



TRENDS IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Rising enrollments fueled by graduates

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

SEARCY, Ark. — In a tough job market, Ashton Reely decided to give herself an edge.

After earning a bachelor's degree in journalism, Reely stayed at Harding University to pursue a master of business administration degree.



Reely

While her graduate work did not require Bible classes or daily chapel attendance, the faith-based nature of Harding still played a significant role, she said.

"Business ethics were taught with a foundation in Christ's teachings, and servant leadership in the workplace was emphasized," said Reely, 24, who grew up in the Seventh and Mueller Church of Christ in Paragould, Ark.

A quarter-century ago, Harding drew primarily undergraduate students to its small-town campus about 45 miles

northeast of Little Rock.

In the past 25 years, though, graduate programs have helped fuel hefty enrollment increases at Harding, Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn., and a number of other Christian universities, a survey by *The Christian Chronicle* found.

"Part of it is the need. The market has indicated that there's a need for those programs," said Jim Carr, Harding's executive vice president, interviewed in the university's American Heritage Center, an educational and dining facility that has undergone millions of dollars in renovations to keep up with growth. "But secondly, we're almost at current capacity at the undergraduate level."

In 1985, few higher-education institutions associated with Churches of Christ awarded master's degrees, much less doctorates.

Notable exceptions included Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif., and Abilene Christian University in Texas.

See **GRADUATES**, Page 12



ELLIOT JONES

In Michigan, students put the semester on ice

Blaze Leszczynski and David Ciciora, students at Rochester College in Michigan, take a break from finals week and play hockey on frozen Lake Norcentra. The Rochester Hills, Mich., college is associated with Churches of Christ.

For trailer park ministry, God's love is double-wide

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

GEORGETOWN, Texas — Jonathan Holland knew he wanted to do mission work.

"But I didn't realize it was going to be here in Georgetown and that I was going to live in my house and not have to run around the backwoods in a loincloth," he says with a laugh.

Instead, he wears jeans and a blue knit shirt as he works in a converted double-wide trailer known as the Riverside Resource Center, launched as an outreach of the Georgetown Church of Christ.

Holland's mission field is a trailer park. "Adios! Hasta luego! Be nice!" the former children's minister for the

See **COMMUNITY CENTER**, Page 15



Holland



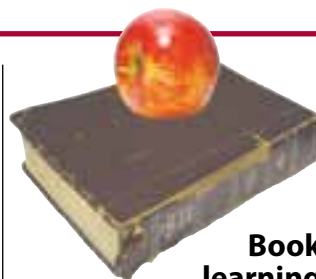
Razorback redemption

The faith of Arkansas football standout D.J. Williams. **18**



Spills and thrills

Motocross champion uses his talents for God's glory. **17**



Book learning

Steven Yeakley on the vital role of education ministry in churches. **23**

INDEX

CALENDAR.....	29
CURRENTS.....	17
INSIGHT.....	34
INTERNATIONAL.....	9
NATIONAL.....	5
LETTERS.....	31
OPINION.....	30
PARTNERS.....	25
PEOPLE.....	28
REVIEWS.....	32

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Word of our efforts has spread and others are already asking for Bibles for their schools. As such, we are in discussion with additional regions to place Bibles and Biblical literature in their public schools. The people of Ukraine, Russia and

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Secularized Canada faces challenges

Over roasted chicken at Swiss Chalet, a popular Canadian eatery, a group of young Christians and I discussed taking the church outside its comfortable, air-conditioned walls.

Inside Story



Bobby Ross Jr.

The tasty lunch — and meaty discussion — occurred during a 2009 reporting trip that I made to the Toronto area.

One of the young Christians gathered around the table was Nathan Pickard, preaching minister of the Newmarket Church of Christ, north of Toronto.

Pickard talked about how his congregation's mindset had changed.

"When I went there five years ago, it was very much a church where we kind of sat there and said, 'Let the world come to us,'" he said.

But one day at Tim Hortons — Canada's version of Starbucks, only with better doughnuts — it struck the 20-something minister that no one knew his name or anything about the church.

The church was *in* the neighborhood but not *engaged* with it. Pickard and other church members set out to change that.

I thought about Pickard — and our other precious brothers and sisters north of the 49th parallel — when I read a recent series on Canada's rapid march to secularization.

The Globe and Mail, a leading national newspaper, painted a stark portrait of declining

See CANADA, Page 4



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY GRANBURY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Leta Andrews speaks after setting the national record for wins by a high school basketball coach.

A Lady Pirate's life

TEXAS CHURCH MEMBER is the winningest basketball coach in U.S. history.

GRANBURY, Texas

When the final seconds ticked off the scoreboard, the Granbury Pirates lifted their coach, Leta Andrews, in celebration and carried her to midcourt.

Though the team's 62-43 win over Midlothian was impressive, the reason for the celebration was another number — 1,334 career victories for Andrews.

The coach already held the record for most high school girls coaching wins in the nation, according to the National Federation of State High School Associations.

With her 1,334th win, Andrews — a member of the Granbury Church of Christ — passed the overall mark for most high school wins set by boys coach Robert Hughes in nearby Fort Worth.

After the game, Andrews told the cheering crowd that she has "the best job of anybody in the world," the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* reported. Andrews has coached basketball for nearly 50 years and once played for the Lady Pirates.

"Being a Lady Pirate myself, I appreciate the town and the people," she said.

Andrews and her husband, David, are dedicated members of the Granbury church, minister John Knox told *The Christian Chronicle*.

"Leta is an amazing Christian lady, whom we hold in very high esteem," Knox said.

Andrews, 72, is known as a no-nonsense coach who makes her players say "yes, ma'am" and "no, ma'am" and scolds them if she thinks they're too distracted with boyfriends, *The Associated Press* reported.

And after each game, she washes the team's uniforms.



Leta Andrews and her team stand in front of a chart counting down their victories.

In flood-ravaged Panama, churches struggle to give aid

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Record rainfall in the Central American nation of Panama claimed at least 10 lives, destroyed more than 2,500 homes and ruined crops, according to news reports.

Among the hardest-hit regions is Darien, an impoverished province in eastern Panama that borders Colombia. Floodwaters completely submerged villages, said Jose Calderon, minister for a Church of Christ in Sanson, a town in Darien.

Lisa Carter and other church members are overseeing food distribution in the eastern jungles of Darien, said Kim Rowell of Panamis, a church-supported nonprofit. The church members had to travel to some of the affected areas by pirogue — 40-foot long, dug-out canoes, Rowell said.

Four church members with Panama Missions, a ministry of the Childersberg Church of Christ in Alabama, were in Darien distributing gift boxes to children through the ministry's annual Operation Christmas Joy program.

"Instead of smiling faces of eager children, we found ... a desperate situation," said Larry Brady, the ministry's founder and director. "In fact, it was the worst situation I have experienced in my 26 years in Panama."

The team went to the nearest town and bought food and water for about 70 families. Heavy rains followed the church members to Torti, just west of Darien. The team was trapped in Torti as the floodwaters rose.

"As people affected by the flooding poured into Torti, we worked with the local church to provide as much water, food and clothing as we could," Brady said.

The Panamanian government evacuated the church members and some Peace Corps workers by boat, returning them to the capital, Panama City. Brady plans to return to Panama with more aid.



Calderon



Brady

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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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CANADA: Religion seen as illogical, out of touch

FROM PAGE 3

religiosity by Canadians, particularly young people.

"Religious scholars see perhaps the majority of today's young Canadian adults as disappearing down a black hole of spiritual illiteracy from which institutionalized religion cannot retrieve them," one article said. "The cause is also a product of young adults increasingly seeing organized religion as illogical and out of touch with reality."

Another report noted: "Only the persistence of religious traditions among immigrants, whose religiosity has increased slightly over the past 25 years, has slowed the march away from our places of worship."

Of course, the sobering assessment came as no surprise to church leaders.

"I fear that we are more and more speaking a language that isn't understood by the world around us," said Art Ford, preacher for the Fennell Avenue Church of Christ in Hamilton, Ontario, southwest of Toronto.

A nation of 34 million people, Canada has 150 Churches of Christ.

Combined membership totals only about 7,000.

Yet — in a special package of reports on Canadian churches in 2009 and the first part of 2010 — *The Christian Chronicle* found glimmers of hope.

The Calgary Church of Christ in Alberta serves the poor and downtrodden in an ethnically diverse boomtown.

The Gravelbourg Church of Christ in Saskatchewan thrives in a small prairie town and draws more than 100 children to its Vacation Bible School.

On one side of Canada, Greg and Heather Whitfield work with a Cambridge, Ontario, church that meets in a one-time grocery store where teenagers play pool and video games. On the other side, Aaron and Amy Etheridge

worship with a small group in a house church in Vancouver, British Columbia.

In western Canada, Christians representing 32 nationalities worship at the Strathmore Boulevard Church of Christ in Toronto. In eastern Canada, the South Burnaby Church of Christ in Vancouver mixes immigrants from Asia, refugees from Africa and even a few families from Albania.

In fact, Canada's rising skepticism of religious followers of any kind may be just what the church needs, Jason Bandura suggested in a 2010 Dialogue interview with *Chronicle* Editor Lynn McMillon.

"Our current 'cold-to-religion' context forces us to be authentically God's children," said Bandura, minister of the Glen Elm Church of Christ in Regina, Saskatchewan. "If we do so, our witness could be powerful. If we do otherwise, we'll simply confirm what so many already believe about religion. I see that as a grand opportunity."

Earlier, I mentioned Pickard and the Newmarket church.

Here's the rest of the story: They got to know people — by name — at the coffee shop. They created a community garden where senior citizens who live in nearby condominiums can grow tomatoes, carrots, lettuce and other vegetables. They started feeding children from a poor, high-crime community close to the church.

"The shift of going to the people has changed us," Pickard said.

Don't misunderstand him: Developing relationships with lost people remains a struggle. A big one. So does moving an inward-focused church outward.

But good things are happening. God is working in lives. In a society where Christianity has been declared all but dead, that's a blessing indeed.

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



Read the full, archived series from Canada and see a previous report from Quebec at
www.christianchronicle.org.

DELAWARE

NEWARK — The Newark Church of Christ is moving forward after the closing of Aletheia Christian School and Child Care, which fell victim to rising costs and declining enrollment, leaders said. The church and the school, which closed in June 2010, shared a building for 36 years.

“We are making a good recovery,” minister Steve Mahoney said. “After numerous yard sales and filled Dumpsters, the church building is pretty much cleaned out.”

KANSAS

WICHITA — Friends of Our Troops, a national military pen-pal campaign, recognized the West Douglas Church of Christ for sending more letters of love and encouragement to troops than any other church in Kansas.

Church member Phyllis Sadler coordinates the effort.

“Like a shaft in the ebony darkness, the letters are sent directly to the hearts of our troops,” minister and elder Gordon Rogers wrote in a bulletin article. “They realize there are many who pray for them and wish them God’s blessings.”

NORTH CAROLINA

CARY — Forty years ago, five families met for church services in a small building. A year later, the Raleigh-area congregation expanded to a 200-seat meeting place.

Now, the Cary Church of Christ fills a 600-seat auditorium, *The Cary News* reported. More than 180 families gathered for a recent day-long celebration of the church’s humble beginnings and its anniversary.

NORTH DAKOTA

DICKINSON — The Dickinson Church of Christ building was damaged after a burglar broke in and tried to burn evidence of his crime, the *Dickinson Press* reported.

The fire burned songbooks, Bibles and chairs. Church members planned to meet in preacher Kenneth Anderson’s home next door until repairs could be made.

“We believe the church is the people,” said Patricia Anderson, the minister’s wife. “This is just a building. ... You’re not going to burn down the people.”

OKLAHOMA

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Northeast Church of Christ and its development subsidiary, Central Urban Development Inc., recently celebrated the construction of a 32-unit single-family affordable housing development. Financing for the development includes public funding.



PHOTOS BY RICHARD CHAMBERS

Church’s volunteer pit crew serves widows, single women

Earl Blackwell, above, checks a vehicle’s oil level as part of the “Odd Job Squad” auto inspection ministry of the Waterview Church of Christ in Richardson, Texas. In the inset photo are volunteer Joe Johnson, left, and ministry coordinator Lester Balcom. “It was started when a widow stated that she could not find a place to have her tires aired up,” Balcom said. “From that statement, a group of men got together and decided to start an auto inspection in May 2002 for all widows and women whose husbands are unable to check their cars and single women.” Nearly a dozen men help with the “pit crew checklist” inspections, which occur on the first Saturday of every other month.



Central Urban Development’s “ministry is paramount to the fulfillment of the mission of the Northeast congregation,” senior minister Arnelious Crenshaw Jr. said. “That mission is ‘to enhance evangelistic opportunities through community sensitivity and holistic ministry.’

“Our God-given vision is to develop land that will provide salt-and-light ministry opportunities to the people of the community in which we worship and serve.”

TENNESSEE

MURFREESBORO — Two of the three structures on the East Main Street Church of Christ property received recognition as historic structures by the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities.

“The church building was built in 1900 at a cost of \$20,000,” church member Sue Weller told *The Daily News Journal*. “It

used to have a bell tower in it. ... When they took the bell tower down, they added the stairs.”

The church itself dates back to 1811, Weller said. The first building was constructed in 1833. Lytle Creek served as the church’s baptistery.

James A. Garfield, who later was the 20th president of the United States, preached in the original East Main Street church building in 1863, the newspaper reported.

WHITES CREEK — Christians across the nation prayed for Caleb Brown, a 2-year-old struck by a basketball-size falling rock at Fall Creek Falls park in Tennessee.

Caleb’s father, Tim Brown, is a graduate of Lipscomb University in Nashville and preaches for the Whites Creek Church of Christ.

SPOTLIGHT

PHOTO PROVIDED BY RICHARD MAY

Richard May and wife JeannaLynn endeavor to improve marriages through WGHJ (What God Has Joined) Ministries, based in Yukon, Okla.

Does marriage still matter?

YUKON, Okla. — *Is marriage becoming obsolete?*

The Associated Press asked that question recently, reporting that one in three American children live with a parent who is divorced, separated or never-married. More people accept the view that weddings bells aren’t needed to have a family, according to a Pew Research Center study.

“Our culture is becoming more and more skeptical of marriage and convinced that cohabitation is a healthy alternative,” said Richard May, former pulpit minister of the South Yukon Church of Christ.

To change that, May said, “God’s people must lead the way.” He and his wife, JeannaLynn, have launched WGHJ (What God Has Joined) Ministries with a focus on coaching couples and improving marriages of leaders in ministry and missionary work. For more information, see www.wghjministries.com.

Caleb underwent therapy at Scottish Rite Children’s Rehabilitation Hospital in Atlanta before returning home. He is working on recovering his vision and motor skills. The family posts updates on Caleb’s progress at helpcaleb.com.

VIRGINIA

RICHMOND — Warmth. Restrooms. Hot cocoa. Cool hospitality. These were some of the amenities that the West Broad Church of Christ provided to spectators during the recent Dominion Christmas Parade, which passed by the church building.

The church welcomed 79 spectators in a two-hour period, according to a note on its website. “We were privileged to enjoy pleasant conversations and bright, appreciative smiles,” the note said. “A parade, people, goodwill and holiday cheer — is that a winning combination or what?”



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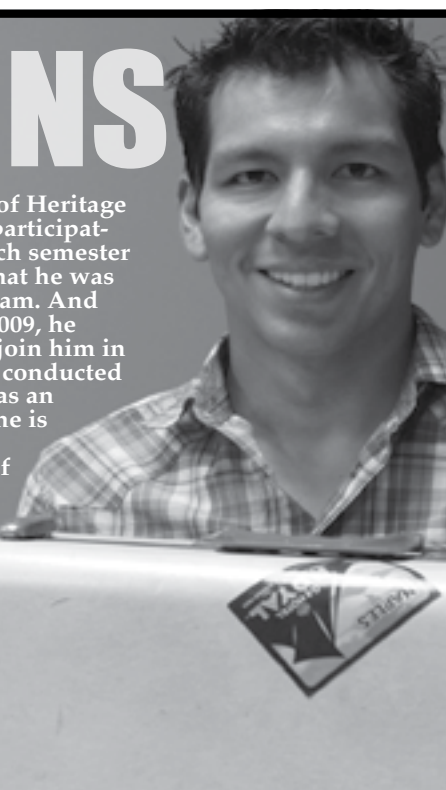
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MISSIONS

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



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HERITAGE
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Churches in Texas, Missouri mourn two soldiers killed in Afghanistan

FROM STAFF REPORTS | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Grieving members of Churches of Christ paid tribute to two soldiers killed in Afghanistan.

Family and friends came together at Southern Hills Church of Christ in Dallas to remember the life of Army Pfc. Devon Harris, 24, who was killed Nov. 27 by a rocket-propelled grenade.

Harris played the violin and loved his church; that's the way family and friends remember him, WFAA-TV reported.



Harris

Southwestern Christian College in Terrell, Texas, has dedicated a scholarship to honor Harris, who wanted to be a history teacher. "He wanted to teach about great men in history — like Martin Luther King Jr. and Medgar Evers — who made a difference and also gave their lives for freedom," Southern Hills member Joyce Cathey told the television station. "And like those men, he too died a hero."

Army Spc. Justin E. Culbreth, 26, the son of Missouri church members, was killed Nov. 17 when insurgents attacked his unit with improvised explosives.

Culbreth grew up in the Westlake Church of Christ in Wentzville, Mo. He was the son of Walter and Cheryl Culbreth. Walter Culbreth serves as a church deacon.

"He grew up with us and was a very fine young man — a Christian," Westlake evangelist Dempsey Collins said.

Collins and fellow evangelist Pat Kendall conducted Culbreth's memorial service at Fort Campbell, Ky. His parents found out about their son's death on a Wednesday and attended the church's midweek assembly that night, as usual.

"They're doing all the things they normally do and staying busy, yet bearing this extra burden," Collins said. "If anything, it's only made them stronger in their faith."



Culbreth

Christmas song a YouTube sensation

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Two years ago, Becky Kelley's young nephew was waiting to see Santa Claus at a shopping mall.

"Where's the line to see Jesus?" Spencer Reijgers, then 4, asked his aunt.

Kelley, a member of the McKnight Road Church of Christ in St. Louis, told her father, Steve Haupt, about his grandson's question.

Haupt, a McKnight Road church elder and business owner with a background as a pianist, took the idea and wrote a song that starts like this: *Christmas time was approaching. The snow is starting to fall. Shoppers choosing their presents. People filling the mall. Children waiting for Santa with excitement and glee.*

A little boy tugged my sweater, looked up and asked me, "Where's the line to see Jesus? Is he here at the store? If Christmas time is

his birthday, why don't we see him more?"

Becky Kelley, a graduate of Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn., recorded a professional version of the song. A YouTube video of it has gone viral with 1.5 million views — and counting.

"I'm blown away," Kelley told the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. She said she was spending three hours a day answering fan e-mails and fielding calls from radio stations.

Haupt said he first felt flattered that people liked the song and then excited that it could be a hit.

"That's evolved into being humbled that God would give me a message like this that's affected so many people," he told *The Christian Chronicle*. "I feel

like just a messenger from God. What are the odds of my grandson saying it, my daughter relaying it to me and then me writing a song about it?"



PHOTO VIA WHERESTHELINETOSEEJESUS.COM

Becky Kelley recorded "Where's the Line to See Jesus," written by her father, Steve Haupt.

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- Sweet Hour Of Prayer
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- There Is A Place Of Refuge
- O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee
- I Can Only Imagine
- You'll Never Walk Alone
- Jesus Love Me
- Shall We Gather At The River?
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- Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind
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- O Sacred Head
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- He
- Come Into His Presence
- Highest Praise
- Yes, I'll Live In Glory
- Adoration (Worship The Lord)
- Lord, Be There
- We Shall Assemble
- His Name Is Life
- Poured Out Like Wine
- Come Share The Lord
- Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus
- Holy, Holy, Holy Is The Lord Of Hosts
- If That Isn't Love
- Majesty
- Sweet, Sweet Spirit
- God's Family
- We Have Come Into His House
- Hear, O Israel
- A Wonderful Savior (Boy)

#7 "THIS IS MY STORY" Songs by Fanny J. Crosby

- Praise Him Praise Him
- A Wonderful Savior
- To The Work
- Though Your Sins Be As Scarlet
- The Half I Cannot Tell
- The Lord In Zion Reigneth
- Unsearchable Riches
- Blessed Assurance
- Nearer The Cross
- Rescue The Perishing
- Tell Me The Story Of Jesus
- Thou My Everlasting Portion
- Will You Come?
- When Jesus Comes
- Pass Me Not
- Hide Me, O Savior
- Jesus Keep Me Near The Cross
- Meet Me There
- To God Be The Glory
- Take The World, But Give Me Jesus
- I Shall Know Him
- Hold Thou My Hand
- Savior, More Than Life To Me
- All The Way My Savior Leads Me
- Give Me Jesus
- I Am Thine, O Lord
- Some Day The Silver Cord Will Break
- 'Tis The Blessed Hour Of Prayer
- Meet Me There
- Mighty Rock, Whose Towering Form
- Speed Away
- Safe In The Arms Of Jesus
- Jesus Is Tenderly Calling
- One Blessed Hour With Jesus
- Redeemed
- Welcome For Me

#8 "TEACH ME LORD TO WAIT"

- Bind Us Together
- I Love You With The Love Of The Lord
- I Will Call Upon The Lord
- I Want To Know Christ
- God's Family
- A Common Love
- Morning Has Broken
- This Is The Day
- Humble Yourselves
- I Am Crucified With Christ
- I Love You Lord
- If That Isn't Love
- There's Something About That Name
- God Is So Good
- We Are One In The Bond Of Love
- How Excellent Is Thy Name
- We Bow Down
- Unto Thee O Lord
- Glorify Thy Name
- His Name Is Wonderful
- Majesty
- Teach Me Lord To Wait
- As The Door
- There's A Sweet, Sweet Spirit
- Jesus Name Above All Names
- He
- Seek Ye First
- Holy Is The Lord
- Mockness And Majesty
- Pass It On
- Holy Ground
- We Will Glorify
- How Majestic Is Your Name
- Jesus Is Lord
- Bo Thou My Voice
- Because He Lives
- Take My Hand, Precious Lord

#9 "PEOPLE NEED THE LORD"

- We Have Come Into His House
- Come Into His Presence
- Give Thanks
- In Moments Like These
- Go With God
- A Wonderful Savior (Boy)
- The Way That He Loves
- Holy Ground
- Bless God
- Mercy Lord
- The Lord Thy God
- Worshy The Lamb That Was Slain
- Adoration
- Great Is Thy Faithfulness
- We Place You On The Highest Place
- Hear Oh Israel
- Paradise Valley
- Heaven's Really Going To Shine
- Beautiful
- On What A Wonderful Wonderful Day
- We Shall Assemble
- My Eyes Are Dry
- His Name Is Life
- Spirit Of The Living God
- Victory Chant
- Emmanuel
- Power In The Blood
- In His Presence
- This Is Holy Ground
- Poured Out Like Wine
- Come Praise The Lord
- Holy Is The Lord
- I Am A Sheep
- Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus
- I Stand In Awe
- Oh How He Loves You And Me
- People Need The Lord

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CAMBODIA

PHNOM PENH — Cambodians mourned the loss of more than 350 people killed in a stampede during the country's annual water festival. Students at the Bible English Study and Training center lost aunts, uncles and close friends, said Julie Broyles, who oversees the church-supported center.



Broyles

"One man interviewed said people just kept saying, 'Help me. Please help me,' until their voices grew silent," Broyles wrote in a blog post. She said the incident was a stark reminder of the souls in Cambodia that need rescue.

"People are running out of time all around us," she wrote. "People ... are wanting to learn, waiting to be rescued, but (there are) not enough rescuers."

Read the post at juliebroyles1.blogspot.com.

GERMANY

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE — Gen. Roger A. Brady, the Air Force's top commander in Europe, retired recently as the longest-serving Air Force officer currently on active duty.

Brady, commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) since 2008, and his wife, Litha, attended the Kaiserslautern Church of Christ.



Brady

INDIA

TIRUPPATI — A team of preachers and medical workers traveled to this town, north of Chennai, to heal the sick and preach the Gospel, said Paul Renganathan, a church leader in Chennai. A mobile clinic treated 288 patients.



Renganathan

"Having seen the Christian compassion through the medical care, many wanted to follow the Lord Jesus



PHOTO PROVIDED BY RANDY ENGLISH

Praying for the Pacific: Guadalcanal campaign yields soul

A ring of church members prays for a new sister in Christ on the beach of Guadalcanal, part of the South Pacific nation of the Solomon Islands. The island, the site of a bloody campaign during World War II, recently was the site of a gospel campaign. Karina Morgan, who lives on Guadalcanal, studied the Scriptures with members of an eight-man mission team. When asked to read a passage from Acts 19, "Karina could no longer keep back the tears," missionary Randy English said. "She wept as she expressed her joy in having learned what to do to become a New Testament Christian."

Christ," Renganathan said. Thirty people were baptized.

JAMAICA

KINGSTON — When students at a local high school stopped attending an after-school program at the Mona Church of Christ, the congregation took the program to them instead.

Church members make regular visits to the school to help children with their homework, the *Jamaica Observer* reported. The congregation sponsors several other benevolence programs for at-risk teens in Kingston. Minister Michael Dunbar told the *Observer* that assisting children in their education is good for the church.

"You want them to get familiar with the church, so that if there is any problem in their life ... they can come and share their issues instead of going elsewhere," Dunbar said.

SWITZERLAND

GENEVA — Church members stuffed 36,319 envelopes recently, offering their services to residents near their church building, said Doyle Kee, deacon

for local evangelism.

"An organization is in place to respond to the numerous calls and letters that are expected from this mass communication to the people of this area of Geneva," Kee said.

TRINIDAD AND TABAGO

BARRACKPORE — Sheila Butt, a newly elected state representative in Tennessee and member of the Anderson Bend Church of Christ in Duck River, Tenn., was a guest speaker at the Annual Overnight Ladies Retreat. Butt is the author of inspirational books for women, including "Seeking Spiritual Beauty."



Butt

About 200 church members attended, said event coordinator Joslyn Ramsabhag. Peggy Coulter, of Christian book company Publishing Designs, also spoke at the event.

UKRAINE

FEODOSIYA — About 600 Christians and visitors gathered near the banks of the Black Sea to



PHOTO PROVIDED BY DINO ROUSSOS

Sasha Prokopchuk, left, and Dino Roussos, right, prepare to baptize Vladimir Bachinskyi in the Black Sea.

hear the message of salvation, said minister Dino Roussos.

Minister Sasha Prokopchuk directed the seminar in Crimea, an autonomous republic under the jurisdiction of Ukraine that occupies a peninsula on the northern Black Sea. Roussos, a minister for the Omonia Church of Christ in Athens, Greece, also spoke at the seminar, which yielded 15 baptisms.

After a sermon, Roussos asked all preachers present to join him for a prayer.

"Twenty-three preachers, representing many Churches of Christ in Ukraine, came forward, and I prayed that God will bless their work and ministry," he said. "It was an unforgettable day."

SPOTLIGHT

Mischief-minimizing ministry

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — After school, about three-dozen teens visit the "Icebox."

That term used to refer to wooden home appliances that held large chunks of ice to keep food cool. The British — and New Zealanders — still use it to refer to modern freezers.

But for members of the Discover Church of Christ, "Icebox" is a ministry. Each Tuesday and Thursday, teenagers gather to play games, eat a snack and hang out with missionaries and mission interns.

Many of the teens "are latch-key kids and live in a culture of drinking and drugs," said Alan Phillips, associate director of Texas-based Missions Resource Network. "Each Tuesday night, about a dozen of these teens meet together to learn about God."

Local community leaders give the program free rental of its facility and have "noted improvement in mischievous after-school activity" because of the church's work, Phillips said.

Phillips and coworker Jay Jarboe visited Auckland recently to conduct a workshop for a church-planting team. The team — Justin and Jennifer Cherry, Skylar and Morgan Ely and Elijah and Kristen Peters — arrived in 2008 and established the Discover church in the western suburbs of the city.



ALAN PHILLIPS

Logan and Jennifer Rosenbalm, center, with teens at the 'Icebox.'



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HABTU ZEMECH

Shad Hunziker shines one of the 1,200 shoes he polished during a trip to Ethiopia.

Shoe-shining church member serves African preachers – heart and sole

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

When Shad Hunziker packed his bags for a two-week trip to Africa, he took care to include shoe polish, brushes, mink oil and shining cloths.

On his knees, the American Christian shined the shoes of more than 600 African ministers during a preaching conference in Awasa, Ethiopia.

"I shined the shoes of anyone who put their foot down — kids, women, police and lots of farmer-preachers," said Hunziker, a member of the North County Church of Christ in Escondido, Calif. "Every shoe — no matter how old, torn, mended, poor quality or nice — went away with a smile."

Hunziker, who owns and operates a recycling company in San Diego, has visited Ethiopia before. On a previous trip, he noticed that the lowest class of people — street kids — eked out a living shining shoes. When he returned to the U.S., Hunziker polished shoes outside the North County church building. As payment, he accepted donations for a church-run school for the deaf in Ethiopia.

Outreach to the deaf has played a large role in the growth of Churches of Christ in Ethiopia, said Behailu Abebe, a longtime minister in the East African nation. The communists who controlled Ethiopia in the 1970s and '80s allowed churches to stay open because of their

work with the deaf. In the 1980s, famine claimed more than 1 million lives in Ethiopia. Churches of Christ sent aid, and the Gospel spread, Abebe said. Today, churches sponsor well-drilling efforts across the nation.

More than 900 ministers attended the seminar. About 20 of them gave a report on their efforts to save souls near the sites of new water wells. In the past 15 months, the ministers have helped plant 48 congregations, Abebe said.

The 20 ministers received backpacks donated by the Church of Christ in Falls Church, Va. The congregation sent 800 pounds of clothes, shoes, backpacks and handbags to be used in benevolence.

Habtu Zemech, a native of Ethiopia and a deacon of the Falls Church congregation, delivered the donated items and met Hunziker at the conference.

The African ministers were thankful for the donations from their American brethren. They also were humbled by Hunziker's example.

In Africa, "a white man shining a black man's shoe is an unexpected and extraordinary thing to look at," Abebe said. "God is praised by Shad's humility and meekness."

Zemech added, "I know my people well enough that this experience will be talked about wherever they go, as they share the saving Gospel of our Lord with the people of Ethiopia."

'God is working,' says Bolivia mission family battling cancer

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Jenny Reyes works hard to stay in shape. She even teaches "combat exercise" classes to young women as part of her mission work in Sucre, Bolivia.

Now Reyes, 28, faces physical and financial challenges as she fights Liposarcoma. Doctors in Bolivia found a malignant tumor in her left leg. She and her family — husband Erik and children Zion and Mia — traveled to Texas for surgery, radiation and therapy.

The surgeon and the anesthesiologist in Austin, Texas, provided their services for free, Erik Reyes said.

"I am amazed, just watching how God is working," he said. "We decided to praise him for every moment that he is leading."

Despite the savings, the family faces additional costs in the coming months.

"Jenny and Erik are up against a hurdle that will only be passable because of their faith they have in their God," said Jenny Reyes' father, Kent Marcum.

Marcum and his wife, Sharla, have served as missionaries in Ecuador since 1989. Kent Marcum directs the Quito School of Biblical Studies, an associate school of Sunset International Bible



Erik and Jenny Reyes with Zion and Mia.

Institute in Lubbock, Texas.

Jenny Reyes studied in the Adventures in Missions program sponsored by Sunset. She served as a missions intern in Guadalajara, Mexico, where she met her future husband. The couple helped recruit a team from the Quito School of Biblical Studies to plant churches in Sucre, the constitutional capital of Bolivia.

CONTRIBUTIONS for the family's medical bills may be sent to the Southgate Church of Christ, 528 Country Club Road, San Angelo, TX 76904. Make checks payable to the Southgate church. Please note "Jenny Reyes Medical Fund."

Christians encouraged by mission trip to 'France in North America'

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

For 16 years, Bren White has prayed for souls on a tiny group of islands off the coast of Newfoundland.

St. Pierre and Miquelon, home to about 6,300 people, is a French territory. Though surrounded by English-speaking Canadian provinces, the islands have maintained their French culture and language since the 1600s.

"Very few people have ever visited these hard-to-get-to islands, and no one from the Churches of Christ has ever shared the good news there," said White, director of Operation French World, a ministry that sends mission teams to French-speaking countries. "There is no New Testament church there. In fact, no non-Catholic churches



White

have ever existed on these islands."

White and Jean-Claude Schmidt, a French-born Christian who lives in Ohio, took a flight from Halifax, Nova Scotia, to the islands, known as "France in North America." During their three-day stay, the men talked to more than 80 people about the Gospel and made 40 strong contacts for follow-up, White said.



Schmidt

"No Bibles were spotted anywhere on the islands," White said. He and Schmidt gave away 15 French Bibles and plan to send additional copies to their contacts. The church members also hope to host public meetings during return visits to St. Pierre and Miquelon.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, e-mail ofwmissions@gmail.com.



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Dean, Library and Information Resources

The successful candidate will lead the library faculty and staff in promoting and supporting ACU's *21st-Century Vision*; understand the nature and functions of higher education; define the purpose of the library on campus; develop collections and services in response to the changing needs of students and faculty; direct the development of technological applications to library programs; appreciate the varieties of teaching and learning and how knowledge is obtained in multiple disciplines; collaborate with faculty on pedagogy and with development officers in order to expand sources of library support; and guide the processes of library faculty and staff development and strategic planning. The dean serves on the Provost's Cabinet, Graduate Council, University Undergraduate Academic Council, University Library Committee, ad hoc university committees, Friends of ACU Library, and the Council of the Abilene Library Consortium.

Requirements include excellent oral and written communication and listening skills, academic library managerial experience, a record of engagement in professional associations and achievement in scholarly productivity, and a master's degree in library and information science from a program accredited by the American Library Association. A doctoral degree or other additional graduate study are preferred.

The Margaret and Herman Brown Library provides digital and printed intellectual resources essential for both innovative and traditional academic work at ACU. The library is a member of Amigos and TexShare and, through the Abilene Library Consortium, maintains a Sirsi-based integrated system. Special features include the Learning Commons, AT&T Learning Studio, Gaines B. Stanley Theological Reading Room, Milliken Archives and Special Collections, and the Center for Restoration Studies. The library was appointed a U.S. Government Publications Depository in 1987.

Dean, Honors College

The Honors College is a newly established college at ACU, the successor to the university's strong and successful Honors Program.

The dean of the Honors College has a joint appointment, half in Honors Studies and half (tenure-track) in an academic department. An earned doctorate and evidence of scholarship, service and superior teaching are required. Experience in honors teaching or academic administration is preferred. Experience with cross-disciplinary courses, team-teaching or mobile learning is desirable. An applicant must show professional accomplishment within an academic discipline (to earn tenure within the department) but have the versatility to collaborate on interdisciplinary courses within the Honors College.

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

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

ACU does not unlawfully discriminate in employment opportunities.

BY THE NUMBERS

1985: Graduate student headcount

ACU: 548
 Faulkner: 0
 FHU: 0
 Harding: 390
 Heritage: 0
 Lipscomb: 38
 LCU: 0
 Ohio Valley: 0
 Okla. Christian: 0
 Pepperdine: 3,600
 Rochester: 0
TOTAL: 4,576

2010: Graduate student headcount

ACU: 922
 Faulkner: 524
 FHU: 502
 Harding: 2,575
 Heritage: 29
 Lipscomb: 1,098
 LCU: 399
 Ohio Valley: 40
 Okla. Christian: 317
 Pepperdine: 4,157
 Rochester: 20
TOTAL: 10,583

2010: Total student headcount

ACU: 4,728
 Crowley's Ridge: 201
 Faulkner: 3,269
 FHU: 1,992
 Harding: 6,748
 Heritage: 101
 Lipscomb: 3,742
 LCU: 2,028
 Ohio Valley: 476
 Okla. Christian: 2,216
 Pepperdine: 7,604
 Rochester: 1,078
 Southwestern: 224
 York: 483

2010: Church of Christ freshmen

ACU: 45%
 Crowley's Ridge: 30%
 Faulkner: 40%
 FHU: 83%
 Harding: 79%
 Heritage: 100%
 Lipscomb: 45%
 LCU: 33%
 Ohio Valley: 46%
 Okla. Christian: 64%
 Pepperdine: 16%
 Rochester: 9%
 Southwestern: 47%
 York: 50%

GRADUATES: More Christian universities add master's, doctoral programs

FROM PAGE 1

Now, Faulkner University in Montgomery, Ala., Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn., Lubbock Christian University in Texas and Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City all serve hundreds of graduate students.

Add in smaller programs at Heritage Christian University in Florence, Ala., Ohio Valley University in Vienna, W.Va., and Rochester College in Michigan, and schools associated with Churches of Christ enroll thousands more graduate students than they did two decades ago.

Kevin Huddleston returned to the classroom after 25 years in youth ministry, taking advantage of a Rochester College graduate program that mixes one-week-a-semester intensive seminars on campus with Internet studies.

"I hate to admit it, but I am old enough to have a nostalgic view of the church," said Huddleston, 46, a 1986 graduate of Abilene Christian, where he received a bachelor's degree in psychology. "At times, that nostalgia can become a barrier to ministry."

He explained: "We live in a world where we cannot assume some things that we once assumed. ... We cannot assume that the people in our own worship services, much less our communities, know our language, our heritage and our stories."

Huddleston, youth and family minister at the Johnson Street Church of Christ in San Angelo, Texas, sees the master's program in missional leadership as a way to "retool for ministry."

A NEW RECORD, YEAR AFTER YEAR

For 24 straight years, Harding has recorded a new all-time high enrollment.

The university's total enrollment has jumped from 2,994 students in fall 1985 to 6,748 students in fall 2010. That's a 125 percent increase.

Harding's remarkable growth — with David Burks as president since 1987 — has not gone unnoticed by other Christian universities.

Oklahoma Christian President Mike O'Neal points to Harding's longevity and consistency of leadership and its entrepreneurial spirit.



JEFF MONTGOMERY

Kara Haase, left, a graduate student in the physician assistant program at Harding University in Searcy, Ark., inserts an endotracheal tube into a mannequin. Melina Calderon, a fellow member of the Class of 2011, watches her.

"They have been willing to step out there and attract new markets," said O'Neal, a 1968 Harding graduate who served on the business faculty in the mid-1970s.

At the same time, O'Neal said, Harding has maintained close relations with alumni and Churches of Christ and developed a strong pipeline of students.

"It's not that there's not competition around, because they've got Lipscomb and Freed on the east, and they've got us and Abilene and Lubbock on the west, so they certainly have done it in spite of there being other alternatives for students to go to," he said.

In 1985, the university's 390 graduate students consisted mainly of education majors at the Searcy campus and Bible majors at the Harding University Graduate School of Religion in Memphis, Tenn.

Now, Harding offers master's degrees and doctorates in a variety of business, education, medical and ministry fields, with 2,575 full- and part-time graduate students.

The graduate programs support the university's mission by integrating faith and learning, vice president Carr said.

At the same time, graduate studies often occur at night, so they do not compete for undergraduate classroom space, he said.

Typically, the students do not live on campus, so there's no need to provide housing or dining services for them.



Carr

"I don't want to give you the feeling that our graduate and professional programs pay for our undergraduate program," Carr said. "They certainly don't do that, but they contribute to it. And I think having those more mature students on campus is also a positive."

LESSONS OF THE MASTER TEACHER

At Lipscomb, total enrollment has risen 65 percent since 1985 — up to 3,742 students from 2,262.

From 38 Bible master's degree students 25 years ago, graduate enrollment has grown to nearly 1,100 students in business, accounting, conflict management, psychology and other areas.

The Nashville university offers doctorates in education and pharmacy and just announced a new doctoral degree in ministry.

"Today's graduate student is often a working professional who attends classes at non-traditional times like weekends and evenings," said Deby Samuels, Lipscomb's vice president of communication and marketing.

"Over the years, this means we have been able to maximize the use of existing facilities."

Lipscomb is open for classes from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. six days a week, she said.

Millie Norwood earned bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Lipscomb.

Now teaching in a Nashville public middle school, Norwood remains a Lipscomb student, taking classes at night, on weekends and even online as she works toward a doctorate in education.

Even at the doctoral level, she said, Lipscomb's education professors don't hesitate to make biblical applications or refer to Jesus as the "master teacher."

"The professors are open about talking about God," said Norwood, 25, a member of the Ethridge Church of Christ in Lawrenceburg, Tenn. "We always start with a prayer and prayer requests."

Norwood said she could have chosen a state university for her doctoral studies. "But it would not have had a faith component," she said. "That's important to me."

See **UNIVERSITIES**, Page 13

UNIVERSITIES: Church membership decline plays a role

FROM PAGE 12

Among all public and private colleges and universities, the annual number of master's degrees awarded more than doubled in the past two decades, according to the Council of Graduate Schools.

"It's just increasingly more common for the master's degree to be the degree for entry into certain fields," said Nathan Bell, the council's research and policy analysis director, noting that MBA and education programs account for half of all master's degrees and that women and minorities comprise the fastest-growing segment of graduate students.

Private, nonprofit institutions saw a 79 percent increase in post-baccalaureate enrollment from 1983 to 2008, according to the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

"Most of this growth seems attributable to the changing educational needs of today's workforce," said Brian Starr, Lubbock Christian's executive vice president. "Adult workers who never finished college and those who completed only an undergraduate degree are hitting career ceilings and finding that further education is a real key to the next step of advancement."

At the same time, the growth reflects the maturing of Christian universities, many of which emerged in the post-World War II era, Starr said.

MAINTAINING THE TIES THAT BIND

Still another factor for institutions associated with Churches of Christ: a shrinking pool of undergraduates from within the fellowship as overall church membership has fallen since the 1980s.

A decade ago, Church of Christ members comprised 70 percent of freshmen at institutions studied by Flavil Yeakley, director of the Harding Center for Church Growth. By fall 2009, that figure dropped to 53 percent, as the *Chronicle* reported last year.

Across the nation, total combined freshman enrollment has dropped sharply at the institutions studied by Yeakley.

However, new programs for graduate scholars and non-traditional students have helped fuel overall enrollment growth.

Rochester College, once known as Michigan Christian College, enrolled 332 students in fall 1985. The student headcount has tripled, hitting 1,078 in fall 2010.

"Twenty-five years ago, we offered

only a small sampling of associate's degrees," said John Barton, Rochester's vice president of academic affairs.

"Today, we have a large number of bachelor's degrees for traditional and non-traditional students, degree completion programs, a master's degree, online courses and hybrid programs.

"Because of this, our student body is larger and more diverse than in the past," Barton said. "In addition, because of changing church demographics in the Midwest and the college's more inclusive

religious posture, our student body is more religiously diverse than ever before."

A quarter-century ago, 68 percent of Rochester students identified with Churches of Christ. This school year, 11 percent of students gave their religious affiliation as "Church of Christ." An additional 23 percent described themselves simply as "Christian," while 8 percent gave "non-denominational" as their religious preference.

"Staying connected to local congregations of the

Churches of Christ remains a priority in our recruiting efforts, and the inclusive posture mixed with the small intimate experience on campus still draws a good number of students from those heritage churches," Barton said.

Back in Searcy, Harding has bucked the trend of declining Church of Christ representation better than most.

Seventy-nine percent of its freshman class identified with the fellowship in fall 2010, down from 87 percent in fall 1985.

Asked the secret of Harding's success, Carr cites what he describes as "a great product," along with competitive pricing and targeted recruiting.

"There is both an art and a science to enrollment development, and I think we have a handle on both of those elements," Carr said. "We know who fits here, and we go after them with a vengeance. And then, thank the good Lord, a large number select Harding."

In December, Reely donned her cap and gown as she accepted her MBA. She's looking for a position in communication management.

"Graduate school is not for everyone, but I feel like professors should spot potential students early and encourage them to pursue their education at the next level," Reely said. "I know it was the love and support that I received that enabled me to make it through."

'Most of this growth seems attributable to the changing educational needs of today's workforce.'

Brian Starr
Executive vice president, Lubbock Christian University in Texas

Pulpit Minister

The Chula Vista Church of Christ, a well-established congregation located in "Sunny" San Diego, is prayerfully seeking a dynamic Pulpit Minister to lovingly present God's word in a balanced approach involving life experiences and applications that will help motivate and inspire our congregation to positive action for God. Our minister will share in the congregation's vision of growth, involvement, increased spiritual maturity, a spirit-filled worship assembly, and a meaningful youth program. In addition, he will be a married man with at least two years of preaching experience and a formal education and/or training. A graduate degree is a plus. He will also exhibit wisdom, biblical knowledge and spiritual maturity to deal with the complex issues and opportunities facing the church and our society today.

The Chula Vista Church of Christ has been serving God in the community for over 50 years. God has richly blessed our mature congregation of approximately 100 members, with a large facility with plenty of room for growth, and a parsonage, both fully paid for. We partially house a self-supporting Christian elementary school with ~ 175 students and house a growing Spanish congregation of ~85 members that meet separately in our facility upstairs.

If you meet the qualifications and are interested in serving God in a Christian family who will serve God with you, please e-mail your resume to ptcastle2@cox.net. In addition, please send us a recorded sermon. You can email it to ptcastle2@cox.net or mail it to:

Chula Vista Church of Christ
Attn: Preacher Search Committee
470 L Street
Chula Vista, CA 91911-1113
619-422-7747

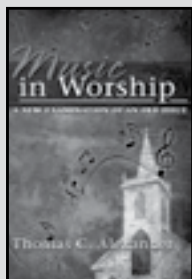


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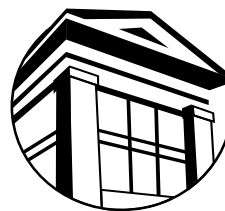
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Interested applicants should submit a letter of application, a resume with contact information for three references, and transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work to Dr. Monte Cox, dean, at mcox@harding.edu or Box 12280, Searcy, AR 72149.

DEPARTMENT OF EXERCISE AND SPORT SCIENCES. Seeking full-time position for an athletic trainer. This position is a nine-month assignment and provides faculty/staff benefits. The position will include teaching responsibilities in the CAATE accredited program, clinical responsibilities in athletic training facility, and direct supervision of students as an approved clinical instructor. Additional responsibilities will include serving on university and departmental committees, advising students, and other departmental duties as assigned. Qualified candidates will have a master's degree in athletic training or a related field (terminal degree preferred), will hold current credentials by Board of Certification for Athletic Trainers, and be eligible for state of Arkansas licensure. Also, they will have three years of experience as a certified athletic trainer, have current CPR/AED certification, and be physically capable to provide the athletic training functions described above. Teaching experience preferred.

Submit resume and letter of interest to Dr. Randy Lambeth, director of athletic training education program, at rlambeth@harding.edu.

Seeking full-time faculty position. A Ph.D. (or equivalent) in exercise science or related area is required. Demonstrated potential for independent research and grant writing is preferred. Primary responsibility of the position is a commitment to quality classroom instruction of undergraduate/graduate courses in exercise science and kinesiology. Establishment of a research agenda is strongly encouraged. Additional responsibilities will include advising students, serving on departmental and university committees, and community service.

Submit resume and letter of interest to Dr. Kenneth R. Turley, chairman, to KRTurley@harding.edu.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE. Seeking full-time faculty member. Candidates should have a concentration in European history and/or social sciences. Terminal degree and teaching experience is preferred, but other candidates are welcome.

Introductory letter, contact information and curriculum vitae may be submitted to Dr. Kevin Klein, chair, at kklein@harding.edu or Harding University, Box 12247, Searcy, AR 72149.

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC. Seeking full-time faculty member to teach music education. Position responsibilities include teaching music education methods courses; planning, coordinating and supervising field experiences for music education students; serving as liaison between the music department and College of Education; teaching additional areas based on expertise; and participating in recruiting, advising and other departmental activities. An ideal candidate will have a doctorate in music education (master's degree will be considered), five or more years successful public school experience, and at least one other area of teaching expertise (choral, theory, history, Kodaly, etc.).

Submit letter of application and curriculum vitae before Feb. 28, 2011, to Dr. Kelly Neill at kneill@harding.edu or Harding University, Box 10767, Searcy, AR 72149.

All positions are contingent upon funding.

COMMUNITY CENTER: Offhand comment leads to ministry and baptisms

FROM PAGE 1

Georgetown church calls out to children as they finish their homework in the center's computer lab. Most of the 350 residents of the Riverside community, a suburb of Austin, are Hispanic. A construction boom in the past decade brought many of them here, but now jobs are hard to find — even in recession-resistant Texas.

Holland and his wife of five years, Sheila, invite the families who live here to their home, outside the trailer park, and spend hours getting to know them. On Sundays, they gather in the community center for Bible study.

Sometimes the work gets messy, Holland said. Recently, when the property's management announced an \$18-per-month rent increase, some residents blamed the community center. Finances are a concern for most, and he knows of individuals here that struggle with alcoholism or physical abuse — as victims and perpetrators.

"But they are the people you would see Jesus go to first," Holland says.

'INNER CITY' IS EVERYWHERE

The Georgetown church isn't the only middle-class congregation that has found ways to serve the low-income communities at its doorsteps.

In Lubbock, Texas, the Vandelia Church of Christ sponsors an outreach to an economically challenged community near its building, said former member A.C. Oliver. Appropriately enough, the ministry is called "Across the Street."

In 2008, the Rimmel Church of Christ in Newport, Ark., launched a ministry focused on reaching a neighborhood members previously feared, said Anthony Wood.

Wood, an evangelist for River City Ministry, an inner-city work in North Little Rock, Ark., and his wife, Lisa, helped the Rimmel church plant a congregation in the neighborhood.

The church worships in a house



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Jonathan Holland ties a child's shoe outside the Riverside Resource Center.

ing project community center. At least 16 baptisms have resulted from the work, Wood said.

In addition to saving souls, the ministry has energized previously inactive members of the Rimmel church, elder David Bowman said.

Wood added that the Rimmel church has learned "that 'inner city' is no longer a geographic phenomenon, but rather a culture found even in small towns."

'GOD OPENED DOORS'

In Georgetown, the Riverside Resource Center had its genesis in an offhand comment Holland made during a fall festival.

Four years ago, the 500-member Georgetown church launched the festival as a community outreach, said church elder Bill Painter. Leaders of the 118-year-old congregation were looking for ways to help the church be more outward-focused, Painter said.

A school in a low-income neighborhood was the original site, but school district officials raised concerns about a church using public property, Painter said. The congregation had to

look elsewhere.

The school's principal recommended the Riverside community for the event. After the festival, Holland delivered Thanksgiving meals to families in the trailer park.

"I was talking to the manager in the office and I said, 'You need a community center out here,'" Holland said. "And two days later, I had an e-mail saying, 'We'd like to talk to you about the community center.'"

Holland and representatives of the Colorado-based management company discussed plans for a community center that would help Riverside residents complete courses in English as a Second Language and earn high school equivalency diplomas.

"I want to tell you something straight up," he told the company's owner. "We're looking for a place to plant a church. ... (The company) said, 'OK, so what can you do?'"

Holland posed that same question to his elders when he returned to Georgetown. Painter acknowledged that his first reaction wasn't "Boy, this is where God really wants us to

go. Let's do it."

Instead, he recalled thinking, "How are we going to pay for all of this? We didn't have it in the budget. It's a down economy."

After discussion and prayer, the elders decided to invest in the project. The property's management purchased the double-wide trailer at an auction, brought it to the park and hooked it to power and sewer lines.

Members of the church and the community gutted the trailer and installed new sheet rock, insulation and windows, paid for by the management company.

The Georgetown church contributed about \$22,000 toward the reconstruction, Painter said, and got some of that money back through the Bell Trust, a charitable foundation associated with Churches of Christ.

"The way God opened doors for this was just amazing," Holland said.

'IT MAKES YOU FEEL GOOD INSIDE'

After locking the resource center for the evening, Holland leaves the trailer park and drives his pickup to the Georgetown church building.

There, among the pristine pews of the church's vaulted auditorium, he meets his wife and Enrique and Laura Najera — a Spanish-speaking couple he recruited to help him with the Riverside ministry.

Enrique Najera, a native of Monterrey, Mexico, studied at Austin Graduate School of Theology, associated with Churches of Christ. He

preaches for the small congregation that meets at the resource center and teaches a weekly theology class.

"Most of the people we are ministering to ... have never opened a Bible," Enrique Najera says. He and his coworkers pray "that God will break the chains of sin that bind so many in this community."

Enaida Ruiz once told the Najeras she wanted nothing to do with church when they invited her to services at the resource center. But they could pray for her, she told them.

Ruiz allowed her children to attend, however. One day, her oldest son told her, "Mom, you need to go to church. It makes you feel good inside."

She took her son's advice, and a few months later, she and her husband, Ivan, were baptized.

After a brief wait, the Ruiz family arrives at the church building along with Gaby Zapata, a neighbor in the Riverside community. The group prays and, moments later, Enrique Najera baptizes Zapata.

When asked why she decided to give her life to Christ, Zapata pauses and fixes her gaze on the church ceiling. Tears flowing, she speaks a few quiet words in Spanish.

"All of the bad stuff is gone," Laura Najera translates.

THE RIVERSIDE RESOURCE CENTER seeks additional sponsors. For more information, see the website of Jonathan Holland's ministry, Sight for Sore Eyes Foundation Inc., at www.sfseinc.org.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Serving the Riverside Resource Center are Enrique and Laura Najera, with their two children, and Jonathan and Sheila Holland.

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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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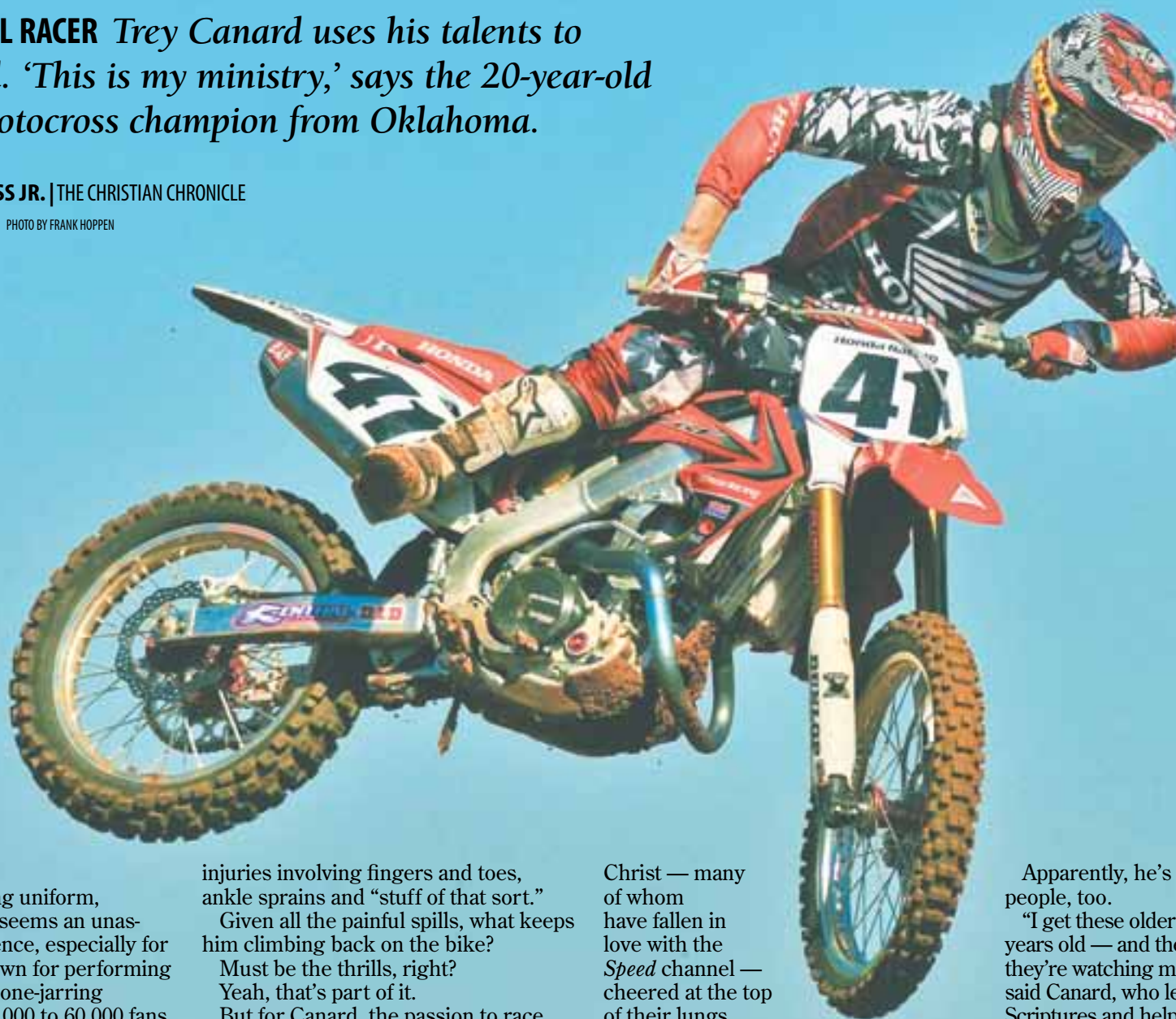
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'This is what the Lord made me for'

PROFESSIONAL RACER *Trey Canard uses his talents to glorify God. 'This is my ministry,' says the 20-year-old national motocross champion from Oklahoma.*

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

PHOTO BY FRANK HOPPEN



SHAWNEE, Okla.

Out of his racing uniform, Trey Canard seems an unassuming presence, especially for someone known for performing high-speed, bone-jarring exploits in front of 30,000 to 60,000 fans.

However, the toughness and quiet confidence of the 5-foot-6, 150-pound Canard shine through as he reflects on his motorcycle racing career and the long list of injuries he has overcome.

"Yeah, I've broken my wrists four times," said the 20-year-old professional motocross racer, the reigning national champion in the sport's 250 class of smaller cycles. "I've broken my collarbone twice. I've broken my femur."

That's not to mention nagging little

injuries involving fingers and toes, ankle sprains and "stuff of that sort."

Given all the painful spills, what keeps him climbing back on the bike?

Must be the thrills, right?

Yeah, that's part of it.

But for Canard, the passion to race goes deeper than that.

"I believe this is what the Lord made me for," he told *The Christian Chronicle*. "This is my talent. This is my ministry, I believe, so that gives me hope. And I just really enjoy it. The good stuff outweighs the bad stuff for me."

CHURCH FEELS THE NEED FOR SPEED

When Canard achieved his most superb feat on wheels last fall, fellow members of the Central Church of

Christ — many of whom have fallen in love with the *Speed* channel — cheered at the top of their lungs.

"Amazingly, Trey won five of the final seven races of the season to overcome a 57-point deficit to win his first career motocross championship," said Robert Prater, pulpit minister of the Central church, a 250-member congregation about 35 miles east of Oklahoma City.

"But more than being a great rider, Trey always gives glory to God and has such a strong faith," Prater added. "He is a great role model for young people from all around the world."

Apparently, he's a role model for older people, too.

"I get these older women — 70 and 80 years old — and they're telling me that they're watching me ride a motorcycle," said Canard, who leads singing, reads Scriptures and helps with the youth group at the Central church. "It's kind of funny."

PASSION OF HIS FATHER

As a new season of indoor and outdoor racing begins, Canard will again spend about 30 Saturdays on the road from January through September.

This year, he's moving up to a bigger class of bikes. He'll ride a Honda CRF450.

Raised in western Oklahoma, he started racing at age 3 when his late

See **MOTOCROSS**, Page 21

‘You have to find some way to stand back up’

ABUSE AND STRUGGLE defined D.J. Williams’ childhood, but the scholar-athlete and church member endured – and lives by faith

BY HAMIL HARRIS | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

As a child, David “D.J.” Williams tried to sleep while his mother endured repeated beatings by his alcoholic father.

As a teenager, he lived in a shelter and was jeered by his classmates when the bus dropped him off at an abandoned gas station.

In high school, his world changed. On the football field, he pulled down passes and ran over linebackers like few others could. Jeers became cheers, and accolades poured in. Williams’ gridiron prowess led him to the University of Arkansas.

The 22-year-old tight end helped his Razorbacks finish a 10-2 regular season and land a spot in the prestigious Sugar Bowl against Ohio State on Jan. 4.

He won the Mackey Award, given to the nation’s top tight end, and earned third-team Associated Press All-America honors. He entered the Sugar Bowl with 49 catches for 589 yards and four touchdowns in the 2010 season.

As the awards pile on, Williams continues to live by the words typed under his picture in his high school yearbook, “Baptized into Christ.”

“I want people to know that when it’s all said and done, I’m a son of Christ and I’m baptized,” said Williams, a member of the Pleasant Valley Church of Christ in Little Rock, Ark.

Reflecting on the struggles he has endured, Williams remembers a brutal scene from the film “The Passion of the Christ,” when Jesus is knocked to his knees before his crucifixion. Despite the punishment, the Savior finds the strength to stand one more time.

“He still had a little bit left — to stand back up on his feet and show the world, ‘With all these lashings I’ve taken, I still have a little bit more left to show for my father. I’m



PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

Church member D.J. Williams will leave the University of Arkansas “as the best tight end in school history,” wrote sports columnist Wally Hall.

going to stand back up and receive a worse beating.” Williams said.

“In football, when you’re tired, when you’re down and you feel like you have nothing left, you have to find some way to stand back up.”

STRUGGLE AND FAMILY

Police reports tell the struggles of Williams’ early life. His mother, Vicky, was a Dallas high school cheerleader who fell in love with the captain of the basketball team.

Vicky Williams, who is white, withstood the cold shoulder from her family and friends — and even a death threat — because of her black boyfriend, who had offers to play Division 1 hoops at Duke, North Carolina and other big-name schools, she said.

“I ended up getting pregnant, and he wouldn’t leave to go to

college,” Vicky Williams said. “We stayed together.” The couple had two girls before D.J. was born.

Life was hard, but Vicky was happy. Then her husband lost two close relatives. He started drinking — and beating her, she said.

Today, Vicky still wears the scars of those attacks — a finger that she said healed crooked after her husband hit her with a frying pan. One of her daughters called the police when it happened, but Vicky didn’t press charges, she said.

“I grew up in the Church of Christ,” she said, “and I thought (that), once you are married, you are always married.”

Eventually, she left her husband, but later they reunited and the abuse started again, she said. “I knew if I didn’t get out then, I wouldn’t have another

opportunity,” she said.

At a basketball tournament where D.J. was competing, Vicky picked up a flier for a shelter.

The night after her son’s 10th birthday, she left her husband for good. Less than 24 hours later, she learned that he was in jail for shooting someone. He remains incarcerated.

Counselors advised Vicky to leave Dallas. She got out a map and showed it to her children.

D.J. pointed to Little Rock, Ark. Life in Arkansas was difficult for the single mother and her three kids, who lived in a shelter near an old gas station. D.J. was quiet and withdrawn. He wrote all of his thoughts in a journal. He rarely smiled.

He found solace on the basketball court, where he excelled. He

became close friends with D.J. and took him to church.

“When you are around kids from troubled backgrounds, sometimes they think that all you want out of them is to be an athlete,” Ritchie Brown said. “We love D.J. for who he is and not because he is an athlete.”

The Browns were a big part of D.J.’s life, his mother said.

“It was neat for him to see what a family was supposed to be,” she said.

In ninth grade, D.J. enrolled at Central Arkansas Christian. At first he was interested only in band and

basketball, but football coach Tim Perry eventually persuaded him to try out for the team.

By his senior year, D.J. was “all-everything — all-district, all-state” in sports, Childress said. Under his

yearbook picture, he could have listed paragraphs of accolades.

Instead, he chose to list only one piece of information — the date of his baptism at the Pleasant Valley church.

“That’s been his mantra,” Childress said.

TROPHIES AND FORGIVENESS

At the University of Arkansas, D.J. has climbed into the record books for all-time receptions and receiving yards. He likely will be the first tight end taken in the NFL draft, according to scouts.

More importantly, he has become “a poster boy for what is right in college football,” wrote Wally Hall, a columnist for the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.

Arkansas Chancellor G. David Gearhart said: “D.J. Williams exemplifies what it means to be a student-athlete and a Razorback.

He demonstrates high character, both on and off the field, and has turned unfortunate circumstances into opportunities to help and educate others.”

As he looks forward to a career in professional football, D.J. said he hopes to be able to provide new opportunities for his family.

“I want to make sure my sister doesn’t have to worry about paying for her college loans,” he said. “I want to make sure my mom gets her dream house on the beach. I want to make sure my other sister can put her two children in a home that they’ve never had before.”

As for his father, D.J. said he hasn’t spoken to him in years.

“One big thing that’s in the Bible is forgiveness,” he said. “We have been forgiven for our sins, and it wouldn’t be right of me to not forgive my father for his. I pray every day to be able to forgive him.”

When the Razorbacks named him Most Outstanding Offensive Player, D.J. signed his trophy and handed it to a young boy in a wheelchair on the sidelines. The smile on the boy’s face “meant more to me than the trophy,” Williams said.

Williams has become a role model for hundreds of young believers, said Stuart Cash, an assistant football coach at Central Arkansas Christian.

“I can’t put into words how proud I am of him and how many people he has touched because of his Christian walk,” said Cash, young adults minister for the Pleasant Valley church. “It brings tears to my eyes to see how he has become such a positive light.”

ADDITIONAL REPORTING: Erik Tryggstad



PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

D.J. Williams carries the ball in the Razorbacks’ 41-20 win over the South Carolina Gamecocks.



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(THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE, 2009)

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CANARD: 'You can use your talents to glorify God,' champion racer says

FROM PAGE 17

father, Roy Canard, built him a tiny, single-speed cycle that topped out at 20 mph.

By age 9, Trey signed his first racing contract.

"Then it kind of got a little more serious," he said with a laugh. "It's funny how quickly we kind of have to become professionals."

For the first 18 years of his life, Canard and his family lived in Elk City, Okla., where they attended the Second and Adams Church of Christ. "That will always kind of be my home congregation," he said.

Roy Canard, a motocross fanatic, died in a tragic accident when Trey was 12. Trey's father was using a front-end loader to clear rocks from a small track where Trey and his older brother Aaron, now 24, practiced. The family doesn't know exactly what happened, but Trey's mother, Kari Canard, found the tractor upside down on her husband.

"My dad was a huge part of my racing. He got me riding," Trey said. "It was his passion, and he kind of passed it on to myself and my brother."



Canard

"He was just a great man, a strong Christian man, and really my inspiration to be a strong character for Christ.

... It's unfortunate that I lost him when I was a young kid. ... When I feel down or sad about that, I've just got to remember that God knows what he's doing."

HEART OF A CHAMPION

Focus. Heart. Effort. Fun. Dedication. Put them all together and they equal this: Success.

That's the message on a whiteboard in a large metal building on the rural property near Shawnee where Canard lives with his mother and younger brother, Jaxon, 9.

At the end of a gravel road but just a few miles from Interstate

40, this is where Canard hangs out in the offseason. Here, trophies and motorcycles, including the tiny one that his father made him, mix with weight equipment that the motocross champion uses to keep in shape.

Two years ago, Canard used his own cash to buy this property, which includes a house and an outdoor practice track.

"I'm making a decent living," he said. "I'm thankful for that, and I know that's a blessing. I try to give back any way that I can."

Said Prater, the Central minister: "Kari and Trey are very generous givers and always are willing to help out those in need."

The Canards didn't want to leave Elk City, but it was a two-hour drive to Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City.

Since he flies nearly every week, Canard wanted to be closer. Shawnee, a city of about 30,000, is roughly 45 minutes from the airport.

What he didn't know when he moved to Shawnee, Canard said, was what a terrific congregation he'd stumble upon.

He didn't go out of his way to tell Central members about his profession, but word spread.

"I normally don't like to talk about it too much at the congregation. I kind of like to stay to my worship, you know, the reason we're there," he said. "But people ask me what's my job and am I in school, and it kind of came up like that.

"So it's just a neat thing, and I feel like it's been a blessing in my life, and it's brought me really close to a lot of great people in our congregation. I think everyone's enjoyed it, so it's been fun."

The church also has embraced Trey's mother and brother Jaxon, who's active in the Leadership Training for Christ program.

"We're not anything special, I don't think," Kari Canard said. "It's funny because no

'My dad was a huge part of my racing. ... It was his passion, and he kind of passed it on to myself and my brother.'

Trey Canard
Champion motocross racer



FRANK HOPPEN

Trey Canard, a member of the Central Church of Christ in Shawnee, Okla., prepares for the upcoming indoor supercross and outdoor motocross racing seasons. Canard, 20, races most Saturdays from January through September.

matter where we seem to live, people young and old get pretty excited about motocross.

"I've signed up so many people for the *Speed* channel that I should be getting a kickback on it," she joked.

THE COOL CHRISTIAN LIFE

Scriptural references on his crossbar pad help Canard maintain his Christian focus.

Verses such as Philippians 4:13 (*"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"*) provide inspiration and motivation.

In his podium speeches, Canard — whose cycle is No. 41, like his dad's — always gives God the credit for his success.

"A lot of people think of motocross and motorcycle riders, and they're associated with tattoos and drinking and partying and all that stuff," Canard said. "So I think anything I can do ... is hopefully well-accepted and good."

"Christianity, especially in the Church of Christ, gets a label of being kind of boring or not cool,



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Trey Canard shows off some of the racing trophies and memorabilia at his training facilities near Shawnee, Okla., 35 miles east of Oklahoma City.

just all these rules. I just hope my story kind of shows teens and people in general that ... you can use your talents to glorify God."

Given the hard knocks of a sport where age 35 is considered ancient, the Oklahoma church member knows his racing career won't last forever.

When he stops revving his

motor, though, he has an inkling what he'd like to do.

"I'd like to be a youth minister or just work in a church," he said. "I've really enjoyed a lot of the youth ministers I've had and people who were really crucial to my Christian walk. And I feel like I could be an asset someday in the church."

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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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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).

A conversation with Steven Yeakley

LONGTIME MINISTER discusses vital role of church education programs.

BY LYNN McMILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Steven Yeakley has a gift for multitasking. Although he serves as involvement minister for the Faith Village Church of Christ in Wichita Falls, Texas, he also counsels adults and works with children's education. He directs a church camp in Oklahoma and "Kids for Christ," an innovative Vacation Bible School format at his home congregation.

Yeakley, 50, has served in a variety of roles — youth, education and evangelism — during his 29 years of ministry. He and his wife, Shelley, an elementary school science teacher, have three sons: Stuart, 24; Stanton, 19; and Sheldon, 15.

Born in Houma, La., he spent his younger years in Louisiana and Mississippi while his father, Flavil Yeakley Jr., established churches in those states. After graduating from Oklahoma Christian University in 1982, the younger Yeakley received a master's in religious education from Abilene Christian University in 1986. He has worked with the Glenwood Church of Christ in Tyler, Texas, and the Hartford Avenue Church of Christ in Ponca City, Okla.

Steven Yeakley serves as president of the 200-member Christian Education Association, or CEA, which has served Churches of Christ for 50 years under a variety of names. A majority of its members serve in areas other than pulpit or youth ministry.

Why are education ministers important to the spiritual life of a church?

The study of God's Word is designed to lead to a life-giving relationship with Jesus. Keeping that in focus is one of the most important roles of an education minister.

Many Bible teachers feel that learning the content of Scripture is enough. In

response to this thinking, Jesus said, "You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life" (John 5:39-40).

Why are there so few full-time education ministers today?

It might appear that there are fewer education ministers today. I do not think that is the case.

Part of the explanation for this apparent decline can be attributed to ministry specialty. Notice the diversity in the 205 CEA members — 21 education ministers, 65 children's ministers, 10 associate ministers, 11 involvement ministers and six spiritual formation ministers. University professors, counselors, campus, singles and family ministers make up the rest (not to mention non-paid workers).

At the heart of each of these ministries is Christian education. Education ministers have not declined. Titles and job descriptions, though, have changed.

My father, Flavil Yeakley Jr. of Harding University, estimates that there are about 300 full-time ministers in the brotherhood that do not serve as preachers or youth ministers. His approximation is based on the number of congregations that are large enough to support a three-person staff. Those third ministers usually serve in an education role of some sort.

What are the top education needs of the church today?

Some have said that the top need is stability. In an ever-changing world, what the church must provide is a place to meet an unchanging God.

Others have mentioned the crying need for good resources to communicate the Gospel. Instead of simply relying on a minister to feed the flock, the church must identify good resources that can allow Christians to be fed at home. Books, DVDs, computer programs, small



KYLE RUSSELL

Steven Yeakley teaches Bible class at the Faith Village Church of Christ in Wichita Falls, Texas.

groups and blogs all are tools that can be used to fill spiritual needs.

Above all, though, the church needs godly teachers of the faith — tools in the hands of the Master to help shape the hearts and minds of young and old alike. That's a Bible teacher. That's what the church needs.

What constitutes a strong, biblical education program?

Helping individuals arrive at their own faith, becoming lifelong disciples of Jesus and developing a close relationship with God — those make for a strong biblical education program. That's the goal. It's not just about fun and numbers.

Although it helps, having great curriculum is not the most important matter. A church's biblical education program must be seen as more than just what happens on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. Making disciples is a "life-race" (the real meaning of the word "curriculum").

A strong biblical education program must focus on faith-formation in the hearts of Christians. To do that effectively in the world today requires a willingness to try different approaches. The Lord and his Word have not changed. Our understanding of how to teach has.

Bible students need to be challenged to do what we did years ago — study their Bible before coming to class. Whatever happened to homework, memorizing Scripture and being daily Bible readers? These spiritual disciplines need to return to our daily walk with the Lord.

A strong biblical education program also must be diverse. We understand that from a chronological standpoint. Classes for kindergartners are very different than for high-schoolers. A strong education program will always have learning opportunities for new Christians, no matter how young or old.

Special studies should also be offered. Don't Christians need to learn how to study, pray, worship, parent and serve effectively in the kingdom?

How can church leaders find truly qualified education ministers?

The first step always is prayer. Ask for wisdom. Seeking God's help is vitally important.

The second is to look at the person's life. Talk to a lot of people who know him or her. Compare the life of the ministry candidate with the fruit of the Spirit. They should match up well. Ask lots of questions. Never hire someone based on just one or two interviews. Finding a qualified education minister is an act of faith on the part of the church that is looking as well as that of the prospective minister. Both should be very open to God's will.

To help find a candidate, check with the biblical studies departments of the various Christian universities and the CEA Forum.

What is the Christian Education Conference? How has it influenced participants?

Each year the CEA sponsors the conference, which helps those actively working with churches do a better job in the area of Christian education. It's a great place to network with other Christian educators, discover new ministry resources and find support for your current ministry role and situation.

The conference always has provided very helpful sessions for ministers. Such people as Bill Patterson, Carl Brecheen, David Wray, Randy Willingham and Lynn Anderson have been a few of the many speakers over the past 50 years. Specialists from outside of the Churches of Christ have also served to bless the group, including people like Larry Richards, Gene Getz and Marlene LeFever.

Conference sessions always are geared to provide the latest ideas and research, but also tried-and-true solutions to ministry challenges.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on the Christian Education Association and the 2011 Christian Education Conference, see www.christianeducator.org.

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

Ephesians 5:18

The Principle:

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

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

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CAMPUS MINISTRY

WOLFLIFE CAMPUS MINISTRY

JONESBORO, Ark. — Eight months after receiving approval to change its name from the Church of Christ Student Center to Red Wolves for Christ, the campus ministry that serves Arkansas State University again has a new name.

Campus ministry director Chris Buxton said a university attorney informed him that “Red Wolves” is trademarked by the university, and the name change was granted inadvertently.

As a result, the ministry’s board voted to adopt the name WOLFLIFE Campus Ministry, which “joins the ASU mascot with the abundant life that comes through Christ,” Buxton said.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

SUNNY GLEN CHILDREN’S HOME

SAN BENITO, Texas — Ten miles from the Mexico border, Sunny Glen Children’s Home begins its 75th year in 2011.

“There are only 900 members of the Church of Christ in the Rio Grande Valley,” said Jay Williams, the home’s executive director. “But we have survived as a Church of Christ children’s home for almost 75 years.”

In June 2010, Sunny Glen started a new program called “Cradle of Hope” that helps unmarried teen moms who do not have a home and want to keep their children, Williams said. For more information, see www.sunnyglen.org.

HIGHER EDUCATION

ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

ABILENE, Texas — Immersed in a different culture and continent, ACU students and faculty members brought to fruition the university’s mission of service and leadership throughout the world.

Students studying abroad in Montevideo, Uruguay, recently participated in a worldwide effort to raise money for AIDS orphans in Kenya through a 5K run.

“Running along the beach of South America for the needs of children around the world was one of the most satisfying experiences,” student Kendyl McEachran said.

LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Lipscomb will launch



THE PRESS-REGISTER, MOBILE, ALA.

Christian school honors student with muscular dystrophy

In Alabama, Mobile Christian School basketball manager Harrison Leff is honored during “Hoops for Harrison” between the girls’ and boys’ basketball games on a recent Friday. Leff has a degenerative form of muscular dystrophy and is confined to a wheelchair. Despite his condition and lack of mobility, classmates and coaches said Leff’s outlook and attitude serve as a daily inspiration.

a new doctoral degree in ministry in fall 2011, Provost Craig Bledsoe announced.

The doctor of ministry degree, or D.Min., in missional and spiritual formation will be offered through a partnership between Lipscomb’s Institute for Christian Spirituality and the Hazelip School of Theology.

“We want to train leaders to deepen their participation in the missional heart of God through the spiritual disciplines,” said Earl Lavender, executive director of the Institute for Christian Spirituality.

OHIO VALLEY UNIVERSITY

VIENNA, W.Va. — OVU is offering new courses in Mandarin Chinese.

The university requires a diversity experience before graduation.

Two semesters of Chinese can fulfill that requirement, said Steve Hardy, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

“One-fourth of the planet’s population speak Chinese as their first language,” Hardy said. “By speaking both English and Chinese, (a student) will be able to converse with one-half of the entire human race.”

OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

OKLAHOMA CITY — A three-person team will

oversee Oklahoma Christian’s church relations efforts until a full-time director can be found to succeed Nathan Mellor, who left at the end of December.

The three-person team will be Kent Allen, vice president for university relations; Bob Rowley, senior advancement officer; and Stafford North, distinguished professor of Bible.

“I am very pleased that we have on the OC staff these three men who have such long-term ties and deep love for the Churches of Christ,” President Mike O’Neal said.

WESTERN CHRISTIAN

REGINA, Saskatchewan — Western Christian College and High School is partnering with Faulkner University in Montgomery, Ala., to offer two accredited degrees.

In October 2010, the Canadian college became an extension site of Faulkner, making available two new associate’s degree programs on the Regina campus.

Western Christian’s own programming will concentrate on religious studies and offer associate’s and bachelor’s degrees in religion, academic dean Bill Schwarz said. Faulkner’s offerings will focus on general studies and science.

SPORTS

Keys honor coach’s legacy

ROCHESTER HILLS, Mich. — More than 150 donors helped make possible a recent gift of a new Chevrolet Traverse for Rochester College basketball coach Garth Pleasant.

Pleasant is retiring at the end of the season after 38 years on the sidelines and more than 700 victories.

He has coached at his alma mater, formerly known as Michigan Christian College, since 1979.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ROCHESTER COLLEGE

Rochester College coach Garth Pleasant was inducted in 2008 into the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan Hall of Fame.

K-12 CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

COLUMBIA ACADEMY

COLUMBIA, Tenn. — Starting in fall 2011, Columbia Academy will provide every student in grades seven to 12 with an Apple iPad. Students in lower grades will also have access to iPads, which will be provided as instruction tools for teachers.

“This is a major turning point for ... our ability to prepare our students for college, career and life success,” President James Thomas said.

MINISTRY TRAINING

BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL

ANTWERP, Belgium — Patrick Boyns and Trevor Williams, representing the British Bible School, traveled to Belgium to teach a series of lessons on studying the Bible.

About two dozen members of the Deurne Church of Christ attended. The teachers’ lessons were translated into twi, a language of Ghana, for the benefit of the church’s sizeable Ghanaian membership.

“I am fairly used to being translated into a local language,” Boyns said, “but this was the first time (I was) translated into an African language in Europe.”



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Required: Bachelor's degree in English Education or Elementary Education with strong English emphasis

Candidate must be committed to the mission of Boyd-Buchanan School, accurately demonstrate knowledge of the content area, comprehend principles of student growth, development & learning, manage the educational setting in a manner that promotes positive student behavior and learning, work productively with colleagues, parents & administration. Experience preferred

Description: High School Volleyball Coach

Applicant must be committed to the mission of Boyd-Buchanan School and women's volleyball program. Willing to work with and support other coaches within the athletic department and with faculty/staff to develop an effective learning experience for the student athlete. Experience preferred.

www.bbschool.org



KATIE KYNION

York College serves up eggs, biscuits ... and chocolate gravy

At York College in Nebraska, a late-night country breakfast is served up as students prepare for semester finals. Students took a break from the books around 10 p.m. Sunday and replenished their energies with a menu featuring biscuits and gravy (including the option of chocolate gravy), scrambled eggs, pancakes, bacon, sausage links and hash browns. Pictured, clockwise from bottom left, are Caleb Connolly, Hunter Herrell, Mayra Urrutia, Carrie Berzins and Morgan Tackett.

Miss Pennsylvania raises money for camp

DOUGLASSVILLE, Pa. — Miss Pennsylvania, Courtney Thomas, helped raise money recently for Camp Manatawny, which is associated with Churches of Christ.

Thomas, a senior at Drexel University, Philadelphia, spoke at Garrett Hall with camp patrons, the *Reading Eagle* reported. The proceeds will benefit campers who need money to pay for sessions this summer.



Thomas

"Our evening with Miss Pennsylvania was quite nice," said Doug Edwards, a camp official. "She seemed to enjoy being at Camp Manatawny."

Thomas is a member of the Brookville Church of Christ and was to compete in the Miss America Pageant in January.

Joining her in the competition: Miss Oklahoma Emoly West, a member of the Memorial Road Church of Christ in Edmond, Okla. Oklahoma Christian University's Academy of Leadership and Liberty recently named West as its ambassador of leadership.

LCU coach claims six-figure roping prize

LUBBOCK, Texas — It's taken John Copeland 30 years to amass 444 wins on the basketball court.

In the span of two days on a recent weekend, he won six figures in the rodeo ring, the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* reported.

Copeland, the longtime men's basketball coach at Lubbock Christian University, won the No. 10 amateur



Copeland

division at the World Series of Team Roping in Las Vegas.

The title came with a check for \$200,000, which he split with partner Sparky Stephens of Hereford, Texas.

"The pros up here don't win that much in one sitting," Copeland told the *Avalanche-Journal* on his way back from Las Vegas. "That's what's unbelievable, that an amateur, and a 60-year-old man, can rope for that much."

Copeland is a member of the Green Lawn Church of Christ in Lubbock.

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NEWSMAKERS

NAMED: Chris Taylor, assistant vice president for constituency fundraising at Lubbock Christian University in Texas. Jonathan Neeley, director of the Church of Christ Student Center at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, Ark.



Taylor

AWARDED: Abilene Christian University's student newspaper, **The Optimist**, the Mark of Excellence as a finalist in the Best Non-Daily Newspaper category at the 2010 Society of Professional Journalists Convention and National Journalism Conference. **Lipscomb University College of Business**, the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence Commitment Award, given to organizations that achieve the highest standards of excellence in their operations. **Joe L. Dudley**, the Kopio Award for tireless service by Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn. Dudley is vice president and executive director of Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort Inc. in Nashville.



Dudley

NEW ELDERS: Jim Taylor and Hilton Merritt, West University church, Houston.

NEW MINISTER: Jacob D. Hawk, Riverside church, Kerrville, Texas.



Hawk

ANNIVERSARIES: 77th: Roy and Vadus Johnson, Columbus, Miss. 73rd: Walter and Ruth Bryan, Edmond, Okla. 69th: David and Addell Delony, Houston. 65th: Luchin and Dorothy Daugherty, McKinney, Texas; Lloyd and Imogene Grisso, Hanford, Calif.; Joe and Jane Mitchen, Baton Rouge, La. 60th: Charles and Betty Gambill, Cold Spring, Ky. 50th: Gerald and Bettye Casey, Searcy, Ark.

BIRTHDAYS: 95th: Edna Ruth Abston, Mount Vernon, Texas. 92nd: Ruth Key, Roanoke, Ala. 90th: Delma Brazle, Bozeman, Mont.; Estelline Jones, Marshfield, Mo.; Eunice Moody, Kingman, Kan.

PASSAGES: Paul R. Durham, 82, Nov. 20, Jasper, Texas, former elder and deacon of the Church of Christ, Hwy 96 South, in Jasper, Texas. **Ouida Garrett**, 86, Dec. 3, Denton, Texas, member of the Singing Oaks church in Denton. **Lois "Penny" Pavlatch**, 93, Nov. 30, Bakersfield, Calif., member of the Shafter, Calif., church, helped found the Springer, N.M., church. **Thomas J. Seay**, 87, Nov. 20, Cedar Park, Texas, former elder and minister for churches in Oklahoma, Georgia, Arizona and Texas. **Donna "Dixie" Spaulding**, 97, Nov. 29, Romance Ark., secretary to the president of Central Christian College in Bartlesville, Okla. **Francis "Frank" Starling Jr.**, 79, Dec. 6, Navarre, Fla., preacher for more than 35 years for congregations including the Bethany church in McMinnville, Tenn.

Jan. 14-16 Winterfest Arlington. "Worthy. Worship is 31556926." Arlington, Texas. Contact www.winterfest.org.

Jan. 16-19 2011 Christian Education Conference. "Remember, Revive, Renew, Rejoice." Sheraton Gunter Hotel, San Antonio. Contact www.cec2011.com or Chris Frizzell at (817) 573-2613 or cfrizzell@granburycoc.net.

Jan. 19-22 Sunset Vision Workshop. Sunset International Bible Institute, Lubbock, Texas. Contact www.sibi.cc or (800) 658-9553.

Jan. 21-22 Women of Hope conference. Third annual. "An Anchor of Hope in the Eye of the Storm." Embassy Suites Hotel, Franklin, Tenn. Contact www.hhi.org or (615) 832-2000.

Jan. 21-22 Medical Missions Seminar. 29th annual. "... unto one of the least of these." Fort Worth, Texas. Contact IHCF African Christian Hospitals at www.ihcf.net or (501) 268-9511.

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

Feb. 6-11 75th Annual Freed-Hardeman University Bible Lectureship. "Proclamation and Promise: Major Themes in the Minor Prophets." Freed-Hardeman University, Henderson, Tenn. Contact www.fhu.edu.

Feb. 18-20 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.affirmingthefaithok.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 or 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.

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

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

COMPLETE CALENDAR available at www.christianchronicle.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



*L. Randolph Lowry
President, Lipscomb University*

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



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EDITORIAL

Sunday night: A spiritual discipline

Just who came up with the idea that, after spending Sunday morning worshipping and studying, we should return Sunday night?

Some say the tradition of two gatherings on Sunday descends from the rural American frontier when travel was slow and difficult. Families brought their meals with them for what was often called "preachin' and dinner on the grounds." This was followed by an early-afternoon service.

Once cars appeared, families went home to eat and returned later in the day for what became a separate service.

Today, Sunday night services are in decline — in Churches of Christ and many other religious groups, according to news reports.

The economy has played a role. When the price of fuel spiked in 2008, several Churches of Christ in parts of the country where churches are few and far between canceled Sunday night worship. Driving 20-plus miles to church, twice on the same day, was expensive.

But even church members who live just blocks from their place of worship are finding alternate venues on Sunday night.

Some meet in homes for Bible

study and fellowship. A few practice acts of service in the community or team up to visit shut-ins and share communion.

A growing number stay home, claiming it is the only opportunity they have for family time.

Perhaps it is time for individual congregations to examine more closely the tradition of assembling on Sunday nights, so that God is glorified and we are richly fed.

The downturn in attendance indicates that church leaders should consider the need to reinvigorate Sunday nights.

Here are a few suggestions:

- Sunday night worship should receive careful planning to provide the best possible experience.

Try something fresh. Focus the time on praise and worship, prayer requests and well-developed Scriptural themes or meaty lessons.

- Churches that opt for small groups in homes on Sunday nights must make them worthwhile. That means planning studies and activities that both strengthen personal relationships and deepen spiritual lives.

Have a curriculum for your small groups. Share detailed prayer requests. Get involved in each other's lives by knowing and supporting each other.

Use small-group ministry to invite into your home people who otherwise might not visit a service in the church building.

- Find ways to lessen the cost of travel twice each Sunday. In some rural communities, Churches of Christ share lunch at their building, followed by an early-afternoon devotional in lieu of a Sunday night service.

Christians who genuinely want to be together find ways to make it work for as many individuals as possible.

- Focus on bringing family members together. This may provide opportunities to strengthen both social and spiritual relationships.

In a poll conducted on our news blog, ChristianChronicle.org/blog, some busy respondents described Sunday night as precious time for their family to be together.

When churches intentionally plan rich and inspiring Sunday evening worship, both spiritual and social needs are met.

As it is, we spend so comparatively little of our week in God's Word, worshipping at his feet, being the church to each other.

Let's resign ourselves to do something — rather than sit in the pews and watch as an additional opportunity for Christians to gather together dwindles.

Ever-Laughing Life

by Jonny Hawkins



"You're being pressed, molded and shaped for ministry, Harold. But I'm sure not every elders meeting will be this way."

TO OUR READERS

Wanted: Your church's directory

The monthly circulation of *The Christian Chronicle* keeps increasing. This edition will go to more than 109,500 individual addresses in all 50 states, reaching nearly a quarter of a million readers.

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We are continuing our

limited-time offer to add your entire church to our mailing list at no charge.

All names and addresses are kept confidential.

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It's time for churches to face – and combat – pornography and sex addiction in our pews

Their eyes lock despite the distance between them. He has looked forward to seeing her again. She smiles, and he almost blushes at the thought that she likes what she sees. "She would never hurt me," he thinks. "She is more beautiful, more perfect than any woman I could ever imagine."

The sound of a door opening jolts him back to reality. Panic surges through his body. He can't believe an hour passed that quickly. With practiced fluidity, he closes the video on his computer and erases the Internet history.

His wife notices the strange look on his face. "What have you been up to?" she asks. "Just working on tomorrow's Sunday school lesson," he responds. Although feeling something is not right, she dismisses it as her husband gives her a kiss.

Heart still racing, he berates himself and angrily promises himself that he will never view pornography again.

Hours later, when his wife goes on to bed, he returns to the computer determined to focus on class preparation. Despite the internal protests — as if the computer mouse had a mind of its own — he navigates back to the pornographic website. "I already ruined today. I'll start fresh tomorrow and never look at pornography again. Tomorrow. I promise." He once again gets lost in fantasy. Only this time the door doesn't open.

As a Christian, licensed counselor and certified sexual addiction therapist, I have heard similar scenarios countless times. Often it is after the pornography problem has been discovered, and the couple is on the brink of divorce. Neither has much hope for the future, nor do they feel they can turn to the church for help. "I have never felt more confused, more betrayed and so alone," a wife once told me.

The growing number of Christian men and women seeking help for pornography addiction is of great concern while at the same time gratifying. For many, to admit they are addicted to pornography, their lives are out of control and they need help is the necessary first step in regaining control of their lives.

The most alarming phenomenon may be the influence — or should I say, the non-influence — of the church in helping sexual addicts.

Sexual sin long has been the unseen elephant in the pews of many churches. The Internet has compounded the problem.

Intentional avoidance leaves addicts trapped, as they simultaneously pray for a "Good Samaritan" to come to their aid but also for the congregation to leave them alone to suffer their well-deserved consequences in seclusion. Most times the latter prayer gets answered, and another husband, another wife, another father, another mother, another marriage slowly disappears as the church looks on, fearful and frozen.

The church, most times, avoids even those who by the grace of God have fought their fears, faced reality and continue to deal effectively with their addiction. Men and women in recovery from pornography addiction often go unacknowledged and unsupported. To draw attention to their freedom would simultaneously draw attention to the fact that pornography is a prevalent issue in the

church — and that many remain prisoners of war.

The question of whether or not pornography is prevalent in the church has long been answered. Study after study shows that at least 25 percent — and typically closer to 50 percent — of Christian men regularly view pornography. Although many are surprised by polls that state 20 percent of Christian women are addicted to Internet pornography, most experts in the field believe the actual number is significantly higher.

Yet pornography and sexual addiction rarely are mentioned in an assembly. Even more rare is a church that has an organized, consistent, effective plan to help those struggling.

Which is the bigger problem in the church? The man or woman who avoids reality by consistently returning to a world of pornographic fantasy, or the congregation that buries its head in the sand, preferring its own fantasy that pornography and sex addiction are not issues?

Thankfully, more Christians see the need to combat Internet pornography and want to reach out to those caught in addiction. Unfortunately, the majority who want to help feel overwhelmed and unsure of how to start.

To begin, the church must intentionally provide an environment where those struggling feel safe to admit they need help. One of the biggest obstacles for sexual addicts to overcome is the shame they carry inside. This shame is compounded by the church's silence, which the addict interprets as judgment against them.

How safe is your congregation? How many prayer requests involve sexual issues? How many men and women are open about their struggles with pornography, affairs, masturbation or lust? How often are women/teens specifically asked to wear something appropriate and modest? How many sermons and classes directly confront sexual sin and sexual addiction? By bringing the topic of pornography into the light, the church can begin to send a message of understanding, hope and freedom that will reduce the addict's shame and encourage him or her to reach out for help and healing.

The church also needs an idea of the extent of the problem it faces. A truly anonymous survey of the members of the congregation will provide factual information and point the church in the

proper direction as it determines the steps it needs to take.

Ultimately, facilitating a recovery group for sexual addiction, providing counseling with qualified therapists and having non-judgmental attitudes are needed so that struggling Christians can find the lasting freedom they long for. Satan works through deceit, secrets and avoidance.

Jesus said, "The truth will set you free." Perhaps the most relevant question to be answered is, "Is your congregation ready to be set free?"

RYAN BUTTERFIELD is a full-time counselor with Capstone Treatment Center in Judsonia, Ark., and vice president of the Center for Christian Broadcasting Inc., a Christian nonprofit in Searcy, Ark. The nonprofit is producing an eight-disc DVD series to help churches and individuals understand and deal with sexual addiction and Internet pornography. For more information, e-mail cfcbsbcglobal.net.

Views



Ryan Butterfield

'The question of whether or not pornography is prevalent in the church has long been answered. Study after study shows that at least 25 percent — and, typically, closer to 50 percent — of Christian men regularly view pornography.'

LETTERS

Oprah's gift was 'a blessing from the Lord'

What a wonderful blessing for the Square family. (See "Minister gets Oprah's SUV keys, camper after chance meeting," Page 6, January.) I am sure they will enjoy the Coleman camper and the Chevy Tahoe they received from Oprah. This is definitely a blessing from the Lord.

Sharon Skinner | Shawnee, Okla.

This could not have happened to nicer people. I went to York College in Nebraska with Woody — a great guy.

David Ramsey | Colorado Springs, Colo.

I can't think of a more deserving couple! God is good!

Steve Byrne | Honolulu

Youth minister, bus driver trainer on church van safety

In response to your editorial "Church vans demand safety first" (Page 30, December), I wish to say "Amen!"

I have served as youth minister for the Walled Lake Church of Christ for the last 27 years and have traveled many miles with the youth of our congregation. We started with an old, retired school bus that served as our "Joy Bus." When the church purchased a brand-new, 15-passenger van, I was in heaven. We went everywhere in that vehicle.

Eventually, I began hearing about safety concerns with these vans through the local school district where I work as a school bus driver and driver trainer. Our church eventually purchased a 25-passenger minibus, for which I am extremely grateful.

I do not recommend the usage of 15-passenger vans because of the high rollover factor. If they are going to be used, I would suggest removing the last row of seats to reduce the capacity of the vehicle and help to reduce the rollover potential. I also recommend that all drivers of church-related vehicles have a commercial driver's license.

Greg Campbell | Walled Lake, Mich.

What can parents do about teens' weak faith?

BY JASON KNIGHT | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Most American teenagers possess a diluted version of traditional Christianity. In their minds, God certainly exists, but largely only to help them be nice, stay out of trouble and get ahead.

These findings come from the National Survey of Youth and Religion, conducted from 2002 to 2005. Kenda Creasy Dean, one of the interviewers for the extensive survey, suspects that teens are windows through which adult Christians can see their own beliefs more clearly.

This should give us pause.

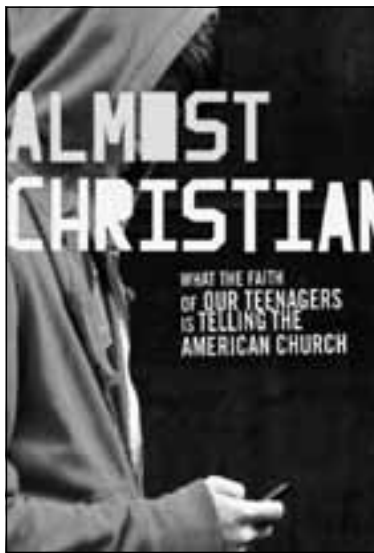
In **"Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers is Telling the American Church,"** Dean, a youth ministry professor at Princeton University, builds on the survey and offers research-based suggestions on what we can do to foster a much deeper, consequential faith in our teens.

"Almost Christian" is no simplistic offering of things to do in class this Sunday. Instead, believers will find practical wisdom richly informed by sound theology that will push them to assess why we do what we do in faith formation.

Dean offers hope. The National Survey of Youth and Religion revealed a small number of "highly devoted" teens

who possess beliefs, a church community, a sense of purpose and a hope for the future that their peers do not.

Interestingly, teens in "conservative evangelical" groups — such as Churches of Christ — are more likely to produce such "highly devoted" teens, though still not to a degree that should make us feel comfortable.



Kenda Creasy Dean. **Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers is Telling the American Church.** New York: Oxford, 2010. 264 pages. \$24.95.

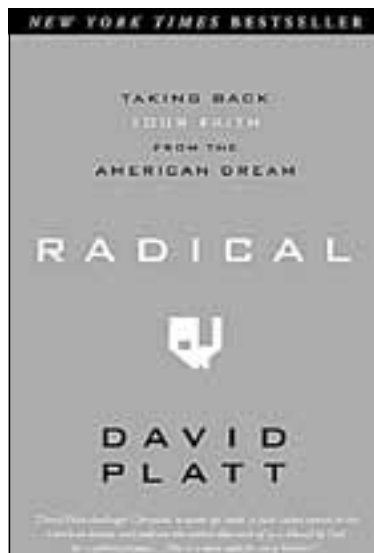
Simply put, we best serve the children in our churches when we allow them the freedom to try on faith and then faithfully mentor them on how faith influences day-to-day decisions. Instead of serving up programming that entertains but

'Instead of serving up programming that entertains but demands little, our children will form faith best when they are empowered to participate, especially in activities that inspire reflection, missions and service.'

demands little, our children will form faith best when they are empowered to participate, especially in activities that inspire reflection, missions and service. These activities help them see life in a new way.

Parents who are short on radical ideas for reaching their kids should try David Platt's aptly named **"Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream."** Platt, minister for a 4,000-member megachurch in Alabama, argues that what some label as "extreme" is really only biblical.

With passion and simple prose, Platt returns the reader



David Platt. **Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream.** Colorado Springs, Colo.: Multnomah Books, 2010. 240 pages. \$14.99.

to the often prickly words of Jesus. "Come, follow me" is a call to die daily to our own advancement. "Go into all the world" is a command for all of us, not just missionaries. "It is hard for the rich to inherit the kingdom of heaven" isn't just a theory.

In America, the greatest obstacles to our faith are the materialism, self-sufficiency and entitlement implicit in the "American dream," Platt writes. American adults have settled for the same low-commitment, self-focused version of Christianity detailed in the National Survey of Youth and Religion.

Platt's correctives are similar to Dean's — know your story, connect to a community, shake up your perspective, love sacrificially with your time and money.

Some will find Platt's proposals too radical — cap your standard of living, trade Disney World for a mission trip to Detroit, scale back the flash in worship. Others will embrace this book warmly, especially younger Christians whom Dean argued are dissatisfied with low-risk faith.

This has been my experience as a high school teacher with



Keith Meyer. **Whole Life Transformation: Becoming the Change Your Church Needs.** Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2010. 220 pages. \$20.

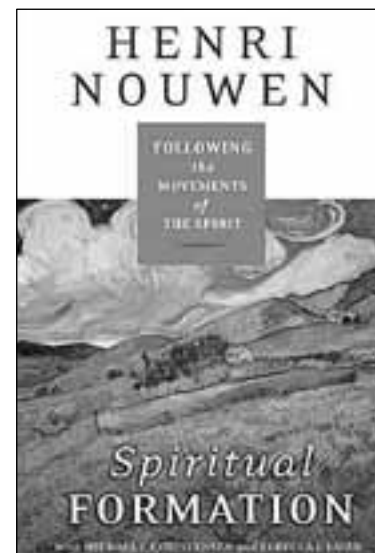
students who have picked up and then enthusiastically passed around "Radical" to their friends. As one ninth-grade girl said, "This book will change your life."

The pressure to preach a message that ruffles few feathers — and to operate more like the CEO of a business than a shaper of souls — drove Keith Meyer to write **"Whole Life Transformation: Becoming the Change Your Church Needs."**

Fifteen years ago, Meyer was a busy pastor in a large church, chasing ministry success while slowly losing touch with his family and his own identity. When he realized that American Christianity seems to judge success by "buildings, budgets and bodies," not by lives transformed to look more like Jesus, Meyer threw in the towel.

The greatest appeal of Meyer's book is his candidness. He is not afraid to share the dirt of his own life (neglect of his son, workaholicism, self-reliance) in the hope that others may see themselves and cry out for more as well.

Meyer, like Platt, implores churches to adopt the program Jesus used for making disci-



Henri Nouwen. **Spiritual Formation: Following the Movements of the Spirit.** New York: HarperCollins, 2010. 192 pages. \$25.99.

ples — invest in relationships with people, especially leaders, who can show others the way to transformation. Like Dean, Meyer sees apprenticing as key to real change.

Many of Meyer's suggestions will strike some readers as general or even common sense, but he does a good job charting the way forward.

No discussion of faith formation would be complete without a review of the newest repackaging of Henri Nouwen's **"Spiritual Formation: Following the Movements of the Spirit."** For 40 years, Nouwen's magnanimous voice has influenced people's thinking about Christian spirituality.

Taking a different approach from the previous authors, Nouwen sketches out seven "moves" faith must make over the span of life to attain spiritual maturity. Nouwen always helps me connect spirituality to modern struggles, and I suspect this book will do the same for others.

JASON KNIGHT is a high school Bible teacher at Harding Academy in Memphis, Tenn., and a member of the Highland Church of Christ in Cordova, Tenn.



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College of Arts and Sciences

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

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The Department of Biology invites applications for a tenure-track position. All areas of biology will be considered, but we have particular interest in an applicant who could aid in the pre-health professions areas. Teaching responsibilities will be a mixture of general and upper-division courses. Research activity involving undergraduate students also is expected. The successful applicant will have a Ph.D. and demonstrate an ability to work in collaborative, collegial relationship in a multi-discipline department. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/biology.

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

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

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The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication invites applications for a position in online interactive media. The ideal applicant will have professional experience in some dimension of online interactive media as a journalist or producer, or in advertising or public relations. At least a master's degree in the field is required, and a terminal degree is strongly preferred. This faculty member will work closely with faculty and staff colleagues in the department to further integrate the curriculum with the co-curricular student media produced in the JMC Network newsroom, the commercially licensed LPTV station, ACU's NPR-affiliated FM radio station, and the student-run Ad/PR agency. Teaching expectations will include visual and digital media courses for multimedia majors and within the department's core curriculum that serves majors in convergence journalism, multimedia and Ad/PR. Research and service expectations support ACU's status as a comprehensive university and the department's national accreditation by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/jmc.

College of Business Administration

Dr. Rick Lytle, Dean
ACU Box 29303, Abilene, Texas 79699-9303

Accounting and Finance

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.

The Department of Accounting and Finance also invites applications for a tenure-track position in finance. A terminal degree or A.B.D. status is preferred. Responsibilities include teaching finance 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.

Marketing

The Department of Management Sciences invites applications for a tenure-track position. Responsibilities include engaging with undergraduate students and colleagues in teaching, research and service. Qualifications include a doctorate in marketing or cognate field, research history and/or plan, and a strong commitment to teaching.

College of Education and Human Services

Dr. Malesa Breeding, Dean, ACU Box 28276, Abilene, Texas 79699-8276

School of Social Work

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.

Department of Exercise Science, Health and Nutrition

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.

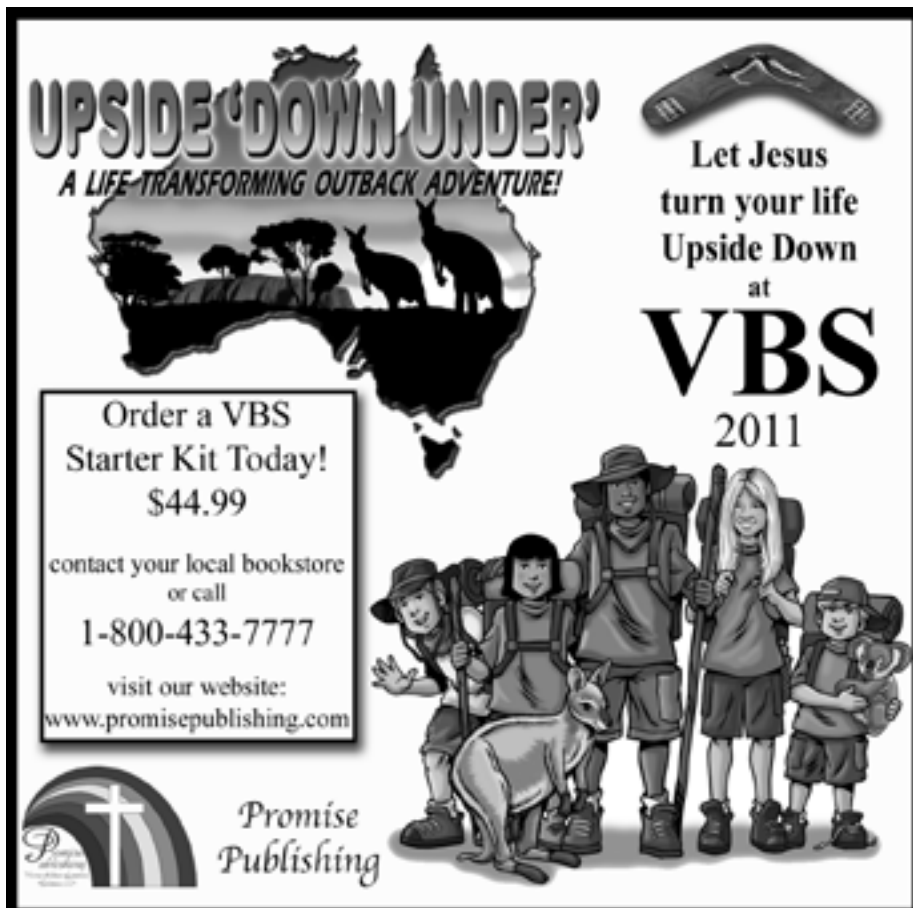
Department of Teacher Education

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.

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

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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: York College announces a full-time, tenure-track faculty position in Bible beginning August 16, 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.

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In a compartmentalized world, we strive to have 'everything in common'

The kingdom of God has been central to God's design since the foundation of the world.

Since Adam's sin, God has persisted in bringing about redemption for mankind even as God promised our first parents as they left Eden. The promise of one to strike the head of the serpent foreshadows the coming of Jesus and the ending of the earthly kingdom of Israel.

With the death and resurrection of Jesus came the marvelous kingdom of God, the church. Acts and the writings of Paul reveal the rich early history of the new kingdom.

Acts' view of the early church shows redeemed men and women rejoicing in the Lord and working with each other to show the Jewish community what the true kingdom of God would be in the future:

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miracles were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. (Acts 2:42-44).

When persecution came, the church united to stand against the opposition and to pray for Peter and John when they were harassed. The church needed every person as each one's faith grew and all sought to reach the whole world with the good news of Jesus.

Two thousand years later, the kingdom of God should renew that marvelous spirit that turned the world upside down.

The time has come to be passionate about evangelism, but we have to realize that we live in a post-Christian world that requires much more effort than a five-night study of the steps to salvation.

We live in a time when people live in small "cells" — the place where they live, the place where they work, the places where they go for entertainment, places where they work out or socialize, and some group of friends, possibly church or, more likely, social Internet sites. (It's little wonder that Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg was named *Time's* "Person of the Year.")

People are so busy that their days are scheduled from the time they get up until they go to bed. The only way to reach people is to reach out in every situation and offer friendship. Only through such relationships can people be known, loved and influenced. The serious witness of a true believer will

gradually wear away the tough, indifferent hearts of this generation.

The kingdom of God must have citizens who love God with all their being

Insight



Bailey McBride

and who love other believers as the early church did. Today people wander into huge church assemblies and are as indifferent to the people around them as moviegoers or basketball fans.

Love has to work in the church, for we need each other. Each of us needs the support of other believers, and each

must support those in need. When a family loses a job, people must surround those hurting members and offer regular, meaningful support, even as the first century church did when the visitors to Jerusalem became believers and stayed to learn more about Jesus. The emotional needs of our stress-filled lives make all believers need friends to study, pray and talk with.

The kingdom of God always has been about social justice. Today's widows and orphans stand in as great a need as ever, and all the social welfare systems seem only to perpetuate the inequities. Our capitalist system has been beneficial as a whole, but clearly wealth accumulates and poverty spreads like a plague.

In 2010, many of the richest in the world pledged to share large amounts of their wealth to fight against poverty. Zuckerberg made a huge donation to a failing school district.

Within the kingdom, the wealthiest must lead the way and support projects to help blighted neighborhoods. Other believers must move in to mentor, encourage, tutor and love in those neighborhoods. We may never, as believers, have "everything in common," but it should be a goal for the children of God.

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."

CONTACT bailey.mcbride@christianchronicle.org.



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