



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Kimber Kelley, second from left, and her husband, David, work with a Bible Bowl team at the Walled Lake Church of Christ in Michigan.

Bible Bowls: textual preparation or trivial pursuit?

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

WALLED LAKE, Mich. — It's no secret that today's young people value hands-on ministry: feeding the hungry, painting houses for the elderly, providing coats for the homeless.

Youths go on international mission trips and seek to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus.

But do they devote themselves to in-depth study of the Bible?

At the Walled Lake Church of Christ, they do — and the Great Lakes Bible Bowl is a

major reason why.

"Bible Bowl is the most intense study our youth receive," said Gregory Campbell, long-time youth and family minister at the 150-member church, 25 miles northwest of Detroit.

For three months each year, young people at Walled Lake prepare to match their Bible knowledge against that of their Michigan peers.

"It's a lot of pizza and Scripture," joked Kimber Kelley, who with her husband, David, coaches a junior team dubbed the Walled Lake Miracles.

See **BIBLE BOWLS**, Page 14



Third in a series:
**Trends in Bible
quiz programs**

Japan quake spurs church relief efforts

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Why should Christians in the U.S. send money across an ocean to help a wealthy nation recover from a natural disaster?

To put it simply, "No country could absorb a disaster like this," said Jonathan Straker, a master's student in missions at Abilene Christian University in Texas.

Straker and his wife, Michiko, served for five years as missionaries in Sendai, the nearest major city to the epicenter of the 9.0-magnitude earthquake that struck Japan on March 11.

"Sendai is my second hometown," said Michiko Straker, a native of Japan's northern island, Hokkaido.

The tsunami that followed the quake flooded the Sendai airport and devastated its coastal communities. At press time, the disaster had claimed an estimated 11,000 lives in eastern Japan. An additional 17,000 were missing, and hundreds of thousands were homeless.

In the weeks following the quake,

See **JAPAN**, Page 12



M. Straker



The role of women

Book tackles lightning-rod issue in churches. **32**



Signs of love in Africa

In Ethiopia, ministry for the deaf opens doors for the Gospel. **17**



Wild, blue yonder

Four-star Air Force general discusses his faith. **21**

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Thou shalt not eat too many fatty foods?

Does regular church attendance make you, um, a bit plump around the waistline? A Northwestern University study suggesting that it might drew a spate of recent media coverage.

"Praise the lord? Religion linked to obesity in young adults," proclaimed an MSNBC.com headline. "Why Going to Church Can Make You Fat," reported *Time* magazine.



Bobby Ross Jr.

"The devil may be in the pepperoni," said *USA Today*. Julie Truex, a member of the Saturn Road Church of Christ in Garland, Texas, welcomed the news.

"I'm so thankful for this new excuse," she joked on her Facebook page. "Of course I'm overweight. I go to church!"

Certainly, this study puts a new twist on this familiar chorus: "Read your Bible, pray every day, and you'll grow, grow, grow."

However, the notion impresses Gary F. Berglund Sr. as half-baked.

"Church attendance has nothing to do with obesity," said Berglund, minister of the Theta Church of Christ in Tennessee. "The preacher breaks the bread of life to us. We partake of the Lord's Supper. No fat, no sugar, no trans fatty acids."

The feast after the closing prayer? That might be a different story.

See **WEIGHT**, Page 4



MICHAEL FONVILLE

Gerran Harris, a student in Steve Hawley's senior Bible class, organizes bottles that Westbury Christian School students use to collect coins for orphanages. Hawley is shown in the upper left.

Passion for the Word

STEVE HAWLEY LOVES TEACHING at a diverse Christian school in Texas, but it's the subject matter – the Bible – that really excites him.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

HOUSTON — Steve Hawley shares his Christian faith all over the world.

He has made nearly a dozen mission trips to Honduras. He has shown the love of Jesus in China and Haiti. He plans to travel to Vietnam this summer to work with missionary Tom Tune.

But when asked to name the most fertile mission field he has experienced, the Bible teacher at Westbury Christian School does not hesitate.

It's right here in Room 258, the classroom where each weekday Hawley teaches two eighth-grade Bible classes, two sophomore Bible classes and one senior Bible class.

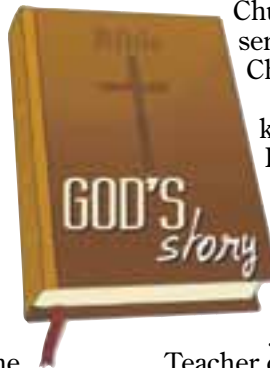
"We have daily contact with so many international students who are learning about Jesus for the first time," said Hawley, a member of the Westbury Church of Christ, which offers services in English, Spanish and Chinese.

"Also, many of our American kids have been told about the Bible but have never really read it," he added, "and I think that opens their eyes."

Hawley's passion for teaching the Bible — and his success in influencing young lives for Jesus — earned him the 2011

Teacher of the Year Award from the National Christian School Association. He accepted the honor at the NCSA's recent annual conference in San Antonio.

See **HAWLEY**, Page 22



Harold Shank named Ohio Valley president

VIENNA, W.Va. — Harold Shank will serve as the next president at Ohio Valley University, a 500-student university associated with Churches of Christ.

For 32 years, Shank ministered for the Highland Street Church of Christ in Memphis, Tenn. For the past five years, he served as professor of Old Testament at Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City. Shank is the national spokesperson for the Christian Child and Family Services Association and reviews editor for *The Christian Chronicle*.



Shank

"I'm drawn to the vision of Ohio Valley University," Shank said. "It's a dream that includes a solid relationship between the Churches of Christ and a Christian university with a mission to spread the Gospel in the most populous area of our nation."

Shank succeeds James Johnson, who stepped down in early 2009. Keith Stotts, OVU's chancellor and former longtime president, served as interim president.

"Dr. Shank brings a national reputation," Stotts said. "He is well known as an advocate for children and young people. This university exists to prepare Christian young people for service in the Churches of Christ. ... I can't imagine that we could have found a more appropriate leader."

Harding Grad School changing its name

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Harding University Graduate School of Religion is changing its name.

The new name — Harding School of Theology — better reflects the school's goal of equipping and inspiring servants of Christ with deeper faith and higher standards of scholarship, leaders said.

"The graduate school is not changing its commitment to the Word of God or to serving Churches of Christ," said Evertt Huffard, vice president and dean.



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

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

www.christianchronicle.org

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

• **Serving the deaf in Ethiopia:** See video and additional photos from assistant managing editor Erik Tryggestad's reporting trip to this East African 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.

WEIGHT: Study links religious activity, obesity

FROM PAGE 3

"In the Churches of Christ, we associate food with fellowship," said Tim O'Hearn, a member of the Riverside Church of Christ in Albuquerque, N.M. "We have learned that unlimited food is good and associate it with pleasure.

"Church doesn't make you fat, but it certainly doesn't encourage thinness."

According to the study, young adults who frequently attend religious activities are 50 percent more likely to become obese by middle age than young adults with no religious involvement.

"It's possible that getting together once a week and associating good works and happiness with eating unhealthy foods could lead to the development of habits that are associated with greater body weight and obesity," said Matthew Feinstein, the study's lead investigator.

In other words, we church folks may enjoy our potlucks — Kentucky Fried Chicken, anyone? — a little too much.

"I do agree that potlucks can cause you to eat more and gain weight, if you are not careful," said Jo Turner, a member of the Eastview Church of Christ in Tucson, Ariz.

We Christians may not drink, smoke, curse or commit adultery.

But, man, do we eat.

It's a real good thing the Bible doesn't say anything about gluttony, right?

"It just appears to be a more acceptable vice," Autumn Marshall, a nutritionist at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn., told me back in 2004.

On the bright side, previous studies have shown that religious people are happier and tend to live longer than those who aren't religious. That's partly

because most of us never light up a Marlboro.

That's the positive message.

"Here's an opportunity for religious organizations to initiate programs to help their congregations live even longer," Feinstein said. "The organizations already have groups of people getting together and infrastructures

... to initiate programs that prevent people from becoming obese and treat existing obesity."

Virginia Brannan, a member of the Sanford Church of Christ in Florida, said she'd love to see more church events featuring healthy activities such as hiking, biking and running.

"Some of my favorite activities in past years," Brannan said, "have been prayer and aerobics for women, drama ministry, joining with groups of friends to do 5K walks

for various worthy causes, teaching at Christian camps, doing yard work for people who are elderly or ill and other service events where we were active."

On the other hand, an old-fashioned worship assembly certainly can get the heart rate going.

"Consider all the calories used in religious activities: sitting, standing, singing, teaching, preaching, clapping, praying, walking, nodding, rocking, serving, kneeling, cleaning the kitchen, minding the nursery," said Loventrice Farrow, a member of the Naperville Church of Christ in Illinois. "Just think of the good workout you get by praising God!"

Amen, sister.

Now, please pass the potato salad.



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

A Sunday potluck at the Honolulu Church of Christ in 2005.

CONTACT BOBBY ROSS JR. at bobby.ross@christianchronicle.org. Search for "nutrition" at www.christianchronicle.org/blog to see more reader comments.

CALIFORNIA

PALO ALTO — The Palo Alto Church of Christ recently celebrated its 50th anniversary, capping five decades that saw it overcome a devastating fire and other challenges, the *San Jose Mercury News* reported.

The church wrapped up its month-long “Jubilee” celebration with a sermon by former minister Les Bennett on “Trusting God with the Future” and a potluck lunch.

FLORIDA

HOLLYWOOD — The Pembroke Park Church of Christ is enjoying spiritual and physical growth, leaders said.

The congregation has added more than 150 converts in the past year, said Larry Barnard, who works with the church’s benevolence, education and finance ministries.

“We are in the middle of a multi-million-dollar building campaign and are very active in our community,” Barnard said.

IOWA

COUNCIL BLUFFS — “Keep the Son in Your Eyes” served as the theme of a recent youth rally hosted by the Council Bluffs Church of Christ.

Despite snow and poor road conditions, 70 teens plus sponsors participated, Council Bluffs elder Bill Leinen said.

Youth groups from Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska attended. Terry Seufferlein, minister of the Central Church of Christ in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, spoke. Carson Tuttle, a sophomore at York College in Nebraska, led singing.

MISSISSIPPI

OLIVE BRANCH — For the roughly 180 people at the Friendship Church of Christ on a recent Sunday, the worship assembly was a little different.

The congregation sang, praised God and partook of the Lord’s Supper, as usual. But rather than listen to stories of Jesus Christ’s goodwill, members took to the streets to spread their own, *The Commercial Appeal* reported.

“The whole purpose was to serve without any ulterior motives,” preaching minister Daniel Overton said of the “We Are the Sermon” program.

MISSOURI

KIRKSVILLE — Young people at the Kirksville Church of Christ put on a



DUSTY COMPTON, TUSCALOOSA (ALA.) NEWS

‘Build Blitz’ project by Alabama congregation benefits widow

Duane Dixon, left, cuts through a stud as Cole Medders, second front left, Mason Moore and Philip Guin watch at a home under construction in Northport, Ala. More than 100 volunteers built a home for a 67-year-old wheelchair-bound widow as part of a project called “Build Blitz 2011,” organized by the University Church of Christ in nearby Tuscaloosa, Ala. The spring-break project drew the attention of the *Tuscaloosa News*.

weekly radio show.

“The Ekklesia A Cappella Hour” airs from 8 to 9 a.m. Sundays on the campus radio station at Truman State University, church elder Barry Poyner said.

“They mix Scripture reading with songs and make announcements for our church and our campus ministry,” Poyner said.

Youths involved with the show include Landon Anderson, Aaron Kusmic, Emily Mahnken and Cole Poyner.

TEXAS

HEREFORD — Who will be the 2012 Republican nominee for president?

Sarah Palin? Mitt Romney? Newt Gingrich? How about Jared Blankenship, a deacon and Bible class teacher at the Central Church of Christ in Hereford?

The 1993 graduate of Abilene Christian University in Texas has declared his candidacy for president. He outlines his reasons on his website at www.jaredblankenship.com.

“Many will ask why a former school-

teacher and unknown farmer from Texas would run for president,” he says on a YouTube video. “Perhaps the better question is, why are more Americans not standing in line to do so?”

WASHINGTON

SEATTLE — Churches of Christ in the Pacific Northwest are fewer and farther between than in the Bible Belt.

The Legacy Conference 2011 aims to bring together women and girls in that region. It’s scheduled for July 29-31.

“This promises to be an amazing conference for women and girls in Churches of Christ in the Northwest and is already bringing women together from all over ... to work in planning,” said Nancy McLean, who served on the steering committee until recently moving to York, Neb. The conference, under the oversight of the Holgate Street Church of Christ in Seattle, is directed by LaConya Maxwell. For more information, see legacyconferencenw.com.

SPOTLIGHT

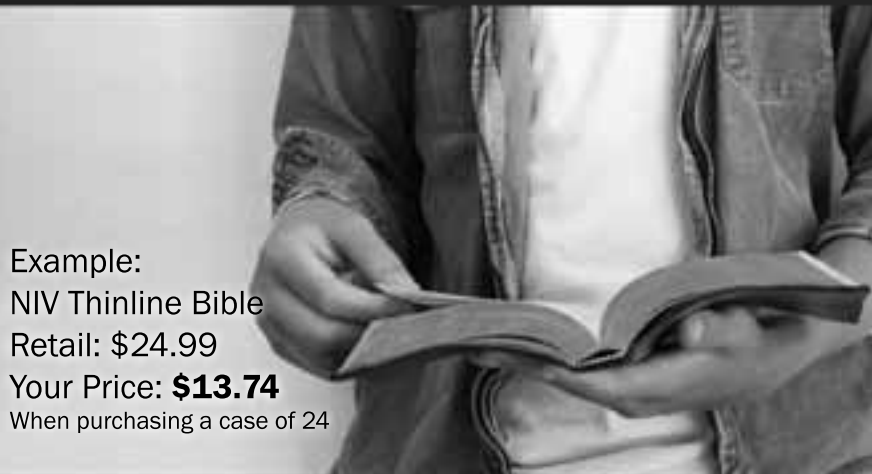
A spark of life

SEARCY, Ark. — In 2007, David Mathews, pulpit minister of the Downtown Church of Christ, and his wife, Debbie, were heartbroken as they watched their son Adam and his wife, Rebekka, grieve the loss of their newborn son, Josiah.

Having spent 35 years in ministry working with those in crisis, the Mathews were determined to find a way to help. They have teamed up with a Houston businessman, Roger Thiltgen and his wife, Sarah, to create The Spark of Life Foundation, designed to instill hope after loss. For more details, see www.sparkoflife.org.

**Mathews**

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New England teens make 17-hour trip to Winterfest

PORTLAND, Maine — In New England, Churches of Christ often do not have full-time ministers, much less youth ministers.

When Shelly Kellis, a member of the Greater Portland Church of Christ, started organizing a trip by New England teens to the Winterfest youth rally in Gatlinburg, Tenn., few had even heard of it.

But last year, 16 teens — helped by scholarships from Winterfest founder Dudley Chancey, youth ministry professor at Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City — made the 17-hour drive to the scenic Smoky Mountains. And this year Kellis set out to bring an even larger group.

With few church funds available to help subsidize the trip, Kellis turned to Christian universities and received donations and encouragement, she said, from Abilene Christian University in Texas, Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn., Ohio Valley University in Vienna, W.Va., Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif., and York College in Nebraska.

"We once again had to trust God through all this," Kellis said. "We knew it was possible with God. It was just such a huge thing for these teens from these tiny and very small churches to think God



SHELLY KELLIS

New England teens enjoy a trip to the Winterfest youth rally in Gatlinburg, Tenn.

would pull this all together for them."

In all, 31 teens and 10 chaperones from seven Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts churches made the trip.

Beyond raising money for their expenses, the teens collected \$680 for the Give a Goat Foundation, which lets donors purchase a goat for families in the Philippines. The ministry partners with Bread for a Hungry World.

"One thing I wanted in this process was to be sure that we kept the focus not just on Winterfest or these teens, but on God and what he wanted for us and where we were headed," Kellis said.

Acappella's Gary Miller dies at 60

SPRINGVILLE, Tenn. — Church members and fans of a cappella music mourned the loss of Gary Miller, who died March 12 at age 60. He was a founding member of Vocal Union, an a cappella group that performs in a Southern Gospel style. Vocal Union is part of Acappella Ministries, overseen by Keith Lancaster.

During his career, Miller also sang bass for Acappella. He was the chief recording engineer, songwriter and producer for many albums produced by Acappella Ministries.

"As the leader of Vocal Union, he shaped the group into a stellar blend of smooth harmonies and powerful messages," Lancaster said. "His sweet and gentle Christ-like spirit will be remembered by everyone who met him."

Friends and family gathered for a



KEITH LANCASTER.COM

Gary Miller in the recording studio.

memorial service at the Sulphur Wells Church of Christ in Springville.

Miller was the sole income earner for his family. Friends set up a fund to help pay for the funeral and other expenses.

TO CONTRIBUTE, see www.vocalunion.com.

Lipscomb University is looking for a few more great faculty:

Department of Social Work and Sociology

Opening for tenure-track appointment beginning August. Areas of specialization are open. (The department currently offers the BSW degree, in addition to minors in sociology and social welfare.) Known for its academic rigor and emphasis on ethics, Lipscomb's social work program was an early adopter of the campus-wide service learning program and has a strong partnership with our university missions initiative. An advanced degree is required. The DSW is preferred; the MSW and two years' practice experience in the field are minimum requirements. Evidence of active membership in the Churches of Christ is required.

Apply to Dr. Hazel Arthur, Lipscomb University, One University Park Dr, Nashville, TN 37204-3951. Send electronic submissions (preferred) to vicki.gaw@lipscomb.edu with "Social Work Faculty Application" in the subject line.

Department of History, Politics and Philosophy

Accepting applications for tenure-track appointment in history beginning August. Areas of specialization and rank are open; preference may be given to candidates with expertise in ancient, medieval and Renaissance-Reformation. An advanced degree is required. The Ph.D. in history is preferred and must be in hand by August 2011. Evidence of active membership in the Churches of Christ is required.

Apply to Dr. Marc Schwerdt, Lipscomb University, One University Park Dr., Nashville, TN 37204-3951. Send electronic submissions (preferred) to marc.schwerdt@lipscomb.edu with "History Faculty Search" in the subject line.

Department of Communication and Journalism

Seeking an innovative and entrepreneurial faculty member to join the faculty as a non-tenure track executive-in-residence. Candidate will further develop the department's multi-media properties through both student media and community engagement. These properties include Internet, radio and television studios. Candidate must have industry experience as a news director or other news management position, and must hold a minimum master's degree and demonstrate a strong commitment to maintaining currency in emerging media theory and application. Advanced degree must be in hand by August start date.

Candidate must be qualified to teach on-camera delivery and presentation, speech writing and coaching, storytelling across media, basic and advanced reporting, media programming and marketing and TV news programming. Candidates must be able to build a student culture for the use of the multi-media properties, assist with job placement, internships and practicums that are digital-media related; work with offices on campus and community groups for offering digital services; develop advertising offerings through new media.

Also seeking an innovative and entrepreneurial faculty member (rank open) who has the capacity to develop the department's multi-media properties through both student media and community engagement. These properties include Internet, radio and television studios. Candidate must hold a minimum master's degree in journalism, new media or a related field and demonstrate a strong commitment to maintaining currency in emerging media theory and application; the PhD degree is preferred. Advanced degree must be in hand by August start date. Journalism experience, particularly with new media platforms, is a plus. Areas of specialization are open, but college-level teaching experience with a focus on emerging media is preferred.

Both positions apply to Dr. Craig Carroll, Lipscomb University, One University Park Dr., Nashville, TN 37204-3951. Send electronic submissions (preferred) to nancy.mcdaniel@lipscomb.edu with "Exec Faculty Application" or "Media Faculty" in the subject line as appropriate.

Department of Biology

Assistant/Associate Professor. A tenure-track position in organismal biology. Teaching responsibilities include both freshman and upper level courses specifically in vertebrate zoology and field biology. Preference given to candidates with a history of successful grantsmanship and who possess a Ph.D. in herpetology, mammalogy, ornithology, wildlife biology or closely related discipline.

Assistant/Associate Professor. A tenure-track position in microbiology. Teaching responsibilities include both freshman and upper level major courses primarily in the area of infectious disease. Preference will be given to candidates with a history of successful grantsmanship and who possess a Ph.D. in microbiology, bacteriology,

virology, immunology or closely related discipline. Candidates with academic backgrounds in molecular biology may also be considered.

Adjunct Professor. A non-tenured adjunct faculty member. All areas of biology will be considered. Teaching responsibilities include courses that support the allied health sciences and general education programs. Candidates holding the M.S. will be considered, but a Ph.D. is preferred.

Apply to Dr. Kent Gallaher, chair, Department of Biology, Lipscomb University, One University Park Drive, Nashville, TN 37204-3951.

Important information for all applicants:

Successful candidates will demonstrate excellence in teaching and scholarly activity; ability to collaborate productively with colleagues and students; and ability to model the integration of pedagogy, scholarship and faith. Evidence of active membership in the Churches of Christ is required.

Candidates should send a letter of interest, current CV, transcripts, names and contact information for three professional references and a statement of teaching philosophy that includes an explanation of how the candidate will integrate faith and learning in the classroom to the contact person listed in each opening.

Lipscomb University, a Tier 1 master's university affiliated with the Churches of Christ, has more than 3,400 students and was selected as one of only 16 "top up-and-coming" master's universities, according to the *U.S. News and World Report's* "2010 America's Best Colleges" guidebook. Lipscomb is located in Nashville, Tenn., the nation's 27th largest city and ranked as one of the five friendliest cities in America. Study-abroad programs include offerings in Vienna, London, Beijing, Hong Kong and Santiago, Chile. Lipscomb's intercollegiate athletic teams compete at the NCAA Division I level.

Lipscomb University complies with all applicable federal and state nondiscrimination laws and does not engage in prohibited discrimination on the basis of race, religion, sex, age, color, national or ethnic origin, or disability in the administration of its employment practices.

AUSTRALIA

BRISBANE — Members of The Point Church in Brisbane helped neighbors in their state, Queensland, recover from devastating floods. The members removed mud and foul-smelling water from flooded homes. The grateful owners served them tea.

"It was during this casual time that we were asked about our church," Peter Searson, a church elder, told *InterSections*, an Australian church publication. "It was a great opportunity to show our concern for people in the community by getting in and offering a helping hand."

CANADA

BURNABY — The South Burnaby Church of Christ, near Vancouver, British Columbia, reaches out to its international community. Members Richard Park and Bong Soo Rim conduct Bible studies with Korean immigrants and report four recent baptisms. The church offers worship services in English, Korean and Swahili, an African language.

MONGOLIA

ULAN BATOR — William Crossman, who recently retired from prison ministry in Leavenworth, Kan., will travel to Mongolia's capital in June for a five-month trip.

Crossman plans to teach contacts reached through the World Bible School and World English Institute ministries in this Asian nation, where no known Churches of Christ exist.

The Leavenworth Church of Christ sponsors the work and seeks additional supporters. For more information, see lcofc.org.

NEPAL

SYBRU BENSI — Michael Brooks traveled to this Himalayan town to conduct a seminar for leaders of Churches of Christ in the area. Brooks, missions minister for the Highland Park Church of Christ in Muscle Shoals, Ala., has visited the town seven times since 1994.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JOEL THOMAS BANKS

Cambodia medical mission treats thousands, baptizes 93

A crowd watches as Christians baptize converts after Sunday worship on the grounds of a high school in Svay Rieng, Cambodia. A mission team baptized 93 Cambodians after worship. The team, which traveled to Cambodia on a medical mission trip, included 72 workers from Cambodia, the U.S., the Philippines, New Zealand and Vietnam. The surgeons, doctors, nurses, optometrists, dentists and assistants treated 14,714 patients.

The Walnut Hill Church of Christ in Dallas sponsors the work, coordinated by Sokom Hun, a church member who grew up in Svay Rieng. For more information, see www.whchurchofchrist.org.

During the trip, Brooks spoke with Linjing Tamang, the leader of a small church in the village of Dal Phedi. Brooks showed him a photo of a girl sifting grain he had taken in 1994. Tamang told Brooks the photo was of his oldest daughter, who is now married with three children of her own and is a faithful member of the church.

"Repeated visits to the same location continue a great biblical tradition," Brooks said.

SERBIA

BELGRADE — The small Church of Christ in this European capital, part of the former Yugoslavia, has endured NATO bombings and internal strife.

"It has been a long time coming, but the church seems to finally be settling down into a state of peace and stability," said Gary Jackson, who visited Belgrade recently with his wife, Danita. The couple



Jackson

served as missionaries in Yugoslavia from 1983 to 1993.

In the past, the church struggled to find its identity among the small evangelical community in Serbia, which often is hostile to non-Orthodox believers, Gary Jackson said.

Now, Serbians are taking note of how the church differs from other evangelical groups, he said. They also realize "that the church is truly based on the Word and love for each other, and not 'ruled' by a powerful, central organization or person."

SOUTH KOREA

SEOUL — With mixed emotions, Christians in Seoul said goodbye to Paul Whitehead, a longtime worker among churches in this Asian nation.

Whitehead quit his job teaching English at a Korean university to work full time as an evangelist with rural congregations. To prepare for the ministry, he has returned to the U.S. to study at Freed-Hardeman University in Tennessee.

"Please be praying for him," said Malcolm Parsley, a missionary in Seoul. "We will truly miss him, for he is a true servant of the Father."

ZAMBIA

KALOMO — Christian youths in this southern African nation spend Saturday afternoons washing dishes, fetching water, collecting firewood, sweeping and helping people in their community with gardening.



Kadonga

The Tumango Church of Christ Youths Alliance performs the acts of service "to motivate people to establish an eternal relationship with God," said Jean Kadonga, a youth involved with the group.

Since the youth group launched in early 2010, "many people who had stopped worshipping have come back to the church," Kondonga said. "This is because of what they have seen us doing."

SPOTLIGHT**Giving her heart to Haiti**

VICTORIA, British Columbia — "Think of Phoebe Keeran as a modern-day Mother Teresa."

That's how reporter James Green described the 32-year-old church member in a feature for a cable station in this Canadian province.

Keeran, a member of the Shelbourne Street Church of Christ in Victoria, has made two mission trips to Haiti — one of them for three months. She was in Kona, Hawaii, when she heard news of the 7.0-magnitude earthquake that devastated the capital, Port-au-Prince.

Just down the street in Hawaii was the headquarters of Youth with a Mission, an international, interdenominational volunteer organization. Keeran signed up to work with the group in Haiti.

In the cable feature, Green described Keeran as "a very spiritual woman, deeply in touch with her Christianity."

This year Keeran plans to visit the African nation of Mozambique for two months of ministry training. She hopes to return to Haiti and launch an orphanage there.

"Please continue to pray with us that God will be enthroned over this nation," Keeran wrote of Haiti on her blog, "that we can stand in the gap, as one body, the Bride of Christ."

TO SEE THE VIDEO, search for "Keeran" at www.christianchronicle.org/blog.



PHOEBE KEERAN.WORDPRESS.COM

Phoebe Keeran baptizes a Haitian named Guety in St. Marc, Haiti.



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In neighborhood plagued by violence, Haitians rededicate church

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti. — It was gangs, not the earthquake, that drove the Bolosse Church of Christ from its building.

Years before the 7.0-magnitude quake destroyed much of this Caribbean capital in 2010, violence plagued the streets of the Bolosse neighborhood, where church members had constructed a two-story meeting place, with assistance from U.S. congregations including the Beltline Church of Christ in Decatur, Ala.

The pristine facility — which once hosted church services, a ministry training program, medical missions and gospel meetings for more than 1,500 souls

— was overrun by gangsters, said Joe Worndle, a missionary to Haiti.

“For quite some time, the gangsters were occupying the building while the church had to meet in many different locations around Bolosse,” Worndle said. “A remarkable thing happened. The church at Bolosse actually grew.”

In recent months Haitian church leaders, including Erique Bathard, negotiated with government officials and gang leaders to regain control of the facility. The West Broward Church of Christ in Plantation, Fla., shipped a container of chairs and tools to Haiti to help refurbish the facility.

On a Sunday afternoon, more than 500 church members and community leaders gathered in the repainted



PHOTOS BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD
The refurbished meeting place of the Bolosse Church of Christ.



Church members and community leaders sing during the rededication of the Bolosse church.

facility to praise God during a rededication service.

Minister Alexis Turgeau preached during the service. He thanked the community leaders and members of the Port-au-Prince congregation who

cooperated to restore the facility.

“I (also) advised them to believe in the word of God,” Turgeau said. “Don’t do anything God doesn’t approve of (or) you will be in trouble.”

“To God be the glory.”

**“CHURCH IN AMERICA
MARKED BY DECLINE.”**

(THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE, 2009)

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JAPAN: Small church community faces huge task of rebuilding

FROM PAGE 1

aftershocks were common, and daily news stories and rumors emerged about water, spinach and other essentials contaminated with radiation from the Fukushima nuclear plant, damaged in the quake.

"It will take more than 10 years for us to rebuild the victimized areas — with several years' worth of entire national budgets," said Motoyuki Nomura, minister for the Kaiko Koizumi Church of Christ.

CHURCH MEMBERS MOURN LOSSES

Immediately after the quake, Jonathan Straker launched a Facebook group, "Working and Praying for Japan earthquake victims," to help Christians on both sides of the Pacific Ocean stay up-to-date on developments in Japan. The group has more than 1,800 members.

The former missionary also launched a website, www.workingandprayingforjapan.org, to help coordinate relief.

At press time, no members of Japan's Churches of Christ were reported among the dead, Jonathan Straker said. Three churches — Sendai, Morioka and Hachinohe — meet in areas hardest hit by the disaster, but the handful of families that comprise those congregations is safe.

One member of the Sendai congregation lost her best friend — a mother of two children — when the tsunami swept her home out to sea, he said. The children, ages 2 and 4, also perished.

"I couldn't stop crying and wanted to remember my friend's face clearly because I will never meet her again," the Sendai church member said in a message to the

Strakers, "and I want to believe she is in the heaven where there is no sadness or pain."

CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY DAMAGED

Jim Batten was tilling his garden when the quake hit.

"The big one lasted for around five minutes — the longest five minutes in my life," Batten said. "I was only 30 steps away from the house, but it seemed it took 30 minutes to get there."

Batten, a member of the Omika Church of Christ, has spent much of his life in Japan, where he serves as chancellor of Ibaraki Christian University. The university was founded in 1948 by a group that included church members.

The quake shattered windows and cracked brick walls on Ibaraki's campus, Batten said. The students were away on spring break.

"We are just now coming to terms with what has been and is happening," Batten said, "and starting to think beyond our own changed world."

MISSIONARIES RELOCATED

Paul and Stacey Herrington, members of the Northside Church of Christ in Wichita, Kan., are working as missionary

interns with minister Shiro Obata and the congregation he serves in Haruna, Japan.

The Herringtons were driving to the Tokyo airport to pick up Kent Hartman when the earthquake began. Hartman, missionary in residence at Oklahoma Christian

University, was flying to Japan for a supervisory visit. His plane was scheduled to land about one hour after the quake.

Hartman spent nearly 31



PHOTO PROVIDED BY HEALING HANDS INTERNATIONAL

People displaced by the quake and tsunami gather supplies provided through Healing Hands International.

hours on the plane, as pilots waited for clearance to disembark.

"If there is one thing you learn in missions ... you must be flexible," Hartman said.

Stacey Herrington is seven months pregnant. Due to concerns about radiation, Hartman helped the couple relocate to southern Japan.

THE WORK AHEAD

As Churches of Christ in Japan and the U.S. begin relief efforts, Jonathan Straker prays that Christians in both nations will view the work as a long-term project.

He also prays that relief will be given "in a way that empowers the local church and doesn't burden them." Japan's church members, who number less than 1,200, face a huge task in the days ahead, he said.

The Mito Church of Christ, in Japan's Ibaraki prefecture, is one of the largest congregations in the country. Its members are coordinating relief.

"Ibaraki is also one of the

disaster areas," Mito minister Atsushi Tsuneki said, "and we, Mito, and other churches, are in a process of a slow recovery to normal life."

The Park Avenue Church of Christ in Memphis, Tenn., has collected more than \$90,000 for Japan relief. Dwight Albright, a former missionary to Japan, is coordinating the effort.

Nashville, Tenn.-based Healing Hands International is working with the Mito church to distribute aid to people near the quake zone.

Matt Huddleston, a member of the Cordova Church of Christ in Rancho Cordova, Calif., traveled to Japan to help coordinate the effort.

"After two weeks without electricity and water, these people were so thankful for the little things that I take for granted — clean and dry socks, fresh vegetables, clean water, a warm bed," Huddleston said. "Thank you for all who are helping to keep this supply line working."

RELATED EDITORIAL, Page 30

HOW TO HELP

Donations for Japan may be sent to:

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

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

• **Global Samaritan Resources**, www.globalsamaritan.org, 2074 N. 1st St., Abilene, TX 79603, (325) 676-9991.

• **Healing Hands International**, www.hhi.org, 455 McNally Drive, Nashville, TN 37211, contact@hhi.org, (615) 832-2000.

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



JIM BATTEN

A shattered window at Ibaraki Christian University in Japan.

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BIBLE BOWLS: 'This is God's team,' players told



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Cassidy Shackelford, Kellen Johnson and Brea White from the Wyoming Avenue Church of Christ in Detroit concentrate on the questions during the Great Lakes Bible Bowl state finals.



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Amber Hall, left, and Mikaela Kelley, both 13, pay attention during a final practice session before the recent Great Lakes Bible Bowl state finals. Their team won first-place honors.

FROM PAGE 1

The Miracles — including the Kelleys' daughter, Mikaela, 13 — study the assigned text during Sunday school. Team members meet again

Wednesday night for a meal and practice before regular Bible class. That class focuses on real-life applications, such as the meaning of Jesus washing the disciples' feet. Moreover, minister Roger Woods ties his Sunday sermons to the Bible Bowl text.

"It teaches the kids that God needs to be a priority in their lives," Kimber Kelley said. "We've had conversations about how all these kids are on ... football, baseball and volleyball teams. This is God's team, and ... they need to know it's important."

Besides the spiritual benefits, the Great Lakes Bible Bowl brings together young people from black and white, urban and suburban congregations.

"If you want to see a flavor of what heaven looks like, come look at the Great Lakes Bible Bowl," said Patrick Medlock, minister of the Northwest Church of Christ in Detroit.

Northwest's senior division team, including Feliesha Thomas, 16, took home first-place trophies in two of the monthly Bible Bowls.

"It's just fun to come and compete and meet new people and just enjoy the expe-

rience," Thomas said. "We even have a sleepover the day before a Bible Bowl so we can all study and then fellowship with each other."

BIBLE BOWLS ON THE DECLINE?

Restoration Movement church members — known historically as "people of the Word" — appeal to the Bible alone as their authority in faith and practice.

Naturally, they have valued youth programs that foster Scriptural literacy, said Mark Allen Hahlen, a Dallas Christian College scholar.

The high degree of congregational autonomy makes it difficult to trace

the origins and development of Bible quizzing programs within the a cappella fellowship, Hahlen wrote in the *Stone-Campbell Encyclopedia*.



Thomas

However, the Sunset Bible Bowl in Lubbock, Texas, started as early as 1969. Participation in Bible Bowls increased in the 1970s and '80s as congregations and Christian universities began to host area, state and regional competitions.

Seen by critics as too focused on trivia and competition, Bible quizzing programs have lost favor in some quarters.

"On the one hand, it does get students into the Word, and it provides motivation for those who need it," said Paul Smith, a former Bible Bowl coach who serves as minister of the Aztec Church of Christ in New Mexico.

"The fellowship during the competitions is wonderful," Smith said. "However, in my later years, I have had some serious misgivings. ... The focus on medals, trophies and awards is completely opposite of the biblical teaching to consider others above yourself. Also, the focus on the tiniest little bits of Bible trivia is misdirected."

Meanwhile, any number of non-church

endeavors compete for teens' attention: academics, sports, jobs.

"There are far fewer Bible Bowls than there used to be," said Paul Hendrickson, preaching minister of the Hawley Church of Christ, north of Abilene, Texas.

Hendrickson helped launch the Texas Bible Bowl in Marble Falls last year after another longtime annual Bible Bowl was discontinued. "We were sad when it was canceled," he said, "but we are excited about making the Texas Bible Bowl a new tradition."

A number of congregations still host regular Bible Bowls, leaders said, from the Southside Church of Christ in Seattle to the Sycamore Church of Christ in Cookeville, Tenn., to the Wetzell Road Church of Christ in Liverpool, N.Y.

Across the nation, Lads to Leaders and Leadership Training for Christ events also feature Bible Bowl components.

In Meridian, Idaho, the Linder Road Church of Christ organizes an annual Bible Bowl each April. "The Northwest isn't the strongest area for the church, but we get a great response," minister Clint Davison said.

At the recent 25th annual Summit-Miami Valley Bible Bowl at the Summit Church of Christ in Cold Spring, Ky., 27 teams with 132 players answered 100 multiple-choice questions on Saturday.



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Ken Whitlatch, upper right, a member of the Northeast Church of Christ in Eastpointe, Mich., serves as "questionmaster." Participants slide levers with A, B or C as they answer.

Teams then competed head-to-head using buzzer panels on Sunday.

"Are Bible Bowls as popular as they once were? Probably not," Summit elder Bruce Adams said. "It would be a shame if Bible Bowls faded away simply because it's hard work or other choices become more important than the study of God's Word."

Adams said he always tries to make the Bible Bowl fun with plenty of fellowship and singing. "I know of many, many kids that have put the Lord on in baptism as a direct or indirect result of participating," he said.

'EVERYBODY'S A WINNER'

Don't let the doughnuts on the table fool you.

For the Walled Lake Miracles — wearing team T-shirts and sporting medals from past triumphs — the Great Lakes Bible Bowl is serious business.

Hours before the start of the state finals, these sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders arrive for a final practice session, intent on mastering every detail in John.

"You get a lot out of it," said Mikaela Kelley, who knows that Thomas was also called Didymus, that Jesus told the blind man to go wash in the pool of Siloam and that the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear instead of breaking his legs.

In the Michigan event, teams of four sit behind long, rectangular-shaped plywood boxes. Team members use levers to slide the answer panels — A, B or C.

This year, close to 50 teams from 16 churches competed in monthly Bible Bowls hosted by the Gateway Church of Christ in Southgate, Mich., and the Rochester Church of Christ in Rochester Hills, Mich. The top three teams in each division advanced to the state finals at Walled Lake.

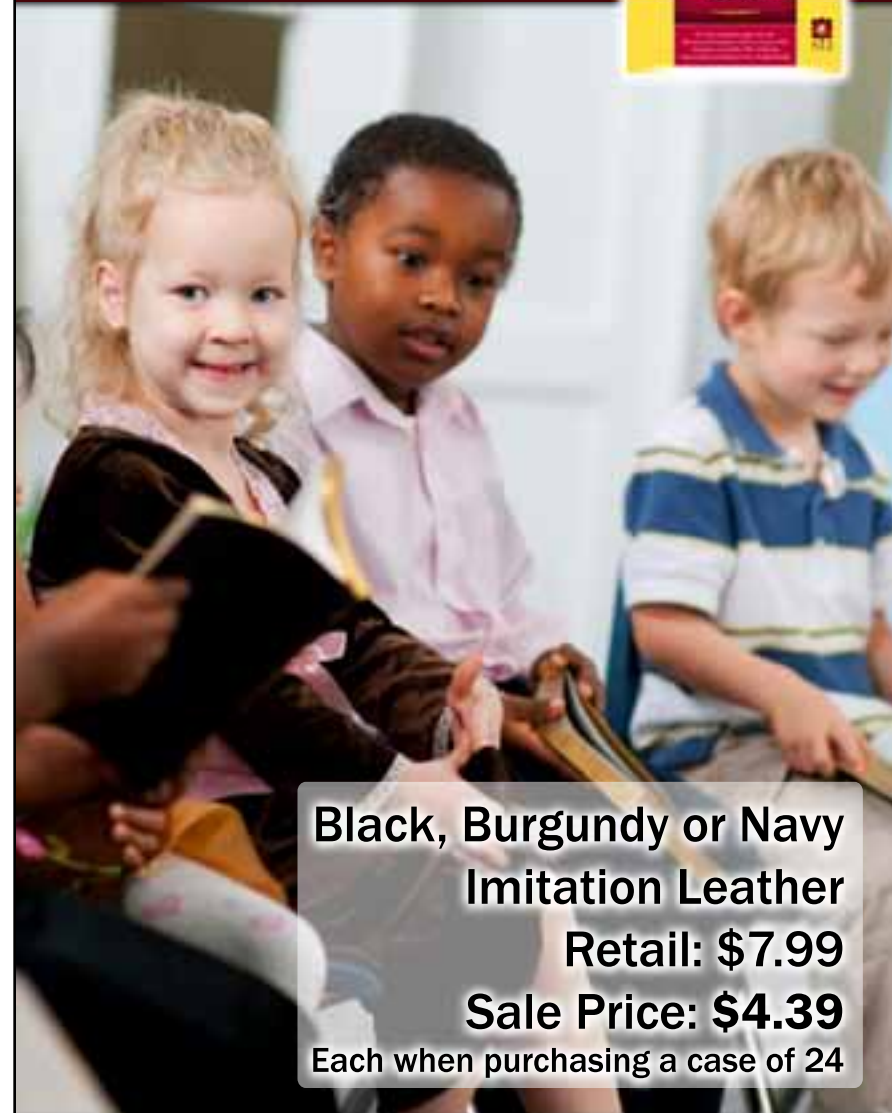
"I stick with it because I love it. It's enjoyable, and there's no better way to learn God's Word," said Nick Ciaramitaro, 14, a member of the Ypsilanti Church of Christ, between Detroit and Ann Arbor, Mich.

"It gets pretty intense when you think about it," Ciaramitaro added. "But you've just got to remember that everybody's a winner when you study God's Word."

Known as "Mr. Bible Bowl" because of his 26-year association with the Great Lakes event, Walled Lake youth minister Campbell echoed that sentiment.

"It's not about medals. It's not about trophies," said Campbell, the event's chairman. "It's about learning God's Word."

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In a letter to the appropriate 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.

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A student at Mekanisa School for the Deaf in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, shows the sign for "I love you."

PHOTOS BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Signs of love

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN ETHIOPIA have served the hearing-impaired for nearly half a century. Now the East African nation is home to more than 900 congregations.

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia

Promptly at 5 a.m., the loudspeakers of an Orthodox church crackle to life.

Chanted prayers in Ethiopia's language, Amharic, rattle across the metal roofs surrounding the massive cathedral, including the Church of Christ compound next door.

The service, commemorating Lent, goes on for 90 minutes. As priests admonish the faithful to honor Christ through prayer, repentance and fasting, workers in the Church of Christ compound sweep floors, light cooking fires and gather lesson plans for a day of service to the hearing-impaired.

As the sun rises, children in red sweaters and purple pants and skirts arrive by twos and threes at the compound, the home of Mekanisa School for the Deaf.

Behailu Abebe signs "Good morning" as they enter the chapel for a devotional. About 200 of the school's 274 students are hearing-impaired. Nonetheless, they sing hymns in clear, boisterous Amharic — rivaling the volume of the cathedral's loudspeakers.

For nearly 50 years, Churches of Christ have served the hearing-impaired in this East African nation. Mekanisa is one of five church-run schools in Ethiopia.

Helping this underserved group has helped grow congregations here. There are about 900 Churches of Christ in Ethiopia, Abebe says. Even small churches in the countryside offer sign language services.

At Mekanisa, girls wearing Muslim head scarves smile as they walk past Abebe into the chapel. The school accepts students of all faiths, he explains.

"They are taught the Word of God every day," he says.

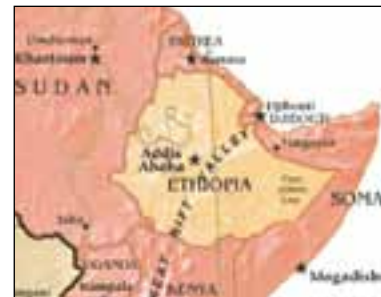
POUNDING COFFEE AND BREAKING BREAD

In the chapel, Abebe Halemichael reads from the Bible and gives the students a brief message. Musie Alemayehu translates his words into sign language.

When chapel dismisses, teachers dressed in white lab coats line up the students in the school's courtyard. As a teacher raises Ethiopia's flag, the students sing and sign the national anthem.

Both Halemichael and Alemayehu grew up at the church compound. When he was a young boy, Alemayehu came here to live after his father, a preacher, died. He was baptized here and now teaches English.

CONTINUED



Paintings on the wall of the Mekanisa school show signs for the Amharic alphabet.

Serving the deaf has opened doors for the Gospel, church leaders say



Muslim and Christian students learn side by side at Mekanisa School for the Deaf in Ethiopia.



A student shakes hands with Behailu Abebe on the way to morning chapel at Mekanisa.



Speaking and signing, Embet Getie teaches class at Mekanisa School for the Deaf.



Students participate in chapel at Mekanisa School for the Deaf. A banner bears Lamentations 3:22 in Amharic: "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail."

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The changing face of the church

ABOUT THIS SERIES

Churches of Christ are changing. Less than a century ago, most of the members were concentrated in the United States. But after decades of evangelism, 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 the changing face of the church. The series focuses on indigenous-led ministries, including the Mekanisa School for the Deaf in Ethiopia. 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."

CONTINUED

Halemichael started visiting the compound at age 9. At first, he only wanted to play soccer. But the Christians got him involved in youth ministry. He was baptized and now preaches for the 150-member congregation that meets in the compound. "I think God raised up peaceful people to spread the Gospel," Halemichael says. Behailu Abebe describes his home nation as an island of Christianity in a sea



Students practice word processing in Mekanisa's new computer lab. Healing Hands International shipped the computers in a large container — which the school turned into a classroom.

of Islam. Unlike many of its predominantly Muslim neighbors — Sudan, Somalia and Eritrea — more than 60 percent of Ethiopia's 90.8 million inhabitants claim Christianity as their faith. Three-fourths of the country's Christians are Ethiopian Orthodox, a religious group that traces its origin to the conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8. The country's monarchy helped the Orthodox church maintain its traditions for hundreds of years by keeping the nation free from colonial rule — except for an occupation by Mussolini-controlled Italy from 1936 to 1941. Missionaries from Churches of Christ, including Carl Thompson and Bob Gowen, arrived in Ethiopia in 1960 with the goal of introducing non-denominational Christianity to East Africa. The Ethiopian government let them work here on one condition — they had to provide a service for the Ethiopian people. The missionaries looked for an underserved demographic and found large numbers of hearing-impaired children and orphans. They opened homes for children and taught them to sign. Ethiopian converts, including Behailu Abebe and Demere Chernet, joined the work. The new Christians did more than teach. To help the deaf communicate with the hearing, Chernet and a team of Christians

developed unique signs for Amharic — a language with 299 characters. He used American Sign Language as a guide. The new language required some modifications to fit an African context, Abebe says. For example, the sign for "coffee" in American Sign Language is a grinding motion. But Ethiopians don't grind coffee — they pound it. To demonstrate the Amharic sign for "coffee," the church leader pounds his fist into his hand. Similarly, the Amharic sign for "bread" involves two hands breaking a loaf rather than slicing it. **SERVING CHILDREN, PARENTS** Across Ethiopia, Churches of Christ enroll more than 800 students in five schools for the deaf and three kindergartens for underprivileged children. Since opening its doors in 1963, the Mekanisa school has graduated 5,543 students, says Mulu Nega, the school's secretary and a Church of Christ member. Sixteen instructors teach children from kindergarten to eighth grade, using a combination of sign language and speech. Hearing students learn alongside their deaf siblings so they can communicate at home.



Nega

After graduation, most of the students enter government-run schools. Some receive assistance from translators, and many go on to universities, Nega says. A few return to Mekanisa to teach. Nebeiyeu Mussie, who is deaf, graduated from the school and received additional training in Kenya. For the past 17 years, he has taught at the deaf school. He serves as the church's minister for the hearing-impaired. "I want to do God's will," he signs as Behailu Abebe translates. "I love my Lord. I love working here. I want to do this for the rest of my life." Despite the school's success, there remains "a high degree of stigma toward the deaf children" in Ethiopia, says Bethelihem Seyoum, a social worker employed by the Mekanisa school. Many Ethiopians believe deafness is the result of a curse. Seyoum works with the students' parents to help them understand the nature of hearing loss and how to communicate effectively with their children. Increasingly, Ethiopia's leaders see the need to provide services for the hearing-impaired. Mekanisa launched an adult



Mussie

education program to teach sign language to the parents of its students. Now the Ethiopian government sends police, court officials and government workers to the program. A Denmark-based non-governmental organization provides funds for the work. Mekedes Kebede teaches sign language to the adults. A friend first brought him to the church compound 39 years ago to study the Bible. "I became a Christian to save my life — to be with God," he says. **A WAREHOUSE OF HOPE** Churches of Christ in Ethiopia have flourished because of their emphasis on saving lives — spiritual and physical, Behailu Abebe says. The church's ministry to the deaf has allowed them to keep serving, even in hard times. Ethiopia's emperor, Haile Selassie, visited the Mekanisa campus in 1967 and donated a minivan to transport students to school. Selassie was overthrown in a military coup in 1974. A communist regime came to power, but Churches of Christ were allowed to meet, largely because of their work with the deaf, Abebe says. Seventeen years later, the regime fell.



Seyoum

In the mid-1980s, a drought plunged Ethiopia into despair. The country relies on agriculture, and without rainfall, more than 200,000 people died from starvation. "I have seen 20 people buried in one hole," Abebe says. "I don't want even to think about it." U.S. congregations, including the White's Ferry Road Church of Christ in West Monroe, La., responded. Ethiopian churches also contributed what they could. The congregations set a goal of \$1 million for Ethiopia. "We raised \$8 million," Abebe says. The money came from U.S. churches and 28 congregations around the globe. Church members received an additional \$11 million in trucks and supplies from non-governmental organizations. The donations saved at least 128,000 lives, Abebe says. Small children, so hungry they couldn't speak, were brought to church-run feeding centers. A week later, they were playing soccer. The famine drew international attention when Band Aid, a group of British and Irish rock stars, recorded the song "Do They Know It's Christmas?" in 1984 to raise money for famine relief. Workers with Band Aid visited the Church of Christ compound and donated a metal warehouse to store the life-sustaining food purchased with donations. Now the building is the meeting place of the church — and Mekanisa's chapel. "I don't care if I die today," Abebe says as he glances at the chapel full of children, singing songs of praise. "What God has been able to accomplish here is more than I imagined."



HARDING

U N I V E R S I T Y

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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.

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A conversation with Roger Brady

RETIRED FOUR-STAR GENERAL, *commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe, discusses military service, retirement and maintaining faith.*

BY LYNN McMILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Who would have guessed that a 7-year-old boy who loved to lead singing at the Elk City Church of Christ in Oklahoma would grow up to become commander of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe? Gen. Roger Brady did just that, and commanded air operations for the northern region of NATO.

A four-star general, he provided command and control for air space and missile defense over an area of operations covering almost one-fifth of the globe.

Brady was born in Okmulgee, Okla., in 1946, the child of a schoolteacher and a high school football coach. The command pilot says he was attracted to the military early on because it involved service and being part of a team.

After earning a bachelor's in foreign service and a master's in political science, he entered the Air Force in 1969 through the University of Oklahoma ROTC program. His responsibilities in active service were demanding and rewarding. He and his wife, Litha, always considered the local congregation an important anchor in their lives.

Brady's career began in Vietnam, and his awards are numerous, including the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star. He retired from the Air Force on Feb 1, and he and his wife are living on the Outer Banks off the coast of North Carolina.

The Bradys continue to have a busy life, which includes keeping up with five grandchildren, maintaining friendships from their military days, involvement in their local congregation and pursuing other interests. Roger Brady's current pursuits include his interest in portrait painting and two writing projects — a devotional book based on stories from the Bible and a book on leadership.

What attracted you to the Air Force?

Well, there is a tradition of military service in our family. My father served in the Navy in WWII, so I always thought I would serve some time in the military.

Candidly, I have to say that the draft that was in effect when I was in college was also a powerful motivator. Serving was inevitable during the Vietnam period.

My wife's father was a career Air Force officer, and that was also a motivator. I like the idea of being part of a team and serving something bigger than self.

I guess I liked it even more than I thought I would.

What is most meaningful to you about your 41-year military career?

Easily, it's the people I've been privileged to work with. I believe success in all honorable human endeavor boils down to the character of the people involved. We have extraordinary people in our Air Force, and I've been blessed to serve with many thousands of them. The technology is impressive — and fun — but people make the difference.

What can churches do to encourage our military people everywhere?

Be a refuge and a home away from home. Military life is a transient life. Uprooting the family is challenging and becomes more so as children get older and develop close friendships they must leave behind. The church can be a source of the familiar, the unchanging solace that transient



U.S. AIR FORCE

Gen. Roger Brady

families need, a reminder of our spiritual heritage and the importance of God's family on earth.

How has the stress of your position challenged your faith?

Actually, I think stress drives you back to your faith, though not always as quickly as it should.

I have only had a couple of jobs in the Air Force that I thought were stressful. The rest were just busy. The challenge is to remind yourself that the stresses of life, as discomfiting as they can be, are only temporary.

I wouldn't suggest this is easy or that I am as quick as I should be to call on my faith. Sometimes we have to be reminded that the ultimate victory has been won for us — that puts it all in perspective.

For me, the more demanding aspect has been dealing with those few individuals whose performance or behavior is not what it should be. I find those experiences gut-wrenching. And as many years as I have had that responsibility, I find it always brings to mind my own frailty. It is a difficult but necessary

part of the job, and I take it very seriously and prayerfully.

What advice do you have for Christians to strengthen their faith?

More than anything, I believe we must all remember who we are. We are a people set apart for God's purpose. We are not better, just blessed. Again, it's a matter of perspective that perhaps gets a little easier as you get older. Life is short — whether it is wonderful or not so wonderful. We need to rejoice in good times and be comforted in bad times that he is with us.

Remembering who we are is a lot easier if we maintain a strong connection to the church and seek out like-minded people who are making the journey with us.

What are the biggest struggles for church members today?

Today's military is the most deployed, battle-hardened generation in our history. They are spending a lot of time away from home, which puts a lot of stress on families. Leaving, being away and then re-integrating the family are all stressors. It challenges marriages and relationships with children, and Christians must deal with this stress as much as everyone else.

This life requires a strong foundation of faith, and we need to reach out to and stay in contact with the families of our deployed servicemen and women.

What are your plans for retirement?

Well, I guess I should first say that the concept of retirement is foreign to me. I cannot imagine not being engaged in something.

I have had a keen interest in leadership and leadership development for many years, and I would enjoy sharing some ideas in that area with civilian groups and organizations.

I also have a continuing interest in national defense matters and will hopefully have the opportunity to do some work in that area. Litha and I are also very eager to find a church home where we can participate and enjoy the fellowship of other Christians.

We have some grandchildren to spend time with also, and we're really looking forward to that. We will miss our day-to-day interaction with our military family, but we're very excited about the future.

SEE AN EXPANDED INTERVIEW online at www.christianchronicle.org.

'Today's military is the most deployed, battle-hardened generation in our history. ... This life requires a strong foundation of faith, and we need to reach out to and stay in contact with the families of our deployed servicemen and women.'

Gen. Roger Brady

HAWLEY: Westbury Christian teacher claims 'best job in the world'

FROM PAGE 3

"Steve Hawley has been an amazing presence on this campus and has earned a respect from the students and faculty that is second to none," said Greg Glenn, Westbury's head of school. "Along with being a fantastic classroom teacher, his influence continues way beyond those walls and into the hearts and minds of our students to make a transformational difference."

A DIVERSE SCHOOL

Westbury, which is associated with Churches of Christ, is a 550-student Christian school perhaps best known for its athletic prowess.

Glenn, the school's former basketball coach, led boys' teams to 12 state titles in 14 seasons. The school's football coach, Charlie Ward, is a former Heisman Trophy winner and National Basketball Association player.

Westbury is notable, too, for its diversity: Minority students comprise two-thirds of the total enrollment. African-Americans make up 38 percent of the student body, with whites at 33 percent, Asians at 13 percent, Hispanics at 11 percent and other students at 4 percent.

In addition, the school serves 44 foreign students, whose home countries include China, Vietnam, South Korea, Angola, Thailand, Taiwan and Nigeria.

Just 20 percent of students identify with Churches of Christ.

"In every way that you can measure diversity — whether it be socioeconomics, whether it be skin color, whether it be different cultures — you just name the way that you can break it down, and we've got a smorgasbord here that is very impressive," Glenn said.



Glenn

All of Westbury's students attend daily Bible classes and participate in chapel services twice a week.

Many of those students make their way to Hawley's Room 258, where posters based on Luke 18:1 urge young people to "pray and never give up" and a wall-length mural painted by advanced art students chronicles the life of Jesus.

"Steve is a humble person with a servant heart," said Gracie Greer, Westbury's assistant principal. "His Bible classes are his passion. Though he is certified to teach in other academic areas, he is not interested in teaching anything else — just the Bible."

In Hawley's classes, she said, "students must memorize Scripture, take quizzes on books of the Bible and apply what they learn in several ways — in service to others and in respect for each other. ... Whenever a lady walks into his Bible class, the boys must stand."

Gerran Harris, a football player who attends a Methodist church, is in Hawley's senior Bible class. The class recently helped distribute bottles for students to save coins for two Honduran orphanages that Westbury students support.

Harris and other seniors spent a class period writing the words of Matthew 10:42 on small pieces of paper and stuffing them inside the bottles.

That verse reads: "And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."

"I was spiritual before I came, but I just didn't have too much knowledge about the Bible," Harris said of his three years at Westbury. "I even went back telling all my friends about all this stuff I learned here."

Now, the 6-foot-1, 240-pound athlete said, he finds the Bible so interesting that he keeps



MICHAEL FONVILLE

Holding a teddy bear he received as a gift, Steve Hawley talks at a school chapel service after winning the national Teacher of the Year Award.

reading it, even beyond the assigned text.

Jenni Banh, the daughter of Vietnamese immigrants, is a Roman Catholic. Asked if she's learned a lot about the Bible, the Westbury senior replied, "Oh yeah. A lot more than I used to know."

FINDING HIS CALLING

Hawley, who has taught at Westbury for 13 years, grew up the son of a minister and Christian university professor.

His late parents, Roger and Nelda Hawley, met at Harding University in Searcy, Ark. His father taught at York College in Nebraska, Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif., and Lubbock Christian University in Texas.

The Westbury teacher is the nephew of Monroe Hawley, a prominent Church of Christ minister in Wisconsin for more than 50 years.

Steve Hawley played basketball at York when it was a junior college and earned bachelor's and master's degrees at Harding. He received his teaching certificate in social science and did not plan to teach Bible.

A 32-year teaching veteran, he came to Westbury after working at Georgia Christian School in Valdosta and Friendship Christian School in Lebanon, Tenn. In Tennessee, he was asked to teach a Bible class — and found his calling.

"If any church in the United States was having 600 kids at their Vacation Bible School,

that would be a major story," he said. "But, you know, we have almost 600 kids every day that take the Bible academically, where they study and they're graded on it, and their parents care. And to me, that's just the best mission. I think I've got the best job in the world."

LOVE OF THE LORD

Some of Westbury's foreign students live in the home of assistant principal Greer and her husband, John, and worship with the Westbury church.

On a recent Sunday, Hawley baptized two of the girls — both from South Korea.

"Every girl we have had really loves Steve, as a teacher and individual," said John Greer, a Westbury church elder. "They see his love for them — really, it is Christ's love being reflected by Steve — and appreciate that concern for them."

Emily Li, a Westbury graduate from China, e-mailed Hawley recently to thank him for his influence in her life.

"I want to let you know ... that I am studying Bible and going to Church every Sunday," Li wrote. "It came back. I put it aside for a while and not sure if this is what I want in my life. Now, I am sure because my heart feels it, this is where I belong. For me, this is a commitment of the rest of my life."

Hawley — known as "Coach Hawley" because he coaches middle-school basketball players — said the Teacher of the Year Award overwhelmed him.

"The Lord prepared me to be a teacher by providing me with parents who taught, as do my brothers, Scott and Dave, and allowing me to learn from so many wonderful brothers and sisters at York and Harding," he said.

Working at Westbury is a blessing, he added. As Hawley described it, "Our administration puts the souls of the children above anything else."

In Alamo City, school leaders urged to remember their calling

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

SAN ANTONIO — Remember the Alamo?

Scott Harsh, senior high principal of Greater Atlanta Christian School in Norcross, Ga., had a different message for the crowd gathered inside the Alamo building on a recent Wednesday.

"Tonight, I say to you, 'Remember our calling,'" Harsh told National Christian School Association annual conference attendees. As leaders of K-12 schools associated with Churches of Christ convened in San Antonio, Harsh reflected on the spiritual lessons he learned during a faith-building bout with cancer.

Dale Horn, high school principal of Alabama Christian Academy in Montgomery, said: "The entire conference could have been summarized when Scott talked about his 8-year-old son, Garner, saying, 'Dad, I think I know why you got cancer. It was to show us when something really bad happens, we can still trust God to take care of us.' Now, that was powerful."

The three-day conference drew about 200 leaders from 45 Christian schools in a dozen states. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of all knowledge" from Proverbs 1:7 served as the theme.

Topics ranged from creating a digital learning environment to handling internal conflict to inviting students to participate in the creative activity of God.

National awards were presented:

- **Educator of the Year:** Kay Robbins of Abilene Christian Schools in Texas.
- **Teacher of the Year:** Steve Hawley of Westbury Christian School in Houston.
- **Coach of the Year:** Tim Taylor of David Lipscomb High School in Nashville, Tenn.
- **Administrator of the Year:** Mark Niehls of Coventry Christian Schools in



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Tourists view the Alamo during the NCSA conference in San Antonio.

Pottstown, Pa.

Philip Patterson, president of the Oklahoma City-based NCSA, said each of the award winners represented hundreds of dedicated Christian schoolteachers, coaches and administrators.

"Each and every one of you has award-winning people in your school," Patterson told attendees.

Eight Christian schools were recognized for receiving first-time or renewed NCSA accreditation:

- **Christian Academy of Greater St. Louis;**
- **Christian Heritage Schools of San Antonio;**
- **East Texas Christian Academy of Tyler, Texas;**
- **Harding Academy of Searcy, Ark.;**
- **Harding Academy of Memphis, Tenn.;**
- **Jackson Christian School of Tennessee;**
- **North Texas Christian Academy of McKinney;**
- **San Angelo Christian**

Academy of Texas.

While focused on K-12 education, the conference drew support from Christian universities.

Reception and meal sponsors included Abilene Christian University, Faulkner University in Montgomery, Ala., Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn., Harding University in Searcy, Ark., Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn., and Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City.

In interviews with *The Christian Chronicle*, conference attendees discussed ways in which God is blessing their schools.

Just a few examples:

- **Jason Knight, high school Bible teacher and Bible department chairman at Harding Academy of Memphis:** "In the past decade, we have been blessed to see our faculty make a wholesale shift toward ministry, not simply education.

"Our classes are just as rigorous as they were before, but now we see our greatest task is to help our students meet the transforming presence of God. This is happening in calculus and English as much as in Bible.

"Our coaches are as concerned with helping our athletes live like Jesus as they are with winning a state championship, and we have done that a few times recently, too."

• **Shirley Maxey, superintendent of Oklahoma Christian Academy in Edmond, Okla.:** "God's hand of blessing is continually upon us. When we need students, he sends students. When we need to fill a certain position, he provides. When we need to have funds for a special project, he provides the funds."

• **J. Lynn Watson, president of Middle Tennessee Christian School in Murfreesboro:** "God has blessed us with students who are very concerned about serving others. For several years, we have had students at elementary and secondary levels volunteer

for a variety of projects, including Hurricane Katrina cleanup and tornado cleanup.

"This year, our secondary principal, Todd Miller, started a Matthew 25 project that has students feeding homeless members of our community every week. The response of students and the support of teachers and parents have been great."

• **Linda Smock, principal and CEO of Gulf Coast Christian School in St. Petersburg, Fla.:** "The Parent Teacher Friend Association has raised the money to build a sports pavilion, and construction is to start this summer.

"About 10 years ago, one of our (students') families became Christians, and they have remained faithful. The mother is now our business manager and in charge of preschool education for the church. The dad is the treasurer of the church. Their teen plans to attend a Christian college next year. They have been a major blessing both to the school and the church."



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Kay Robbins of Abilene Christian Schools in Texas receives the Educator of the Year Award from Philip Patterson, president of the NCSA.

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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:

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 - 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:

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CAMPUS MINISTRIES

GEORGIA CHRISTIAN STUDENT CENTER

ATHENS, Ga. — Coffee house/open microphone nights have been a hit for a while at the Georgia Christian Student Center.

This year, the campus ministry at the University of Georgia tweaked its approach. “We decided to attach a cause to each coffee house,” campus minister Adam Daniels said. “So far this year, we’ve had four in which we raised money, coats, soup, etc.

“With each coffee house, there was a component of advertising on campus, which raised a lot of questions and allowed students to have interesting conversations with people who may not believe in God.”

HIGHER EDUCATION

LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Lipscomb’s Hazelip School of Theology has received accreditation by the Association of Theological Schools. The accreditation follows the establishment of Lipscomb’s Doctor of Ministry degree.

The premier national accrediting body for seminaries lauded Lipscomb’s faculty as “grounded in both the academy and practical ministry, which enhances the ability to educate students who are preparing for either academic or ministry-oriented careers.”

K-12 CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

CHRISTIAN HOME & BIBLE SCHOOL

MOUNT DORA, Fla. — Junior Chelsea Massaro received the “Best of Show” award at the Lake Regional Science Fair. Really, though, that’s nothing new. Her recent win marked the fifth straight year that she has earned that honor.

“Chelsea is a bright student with an outstanding future ahead of her,” headmaster Pat Todd said.



Massaro

MINISTRY TRAINING

BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL

CORBY, England — The school recently



PHOTO PROVIDED BY FREED-HARDEMAN UNIVERSITY

Freed-Hardeman students spend spring break in Dominican Republic

Emma Danley and Keely Williams, students at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn., make friends with four children who make their home at the dump in Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic. About 180 Freed-Hardeman students spent some or all of their spring breaks on mission trips. Students worked in four foreign countries and six states. Other Christian universities also organized spring-break mission efforts.

PUBLICATIONS

THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — *The Christian Chronicle* hosted the National Trustee Conference, designed to promote mutual awareness and cooperation among Christian higher education institutions.

Paul Corts, president of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities in Washington, D.C., gave the keynote address on “Trends and Challenges in Higher Education.” The conference drew 77 administrators and trustees representing 11 colleges and universities associated with Churches of Christ. Speakers included Barry Packer, Jeanine Varner, Monte Cox, Joe Wiley and Deon Fair.

“The *Chronicle* and its board of trustees were pleased to bring together these key leaders who share a common love for Christian education,” said Lynn McMillon, editor, president and CEO.

SPORTS

Special kids at Faulkner

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Faulkner University recently hosted a Special Olympics basketball tournament.

Faulkner students, faculty and staff members pitched in to help, serving as referees, scorekeepers, medal presenters and encouragers.



LAURA CAUTHEN

Faulkner University athlete and volunteer official Ricky Barr poses with a new friend.

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

Ephesians 5:18

The Principle:
Focus on the important things, avoid the things that cause you trouble.

"Blood, which is intended by God to be life-giving, therefore, may continue to stain the highways because of ethyl alcohol, but not by the approval of dedicated Christians! Ethyl alcohol may continue to bring shame and disgrace to the home, but not by the approval of dedicated Christians! Society may continue to crumble and decay because of ethyl alcohol, but not by the approval of dedicated Christians! Ethyl alcohol may continue to wound the innocent and promote health and moral problems by the score, but not by the approval of dedicated Christians!"

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

To find out more, go to our website.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY GREATER ATLANTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Georgia students minister to Kenyan children, families

Sam Harte, a freshman at Greater Atlanta Christian School in Norcross, Ga., plays with a child during a spring-break mission trip to Kenya. Harte and 40 other students ministered to 300 children and their families in the village of Ngaamba. In all, more than 400 students from Greater Atlanta Christian School participated in domestic and foreign spring-break mission trips.

Lipscomb's Mack Wayne Craig dies

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Longtime preacher, educator and historian Mack Wayne Craig died March 1. He was 85.

Craig was principal of David Lipscomb High School in Nashville, Tenn., from 1949 to 1957. He served as academic dean of David Lipscomb College (now Lipscomb University) from 1957 to 1978.

He spoke at gospel meetings and is remembered for leading

singing at the 1962 Collins-Craig meeting, attended by more than 90,000 people.

"During an association spanning nearly 70 years, Mack Craig was instrumental in the growth of Lipscomb University," said Randy Lowry, the university's president. "As one of the most recognizable names among Churches of Christ, Dr. Craig encouraged thousands toward a closer relationship with God and lives of faith and service."

Craig was an active member of the Crieve Hall Church of Christ in Nashville.



Craig

Pepperdine remembers Mary Drehsel

MALIBU, Calif. — Mary Drehsel, professor of German and academic coordinator for Pepperdine University's Heidelberg International Program in Germany, died Feb. 21 after a long battle with cancer. She was 61. Drehsel came to Germany in the 1970s as a missionary and

especially worked with children at the Gemeinde Christi (Church of Christ) in Heidelberg. She became a teacher of German at Pepperdine University in 1981 and later coordinator of the Heidelberg program in the 1990s.

"Mary was a courageous woman who bravely fought cancer for more than 18 years," Pepperdine officials said in a news release. "She was a Christian role model to us all."



Drehsel

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Come and grow with us! For more information, contact Middle Georgia Christian School, 5859 Thomaston Road, Macon, GA 31220 - (478) 757-9585

mgcswarriors.org



Hope Harbor Children's Home & Family Ministries 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.

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*

Randy

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



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NEWSMAKERS

NAMED: **Scott Stumbo**, chief financial officer for Arms of Hope, Medina, Texas. **Rick Gibson**, chief marketing officer, Pepperdine University, Malibu, Calif. **Randall Bostic Jr.**, director of development, **Jeff Fincher**, development director, **Mark Meador**, senior development director, **Robin Saakian**, director of grant services and **Carrie Thompson**, assistant vice president for development and alumni relations for Lipscomb University, Nashville, Tenn. **Todd Duncan**, head coach of Lubbock Christian University, Texas, men's basketball team.

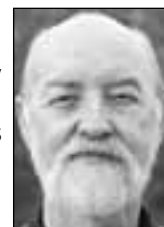


Stumbo



Saakian

HONORED: **Charles Gibbs** as Ohio Valley University Alumnus of the Year. Gibbs served Ohio Valley University for 37 years in roles including director of student affairs and registrar. **Jimmy Ellison**, chief of police for Abilene Christian University in Texas, with the 2010 Outstanding Police Chief Award by the Texas Association of College and University Police Administrators.



Gibbs

ANNIVERSARIES: **65th:** Rosse and Cecilia Long, Lakebay, Wash. Dale and Fern Doyle, Miami.

BIRTHDAYS: **100th:** Ben F. Hughes, Conroe, Texas. Irene Sparks Williams, Albion, Neb. **90th:** Harry Fox Jr., Oceanside, Calif. **86th:** Frances Thompson, Uvalde, Texas.

PASSAGES: **William B. Beeman**, 96, Feb. 25, Dallas, former elder of Skillman church in Dallas and lifetime trustee for Oklahoma Christian University. **Hugh R. Mingle**, 83, Dec. 20, Fort Worth, Texas, served in missions and higher education work in Germany, Austria, Michigan, Texas and California. **Donald R. Sime**, 84, Dec. 9, Mars Hill, N.C., elder, preacher and educational minister of the church in New Jersey, Tennessee, Arkansas, Illinois and California, founder of Pepperdine University School of Business and Management. **Raida P. Thomas**, 92, Feb. 16, Oregon, Ohio, charter member of Echo Meadows church in Ohio. **Jon Wallace**, 64, Mar. 6, Oklahoma City, elder of Britton Road church, Oklahoma City.

CORRECTION: Richard Bentley is minister for the Clinton, Tenn., church. An item in the April issue listed the wrong city.

April 14-16 2011 India Conference. Sunset church, Lubbock, Texas. Contact drwalker@nts-online.net or (806) 792-5715.

April 16 Don Meyer Evening of Excellence. Speaker: Duke University coach Mike Krzyzewski. Lipscomb University, Nashville, Tenn. Contact www.lipscombsports.com or (800) 333-4358.

April 19 African Violet Dinner. 27th annual. Guest speaker Willie Franklin. Embassy Suites, Franklin, Tenn. Contact African Christian Schools Foundation, (615) 306-9097, (615) 427-8688 or trent.wheeler@charter.net

April 21 YouthReach International Benefit Dinner. "Beyond Winning," an evening with Coach Don Meyer and author Buster Olney. Marriott Gwinnett Place, Duluth, Ga. Contact (678) 925-0220 or www.youthreach.org.

April 22-24 International Gospel Lectureship. Harare International Conference Centre, Zimbabwe. Contact clydettsiga@gmail.com.

April 22-24 Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes National Conventions. Atlanta, Dallas, Indianapolis, Memphis, Tenn., Nashville, Tenn., and Orlando, Fla. Contact www.lads-to-leaders.org.

April 23-25 Southside Church of Christ Homecoming 2011. Limestone County Event Center, Athens, Ala. Contact www.southsidecocr.org.

April 29-May 1 Mid-Atlantic Youth Forum. "You're not Alone." Camp WAMAVA, Linden, Va. Contact (301) 585-8727 or office@silverspringcofc.org.

April 29-May 1 16th Annual Celebrated Seniors Seminar. Hosted by Kingsley Terrace church, Indianapolis. Contact www.ktcoc.com or (317) 924-9055.

April 30-May 1 Praise and Harmony Workshop with Keith Lancaster. Laurel, Md., church. Contact www.laurelchurch.net or (301) 490-0777.

May 27-29 50th Anniversary Lectureship. Wembley Church of Christ, England. Contact addarby@ntlworld.com or www.wembleychurchofchrist.org.

May 28-30 50th Anniversary of Newark, Del., church. Contact newark-church@comcast.net.

June 12 Jerry Carpenter Memorial Congregational Sing. Fairview Road church, Columbia, Mo., Contact (573) 445-2213.

June 13-18 Missionary Renewal Retreat. "Strength for the Journey" Lake Texoma, Texas. Contact gina.waldrone@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 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 15-17 100th Anniversary, Laings, Ohio church. Contact (740) 472-5508 or www.laingschurchofchrist.org.

July 22-25 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 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.

Aug. 28-Sept. 1 Crusade for Christ. Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C. Contact www.cofccrusade.org.

Sept. 11 50th Anniversary of Manchester, Conn., church. Contact www.manchesterchurchofchrist.org, mcc50th@manchesterchurchofchrist.org or (860) 646-2903.

Sept. 13-16 National Christian Camping Workshop. Gulf Coast Bible Camp, Lucedale, Miss. Contact www.naccamps.org.

Oct. 2-4 Quest Lectureship. Oklahoma Christian University. Contact www.oc.edu/quest2011.

Oct. 14 Celebrating Brother and Sister Merlon Thompson's 40 years of service. Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, Phoenix. Sponsored by Tonto Street church. Contact (602) 309-6688 or nphillips50@aol.com.

COMPLETE CALENDAR at www.christianchronicle.org

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EDITORIAL

Showing love in a land of thorns

Compassion fatigue is understandable as images of unbelievable devastation flash across the screen from Japan.

The 9.0-magnitude earthquake that leveled villages and cracked open nuclear reactors fills us with a sense of awe and despair. More than 11,000 are dead, more than 17,000 are missing and hundreds of thousands are homeless. Millions more are at risk of radiation exposure.

The disaster follows a massive earthquake in New Zealand that destroyed much of the city of Christchurch. Last year, Chile endured a similar quake. And Haitians continue to endure the aftermath of the January 2010 quake that destroyed their capital city.

How can Churches of Christ, in the midst of an economic downturn, even begin to address the world's suffering? Can our meager attempts to show Christ's love to the hurting make a difference? Yes.

The need — and the opportunity — to reach out in love and faith to the Japanese people is great. (Find a list of churches and ministries accepting funds for Japan on Page 12.)

Nearly seven years ago, Japanese church leaders and former missionaries gathered in Oklahoma City for a Mission Forum to discuss Churches of Christ in Japan.

Akira Hirose, an elder of the Mito church, used one word to describe more than 100 years of mission work in Japan: "Inefficient."

"Japan is a land of thorn bushes — of fetishism, polytheism and community-consciousness," Hirose said. "Even though Christians work very hard ... few have been saved."

Nonetheless, "Japan is one of the ends of the earth where the Gospel should be preached," Hirose said.

That land of thorn bushes is shaken to its core. We abhor the loss of life and the suffering that has followed the earthquake and resulting tsunami. But we pray that, through this tragedy, more Japanese may come to know Christ.

We pray that thorns will cease to choke the gospel message. May the people of Japan see the hands and feet of Jesus and come to praise his name. Let us not grow weary of good works.

Jesus never ran out of compas-

sion. Throughout the gospels, we read about him healing the sick, feeding the multitudes, giving sight to the blind — all because of his great compassion.

As we consider Japan, the words of Matthew 9:35-37 seem particularly appropriate:

Jesus went through all the towns and villages ... proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Even if our relief efforts in Japan — or any part of the world — result in only a handful of new souls, the work is worthwhile. Just ask Nao Fukushima, another Japanese minister who spoke at the Mission Forum.

"The only reason I'm standing here is because a missionary came and extended his hand with the love of Christ," Fukushima said. "Your home is not America. My home is not Japan. Let's finish the work and go home."

Ever-Laughing Life

by Jonny Hawkins



TO OUR READERS

See the news as it happens

Have you visited *The Christian Chronicle's* news blog lately? We make every effort to keep you posted on news affecting Churches of Christ.

You'll also find videos by the *Chronicle* staff, church ministries and secular news outlets. Watch videos with these stories at www.christianchronicle.org/blog:

- Texas church raises money for kidnap-torture victim.
- In Michigan, students compete in Great Lakes Bible Bowl state finals.
- Ministry's eye-opening video highlights need for clean water.
- Nashville church member credits faith, friends in battle with cancer.



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Tips for the care and feeding of your domestic missionary

Congratulations! You are the proud owner of a domestic missionary. Now what?

Besides providing him and his family with much-needed prayers and financial support, there are many ways you can be a greater encouragement to him and be involved with his work.

With proper feeding and care, you and your missionary can enjoy many happy years together.

For more than a decade, the most wonderful churches in five states throughout the Bible Belt have supported my difficult work in beautiful upstate New York. They have praised my efforts and have treated me and my family like royalty when we visit. My supporters have been generous and loving, and I, in turn, have reciprocated their kindness with faithful service to the Gospel.

But perhaps your situation is less than amiable. You are a supporter who wonders week to week if becoming involved with a particular work was good stewardship, or you are a neglected stateside missionary whose only attention received is a monthly check or suspicious inquiries into every aspect of your ministry.

Regular and honest communication with your supporters is key to maintaining a good relationship with those who support you. Really, in a struggling economy, who wants a group of elders or mission committee members scratching their heads and saying, "When's the last time we heard from that guy in _____?"

For supporters, here are some tips for getting the most from your relationship with your stateside missionary:

Communicate with him. Just because you know what is happening in your missionary's work doesn't mean he knows what is happening at the supporting church.

At the very least, make sure that your missionary is on your mailing list for your directory and weekly bulletin and that your missionary's contact information is in them.

Encourage your congregation to write or call. Assign someone with an interest in missions to make a biweekly or monthly phone call to him.

Keep the calls positive and helpful so that he looks forward to them and learns to relax, open up and trust the caller.

Invite members of your supporting church to join the missionary's Facebook group. This will keep everyone informed of the challenges and joys of that particular work so that they won't shrug their shoulders when they hear of him visiting next Wednesday to speak and mutter, "Who?"

Know that your culture is different from where your missionary works.

People of different geographic areas think differently. It's not just "y'all" and "you guys." Remember that your stateside missionary is your man on the ground for knowing how to present the Gospel to that particular area. We all know the benefit of native preachers in international mission efforts. The same is true for stateside missions.

Views



Douglas Kashorek

'Your missionary should never be made to feel that he is on trial or that he must be interrogated to know where he stands on every issue.'

Believing that, just because the work is in the United States, the culture is the same, has led to frustrated supporters whose missionary won't implement an evangelistic technique that worked in the South.

Realize that the issues at home aren't the issues where your missionary works. Yes, your stateside missionary is aware that instrumental music and women's role in the church are big topics of debate where there is a 700-member congregation on every corner.

He probably gets brotherhood publications mailed to him and, frankly, is glad he lives well away from those controversies.

I remember one eldership being surprised at my answer of "We're against sin" when asked what the issues were in Plattsburgh. But it was true.

Being the only Church of Christ (that we're aware of) for three counties, what do Christians here know of the differences in translations or the dangers of secularization? All my efforts are in getting folks out of the world and then keeping the world out of them.

Remember that you and your stateside missionary are part of the same team. Paul and Barnabas were sent from Antioch to do the Lord's work and returned to report on "all that God had done through them."

Your missionary should never be made to feel that he is on trial or that

he must be interrogated to know where he stands on every issue.

From your regular communication, you should already have a measure of the man, his teaching and the work you are supporting, and these times of reporting should be a joyous celebration of what you and your missionary are able to accomplish together for the Lord.

Above all, encourage your stateside missionary. He labors in a difficult and very lonely work, often without elders or even strong and supportive brethren who can understand his burden.

In binders along with every mission report that I have ever sent out, I have every card and letter sent to me in my 12-plus years of ministry.

Most precious are those from an elderly

brother in Tennessee who has since gone on to be with the Lord and those crayon scribbles with misspelled names from an Alabama nursery class learning about missionaries.

Not only does your stateside missionary need you, but you need him to help you fulfill Jesus' command to "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."

This is best accomplished if all work together for the Lord.

DOUGLAS KASHOREK ministers for the Plattsburgh, N.Y., Church of Christ. He also writes Christian novels. Contact him at www.douglaskashorek.com.

VOICES

What are some of the spiritual activities your students enjoy?

Asked by managing editor Bobby Ross Jr. at the National Christian School Association annual conference in San Antonio.



Mobile Christian offers daily chapel programs as a time of praise and worship to God. Pre-K-3 to fifth grade attend elementary chapel in the auditorium, and grades six to 12 attend secondary chapel in the gymnasium. The Bible is taught as part of the regular academic program to all grades at Mobile Christian School.

Lorie Minor | Mobile Christian School (Alabama)



Daily Bible classes and prayer, weekly chapel services (different days for different ages), special days such as Spiritual Emphasis Day and a curriculum in which all students are taught from a perspective of Christian faith.

Libby Weed | Brentwood Academy (Texas)



Daily chapel and daily Bible classes. Our elementary students start each Monday morning and Friday morning with a period of singing called the "Circle of Friends."

James Thomas | Columbia Academy (Tennessee)



Daily chapel (20 minutes) and daily Bible class (45 minutes). We have an annual Spiritual Emphasis Day, and we encourage the students to attend Wednesday night youth group as well as Sunday morning and evening services.

Carly Burt | Mount Dora Bible School (Florida)

Reese tackles women's roles with straightforward style

BY CRAIG COTTONGIM | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

The subject of women's roles in church can be a lightning-rod issue, perhaps the most hotly debated topic of our day.

In the foreword to **"Bound & Determined: Christian Men and Women in Partnership,"** Jeanene Reese asserts that we've fallen short when addressing women's leadership roles since men have done most all of the talking in church.

Adding her distinctive voice to this vital discussion, Reese writes from a lifetime of experience.

For example, before entering into academia, she partnered on staff with her husband, Jack, for five years in ministry with a local church. She now is a Bible professor at Abilene Christian University.

Reese makes her contribution to the subject of women's roles by weaving in stories from her years of mothering, marriage and teaching with a variety of biblical passages. Writing with a comprehensible, homespun approach and a confessional-memoir style, she readily shares her faults, shortcomings and her rather painful upbringing.

Reese wisely avoids a narrow-minded, proof-text tactic. Instead, she aims for

a holistic moral, ethical and biblical-based view of how both sexes should view each other. Her easily understood approach lines up well with the perspective of another ACU professor, Carroll Osburn, who wrote, "The question is larger than what women can do in worship. The question is what view of women shall we have?" (See Osburn's book, "Women in the Church.")

Reese's thesis simply is this: Women and men are created equally in God's image. As a result, we are meant to experience the blessings of mutual partnership and harmony.

Reese refrains from outlining exactly what that partnership entails. Generating a list of point-by-point responsibilities for both genders is not her main concern.

She draws her thesis from the creation account in Genesis, the Hebrew narrative of the Old Testament and her view of the "new order" in the New Testament.

Though Reese doesn't define the boundaries of the partnership with detailed specifics, what she clearly

recognizes in the Bible is an equality of the sexes. Here's a sample of what she sees in the New Testament:

"Women are named in virtually every ministry (the exception is overseer/elder, but men were not identi-

fied specifically by name in those roles either), something unparalleled in the ancient world. Women served as teachers, apostles, deaconesses, patronesses, prophets, evangelists, worship leaders and ministering widows."

This quote represents well Reese's simple, straightforward style, as well as her stance on the role of women.

Reese's major illustration, employed throughout the book, revolves around an eight-year-long classroom project she conducted with two male professors. The project sought to draw the students into a deeper appreciation of the gifts both genders share and seek to find ways to apply these.

Sprinkled throughout this book are 18 stand-alone testimonies from anonymous male and female students titled, "Thoughts on working together." These brief paragraphs are the shared reflections of Reese's students on their experience of purposefully cooperating with genders.

The students' reflections show the diversity and the ability to grow within the students themselves, which is perhaps a sign that there's potential for each of us to mature in our thinking, too.

The book contains a few glitches. For example, Reese has Moses alongside Aaron and Miriam, acting within the book of Genesis twice, when she meant to write Exodus. She also mistak-

only has Paul, in Acts 9, raising Tabatha from the dead, when instead it's Peter.

In short, after reading "Bound & Determined" I have an even deeper respect for Reese.

I'm thankful for her irenic tone as she tenderly encourages men and women

to find mutual repentance and submission on our path to partnership.

I expected this book to highlight a few simple innovations for churches to apply, and to open the door for more active visible roles for women.

Spelling out actions, such as allowing women to read the announcements in our assemblies, would have been simple.

Reese tackles a tougher subject — the heart.

This book doesn't discuss what we need to do differently as a church. Instead, it focuses on what we need to think about and become.

I appreciate Leafwood Publishing for taking a risk on this potentially volatile subject, as well as the publishers' willingness to contribute to furthering our collective thinking.

This book may not be seen as revolutionary by all who read it, but it holds great potential to open the door, and help start some much-needed conversations.

CRAIG COTTONGIM preaches for the Northeast Church of Christ in Kingsport, Tenn.



Jeanene Reese. **Bound & Determined: Christian Men and Women in Partnership.** Abilene, Texas: Leafwood Publishers, 2011. 191 pages. \$14.99.

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

Jimmy Edwards. **The Father's Call, God's Invitation to Spiritual Intimacy.** Bloomington, Ind.: AuthorHouse, 2010. Student book: 125 pages, \$22.95. Leader's Resource: 48 pages, \$9.95

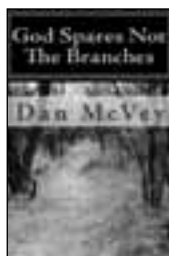
Veteran Church of Christ preacher Jimmy Edwards explores the nature of God's call to an intimate friendship with him, explains how to respond to that call and walks through spiritual disciplines that lead to intimacy.



FICTION

Dan McVey. **God Spares Not The Branches.** Seattle: CreateSpace, 2010. 408 pages. \$14.50.

McVey, a church member who lived in Africa for 21 years, tells the story of Bryce Priest, an American who returns to West Africa, where he grew up, to volunteer in an HIV/AIDS program. There he learns about Africa's complex and chaotic present and his own troubled past. Buy this self-published book at Amazon.com.



ADOPTION

Aurette Bowes. **Someone's Daughter — She's adopted, but don't tell.** New York: Raider Publishing International, 2009. 115 pages. \$9.99

Bowes, a member of the Ashlea Gardens Church of Christ in Pretoria, South Africa, tells of finding out that she was not her parents' biological child but was adopted as a baby in a closed adoption. Bowes explores the way this news touched her adult life and her search for healing.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Jerry Taylor, edited by David Fleer. **Courageous Compassion — A Prophetic Homiletic in Service to the Church.** Abilene, Texas: ACU Press, 2011. 153 pages. \$19.99.

Ten sermons on social justice by Taylor, longtime minister and Bible professor at Abilene Christian University in Texas, serve as the backbone of this volume. Fleer, along with Walter Brueggemann, Hubert Locke and others, offer chapter-long responses.



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Circle Church of Christ in Corvallis, Oregon is seeking a full-time youth minister willing to assist in preaching. Individuals who apply must have a passion for evangelism. The congregation has a regular attendance of 125+ with a strong campus ministry. Applicants should send a resume with references to: **Circle Church of Christ, 2020 NW Circle Drive, Corvallis, OR 97330**. Include salary and benefit requirements. Please include audio or video of some of your sermons. Contact the church at:

541.758.4456 or chrchrst@peak.org.



The College of Biblical Studies Call for Applicants: Old Testament Professor

The College of Biblical Studies at Oklahoma Christian University invites applications for a faculty position in the area of Old Testament to begin in the fall of 2011 (rank is open). Teaching responsibilities will include courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, including courses in Hebrew. The successful applicant will be an active member of the churches of Christ; have completed (or nearly completed) a Ph.D; demonstrate skills in, and a commitment to, teaching in a Christian liberal arts university; and have a plan for research and writing.

Interested applicants should send a letter of application, a CV, transcripts, at least 3 letters of recommendation, a writing sample, and a statement of teaching/educational philosophy that addresses the integration of faith and learning in the classroom to the address below:

Dr. Alan M. Martin
Dean, College of Biblical Studies
Oklahoma Christian University
Box 11000
Oklahoma City, OK 73136

Or via email to: alan.martin@oc.edu

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Vinzant delighted in God's Word

'Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.'

That powerful opening to the Psalms is an apt description of Don Vinzant who passed from this life on March 10.

My first memory of Don dates back to 1973, when he moved to Oklahoma City to preach for the Village Church of Christ (now the Quail Springs Church). He was visiting the campus of Oklahoma Christian and we met in the library, where he was looking for a book and I was walking to my office. His big grin and warm handshake created a strong bond.

I knew that Don had once been part of the Sao Paulo mission that established a new trend in mission efforts among Churches of Christ. We visited about mutual friends who had gone with him to Sao Paulo and about the books for which he was looking.

Don never met a person that he did not welcome as a dear friend. His warm greeting and smile were trademarks of his ministry. When the Village church outgrew its facilities, Don was part of the group that began dreaming about relocating the congregation to the site where the Quail Springs church now meets.

Don was a serious student of the Bible. I rarely saw him without a Bible in his hands. He always was ready to talk about spiritual issues. He not only knew the text, but he understood how to use the ideas to help shape lives.

From 1976 to 1989, Don ministered for churches in Austin and Granbury, Texas. During that time, he followed his passion and earned a doctorate in ministry.

In the early 80s I met his two younger children, Gene and Caroline, when they attended Oklahoma Christian University. Their great character and spiritual maturity reminded me of Don and Carol.

In 1989 the couple moved to Edmond, where Don joined the Bible faculty at Oklahoma Christian. He was a strong

teacher and mentor to college-age students. He gladly took any assignment as part of his duties. He brought to his work a global perspective about the church and the way Christianity could impact secular attitudes and values. Don

Insight



Bailey McBride

and I often had coffee to talk about families and church problems. He had a keen sense of humor that often helped me put matters in perspective, and I loved that time with him.

In 1997 the Edmond Church of Christ hired Don to be its full-time preacher. He mentored an amazing group of

young ministers, helping them move to greater leadership responsibilities.

Don was ill less than a month before his death. The loss touched the Oklahoma church community deeply. His funeral was conducted by his younger brother James, his cousin Howard Norton and his longtime associate Kent Risley. He was praised as husband, father, missionary, Bible student, preacher, friend and soul-winner.

After the funeral, Joyce and I ate at a nearby restaurant. A man named Ray Davis came to our table and asked if we had been at the funeral. He said Don had taught him the Gospel and baptized him. He shared a poem he had written for Don:

If ever such a little time, for just a little

while, his caring, sharing handshake, his ever-loving smile. I got to know, the way he walked, the narrow path he trod, as he led me, and others, on their way to God. I never knew his coming, or just when it would end, only that I loved him, and I would call him friend. And by God's grace, sent to my friend, from heaven up above, will always surround my friend with love.

Don Vinzant left his indelible mark on the world and the church as he served God.

CONTACT bailey.mcbride@christianchronicle.org



PHOTO PROVIDED

Don and Carol Vinzant. Don Vinzant, 74, died March 10 in Oklahoma.



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