



THE ROOKIE, PART 2

AFTER THE MOVIE *about his life, Jim Morris' journey takes more extraordinary turns*

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

ABILENE, Texas — Go play catch with Jim Morris. The Jim Morris, that is.

The one whose real-life story Dennis Quaid portrayed in the 2002 Disney feature film "The Rookie."

Mikey Weisinger, a teenager new to a Christian children's home in Medina, Texas, about 225 miles south of Abilene, had seen the movie on cable television.

So he knew the story of Morris' incredible journey from small-town science teacher and baseball coach to major-league pitcher.

Weisinger, sent to live at the group home because of family problems, didn't know what to think of the man tossing baseballs back and forth. Was this a photo op for a celebrity? Or was Morris genuinely interested in *him*?

It didn't take Weisinger long to figure out the answer.

See **ROOKIE**, Page 14

PHOTO: WALT DISNEY PICTURES

In hometown of Jesus, church names elders

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

An Israelite named Nathaniel once asked, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?"

Moments later, he was face-to-face with Jesus of Nazareth, declaring him the Son of God and king of Israel.

More than 2,000 years after that good confession, a small congregation of Christ followers in Jesus' hometown became the first Church of Christ in the Middle East to appoint elders.

Before a record attendance of 76 people, Bishara Bishara and Suhail Shleyan were charged with shepherding the Nazareth Church of Christ — a congregation of about 50 Arab Christians in the modern-day State of Israel.

"Don't call us elders. Just call us servants," said Bishara, a member of the Nazareth church since 1968 and retired principal for Galilee Christian High School. "We only seek to be spiritual leaders, and our confidence is based on the Word of God to guide us."

Shleyan became a member of the church in 1982 and works as an engineer for the municipality

of Nazareth. He said he views the appointment as "a great responsibility."

"We understand that our future growth is dependent on good leadership," Shleyan said.

"Pray for us as we seek to do God's will."

The church in Nazareth began in 1960 through the efforts of missionaries Ernest Stewart and Ralph Henley.

At least nine families have served as missionaries in Nazareth in the years since, said Evertt Huffard, vice president and dean of Harding Graduate School of Religion in Memphis, Tenn., who attended the dedication service.

Huffard, an elder of the Church of Christ at White Station in Memphis, and his wife, Ileene, served as missionaries in

SEE **NAZARETH**, Page 15



Bishara



Shleyan



Hands-on, hands dirty

World Mission Workshop trains students outdoors. **3, 17-19**



Cause for caution

Recent church van crashes show need for safety. **30**



A Muskie's fight

Church member, softball coach for Muskingum Fighting Muskies battles cancer. **27**

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Kindred spirits: Mail brings news and inspiration

Little glimpses of heaven arrive — by the hundreds — in our mailbox each week.

The Christian Chronicle receives church bulletins from across the nation — so many that we can't possibly read them all.

Inside Story



Bobby Ross Jr.

But when we have a moment, we love opening up these treasure chests of news and inspiration from our brothers and

sisters all over America and even the world.

We see the orders of worship, the prayer lists, the wedding announcements, the missionary reports, the names of those serving in the military, the attendance and contribution figures, the reminders to bring change for the local children's home ... and we feel a kindred spirit with congregations large and small, far and wide.

Via our mailbox, we enjoy a few laughs.

We chuckle at an article titled "No Streakers in Church" (hint: put on the full armor of God) from the Canyon View Church of Christ in San Diego and at one-liners such as this from the Arnold Church of Christ in Missouri: "If God is your co-pilot, you need to trade seats."

Via our mailbox, we enjoy a few admonitions.

"Who will you worship Sunday?" asks the bulletin of the West Garriott Road Church of Christ in Enid, Okla. "The god of Ease? ... The god of Mammon? ... The

See **BULLETINS**, Page 4



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

At the World Mission Workshop in northern Arkansas, Snezana Lepki wears a shirt with the Canadian flag and stands by the flags of China and Bosnia and Herzegovina. She has lived in all three countries.

Baptized three times

A REAL-LIFE 'SNOW WHITE' shares her journey of faith — from Bosnia to America.

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

FLORAL, Ark.

When Snezana Lepki sings in church, she focuses her gaze on the heavens — if the song praises God, that is.

If the song is about her fellow Christians — "Love One Another" or "We're Marching to Zion," for example — she will "turn and face you — and sing to you," said Mavis Baldwin, who worships alongside Lepki at the College Church of Christ in Searcy, Ark.

Sure, it can be a bit disconcerting, Baldwin said. But "the idea is worship, and that's what she's busy doing."

Facing her brothers and sisters as she

sings is a practice she picked up in Canada, said Lepki, a native of the small European nation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

But the way she worships also reflects the way she lives, her friends said.

"She is one of the most other-centered people I know," said Baldwin's wife, Rosalind. "Her love of Christ comes through."

Lepki, whose first name "Snezana" is Serbian for "Snow White," is completing a master's in education at Harding University in Searcy. She and about 700 other students traveled to Harding's Camp Tahkodah for the 50th World Mission Workshop.

In a simulated Third World market, Lepki

See **BAPTIZED**, Page 16

Guest chapel speaker is out of this world

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma Christian University's adopted astronaut, Doug Wheelock, spoke to students recently — from 250 miles above the Earth.

Wheelock talked live via video feed from the International Space Station, where he serves as commander of the six-person crew.

"Chance favors the prepared mind," Wheelock said in a somersaulting space talk in which he discussed his Christian faith and promised to return to Oklahoma Christian in the spring — in person.

"Regardless of what your goals and dreams are for your life, the most important thing is to put your trust and faith in God and to keep your life at the center of his will," the astronaut told students at Oklahoma Christian's daily chapel assembly. "Because when you do that, everything else tends to work out."

On a lighter note, he joked, "I launched on June 15th, and so I haven't had a shower since June 15th."

In June, Oklahoma Christian hosted a shuttle liftoff party for Wheelock, and in March, he was the guest speaker at a university fund-raising dinner. While on campus last spring, he spoke in chapel, ate lunch with students and visited several classes.

He has served with the NASA space program since 1998. He was a mission specialist on the Space Shuttle Discovery in 2007, logging almost 400 hours in space and performing three spacewalks. He has served as the primary liaison between NASA and the Russian Space Agency.

Wheelock is scheduled to return to Earth on a Russian Soyuz spacecraft in December.



JEREMY GAN

Doug Wheelock speaks from space to Oklahoma Christian University students.

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ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Students, posing as vendors, haggle over prices in a market simulation.

BULLETINS: In the digital age, paper still a blessing

FROM PAGE 3

god of Popularity? ... The god of Pleasure? ... The god of Self-Pride? ... The God of Heaven?"

Via our mailbox, we learn that the "Senior Saint of the Month" at the Cedars Church of Christ in Wilmington, Del., is Mary Weir.

We learn about the dedication of a Texas Historical Marker at the Pleasanton Church of Christ in Texas, whose roots go back 150-plus years.

We learn about a new car maintenance ministry, for retirees and single mothers, at the South Yukon Church of Christ in Oklahoma.

The little glimpses of heaven that arrive in our mailbox are printed on white paper and on blue, green, purple, yellow and even bright pink paper — yes, we're talking about *you*, Alma School Road Church of Christ in Chandler, Ariz.

Katherine Cooper, wife of minister Dan Cooper, produces *The Proclaimer*, the weekly full-color newsletter of the Pitman Church of Christ in Sewell, N.J.

It's filled with pictures of weddings, babies and graduates, details on fellowship activities and, frequently, kind mentions of articles in the *Chronicle*.

What's not to love about that?

Via our mailbox, we read about young families from the Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ in Pampa, Texas, going to visit a corn maze in Amarillo and think that sounds like fun.

We read the "Bear Work Day Report" from the Yorktown Road Church of Christ in Logansport, Ind., and wish we could see a picture of the 148 bears made by 11 church ladies and young girls.

We read about "Greg's Intense Chili (not for the faint of heart)" at the chili supper of the Fishinger and Kenny Roads Church of Christ in Columbus,

Ohio, and wonder if we'd be man (or woman) enough to try it.

But we're certain of this: The roast turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy served at a recent Wednesday night meal of the Manchester Church of Christ in New Hampshire sound exceptionally appetizing. Invite your *Chronicle* friends next time, OK?

Via our mailbox, we catch up with "Coy's Corner" from Coy Hathcock of the Westwood Church of Christ in McMinnville, Tenn., "Nathan's Notes" from Nathan Jorgenson of the Mount Comfort Church of Christ in Fayetteville, Ark. and "Patrick's Points" from Patrick Odum of the Northwest Church of Christ in Chicago.

We see references to a "TWO42 group" at the Oregon City Church of Christ in Oregon, to a "Hobo Supper" by the Robinson and Center Church of Christ in Conway, Ark., to "Pew Packers" at the Bostonia Church of Christ in El Cajon, Calif., and to "Teen F.A.S.T." at the Starkville Church of Christ in Mississippi.

We're not exactly sure what all those terms mean, but we know that "SWAP" is an acronym for the "Sisters With A Purpose" who worship with the Great Falls Church of Christ in Montana.

Alas, it's the digital age, and many churches have stopped mailing bulletins because of printing and postage costs.

Most news tips reach us these days by e-mail, Facebook and Google alerts. We report breaking news immediately on the *Chronicle* website, often days and weeks before our monthly print edition arrives at your home or church.

Still, we savor the little glimpses of heaven that arrive in our mailbox each week.

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

ARIZONA

KINGMAN — “Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.”

The Desert Church of Christ decided to follow that example from Acts 2:46 and meet together every night for a week.

Members Laquita Searles and Carol Smith organized meals, while Ed Smith recruited men to lead singing, pray and present 10- to 15-minute lessons.

The church averages Sunday attendance of about 90. The nightly services drew between 55 and 68 people.

“The event touched many as the congregation drew closer to one another and, more importantly, closer to God,” minister Steve McCall said.

ARKANSAS

SEARCY — Combine Jesus’ parable of the marriage feast with the Great Commission, and you have the basic ingredients for the “Caring and Sharing” program of the College Church of Christ.

Directed by deacon Eddie Cloer, the outreach effort — started in 2008 — features a Monday night “friendship meal” with church members and guests followed by individual Bible studies.

About 150 people are fed physically and spiritually each week, and more than 70 have responded to the Gospel, said member Ian Terry, who urges other churches to consider such an approach.

“The combination of food, fellowship, devotion and individual study will result in a harvest of souls,” Terry said.

MASSACHUSETTS

BURLINGTON — Fun and food. Arts and crafts. Even pony rides.

For the third straight year, the Burlington Church of Christ’s Kids’ Festival drew children and their families to the church building, minister Tony Thompson said.

“The first two years, the festival brought in families who became members and regular attenders at the church,” Thompson said.

More than 1,000 guests from the community attended the recent festival.

MISSISSIPPI

UNION — More than 30 of the Union Church of Christ’s 50 members participated in a recent outreach event called “Share & Serve,” minister Rick Benson said.

“They were all blessed in their efforts to serve the needy,” Benson said.

The congregation collected clothing, household items and food. Members helped 31 families, representing 91 souls,



PHOTOS BY ROBERTO RODRIGUEZ, AMARILLO (TEXAS) GLOBE-NEWS

Texas ministry serves children, adults with special needs

Above, Peggy Ford, Mark Schuster and Justin Jasper pray during a Bible study at the Southwest Church of Christ in Amarillo, Texas. The study was part of the church’s ministry for children and adults with special needs, the *Amarillo Globe-News* reported.

At right, church member Hank Northcutt greets Keenon Doss during the class. Brad Thompson, Southwest’s young families minister, and his wife, Karen, founded The Hali Project, designed to serve families of children with special needs. In 2000, Brad Thompson integrated The Hali Project into the church and created a Bible class for adults with needs ranging from autism to Down syndrome.



the minister said.

Each person helped was invited to attend a gospel meeting featuring Steve Kirby, pulpit minister for the Hilldale Church of Christ in Clarksville, Tenn.

NEW YORK

PLATTSBURGH — “Volunteers in History” was the theme of a recent city parade.

The Plattsburgh Church of Christ entered a float featuring a wooden cross and this message: “The greatest volunteer in history served you.”

“Naturally, Jesus was the greatest volunteer,” minister Doug Kashorek said. “The crowd reacted favorably.”

NORTH CAROLINA

FLAT ROCK — More than 100 families from across the nation attended the 21st annual “Roundhouse” gathering.

The yearly event draws members of Churches of Christ who home-school their children.

“The families traveled from many states, and there were also missionary families who came from as far away as Australia,” said Bradley Cobb, a member of the McLoud Church of Christ in Oklahoma.

SOUTH DAKOTA

HURON — For the 56th year, the Huron Church of Christ operated a booth at the recent state fair, missionary Timmy Walker said.

Church member Bob Muilenberg built a new booth free of charge, and his labors “helped us accomplish the mission bigger and better,” Walker said.

In all, 13 people requested Christian evidence courses; 16 asked for Bible

SPOTLIGHT

PHOTO PROVIDED BY DALE JENKINS

Michael Hite, Dale Jenkins and Caleb O’Hara advise church members on the best uses of technology at TheMinistryGeek PowWow.

Ministry geeks get techy

SPRING HILL, Tenn. — TheMinistryGeek PowWow, a technology in ministry conference, drew 47 participants from 10 states to the Spring Meadows Church of Christ.

Instruction on the best uses of technology for the church was offered by Caleb O’Hara, minister of the Ripon Church of Christ in California; Michael Hite, vice president of operations at Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver; and Dale Jenkins, minister of the Spring Meadows church.

The conference featured sessions on Google group calendars, presentation software, webpage development and online social networking. TheMinistryGeek is the name of a weekly podcast that is part of TheEquipNetwork.com.

“The PowWow grew out of a need to demonstrate visually and in a hands-on way tips given on the podcast,” Jenkins said.

Future training events are planned in Dallas and Denver next year.

courses; eight agreed to in-home Bible studies; two wanted a visit from a church member; and five requested more information about the church, he said.

“The fair booth continues to be the least intimidating evangelistic tool accomplishing the mission of the church,” Walker said.

TENNESSEE

ATHENS — “I Am Connected,” said the yellow T-shirts and lapel pins worn by Athens Church of Christ members on a recent Sunday. Ninety-three percent of the congregation made commitments to local ministries of the church, involvement minister Travis Irwin said.

The church, where Tim Gunnells serves as evangelist, is evaluating its facility needs.

“The Lord is evidently leading this 250-member church to a different level of service in the community,” Irwin said.

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MARK MILLER

Dads, sons learn to hit their 'targets' at Nebraska retreat

Dave Bendickson, preacher for the Central Church of Christ in Davenport, Iowa, instructs Simeon Tremaine during the recent Dads-n-Lads retreat at Nebraska Youth Camp. Bendickson spoke on the theme "The Mystical Flight of the Arrow," with lessons emphasizing faith, obedience, intentionality and the forces that guide men toward or away from their "targets" of Christ-likeness. About 125 men and boys attended the event, sponsored by Dad's Ministries of York, Neb.

Texas member's heroics earn high honors

SAN ANTONIO — Police officer Brandy Roell, a member of the San Pedro Church of Christ, is being honored for her heroism and sacrifice.

The recognition came both for her actions and for suffering gunshot wounds in the line of duty.

Roell was one of 13 public servants to receive the 2010 Star of Texas Award.

During recent ceremonies in Austin, Gov. Rick Perry recognized her "selfless

service and injury in the line of duty."

A week later, the Sons of the American Revolution also acknowledged her courage. The group bestowed its Medal for Heroism on her during a ceremony at the Petroleum Club in San Antonio.

Two years ago, Roell was barely a month out of the police academy when she and another officer were wounded trying to arrest a man on a domestic violence warrant. As they walked up a stairway, the gunman opened fire with an automatic rifle. The rounds penetrated a wall and struck both officers.



Roell

Church's portable defibrillator saves life

FLORENCE, Ala. — The last thing Sallie Sims remembers about going to a recent funeral at the CrossPoint Church of Christ was wondering if she would know the fourth verse to the hymn "No Setting Sun."

When Sims collapsed, staff members rushed to get the defibrillator that the church bought in 2006 at the urging of a church elder, *The Times Daily* reported.

Sims is living proof that having an automated external defibrillator, or AED, on site can make a difference in whether a person lives after the onset of sudden

cardiac arrest, church leaders said.

"I finished the song and then, the next thing, I was in an ambulance, and a man was trying to put oxygen on me," Sims told the newspaper.

Sims' niece Stacy White expressed her appreciation for the church investing in the defibrillator. "Based on what I've been told, I'm convinced if not for the church having that (AED) she would not be with us today," she told *The Times Daily*. "She was gone; there was no heart beat, but thanks to the defibrillator, she's alive."

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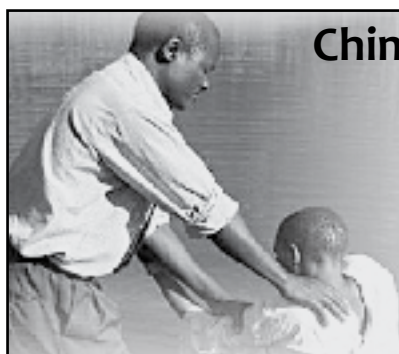
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ALBANIA

DURRES — Church members helped distribute medical supplies to hospitals in northwestern Albania, where severe flooding drove more than 4,000 people from their homes earlier this year.

An Albanian-American community in Dallas saw TV reports of the flooding and spearheaded the relief effort. They used Global Samaritan Resources, a church-supported ministry in Abilene, Texas, to ship a 40-foot container of medical supplies to Albania. Lodovik Tetaj traveled from America to Albania to help with logistics. Tom Bonner, a missionary in Lushnja, Albania, supervised the arrival of the supplies. Alfred Zike, a missionary in Durres, Albania, assisted.

ARGENTINA

BUENOS AIRES — Let's Start Talking is an important outreach of the Caballito Church of Christ in this South American capital, missionary Joel Banks said.

The Texas-based ministry sends teachers around the globe, helping non-native speakers improve their English skills using the Bible.

"Before the year is out, Lord willing, we will have had 24 short-term workers come and help us with this program," Banks said.

The Harpeth Hills Church of Christ in Brentwood, Tenn., provides housing for the workers in Argentina.

"How to continue working with all the contacts made through this ministry has proved challenging," Banks said.

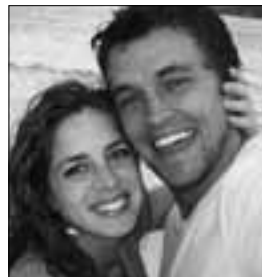
The Caballito church hosts two Bible studies for people conversant in English and some one-on-one studies. Church member Osvaldo Valdez teaches a beginning English class, which meets before a youth devotional on Tuesdays.

BRAZIL

NITEROI — Christians in North and South America prayed for twin boys Graham and Gibson Gotcher. Church members also filled the Facebook pages of the twins' parents — Wes and Carrie Gotcher — with messages of support.

The Gotchers are part of a mission team in Niteroi. Carrie Gotcher delivered the twins in Brazil at 28

weeks. The boys weighed about two and a half pounds each. Gibson Gotcher had surgery to close a gap between his aorta



WWW.NITEROI MISSION.COM/GOTCHER

Carrie and Wes Gotcher

PHOTO PROVIDED BY MIRIAM UPTON

Serving souls — and soles — in Panama

Children in the village of Farallon, Panama, line up to get pairs of flip-flops. A group of church members, including Mark and Miriam Upton and David and Lisa Carter, gave out more than 200 pairs of flip-flops to people in the village. The flip-flops were left over from hundreds of pairs brought by members of the Southwest Church of Christ in Jonesboro, Ark., as part of a mission trip to Panama during the summer. "Giving away flip-flops was an incredible way of getting to know the community and letting them know of our love for them and Christ," Miriam Upton said.

and the pulmonary artery.

"We had around 15 people up at the hospital praying for Gibson during his surgery, and we really felt at peace," Wes Gotcher said.

SOUTH AFRICA

PORT ELIZABETH — After graduating from Southern Africa Bible College in Benoni, William Tengani returned to his hometown of Port Elizabeth and planted a new

congregation.

The new church, which meets in Tengani's home, baptized 16 people in its first eight months of existence and has an average attendance of 32, Tengani said.

"We praise God for opening doors for us to preach his holy word," Tengani said.

**Tengani****SPOTLIGHT****'Gobsmacked' by church's love**

NOTTINGHAM, England — A church in this fabled British city — where a dastardly sheriff once hunted a thief named Robin Hood — hosted an event called "2010 Celebration" recently.

But the name of the event referred to more than just the year, missionary Bob Eckman said. "2010 happens to mark 20 years since we started this church plant in Nottingham and 10 years since we moved into our building," he said.

Members of the Stapleford Church of Christ in Nottingham gathered to share memories of the congregation — good and bad. Eckman recalled an early gospel meeting attended by five people — himself, his wife, his two coworkers and the guest speaker. Church members also recalled fond memories of the congregation, which now has about 55 members.

"Many tears were shed as well as many howls of laughter as everyone spoke highly of the blessing of being a part of the Nottingham church," Eckman said. Participants also split into groups and discussed how they can better serve their community in the years ahead.

During the celebration, church members presented Eckman with a card signed by all the members and gift certificates for a 30-minute flight in a vintage, open-cockpit aircraft and a vacation in Ireland.

"As they say here in England, I was 'gobsmacked' ... speechless," Eckman said. "This is a great church. We have our ups and downs, as does any church, but God continues to bless us in amazing ways."

WEBSITE: www.nottinghamchurchofchrist.org.uk

**Eckman****VANUATU**

TULWEI — Missionary Eric Brandell traveled to Malekula, the second-largest island in this South Pacific nation, to meet with four young Christians who comprise the island's Church of Christ. The Christians had constructed a bamboo and thatch structure for a meeting place and were preaching to five to 10 visitors each Sunday, Brandell said. For more information, see www.missionvanuatu.com.

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Church members among dead in cholera outbreak

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

An outbreak of cholera in Haiti has claimed at least 250 lives — including members of three Churches of Christ.

At least 3,000 Haitians are infected with cholera — a bacterial infection often caused by drinking contaminated water, according to news reports.

Christians who worship with the St. Marc, St. Michelle and Dessalines congregations are among the dead, said Dr. David Smith, a church member who oversees the Haiti Christian Development Project in Little Rock, Ark.

Gueston Pacius, a Haitian minister and development director for the Arkansas ministry, helped remove some of the dead bodies, Smith said.

At press time, Pacius was in the port city of Gonaives, Haiti, “going through the final steps to get a host of medical supplies and water filters released” from a shipment sent by church members, Smith said.

The death toll in Haiti — still recovering

from a devastating earthquake in January — is expected to rise. Hospitals across the Gonaives region are completely full, Pacius said in a report to Smith.

“A lot of people suffer right now,”

Pacius said. “Some already are sick. Some are waiting for their turn. Some are sad because they lost all their family.”

Jean T. Elmera, minister for the Delmas 28 Church of Christ in Haiti’s capital, Port-au-Prince, has transported supplies donated



Pacius

by Healing Hands International to the affected areas.

“As a worker in public health for 18 years, (I know) this could be avoided,” Elmera said. “But poor hygiene and lack of health education (have) downsized Haiti into this hole.”

TO CONTRIBUTE to Haiti relief, see www.hcdp.net, www.hhi.org or globalsamaritan.org.

Ministries request aid for Nicaragua flood victims

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Church members in Nicaragua formed a human chain to cross a rain-swollen river as they returned from a recent gospel campaign.

“God was with us,” said Dr. Erick J. Garcia, who led the campaign to Ciudad Dario, north of Nicaragua’s capital, Managua. Soon after they arrived in Dario, heavy rains washed out bridges and roads between the campaigners and their home in Jinotepe, Nicaragua.

After the campaign, several of the church members got sick. They likely waded through contaminated water on the way home, Garcia said. Despite the hardships, the campaign yielded 11 baptisms.

Garcia, a Nicaraguan physician, is director of the Biblical Institute of Central America (BICA) school in Nicaragua.

He and fellow Christians are doing what they can to serve the people of their Central American homeland, beset by months of heavy rains and floods.

Tropical Storm Matthew added to the region’s misery, killing four people in Nicaragua. Since March, 54 Nicaraguans have died due to the rains, according to news reports. Thousands more have been forced from their homes.

The rains also have ruined crops, and food prices are skyrocketing, Garcia said.

The Northside Church of Christ in Temple, Texas, is collecting funds to help flood victims in Nicaragua.

Another church-sponsored ministry in Nicaragua, Mision Para Cristo, also is collecting funds. The ministry is based in Jinotepe, Nicaragua.

“As we look to serve those affected by the rains, our areas of focus are food, medicine, shelter and concern for their emotional and spiritual needs,” said Benny Baker, the ministry’s director.

CONTRIBUTIONS may be sent to Northside Church of Christ, P.O. Box 3868, Temple, TX 76505 or Mision Para Cristo, c/o Highway Church of Christ, 128 Highway Church Ln., Judsonia, AR 72081.

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

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PHOTOS BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Bibles in hand, women listen as Jessie Akpanudo speaks at a Christian Women's Forum event at the Ukanafun Township Church of Christ in Nigeria. Akpanudo launched the forum 39 years ago.

Nigerian Christian honored for efforts to empower women

OBONG NTAK, Nigeria — Jessie Akpanudo was honored recently for more than 38 years of leadership among believers in this West African nation.

Akpanudo organized the Christian Women's Forum, a monthly gospel meeting and lectureship, in 1971. The aim was "to counter the general belief that Church of Christ women were asked to remain perpetually silent," said Akpanudo's husband, Moses.

"Jessie started teaching them how to pray among the women folk, lead singing, read the Bible as well as teach other women about Christ and his kingdom," Moses Akpanudo said. "Many of the women were illiterate. They were taught to memorize many Bible passages that helped them navigate through life at all seasons."

The forum meets monthly at churches

in Nigeria's Akwa Ibom state. Women who attend come from three local government areas (or counties) in the state. Today there are about 60 Churches of

Christ in those three counties.

The elders of the Church of Christ in Obong Ntak and minister Nkereke Idio presented Jessie Akpanudo with a plaque for her years of commitment.

"It was spiritually very rewarding to all of us as a family, as Jessie has been able to leave the mantle of leadership to younger women," her husband said. "Whether she is present or not, the women's forum usually goes on. Pray for this type of leadership among the men in our local churches."



Akpanudo

Peru church plans vocational training

ICA, Peru — About five years ago, a Church of Christ in this South American city launched a feeding program for impoverished youths in its neighborhood.

Many children who came into the church through the program are approaching their teenage years. The teens will be expected to support their families, but few have marketable skills, said Bridgette Foote, a member of the Beltline Church of Christ in Decatur, Ala., which supports the work.

The Ica church's minister, Paulino

Chalco, wants his congregation to help.

Chalco, who trained as a shoemaker, plans to pass along his skills to interested youths. Another church member, Norma Chacon, is a seamstress who once owned a retail store and plans to teach sewing.

"So there is a need right now for the accumulation of sewing machines and the various tools needed in the manufacture of leather shoes," Foote said.

TO CONTRIBUTE, or for more information, contact www.beltlinechurchofchrist.org or (256) 353-1876.



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College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Charles Mattis, Dean

ACU Box 29210, Abilene, Texas 79699-9210

Biology

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.

English

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.

Foreign Languages

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

College of Biblical Studies

Dr. Jack Reese, Dean

ACU Box 29400, Abilene, Texas 79699-9400

Graduate School of Theology

The Graduate School of Theology invites applications for a position of director of distance education and tenure-track faculty. Applicants must hold a Ph.D. in a theological discipline. The discipline is open, but the position requires understanding of and engagement in global Christian ministry. The director of distance education will coordinate the development of online delivery systems for graduate courses in our new Master of Arts in Global Service, a program that embraces potential residencies in such locations as Irving,

Texas; Zagreb, Croatia; and Accra, Ghana. A large proportion of the teaching load will be online, so interest in teaching in such an environment, as well as facility with online instructional methods, is a high priority. Applicants should be motivated, collegial and service-oriented leaders, with demonstrated competence in teaching and a well-defined program of research as evidenced by peer-reviewed publications and presentations.

The Graduate School of Theology also invites applications for a tenure-track position in Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. Applicants should hold a terminal degree (Ph.D. or Th.D. preferred) in the field. Applicants also should demonstrate competence in teaching and possess a well-defined program of research as evidenced by peer-reviewed publications and presentations.

Department of Bible, Missions and Ministry

The Department of Bible, Missions and Ministry invites applications for a tenure-track position in theology. An earned terminal degree (Ph.D. or Th.D.) is preferred. The area of specialty is open, but interest in relating Christianity to other world religions would be helpful. The position will include teaching half time in the undergraduate Core Curriculum (acu.edu/core) and half time in the applicant's area of specialization. The applicant should demonstrate creativity in interdisciplinary teaching and show scholarly promise.

The Department of Bible, Missions and Ministry invites applications for a tenure-track position in Bible. Applicants should hold an earned terminal degree in either Hebrew Bible/Old Testament or New Testament (Ph.D. or Th.D. preferred, strong A.B.D. considered). Applicants should have at least basic teaching competency in both areas. Applicants should demonstrate enthusiasm and creativity in classroom instruction and show scholarly promise. Responsibilities include teaching courses in general education Bible and in the candidate's area of specialty.

The College of Biblical Studies invites applications for a tenure-track faculty position in missions. Applicants should hold a doctorate (Ph.D. or Th.D. preferred, strong A.B.D. considered) in a relevant discipline such as missiology, anthropology of religion or comparative religions. Applicants must demonstrate competence in teaching and possess a well-defined program of research. Experience in teaching cross-culturally is desirable. Applicants may receive a primary assignment in either the undergraduate Department of Bible, Ministry and Missions, or the Graduate School of Theology. In either case, the applicant should be prepared to teach both undergraduate and graduate courses. ACU has a robust missions program that includes the Halbert Institute of Missions, undergraduate and graduate degree programs with missions emphasis, and active engagement with missions workers throughout the world.

Department of Marriage and Family Therapy

The Department of Marriage and Family Therapy invites applications for a tenure-track position. The M.F.T. program at ACU has held continuous COAMFTE accreditation since 1983. Applicants will teach courses relative to modern theories of family therapy, family life cycle and human development, testing and assessment, and DSM-IV-TR diagnosis. Applicants also will supervise graduate interns and mentor student

research. Applicants should possess a well-defined program of research and should demonstrate competence in the integration of theological and spiritual issues with therapy. Applicants must hold the Ph.D. in marriage and family therapy or a closely related mental health discipline, exhibit competence as a classroom teacher, demonstrate eligibility for licensure as an LMFT in the State of Texas, and hold Clinical Membership and Approved Supervisor status with the AAMFT.

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.

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 administration; a discussion of their spiritual journey; a curriculum vita; transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work; and names, addresses and phone numbers of five references. Review of applicants will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Nominations of and applications from qualified women and minorities are especially encouraged.

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ROOKIE: Jim Morris reflects on faith, baseball and Arms of Hope

FROM PAGE 1

"It didn't matter that he was Jim Morris. He was just another guy," said Weisinger, now 18 and a Schreiner College freshman studying political science.

BEST, AND WORST, OF TIMES

He's the king of second chances. At least that's how Morris, 46, describes himself.

Years after injuries cut short his playing career, the high school baseball coach agreed to try out for the major leagues if his underperforming players made the playoffs. When the Reagan County Owls in Big Lake, Texas, won the district title, he kept his promise.

To the amazement of scouts, Morris threw 98 miles per hour and signed a contract with the Tampa Bay Rays. At age 35, he made his major-league debut in September 1999, striking out the first batter he faced. He pitched in 21 games over two seasons.

But Morris' journey didn't end with the film's dramatic climax.

In an interview with *The Christian Chronicle*, Morris talked about life after baseball, his Christian faith and his special relationship with Arms of Hope, a ministry associated with Churches of Christ that serves at-risk children and single mothers on two Texas campuses.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ARMS OF HOPE

"The Rookie" Jim Morris throws a pitch for the Tampa Bay Rays.

"I was going through the best time of my life with baseball while I was experiencing the worst personal stuff you could imagine," said Morris, who visited with the *Chronicle* during a speaking engagement at Abilene Christian University.

Based on the movie's heartwarming final scenes, it seemed Morris, his wife, Lorri, and their three young children would live "happily ever after." Real life proved more complicated, though, and the couple divorced.

At spring training with the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2001, Morris said, he received a frantic call from his son.

"Hunter called me — he was 10 at the time — and he had seen too much at home," Morris said. "He said, 'Dad, how long are you going to be gone?'"

"And I'll tell you, I had my Jeep packed when I went into (manager) Jim Tracy's office, and I said, 'I appreciate it, but I'm out of here.' I said, 'My kids are more important than the game.'"

After his first marriage fell apart, Morris accepted a blind date with his future wife, Shawna, a single mother and member of the Preston Road Church of Christ in Dallas.

All his life, Morris had believed in God and respected the strong Christian faith of his grandparents, he said.

But after he met Shawna and began attending the Preston Road church, his own faith grew.

More than ever, he opened his eyes — and his heart — to God's direction, he said. He baptized his son and one of his daughters at the Preston Road church.

"Why couldn't I have started here?" Morris remembers asking Scott Sager, Preston Road's preaching minister.

"Jimmy, you don't know how 'good' good is until you see how 'bad' bad can be," Sager replied.

BLESSED BY ARMS OF HOPE

Arms of Hope was formed last year with the consolidation of Medina Children's Home, 60 miles northwest of San Antonio, and Boles Children's Home, 40



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ARMS OF HOPE

Jim Morris, center, poses for a photo with Mikey Weisinger, left, and Andrew Landry, residents of Arms of Hope's campus in Medina, Texas.

miles northeast of Dallas.

Between them, the two campuses house about 80 at-risk children in group-home settings and more than 50 single mothers and their children, said Kevin McDonald, Arms of Hope's president and chief executive officer.

Morris' first exposure to the Christian home network came when he was hired to speak at a fund-raising event in Houston.

But as Shawna's daughter Chelsey — adopted by Morris — dealt with bipolar disorder and ADHD, the couple grappled with how to help her.

After praying over the decision, they placed her at the Medina home.

Eighteen months at the home straightened out Chelsey's life, her parents said. The 15-year-old returned to live with them this past May.

"I feel very blessed," Morris said, "and there is nothing that I would not do for Arms of Hope."

ADVOCATE FOR THE CHILDREN

Jim and Shawna Morris moved to the Texas Hill Country to be closer to Chelsey.

The Morrises worship with the Kerrville Church of Christ, the congregation attended by children from Medina.

In addition, the couple takes advantage of opportunities to volunteer and interact with the children and single mothers.

They praise the work of campus minister Troy Robertson, who frequently baptizes residents.

"I've met so many wonderful kids," Morris said. "There's a kid, Sam, who did not trust me at first and was very standoffish."

But over time, Sam warmed up to Morris.

"While we're at church, he'll come up and hug Shawna, and he'll come up and shake my hand," Morris said. "And I think he's 15 or 16, and he's 6-foot-3 and wide as this table. I mean, this kid's going to be a big man. But he has a great heart."

"And this is a kid that got taken off the streets and brought in, and he leads devotionals when Troy is not there. These are kids that need that second chance," he added.

"And I am the king of second chances. All of us are — Jesus died for all of our sins. And so to look back and see what God has done in my life ... I can look at these kids and see that they're going to have a new start. All they have to do is grasp it."

Chelsey considers the Medina children her brothers and sisters, Shawna said.

"So they're kind of our surrogate kids because we want to see them and keep up with them, and we go to football games and basketball games and watch their sports,"

Shawna said.

McDonald left a high-paying corporate attorney position to take over Arms of Hope.

He said Morris' association with the ministry gives it instant credibility.

"It helps raise awareness of an issue that is so overwhelming in our society today," McDonald said, citing the prevalence of children born to single mothers and living in poverty.

"The problem is that when we all live in our nice neighborhoods and drive our nice cars and go to our nice church buildings, we don't see that. ... The value of having someone like Jim Morris involved with our organization is that Jim understands these facts, he's met these children, these mothers ... and they have no bigger advocate than him."

BEYOND THE FINAL CREDITS

Go play catch with Jim Morris.

The Jim Morris, that is.

Weisinger, now living in young-adult transitional housing at the Medina home, sees Morris at church each Sunday. If he has a problem or concern, he said, he knows he can call Morris and his wife.

To Weisinger, Morris isn't just a former major-leaguer. He's a mentor and friend.

He's a brother in Christ.

"Honestly, he's been a great blessing to us," said Weisinger, who received an autographed baseball as part of his high school graduation gift from Morris. "Every time there's an event, he's there, and he's passionate about it."

The movie didn't tell the full story of "The Rookie." Beyond the final credits, God keeps writing more remarkable scenes.

"If I don't follow God's lead every step of the way," Morris said, "I'm not married to Shawna, I'm not hooked up with Arms of Hope, and I don't have the friends that I have."

"And it's because I finally listened to what God was telling me."



PHOTO PROVIDED BY EVERETT HUFFARD

Maurice and Inam Jadon, Bishara and Anicee Bishara, and Miyada and Suhail Shleyan stand outside the meeting place of the Nazareth Church of Christ in northern Israel.

NAZARETH: 'The real work has started'

FROM PAGE 1

Nazareth for five years and return almost every year to encourage the church.

"The last year we lived in Nazareth, I did a lot of teaching on leadership," Huffard said. "For the past three years, at their request, I have been coaching the church in developing leaders."

Maurice Jadon, the church's minister for more than 30 years, was an ardent supporter of the congregation's effort to identify potential elders.

"My wife and I feel like we have been carrying the responsibilities and burdens of the church alone for decades," Jadon said. "Now we are blessed with these two families to share the load. This has been an extremely exciting time for us and the whole church."

Jadon explained the importance of elders to the congregation during the dedication service.

The church worshiped in Arabic and English, in recognition of its American guests.

Among the attendees was Bob Mayes, an elder of the Signal Mountain Church of Christ in Tennessee. That congregation has supported Jadon for 13 years.

Also present was Bob Cowan, an elder of the Red Boiling Springs Church of Christ in Tennessee, which will take over Jadon's support in January. Donnie Barnes, minister for the Red Boiling Springs church, also has been an encourager for the church in Nazareth for 40 years and participated in the service.

Several other U.S. congregations have supported the Nazareth church, Huffard said, including the Echo Meadows Church of Christ in Oregon, Ohio, the Park Avenue Church of Christ in Memphis and the Piedmont Road Church of Christ in Marietta, Ga.

"For almost 50 years, the church (in Nazareth) has been under the oversight of American churches," Huffard said, "so I view this process as a great step in the maturing of the church to have its own spiritual leaders. It has been an interesting innovation since no church in Nazareth has elders."

Two thousand years after Jesus walked the streets of his childhood home, Nazareth has a population of about 65,900 people and is the largest predominantly Arab city in the State of Israel. Many Arabs there practice Greek Orthodox or Coptic Christianity. The city's Muslim population is growing.

Evangelism in Nazareth is challenging, Jadon said. Now that the church has elders, "the real work has started," he added.

"Both elders and myself will begin to prepare the congregation for better life, for service in the kingdom and for eternal life," Jadon said.

The church knows the work will be difficult, filled with ups and downs, he added, but "we choose to grow."

"Our goal and dream," he said, "is that the Church of Christ in Nazareth will be a center of preaching" to save the lost.



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BAPTIZED: Bosnian's faith journey leads to Arkansas — and China

FROM PAGE 3

posed as a vegetable vendor. She called to befuddled students in Serbo-Croatian as they wandered the market, attempting to buy food.

"Dobro jutro! Svježe paprike! Pogledajte kako su lijepi!" she yelled. ("Good morning! Fresh peppers! Look at them, how beautiful they are!")

Camp Tahkodah, Harding's missions-training site in the Ozark Mountains near Floral, is a personal refuge for Lepki.

Here, she reads her Bible and prays, remembering the angels God placed in her life — even before she knew who God was.

WAR, DEATH AND A NEW LIFE

Lepki grew up in Banjaluka, a city in the former Yugoslavia. When Lepki was a baby, her grandmother, a Polish Catholic, "stole me away and ... baptized me in a creek — kind of devoted me to God," Lepki said.

Privileged and smart, she studied engineering and physical therapy. She wanted for nothing but felt a spiritual void in her life. She tried yoga — and even karate — to fill the void, but nothing helped.

Then her world collapsed.

After the fall of the Iron Curtain and the death of Yugoslav president Josip Broz Tito, Yugoslavia dissolved into rival factions of ethnic Serbs, Croats and Muslims.

Lepki was studying in Sarajevo when the shooting started in 1992. She fled to Banjaluka and eventually to Belgrade, where she continued her studies. She watched on TV as her homeland self-destructed.

"What is happening?" she thought. "My friends — who are 22, 23 years old — are dying. Is this the end? We barely started living."

On summer break, Lepki traveled to her grandmother's home in Poland. A cousin invited her to a Christian camp.

She was shocked by the love shown by the campers. She prayed for the first time, asking God to protect her boyfriend

— still stuck in Bosnia — from whom she had not heard in two months. Days later, she made contact with him.

She asked to become a Christian. The campers told her how to pray Jesus into her heart. Then, to show them she was a believer, she was immersed in a lake.

FROM AUSTRIA TO CANADA

Lepki's boyfriend, an ethnic Ukrainian, asked her to move to Canada with him.

The couple spent five months in Vienna, Austria, with nearly 800 other refugees from the war in the Balkans. Lepki helped Ukrainian refugees from Bosnia translate their stories into English for their applications for relocation.

She also prayed for them.

Seeking a place to worship, she visited International University in Vienna, associated with the Churches of Christ. There she met April Boring, an American who had worked for a year in Belgrade with Adventures in Missions — a program of Sunset International Bible Institute in Lubbock, Texas. Boring promised to find a congregation for her in Canada.

Lepki's boyfriend had an aunt in Edmonton, Alberta, about 400 miles north of Montana, who agreed to sponsor his relocation there. Lepki could come too — only if they were married. Though he wasn't a Christian, she agreed. Perhaps, someday, she could change him.

"Big mistake," she said, reflecting on the decision.

In Edmonton, Lepki was invited to a Baptist church. Then a letter from Boring arrived with the name of a Church of Christ in the area. Lepki attended both and was involved in Bible studies almost every night of the week. In the summer, the Baptist church stopped its Bible studies, but the Church of Christ continued.

"Oh, these are more zealous," Lepki thought. "I will go there."

The Church of Christ members asked Lepki about



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

In the market simulation at the World Mission Workshop, Snezana Lepki, in booth, and fellow street vendors practice their selling techniques.

her conversion. She couldn't find anything in Scripture about praying Jesus into her heart.

But she did find verses about baptism for the remission of sins.

"I just want to please the Lord," she said. "If he told me to do it this way, I'll just do it."

On Sept. 26, 1993, she was baptized at the Edmonton Church of Christ.

"Isn't that funny?" she said. "I had three baptisms. Finally, one counts!"

DIVORCE, RECOVERY AND A MISSION

Lepki shared her newfound faith with all who would listen. An Asian-born church member and hairdresser, Jenny Law, became her partner. Law introduced her clients and friends to the Gospel through Lepki.

"She recruited, and I taught them," Lepki said. "Many people became a Christian because of her."

While Lepki drew closer and closer to God, she felt farther and farther from her husband. He worked late hours as a musician. Lepki got a job at a nursing home and continued her studies in physical therapy.

After 10 years of marriage, Lepki's husband told her he was having an affair and wanted a divorce. For the next two

weeks, she went to work every day and cried the entire night.

She moved into an apartment with Law's daughter and threw herself into evangelism. She hosted dinners for neighbors and talked about Jesus. She learned to eat with chopsticks. She slept four to six hours per day.

She took a three-month vacation and traveled to the former Soviet nation of Lithuania to work with Churches of Christ there. She participated in Camp Ruta, sponsored by churches in Lithuania and Mississippi.

Ilja Amosov, a minister for the Church of Christ in Vilnius, Lithuania, remembered her strong faith and determination to spread the Gospel.

"There are people you remember for the way they dress, the way they speak, the way they look," Amosov said. "But everyone remembers Snezana for the way she loves the Lord and her neighbors."

She also visited Bosnia and studied the Bible with her mother, who then was baptized by Croatian minister Ivan Tesic.

Back in Edmonton, Lepki took classes through an extension program of Sunset International Bible Institute. She decided to pursue ministry full time.

In 2005, veteran mission-

aries Howard Norton and Tex Williams visited Edmonton for a lectureship. Lepki had dinner with them and asked for advice. Norton recommended Harding, where he served on the faculty. Lepki applied and was admitted.

Days before she left for Arkansas, Lepki's frantic pace caught up with her. She suffered from severe exhaustion and spent much of the next six months recuperating. She prayed constantly for healing — and for the souls of those treating her.

She learned to moderate her schedule — somewhat — and enrolled at Harding in 2006. As she completed her bachelor's in ministry, she worked with an outreach to Asian students. She traveled to China for a year to teach English. She also shared her faith.

In China, "so many people want to know about God," she said. They also showed her kindness. When she got bronchitis, her students took care of her.

IN SEARCH OF A PLACE TO SERVE

As she completes her master's at Harding, Lepki is "looking for a calling," she said.

She would like to teach the Gospel in Asia — and eventually in her native Bosnia. She would like to reach out to the large immigrant population — including some 70,000 Bosnians — in the St. Louis area.

She has tried to form mission teams but to no avail. Finding sponsors is difficult, especially for a single woman, she said.

Mavis Baldwin, her friend at the College church, said Lepki will be "the biggest asset to any mission" she chooses.

Lepki said she is confident that God has plans for her. She is amazed how he has taken "somebody who is nobody, a refugee" and used her to serve him across three continents.

"I was the one that was fighting God," she said. "I feel like Paul ... when God told him, 'You will be suffering for me a lot.' Now I'm here to suffer for him and bring glory to his name."

Hands-on ministry

Mission-minded students sample life in developing nations at the 50th annual World Mission Workshop

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

FLORAL, Ark.

Students drilled water wells in an African village, built clay “rocket stoves” in rural Guatemala and learned how to teach kids to read among the slums of Haiti — all on a campground in northern Arkansas.

Harding University Tahkodah, or HUT, was the setting for the 50th annual World Mission Workshop.

The 1,350-acre site, north of Harding’s campus in Searcy, Ark., was designed to be “a kind of missionary boot camp, where we ... prepare prospective missionaries for cross-cultural ministry through rigorous simulations,” said Monte Cox, dean of the College of Bible and Religion at Harding.

In 1961, the university, then Harding College, hosted the first World Mission Workshop for 80 students. The event rotates annually among colleges and universities associated with Churches of Christ.

More than 700 students attended this year’s workshop, sleeping in cabins or tents at HUT or across the street at Camp Tahkodah, a Bible camp and retreat center also owned by Harding.

At Camp Tahkodah, they listened to guest speakers and participated in Bible studies. At HUT, they attended classes among “villages” made to resemble real-life settings in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and Appalachia.

Chris Nicolay, an Oklahoma Christian University sophomore from Helena, Mont., participated in a class on filmmaking in the mission field. He and fellow students

developed a short film based on the biblical story of the prodigal son. Then they filmed it. “Stinkin’ Creek,” a shack that simulates rural poverty in America, was the setting.

The workshop was “more experiential” than its predecessors, Nicolay said. “You’re actually out there doing stuff instead of talking about it.”

Not all the participants came for the hands-on events.

Asia Todd, a freshman at Abilene Christian University in Texas, was interested in meeting other students. She grew up in Chiang



Todd



Ngobi

Mai, Thailand, where her parents are missionaries, and recognized the workshop’s role in forming mission teams for the future.

“This is a magnetic, hot spot for mission-minded people,” Todd said. “I don’t care about composting or rocket stoves. I just want to meet people.”

Tom Ngobi, a junior at Rochester College in Michigan, said he was impressed by his fellow students’ dedication to reaching a lost world.

“These are definitely students with special hearts,” said Ngobi, a native of Jinja, Uganda. The students’ concern for souls in Africa was particularly inspiring, he said.

“These people want to help my country,” Ngobi said. As a result, “I should have more passion for my place. It’s really challenging — in a good way.”



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Students turn the handles of a drilling apparatus used to dig water wells in developing nations. Caleb Holsey of Oklahoma-based Water4 (online at water4.org) and Veduste Niyonsaba, an Oklahoma Christian University student from Rwanda, conducted the demonstration at the World Mission Workshop.



Mark Moore of Kibo Group International speaks to students at the World Mission Workshop. Moore oversees Kibo's Mother Administered Nutritive Aid (MANA) program.



Evertt Huffard portrays a Middle Eastern vendor during a market simulation.



Church member Gary Jackson discusses mission work in Asia with students around a campfire at Chang Cheng, a simulated Thai village, at Harding University Tahkodah.



Using a combination of foreign languages and hand gestures, Elizabeth Jackson barbers with students during a market simulation at the World Mission Workshop.



Bob Sartoris discusses "Filmmaking on the Mission Field" with students at Stinkin' Creek, a simulation of American poverty at Harding University Tahkodah.

A taste of life in the developing world

In a simulated market, World Mission Workshop participants experience the challenges some families face just preparing a meal

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

FLORAL, Ark.

Eating lunch never was this hard. Mission-minded university students lived — and shopped — like refugees at the 50th annual World Mission Workshop.

As part of the hands-on seminar at Harding University Tahkodah, the students spent an afternoon navigating a simulated Third-World market.

Harding students transformed a small patch of northern Arkansas forest into a developing nation — complete with ramshackle stores, loud, pushy vendors and camouflaged, corrupt police officers.

"I've been to Chinatown in New York, and I thought that was crazy," said Bailey Burgess, who grew up in the small town of Crossville, Tenn.

The Arkansas market was even more chaotic, said Burgess, a student in the Adventures in Missions, or AIM, program at Sunset International

Bible Institute in Lubbock, Texas.

In real life, "it would have been scary," she added.

The task — buy food and prepare a meal — seemed simple enough. Students were divided into large "families." Each family was assigned a baby — a small balloon filled with



A "family" of workshop participants gathers vegetables and water in the market simulation at the World Mission Workshop.

water. Family members were responsible for procuring milk for the baby and food for the adults.

Skipping a meal was not an option, the organizers explained. Families in developing nations didn't have bags of trail mix and granola bars back in their tents.

Before going to market, each family had to get a kit with cooking utensils, a fire permit and money.

The students soon found themselves mired in the bureaucracy that plagues many developing nations.

Volunteers — posing as bankers and guards — yelled at the students to form lines, sometimes giving them contradictory orders where to stand. Some families received cooking kits and permits, only to be told they had obtained them in the wrong order. They had to start over.

When they finally made it to the market, things didn't get much easier.

Vendors yelled to the students in myriad languages — none of them English. They haggled endlessly over the prices of eggs, potatoes, onions

and milk. Pickpockets and armed guards roamed the street, harassing the students. Beggars asked for handouts.

A small group of volunteers portrayed American tourists — talking loudly, breaking in lines and endlessly snapping photos.

Some students laughed and others looked bewildered as they attempted to buy enough food to prepare a meal. When their hands were full of vegetables — or when they ran out of the fake money they were given at the bank — they made their way to clearings across the campsite to start cooking.

In a simulated United Nations refugee camp, one family lit a fire and debated the best way to arrange cinder blocks and a steel grate to cook their rice thoroughly. Finally, they gave up and decided instead to boil their potatoes, sweet potatoes and onions into a sort of stew.

Sitting on logs under a light blue United Nations flag, the family members reflected on what they had

learned in the market.

Sarah McDaniel, an AIM student from Lubbock, said the incomprehensible merchants and unhelpful public officials left her feeling hopeless.

"Just think about the people who have to do this every day," McDaniel said.

Back in the market, the missionaries who alternated roles as salespeople, police and thieves said that

the experience gave them a better sense of the people they serve in the mission field.

"You don't feel like a real person. People just ignore you," said Louisa Duke, who walked through the market as a blind

beggar. Duke, a former missionary to the African nation of Zambia, is a physician's assistant in Fort Worth, Texas.

Nine-year-old Connie Bunner led Duke through the crowd. A few people reached into their pockets and made a donation, Bunner said, holding



McLarty



Lufiyele

up a paper cup with a few U.S. dollars and some change. (Apparently, no one donated the fake money they were given to buy food.)

"One person said, 'God bless you,'" added Bunner, the daughter of missionaries in Togo.

Kaleb McLarty, a high school senior in Searcy, Ark., also played a beggar in the market.

"Some were generous ... would look at me with kind eyes," he said.

But most didn't notice him.

And only one person asked him if he knew Jesus — an African named Daniel Lufiyele.

Lufiyele, a native of Zimbabwe, came to the World Mission Workshop to promote Pillar of Legacy, a mission effort that seeks to provide sustainable development to the Tonga people of his home country.

As he watched the Americans navigate the market, Lufiyele said he was surprised how quickly they went into "survival mode," concentrating on the immediate goal of feeding their families — and ignoring the people in need around them.

Lufiyele said he has seen American Christians in foreign countries do the same.

"As missionaries, how do we live in every aspect of society?" he asked. "How often do we miss the opportunities God provides for us to minister?"

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BY LYNN McMILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Steve Patton ministers for a growing, multiethnic church — the University Church of Christ in Tampa, Fla. Since 1999, the congregation has nearly doubled in size, and it now has about 350 members. For 16 years, he has served as the church's minister and now is an elder as well.

He is a member of what commonly is called the "non-institutional church" or "non-cooperation church," a part of the fellowship that opposes the sponsoring church approach for missions and benevolence. Instead, they see biblical pattern for sending funds directly to the missionary or of sending benevolent funds directly to the elders of a church.

Patton, 60, told *The Christian Chronicle* that churches of this persuasion believe that funds from a congregation must go directly to an evangelist or a missionary, rather than to another congregation that oversees the work.

In the U.S., about 1,975 congregations identify themselves as non-institutional, with a combined membership of about 119,000, according to the 2009 edition of *Churches of Christ in the United States*.

After graduating with an associate's degree from Florida College — a non-institutional Church of Christ college near Tampa — Patton earned a bachelor's degree in 1976 from Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tenn. In addition to local work, he speaks for churches across the U.S. and regularly makes missionary trips to Africa and the Seychelles islands, off the east coast of Africa.

He loves his family, enjoys his computers and is a passionate fan of the Crimson Tide, the University of Alabama's football team.

Patton and his wife, Pam, have been married for 36 years and have two married daughters, Emily and Laura, whose families also worship at the University church. His father, Herschel Patton, 91, preached for 45 years and served as an elder in the Jordan Park Church of Christ in Huntsville, Ala.

How did you become a Christian, and when did you begin preaching?

I obeyed the Gospel at the age of 12 in Lawrenceburg, Tenn., where I later graduated from high school. My father was a preacher, and we lived in Alabama, Texas and Tennessee in my early years.

Having grown up in an era of conflict in



LAURA KELLY

Steve Patton stands in front of the University Church of Christ's building in Tampa, Fla.

A conversation with Steve Patton

LONGTIME MINISTER on beliefs of non-institutional Churches of Christ.

Churches of Christ over institutional and Social Gospel issues, I had no intention of preaching. I went to college with plans to teach at the college level and preach by appointment, but by the time I was 22 I had decided that I must give my life fully to preaching the Gospel.

What beliefs distinguish non-institutional churches from other Churches of Christ?

The differences are in flux, it appears to me, with the chasm widening as the years pass. Because of a strong belief in congregational independence, I can only speak for the local group of which I am a part.

But the fundamental differences among those who share my beliefs about the local church are rooted in attitudes toward biblical authority. We believe the New Testament writings are meant not only to inspire but to authorize. That includes revealing what a local congregation is about and how it functions.

The first difference one might observe in non-institutional churches is rooted in the belief that the amount of church cooperation is limited by Scripture to

specific matters. The absence of a pattern for nationwide or worldwide cooperative efforts of churches in the New Testament causes us to practice congregational independence in evangelism and benevolence.

I believe the world can be evangelized just as it was in the first century without churches working together in unauthorized ways that weaken congregational independence.

A second difference involves supporting human institutions out of the church treasury. I believe there is no authority for a local church to take from its common collection and donate to other organizations such as schools, medical clinics, child-care institutions, missionary organizations, etc. I believe the money given is to be used for evangelism, edification and benevolence in the ways outlined in the New Testament.

A third difference involves what is often referred to as the Social Gospel. I believe the local church is a spiritual group with a spiritual role outlined clearly in the New Testament. That work does not include building schools, athletic facilities and social activity centers. Nor does it include staffing a church with profes-

sional counselors, social and recreational directors, etc.

A local church should be about saving the lost, edifying the saved and teaching them to be compassionate and morally upright influences for good in their daily life. We believe that Christianity centers in the individual rather than in the organization.

In what ways, if any, can members of non-institutional and mainstream churches of Christ work together for the good of the kingdom despite their differences?

We believe that almost all that is done in the kingdom is done as individuals in our daily walk. We are thankful to be a part of the body of Christ. However, our mindset is not to build a worldwide organization of churches but to bring the lost to Christ one at a time. The first century church did this by emphasizing individual responsibility — not by trying to organize groups of churches into large-scale organizations.

If we work with our brethren in institutional churches, it would be in our daily walk as we do things together as individuals in the community for the good of our society. But we would not try to unite with other congregations to pursue inter-congregational activities. Maintaining the independence of the local church is critical to following the New Testament.

What needs to happen to draw us all closer together in God's kingdom?

I believe there needs to be a renewed respect for the Word of our Lord as the final authority. Our growth at the University church in Tampa has been because we reach people who — as one visitor recently put it — are tired of "teaching that is not Bible-based and touchy-feely preaching."

People are looking for a solid rock on which to build their lives and provide them clear guidance and direction. All New Testament Christians need to see that distinctive approach as still relevant in a world that is without a moral compass.

Turning New Testament Christianity into the same message as is found in the rest of Christendom only diminishes the power of a distinctive Gospel that can truly transform lives.

One of the great joys of my life has been to see so many turning to the Lord because his message is distinctive and meaningful. We are about saving souls with the simple gospel message about our Lord, and we all need to make sure that is at the center of the work of every church of the Lord.



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CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

CHRISTIAN HOMES & FAMILY SERVICES

ABILENE, Texas — Nancy Miller, president emeritus of Christian Homes & Family Services, is retiring from the adoption ministry she led for 32 years.

During Miller's tenure with the ministry, 2,180 birthmothers received free maternity care during their



Miller

unplanned pregnancies; foster parents cared for 1,139 children; and 1,419 children were placed for adoption into Christian homes and families.

"Her entire lifetime has been devoted to Christian service," said Gary Miller, chairman of the ministry's board of trustees. President Sherri Statler said: "She assumed the leadership of a Church of Christ ministry when it was rare for a woman to do so, and then she led with grace, humility and devotion to the children God entrusted to our ministry's care. Her story and its timing are unique in our brotherhood."

HIGHER EDUCATION

ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

ABILENE, Texas — As a mother of three, Jennifer Shewmaker has come to understand the impact that sexualized media messages can have on children.

"Media messages are prevalent and powerful in our society," said Shewmaker, associate professor of psychology at ACU.

Shewmaker's three years of research on the effect of sexualized messages on children and adolescents recently earned a grant from the Christian Scholars Foundation. The grant will allow her to expand her research interviews and surveys throughout Texas and neighboring states.

FAULKNER UNIVERSITY

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — "An Evening with Sarah Palin" raised \$1 million for Faulkner's student scholarship program. The recent sold-out event drew nearly 2,500 to a Montgomery hotel ballroom.

In her speech, the former Alaska governor and 2008 Republican vice-presidential nominee shared anecdotes about faith, its role in her life and how it shapes one into a person of value.

Palin praised Faulkner in her speech.



DEREK COLE

Pancakes for Parkinson's: For a good cause, and tasty too

Makenna Root enjoys her breakfast at a special Pancakes for Parkinson's meal at Ohio Valley University in Vienna, W.Va. The recent event was part of a national campaign to educate the public and raise funds for research aimed at finding a cure for Parkinson's disease. Makenna is the daughter of Caylen and Kate Root, members of the Grand Central Church of Christ in Vienna.

"If there were more Faulkner universities around the United States, how much better would our nation be?" she asked, according to the *Montgomery Advertiser*.

LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Lipscomb is establishing the Nelson and Sue Andrews Institute for Civic Leadership.

The institute will honor the Andrews' legacy of civic leadership through academic programs, community engagement, research and a leadership council, Lipscomb President Randy Lowry said.

Linda Peek Schacht, a former senior fellow at Harvard University's Center for Public Leadership, will serve as executive director of the Lipscomb institute.

LUBBOCK CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

LUBBOCK, Texas — For 52 years, the F.W. Mattox Administration Building had been the front building at the entry point to LCU. However, the new Cardwell Welcome Center is changing the "face" of the university as viewed from 19th Street.

The welcome center has a 65-foot, all-glass rotunda at its center, from which four wings extend east and west. The copper-tiled rotunda towers above the height of the four wings and has the

capacity to hold 200 people for events.

LCU recently dedicated the new building, named for key donor Jack Cardwell and his wife, Evonne, who gave a \$1 million lead gift for the project. The Cardwells are members of the Westside Church of Christ in El Paso, Texas.

PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY

MALIBU, Calif. — This fall, Pepperdine hired five new full-time faculty members and two visiting faculty members who are members of Churches of Christ.

Provost Darryl Tippens said the university cherishes its relationship with Churches of Christ. "We believe that with every hire, we are declaring the true mission and trajectory of the university for the next generation," Tippens said. "Hiring faculty from Churches of Christ, then, is a serious goal for us."

New hires include full-time faculty members Gregory S. McNeal, Dorothy Collins Andreas, George Carlsen, Matthew Joyner and Eric Olson and visiting faculty Carrie Giboney Wall and Suzanne Fournier Macaluso.

ROCHESTER COLLEGE

ROCHESTER HILLS, Mich. — For the second straight year, Rochester College's men's

SPORTS

Albert Pujols' wife honored

ST. LOUIS — Christian Family Services, which is associated with Churches of Christ, recently hosted its annual Vision of Hope Dinner. The event raised more than \$76,000. Don McLaughlin, minister of the North Atlanta Church of Christ, and Deidre Pujols, wife of St. Louis Cardinals star Albert Pujols, spoke. Deidre Pujols was honored with the annual "Heart of CFS Award" for her work with children.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY CHRISTIAN FAMILY SERVICES

Deidre Pujols, with husband Albert and Christian Family Services director Steve Awtry, was honored at the Vision of Hope dinner.

golf team won the national championship of the United States Collegiate Athletic Association. Clayton Bissett serves as head coach.

YORK COLLEGE

YORK, Neb. — Erin DeHart, assistant professor of education at York, recently took a 22-day study trip to Israel, Germany and Poland to continue her extensive studies of the Holocaust.

The trip was funded partially by a grant from the Holocaust and Jewish Resistance Teachers' Program.

MEDICAL MISSIONS

PREDISAN

TUCKER, Ga. — "Walk for Honduras" events in Chattanooga, Tenn., Atlanta, Dallas and Oklahoma City are expected to raise more than \$325,000 to support the ministry.

At nine facilities in eastern Honduras, Predisan provides more than 38,000 patient services each year in health-care, community development and spiritual outreach. The ministry's tagline is "Proclaiming Jesus, Healing Lives."

For more information, see www.predisan.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,
avoid the things that cause you trouble.

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

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

To find out more, go to our website.



RYAN BARTELS

Faulkner dedicates football field to Gene Stallings' son

Coach Gene Stallings and his wife, Ruth Ann, greet more than 600 fans and well-wishers at the recent dedication of John Mark Stallings Field at Faulkner University in Montgomery, Ala. "Beyond my wildest dreams" is how Stallings described the naming of Faulkner's football field in memory of his late son, who was born with Down syndrome. "This is such a wonderful, unbelievable day for Ruth Ann and me — to have a football field named after little Johnny," said Stallings, a Church of Christ member and former coach for the University of Alabama, Texas A&M and the NFL's Cardinals.

Greg Perry, founder of global ministry for orphans, steps down

GRAYSON, Ga. — Greg Perry, who launched YouthReach International in 1993, has stepped down as a member of the ministry's staff.

The ministry, formerly known as World Wide Youth Camps, "provides positive adult relationships for orphans and at-risk children through mentoring opportunities with local Ukrainian and Russian ... mentors," according to its website, www.youthreach.org.



Perry

Perry will continue to serve on YouthReach's board.

"Greg has worked to bring the hope of Jesus Christ to thousands of children worldwide," said David Hennessey, YouthReach's executive director. "Hundreds have followed his lead by going to the mission field and serving the forgotten in their own countries."

Under Perry's direction, YouthReach sent more than 100 short-term teams to 15 countries. The ministry's mentoring and orphanage outreach programs serve more than 600 Russian and Ukrainian orphans.



HARDING

U N I V E R S I T Y

FACULTY POSITIONS AVAILABLE FALL 2011

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

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY. Seeking full-time professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. The 12-month position primarily includes creating, coordinating and delivering instruction within the pharmacology program as part of the Doctor of Pharmacy curriculum. Engagement of students in research and the establishment of an active research program will be supported. Qualified applicants will be active members of the church of Christ who possess a Ph.D. degree in pharmacology. Preference will be given to applicants with a strong interest in cardiovascular and/or endocrine pharmacology with postdoctoral experience as well as to those with two or more years of academic experience. A professional degree in pharmacy is desirable but not required.

Submit resume to Dr. G. Scott Weston, search committee chair, Box 12230, Searcy, AR 72149-2230, or sweston@harding.edu.

Seeking candidates for pharmacy practice residency partnered with ARcare, a private, non-profit corporation, aiming to provide affordable care to meet primary medical, behavioral health, and dental care for residents in rural Arkansas. A one-year program, it is designed for the individual seeking to develop the expertise to assess, design, implement, and monitor a safe and effective evidence-based, individualized medication therapy plan in an ambulatory care rural setting. Participants will gain experience in community-based rural health clinics involved in direct care of a diverse patient population. The resident is expected to become proficient in the management of diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, behavioral health, and special populations such as immunosuppressed and geriatric patients. Eligible candidates will have a Doctor of Pharmacy degree and will be eligible for Arkansas licensure.

Submit inquiries or curriculum vitae, college transcripts, letter of intent, and three letters of recommendation to Dr. Julie Kissack, director, Box 12230, Searcy, AR 72143, or jkissack@harding.edu.

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.

PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM. Seeking full-time faculty members to teach courses in the basic sciences and/or clinical sciences. The academic rank of each position will be commensurate with applicant's experience. Expertise is sought in basic sciences (gross anatomy, human physiology and/or exercise physiology, neuroscience, and biomechanics). Candidates should have a Ph.D., Ed.D., or other advanced degree in content to be taught. Other positions sought in clinical sciences (cardiovascular and pulmonary physical therapy, acute care and integrative physical therapy, adult neurological physical therapy, and pediatric physical therapy). These candidates should have eligibility for physical therapy licensure in Arkansas, D.P.T. with extensive documented clinical experience in content area, or D.P.T. with clinical certification. Preferred candidates will have an advanced doctoral degree (Ph.D., Ed.D., D.Sc.) with a clinical degree in physical therapy. Preference will be given to applicants with experience in higher education, post-doctoral research experience and/or clinical specialization.

Submit inquiries or letter of application and current curriculum vita to Dr. Mike McGalliard, director, at mmcgalliard@harding.edu or Harding University, Box 12292, Searcy, AR 72143.

Harding University is a private, liberal arts institution with more than 6,800 students from all across the United States and more than 50 foreign nations. Harding has eight academic colleges: Arts and Humanities, Bible and Religion, Business Administration, Communication, Education, Nursing, Pharmacy, and Sciences.

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For more details see: www.northeastyouth.org.

To apply please send resume, with references, to
northeastchurchofchrist@gmail.com.



Oklahoma Christian University – School of Education

FACULTY POSITION: Full-Time, Tenure-Track

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PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS: Applicants should have an earned Ed.D or Ph.D. with a minimum of 3 years teaching experience in elementary or secondary schools, experience in assessment and data collection, and current teaching certification. Familiarity with NCATE and SPA program review also is desirable.

SALARY: Commensurate with experience and qualifications

REQUIREMENTS: All applicants should be active members of the Churches of Christ and should be committed to the mission of the university.

Interested applicants should send their current vita, transcripts, 3 letters of recommendation (one must be a source from a home church congregation), a writing sample, and a teaching philosophy which specifically addresses the integration of faith and learning.

Send materials to:
Dr. Robyn R. Miller, Chair
School of Education
Oklahoma Christian University
Box 11000
Oklahoma City, OK 73136
Questions can be answered by e-mail
robyn.miller@oc.edu

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MINISTER NEEDED:

The Church of Christ in Hyde Park, Austin, Texas, is seeking a full-time minister for our small congregation. We hope to find a minister who can inspire and challenge the members for growth through the word of God. Also, he must be personally involved with both members and non-members. This position is not for a novice, but for an experienced man that would like a challenge. We have five elders, nine deacons and are a friendly congregation. If you are interested, contact the elders.

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NOW IN HOSPICE CARE, *Ohio church member keeps praying, studying the Bible and inspiring those around her with her faith, character and hope.*

BY HAMIL R. HARRIS | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

On the Tuesday last spring when Donna Newberry notched her 900th career win as a NCAA Division III softball coach, she was too weak to stand along the third-base line.

Instead, the coach of the Fighting Muskies of Muskingum University in New Concord, Ohio, sat in a chair next to the dugout and yelled orders to her team and assistant coach Kari Hoying.

"There is no greater competitor than Donna Newberry," said Debbie Lazorik, retired head women's basketball coach and athletic director for Marietta College, the Ohio Athletic Conference foe that Newberry's Muskies defeated, 8-3, for the milestone win.

"She was every bit focused on that game, and she was still barking out commands and talking to the kids when they came off the field," said Lazorik, who attended the game.

'THE BATTLE OF BATTLES'

In a fight for her life, Newberry, 58, an active member of the New Concord Church of Christ, scheduled her chemotherapy treatments for breast cancer to allow her "best days" on game days.

"I was willing to suffer a little pain on this end, but I felt like was worth the investment," Newberry said of maintaining her commitment to the team that she led to 18 conference championships and a 2001 national title.

For the last 36 years, Newberry has been a living testimony of faith and determination in women's athletics, say those who know her.

Her achievements include posting a 906-410-1 overall



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MUSKINGUM UNIVERSITY

Donna Newberry, center, topped 900 career wins in her 36th season as softball coach at Muskingum University in New Concord, Ohio. The faithful church member is fighting for her life after battling a recurrence of breast cancer.

record and a 415-102-1 conference record. She also won more than 400 games as Muskingum's women's basketball coach.

But despite her athletic success, Newberry has endured so much personal pain.

Fifteen years ago, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. It went into remission and then came back 12 years ago, three years ago and now, she said.

"This time it is the battle of battles," said Newberry, who was under hospice care at press time.

But despite her pain, Newberry still sees a steady stream of visitors and takes part in bedside prayer and Bible studies.

She also has a lot to say about coaching and the values that she has tried to instill in hundreds of young people. Those values are a big part of her recently completed autobiography, "From the Pit to the

Pinnacle."

When Newberry began her career at Muskingum, she coached softball and basketball.

While the college eventually built better basketball facilities for the men's teams, the women played for many years in the oldest of three gyms. That gym was nicknamed "The Pit."

Both of Newberry's grandfathers served as ministers, as does her brother David Newberry, who preaches for the Little Hocking Church of Christ in Ohio.

The coach said she learned to push and set high standards from her mother, Juanita Newberry. Her father, Earl Newberry, taught her patience.

"She has always been a person who, when she has done something, did it to the very best of her ability," said Juanita Newberry, a member of the

Lubeck Church of Christ in West Virginia.

As a young girl, Donna Newberry served as a flower girl in her aunt Betty Pfalzgraf's wedding.

Pfalzgraf said she always knew that her niece was special.

"She never compromised her values," said Pfalzgraf, a member of the Belpre Church of Christ in Ohio.

IN THE SEVENTH INNING

As a Christian, Newberry has let her light shine through her actions, said Dick Harris, minister of the New Concord Church of Christ.

"I have known her for 27 years, and she has been a tremendous asset to the church," Harris said. "She has taught Bible class for most of those years, and she really knows how to relate to the

children. She has brought her players to church many times, and once a year, she has brought the whole team."

The coach has made regular mission trips to places such as Guyana, which she said has given her a chance to serve and learn from other cultures.

Despite her illness, Newberry's mind remains sharp. When a reporter suggested that her life might be "in the bottom of the ninth inning," she quickly corrected him.

"It is the seventh inning," she said. "There are only seven innings in women's softball."

'AN INSPIRATION TO ALL OF US'

Newberry has handpicked her assistant Hoying, a former Muskingum player, to succeed her as coach.

Hoying said Newberry has prepared her well.

As a player, Hoying said, "I got the brunt of everything. It was very difficult because she knows how to push your buttons. But today I thank her for it because it made me a better person."

"She also taught me to lead with morals and to lead with character," the assistant coach added. "There is not a time that goes by that I am not thinking about what I am going to say because it is a pure reflection on her as a coach."

In October, Muskingum dedicated its softball field in the coach's honor and renamed it the Donna J. Newberry Softball Field.

"You create champions in every sense of the word," Muskingum President Anne C. Steele told Newberry.

"You lead by example, and you teach our students to hone the personal attributes needed for success in any endeavor — drive, perseverance, mental toughness, a keen intellect and the desire to learn and grow, to improve their skills and to expand their abilities."

"You inspire us all to reach for new levels of excellence."



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Hope Harbor Children's Home & Family Ministries in Claremore, Oklahoma, is seeking a **house parent couple** who are faithful members of the Church of Christ to work in a cottage with six young teens. Hope Harbor hires both husband and wife with a competitive salary, providing meals, room and board, utilities, medical coverage, and a generous amount of time off. Supervision and training are provided to equip couples who are interested in becoming part of this work.

Hope Harbor also has an opening for a **master's level counselor**. Hope Harbor is expanding its services to include off-site counseling. Services will be provided under Hope Harbor's supervision, but will be offered out of offices in church settings. Successful applicants will have a master's degree in counseling, social work, or a related field, and will have excellent communication skills. Responsibilities will include short-term child and family centered counseling and parent training workshops. As this ministry will take place in offices made available by Churches of Christ, and in direct collaboration with church leadership, qualified applicants must also be members of the Church of Christ and comfortable working in this setting.

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

NEWSMAKERS

AWARDED: John and Gena Davis, Beaumont, Texas, and Carl and Mary Claire Heffington Jr., Antioch, Tenn., the Distinguished Christian Service Award at the Harding University 87th Annual Bible Lectureship. **Dr. John Bailey**, Outstanding Alumnus of the Year by Abilene Christian University in Texas. Bailey, a dentist, is the founder of Body and Soul Ministries, a nonprofit that provides medical, dental and optical care to people who would otherwise go untreated.

NAMED: Ken Bissell, president of the new Harding University Alumni Network, formerly Harding Alumni Association. Bissell is public relations manager for Acxiom Corporation in Searcy, Ark. **Amy Fraser**, assistant professor of music, **Tracey Wyatt**, associate professor of psychology, and **Jason FitzSimmons**, director of the Success Center at York College, York, Neb.



Bissell

NEW ELDERS: Michael D. Anglin, the Silver Spring, Md., church. **Terry Pratt**, the South Holland, Ill., church.



Fraser

NEW MINISTERS: Tom Harguess, Hammon, Okla. church. **Robert Webster**, South Holland, Ill., church.

ANNIVERSARIES: 69th: Elton and Eleanor Dilbeck, Roswell, N.M. 56th: Clyde and Glenda Schinnerer, Edmond, Okla.

BIRTHDAYS: 102nd: Agnes Miller, Edmond, Okla. 101st: Nellie Snyder, Nashville, Tenn. 100th: Lola Gordon, Tomball, Texas. Marguerite Simpson, Houlton, Maine. 99th: Virginia M. Warner, Sun City West, Ariz. 96th: Mildred Goodwyn, Little Rock, Ark. 95th: Dorothy K. Prater, Millport, Ala. 93rd: Ola McDaniel, South Holland, Ill. 90th: Eleanor Dilbeck, Roswell, N.M., Elton Dilbeck, Roswell, N.M.



Gordon

PASSAGES: Charles Byron "C.B." Arnette Jr., 92, Oct. 14, Murfreesboro, Tenn., oldest living member of the East Main Street church in Murfreesboro, where he taught Sunday school class for many years. **Howard A. Buckley**, 78, Aug. 16, Belpre, Ohio, member of Sixth and Washington Street church, Marietta, Ohio. **Blake Sickles**, 79, Oct. 11, elder for 31 years for the Brentwood and Bridgewood churches in Fort Worth. **Jean Armor "J.A." Thornton**, 90, Oct. 11, Booneville, Miss., member of Booneville church, served on the President's Advisory Board at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn. **Milton Webster**, 66, Oct. 17, Jacksonville, Ala., elder of the Jacksonville church, oversaw Polishing the Pulpit, the Smokey Mountain Marriage Retreat and House to House/Heart to Heart ministries. **Leslie Harry Williams**, 73, June 10, Port Elizabeth, South Africa, devoted 40 years to ministry, the last 15 years as minister at Espea Heights church, Port Elizabeth.



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Logistics - Strengthen communication among participants

Please visit our website
www.edgewoodchurchofchrist.org
for details concerning how to apply.

Nov. 6-8 Communication Conference on Marriage and Family. "Families Matter." Northeast church, Cincinnati, Ohio. Contact www.northeastchurch.com or Tim Tripp at (513) 489-4659.

Nov. 12-14 Fifth annual Fall Delight retreat for college girls. Church of Christ University Center, Stillwater, Okla. Contact: Sabrina Wood at sab.wood@gmail.com.

Nov. 12-14 Fall Gospel Meeting. "Seek First the Kingdom of God." East Capitol Street church, Washington, D.C. Contact (202) 398-6738.

Nov. 12-14 Fall Weekend Revival. Featuring Jamell K. Hamilton. West End church, Atlanta. Contact www.thewestender.com or (404) 753-6271.

Nov. 13 Young Ladies' Day. "Daughters in the City — Living Above the Influence." District Heights, Md., church. Contact (301) 568-1071.

Nov. 27-Dec. 1 Newark, N.J., church 73rd Anniversary & Gospel Meeting. Contact Eugene Lawton at (973) 374-4563 or trumpet2@comcast.net.

Nov. 28 Hispanic Fellowship. Iglesia de Cristo 16th and Decatur church, Washington, D.C. Contact (202) 882-4711.

Nov. 30 Mid-Atlantic Preachers Meeting. East Baltimore church, Baltimore. Contact (301) 894-5412.

Dec. 3-4 Ladies Lectureship. Southside church, Durham, N.C. Contact (301) 894-5412.

Dec. 9-12 Winter Wonderland Rendezvous. West Yellowstone, Mont. Contact (800) 548-9551.

Dec. 16 Mid-Atlantic Preachers Meeting. "Revitalizing the Congregation." Olney, Md., church. Contact (301) 894-5412.

Dec. 30-Jan. 1 Polar Bear Weekend. For ninth graders and above. Camp Wamava, Linden, Va. Contact www.wamava.com.

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. "O Worship the King." 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.

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

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*

Randy

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



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EDITORIAL

Church vans demand safety first

Neither case involved a Church of Christ, but two recent tragedies in which aging church vans blew tires raise important questions about church vehicle safety and maintenance.

These questions demand the immediate attention of church leaders nationwide.

In the first case, a Georgia church van headed to an out-of-state revival blew a tire on a highway and flipped repeatedly, ejecting all 19 people on board and killing a minister, his daughter and two others.

In the second case, six people died when a New

York church van blew a tire and flipped several times.

The 10 deaths in separate crashes prompted the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to recommend users of 15-passenger vans take specific steps to keep occupants safe. The agency directed its advisory to churches and others that may be keeping older vans in service longer than usual because of tight budgets.

The specific safety tips:

- If you are an owner, make sure the vehicle is properly maintained.
- Owners should make sure drivers are fully trained, experienced in operating a van and properly licensed.
- Vans are highly sensitive to loading and should not be overloaded under any circumstances.

Overloading not only increases rollover risk, but it makes the vehicle more unstable in any handling maneuvers.

- Owners should make sure that properly sized tires are being used on their vehicles.
- Before every trip, drivers should

check the tires for proper inflation and make sure there are no signs of wear. Tire size and inflation pressure information can be found in the owner's manual.

- If you are a passenger, make sure you buckle up for every trip. Accidents happen. Not every tragedy can be avoided.

But the federal guidelines provide an important starting point for taking every precaution possible to protect churches'

most precious cargo.

In the two recent tragedies, consider this: Properly inflating tires and buckling seat belts might have saved lives.

Beyond basic steps, many congregations require anyone driving a church van to complete a safety training course. We urge other churches to consider doing the same.

To assure proper maintenance and help with safety concerns, other churches rent newer vehicles for longer trips.

Taking transportation safety seriously means *never* pulling out of the church parking lot without everyone buckled in. It means *never* putting more people into a van or other vehicle than legally allowed. It means *never* driving above the speed limit.

And, yes, it means *always* paying attention to the road.

"Too many times the driver is trying to have fun with the kids, and that's not a good mix," one church member told us.

Driving a church vehicle requires proper training and maturity. If a person drives poorly or unsafely, no matter who it is — parent, minister or even elder — don't be afraid to make a change.

Now.

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'Driving a church vehicle requires proper training and maturity. If a person drives poorly or unsafely, no matter who it is ... make a change. Now!'

Ever-Laughing Life

by Jonny Hawkins



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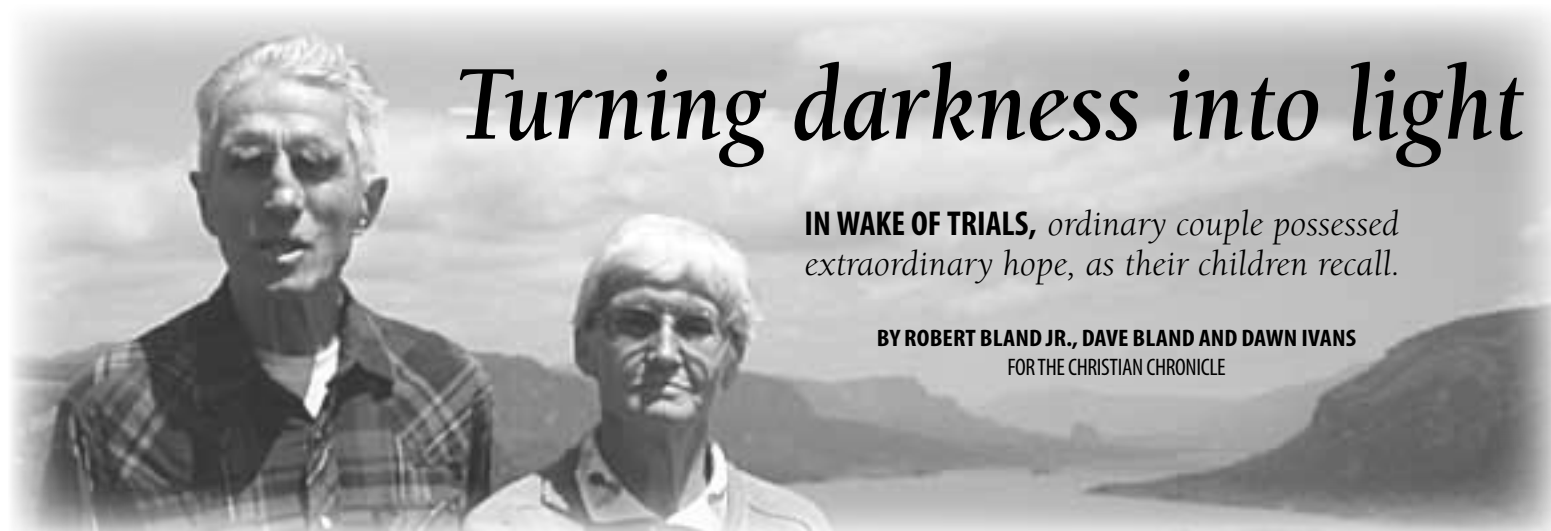
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Turning darkness into light

IN WAKE OF TRIALS, *ordinary couple possessed extraordinary hope, as their children recall.*

BY ROBERT BLAND JR., DAVE BLAND AND DAWN IVANS
FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

About 40 miles south of the Wyoming border, nestled between two major canyons in the front range of the Colorado Rockies, lies Pleasant Valley.

It was in this tranquil haven, flanked on the west by mountains and on the east by a large bluff, that our parents, Bob and Helen Bland, bought a little farm in 1961 and relocated our young family.

Two years earlier, our father lost sight in both eyes as a result of congenital cataracts.

Rather than let the blindness tear them apart, our parents drew closer together. With courage and resolve, they met each new challenge.

As they transformed the rundown farm into a home for our family, they tore down old buildings and built new ones. Where weeds once grew and ramshackle buildings once stood, a barn, woodshed, hog pen, granary and workshop were erected.

The farm became home to a menagerie of chickens, turkeys, beef cattle, milk cows, hogs, sheep and even

a few horses. Dad built a tree nursery to nurture saplings to plant on the farm.

It was in this rejuvenated environment that the three of us grew up, learned hard work and responsibility and, most importantly, saw Christian virtue modeled in the lives of our parents.

Managing a farm, even for someone with vision, is demanding. For someone who had lost his sight, the task could have been overwhelming.

But for Dad, things just don't *happen* in a Christian's life. God has a purpose for everything. Dad's world of darkness became an opportunity to shed the light of hope to others.

In order to navigate safely around his 12-acre farm, Dad created a network of guide wires, strung just a little over head-high, from the house to the workshop, from the work-

shop to the pasture and from the sheep shed to the pigpen.

Bells were placed on certain "problem" animals — the rambunctious ram and the over-stimulated steer — to alert Dad when he was in harm's way.

Like many others, Mom and Dad often struggled financially. Dad's blindness meant that Mom became the breadwinner while Dad worked on the farm. It was a difficult adjustment. Still, they met every challenge with a combination of faith in God and love for each other.

Dad frequently reminded us, "You've got to bend your attitude to fit your circumstances."

Earlier this year, Mom and Dad celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

They still use their farm to serve others, making it a virtual outdoor playground for children

of all ages. They built a tree house, rope swing, zip line and sack swing that leaves the most adventurous breathless.

The Bland farm has hosted Easter egg hunts, church picnics and a day camp for children with special needs.

Troubled youth come to the farm to learn responsibility and Christian values.

Dad served as an elder for the Meadowlark Church of Christ in Fort Collins, Colo., for about 30 years until his hearing deteriorated. Mom and Dad have lent their voices for duets at more than 100 funerals and put on special events at nursing homes.

Looking back, we marvel not at the oddity of the "blind farmer and his wife" but at the enormity of their character, their unwavering faith and their unconditional love.

ROBERT BLAND JR. is a professor of public administration at the University of North Texas. **DAVE BLAND** is a professor of preaching at Harding University Graduate School of Religion in Memphis, Tenn. **DAWN IVANS**, a homemaker and private music teacher, lives in Fort Collins, Colo.

LETTERS

African minister asks for continued support

Yes, Christians in the U.S.A. should support the preachers in Africa. (See "Should Christians in the U.S. support African preachers?" Page 1, November.)

I am saying this because I am a young evangelist who is at the moment caring for a congregation of about 100 members. This is due to some good Christians who supported me in Bible college and are still supporting my ministry to help grow it.

This does not mean that I should not also do something to help the situation. My wife manages the family stationery shop.

The majority of Africans are poor, and they need someone to help them excel.

Lawrence Lamptey | Accra, Ghana

Praise for simple living

(See "Ordinary Radical" shares his story at ACU," Page 1, November.)

There was a business professor at Oklahoma Christian in the 1970s who quietly lived the simple life so that he could share with refugees from Asia. There was a mission professor at Abilene Christian University who hauled his family of five around in a two-door Honda so that he could share with others. These men did not live simply in order to be seen of men, but did it quietly, without fanfare.

Shane Clairborne may be a fine man. I trust that he is. But I could not help but think of Matthew 6:16 when I saw that picture.

Let's live simply, but let us not make a show of it.

Thayer Salisbury | Toledo, Ohio

VOICES

What does it mean to live missionally?

Asked by managing assistant managing editor Erik Tryggstad at the 2010 World Mission Workshop in Arkansas.



Living missionally means to live life like a verb — not like a noun. It means to live life as a servant, as someone who has been given a gift by God ... to be willing to lay down your life for others.

Kristian Travis | Boston



It means actually following the Great Commission — living it out, serving those next door or across the street. It means sharing the love of Jesus Christ, being bold about our faith in a relevant way.

Johnnie Frye | Oklahoma City



Living missionally means to live in service to God, in reaching out to the lost with the Gospel. That is the focus of your life. That is what you do full time.

Joshua Parnell | Mammoth Springs, Ark.



To live missionally means making sure that, no matter where I am and no matter what I do, I'm pointing to God and not myself.

Anabel Reid | Lubbock, Texas

Youth ministry history is refreshingly atypical

BY RANDY SPECK | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

As a youth minister for more than a decade — and as superintendent of a Christian K-12 school — I have read my fair share of books and articles about reaching kids.

Whether it's an activity-based program (run, run away) or a program focused on the buzz words "spiritual formation," I have seen and read a lot.

But Mark Senter's **"When God Shows Up — A History of Protestant Youth Ministry in America"** was a bit of a shock for a guy who thought he had seen it all.

I assumed the book would be a tidy 150-page manual outlining the brief history of youth ministry, highlighting various trends and then offering a recommendation into the newest method of reaching teenagers.

I was pleasantly wrong. Upon first glance, a 300-plus-page book on the history of youth ministry in America struck me as overreaching.

Then I started reading. The book offers a fantastic descrip-

tion of the history of spirituality regarding youth in America — and how churches have placed their emphasis on youth. Then follow descriptions of the various methods and programming used.

Weaving together the events of U.S. history, the changing dynamics of the country's youth population and the evolving characteristics of churches is not a small task. But Senter does it with professorial pen and a youth minister's touch.

Senter chronicles the history of youth ministry by attaching time period pieces of literature and entertainment to illustrate the issues faced by that period's youths.

He uses Mark Twain's "Tom Sawyer" to illustrate the youth culture of the late 1800s in the Midwest.

He compares that culture to the Roaring Twenties, using references from F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby."

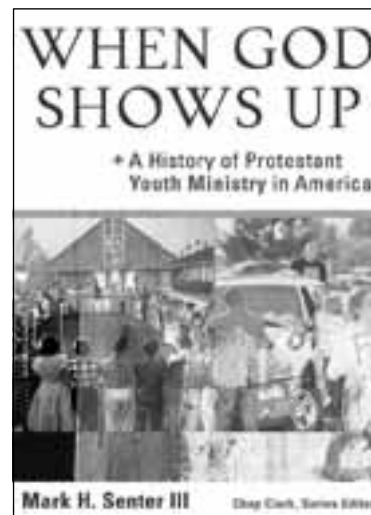
Senter's heart for youth ministry exudes through the manuscript as he combines historical information and practical applications.

There is something about this form of narrative that speaks to me. As much as I would love to read just for the sake of reading, a book like this poses the question, "How can this information be used right away?"

There are definite opportunities for youth leaders and teachers to take the material and translate it into an immediate teaching opportunity for students.

Much like a school teacher may use civics and government to illustrate an educational objective, Senter gives me the opportunity to use literature such as Sawyer and Gatsby — along with movies like "Grease" — to teach kids that life for teenagers always has been about trying to find your way in the world in which you live. Sin and stress didn't begin with this generation of teenagers, so connection to the past has a real benefit.

Recent discussions of social justice and the place that teenagers play in shaping the world's future are great, but Senter reminds me that there was a time in which students were not just debating life, they were having to live it. In so many ways, that stands in contrast to the youth culture of today.



Mark Senter III. **When God Shows Up — A History of Protestant Youth Ministry in America.** Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker, 2010. 363 pages. \$26.99

Youth leaders and teachers spend countless waking hours combing through material searching for something relevant.

I believe Senter gives 300-plus pages of relevance that can be used right now for today's youth leaders and for today's students.

The material is rich and deep — so much so that I felt overwhelmed at some points of the book. My initial reaction to

reading books that I want to put into use is to begin immediately creating a plan of implementation. With Senter's book, I had to pause to process all I was reading, which would sometimes slow my momentum. This small criticism may be more of a reflection of me as a practitioner rather than as a scholar.

As Senter clearly relates, youth ministry didn't begin with the addition of youth ministry degrees in Christian colleges. Its roots run deep, and various denominations have viewed youth culture through a variety of lenses.

But whatever the viewpoint, the end result needs to be: "How do we create an environment where students have the opportunity to come into a closer relationship with God?"

In "When God Shows Up," Senter provides a clear picture of how our predecessors have dealt with the issue through the years. Now it is up to this generation of leaders to recognize the culture in which they live and lead accordingly.

RANDY SPECK is superintendent of Oakland Christian School in Auburn Hills, Mich. He is passionate about developing student leaders. Contact him at rspeck@oaklandchristian.com.

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

BIBLE STUDY

C. Michael Moss. **The Secret of Joy: Studies in Philippians.** Nashville, Tenn.: 21st Century Christian; 2010. 113 pages. \$7.99.



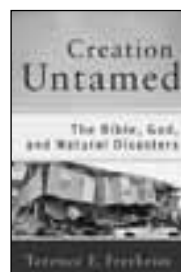
Moss, dean of the College of Bible at Ohio Valley University in Vienna, W.Va., offers 13 chapters covering the entire book of Philippians.

Aimed at helping Christians find joy in living, each chapter explains a section of text and concludes with a set of discussion questions.

The book would be suitable for a class study or for a small-group setting.

SUFFERING AND TRAGEDY

Terence E. Fretheim. **Creation Untamed: The Bible, God, and Natural Disasters.** Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2010. 160 pages. \$19.99.



This five-chapter volume guides the reader to the most helpful ways of thinking about God's role in natural disasters (such as hurricanes), the recurring problem of human suffering and the role of faith and prayer.

Biblically based, the volume includes footnotes and a Scripture index.

Fretheim teaches at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn.

FOR WIVES

Patsy Loden. **Loving Your Husband: How to Transform Your Marriage and Honor Your Covenant.** Huntsville, Ala.: Publishing Designs, 2010. 256 pages. \$12.99.



This spiral-bound volume offers daily readings for an 11-week personal study on being a godly wife. Each set of readings includes brief Bible studies, personal stories, thought questions with space to answer and advice for marriage.

Loden, who has a DVD series on the same topic, is a member of the North Jackson Church of Christ in Tennessee.

COMMENTARY

David McClister. **A Commentary on Hebrews.** Temple Terrace, Fla.: Florida College Press, 2010. 546 pages. \$24.99.



McClister, Bible and language teacher at Florida College in Temple Terrace, Fla., provides a non-technical, verse-by-verse analysis of the epistle to the Hebrews.

While footnotes and an extensive bibliography provide direction to other literature, the volume concentrates on a theological understanding of the passages and how Hebrews relates to the Old Testament.



The Department of Psychology and Family Studies at Oklahoma Christian University is currently seeking a full-time **professor of Psychology**. Qualified individuals should hold the Doctorate degree in psychology, or a related field, with demonstrated ability and experience to teach undergraduate courses in a variety of areas — including the university's general education class in psychology. Since the department emphasizes the science of psychology, the successful candidate will also demonstrate strong research and statistical skills. Individuals who are ABD will be considered and academic rank and salary will be based upon experience and qualifications. Qualified applicants must be active members of the churches of Christ and should include the following materials:

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- A vita
- A statement of teaching philosophy specific to a Christian, Liberal arts institution
- A statement of church affiliation and acceptance of institution's values
- A list of at least three academic/professional references and one reference from a local church leader — with telephone and email contact information
- A copy of all academic transcripts (an official copy must be submitted prior to formal employment)
- A statement of research interests, including any publications and conference presentations.

The review of applications will begin immediately with the successful applicant beginning employment in the fall semester of 2011. The position will remain open and the application process will continue until the position is filled.

Please send all application materials to:

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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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As time flies, reflections on family, faith and resolutions for a new year

We used to mark time by the ticking of a clock, but the digital age has ended that.

The passing of a year is like a bolt of lightning, and I am incredulous that 2010 is nearing an end. I seem to be one of the few old adults who still makes resolutions — which I review regularly and strive to progress in carrying out.

So I treasure the end of a year as a time to take stock of where I am personally, socially and spiritually.

This year has been eventful for the McBride clan. Our youngest grandchild, Garrett McBride, turned 7 in July.

My second child, Lynette Brown, and her husband, Pat, celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary in December. Their oldest daughter, Kailey, turned 18 last March.

And on New Year's Day, our oldest grandson, Luke Roe, will marry Rachel Varno, a girl he met when they both were participating in an international study program in Costa Rica in 2007.

And Joyce and I just keep chalking up the years and doing what we love the most — teaching: she in church preschool and I at Oklahoma Christian University.

My resolve for 2011 is to spend more time with my younger grandchildren and to listen more to my children.

One of the great blessings of my life has been my amazing family at the Memorial Road Church of Christ in Edmond, Okla.

Although we have worshiped and served with the same church for 44 years, it is not the *same* church. It has grown from about 100 members in 1966 to an average Sunday morning attendance of about 2,400 in two services.

The church has had remarkable leaders who understand the importance of keeping members active. Our annual Missions Sunday raised more than half a million dollars for missions on top of the vast resources in the regular budget.

In 2007, the congregation set out to have 1,000 members involved in missions, and at least 300 more than the target were active in foreign and domestic efforts. Members are encouraged to work on neighborhood projects and to become “fully devoted followers” of Jesus.

I am resolving to be more active in serving others — even as I continue

serious Bible studies.

Since 1981, I have been deeply interested in *The Christian Chronicle* as a vehicle to encourage great unity among a body deeply fractured over minor issues.

Insight



Bailey McBride

Although I have spent time editing and reporting, my main contribution has been keeping the tone and spirit of the reporting positive.

I have been challenged to share ideas month after month for 29 years. Although I have always been given a lot of latitude, I have always tried to look for positive insights about people, churches and the kingdom of God.

The *Chronicle* has the strongest staff ever. For this great work I am resolved to pray more and to help promote the value of having an informed brotherhood that accepts diversity and differences in opinion.

I am especially blessed that Oklahoma Christian still permits me to do what I have believed since the first day I walked into my own English Literature Survey class — that God meant for me to teach 18- to 22-year-old students. It is work, but it always has felt natural.

As I have taught, I have extended my preparation beyond literature and composition. I teach philosophy and interdisciplinary studies. The subjects are special, but my great interest is the brightest and best minds of young Christian women and men.

I also am delighted to have good teachers as colleagues. They are professional and have professional goals for preparing students for graduate studies and professional careers. They live their faith and serve by going the second mile.

I am determined to keep expanding my knowledge, my ability to understand people and my capacity to love. I seek God's help in knowing and understanding what is most important in developing minds and characters.

Time flies. That means we must make the most of every minute.

Redeem the time.

CONTACT bailey.mcbride@christianchronicle.org.



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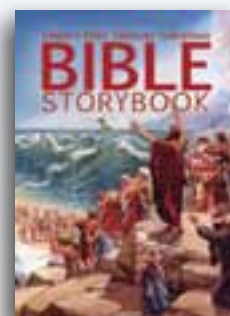
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