

July 15-17 Mid-Atlantic Lectureship. "Who is This Jesus?" Governor's Hall at Sailwinds Park, Cambridge, Md. Contact (410) 228-6333 or www.cambridgecoc.com.

July 25 Blue Ridge Family Encampment. 61st annual. Black Mountains, N.C. Contact blueridgeencampment.org or (865) 456-6165.

July 27-31 Global Reunion Camp. For TCKs/MKs and Parents. Oklahoma Christian University. Contact www.oc.edu/tck or nancy.hartman@oc.edu.

July 29-31 Legacy Conference 2011. Sponsored by Pacific Northwest Churches of Christ Women and Girls. Seattle-Tacoma Airport Marriott. Contact www.legacyconferencenw.com.

July 30 Preston Road School of Preaching Reunion. Contact Chris Vidacovich at chrisv@cscoc.com.

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.

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.



LIPSCOMB
UNIVERSITY

www.lipscomb.edu
615.966.1000 • 800.333.4358

Randy

EDITORIAL

Doing more than throwing rice

The *Christian Chronicle* staff likes to celebrate. So when Lauren Stafford, daughter of administrative assistant Tonda Stafford and her husband, Barry, wed high school and youth group sweetheart Brandon Keck on a recent Saturday afternoon, we all were excited to share in their joy.

Dark-haired, 3-year-old Maggie Tryggstad, daughter of assistant managing editor Erik Tryggstad and his wife, Jeanie, walked in tiny, measured steps and dropped rose petals. Bailey McBride, editor emeritus, and his wife, Joyce, beamed from their seats on the aisle.

The rest of us smiled through the tears in our eyes as we saw the Staffords' younger daughter, Rebecca, walk gingerly down the aisle in her deep pink gown. On one arm was her escort, on the other a black bandage that reminded us of her ongoing treatment for cancer.

The bride was breathtakingly beautiful, and her groom looked

so proud and happy. During the ceremony, minister Steve Schinnerer, the bride's uncle, praised the smiling couple's devotion to God and each other.

As Brandon and Lauren begin their journey together, we are reminded of God's precious gift of marriage.

We were heartened by recent census statistics showing that

'We were heartened by recent census statistics showing that married couples are staying together longer than they have in years.'

married couples are staying together longer than they have in years. Three in four couples who married after 1990 celebrated a 10-year anniversary.

With wedding season in full swing, it seems an appropriate time to reflect on ways in which we — as individual Christians and as congregations — can promote strong marriages and families.

A few suggestions:

• **Provide support** — Create a marriage mentoring program, matching older couples with newlyweds. Let the older generation share its secrets.

Organize a couples retreat.

Invite a speaker who can inspire husbands and wives to

remember what brought them together. But leave plenty of free time for couples to relax and spend time with each other. And be sure to come up with a plan for babysitting!

Schedule special church activities such as picnics, barbecues and hay rides that promote fellowship and family togetherness.

• **Promote transparency** — Make your congregation a place where people can be honest about the struggles and challenges they face.

Talk about God's vision for sex.

Stress openness and accountability in men-only and women-only Bible classes, small groups and prayer meetings.

Above all, be real, not fake.

• **Praise longevity** — You probably have couples in your congregation who have been married 30, 40, 50 years or more. Celebrate that!

Organize a sweetheart banquet for long-married couples. And encourage the youth group to serve the meals.

Put then-and-now pictures of these lovely couples in the church bulletin.

With God's help, let's do all we can to help Brandon and Lauren — and others — fulfill their vows.

Ever-Laughing Life

by Jonny Hawkins



TO OUR READERS

Add your church at no charge

Over the past seven months, we have welcomed more than 20,000 new readers to *The Christian Chronicle*.

God keeps blessing this ministry as we seek to inform, inspire and unite Churches of Christ.

This edition will go to more than 116,000 individual addresses in all 50 states.

We're continuing our offer to add your entire church to our mailing list at no charge. We keep all names and addresses confidential.

Send directories to *The Christian Chronicle*, P.O. Box 11000, Oklahoma City, OK 73136-1100. For more information, e-mail virginia.ware@christianchronicle.org or call (405) 425-5070.

The Christian Chronicle
Our mission: To inform, inspire and unite

www.christianchronicle.org

Phone: (405) 425-5070; Fax (405) 425-5076
P.O. Box 11000, Oklahoma City, OK 73136-1100
Delivery: 2501 E. Memorial Road, Edmond, OK 73013

Editor, President and CEO: Lynn A McMillon
lynn.mcmillon@christianchronicle.org

Managing Editor: Bobby Ross Jr.
National, Partners news: bobby.ross@christianchronicle.org
Assistant Managing Editor: Erik Tryggstad
International news, features: erik@christianchronicle.org
Advertising Director: Tamie Ross
tamie.ross@christianchronicle.org

Editor Emeritus: Bailey B. McBride
bailey.mcbride@christianchronicle.org

Reviews Editor: Harold Shank

harold.shank@christianchronicle.org

Circulation Manager: Lynda Sheehan

lynda.sheehan@christianchronicle.org

Associate Editor: Joy McMillon

joy.mcmillon@christianchronicle.org

Administrative Assistant: Tonda Stafford

tonda.stafford@christianchronicle.org

Administrative Assistant: Virginia Ware

virginia.ware@christianchronicle.org

Correspondent: Ted Parks

TO SUBSCRIBE:

See www.christianchronicle.org
e-mail virginia.ware@christianchronicle.org
or call (405) 425-5070.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: letters@christianchronicle.org

The Christian Chronicle welcomes and encourages feedback that promotes thoughtful and respectful discussion. Letters/comments should be 150 words or less and may be edited for length and clarity. Comments to the print or online editions are considered to be letters to the editor and may be published. Please include name, city and state of residence, as well as home congregation.

The Christian Chronicle is not a teaching or doctrinal publication, but a newspaper with news and opinion content in sections clearly labeled. Signed columns and reviews reflect the opinions of the authors.

Advertising contains commercial messages from those who purchase the advertising space. News coverage, opinion columns, reviews, letters to the editor and advertising do not necessarily represent the views of or

constitute endorsement by the editors, the staff, the Board of Trustees of *The Christian Chronicle* or Oklahoma Christian University.

The Christian Chronicle is published monthly and is served by a national Board of Trustees that is charged with the responsibility for policy and governance. All trustees, editors and staff are active members of the Churches of Christ.

Trustees: Deon Fair, chairman

Ed Biggers • Sylvia Branch • Dale Brown • Dwain Chaffin
Bill Davis • W. L. Fletcher III • Ralph Harvey • Emily Lemley
Woody Loden Jr. • James Moore • Robert Oglesby Sr.
Mike O'Neal • Barry Packer • Max Pope • Kevin Ramsey
Harold Redd • Harry Risinger • Milton Sewell • Gary Tabor



Letters: Fair treatment of controversial issues praised

We appreciate so much your fairness in addressing controversial subjects that exist in our society today. Specifically, we refer to your fair and wise treatment of the general reaction to the death of Osama bin Laden (Page 1, June).

Brother John Dobbs' statement that the death of a sinner should not be a cause for rejoicing among Christians, and that sins did not annul the command to love our enemies, is so obviously true but so universally disregarded. It was comforting to see it in print.

And your unbiased look at homosexuality — because it is with us whether we like it or not — was pure bravery ("Same-sex attraction: How should churches respond?" Page 15, June). Jesus also dealt with the controversial issues of his day, always shining the light of love. We would do well to remember that.

Aline Edson | Paris, Texas

I've got to say that the June issue is excellent. The coverage on Osama, homosexuals and tornadoes really was timely and well done.

And the North Canton Church of Christ in Ohio (Churches That Work, Page 19) is one of my supporting congregations! They really are a giving bunch. A couple of summers ago, they brought

two trailers of clothing and food to give away at a community center in the projects here. It was very well received.

Doug Kashorek | Plattsburgh, N.Y.

I really appreciate this discussion on same-sex attraction.

It needs to be addressed more and more, and our people who struggle with this need to know that they are loved and that the church can be a place for them to receive help carrying their burden.

I have had people tell me after a long, long time that they had to endure this struggle in silence or through anonymous help via the Internet.

Drew Chapados | Windsor, Ontario

Thank you for bringing more light to this subject that so many of us are afraid to think about, let alone discuss openly. More and more lives are touched every day, in different ways, by the issue of same-sex attraction.

As Christians, we are called to share the love of Christ. We are not called to judge. What a blessing that is.

Holly Parks | Luther, Okla.

I want to thank the editors and the discussants for a most thoughtful contribution to this issue in Churches of Christ.

I hope future articles can tell

the stories of those who try to hold together the deepest longings of their heart with their deep longing for God and for our fellowship, and there are many.

I encourage us to remember divorce and remarriage, an issue where many felt there were clear Scriptural commands.

Most of us finally came to accept those who suffered that brokenness because we came to love the individual in which we saw the fruit of the Spirit more than our need for one-size-fits-all policies and doctrines (Acts 10). I caution against that tendency as we go forth to love in grace and truth.

Todd Bouldin | Los Angeles

Thank you to all three of those interviewed: Sally Gary, David Lane and Don McLaughlin.

Not just for what they said but for what they have done over the years to help address this issue. No one advocates for the same-sex attraction person struggling to cling to Christ and be transformed in his or her gender identity — gay advocates pummel them or scandalize them, and often churches avoid or label them.

Thank you for this balanced and biblical foundation to address the issue.

Phil Ware | Abilene, Texas

Readers identify with cemetery walk

A very heartwarming story ("A cemetery walk provides odd comfort," Page 3, June). You are so fortunate to know so much of your history. All of us are not so privileged. Thank you for sharing.

Margie York | Fresno, Calif.

A walk in the cemetery is always comforting to me. When I see the spot where a Christian is buried, I think, "Another victory Jesus gained over Satan," and I thank God for Calvary.

I enjoy reading statements on headstones. I have written down many for my "memories" folder. Some are common, some very special, some biblical and some humorous (I really enjoyed the "I told you I was sick" comment on a headstone beside the burial place as I waited to speak at a graveside service).

Thanks for writing this. I was helped by it — and not in an "odd" kind of way.

Ron Bontrager | Lubbock, Texas

A cemetery was the basis of an activity in geography classes that I taught while a librarian at Abilene Christian University in Texas.

It included a rubbing of a tombstone and data about the 36 people buried in a grave

spread. It was a group project that worked out great. Any family could do this.

Lewis Armstrong | Fayetteville, Ga.

Is competition needed to train young leaders?

My son participated in Leadership Training for Christ for the first time this year, and he came home so inspired that he was teaching his little brothers what he learned ("LTC, L2L and lots of blessings," Page 33, June). I will most definitely be encouraging my children to do it again.

Eliasha Carr | Camp Verde, Ariz.

I think if the church can find a way to incorporate the learned skills year-round in a noncompetitive setting, then those programs can really show kids what it's like to be a servant of God.

Kristin Marie Jesch | Oklahoma City

Why are programs like LTC and Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes necessary at all?

Can the men of a congregation not teach the children of that congregation without resorting to competitions? What church leadership role does a girl learn from holding a "puppet show" when the role given to her by Scripture is that of "teaching the younger women?"

Heather Whitehead | Tallahassee, Fla.

VOICES

What role has your church family played in the development of your faith?

Asked by managing editor Bobby Ross Jr. of high school seniors.



My church's youth leaders both at Woodbury Church of Christ and Eagan Church of Christ have influenced me in my goals and

perspectives. ... I feel like I have a solid connection with my peers and other families within the church, which helps me focus on a faithful walk.

Alex May | Eagan Church of Christ, Minnesota



My church family were the ones who told me about Jesus and taught me about salvation. ... My hero in the faith is Timothy. I feel as if

I can relate to him the most, because he was humble enough to ask Paul, a stronger Christian, for help, which is a trait I think every Christian needs.

Antarius Holley | Orange Avenue Church of Christ, Eustis, Fla.



They are people that I know I can turn to when I am in a time of conflict, and I know they won't judge me, and they will always

have good advice on hand. Another way is that they are always challenging me spiritually. ... If there is anything I would ever need, they would be there.

Kelly Kinser | Campus Church of Christ, Norcross, Ga.



My church family has been an awesome support for me. They've encouraged me to grow stronger and reach out to those around me. ... I will

be attending Harding University. ... Getting my degree in a Christian environment and also making friends in Christ that will last a lifetime has got me pretty excited.

Justin Brown | Fairgrounds Road Church of Christ, Troy, Mo.

Books attempt to defuse conflict between faith and science

BY JIM BAIRD | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Is there a war between science and faith?

Some claim that atheism is the only position consistent with the success of modern science. Meanwhile, many Christians feel that the only way to defend their faith is to reject science.

Three recent books try to defuse this conflict in different ways.

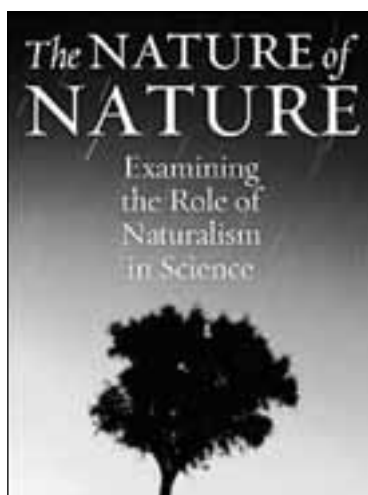
The first is **"The Nature of Nature: Examining the Role of Naturalism in Science."** Edited by William A. Dembski and Bruce L. Gordon, both stalwarts of the Intelligent Design movement, this book was a decade in the making.

It is essentially the papers from the famous/infamous "Nature of Nature" conference examining the philosophical doctrine known as Naturalism. Naturalism says that God is not needed in science because purely natural processes are sufficient to explain everything. This conference was hosted in 2000 by the short-lived Michael Polanyi Center of Baylor University.

The publication of the papers from the conference was delayed by Baylor's controversial decision to close the center that same year.

Nevertheless, the book has finally come to press, and it is impressive. There are representative contributions from stars of the Intelligent Design movement such as William Dembski, Michael Behe, David Berlinski and Stephen Meyer as well as some by well-known Christian scholars who aren't considered part of the ID movement, such as Alvin Plantinga, Nicholas Wolterstorff, Nancey Murphy and Dallas Willard. Many of these have updated their work for this publication.

What sets this collection apart, however, are the scholars writing to defend



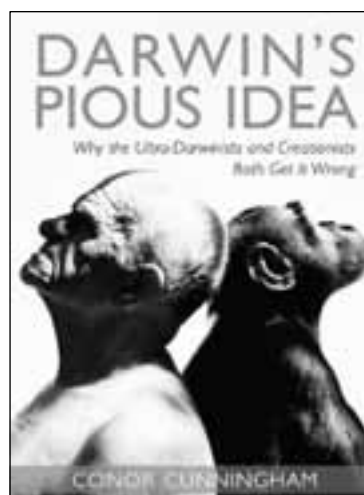
William A. Dembski and Bruce L. Gordon, eds. **The Nature of Nature: Examining the Role of Naturalism in Science.** Wilmington, Del.: ISI Books, 2011. 986 pages. \$29.

Naturalism, including Francis Crick, Stephen Weinberg, Alan Guth, John Searle and Michael Ruse.

While opponents of Naturalism outnumber defenders in this volume, readers will find that these and others offer creative and spirited defenses of the doctrine. I've listed only some of the best-known of the contributors on both sides.

Be warned. These are papers by academics for other academics. The quality and clarity of writing varies somewhat, and most demand some level of expertise from readers. But I suspect many who follow these issues will want "The Nature of Nature" as a reference, since it collects the thinking of significant scholars who are deeply involved in the ongoing controversies concerning Naturalism and Intelligent Design.

The second book is Conor

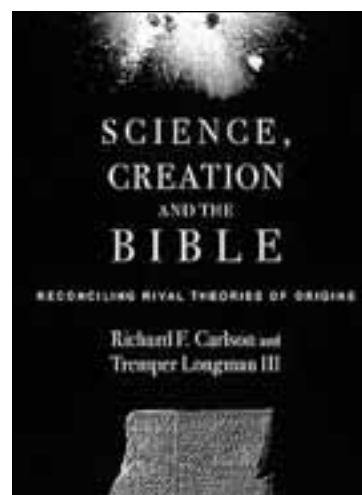


Conor Cunningham. **Darwin's Pious Idea: Why the Ultra-Darwinists and Creationists Both Get It Wrong.** Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 2010. 563 pages. \$34.99.

Cunningham's **"Darwin's Pious Idea: Why the Ultra-Darwinists and Creationists Both Get It Wrong."**

Cunningham is the assistant director of the Centre of Theology and Philosophy at the University of Nottingham in England. Some readers may know him from the 2009 BBC documentary "Did Darwin Kill God?" which he wrote and presented.

Cunningham's dominant theme is that both sides in the science and religion debate are guilty of the same mistake. Both sides see God as an extra cause, intervening in the laws of nature from outside. Characteristically, believers look for evidence of God only where there are gaps in our scientific explanations. Atheists, on the other hand, argue that we don't need God because there are no gaps that won't one day be filled by science.



Richard F. Carlson and Tremper Longman III. **Science, Creation and the Bible: Reconciling Rival Theories of Origins.** Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP Academic, 2010. 144 pages. \$16.

Against these twin mistakes, Cunningham wants to champion an older view of God, in which God is clearly seen by means of the rational order of nature discovered by science. God is not an occasional visitor who only shows up to cover the gaps in our knowledge. He is the one who makes knowledge possible. He is the creator and sustainer of the universe on whom both science and the rational order of nature depend.

Cunningham covers a range of topics, but his execution is quite uneven. He has a keen eye for the quotable quote, and readers will find an abundance of witty and insightful source materials referenced in his pages. Unfortunately, he seems to have found himself unable to edit any of the precious nuggets he uncovered, and again and again we are treated to ten quotations when one would have served.

Nevertheless, he includes helpful discussions of some of the disputes within the Darwinian community, such as whether natural selection is a sufficient engine to drive evolution and if it is, whether it oper-

ates on the genome, the individual, or the species.

I was particularly glad that he included a section on the ways in which reductive evolutionism tends to undermine our confidence in evolution, in science and, indeed, in human rationality itself. While I doubt that many will find that he has provided rigorous answers on these topics, he certainly offers a stimulating peek at the literature concerning them.

The third book is Richard F. Carlson and Tremper Longman III's **"Science, Creation and the Bible: Reconciling Rival Theories of Origins."** Longman is the Robert H. Gundry Professor of Biblical Studies at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, Calif. Carlson is research professor of physics at the University of Redlands in California.

The authors affirm the inerrancy of Scripture throughout, but want to offer a way out of the perceived conflict between the Genesis creation accounts and scientific findings about the age of the earth and the evolution of life.

Their primary method is to suggest that the Genesis chapters 1 and 2 creation accounts can be understood by modern people as true but non-literal writing. Their idea is that some truths can best be communicated non-literally and that some can only be received that way. They believe that some of the most significant truths treated in the Genesis creation accounts fall into this category.

Their treatment of this complex topic is less than satisfactory, in my opinion, but the book could serve as a useful discussion starter in a Bible class, if the teacher is well-informed through other sources.

JIM BAIRD is professor of Bible and philosophy at Oklahoma Christian University and pulpit minister for the Wilshire Church of Christ in Oklahoma City.

'Some claim that atheism is the only position consistent with the success of modern science. Meanwhile, many Christians feel that the only way to defend their faith is to reject science.'

"... and how can they go unless they are sent..."

Whom could
you send?

Look among those in your church family who have a heart for serving others and sharing the love of Jesus. Can you see a future for them in ministry? Tap them on the shoulder and send them to Sunset.

**Sunset is looking for the
best from your
congregation.**

**Talk to Someone Today
Pray with Them**

Send His/Her Name and Phone Number to:
Speedy Hart, Director of Admissions
speedysibi@sibi.cc or call 806-788-3237

SUNSET
International Bible Institute

Third Culture Kids Global Reunion 2011



Camp for Third Culture Kids, Missionary Kids and Parents

July 27 — 31, 2011

Oklahoma Christian University
Contact: nancy.hartman@oc.edu
Register before June 15 at www.oc.edu/tck



Summer Celebration is very Family Friendly!

Stay on campus!
Economical and convenient housing available

Eat on campus!
Delicious food options available
Bison Café – a full-service cafeteria
Starbucks
Pizza Hut
Chick-fil-A
Baja Burrito
& more!

Wonderful and age-specific programs
for each group! Nursery, pre-school,
elementary and teens

Live entertainment day and night –
KidsZone, Family Theater,
Friday night's Picnic and Fireworks!

A festival of faith and fellowship
for the entire family!

LIPSCOMB
UNIVERSITY

Advance registration for nursery, children
and teen programs is requested

Visit us online for registration,
housing information and more:
summercelebration.lipscomb.edu



Our MBA offers a different perspective.

- ▶ Earn your degree in as little as 12 months
- ▶ Available 100% online
- ▶ Increase your earnings potential
- ▶ Advance your career

HARDING
www.harding.edu/mba
 501-279-5851

MBA
 Harding University

Fourth reminds us of freedom from sin

When I was a child, the Fourth of July was one of my favorite holidays. I liked fireworks, the picnics with fried chicken and homemade ice cream. Whether we were in Texas with the Baileys or in Colorado with the McBrides, I had dozens of cousins to play with.

The first time I asked about the holiday, my dad explained we were celebrating freedom from England, the independence of the United States. I did not understand all that meant until much later.

My sophomore year in high school, studying American history, I came to a much better understanding of what national and political independence really meant. But I learned even more as I read biographies of John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin and other early patriots.

I still love the holiday and enjoy the community celebration and activities. I am with my children and grandchildren. We don't shoot fireworks, but we watch fireworks displays. We spend time in prayer thanking God for the wonderful freedom we have — individually and as a nation.

When I was 12, I decided to be baptized. We lived in San Lorenzo, Calif., and had to drive to Oakland to find a baptistery. I remember on the long drive back home thinking how wonderful it was to be free from sin. I actually prayed I might die that night — free of all sins.

I really did not understand much about what I had done that night. I knew what sin was, and I knew that baptism had washed away my sins. Through the years my understanding of sin has grown, and I realize that it brings eternal separation from the eternal God. I have gradually come to a fuller appreciation of what spiritual freedom is.

My mother, my aunt and the congregation where I grew up trained me to study the Bible each day. I knew a lot of Scripture, but I did not see the larger picture. In college, Roy Lanier Sr. helped me see the different relationships people had with God through the ages.

In Old Testament Survey, Lanier explained the nature of the relationship Adam had with God and how that relationship was different from the relationship Abraham had. Then he showed how the Law of Moses defined the nature of sin and righteousness, offering no permanent freedom from sin — only

relief through annual sin offerings.

In my 20s, I began a serious, three-year study of John's gospel. In that powerful narrative, I saw the amazing nature of Jesus as it was demonstrated in his teachings and his actions. His divine spiritual nature jumped out at me in my second or third study of the text. His frame of reference is a different landscape from those who know sin. He is free of sin and worldly connections because he is so keenly aware that God is his father who has all power on earth and in heaven.

Insight



Bailey McBride

One of John's messages is that Jesus' origin is different from any person who has lived because he had life before he took on human life. His clear mission in becoming flesh was to redeem — or make free — mankind from the cancerous power of sin.

John helps us understand the unique character of Jesus, who describes himself most often as the Son of Man. He also declares he is the Bread of Life, the light of the world, the gate for the sheep, the good shepherd, the resurrection and the life, the way and the truth and the life, the vine. Clearly, Jesus offers us freedom from the materialism fundamental to our nature. Nowhere is that more evident than in his teaching about death and resurrection.

Not only does Jesus set us free from the burden and guilt of sin, but he also creates for us a new relationship with him and his father. He became our Savior by dying for the sins of all mankind. He offers us citizenship in the Kingdom of Heaven and a place in the family of God.

Once a year, we celebrate freedom and independence as a nation. We have picnics, wave flags and launch fireworks.

Because of our freedom from sin, we celebrate each Sunday to remember that we are redeemed by Jesus' blood, that we have been adopted into God's family and that we are part of God's kingdom. Instead of shooting fireworks, we eat unleavened bread and drink wine to commemorate the body and blood of Jesus.

CONTACT bailey.mcbride@christianchronicle.org



CAST YOUR NETS FOR THE MASTER.

Elders and Church Leaders: Your congregation can start your own

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL OR PRE-SCHOOL

Partners For Christian Education can help!

FREE manuals and counseling.

See our web site for more information.

Partners For Christian Education
P.O. Box 11000
Oklahoma City, OK 73136
Office Phone: (405) 471-6003

WWW.PFCE.COM

First Aid For Hearts Wounded By Spoken Stones

A STUDY OF HURTFUL WORDS AND HELPFUL REMEDIES

STICKS & STONES



JEFF ABRAMS

For reviews, excerpts, additional info. and to make a purchase visit:

SticksandStonesBook.com

Purchase by mail: Sticks and Stones
 1844 Rodeo Drive
 Tuscumbia, AL 35674

\$10.00 each plus \$2.50 S&H (make checks to "Ukraine Missions")

Every purchase benefits Ukraine Missions

Also available at Amazon.com

Send questions to jeffAbrams@aol.com

Coming this Summer for High School Students



HONORS SUMMER ACADEMY



July 17-23, 2011

The Oklahoma Christian University Honors Program invites applications for the 2011 Honors Summer Academy. Come earn academic credit, meet master faculty, make great friends and experience undergraduate life this summer at OC. Full details and applications are located at www.oc.edu/honors.

The cost of the Summer Honors Academy has been underwritten to provide high school students completing their freshman, sophomore or junior year up to two hours of academic credit, plus room and board, for only \$450 per student. Academy requirements and applications are available online. For more info, contact Lisa Carroll with the OC Honors Program at lisa.carroll@oc.edu or at 405.425.5304. Space is limited!



OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

FAITH *fully*

SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 2-4, 2011

OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
QUEST
 LECTURESHIP

DAYLONG SETS OF CLASSES:
MONDAY, OCTOBER 3

- women
- workers in smaller churches

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4

- preachers
- elders

And a dinner honoring preachers, elders and wives