



‘He was a hero to his church family’

MEMBER KILLED, WIFE WOUNDED as gunman opens fire on Arizona congresswoman.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

TUCSON, Ariz. — Until a clear, crisp Saturday morning erupted in gunfire outside a Safeway supermarket, few had heard of the Mountain Avenue Church of Christ.

Desert terrain and mountain ranges surround this city of 550,000, about 60 miles north of the Mexican border, where the 120-member congregation meets in a red-brick building shaded by palm trees.

A familiar face only to his friends, relatives and church family, 76-year-old Dorwan Stoddard served Jesus in obscurity — taking charge of maintaining the 50-year-old church building and leading the benevolence ministry with

his wife, Mavy.

“He was a hero to his church family,” pulpit minister Mike Nowak said.

But in an instant, he became a hero to millions and propelled the Mountain Avenue church into the national spotlight.

On the morning of Jan. 8, the Christian couple had gone to meet Rep. Gabrielle Giffords at a “Congress on Your Corner” event. When a would-be assassin opened fire as the Stoddards



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MOUNTAIN AVENUE CHURCH
Dorwan and Mavy Stoddard pose for a church directory picture.

waited in line, Dorwan tried to protect his wife and was hit in the head, witnesses said.

“His final act of selflessness was to dive on top of his wife, sacrificing his life for hers,” President Barack Obama told the nation.



JENNIFER GLIDDEN

Dorwan and Mavy Stoddard hold hands at a Mountain Avenue Church of Christ event several years ago.

Six people — including Dorwan Stoddard, 9-year-old Christina Taylor Green and U.S. District Judge John M. Roll — were killed in the rampage.

Gifford, a third-term Democrat, was shot point-

blank in the head and critically wounded. Besides the congresswoman, 12 others were injured, including Mavy Stoddard. In all, 19 people were shot.

Jared Lee Loughner, 22, described by authorities as

a mentally unstable college dropout, is charged in the shootings. The gunman used a semi-automatic pistol.

At a community memorial service that drew thousands to the

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Race and the church

Tanya Smith Brice on the blessings of reconciliation. **21**



Time in the Word

One boy's Bible reading inspires church. **3**



Haiti: One year later

Faith tested and lessons learned after the quake. **17**

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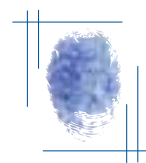
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Tears, prayers follow Arizona mass shooting

TUCSON, Ariz.

As you turn into the parking lot, this thought strikes you: This could be *anywhere*.

From the street, this place where a deranged soul shot so many people — and

Inside Story



Bobby Ross Jr.

wreaked havoc on so many lives — looks like a thousand other shopping centers. You see the sign for La Toscana Village —

home of Safeway, Walgreen's and a number of specialty shops and restaurants — and you almost miss the memorial flowers and balloons by the road.

You pull closer to the front door of the supermarket and see more flowers, more balloons and an array of candles, ribbons, flags, teddy bears and a "Giffords: U.S. Congress" campaign placard.

You see handwritten signs with words such as "hope," "love," "peace" and "forgive."

You see shoppers going in and out of the store — almost like normal but not quite. Inevitably, the shoppers stop, reflect and bow their heads before pushing their grocery carts to their cars.

You shed tears. I was home in Oklahoma City — 1,000 miles away — when I heard about the mass shooting at a meet-your-congresswoman event hosted by Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

"My 1st Congress on Your Corner starts now. Please

See **SHOOTING**, Page 4

One boy's Bible reading inspires church

"Jesus answered, 'It is written: Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

— Matthew 4:4

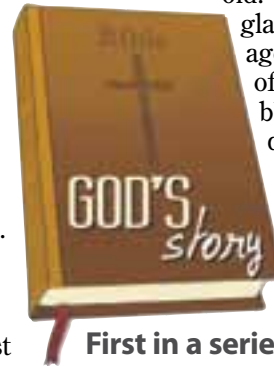
BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Sharply dressed in a button-down shirt and V-neck sweater vest, the speaker stood at the front of the church, microphone in hand, and talked about what he had learned reading the Bible.

The *entire* Bible.

A hushed silence overtook the packed auditorium of the Pleasant Valley Church of Christ in Little Rock, Ark., as Davis Burton spoke.

"I had no idea what was about to happen," said Jerry Allison, a longtime member of the White Station Church of



First in a series: Blessings of daily reading

Christ in Memphis, Tenn., who was visiting that day. "He presented perhaps the best synopsis of the Bible I have ever heard."

The surprising part: Davis is *only* 9 years old. Yet the brown-haired boy with glasses delivered a sermon for the ages as he encouraged the crowd of nearly 1,000 people to enjoy the blessings of daily Bible reading during 2011.

"God speaks to us through the Bible, and what I think the Bible is trying to tell us is, it's telling us how to live, and it's helping us to know God better by telling us his characteristics," said Davis, no hint of nervousness in his voice.

"One of the main characteristics the Bible tells us about is God's love," he added. "God loves us so much that he wants us to be his,

follow him and worship him only."

Over the next eight-plus minutes, the straight-A student spoke from memory as he shared what he had learned about Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Gideon, Samson, Samuel, Deborah, Saul, David, Solomon, Isaiah and other key figures of the Old Testament.

Then the son of Pleasant Valley members Jason and Amy Burton turned his attention to the New Testament.

"Jesus was born into the world, and he taught and told parables and did miracles so that we might believe in God and turn back to him," said Davis, a Central Arkansas Christian Schools third-grader. "But that wasn't all God had in store for his son. He

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MORE COVERAGE

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Building a lasting faith in teens

NATIONAL CONFERENCE on Youth Ministries emphasizes the crucial role of parents.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Hey, Mom and Dad. The youth ministry needs you.

That message prevailed as more than 400 youth ministers from across the nation gathered in the shadow of Pikes Peak.

A focus on the family — not to be confused with Colorado Springs-based Focus on the Family — dominated the recent National Conference on Youth Ministries (NCYM).

"We are really concentrating on family this year, in an attempt to turn what has been called conventional youth ministry into a more generational approach," said Dudley Chancey, an NCYM board member and youth ministry professor at Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City.

Too often, youth ministries have made it easy for parents to abdicate their crucial role in raising teenagers of strong Christian faith, said Eric Fridge, family life minister of the First Colony Church of

See **YOUTH MINISTRY**, Page 15



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Reggie Joyner uses visual aids as he addresses participants at the National Conference on Youth Ministries. Joiner is founder and CEO of Orange, also known as The reThink Group.

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

• **Rebuilding Haiti:** See video of worship at the Delmas 28 Church of Christ in Port-au-Prince plus more photos of churches and ministries serving in Haiti one year after the devastating earthquake.

• **Arizona shooting:** See reader comments and condolences for church member Downan Stoddard.

• **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.



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Jamie Williams smiles with a child at Son Light Children's Home in Haiti.

SHOOTING: 'He has gone to be with the Lord'

FROM PAGE 3

stop by to let me know what is on your mind or tweet me later," Giffords wrote on her Twitter page minutes before a would-be assassin shot her point-blank through the head.

Somehow she survived, although she faces a long, difficult road to recovery.

Six other victims — including Mountain Avenue Church of Christ member Dorwan Stoddard — were not so fortunate. They lost their lives.

As I followed news coverage of the rampage, I felt the same queasy ache in the pit of my stomach that accompanied the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001 and the Virginia Tech massacre in 2007. I prayed for the victims and the gunman.

I know I was not alone.

Not until a few hours later did *The Christian Chronicle* learn of the Mountain Avenue church's heartbreaking, direct connection to the tragedy.

My friend Bobby Valentine, pulpit minister of the Palo Verde Church of Christ in Tucson, confirmed that Dorwan Stoddard had been killed and his wife, Mavy, wounded.

"He has gone to be with the Lord," Valentine said of Dorwan Stoddard.

"They were active members in the church," he said of the couple, whom he knew through a Bible camp board and joint activities between the two congregations. "It's a big tragedy."

We sent a news alert to *Chronicle* readers, reporting on Dorwan Stoddard's death and requesting prayers for the family and Mountain Avenue church.

Valentine urged me to contact Jessica Knapp, the Mountain Avenue church's youth ministry leader, for more details.

Knapp was staying in touch with min-

ister Mike Nowak and his wife, Jody — who were at the hospital with Mavy Stoddard — and keeping Mountain Avenue members informed by e-mail and other means.

Ironically, I had met Knapp just a few days before at the National Conference on Youth Ministries in Colorado Springs, Colo. She had attended a session on small-church youth ministry, and I got her contact information to interview her later for a story on that topic (which I still plan to do, by the way). But we had more urgent matters to discuss when I called that Saturday.

Knapp told me that Dorwan Stoddard had died when he tried to protect his wife and was shot in the head.

"He got on top of her and tried to shield her," Knapp said.

News travels fast in the Internet age, and before long, more than 125 *Chronicle* readers posted condolences and prayers for Mavy Stoddard on our website.

We were particularly pleased when Dorwan Stoddard's granddaughter left a comment.

"Thank you to everyone for your thoughts and prayers," Kaitlin Stoddard Bolduc wrote. "My grandfather was an amazing man. If you knew him, it is no surprise that he gave his life for his loving wife."

"They gave everything to each other and were among some of the happiest people I've ever known. R.I.P. Grandpa Dorwan. We'll always love and miss you."

That's a sentiment shared by Stoddard's entire church family — in Tucson and far beyond.

Rest in peace, brother Dorwan.

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

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ARIZONA

GOLD CANYON — That old firehouse just behind the car wash on Kings Ranch Road?

It has a new use: church building.

The Gold Canyon Church of Christ had met in an elementary school and later a preschool academy before signing a three-year lease on the firehouse with an option to buy, member Bob Jones said.

Members donated sweat to renovate the firehouse, removing walls, painting, cleaning, pruning and trimming bushes.

“Where firemen once slept are now classrooms, meeting rooms, an office and a children’s ministry,” Jones said. “And the kitchen becomes, well, a kitchen. After all, churches do need fellowships and potlucks.”

MISSISSIPPI

COLUMBIA — Jimmy Cox, 82, a Church of Christ preacher, and his wife, Shirley, 61, died in a Jan. 10 house fire, *Brotherhood News* reported.

A one-time newspaper man, Cox had spent the last several years trying to keep a small congregation going.

His first wife, Mattie, had died in 2004. They had three children, daughters Llene Poles and Nancy Tolbert, both of Mobile, Ala., and a deceased son, Jimmy Cox Jr. Nancy Tolbert is church secretary at the Regency Church of Christ in Mobile, and Regency minister Allen Eldridge conducted Cox’s service.

MONTANA

BIG TIMBER — God answers prayers in his own time and way.

That truth was reinforced to the Big Timber Church of Christ as its effort to buy a closed Evangelical Free Church ran into financial roadblocks, member Garret Franks said.

But to the congregation’s amazement, the Evangelical Free Church eventually decided to give the closed building to the Church of Christ. The only condition: The Church of Christ would sell its old building and give the proceeds to charities and organizations designated by the Evangelical Free Church.

Now, the Big Timber Church of Christ seeks a minister to help grow the church. The church can help with a small amount of support, but the minister needs a sponsoring congregation or his own financial means, Franks said.



KAY CAMPBELL, THE HUNTSVILLE (ALA.) TIMES

Alabama congregation integrates America’s ‘most segregated hour’

Melinda Good and Barrion Palmer teach the Sunday school for kindergartners at the Central Church of Christ in Huntsville, Ala. The class make-up reflects the diversity of the church, which in the 1970s set out to integrate what had been an all-white congregation. *The Huntsville Times* published a recent historical feature story on the church’s journey to diversity. “With God, there is no favoritism,” elder Richard Brown said.

TENNESSEE

KNOXVILLE — Teresa Heinz, a member of the Arlington Church of Christ, started a project that donates socks to the Knoxville Area Rescue Mission.

The project is in memory of her son, Zack, who died in a 2007 car accident.

Heinz recalled that her son had at times donated socks to the homeless and helped the rescue mission.

“After he died I tried to think of something that could be done in his memory,” Heinz told the *Knoxville News Sentinel*. “It just hit me that it would be kind of neat to take socks” to the rescue mission.

She collects socks year-round.

TEXAS

CHILDRESS — An “Extreme Home Makeover” occurred as Childress Church of Christ members bought a dilapidated house, gutted it and restored it into a beautiful home.

The home then was given to a needy

woman, minister Trey Morgan said.

“Our thinking was, if we can build houses in Honduras every summer, why can’t we build one at home?” Morgan said. The project took four months and involved most of the community, he said.

To see pictures, search for “Augment Project” at treymorgan.net.

KELLER — The Heritage Church of Christ recently honored David Rogers for 44 years of service on the congregation’s ministerial staff. He led worship at both services that Sunday. Rogers retired Dec. 31. During his tenure, the church had three names and met at four locations.



Rogers

Formerly the Midtown Church of Christ in Fort Worth, the congregation moved north to this growing suburb in 2001. Rogers and his wife, Nancy, will remain members of the Heritage church.

SPOTLIGHT

A heart to serve

JOLIET, ILL. — For Amber Holup, giving of time and money is a lifestyle.

“I’ve been involved with the church serving the homeless. I’ve cleaned parks. And recently we made dresses out of pillowcases to give to girls in Africa,” said the 12-year-old, who attends the Cherry Hill Church of Christ.



Holup

Amber organized a special project to benefit Shults-Lewis Child and Family Services in Valparaiso, Ill. She sold homemade pumpkin bread and raised \$150.

“This goes to show that you do not have to be an adult to help others,” said her mother, April Holup.

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Slicer Street Church of Christ in Kennett, Missouri announces its Centennial Celebration of 2011

Sunday, March 6 with LaMar Hester

The evening service will focus on youth and serve as a youth group reunion for those who grew up in Kennett.

Sunday, April 3 with Sam Hester

Impersonation of Marshall Keeble

Sunday, April 17 with Joe Gibbs

Celebrating the "Colored Church of Christ" from the 50s.

May 11-15 in a tent meeting with Johnny Hester

This date marks the 100th anniversary of the original tent meeting out of which formed the church in Kennett.

June 26-27 with Martel Pace

We return to the Opera House on the square, where the church first met weekly.

Sunday, September 11 with Don Williams

A final celebration of reflection on the past work of the church.

November 6-9 with Danny Boggs

One of Kennett's very own returns to start the church on the next 100 years.

Whatever your association with Slicer Street Church of Christ has been, we invite you to come back and help us celebrate 100 years of reaching for fullness in Kennett, MO.

Choose one of the events and come back home as we seek to celebrate the role of Slicer Street in our community and in each life.

CD copies of the history of the church will be available for all who come or who request a copy.



For more information: 573-888-5974
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DENNIS RICHMOND SR.

Los Angeles Bible College honored these six ministers. Pictured are, from left, Billy Curl, O.J. Dyson, Carl C. Baccus, Calvin Bowers, Ellis Lewis Sr. and Burl Lundy.

Los Angeles area ministers' 275 years of service honored

LOS ANGELES — Six ministers were honored at the Figueroa Church of Christ for a combined 275 years of preaching in the area.

The recent honor was bestowed by the Los Angeles Bible College, which is housed in the Figueroa facility.

A special afternoon program honoring the ministers began with fellowship, singing, prayers, a stroll down memory lane and a recognition of many deceased ministers who had served in the Los Angeles area — a "cloud of witnesses," said Calvin Bowers, minister of the Figueroa church.

Some of the men recognized in the "cloud of witnesses" group were R.N. Hogan, A.L. Cassius, Arthur Perkins, Billy English, John Henry Clay, Damon Williams, Vanderbilt Lewis, Russell Moore, Lee Crowe, John Clemons, William T. Minor, Sam Cebum, Carroll Pitts Jr., Tulsa Ellis, Ned Reed and Walter Boykin. Hogan was one of the founding members of the Los Angeles Bible College and fully supported it for many years.

In addition to Bowers, the special honorees were:

- Carl C. Baccus, minister of the Southside Church of Christ.
- O.J. Dyson, minister of the Santa Monica Church of Christ.
- Billy Curl, minister of the Crenshaw Church of Christ.

- Burl Lundy, minister of the North Pasadena Church of Christ.

- Ellis Lewis Sr., minister of the LaPuente Church of Christ.

The wives of the honorees were presented with bouquets of roses at the end of the program, and a photo of all the ministers and church leaders in attendance was taken.

The stroll down memory lane consisted of sharing portions from an extended interview of each of the six preachers honored, along with a musical salute of their favorite songs.

Each minister received a monetary gift from his respective congregation. These gifts ranged from \$400 to \$2,000.

The Los Angeles Bible College also gave each minister a custom-designed suit from Marvin Wilkins' "Clothing Collection."

"We know that ministers can always use another suit," Bowers said.

Organizers said the main purpose in saluting these ministers was to:

- Honor and show appreciation for their many years of sacrificial work.
- Solicit support for the Los Angeles Bible College, which began in 1971 and is designed to train Christian workers for greater service.
- Encourage congregations throughout the nation to show special appreciation to ministers who have served many years.



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The Department of English invites applications for the department chair position at the rank of professor or associate professor. An earned Ph.D. in English is required, as well as a distinguished record of scholarship and teaching, an active agenda for promoting a vision of excellence within the department, and demonstrated leadership and administrative abilities. An academic background in world literatures and literary theory is preferred. The chair will be expected to foster collegiality, build on department strengths, enhance the expanding university integrated Core Curriculum, and promote the department's educational and research missions. The salary is competitive based upon qualifications. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/english.

The Department of English invites applications for a tenure-track position. All areas of English will be considered, but expertise in rhetoric and composition, technical/professional writing, new media, or world literature are preferred. Background in religious studies or the integration of faith and literature is desirable. Ph.D. preferred, A.B.D. required. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/english.

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The Department of Accounting and Finance invites applications for a tenure-track position in accounting. A terminal degree or A.B.D. status is preferred. Responsibilities include teaching accounting courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, pursuing scholarly research, and performing service for the department and the university community. Teaching excellence is required, as well as an aptitude for research and publication. Applicants should have an interest in teaching and research in one or more of the following areas: financial accounting, accounting information systems, or taxation.

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The ACU School of Social Work invites applications for a tenure-track position as assistant/associate professor of social

work beginning Fall 2011. Applicants should have an M.S.W. and an earned doctorate in social work or related field. Ph.D. or related doctoral degree is preferred, but applicants who are A.B.D. will be considered. Responsibilities include teaching social work courses at both the B.S.S.W. and M.S.S.W. levels, pursuing scholarly research, and performing service for the university, profession and community. Applicants should have experience in diverse areas of social work practice, be able to teach across the curriculum, and engage the broader community in which the school partners.

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The Department of Exercise Science, Health and Nutrition invites applications for a tenure-track position. Applicants should have an earned doctorate in kinesiology with an emphasis in the exercise sciences. A Ph.D. is preferred, but A.B.D. will be considered. Applicants should demonstrate a commitment to engagement in scholarly pursuits and be comfortable teaching in both classroom and laboratory settings. The ability to mentor undergraduate research and/or the willingness to collaborate with undergraduate students on projects that develop sound research designs and practices is preferred.

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The Department of Teacher Education seeks applicants for two tenure-track faculty positions. An earned doctorate in the field of education with an emphasis in special education and/or reading is preferred. Applicants must provide evidence of exemplary practice in K-12 settings. A commitment to engaging in scholarly productivity in the field of education is imperative. Responsibilities will include teaching courses in special education, reading and/or elementary education. Applicants should demonstrate a strong background in effective teaching strategies for diverse populations and an ability to create and enhance collaborative partnerships with public school personnel. Commitment to the mission of preparing Christian teachers to serve in diverse settings is fundamental.

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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BRAZIL

BRASILIA — More than 40 members of the Brasilia Church of Christ and 23 U.S. Christians participated in a three-day workshop. The group reviewed progress and made plans for growth, said Bryan Gibbs of Continent of Great Cities. The Texas-based ministry and four U.S. churches support the work in Brasilia, Brazil's capital.

"The consensus ... was that the congregation, the evangelists and the church leadership matured during 2010," Gibbs said. "Numerical growth was slow yet foundations were laid for future gains."

GHANA

SWEDRU — Ministers in Ghana's Central Region conducted gospel campaigns in several villages suffering from the effects of recent flooding, said evangelist Christopher Arthur.

"Some (people) are still sleeping in open spaces and town halls," Arthur said. "They lost farms and household items, including clothes."

Despite the conditions, many of the Ghanaians decided to become Christians, Arthur said. Church members will invite them to a special fellowship in Swedru to distribute aid, he added.

INDIA

ONGOLE — Church members Rama and Udaya Chintapalli were surprised when the ministry they oversee — Welfare of Innocent Neglected Guarding Society, or WINGS — received the "Best Service Organization" award from the local film industry in their state, Andhra Pradesh. The award ceremony aired on a local TV station. Several government officials attended.

Rama Chintapalli "addressed the live crowd of about 4,000 and the television audience, telling them of the love of Jesus Christ, which motivates all the service they do for others," said Denise Dickinson, a member of the Grace



JAMES STROTHER

Africa clinic is off the grid — and off the map

A Muslim mother and child visit the Fisherfolks Dispensary in the village of Kigombe, Tanzania. The church-supported clinic serves predominantly Muslim villages in this East African nation. Since opening in September 2010, the clinic has treated 2,715 patients, said Tom Carr, executive director of Searcy, Ark.-based International Health Care Foundation, which oversees the work.

"One unique thing about this clinic is that it was built without access to the power grid," Carr said. The clinic uses solar panels to power its lights, fans, small medical equipment and the staff workers' homes. "Most clinics off the grid would rely entirely on generated power from petrol or diesel units," Carr said. The foundation seeks partners to provide volunteer medical personnel and finances. For more information, see www.ihcf.net.

Chapel Church of Christ in Cumming, Ga., who supports the work.

The WINGS ministry includes a children's home, relief work and a ministry training school. For more information, see www.hiswitnesses.com.

NICARAGUA

MANAGUA — In the past year, workers with Mision Para Cristo shipped 7,050 "Smiles" in the Central American nation, said director Benny Baker. The

"Smiles" — gift boxes of toys, clothes and personal care items — were distributed to more than 90 congregations and 24 schools, Baker said.

The Highway Church of Christ in Judsonia, Ark., and the Westgate Church of Christ in Dothan, Ala., served as shipping points for the gifts.

NIGER

TERA — African ministers are making inroads in this predominantly Muslim

SPOTLIGHT

A 'gadgeteer' of the Gospel

SINGAPORE — Whether you want reflections on the book of Isaiah or reviews of the latest apps for your iPad, Henry Kong is your man.

For 45 years Kong has served as minister for the Pasir Panjang Church of Christ, the largest congregation in Singapore. The city-state in Southeast Asia is a hub for technophiles, with four-level malls filled with stores selling the latest digital cameras and state-of-the-art phones.

The minister, a self-confessed "gadgeteer," maintained a website dedicated to "the three C's — Computers, Church and Cuisine." His thoughts on Christian discipleship, the best place to get fried rice and mobile phones are online at ppcoc.org/henry.

Last year, he moved his operation to Facebook, launching the group "Henry's Occasional Technology Stuff." (Search for it on Facebook.com to join the group.)

Recent posts include his 10 favorite iPad apps and reviews of the Xbox Kinect video game system.

Occasionally, his passions cross paths. He reviews the latest Bible software — including programs that display maps from Bible times and applications that can access Scriptures from the New International Version and King James Version simultaneously.

**Kong**

PHOTO PROVIDED

Rama and Udaya Chintapalli receive the 'Best Service Organization' award.

nation of West Africa, north of Nigeria, home to 15.8 million souls.

Harouna Kanguy trained for three years and graduated at the top of his class from the French African Christian Education ministry training school in Benin.

After graduation, Kanguy moved to Tera, Niger, and works with a small group of believers.

"We are doing the work of the Lord by the grace of God," Kanguy said.



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Robert Reid has worked as a missionary in Portugal for more than 35 years. He is currently a volunteer at the John Middleton State Prison in Jones County, Texas, where he and his wife, Rosa, minister to inmates and tell them about the love of Christ. His passion is speaking to others about the blessings God has brought into his life and showing the ways that He can take our weaknesses and transform them into tools for His kingdom.

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

To find out more, go to our website.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY STEVE RAINE

Bible students show their zeal in New Zealand

Diplomas in hand, brother and sister Kendall and Asia Plant celebrate the completion of a two-year course at South Pacific Bible College in Tauranga, New Zealand. The Plants and four other students recently graduated from the school, associated with Churches of Christ.

"I spent two years in intensive study," Asia Plant said. "One of the reasons I came to Bible college was because I felt really ignorant about talking to people about faith. ... Even though I knew what I was saying was true, I didn't have the knowledge to back it up.

"Since then, I have learned that it is not always about having the right words to say. But studying the Bible for two years has given me so much more confidence in engaging in spiritual conversations, which is so significant because as Christians, that's kind of what it's all about."

Cambodian minister, educator hit by drunk driver and dies

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Tawn Lork, Cambodian minister and educator, died Dec. 26 from wounds he suffered when a drunk driver struck his motorcycle days earlier.

Lork, 33, was dean of students for Cambodia Bible Institute, a ministry training school in Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh, affiliated with Lubbock, Texas-based Sunset International Bible Institute.

"He was a devout Bible student as well as effective preacher and teacher," said Rich Dolan, the Cambodia institute's director. "God blessed him with a great personality, capable of reaching many with his kind words, smile, encouragement and belief in God."

Lork served as translator for Dolan and his wife, Ronda, who moved to Phnom Penh in 2007.

Lork also worked with Bill Singleton, a church member who helps Cambodian Christians in church-planting efforts.

"He is one of the greatest Cambodian



RANDRDOLAN.BLOGSPOT.COM

Tawn Lork and his wife, Navy.

warriors of the faith," Singleton said of Lork, "and I will always love him for that."

After the wreck, Lork underwent surgery in Phnom Penh but showed no signs of improvement. The Dolans were making plans to transport him to a hospital in Bangkok, Thailand, when "his heart gave out," Rich Dolan said.

"I know that he walks with the King," Rich Dolan said. "But please remember all of us who are left here with broken hearts — especially his sweet wife, Navy, and all our students."

Freed-Hardeman University Faculty and Staff Positions

Available 2011-12 School Year

Freed-Hardeman University, a private, liberal arts Christian university offering undergraduate and graduate programs, is inviting applicants for faculty positions identified below.

The **Department of Health and Human Performance** invites applications for a tenure-track position in Physical Education. The applicant selected will teach undergraduate theoretical and physical activity courses. A doctorate is preferred. K-12 teaching experience is highly desired.

The **Department of Communication and Literature** invites applications for a tenure-track position teaching Spanish courses. The successful candidate will participate in the development of a Spanish program of study at the undergraduate level. A doctorate in Spanish is preferred.

The **Department of History, Philosophy and Political Studies** invites applications for a tenure-track position in History. The primary teaching responsibilities will be to teach undergraduate courses. A doctorate is preferred.

The **Department of Mathematics and Computer Science** at Freed-Hardeman University invites applications for a tenure-track position in Mathematics. Teaching responsibilities may include courses designed to prepare students for careers in mathematics, mathematics education or to fulfill liberal arts requirements for non-majors. A doctorate is preferred.

The **Department of Nursing** invites applications for the Director of Nursing position. The Director of Nursing serves as the chief nurse administrator for an approved Bachelor of Science Nursing (BSN) program at Freed-Hardeman University. This position is responsible for leading and managing the nursing department and nursing education unit according to the policies and procedures of the School of Sciences and Mathematics and the University. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, assessing program quality and effectiveness, achieving program accreditation, hiring and training faculty, implementing departmental plan for student recruitment, scheduling classes, preparing and managing the budget, and mentoring, monitoring and evaluating performance of faculty and staff. Ph.D. or other equivalent doctoral degree in nursing or a related science with 5 years of college level teaching experience or equivalent combination of education and clinical experience is preferred. R.N. is required with Tennessee Board of Nursing certification or eligibility for certification.

The **Department of Fine Arts** invites applications for an adjunct faculty position to teach upper-level music courses online. A doctorate in Music is required.

The **Department of Biology** invites applications for a tenure-track position in Biology. Applicants should have a strong interest in teaching and directing undergraduate research. Primary responsibilities include teaching human

anatomy and physiology lecture and lab, upper-division courses in the applicant's area of expertise, lower-division courses to both majors and non-majors, and directing undergraduate research projects. A doctorate is preferred.

The **Department of Fine Arts** invites applicants for a tenure-track position in Theatre Design and Technology. Teaching responsibilities include scenic, costume and lighting design, technical theatre, scenic painting, shop management, etc. The successful candidate will design scenery and lighting for one FHU Theatre production per semester. An MFA in scenic design is preferred. Candidates with other theatre design-related degrees will be considered.

The **Department of Fine Arts** invites applicants for a full-time staff Technical Director position. Work responsibilities include oversight of FHU Theatre scene shop, construction of scenery for theatre productions, providing lighting and sound support for theatre productions, oversight of Loyd Auditorium, sound support for campus activities, etc. A B.A. in theatre with a strong background in technical theatre is preferred.

Employment is to begin August 2011.

Rank and Salary: *Academic rank is dependent upon academic qualifications and experience. The salary is commensurate with highest degree earned. Benefits package is included with the position.*

All candidates should submit a letter of application with teaching philosophy, curriculum vitae, transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work, and names and addresses of three references to: Dr. Sam Jones, Vice President for Academics and Enrollment Management, Freed-Hardeman University, 158 East Main Street, Henderson, TN 38340, sjones@fhu.edu, (731) 989-6004.



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ARIZONA: Church mourns member killed in shooting



PETE SOUZA, WHITE HOUSE PHOTO

President Barack Obama greets Mavy Stoddard and members of the Stoddard family following a memorial service at the University of Arizona's McKale Memorial Center in Tucson, Ariz.

FROM PAGE 1

University of Arizona basketball arena Jan. 12, the president paid tribute to Dorwan Stoddard and the other victims.

"Dorwan and Mavy Stoddard grew up in Tucson together about 70 years ago," Obama said. "They moved apart and started their own respective families. But after they both were widowed, they found their way back here to — as one of Mavy's daughters put it — be boyfriend and girlfriend again."

"When they weren't on the road in their motor home, you could find them just up the road helping folks in need at the Mountain Avenue Church of Christ," the president said. "A retired construction worker, Dorwan spent his spare time fixing up the church along with his dog, Tux."

At the U.S. Capitol, Rep. Brett Guthrie, R-Kentucky, offered his prayers for his wounded colleague Giffords and praised the Christian service of his "brother Dorwan."

"He loved the Bible," Guthrie, a member of the Lehman Avenue Church of Christ in Bowling Green, Ky., told fellow House members. "He loved the Scriptures in (their) simplest form and just wanted to internalize them and live them, which is evidenced in his life."

Stoddard's last act served as a living

demonstration of Ephesians 5:25, the congressman said. That verse reads: "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her."

Mavy Stoddard is recovering from gunshot wounds to her legs.

Despite losing her husband, she maintains her spunk and spiritual strength.

"I will survive," the 75-year-old grieving widow said, seated in a wheelchair as she took the microphone at her husband's memorial service Jan. 16, eight days after his death. "We will not let that gunman take our hopes."

As the applause drowned out her words, she said: "So hang in there, every-



JENNIFER GLIDDEN

Joan Biggers, left, greets the Stoddards at a church event several years ago.



BOBBY ROSS JR.

A shopper pauses and reflects at a makeshift memorial outside the Safeway supermarket in Tucson, Ariz., where 19 people were shot Jan. 8. The store reopened a week later.

body. Hang onto your loved ones. Keep kissing them and hugging them, because tomorrow they may not be there."

The service was moved to Calvary Chapel East, a Tucson church attended by two of Mavy Stoddard's daughters, to accommodate the hundreds of mourners.

Mavy Stoddard told the crowd that Dorwan Stoddard — her childhood sweetheart whom she married 15 years ago — made her a better, kinder person.

"He loved God, and he loved me, and he spoiled me rotten," she said.

"Oh, it was fun," she added. "And the journey will be very, very difficult. But he died for me, and I have to live for him."

'THE LIFEblood' OF THE CONGREGATION

Dorwan Stoddard — "Dory" to friends — knew that eternal life was his.

Three days before his death, he studied the Bible with Ed Biggers, his friend and brother in Christ. During that Wednesday night Bible study, Stoddard talked about fixing up his motor home. He and Mavy wanted to take it to the Pepperdine University Bible Lectures in Malibu, Calif., in May, Biggers said.

"We were studying 1 John," said Biggers, a Mountain Avenue church elder. "As we ended our discussion, I read 1 John 5:13 and asked, 'Do you know that you have eternal life?'"

"He said, 'Sure, I do.' That was the last conversation we had."

Stoddard's survivors include four sons, four stepdaughters, 21 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren — and a church family that considered him and his wife "the lifeblood" of the congregation, youth ministry leader Jessica Knapp said.

"This is going to be a huge hole in our congregation," Knapp said.



Knapp

"They were our benevolence committee," she said. "They did the job fantastically. Instead of just writing checks, they would go meet with people and find out what was going on in their lives and what their needs were."

In the couple's benevolence work, Mavy was the stern one who made sure no one took advantage of the church, Mountain Avenue members said. Dorwan was the soft touch ready to give away the property deed.

"They saw to the needs of the sick, hurting, hungry and destitute," said Nowak, the minister. "They met and talked with individuals in restaurants, grocery stores and banks to see how they could share a little benevolent Jesus with someone."



MISTI NOWAK

Family members of Dorwan Stoddard are introduced during the Mountain Avenue Church of Christ member's memorial service in Tucson, Ariz. The service was moved to Calvary Chapel East, a church attended by two of Mavy Stoddard's daughters, to accommodate the crowd.

Lonnie and Kat Joplin were longtime drug addicts when they came to the church about four years ago.

"We were penniless, hungry, hadn't eaten for two days," Kat Joplin said.

"We literally had nowhere else to turn." The Stoddards fed them and found them a place to stay.

Dorwan and Mavy studied the Bible with the younger couple, helped them beat their meth addiction and even arranged a wedding: Lonnie and Kat had lived together for 15 years but never tied the knot.

"We knew that these were our angels sent from God," Kat Joplin said. "I can't even begin to explain just the feeling of acceptance and love from them."

When the Stoddards traveled, they trusted the Joplins — now active members of the Mountain Avenue church — to watch their house.

That's why some of the Joplins' mail still occasionally comes to the Stoddards' place, and why Dorwan called the couple before going to see Giffords that Saturday morning.

"I'm so glad that both of us got to speak to him that morning," Kat Joplin



Joplin

said. "But it has been a nightmare. I can't believe this has happened."

However, the tragedy has not tried her faith, she said.

"You know, people have been worried about that, and that kind of baffles me," she said.

"For one thing, that would be such a dishonor to what they have done for us. But secondly, we appreciate so much and know the difference between the life that we have now and the life that we had."

STODDARD'S STENTS AND STUNTS

As the Mountain Avenue church assembled on a recent Sunday, Dorwan Stoddard's legacy seemed impossible to miss.

In an adult class, members openly discussed their grief as they sought comfort in the Scriptures.

"I sit there and cry," one older man said. "I mean, I cried all week."

"I'm usually able to separate my personal and my professional life," said a middle-aged military translator who has served in Afghanistan. "This affected me at home."

Inside the auditorium, still-fresh scuff marks down a wall identify the exact spot where Stoddard climbed atop a 20-foot ladder a few weeks before the shooting.

The beloved-but-accident-prone maintenance man was working on a projection screen when the ladder slipped.

"It slid down the wall with him riding it down," Nowak said with a chuckle.

The minister described Stoddard as the kind of guy who sprayed WD-40 on his elbow or shoulder because he believed it relieved the stiffness from countless hours spent repairing the church roof.

Last year, while working on a children's training area at the back of the auditorium, Stoddard fell through the ceiling. Rather than go to the emergency room, he used paper towels and electric tape to stop the bleeding.



TERESA NYSTROM

A memorial sign remembers the victims of the mass shooting in Tucson, Ariz.



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Mountain Avenue Church of Christ members greet each other on a recent Sunday.

"Dory had a spirit of an 18-year-old but a heart of a 90-year-old. He had 18 stents in his heart and popped nitroglycerin like breath mints," Nowak said. "We always believed that it would be his bad heart that would bring him down some day."

"When I rushed to the hospital to see Mavy after the shootings, with tears in our eyes, she whispered to me, 'Dory doesn't have to worry about another stent.'"

After Stoddard fell through the ceiling, the church named the children's training area "Dory's Room" in his honor.

"I kind of nudged him and said, 'So they named the room after you?'" church member Teresa Nystrom recalled. "And he said, 'Yeah, that falling through the roof thing was just a stunt.'"

Members said they were not surprised at all that Stoddard put his wife's life above his own.

But his bravery on that final day did not make him a hero, Nowak stressed in his eulogy.

Rather, the way that Stoddard lived did, the minister said. "Dory Stoddard didn't die a hero, he lived a hero," said Nowak, who described Stoddard as his best friend. "He completed his heroic act of kindness one final time with his wife, Mavy."

BIBLE READING: Blessings of time spent in God's Word emphasized

FROM PAGE 3

wanted him to die on the cross for our sins. So that's what Jesus did. He took all of our sins ... so that we wouldn't have to die for them. And then, to show his power over death, God raised his son back up from the grave."

Through the Pleasant Valley church's Project 4:4 — based on Matthew 4:4 and Luke 4:4 — roughly 20 percent of members read the entire Bible last year, missions minister Roger Pritchett said. "All of our adult Bible classes studied the previous week's readings," Pritchett said. "Many of the children's classes followed the same general theme of the reading."

Davis' parents read through F. LaGard Smith's "The Daily Bible," while Davis used Karyn Henley's "Day by Day Kid's Bible."

As 2011 began, many Churches of Christ across the nation urged members to make a renewed commitment to spending time in God's Word each and every day.

In Houston, Michael Whitworth, pulp minister of the Jersey Village Church of Christ, decided to read the entire Bible aloud — from Genesis through Revelation — in one sitting streamed live on the Internet.

The "Eat This Book!" marathon kicked off the congregation's 2011 daily Bible reading initiative. Volunteers provided coffee, food and emotional support and filled in to give Whitworth short breaks.

"I ended up needing a little help so that I could sleep for an hour or so, but I completed the marathon in 75 hours and 37 minutes," Whitworth said.

"The Lord greatly blessed our efforts," he added. "One lady who was inspired to read her Bible as a result of the marathon has just been baptized."

'EVERYONE ON THE SAME PAGE'

In North Carolina, the Wilkesboro Church of Christ



PHOTO PROVIDED BY BURTON FAMILY

Jason and Amy Burton with their son, Davis, 9, and daughter, Hannah, 5.

uses a chronological plan to read the Bible, and members keep daily journals.

"It is great doing a group read and having everyone on the same page," said Lisa Brewer, a Wilkesboro member



Brewer

whose husband, Greg, serves as a deacon. "Every time I read through a verse or a chapter or a book, I learn something new ... but this particular pace seems to be having increased benefits and blessings."

For nine years, the Fourth and Bois D'Arc Church of Christ in Pecos, Texas, has promoted daily Bible study and offered a variety of reading plans.

The Pecos church's minister, Fred Dominguez, said he has completed a different English translation each of the last three years.

"It has been a wonderful

exercise that helps me to better teach and preach God's Word and to offer studied responses when asked about various translations," Dominguez said.

"Lord willing, we'll keep 'reading through' each year until the Lord calls us home."

In Oklahoma, the Edmond Church of Christ has dubbed its 2011 daily Bible reading emphasis "Counting Verses, Changing Lives."

"We're hoping for 6 million Bible verses to be read this year by those of all ages," senior minister Don Vinzant said.

Pat Shelbourne, a member of the College Hill Church of Christ in North Richland Hills, Texas, said he has determined many times to read the Bible in one year.

Usually, though, he falls so far behind that he can't catch up, so he simply quits, he said.

But this year he's trying a different approach.

"I will read as much as I can and keep reading until I get it all

done," Shelbourne said. "It may take me two or three years, but I will keep a marker in my Bible as I go along. I still teach and study outside of this effort, but this way, if I live long enough, at least I can say I did it!"

'GETTING TO KNOW GOD BETTER'

Back at the Pleasant Valley church, 9-year-old Davis encouraged the church to think of the Bible as a movie.

"You wouldn't rent a movie and go to scene selection and say that, 'This part looks interesting; I'll start here,'" he said. "Because then you don't know who the characters are, what they're doing and where they are. So just like you have to watch the whole movie to get the whole picture, you have to read through the whole Bible to see what God's saying."

In his free time, Davis plays youth soccer. He's learning lines and preparing solos as Winthrop Paroo in Central Arkansas Christian Schools' production of "The Music Man."

Besides reading, he loves building with Legos, his mother said.

A video of his presentation on Bible reading has drawn thousands of hits on YouTube

and *The Christian Chronicle's* website.

"I predict great service in the Lord's kingdom from this young man and pray for him a long life of continued spiritual growth," said Allison, the visitor from Memphis.

Jason Burton said his son's love for the Lord inspires him to be a better father and servant in God's kingdom.

Along with Davis, the Burtons have a 5-year-old daughter, Hannah, who read from a children's Bible.

"It's a very proud moment for us," Amy Burton said of her son's presentation, "but it's very humbling to watch him stand there with such confidence, just being able to tell what God has ready for him to share with everybody."

Davis said he enjoyed reading the Bible daily and read ahead if he had a busy day coming.

"It's a good way to get to know God better and to know his characteristics and to really get into what he's trying to tell us," he told the *Chronicle*. "That's what I enjoyed about it: getting to know God better."

SEE THE VIDEO and share insights on daily Bible reading at www.christianchronicle.org.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MICHAEL WHITWORTH

In a television news image, Houston minister Michael Whitworth is shown reading the Bible during the "Eat This Book!" 75-hour marathon.

YOUTH MINISTRY: Conference focuses on a generational approach

FROM PAGE 3

Christ in Sugar Land, Texas.

The attitude has been this, he said: "We'll teach them. We'll provide activities. We'll help them discover their spiritual gifts. ... Then when they've graduated, we'll give them back."

But Fridge said, "If parents don't feel like a critical part of their child's spiritual life, then we've missed a point."

Unwittingly, youth ministry seems to have communicated the notion that parents can outsource the faith development of their children, said Johnny Markham, youth minister of the College Hills Church of Christ in Lebanon, Tenn., since 1990.

"We must point postmodern moms and dads back to the ancient truths found in Deuteronomy 6, where God clearly lays the responsibility of nurturing and shaping the faith of children at the feet of their parents," said Markham, a 26-year youth ministry veteran.

Tim Hall, NCYM 2011 president, referred to the same biblical text.

"This isn't a new concept but is simply rematerializing," said Hall, director of student ministries for the Overland Park Church of Christ in Kansas. "This mandate from God has been around a long time."

LONE RANGER NEED NOT APPLY

With the beautiful Rocky Mountains as a backdrop, youth ministers came to NCYM to network, praise God and receive professional-level training.

Rich Little, preaching minister of the University Church of Christ in Malibu, Calif., had a different goal: find a new youth minister.

"We're looking for someone who can help empower our families to claim their parental responsibility to be the spiritual nurturers of their kids," Little said. "So we're not looking for a lone ranger."

It's obvious the old model hasn't worked as many young people — children of seemingly terrific parents — keep leaving the faith, Little said.

"I think the realities and the statistics are causing us to rethink the model," he said.

As youth activities coordinator for the Mayfair Church of Christ in Huntsville, Ala., Jenna Lupo leads regular Bible studies with high school girls.

Lupo also helps organize mission projects such as reaching out to the homeless.



Lupo

"We see all these teenagers leaving the church when they're finished with youth ministry," Lupo said. "My goal is to be somebody that can help

be a voice that pushes truth deeper into them."

The Mayfair church's youth ministry is working harder to involve families, she said.

To reflect that emphasis, the congregation even changed the titles of youth ministers Aubrey Wood and Cody King to "youth and family ministers."

"Bringing the family in, that ultimately makes the teenagers more healthy, and that's going to be better for them in the long run, better for the kingdom," Lupo said.

At the Southwest Church of Christ in Jonesboro, Ark., parents serve alongside their teens in service projects — be it sorting cans at a food bank or sprucing up a school, youth minister Abbey Jackson said.

"I mean, like every week, we have over 40 to 50 adults investing in our teens' lives," Jackson said. "So we try to do a lot of stuff with family, but obviously, we have huge room to grow."



Jackson



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Josh Stephens, dean of students at Lubbock Christian University in Texas, prays at the National Conference on Youth Ministries in Colorado.

MINISTRY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Charlie Sells said he grew up in youth ministries where just a few parents were involved.

Changing that paradigm presents a challenge, said Sells, youth minister of the Argyle Church of Christ in Jacksonville, Fla.

But Sells said, "It's even more important to have parents active in their kids' life now than ever before. One of the big things that I'm tackling right now is social media with my kids."

"They're always hooked in to Facebook or Twitter or on their cell phone. And some of them do have a problem with not being the same person

online and offline."

Jon Justice, youth minister of the Warrenton Church of Christ in Virginia for 12 years, echoed Sells' concern.

"The students that I have now are so digitally connected that to sit and have a face-to-face with them is like sitting on nails," Justice said. "They would much rather talk to me through a screen."

He said he'd love to move to a more family-based approach to ministry.

His concern?



Justice

"For me, the tremendous roadblock is that we've spent 30, 40 years defining youth ministry as we do it (now)," Justice said. "And so, most of my parents ... they trust spiritual development to me."

"I think that's fraught with a lot of holes," he added. "Even if I do a great job, what I have noticed is, if students don't see it at home, they don't care."

"They either judge it as false, not for their life, or just something the youth guy does, not for real life. So I think it's a huge deal."

PUTTING THE CONCEPT INTO PRACTICE

When David Rubio started in youth ministry 15 years ago, volunteers typically were 20-somethings, college students, young married couples and other "cool people."

A mission trip might involve 20 students and three adult sponsors, said Rubio, youth minister of the Otter Creek Church of Christ in Brentwood, Tenn.

Now, Rubio said, he might invite teens' parents not just to cook at a youth event but also to lead small-group Bible studies. He might enlist 10 parents to join 12 students on a mission trip.

"Nowadays, I don't think it's so outlandish to think I might have parents not just driving the bus but also sitting on the bus mentoring students on the three-and-a-half hour drive to Gatlinburg," he said, referring to the youth group's annual trip to Winterfest.

"We've heard for years that the most influential people in our students' lives are their mother and their father," Rubio said. "But it's one thing to say 'I know it,' and it's another thing to actually minister with that in mind."



Rubio

FACULTY OPPORTUNITIES

Lipscomb University 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, Tennessee, the nation's 27th largest city and ranked as one of the five friendliest cities in America. Lipscomb University is seeking qualified applicants for the following administrative openings.

Dean of Engineering

Lipscomb University seeks a highly qualified individual to serve as Dean of the Raymond B. Jones College of Engineering. This individual will provide the academic and programmatic leadership for programs in civil engineering, electrical and computer engineering, mechanical engineering, computer sciences, and information technology. The Dean will also serve as faculty member and is expected to set a standard for teaching excellence in the College. The Dean of Engineering reports directly to the Provost of the University.

Qualifications: Earned doctorate degree in engineering or computer science. Excellent leadership, teaching, and administrative skills. A belief in and commitment to the spiritual and educational mission of Lipscomb University. The ability to work well with faculty, staff, and students. Experience in engineering or computer science education is required; experience that includes administration of academic programs is preferred. Active member of the Churches of Christ.

Responsibilities: Full spectrum leadership of the Raymond B. Jones College of Engineering to include student recruitment; curriculum design; assessment; accreditation; facility planning; fund raising. Recruit and continually develop faculty members who will be superb teachers. Manage the College's financial, personnel and physical resources. Build strong relationships with the engineering and computer science professions. Provide opportunities for College of Engineering students, faculty, and staff to serve their profession, their community, and the church. Teach effectively in one of the College's academic programs. Represent the College on the Academic Leadership Team of Lipscomb University.

Application Process: Candidates should submit a letter of application including qualifications, relevant experience, and a statement explaining how the candidate plans to integrate her/his Christian faith into the teaching and leadership responsibilities of this position. Candidates should also submit a curriculum vitae, official transcripts, names, addresses (including e-mail addresses) and phone numbers of three references. The Raymond B. Jones College of Engineering is especially interested in qualified candidates who can contribute to the diversity and excellence of the academic community. Mail these materials to Dr. Craig Bledsoe; Provost, Lipscomb University; One University Park Drive; Nashville, TN 37204-3951.

Faculty Position and Department Chair Civil and Environmental Engineering

Lipscomb University seeks two highly qualified individuals to serve as tenure-track faculty members in the new Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering of the Raymond B. Jones College of Engineering. One faculty position to be filled includes the opportunity and responsibility to serve as Department Chair for the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department. This position will require an individual prepared to provide the academic and programmatic leadership for civil engineering in addition to teaching. The individual who fills the second position will have full-time teaching responsibilities. Candidates from all sub-disciplines of civil engineering are invited to apply. However, candidates with expertise in environmental engineering and structural engineering are preferred. Candidates eligible for an appointment at all faculty ranks up to and including Professor are invited to apply.

Department Chair Qualifications: A Masters degree in engineering is required, and an earned doctorate in engineering is preferred. Candidates with either (1) a degree in civil or environmental engineering or (2) a degree in a related engineering discipline and extensive experience in civil or environmental engineering are invited to apply. Candidates for this leadership position should have excellent leadership, teaching, and administrative skills and the ability to work well with faculty, staff, and students. Candidates should also have a belief in and commitment to the primary mission of Lipscomb University: the integration of Christian faith and practice with academic excellence. Candidates must be an active member of the Churches of Christ.

Department Chair Responsibilities: Leadership of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering to include student recruitment; curriculum design; assessment; accreditation; facility planning; fund raising; recruiting and continual development of faculty members who will be superb teachers; management of financial, personnel and physical resources; building strong relationships with the civil engineering profession; and providing opportunities for students, faculty, and staff from the department to serve their profession, their community, and the church. The Chair will also serve as faculty member and is expected to set a standard for teaching excellence in the department.

Faculty Qualifications: A Masters degree in engineering is required, and an earned doctorate in engineering is preferred. Candidates with either (1) a degree in civil or environmental engineering or (2) a degree in a related engineering discipline and extensive experience in civil or environmental engineering are invited to apply. Teaching experience is preferred, but applicants with the ability to rapidly develop superior teaching skills are also invited to apply. Candidates should have excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to work well with faculty, staff, and students. Candidates should also have a belief in and commitment to the primary mission of Lipscomb University: the integration of Christian faith and practice with academic excellence. Candidates must be an active member of the Churches of Christ.

Faculty Responsibilities: Effectively teach civil and environmental engineering courses in at least two of the following areas: structures, environmental, transportation, hydrology and hydraulics, construction, geotechnical, and materials. Advise and mentor civil engineering students. Develop instructional methods that will reflect best practices in pedagogy. Research that can be integrated with undergraduate education is encouraged, but the ability to teach effectively is the primary qualification for this position.

Application Process: Candidates should submit a letter of application including qualifications, relevant experience, and a statement explaining how the candidate plans to integrate her/his Christian faith into the teaching and leadership responsibilities of these positions. Candidates should also submit a curriculum vitae, official transcripts, names, addresses (including e-mail addresses) and phone numbers of three references. The Raymond B. Jones College of Engineering is especially interested in qualified candidates who can contribute to the diversity and excellence of the academic community. Mail these materials to Dr. Fred Gilliam; Dean, Raymond B. Jones College of Engineering; One University Park Drive; Nashville, TN 37204-3951.

Assistant/Associate Clinical Professor – Graduate Education

The College of Education at Lipscomb University invites applications for a full-time, tenure-track Assistant/Associate Clinical Professor position within the Graduate Studies in Education program. The College of Education, comprised of the Undergraduate Program and the Graduate Program, provides practice-based education to traditional students, graduate students and organizations seeking superior academic quality and learning solutions. With a variety of delivery modes (including traditional evening, accelerated, and Saturday classes; online, on-campus, off-campus and customized professional development programs), the college provides flexible learning options to meet the needs of its diverse student body.

Qualifications: The successful candidate will have an earned doctorate in the relevant area or a related field and will specialize in teaching and mentoring doctoral candidates in the area of quantitative research. Proficiency with using statistical software (SPSS) is required. An entrepreneurial spirit and excellent interpersonal, written, and oral communication skills are critical to success. Experience in problem-based learning, teaching with an array of distance learning technologies, teaching in blended learning formats, and evidence of management skills applicable to an academic program are desired.

Responsibilities: The successful candidate will teach graduate courses, on-campus and off-campus courses, and online courses; conduct research and grant writing activities; conduct outreach and public service activities; and advise students. The successful candidate will demonstrate evidence of or potential for research, leadership, and successful grant writing, and the ability to work collaboratively with on-campus and off-campus colleagues and constituencies; and to use technology to enhance learning. The Lipscomb College of Education is especially interested in qualified candidates who can contribute to the diversity and excellence of the academic community.

For additional information or to apply for these and other openings, visit hr.lipscomb.edu or call 615.966.7004.



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PHOTOS BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD

A Haitian Christian listens in Bible class at the Delmas 28 Church of Christ in Port-au-Prince. To the left, two church members get water from a well next to the podium to fill the baptistry.

Haiti: Faith in the land of Job

ONE YEAR AFTER a devastating earthquake, Haitians still suffer, but ‘we still give God glory because he’s God,’ minister says.

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti

Bearing witness to wave after wave of suffering in this Caribbean capital makes Harry Hames feel like he’s living in the Old Testament.

“I didn’t lose seven sons and three daughters like Job did,” Hames says, “but some people here did.”

“They’ve lost a lot.”

On a sunny and steamy Saturday morning, Hames rides over the broken streets of Port-au-Prince to visit a Christian school and orphanage that receives aid from Healing Hands International.

Hames, a deacon of the Beltline

Church of Christ in Decatur, Ala., is Haiti coordinator for the church-supported relief ministry, based in Nashville, Tenn.

Haitians are no strangers to suffering. The nation of 10 million souls is the poorest in the Western Hemisphere, marred by years of political violence.

Then came “*la tranble*” — “the shaking” as it’s called in Creole. The Jan. 12, 2010, earthquake claimed 230,000 lives and made millions homeless.

Ten months later, Hurricane Tomas sideswiped the island, flooding much of the city. Outbreaks of cholera hit impoverished communities such as Cité Soleil particularly hard. More deaths followed as angry Haitians took to the

streets, protesting the results of a hotly contested presidential election.

“There was a point when I said, ‘God, I don’t get it,’” says Debbie Vanderbeek, who has worked with missions in Haiti for more than 20 years. “To see people suffer like this, you suffer in your soul.”

Vanderbeek, who recently joined the ministry Mission Lazarus, steers a battered sport utility vehicle through the streets of Cité Soleil, a shanty town in Port-au-Prince with a reputation for poverty and



Jean

violence. Here, Dieugrand Jean takes care of 27 children, including five of his own, oversees a Christian school of 78 students and ministers for a church of about 60 Christians.

Jean, whose first name means “big God,” greets Hames and Vanderbeek with hugs and smiles, dodging a pile of wet concrete. Brick masons and carpenters are hard at work rebuilding the security walls, which toppled in the quake.

All of the children survived.

God is indeed big, Jean says. In spite of the hardships his country has endured in the past year, “we still give God glory because he’s God,” he says

CONTINUED



Harry Hames, Haiti coordinator for Healing Hands International, performs a magic trick for children in one of the hundreds of tent cities in Port-au-Prince.



Debbie Vanderbeek talks to a child at the *Le Phare* (Lighthouse) ministry in Cité Soleil.



Workers representing Healing Hands International unload tubing at the site of a new water well in a community near Port-au-Prince.



One year after the earthquake, thousands of Haitians remain in tent communities erected on private land outside Port-au-Prince.

Haiti: One year later

CONTINUED
as Vanderbeek translates. Then, surrounded by a symphony of saws and hammers, the minister sings. “*Lé Jézu mouri sou Kalvé, Lé Kris mouri sé té bou mouin ... Konbiin mouin doué, konbiin mouin doué.*” “*When Jesus died on Calvary, when he suffered on the cross, it was for me. Do I even know how much I owe? Do I know how much I owe?*”

TENTS AND WATER WELLS
When Jean lost his home, school and orphanage, neither the government nor the United Nations came to his assistance, he said. But the church did. The minister said he understands why a lot of Haitians are frustrated at the lack of progress one year after the quake. “A whole lot of money has come into the country,” he says, “but the people that are really the most in need ... don’t see any of that.” Miles away from Cité Soleil, on the hills outside of Port-au-Prince, hundreds of tents — some in United Nations blue and others bearing the flag of China — fill the horizon. The camps have become miniature cities. Many have communal kitchens, toilets and tent stores selling phone cards and Coke. A massive truck bearing Healing

Hands’ logo drives past the tents, into the mountains. It once bore the phrase “DRILL, BABY, DRILL.” The ministry replaced “BABY” with “L’Eglise du Christ” (“Church of Christ”). Vanderbeek’s husband, Tim, works with the Healing Hands team, drilling wells to bring clean water to the villages around Port-au-Prince — and the ever-growing tent cities. The earthquake didn’t just destroy buildings, Tim Vanderbeek explains. It also altered the flow of water under the island. Wells that once produced hundreds of gallons per day have gone dry. A few dry wells have sprung to life. The Healing Hands team raises the truck’s massive arm on a rural hillside — just a few feet from a well that’s no longer



Christians pray during worship at the Delmas 28 Church of Christ in Port-au-Prince.

producing. They remove their hard hats and pray before starting the roaring rotary drill. About four hours later, water gushes from the hole as a group of wide-eyed Haitian children cheers.

THE GOOD AND BAD OF U.S. SUPPORT

In addition to digging wells, Healing Hands and a host of other church-supported ministries have provided thousands of water filtration kits across Haiti. Ministries also have supplied funds, materials and workers for the construction of simple, wooden houses with concrete floors and metal roofs. “My boys can put one up in a day,” Roberta Edwards says proudly. Edwards, a native of North Carolina, has lived in Haiti since 1995 and oversees Son Light Children’s Home in the Port-au-Prince suburb of Santo. About 25 children live at the home. The Estes Church of Christ in Henderson, Tenn., supports the work. An exterior wall collapsed at the home during the quake, killing a 15-year-old boy named Nicky. A year later, the wall is rebuilt. Nicky’s grave is under a mango tree. Today the home feeds 200 neighbor-



Edwards

hood children two hot meals per day, five days per week through its nutrition program. That’s 80 more children than a year ago, Edwards says. As the children finish lunch, she takes a break in the front yard and brags on her kids. Three young men who live at the home launched a contracting business to build the wooden houses. Churches of Christ in the area supply the names of the families needing new homes. Demand far outweighs supply. The Estes church pays the young men for their labor. For every four houses they build, the boys build a fifth one for free, Edwards says. “People are so, so happy to get out of the tents — and out of the less-than-tents — and into a home that belongs to them,” she said. “One woman told me, ‘I am now a person who is respected in my neighborhood, and they will never throw dirty water on me again.’” Larry Waymire, a longtime missionary in the Caribbean, led a team of students from Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson to Haiti to conduct a Vacation Bible School at the children’s home. Waymire, a member of the Broad Street Church of Christ in Lexington, Tenn., has made multiple trips to Haiti in the past year and has seen it change

from “a country under destruction to a country under construction,” he says. “The process of getting things done is extremely slow,” he says. As the Haitians rebuild, the Son Light ministry continues to distribute thousands of dollars worth of food through Haitian churches. The aid has helped thousands of Haitians, but it also has created “an air of greed,” Waymire says. Twice, groups of Haitians have knocked down the gates of the children’s home, hoping to take whatever they found inside. In addition, some U.S. visitors “come down here with more of a mentality of savior instead of servant,” Edwards says. “What they’re pretty much creating is a welfare state ... killing God-reliance.” A few teens have moved away from the children’s home after U.S. Christians agreed to become their sponsors, Edwards says. She worries that they’re not getting proper supervision. “I have seen several people turn away from God because somebody is taking care of them now,” she says. Hames, who has spent at least three



Belton

weeks of every month in Haiti since the quake, says he has seen positive and negative effects of money here. “Find a specific work and stay very close in contact with that work,” he advises Christians who want to help. He also encourages them to come to Haiti and see the needs firsthand. **LIVING ‘CLOSE TO GOD’** Despite the pitfalls, aid given by Churches of Christ in the wake of the disaster has helped Haitian Christians introduce the Gospel to lost souls, Edwards says. The Santo Church of Christ, which meets on the Son Light property, had more than 50 baptisms in the past year. A few blocks from Son Light, Jean-Claude Belton directs an orphanage with 21 children. He also helps distribute relief to 14 churches. The congregation for which he ministers, the Ganthier Church of Christ, grew from 200 to about 300 members last year, Belton says. “Some might come for the food, but the Gospel has the power to convince people,” he says. “Now that they have come, they are seeking God.” Early on a Sunday morning in Port-au-Prince, God seekers leave the tent

cities and fill the streets. In dresses, pressed shirts, ties and jackets they squeeze into overcrowded “tap-tap” taxis and head for church. More than 400 Haitians line the wooden pews at the Delmas 28 Church of Christ — one of the oldest and largest congregations in Port-au-Prince. A smiling church member, Maxius Gabriel, stands at the entrance, giving each congregant a shot of hand sanitizer as they enter — a defense against cholera. The earthquake reduced the church’s building to rubble and killed 36 nursing students who were meeting here for classes as it collapsed. Fifty-one of the church’s 650 members died in the quake, minister Jean T. Elmera said. Today, the church worships in a simple wooden structure as rebuilding continues. “Many of you have suffered a lot this year,” Hames says as he addresses the congregation. “Amen!” the Haitian Christians shout. Sitting in a rebuilt classroom of his school, Dieugrand Jean describes the earthquake.

Hames tells them how Haiti’s suffering reminds him of the story of Job, who endured tragedy after tragedy without an answer from God. “Why? Why the earthquake? Why the hurricane? Why the flood? Why the cholera? Why the demonstrations?” Hames asks as Elmera translates his words into Creole. “God taught Job that it’s better to know God than just the answers. “Suffering can strengthen our faith or it can destroy it,” Hames says. “We have to make the choice. I see by you being here that you’ve made the right choice.” After the sermon, seven people ask to be baptized. As the service concludes, and the Haitian Christians load back into the tap-taps for the ride home, one member, Innocent Jean Charles, talks about his hope for the future. “Maybe now God is going to send his blessing — more than before,” he says. Charles started attending the Delmas 28 church about three years ago and was baptized here. Like many Haitians, he considers the earthquake to be a sign from the Almighty. “Because many people died, the people who are alive need to live very close to God,” he says. **SEE A LIST** of churches and ministries collecting funds for Haiti relief at www.christianchronicle.org.



Charles



“CHURCH IN AMERICA MARKED BY DECLINE.”

(THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE, 2009)

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A conversation with Tanya Smith Brice

RACIAL RECONCILIATION is a key focus of church member's work.

BY LYNN McMILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Tanya Smith Brice believes that God led her to social work. "Social workers have the privilege of living out the charge given to care for the oppressed, as set forth in James 1:27," she said.

Today she is living out her dreams as a professor of social work at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. She and her husband, Boston Brice III, are active members of the Crestview Church of Christ in Waco. They have two children.

A native of Greenville, S.C., Tanya Smith Brice has a rich heritage in Churches of Christ. Her grandfather, Albert Lemon Smith, was a leader in African-American congregations throughout the Southeast and planted congregations in Georgia and South Carolina.

She earned a doctorate in social work from the University of North Carolina. Prior to joining the Baylor faculty, she served on the faculty of the University of South Carolina and was director of the Master of Social Work program at Abilene Christian University in Texas.

In recent years, she has devoted much of her time to studying the history of race relations in Churches of Christ, applying her expertise in social movements, administrative and policy issues and community organizing to the task.

"I believe that God is using these skill sets to enable me to see the larger issues in the Church of Christ," she said.

African-American and white churches often seem to be almost unaware of each other. How can we develop more connections?

It is important that we become intentional about getting to know each other. Currently, we operate from a place of fear and suspicion instead of from a place of love. We don't really know about each other, which is evident in our segregated assemblies, lectureships, gospel meetings and literature.

The first step is to become aware of our historical connections to each other, particularly within the context of American history. We, African-American and white members of the Church of Christ, must become familiar with the way that African-American congregations were planted and why these congregations were largely planted by white congregations or by African-American preachers financed by the leaders of white congregations.

Only after accepting these truths will we be able to see the effects of this type of domestic missions work on our contemporary congregations. Through this lens, we will be able to heal and draw closer to each other through our quest to draw nearer to Jesus.

Wouldn't it be amazing if we could have "truth and reconciliation" panels, in a similar fashion as was experienced by South Africans directly after the abolition of their apartheid? We could experience this truth together and be reconciled with each other and therefore reconciled to Christ.

Is it true that African-American churches often fear a loss of their culture by connecting too much with white churches?

I have heard this opinion from African-Americans and whites — and once subscribed to it. While there may be cultural differences in the way African-American and white churches worship, those differences really have nothing to do with reconciliation.

I have read transcripts of sermons preached at various lectureships, particularly during the Jim Crow era of American apartheid, justifying segregation among the races. The major justification was, for these white ministers, that white culture would be adulterated.

'While there may be cultural differences in the way African-American and white churches worship, those differences really have nothing to do with reconciliation.'

Tanya Smith Brice



MATTHEW MINARD, BAYLOR MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Tanya Smith Brice at Baylor University.

In other words, this fear of a loss of culture is not one-sided.

With that being said, I don't believe that racial reconciliation means that African-Americans should "connect" more with white churches. Reconciliation is a mutual effort. One aspect that I truly admire about the Church of Christ membership is its desire to maintain fidelity to the Scriptures.

In 2 Corinthians 5, we are called to "regard no one from a worldly point of view," and if we are truly in Christ, we are to be new creatures. This does not deny our cultural differences but allows our differences to enhance the entire body.

So the answer, I believe, is not to abandon our culture or to assimilate the other but to view ourselves as a new culture reconciled to Christ, as is commanded in 2 Corinthians 5:20. This notion is also supported in Galatians 3:26-29. In Colossians 3, we are called to treat each other in a way that transcends the traditions of this world. We are to walk differently. We need to forgive and edify one another.

There may be those who justify segregation from a place of fear. However, that justification is contrary to what and how we are called to be.

What are your experiences with race relations in Churches of Christ?

I was raised in the African-American church. I attended gospel meetings, lectureships, youth conferences and women's ministry events with African-Americans. I had no idea that white Churches of Christ had parallel structures. I did not really know a white member of the Church of Christ, except maybe the one or two who would attend African-American congregations.

As I reflect on this, it is interesting that every other aspect of my life was relatively integrated, but I accepted the notion of segregated worship without question.

My family and I moved to Abilene in 2006 when I joined the faculty of ACU. After a couple of years in Abilene, we felt pulled to attend a congregation that happened to be white, where we eventually placed membership. This was a very different experience for us. Our children flourished in the youth group, and we developed great, meaningful friendships with many of the members. And, after learning the songs, I found the worship service to be quite amazing.

How did you become interested in the topic of race relations within the Churches of Christ?

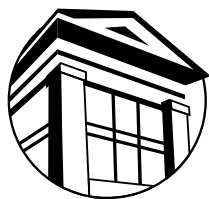
Last spring, I participated in a three-week seminar at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich., titled, "The Power of Race in American Religion" led by Michael Emerson of Rice University. There I began exploring the history of race relations in the Churches of Christ.

Fortunately, there's a plethora of sermons, essays, magazines and journals by and for the members of the Churches of Christ. Unfortunately, many of these document our ever-present struggle with race relations.

What do you hope will come from your research on this topic?

I am preparing to collect oral histories of African-American and white leaders in the Church of Christ as a first step to tell our collective stories. I believe that only after exposing our truths can we be reconciled.

In addition, I want to share church members' responses to various events throughout American history as context for our story. I am planning to publish these stories, and I hope they can move us further on this journey of reconciliation.



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BIBLE CAMPS

GANDER BROOK CHRISTIAN CAMP

RAYMOND, Maine. — Donations from *Christian Chronicle* readers and other supporters gave Gander Brook a financial boost that will allow the camp to survive the winter.

"This means that ... we can concentrate on discussion and decisions which will improve the camping and spiritual enrichment experience of campers this summer without having to allocate funds back to old bills," said Don Keiser, a Gander Brook board member and minister of the Southern Aroostook Church of Christ in northern Maine.

The camp needed more than \$6,000 in donations and exceeded that amount.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

JEREMIAH'S HOPE

KIEV, Ukraine — Social clubs at Abilene Christian University in Texas partnered with Jeremiah's Hope to deliver gift bags to orphans and at-risk youths living just outside the Ukrainian Chernobyl zone.

The effort was the idea of ACU students Bonnie Kellum and Marcus Womble, who spent a summer in Ukraine working at Pine Branch Christian Camp, operated by Jeremiah's Hope.

Each gift bag was simple — a t-shirt, pens, crayons, toothpaste and socks, said Andrew Kelly, executive director of Jeremiah's Hope. "But, for hundreds of impoverished children ... it was a gesture of love and belonging that reached them (from) 6,000 miles away," Kelly said.

HIGHER EDUCATION

OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma Christian celebrated the gift of biblical artifacts at a recent ceremony. The gift from 1967 graduate Monte Ginnings and his wife, Cheryl, represents 50 years of travel and study that began with Cheryl's parents, Warder and Lottie Novak.

The collection includes artifacts from across Israel and the Middle East as well as pieces from the Louvre, the British Museum, the Egyptian Museum and the University Museum at the University of Pennsylvania.

The Ginnings catalogued the collec-

tion and gave it to Oklahoma Christian in hopes of giving students a more tangible sense of the Bible's pieces and places. It's on display in the library.

ROCHESTER COLLEGE

ROCHESTER HILLS, Mich. — After a recent meeting with the Higher Learning Commission, Rochester College announced that it will remain a nonprofit, independent Christian college.

The college had negotiated with K12 Inc. about a possible venture in which the for-profit online education company would take over operations while allowing the Rochester campus to continue producing Christian servants and leaders, college President Rubel Shelly said.

Instead, the two entities are now exploring the possibility of a different kind of contractual relationship.

"Rochester College can establish a strong presence in the world of online education and distance learning with its

courses and degree offerings; K12 can expand its educational services into the arena of higher education," Shelly said.

He added, "We are already at work to craft the nature of the relationship in terms of academic control over courses and curriculum for RC and market analysis, advertising and the electronic format and delivery of courses through K12."

YORK COLLEGE

YORK, Neb. — York alumnus Caleb



Caleb Hawley

Hawley appeared on the recent season premiere of "American Idol" and received a golden ticket to Hollywood.

Hawley is the grandson of Monroe Hawley, a prominent Church of Christ preacher featured in a 2007 Dialogue interview in *The Christian Chronicle*.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JAN BRADLEY

Smiles in Afghanistan: Ministry sends gifts to war-torn province

Children in Afghanistan's Helmand province — the site of recent battles between U.S. forces and the Taliban — smile with toys sent through the Lamia Afghan Foundation. John and Jan Bradley, members of the Hillsboro Church of Christ in Nashville, Tenn., launched the charity in 2008 to provide clothing and relief for the Afghan people. U.S. Marines delivered the items. For more information, see www.lamia-afghanfoundation.org.

SPORTS

AL MVP shares faith

NORTH RICHLAND HILLS, Texas — Texas Rangers slugger Josh Hamilton, the American League's 2010 Most Valuable Player, and his wife, Katie, highlighted a recent fund-raising gala by Fort Worth Christian School.

The Hamiltons gave their testimony of how God has led them through struggles and triumphs in their personal lives, marriage and, of course, baseball.

"Baseball is third in my life, behind my relationship with God and my family," Josh Hamilton told 1,100 supporters and friends of the school, which is associated with Churches of Christ.



Hamilton

'He knew every kid by name'

DANNY DUGGAN, director of children's home in Texas, dies after basketball injury; remembered for his big heart and 'going the extra mile' for the souls he served.

BY JIM MILLER | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

To 11-year-old Jacob Compton, who has lived at the Cherokee Home for Children in Cherokee, Texas, for about a year, Danny Duggan was like a grandpa.

"My favorite memory is going down a water slide with him at a back-to-school bash. We ran and jumped and splashed in the water," Compton said. "He always cared for us. He was there when we needed to talk to him."

Duggan, the home's executive director, died Jan. 18 after suffering head injuries during a basketball game six days earlier.

The 59-year-old director was playing basketball with students from Texas A&M University's Aggies for Christ when several players collided, knocking Duggan to the floor. The impact fractured Duggan's skull. He never regained consciousness.

After unsuccessful brain surgery at Brackenridge Hospital in Austin, Duggan was taken off life support on Jan. 18 and died three minutes later.

He served the children's home for 22 years as director of development and executive director. The Cherokee Home for Children has been associated with Churches of Christ since its opening in 1958.



Duggan

Students with Aggies for Christ spend a week with the Cherokee children's home every winter, helping with projects on campus and interacting with the children.

"Danny was an inspiration to all of us with Aggies For Christ. He was the epitome of a servant of God and of our Lord Jesus Christ,"

Jordan Waldron wrote on *The Christian Chronicle's* website. "Even though I only knew him for a few short days while we were at Cherokee, I am deeply saddened by his passing."

Nettie Jean Randolph, who has worked at the children's home for 34 years, said Duggan's "big heart" would be missed.

"He knew every kid by name, and he'd go the extra mile for them," Randolph said. "He never asked anyone to do something he wasn't willing to do himself. He was a gentle person."

Diana Ramos, 14, said all of the children loved him.

"The same day he had the accident I had a meeting with him," Ramos said. "The last thing he did was give me a hug and say, 'We all love you.' I'll always remember that."

Delton McGuire, who previously served as the home's director of development, was



PHOTO PROVIDED BY CHEROKEE HOME FOR CHILDREN

The children and staff at the Cherokee Home for Children in Cherokee, Texas, are mourning Danny Duggan, who died Jan. 18.

named acting executive director after Duggan's accident. He said his present focus is to provide the 30 children living on campus with a sense of stability.

"These kids have lived with unstable home situations for much of their lives," McGuire said. "All of us at the home are doing everything we can to show stability."

Randolph said that's what Duggan would want because he always put the children first.

"It would be easy for us to walk away, but Danny would want us to keep on going with our work," she said. "He always had a list of what he wanted us to accomplish in the next 10 years. He'd want us to keep going."

Funeral services were conducted Jan. 22 at the San Saba Church of Christ.

Duggan is survived by his wife, Janiece, four married children and six grandchildren.

EEM's Ukrainian coordinator suffers aneurism, dies at 37

DONETSK, Ukraine — Natasha Tsyvashchenko, Ukrainian operations coordinator for Eastern European Mission, died suddenly Jan 3 after suffering an aneurism. She was 37.

Tsyvashchenko was baptized in 1993. She worked for ministries including a branch of the Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver in Kramatorsk, Ukraine, and Blagovest, a literature and evangelism ministry.

In 2006, she joined the staff of Eastern European Mission, or EEM, a church-supported

ministry that provides Bibles and biblical literature to people of the former Soviet Union in their own languages.

"She was one of the most strategic thinkers I have ever met," said Bartosz Rybinski, EEM's vice president for European operations.

Hundreds of thousands of children in Ukraine have access to the Bible in their schools because of her efforts, Rybinski added.

Tsyvashchenko is survived by her husband, Nickoli Plaksin, distribution and special projects manager for EEM.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Natasha Tsyvashchenko

Two missions events join forces in 2011

FORT WORTH, Texas — The Global Missions Conference, a gathering of church members from around the globe held every three years, is changing dates.

The conference, originally scheduled for July, will instead be Oct. 19-22 at the Legacy Church of Christ in Fort Worth.

The move is designed to incorporate the mission-minded university students who attend the World Mission Workshop, an annual event hosted by colleges and universities associated with Churches of Christ.

In 2010, Harding University hosted the 50th annual World Mission Workshop at Harding

University Tahkodah, a 1,350-acre missions training camp near Floral, Ark.

Coordinators of the World Mission Workshop approached the steering committee of the Global Missions Conference about combining the events and moving the date to October.

"This new date allows university students, faculty and short-term workers — who often are on the mission field during the summer — to attend this year's mission conference," according to a news release from Missions Resource Network, a Bedford, Texas-based ministry that coordinates the conference.

The Global Missions

Conference began in 2005 as a collaborative effort among Churches of Christ.

The conference seeks to help Christians "be more intentional in collaborating with our brothers and sisters worldwide in reconciling people to the Lord, strengthen the central role of the local church in global missions and practice better stewardship," according to the news release.

Scheduled speakers include Jim McGuigan, Fred Asare, Howard Norton, Evertt Huffard, Dan Rodriguez, Randy Harris and Shon Smith.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, see www.globalmissionsconference.org or contact Jay Jarboe at (817) 267-2727 or jay.jarboe@mnet.org.



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Oklahoma Christian University seeks an experienced institutional research professional to serve as its Director of Institutional Research.

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2. Identify and assist the administration by providing information and analytic support for strategic planning and policy making that could impact the university's ability to serve its constituents effectively;
3. Assist the administration and others with collection of data regarding peer institutions and analysis of peer institutions' statistical information;
4. Work with faculty and staff to enhance their understanding of certain demographic trends and student persistence issues;
5. Oversee and prepare institutional reports for both internal and external use and distribution including accreditation reporting, federal reporting, higher education surveys, and to the University's Board of Trustees; and
6. Provide data and analytical support for the assessment efforts of the University.

Qualifications: Preferred applicants will possess at least a master's degree and five years of relevant experience with a strong background in statistical research, research design, qualitative and quantitative research methods, data analysis, assessment and reporting. Preferred applicants will be active members of a church of Christ. Oklahoma Christian University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, handicap, disability or status as a veteran.

Interested applicants should provide their resume, transcripts, references and a writing sample to Dr. Allison Garrett, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs (allison.garrett@oc.edu).

Director of Human Resources

Oklahoma Christian University seeks a leader to manage the operations of the Human Resource office. The position is responsible for managing the administration of the human resources policies, procedures and programs. Specific responsibilities include oversight of the payroll department, employee relations, employee orientation, training, and development, employee safety, welfare, wellness and health, administration of compensation and benefit plans, organizational development, regulatory compliance and employment practices. Preferred applicants will possess at least five years relevant experience in Human Resource Management and strong organization ability, and strong written and oral communication skills. Interested applicants should provide their resume' to Mr. Jeff Bingham, Vice President for Finance (Jeff.bingham@oc.edu).



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JEFF MONTGOMERY

Student from South Africa enjoys icy water of baptism

On a snowy day, Bruce McMullen, right, reacts to the icy water in a fountain at Harding University in Searcy, Ark., as he prepares to be baptized. The student from Cape Town, South Africa, arrived at Harding on a golf scholarship in fall 2008. "He knew Harding was a religious school but really didn't know what *religious* meant," said Dustin Howell, men's golf coach. When a student named Alex Johnson from St. Louis, Mo., passed him in a residence hall, smiled and said "Jesus loves you," McMullen didn't know what to think, but the two became good friends.

As McMullen attended chapel and Bible classes, participated in service projects and sang church songs, he learned about Jesus. On a recent Thursday, McMullen sent a text and invited his friends to witness his baptism. He arranged for hot chocolate and cookies to be provided.

ACU president to faculty, staff: Don't miss chapel on Mondays

ABILENE, Texas — Abilene Christian University President Phil Schubert is making it clear that he expects all faculty and staff members to join students at chapel on Mondays.

"We believe there is significant value in our gathering as community as we begin each work week," Schubert told *The Christian Chronicle*. "We are convinced that a time of worship together will glorify our creator while encouraging each of us on our Christian journey."

In a recent note to faculty and staff, Schubert, provost Jeanine Varner and dean of students Jean-Noel Thompson cited daily chapel as one of the identifying Christian traditions at ACU since 1906.

They noted that this statement is read each fall at a faculty blessing luncheon for freshmen: "As ACU faculty and staff members, we accept the challenge to demonstrate intellectual, Christian and social leadership that can be imitated



GRANT RAMPY

Abilene Christian University students, staff and faculty assemble for Monday chapel.

as we support and participate in chapel and various campus, community and church activities."

Meeting that challenge requires faculty and staff presence at chapel, the note said. Schubert said he expects all staff offices to be closed for chapel from 11 to 11:30 a.m. each Monday except in "a very small number of areas."

The seedy side of the Super Bowl

BY AMANDA JORDAN | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

DALLAS

Super Bowl XLV at the Cowboys' \$1.3 billion Arlington stadium will attract more than sports fans. Along with football fanatics, the game will draw a large number of prostitutes and pimps to the area, a sex trade expert warns.

Katie Pedigo, executive director of New Friends New Life, estimates that 15,000 women and children will be brought to the Metroplex and sexually trafficked. Houses will be rented and transformed into brothels. Teenage girls will be exploited.

New Friends New Life, an organization that helps women leave the sex industry, is ready for the challenge, Pedigo said.

"We can't let it squish anything in us, and we can't be dissuaded from doing anything we can just because it's huge," said Lauri Lanier, a protege advocate with New Friends New Life.

The organization began 13 years ago when a woman in the sex industry came to the Preston Road Church of Christ in Dallas, deciding she wanted to leave the industry.

She became involved with a women's Bible study. Members helped her find a job and gave her a new life, new friends and a new hope.

"These women realized that this was exactly what Jesus did when he was at the well and with the woman to be stoned," said Pedigo, a Preston Road member. "And over and over again, these were the women he chose to serve."

\$32-BILLION-A-YEAR INDUSTRY

Sex trafficking is a \$32-billion-a-year industry, according to the United Nations. New Friends New Life's goal is to bring back to life those treated as property rather than human beings.

A graduate named Shanna said her children are "much happier now with this new mommy rather than the old mommy," according to New Friends New Life's website.

The Preston Road church provides the use of its building to the organization. The Highland Oaks, Prestoncrest, Richardson East and Skillman congregations also partner with the organization.

Some women in the program worship with members of Churches of Christ. Participants' children are immersed into



AMANDA JORDAN

New Friends New Life's Lalla Shackelford, Katie Pedigo, Stephanie Clanton and Lauri Lanier discussed their ministry at a recent Sexploitation Community Awareness event in Dallas.

Preston Road's youth group.

Around 300 women and children completed the program last year.

Women check out the group after seeing stickers advertising the program in strip-club dressing rooms or hearing word-of-mouth promotion from women involved with New Friends New Life.

Some of the women and their families are fully financially supported for at least two years to get the counseling, education and job training they need.

This enables them to "lift up their heads a little bit and start looking toward the future of what might be possible," Lanier said.

"A lot of them for a while will go, 'What's the catch? When's the other shoe going to drop?'" Lanier said. "They can't believe that there are actually people who would care about them as a person with no strings attached or judgment or condemnation or expectation."

Without the financial commitment to meet basic needs, women will go back to doing what they know will feed their kids, program officials said. That includes lives of constantly being lied to or misled.

About 12 percent of the women leave the program without completing it.

"Sometimes it's hard if somebody comes and they decide they don't want to stay," Lanier said.

"I have to keep reminding myself that this is not the end of the story — God's

got a bigger plan. We know the seed's been planted and just pray that God will grow that somehow."

SEX SLAVES IN THE LAND OF THE FREE

Individuals wanting to help New Friends New Life's mission are encouraged to pray for the program and larger social issue involved as well as volunteer or offer financial support.

The group plans to partner with other organizations to combat the influx of women and children shipped in for sex trade during the Super Bowl.

New Friends New Life offers after-care to the victims, supplying counseling, spiritual growth and tools for finding employment outside of the industry.

Other organizations plan to use word-of-mouth advertising and distribute soaps in area motels with the National Human Trafficking Hotline number.

Pedigo said she sees the Super Bowl as a chance to talk openly about the issue and reach women "in our own backyard."

"We just feel like if people will understand, then they start to care, and if they care, they'll get engaged and they'll make a difference," Pedigo said.

"And that's what we want to do. Our ultimate goal is to end sex exploitation in our country. There's just no reason in 2011 in the land of the free, we have sex slaves."

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.newfriendsnewlife.org

NEWSMAKERS

NAMED: Alan D. Cooper, president of NationsUniversity, a Louisiana-based school offering religious studies by distance learning.

Melinda Oldham, minister to special needs individuals and their families, and **Bill Searcy**, marriage and family counselor, Brooks Avenue church, Raleigh, N.C.



Oldham

ANNIVERSARIES: 68th: James L. and Mickie French, Buffalo, Texas. 65th: Bill and Pearl Boyd, Mariposa, Calif. 64th: Eugene and Evelyn Perry, Beamsville, Ontario. 60th: Robert and Ruth Lawrence, York, Neb.

BIRTHDAYS: 99th: Perry B. Cotham, Grand Prairie, Texas. 90th: James L. French, Buffalo, Texas. 87th: Bill Boyd, Mariposa, Calif.

PASSAGES: Michael Ray 'Mikey' Dawidow, 29, Jan. 1, Sopot, Poland, son of longtime missionaries Mike and Molly Lipe Dawidow, member of Sopot church. **Maurice Ethridge**, 76, Dec. 21, Cookeville, Tenn., former minister and an educator at the Preston Road School of Preaching in Dallas, Pepperdine University in Los Angeles and Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville. **Eliazer Ochieng**, 83, Jan. 6, Mariwa, Kenya, elder of the Mariwa church. **Kenneth E. Samuel**, 72, Jan. 21, former director of Childplace

child and family services agency, charter member and elder of the Northside church in Jeffersonville, Ind. **Elise Smith**, 89, Dec. 15, Alamogordo, N.M., actively collected stuffed animals to donate to Angel Tree Ministries and the local emergency room. **Dorothy M. (Ham) Wright**, 90, Dec. 24, Bedford, Texas, worked in Nairobi, Kenya, with Made In The Streets ministry and her daughter, missionary Darlene Coulston.



Ochieng



PHOTO PROVIDED BY CHARLES COULSTON

Dorothy Wright gets hugs from children with Made in the Streets in Kenya.

Employment Opportunities at York College

Business/Accounting Department Chair: A full-time, tenure-track Department Chair and faculty position is currently open in Business. A terminal degree is required, but will consider an applicant nearing completion of the terminal degree. Student advising, service to the college community, and on-going professional scholarship expected. Position requires teaching a variety of upper and lower level business and accounting courses. Candidates must be active members of the church of Christ and committed to the ideals of Christian higher education.

Bible Department - Faculty: A full-time, tenure-track faculty position is open in Bible beginning Fall, 2011. A Ph.D. is preferred, but a master's degree may be considered. Student advising, service to the college community, and on-going professional scholarship expected. Must be able to teach a variety of lower and upper division courses in Biblical Studies and related subjects. 24-30 hours of classroom instruction per academic year is expected. Candidates must be active members of the church of Christ with experience in ministry.

English Department - Faculty: A full-time, tenure-track faculty position is open in English beginning Fall, 2011. A Ph.D. in English or Composition preferred, however an ABD or a MA with teaching experience could be considered. Position requires teaching Freshman Composition and Developmental Writing, as well as qualifications to teach upper-division subjects. Student advising, service to the institution, and on-going professional scholarship expected. All candidates must be active members of the church of Christ and committed to the ideals of Christian higher education.

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Feb. 6-10 West Coast Preachers and Leaders Forum. 48th annual. North Las Vegas church, Las Vegas. Contact (702) 648-8283 or coconmlk@earthlink.net.

Feb. 6-11 Freed-Hardeman University Bible Lectureship. "Proclamation and Promise: Major Themes in the Minor Prophets." Freed-Hardeman University, Henderson, Tenn. Contact www.fhu.edu.

Feb. 18-19 Southeastern Regional Jail/Prison Workshop. University church, Montgomery, Ala. Contact www.alabama-network.org or (334) 386-7320.

Feb. 18-20 Winterfest Gatlinburg. "Worthy. Worship is 31556926." Gatlinburg, Tenn. Contact www.winterfest.org.

Feb. 25-26 Urban Ministry Conference. "24 Years and Counting: What We Have Done Right and What We Did Wrong." Impact Houston church, Houston. Contact (713) 864-5667 or dwilliams@impacthouston.org.

Feb. 25-26 Affirming the Faith Seminar. "To Him be the Glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus!" North MacArthur church, Oklahoma City. Contact www.affirmingthefaihtok.com.

Feb. 26 Great Southwest Bible Bowl. 27th annual. Chisholm Trail church, Duncan, Okla. Contact ctduncan@swbell.net or (580) 255-7038.

March 12 New England Church Growth Conference. Manchester, Conn. church. Contact (203) 265-2787, info@newenglandcgc.org or www.manchesterchurchofchrist.org.

March 23 - 26 The Tulsa Workshop. "Let the Chains Fall Away." Contact www.tulsaworkshop.org or workshop@memorialdrive.org.

March 24-26 National Trustee Conference. Glen Eyrie Conference Center, Colorado Springs, Colo. Contact (405) 445-3722.

March 29 - April 2 67th Annual National Lectureship. "God's Today Truth: Ancient, but not Antiquated." Hotel Pennsylvania, New York. Contact www.67anl-coc.org.

March 31 - April 3 Oklahoma City School of Biblical Studies Lectures. Barnes church, Oklahoma City. Contact Frank Williams at frankwilliams@okcsbs.com or (405) 736-1001.

April 3-6 Ohio Valley University Lectureship Series. "Lessons of Jesus." Ohio Valley University, Vienna, W.Va. Contact www.ovu.edu/lectureship.

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

COMPLETE CALENDAR at www.christianchronicle.org

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

There have been cries for academic freedom in American higher education for several decades. The prevailing sense is that public colleges and universities provide the environment that promotes freedom of expression and thought. For many issues that may be true. But as we become an increasingly secular society, the irony is that conversations about God and faith are increasingly unwelcome in such institutions. There seems to be the freedom to discuss anything — except a Christian perspective of the world.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



*L. Randolph Lowry
President, Lipscomb University*

Randy

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



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EDITORIAL

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet

With this issue of *The Christian Chronicle*, we are launching a new series focused on the Bible.

As you know, we are a newspaper, not a teaching or doctrinal publication. So our role is to report news that informs, inspires and unites Churches of Christ. In keeping with that mission, this series will examine key Bible-related trends with a goal of encouraging Christians to devote themselves to the study of the Scriptures.

Among the elements that we hope to include in this series:

• **The blessings of daily Bible reading:** We pray you were as inspired as we were by this month's story of 9-year-old Davis Burton and the lessons he learned reading the entire Bible during 2010.

• **The King James Bible:** 2011 marks the 400th anniversary of this remarkably important English translation. We'll reflect on that history and report on which versions of the Bible

are most popular today.

• **Biblical illiteracy:** We in Churches of Christ used to be known as a people who knew The Word. Is that still the case? We'll examine this question and explore possible solutions.

• **Young people and the Bible:** We'll interview young people involved with Lads to Leaders and Leadership

Training for Christ about their Bible studies and check in on a few Bible Bowl participants.

• **Bible scholars:** Are the number of Bible majors up or down in our Christian colleges, universities and preaching schools? What trends are we seeing, and what do these trends mean for the church?

We should stress that these elements of our series constitute a rough working outline. Plans can develop and change — and often do — as we delve deeper into our reporting.

In fact, we'd love feedback from *Chronicle* readers on other angles or stories to pursue as part of this series. You can reach us via the contact information in the staff box below.

In the meantime, we want to make a special challenge to all Christians:

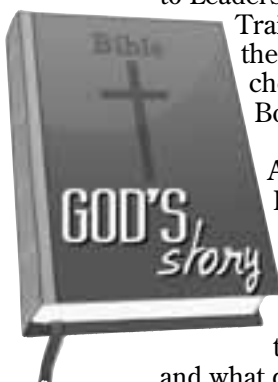
- Start right now to read the Bible daily, if you aren't already.
- Determine to improve your Bible knowledge this year.
- Plan meaningful textual studies for teens and adults in your church.
- Use eBibleStudy.org or a similar website as a resource for solid textual studies.

Accept this challenge, and you will be blessed beyond measure.

The Happy Church of Christ in Texas used to average Sunday attendance of about 60. In the last 15 years, that number has jumped to about 90 — a 50 percent increase. That growth coincides with the church publishing daily Bible reading schedules in the bulletin, minister Rick Bloodworth said.

"I know of no program that the church has attempted anywhere in the world that has proven as effective as the determination of individual Christians to read their Bibles every day," he said. Amen, brother.

Of all the vital programs and ministries of the church, none can match the value of members taking time daily to devour "God's story."



Ever-Laughing Life

by Jonny Hawkins



"Daddy, you said the Word of God is living and breathing. Could you check under my bed?"

TO OUR READERS

Wanted: Your church's directory

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

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

Managing Editor: **Bobby Ross Jr.**
National, Partners news: bobby.ross@christianchronicle.org

Assistant Managing Editor: **Erik Tryggstad**
International news, features: erik@christianchronicle.org

Advertising Director: **Tamie Ross**
tamie.ross@christianchronicle.org

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

Reviews Editor: **Harold Shank**

harold.shank@christianchronicle.org

Circulation Manager: **Lynda Sheehan**

lynda.sheehan@christianchronicle.org

Associate Editor: **Joy McMillon**

joy.mcmillon@christianchronicle.org

Administrative Assistant: **Tonda Stafford**

tonda.stafford@christianchronicle.org

Administrative Assistant: **Virginia Ware**

virginia.ware@christianchronicle.org

Correspondent: **Ted Parks**

TO SUBSCRIBE:

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: letters@christianchronicle.org

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

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Why read the Bible every day? God's Word is spiritual manna

Somebody ought to put the Bible in the right order," I remember my father saying to me one day when I was just a teenager.

When he died suddenly at far too young an age, I decided to try my hand at producing such a Bible. A chronological Bible. A readable Bible. A Bible divided into 365 daily readings.

I myself had never read the Bible from cover to cover, nor consistently on a daily basis.

But having daily sections to read seemed sensible, and, looking back, I've never regretted that decision. Nor, it seems, have the hundreds of readers who have written me, thanking me for prompting them to read the inspired text day by day.

As a Christian author, I find that my Bible reading is usually done in large chunks as I dive into one topic or another. No concordances for me, thank you very much (or, more currently, word searches). I don't want to miss any pertinent passage that might be lost by simply looking up a single word or phrase.

So whenever I launch into writing a book, I break out a new copy of "The Daily Bible" and read it from cover to cover with the theme of my book in mind. Every verse having any bearing on my theme gets underlined.

When all the pieces of the puzzle are finally on the table, I'm ready to draw my conclusions, formulate a text-prompted approach and get down to the actual writing.

No matter how many times I have

read through the Bible this way (it takes about a week), I never tire of reading the Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation.

Views



F. LaGard Smith

When my publisher asked me to write "The Daily Bible Devotional" as a companion volume, I had no idea what a blessing the year ahead would be: Slowing down to a crawl. Doing the daily readings so as to write something of encouragement or admonition bubbling up from each day's text.

Even then, there was a temptation to race ahead, exploring more than just one day's reading at a time. (Readers tell me they struggle with the same temptation.)

But in today's fast-paced world, faithfully reading the Bible day in and day out is a daunting challenge for many.

The sheer discipline of daily reading seems as impossible to maintain as a New Year's resolution for daily exercise. Rare are they who can keep their commitment to read even a chapter a day (and rarer still anyone capable of memorizing that chapter, as did C.S. Lewis).

So why read the Bible each and every day?

Think of it this way: Who among us would want to miss even a single day of eating?

Yet God's Word is our spiritual manna sent down from heaven.

And who would dare go a day without a bath or shower? Yet it's the Word (both written and incarnate) that cleanses the dross of our evil hearts.

Have you looked at yourself in the mirror at least once today? Why should we not take daily inventory of our souls as well as our bodies?

Daily Scripture reading nourishes, purifies and keeps us honest.

Another good reason to open the Book at some point during each new day is an interesting twist on the rule of Bible study that rightly insists on "context, context, context."

No matter what kind of day you are having, the Bible addresses the larger context of your life.

Are things not going quite as you had planned?

In the larger frame of things eternal (as almost any daily reading will remind us), the big picture is going precisely as God has planned.

Are you happy as a clam even though you've turned your back on God or simply ignored him?

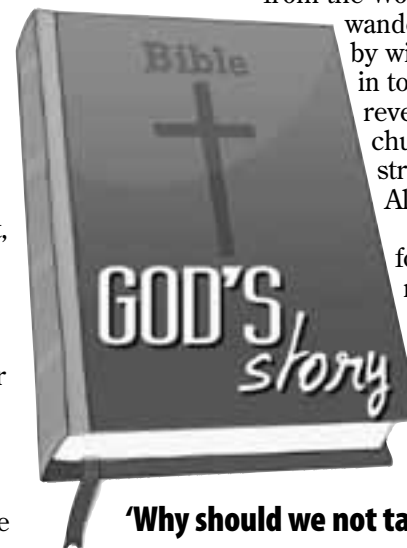
As almost any passage will confirm, there is no true happiness when God is left out of the equation. In order to maintain balance in our lives from one day to the next, we need continual reminders of context, context, context.

Finally, there is the spiritual application of the old saying, "Absence makes the heart grow fonder," which some wag cleverly changed to, "Absence makes the heart go wander!"

Invariably, prolonged absence from the Word results in a heart that wanders. Let enough days go by without personally staying in touch with God's divine revelation (not just "going to church") and soon we'll be strangers in a foreign land. Alone. Confused. Lost.

Yes, of course, it's possible for us to miss a day's reading here and there and still remain true to what we believe. (Indeed, there was a time when faithful believers didn't have the opportunity to read even a single word from Holy Writ.) But what a colossal waste of God's love, encouragement, warning and wisdom!

Might this be a good day to get ourselves back into the Word? And tomorrow? And the day after?



'Why should we not take daily inventory of our souls as well as our bodies? Daily scripture reading nourishes, purifies and keeps us honest'

F. LaGARD SMITH is the compiler of "The Daily Bible" and author of more than 25 books. As special assistant to the president of the C.S. Lewis Foundation, Smith is actively involved in the establishment of C.S. Lewis College in Northfield, Mass. Contact Smith.LaGard@gmail.com.

VOICES

What are some of the challenges or issues that you face as a youth minister?

Asked by managing editor Bobby Ross Jr. at the National Conference on Youth Ministries in Colorado Springs, Colo.



The summers are so different because of the mission trips and so many extra activities. ... It's very different during the school year. ... There's a lot of programming, getting the classes ready and finding teachers. It's been challenging, but I have great parents at the church where I work, which has been a real blessing.

Barrie Mitchell | Little Rock, Ark.



Originally, when I first started, it was mostly about me and what I could do to make the kids do better. But as I have had internships, as I have gone through classes and learned more, I realize it can't just be about me. It can't just be about what I think the kids need. It needs to be a real group-oriented thing.

Ulyses Norman | Midwest City, Okla.



I live in one of the biggest cities by land mass in the country. ... (The distance to the church building) can be up to 20, 25 miles or even further for some families. So that makes it a challenge ... to get everybody there on certain nights or there for certain programs. But overall, our kids just love being together.

Charlie Sells | Jacksonville, Fla.



There's a lot of issues with girl fights and drama, things like that. ... Girls are going to fight and argue with each other, but some of them deal with modesty and how boys treat them, how they treat boys, and I like to be a good example to that. ... I want the girls to see that they need to respect boys, and they'll respect you back. And you should respect yourself, first off.

Kelsey Kelly | Tulsa, Okla.

Book presents biblical mandate for diversity

BY BOB CARPENTER AND HAROLD SHANK
THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

As the U.S. and Europe become more ethnically diverse, the number of multi-ethnic churches increases. Are such churches simply a natural consequence of shifting demographic trends, or do they represent a strategic approach that is being carried out in response to those trends?

In **"Ethnic Blends,"** Mark DeYmaz and Harry Li forcefully argue that emulating noteworthy first-century examples of unified, multi-ethnic congregations is indispensable to the enterprise of restoring the New Testament church.

For the authors, multi-ethnic congregations are mandated

by Jesus' prayer for unity in John 17 and by the call for unity in Ephesians. The church at Antioch of Syria (Acts 13:1-3) exemplifies the "biblical mandate" to establish genuinely multi-ethnic congregations.

"Ethnic Blends" serves as a counterpoint to the church growth philosophy of the "homogenous unit principle" — the widely accepted view that congregations grow fastest when all the people belong to the same demographic groups.

DeYmaz and Li object to the homogeneous unit principle because it "had the unintended consequence of justifying the segregation of local congregations along ethnic and economic lines."

The authors hold that a

congregation is multi-ethnic if no single ethnic group makes up more than 80 percent of the whole. Based on that percentage, few Churches of Christ would qualify as multi-ethnic. Indeed, few churches of any kind in the U.S. meet that standard.

DeYmaz and Li devote most of the book to examining seven obstacles to creating and sustaining a multi-ethnic congregation. Here the authors make use of Scripture passages and anecdotes to identify specific barriers and problems in transitioning local congregations into more diverse groups. They draw on their own extensive experience as staff members of the Mosaic Church of Central Arkansas, an ethnically and economically diverse congrega-

tion planted in Little Rock in 2001.

DeYmaz and Li advocate spiritual — not racial — reconciliation. They urge accommodation (we all become like Christ) rather than assimilation (everybody becomes like us).

While such a goal requires

substantial effort on the part of individual members and distinct subgroupings, they insist that a flourishing blended church will have a powerful witness to a cynical society.

Blended churches are not a cure-all, nor do all multi-ethnic churches look the same, although they note that most blended congregations tend to be in urban, often inner-city, locations.

Readers will likely be disappointed by the lack of



Mark DeYmaz and Harry Li. **Ethnic Blends: Mixing Diversity into Your Local Church.** Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2010. 230 pages. \$18.99.

clarity regarding certain critical issues in building a multi-ethnic church. For example, the book presents no real insights regarding overcoming the theological barriers encountered in blended churches. Moreover, the Mosaic Church's approach to the critical issue of illegal immigrants may be summed up as "don't ask, don't tell."

While the book convincingly presents biblical incentives for accepting the challenge of ethnic blending (there's an outstanding treatment of Ephesians in chapter eight), it is less successful in providing guidelines for actually putting it into practice.

Brief sidebar contributions written by leaders of other multi-ethnic congregations are interspersed throughout the book but add little practical value.

Reading "Ethnic Blends" can be discouraging. Even when the unity of a multi-cultural congregation becomes a goal, the challenges are formidable.

Yet the authors may protest too much. They offer recom-

mendations based on their own experiences. Readers will not find references to the principles of cross-cultural anthropology that have been long instrumental in training missionaries, or to the fundamentals of conflict resolution widely used by businesses and nonprofits alike, or to cultural studies that international firms and agencies have employed effectively.

Sports teams, multinational corporations and educational institutions that have successfully blended ethnic groups can inform American congregations that lag well behind them when it comes to ethnic blending. Effectively applying existing research in the areas mentioned above could help close the gap.

This book is a reminder of the prevailing consumer orientation of American churches. Almost every barrier the authors encounter in their multicultural congregation has "I want my own way" written all over it. Early Christianity expanded to a considerable degree because of self-sacrificing discipleship. One looks in vain for a "take up your cross" in this book.

While DeYmaz and Li deserve our admiration for their work in the multi-ethnic trenches, at the same time the book reminds us of an overall dearth of discipleship in contemporary Christianity.

We are grateful for this book. It will expand the horizons of church leaders who see only one ethnic group in the pews on Sunday. It will tell us *why* we must do better, but not all that much about *how*.

BOB CARPENTER is professor of missions at Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City. **HAROLD SHANK** is professor of Old Testament at Oklahoma Christian and reviews editor for *The Christian Chronicle*. Both worship with the Memorial Road Church of Christ in Edmond, Okla.

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

PREACHING

David Bland and David Flee, eds. **Preaching Character, Reclaiming Wisdom's Paradigmatic Imagination for Transformation.**

Abilene, Texas: ACU Press, 2010. 252 pages. \$22.95.



Bland and Flee continue their series of preaching guides with a focus on wisdom literature. The 20 participants in the 2009 Lipscomb University Conference on Preaching provide homiletical introductions to three sermons from each of the five wisdom books (including James).

BIBLE STUDY

Phillip Eichman. **Have You Seen Jesus? A Study of the Life of Jesus from the Gospel of Mark.**

Denver: Outskirts Press, 2010. 76 pages. \$8.95.



A former teacher at Crowley's Ridge College in Arkansas, Eichman offers 13 chapters on the Gospel of Mark, including brief descriptions of the text and discussion questions. The book provides a guided tour of the Gospel suitable for individual study or discussion groups.

FICTION

Sandi Rog. **The Master's Wall.**

Chillicothe, Ohio: DeWard Publishing Company, 2010. 291 pages. \$12.99.



Set in ancient Rome and filled with gladiator scenes, coming-of-age stories and romance, this historical novel follows the life of a Hebrew slave named David.



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Take time to absorb the awe-inspiring, private praise of God found in Scripture

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. ... When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon, the stars which you have set in place, What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?" (Psalm 8)

These words of the warrior king and poet begin a hymn of praise and adoration for God, his works and his name. David, like many of the powerful teachers and prophets of the Old Testament, never tires of praising God.

The psalms of David that praise the nature of God are familiar to most of us. They have become hymns sung regularly in congregational worship. Many are read regularly in assemblies.

When I reflect on the power of praising God, I think that most of us rely too much on public worship for the practice of praise. In the experience of spiritually-minded people in the past, private praise brought them closer to their own spirits and closer to God. When we are alone and contemplate the power, glory, goodness and vastness of our God, we are more easily awed by his incomprehensible wisdom and creativity, making the physical universe and crafting the human soul in his likeness.

Finding time for personal, reflective praise of God challenges this busy-bound generation, and so making time requires intention and resolution. Yet the reward will be a closer relationship with God and spiritual renewal through the working of God's spirit in your life.

Isaiah reports a life-changing view: *"I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.'"*

Even with an active and vivid imagination, I have a hard time envisioning what Isaiah saw. I am distracted by the image of the six-winged seraphs and what their covering their faces and feet may mean.

But the "holy, holy, holy" of the seraphs calls my attention to the Lord, high and exalted, with a robe filling the temple. Reading about Isaiah and the

scene humbles me in the presence of God's majesty and immensity. Isaiah senses in the scene his unworthiness and need for God's grace. Such is the experience whenever we sincerely praise and honor our Father and creator.

Insight



Bailey McBride

An equally powerful scene occurs in the Revelation when John sees the exalted Christ. *"His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all his brilliance."*

Through the comparisons of the features to embellished elements of nature, we sense the power and majesty of the figure. John is so overwhelmed that he falls as though dead.

The image of the figure challenges us to awe similar to that of John, and as we continue to see scenes from heaven, we are inspired to refocus our reverence for God. God sits on a throne on what looks like a sea of glass. Twenty-four elders sit on thrones around God's throne, and seraphs like those Isaiah saw are around God, testifying to his holiness.

It is a well-accepted principle that we tend to become like those we admire.

When we praise, worship, adore, acknowledge and honor the characteristics of God, we begin the process of making his nature and qualities what we seek to develop in ourselves. Praise is beneficial as we seek to honor God and desire to become the person he wants us to be.

I personally am offering Paul's prayer in Philippians 1: *"And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ — to the glory and praise of God."*

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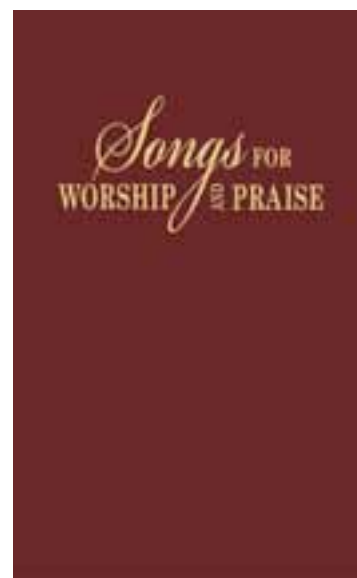
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