



KATRINA: FIVE YEARS LATER

The spiritual toll

BEYOND PHYSICAL LOSSES, hurricane's path of debris left some New Orleans-area churches facing unexpected challenges.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

MANDEVILLE, La. — In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the Tammany Oaks Church of Christ organized a mammoth relief effort that encouraged Christians across the nation.

Yet the long-term ramifications of the nation's costliest natural disaster proved less inspirational for the once-thriving congregation.

Five years later, the church in this suburb just across Lake Pontchartrain from New Orleans deals with the physical and spiritual debris: loss of key members scattered across the nation, turmoil after the storm that contributed to a church split and questions over the shrinking flock's future.

"There's certainly the disaster that goes beyond the disaster," said Stan Helton, minister of the

Tammany Oaks church for a little more than a year. "I mean, imagine trying to restart a congregation with elders who are just totally worn out from trying to get their own houses built, helping as much as they can, managing chaotic processes at this building."

Since Katrina struck the Gulf Coast on Aug. 29, 2005 — killing more than 1,800 people and wreaking an estimated \$81 billion in property damage — the spiritual toll has been high.

"I am aware of several churches that experienced splits and more because of differences of ministry and direction,"

said Fred Franke, a former church elder who organized

See **KATRINA**, Page 10



Fred Franke prays at a hurricane-damaged New Orleans home in 2005.

BOBBY ROSS JR.

MORE COVERAGE

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ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Southeast Asia: A land of opportunity for church growth?

Pamela Soo shares a snack with her students during Bible class at the Moulmein Road Church of Christ in Singapore. The prosperous island nation of 4.9 million souls has about a dozen Churches of Christ and is a cultural crossroads. Increasingly, Christians see the city-state as a gateway to reaching lost souls in Southeast Asia. As part of the ongoing *Global South* series, *The Christian Chronicle* presents firsthand reports from two Asian nations.



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11th in a series

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The changing face
of the church



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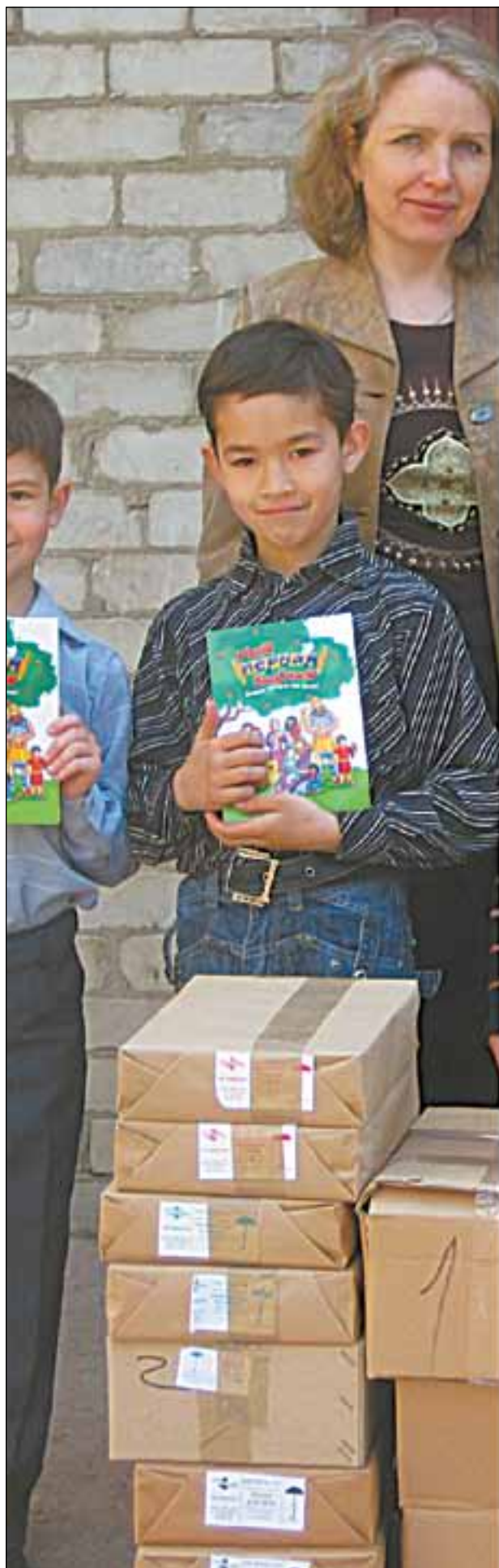
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Five years after Katrina, stories of hope emerge

GULFPORT, Miss.

Dark days followed the storm.

"Katrina changed everything," Les Ferguson Jr. told me. "I mean, it changed everything."

We were eating at a Chili's restaurant and talking about the disaster that ravaged the Gulf Coast five years ago.

Inside Story



Bobby Ross Jr.

Two days before the hurricane made landfall, the Gulfport church where Ferguson

preaches signed a contract to construct a new building. The Orange Grove Church of Christ sold its former property to a car dealership next door with the understanding that members could meet in the old facility while the new one was built.

But after Katrina, construction prices skyrocketed. Even obtaining a building permit became much more difficult.

"Just the cost of materials was inflationary, really, really high," Ferguson said. "So we ultimately lost all the money we sunk into engineering, and we ended up just building a plain metal building, much different than our original plans."

For a year, church members focused on disaster recovery ministry, using the old building as their base of operations. When the car dealership couldn't wait any longer, the church left its old building and met in a funeral home for a year and a half.

Only two church families lost everything. However, everyone suffered damages — to property and otherwise.

See **HOPE**, Page 4



PHOTO PROVIDED BY RAVE MINISTRIES

RAVE Ministries team members include Chaslynn McAvoy, front row; Heather Saunders and Lauren King, second row; and Becca Daniel, Becca Carden, Chelsea Stevens and Janna Beth Hunt, back row.

Raving about Jesus

IN A WORLD OF PROMISCUITY, *backbiting and self-doubt*, RAVE Ministries strives to show teenage girls what it really means to lead pure and holy lives for God.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The relationship starts innocently enough.

Bible in hand, the new girl at church catches a boy's attention as the youth group sings "You Are Holy."

Before long, girl and boy are dating, kissing — and cuddling on a bed under the pretense of watching a movie.

Such is the frank opening scene in a video by RAVE Ministries, a ministry led by two young adult women and five teenage girls in the Nashville area.

"A lot of people are really scared to talk about the real issues that are going on in

high school and at home, and there's a lot of brokenness," said RAVE team member Lauren King, 17.

"We try to be really different from other ministries in the fact that we're going to speak the truth," the high school senior said in an interview on the Lipscomb University campus. "We're going to speak what the Bible says to them in a very different, cool way that will keep teenagers' attention."

RAVE, described as "a ministry created by teenage girls for teenage girls," tackles subjects such as sexual purity, self-image and gossip in ways designed to appeal to the younger generation.

Christians jailed in Ghana after baptism drowning

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Just days after their baptisms, two new Christians in the African nation of Ghana were jailed and charged in the death of the man who baptized them.

The tragedy happened in the village of Mensakrom, west of the capital, Accra. Derick Ayensu, an evangelist in the nearby city of Swedru, was visiting a congregation in Mensakrom for Sunday worship.

After the service, the two men asked to be baptized. Ayensu took them to the edge of a river. Recent rainfall had flooded much of Swedru and knocked out bridges in the city. It also made the rivers that flow through the region dangerous.

Ayensu baptized the two men and left the river without incident. Then Ayensu returned to the river to rinse off his feet. He slipped and was washed downstream.

His body was found six days later, said Christopher Arthur, a minister in Swedru who coordinates the village ministry.

"Police came and arrested the two new converts (and) the brother in charge of the village church," Arthur said, "and the police wanted to charge them with negligence of duty leading to death."

The three men spent several days in jail before they were released. Arthur also was arrested and spent the night in jail, but was released.

After days of prayer and court appearances, the charges were dropped. As they emerged from the courtroom in Swedru, family members "poured talcum powder on the freed Christians to signify victory," said Noah Mends, another evangelist in the Swedru region.

More than 500 people attended a memorial service for Ayensu, Mends said. Baptized in 2005, Ayensu was an active leader in the Swedru congregation.

"Derick died as a great hero for the Lord, like John the Baptist during the time of King Herod," Mends said.

Overwhelmed by the show of support, Ayensu's father and aunt, who were not Christians, were baptized one day after the funeral, Mends said.



Mends

See **RAVE**, Page 14

HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

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Tuesday p.m. **Ken Neller**
What If We Lost the Bible?

Wednesday a.m. **Daniel Cherry**
Don't We Need Something More Than the Word of God?

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WEB EXCLUSIVES THIS MONTH:

- **Cambodia videos:** See on-the-scene reports from Erik Tryggstad's reporting trip to Asia.
- **Breaking news alerts:** Don't wait to read the latest news. To receive our news alerts by e-mail, contact Tamie Ross at tamie.ross@christianchronicle.org.

HOPE: Disaster's dark days gave way to blessings

FROM PAGE 3

"I don't think there's anyone here that didn't suffer from some form of post-traumatic stress," Ferguson said. "Of course, it's better now."

But at the time, he said, "People were just struggling — and not just church members. They'd fly off the handle at the slightest thing, cry at the slightest thing, be fearful of anything that's different, much more so than normal."

He was talking not just about *other* people but also himself. But through the dark days, God worked in hearts and minds.

In a shopping center parking lot not far from the Chili's where we ate, Ferguson recalled standing in a long line, nursing a migraine and sweating in 103-degree heat.

Rich and poor alike waited in the same line for bags of ice.

Everyone was equally helpless.

"That was a spiritual blessing for a lot of us, because we get so self-centered, so self-reliant," the minister said.

The difficulties with the new building proved to be a blessing, too.

Suddenly, a big, beautiful building — "an edifice," as Ferguson put it — became less important.

Instead, the new facility came to be seen as a tool. A place to welcome hurting people and show them Jesus.

The sign outside the new building — fitted with showers and a washer and dryer, just in case of another major hurricane — reflects that approach.

"No perfect people allowed," the sign reads. "Come as you are."

'BACK ON OUR FEET'

The Louisa Street Church of Christ in New Orleans' Ninth Ward was one of the last churches to reopen after Katrina.

During my recent reporting trip to the Gulf Coast, I was privileged to see the shiny new paint and pews in Louisa Street's renovated building, which opened a year and a half ago.



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Leaders of the Louisa Street Church of Christ in New Orleans, outside the renovated building.

Elders Winston Flakes and Frank Harden, deacons Wayne Treauo and Mac Stampley and minister Preston Olive showed me the congregation's new digs.

Before Katrina, Sunday attendance averaged about 220. Now, it's about 65.

But the church has come a long way since leaders found the devastated building filled with mud and muck.

"I fell on my knees," Stampley said of his reaction when he first saw the shocking scene. "I thought New Orleans would never be back, but God made it possible."

God's people helped.

"We'd like to just thank everybody who had a part in sending help down this way to help us get back on our feet," Flakes said. "We sure appreciate that."

FILLING THE 'SPIRITUAL VOID'

Over tacos at Juan's Flying Burrito, I enjoyed meeting New Orleans church planters Fred Every and Gerald and Angelia Taylor.

Every grew up in the Crescent City but left to join the military. After escaping the drugs and crime of his neighborhood, he intended to stay away from New Orleans.

But God had other plans, he told me.

In the wake of Katrina, New Orleans residents are asking more spiritual questions, he said.

"I feel called to help fill the spiritual void," Every said.

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



Ferguson

COLORADO

PONCHA SPRINGS — A newspaper ad for the Poncha Springs Church of Christ's recent Vacation Bible School drew notice on the "Headlines" segment of NBC's "Tonight Show."

The VBS featured the theme "Heroes of the Bible," and the ad included a drawing of a superhero — even though the actual Bible lessons focused on Esther, Noah, David and Jesus.

"I know there are many heroes of the Bible. I don't remember Superman being one of them," host Jay Leno joked. "I guess you want to get the kids into it."

Forty-three teenagers and adult sponsors from the Edmond Church of Christ in Oklahoma traveled to Colorado to lead the VBS. Five area teens were baptized.

DELAWARE

NEWARK — The Newark Church of Christ recently rededicated its "People's House."

The house on the church property started 40 years ago as a foster home. In 1997, the congregation converted it for use by relatives of hospital patients.

This past spring, members did an "extreme makeover" on the house, renovating the bedrooms and common areas, minister Steve Mahoney said.

KENTUCKY

HOPKINSVILLE — At its recent 50th anniversary celebration, the Southside Church of Christ dedicated a veterans' Garden of Honor. An estimated 20,000 motorists who pass by each day can see the memorial on the church's front lawn, minister Terry Alan Jones said.

About 600 present and former members attended the anniversary celebration and memorial dedication. The church is near the Fort Campbell Army post and includes a number of military families.

"I believe the Garden of Honor is unique among Churches of Christ," Jones said. It "has received much notice and appreciation from the community."

PENNSYLVANIA

BROOKVILLE — Courtney Thomas, a



PHOTO BY MIKE SOTO

Washers, dryers and a coin-friendly way to share Christ

Sometimes, introducing someone to Jesus can be as simple as pulling a quarter out of your pocket. That's the approach used by the Eastside Church of Christ in Portland, Ore. Through its Laundromat ministry, the church collects quarters from members and shows God's love by helping pay for laundry. "We have found it far more effective than we imagined," minister Mike Soto said. Pictured, clockwise from left, are Eastside members Stephany Becker, Tara Waldrup, Rudy Wray and Soto.

member of the Brookville Church of Christ, has been crowned Miss Pennsylvania. Thomas, 21, will compete in the Miss America Pageant in Las Vegas in January.

The Drexel University senior played the fiddle in the talent portion of the Miss Pennsylvania Scholarship Pageant.

Elaine VanSteenberg, whose late husband, Larry, preached for 25 years in Texas and Tennessee, shared the news of her niece's win. The proud aunt attends the Roseville Church of Christ in Brookville.



Thomas

TEXAS

ALEDO — For the first time in several years, the Aledo Church of Christ recently hosted

the Summer Youth Series, a Tuesday night event that rotates among churches.

About 375 students and adults from Fort Worth area congregations attended, minister Ron Buch said. Youth minister Chip Norman led singing, and Buch presented a lesson on "Standing on the Promises of God."

VERMONT

SPRINGFIELD — Elders of the Springfield Church of Christ seek help to support youth minister Chais Dimaggio, a graduate of Ohio Valley University.

The 80-member congregation can't afford to cover Dimaggio's salary but sees an opportunity to use his talents to serve the Springfield church and other Vermont and New Hampshire congregations, elders Thomas Snow, Ernest "Puggy" Lamphere and Edward Wilkins said.

"These congregations are

small, and many lack a full-time preacher," the elders wrote. "Consequently, Chais and we have developed a clear vision for mission-oriented ministry that will expand his work in several new directions."

Raised in the Springfield church, Dimaggio began studies at Harding University Graduate School of Religion in Memphis, Tenn., but returned home to care for his seriously ill grandmother. For more information, write to the church at P.O. Box 106, Springfield, VT 05156 or call (802) 885-3491.

WEST VIRGINIA

PARKERSBURG — About 450 teenagers from 14 states gathered to paint the homes of people in need of assistance. They participated in the recent 11th annual Mid-Ohio Valley Work Camp organized by Churches of Christ, *The News and Sentinel* reported.

SPOTLIGHT

Minister wants own TV show

ABILENE, Texas — Dr. Tony Roach, minister of the Minda Street Church of Christ, bids to compete on "Your OWN Show: Oprah's Search for the Next TV Star."

Roach will travel to Los Angeles to try out for the reality program, which could lead to a regular series on Oprah Winfrey's network, the *Abilene Reporter-News* reported.

Hopefuls submitted more than 9,500 audition videos, earning more than 143 million online votes, the Web site Zap2it reported. The top eight vote-getters, including Roach, were named as finalists.

The Abilene newspaper reported that a news blog post by *The Christian Chronicle* — among other factors — helped Roach's campaign. The minister, known for his "God's Love Bank" approach to spiritual growth and purposeful living, received 3.8 million votes.

"Audience, please, I need your vote so I can have my own TV show," Roach said on his audition video. "Judges, please, I need your approval so I can get it done. And I guarantee you this, we will help millions of people all over the world realize that the good news is that the bad news is a lie."



TINA PHAN, ABILENE REPORTER-NEWS

Dr. Tony Roach hopes to compete on a reality program that could lead to a series on Oprah Winfrey's network.

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Campers say 'Aloha' to a new Christian in Hawaii

Orlando Tosie, center, flashes the "Aloha spirit" sign while friends crowd around him after his baptism in the Pacific Ocean during Aloha Christian Camp 2010. About 50 campers and staff, representing at least nine Churches of Christ on the Hawaiian Islands, attended the camp on the north shore of Oahu. Four baptisms resulted from the weeklong camp, said Gary Lyons, minister for the Waimea Church of Christ in Kamuela, Hawaii.

Congregation awarded \$5.2 million grant

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — The Roswell Church of Christ will receive a \$5.2 million federal grant to build housing for the elderly.

The funds were awarded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Church leaders plan to construct a three-story apartment complex — with 41 one-bedroom units — for extremely low-income senior citizens.



Maxwell

"This grant will greatly enhance the community outreach we are engaged in at the Roswell church," said James Maxwell, minister emeritus and minister of outreach and development.

Maxwell and church elder Randy George worked together to generate the grant, the minister said.

The grant provides an interest-free capital advance.

Repayment will not be required as long as the housing remains available for occupancy by low-income senior citizens for at least 40 years.

Church to share recovery ministry tips

ATLANTA — Over the last 12 years, the North Atlanta Church of Christ has ministered to thousands of people recovering from drug and alcohol addiction.

The effort has resulted in hundreds of baptisms, as *The Christian Chronicle* reported in a Page 1 story in January 2008.

Now, the congregation wants to share what it has learned about

partnering with the recovery community and going beyond hosting recovery groups, minister Bill Hale said.

A two-day seminar, "Recovery: A Field Ripe for the Harvest," is planned Sept. 24-25 at the North Atlanta church.

"We are excited about an opportunity to extend to other churches what we have learned about reaching this very receptive group with the Good News," Hale said.

For details and registration information, go to www.nacofc.org and click "Recovery Seminar."



Hale

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EQUATORIAL GUINEA

MALABO — Christians in this West African country want to collaborate with Spanish-speaking brethren around the world.

African missionaries moved to Malabo, on an island south of Nigeria, to work with believers in Equatorial Guinea, the only Spanish-speaking nation on the continent. Spanish materials are hard

**Bueto**

to obtain. The island's few church members don't even have a Spanish hymnal, said missionary Leonardo Kinson Bueto.

"We have the desire to interact with other Spanish congregations, within or outside of the U.S., to enable us advance in the ministry," Bueto said. "We want Gospel bearers within the brotherhood to come and strengthen us." To help, e-mail leovibue@yahoo.com.

ITALY

VELLETRI — More than 100 church members attended a recent National Meeting for Churches of Christ. Vittorio Vitalone and other members of the Rome congregation organized the event. Longtime U.S. minister Jim Woodroof was the guest speaker. Woodroof used material from his book "Between the Rock and a Hard Place: Adventuring into the Life of Jesus of Nazareth."

"My wife Tonia and I helped in the translation (into Italian) of this very interesting book, which is now being distributed to all congregations in Italy," Vitalone said.

ISRAEL

JERUSALEM — What does botany have to do with the Shroud of Turin?

Members of the Netivvah ministry found out when they hosted Avinoam Danin, a botanist at Hebrew University. Several Churches of Christ support Netivvah, a Jerusalem-based Gospel ministry for Jews worldwide. Danin showed that three flowers found on the shroud "could only be found in the Jerusalem area during the months of March and April, around Passover," said minister Joseph Shulam. That evidence lends itself to the belief that the shroud was the burial cloth of Jesus.

**Shulam**

"One special thing that Netivvah does is to connect the academic community of Jerusalem ... with the disciples of Yeshua (Jesus)," Shulam said.

Recently Netivvah launched "Davar Acher" ("Something Else"), a Hebrew-



PHOTO PROVIDED BY KENT MARCUM

A boatload of jungle docs in Ecuador

Church members ride in a narrow boat on the Cayapas River in the South American nation of Ecuador. A team of 26 North Americans and 14 Ecuadorans and missionaries treated more than 1,500 patients in villages along the river during a weeklong medical mission, missionary Kent Marcum said.

During the trip the group stayed at the Kumanii Christian Center, a base for jungle ministry overseen by the Quito School of Biblical Studies in Ecuador's capital. Marcum seeks a congregation to sponsor the center, providing support for maintenance, administration and evangelists.

In addition, "we would like to find a North American person, or couple, who might take on this ministry, administering the facility and evangelistic work." For more information, contact the Southwest Church of Christ in Pueblo, Colo., at (719) 564-3873.

language publication. The magazine "is special because there is not much local Hebrew literature that speaks of Yeshua our Messiah in a Jewish context," Shulam said. For more information, see www.netivvah.org.

MYANMAR

PYIN OO LWIN — After training at a Bible school in India, a church member named Nathan has returned to his home country of Myanmar. The military junta that has ruled the former Burma since 1962 allows religious groups to meet but can restrict their activities. For security reasons, Nathan's full name is withheld.

"Pyin Oo Lwin is a nice place ... full of excellent flowers," Nathan told *The Christian Chronicle*. "Though there are a few Christians, they are still weak in their spiritual condition. Most of the people are Buddhist. I approach them daily by helping them work in the fields."

Nathan hopes to open an orphanage in the coming years. He asked for prayers as he works among the people of Myanmar.

NEPAL

BIRTAMOD — Shanti Kumar Chettri's ministry spans three nations — all within

less than 100 miles of each other.

Chettri ministers in Birtamod, a city in extreme eastern Nepal that borders "the chicken's neck," a narrow strip of land that is part of India. Not far away is the mountainous Kingdom of Bhutan.

In addition to working with churches in Nepal and India, Chettri and fellow Christians reach out to Bhutanese refugees living in eastern Nepal administered by the United Nations. About 100,000 people live in the camps, according to news reports.

SWITZERLAND

GENEVA — Church members from Scotland, Canada, France and the U.S. took part in a week of activities celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Church of Christ in Geneva. Doyle and Barbara Kee and their three children helped plant the church in 1970.

Today the 90-member congregation has four elders, four deacons and a full-time worker who supervises educational activities.

James Jones, Yann Opsitch and Arlin Hendrix were guest speakers during the celebration. For more information, see www.geneva-churchofchrist.com.

SPOTLIGHT**A river of redemption in Vietnam**

CAN THO, Vietnam — The Hau River, which flows by this city in south Vietnam, was a watery grave for the husband of a woman named Ket. During the Vietnam War, Vietnamese soldiers forced Ket's husband to row them up the river. Then they shot him.

Ket, the mother of seven, took her children with her as she searched for the body. She complained to the authorities but was ignored. Her suffering didn't end. Later, soldiers shot and killed one of her sons.

"She didn't understand the war. She only knew it had brought her grief," said Tom Tune, a church member who helped establish a Church of Christ in Can Tho. "In that grief, she engaged in public protests."

"Arrested and tortured, her experience gave birth to a hatred of foreigners — symbols of the war," Tune said.

That changed after one of Ket's granddaughters got involved with a program for students initiated by Tune. The church member, who has worked in Vietnam for nearly a decade, launched Tom's Kids, which provides education for poor children.

One of Ket's sons began assisting Tune in identifying children to send to school.

Ket's granddaughter is a senior at Harding University in Searcy, Ark.

"When we showed an interest in her grandchildren, she became interested in us," Tune said. "She started attending our worship services. She came to our fellowships."

Recently, Ket was baptized in the same river where her husband was killed. She was one of 14 people baptized after a Sunday assembly in Can Tho.

"She met Christ in the lives of his people, and he has made all the difference," Tune said. "She is now part of the family of God."

**Ket****Tune**

Ugandan church prays for member's daughter injured in terrorist attack

KAMPALA, Uganda — The terrorist bomb attacks that claimed more than 70 lives in this East African city took a personal toll on a church member's family.

Lydia Mbazira, a 21-year-old university student, and two of her friends were among the hundreds of Ugandans who poured onto a rugby field to watch a broadcast of the final game of the 2010 World Cup live from Johannesburg, South Africa. Mbazira's family attends a Church of Christ in Kampala.

"For the three girls, theirs was a day of fun, a day to witness history when Africa hosted the finals of the World Cup," minister Isaac Sanyu said.

But the day turned tragic when a bomb blast ripped through the stadium, killing one of Mbazira's friends and embedding shrapnel in her head.

"Several people were left dead because of lack of facilities and equipment in the hospitals," Sanyu said. Mbazira was treated at Mulago Hospital in Kampala, where physicians removed most of the shrapnel.

One fragment remains in the young woman's brain, however, and doctors are unwilling to remove it. They don't know when — or if — Mbazira will recover from the injury, Sanyu said.

Mbazira's father told the Kampala church about the situation.

"The church prayed over Mbazira and his family," Sanyu said. "We all continue



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ISAAC SANYU

Lydia Mbazira rests in a Ugandan hospital bed as her family sits by her side.

to visit and pray for Lydia and her family in the hospital. We ask that you all continue to pray for Lydia as well."

An American, 25-year-old Nate Henn, also died in the attack. Henn was visiting friends whom he had worked to support through the nonprofit Invisible Children. The group makes documentaries about war-affected children in Africa. Church of Christ members have participated in events supporting the nonprofit's work.

A militant Islamic group based in Somalia claimed responsibility for the attack at the rugby club and a Kampala restaurant.

"The situation in Kampala continues to be tense," Sanyu said. Ugandan officials have tightened security across the nation, as has the church's Better Living Resource Centre.

"Please continue to pray for security and protection," Sanyu said.

Kenya ministry celebrates with style

NAIROBI, Kenya — The proprietor of an upscale salon in this African capital was the guest of honor at a church-supported ministry's 15th anniversary celebration.

Nargis Manji, who operates Nairobi's Narcisse Salon, has hired and trained six former street children in the art of hairdressing, manicure and pedicure.

She even sent a few of them to a special training program overseen by cosmetics giant Revlon.



Manji

The trainees are among the hundreds of Kenyan youths helped by the Made in the Streets ministry in the past 15 years. The Eastleigh Church of Christ in Nairobi launched the ministry in 1995. Today the ministry has a staff of

24 ministers and volunteers. Charles and Darlene Coulston oversee the work, with assistance from Larry and Hollye Conway.

The ministry operates a facility in the Eastleigh neighborhood that houses street girls with newborn babies. Team members work at sites across the city, administering first aid, helping children get national identity cards and conducting Bible studies. More than 50 children live in the ministry's facility in Kamulu, 45 minutes from Eastleigh.

In the years since the ministry was founded, Kenyan Christians have played an increasing role in its oversight. Francis Mbuvi, who was himself a street youth when the Coulstons met him in 1994, now serves as the program's administrator.

WEBSITE: www.made-in-the-streets.org



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KATRINA: 'The church has been a very resilient people,' one minister says

FROM PAGE 1

a Katrina relief effort called Operation Nehemiah, which eventually separated from the Carrollton Avenue Church of Christ in New Orleans.

As they rebuilt their hurricane-damaged homes, elders of the Elysian Fields Church of Christ in New Orleans ended up in a public dispute with the minister hired when their preacher did not return after the storm.

The conflict over that minister's termination made the front page of *The Times-Picayune*, New Orleans' daily newspaper.

Earlier this year, the Elysian Fields church hired another new minister: James Nunnery.

Nunnery said some people called him crazy for taking the job. But the New Orleans native, a U.S. Army veteran who served in Iraq, said he felt called by God.

"The church has been a very resilient people, considering the circumstances of the storm and the situation with the previous minister," said Nunnery, who formerly served as assistant minister of the West End Church of Christ in Terrell, Texas, across from Southwestern Christian College.

"They have really pulled together in trying to bring more of a positive light to what has been happening. They have shown significant effort in wanting to grow spiritually."

'KICKOFF SUNDAY' DISRUPTED

Before trees snapped and floodwaters rose, the Tammany Oaks church envisioned a festive grand opening for its new, \$1.3 million worship center.

The 225-member congregation mailed fliers inviting 5,000 Mandeville neighbors to the special service. However, no visitors — and only about 14 members — showed up.

"Kickoff Sunday" came just 24 hours before Katrina waged war on the Gulf Coast, and most heeded warnings to flee.

But after the disaster, the congregation found itself with a different, extraordinary way to

reach out.

As church members nationwide donated millions of dollars, filled tractor-trailer rigs with thousands of boxes of food and transformed fellowship halls into temporary homes for hundreds of evacuees, the Tammany Oaks congregation became a central point for church relief efforts.

Unlike most New Orleans area churches, the Tammany Oaks building escaped the storm mostly unscathed, making it a perfect place to receive truckloads of donations and distribute food, water, medicine, soap, shampoo, mops, buckets and other cleaning supplies, church leaders said then.

Tammany Oaks member Janet Hines had done mission work in Honduras and started a ministry called *Mi Esperanza* ("My Hope"), which offers loans and skills training to women in the Tegucigalpa area.

Hines jumped at the opportunity to help closer to home. She was put in charge of Tammany Oaks' disaster relief program.

"Before we knew what was happening, we had turned our building into a warehouse, receiving tractor-trailer loads of donations that were to be distributed to those who needed help so desperately," Hines said.

"We were housing volunteers and filling the church to overflowing with those who had the heart to help and with the goods that those who couldn't come were sending. Our projects every day were to distribute the goods. Every day we would send volunteers out to get the donations to the needy. Every night they would return, and we would hear their stories, and God's presence among us was clear."

DIVISION CREEPS IN

On Sundays, members walked through a maze of mattresses, washers and dryers, canned goods and other donated items that kept coming for the volunteers to distribute, Hines said.

In a real way, she said, the relief effort allowed the church



PHOTOS BY BOBBY ROSS JR.

Against the advice of some, New Orleans native James Nunnery returned home to serve as minister of the Elysian Fields Church of Christ. Sunday morning worship attendance has risen since Nunnery's arrival in February.

to serve as "the hands and feet of Jesus to those who were so devastated with their losses — both physical and emotional."

Hines remembers that period as "a beautiful time" when she saw and experienced God's mercies and blessings on a daily basis.

But over time, weariness — and discouragement — set in, she said.

"Satan is not to be underestimated," Hines said. "He knew our weaknesses, and we are all weak. He used circumstances and situations to divide us."

In January 2006, Hines left the Tammany Oaks operation to work with Hilltop Rescue and Relief, a ministry of the Hilltop Community Church of Christ in El Segundo, Calif.

For more than a year, Hines devoted her talents to "Camp Chalmette," a Hilltop Rescue ministry that housed up to 400 volunteers at a time in a Chalmette, La., elementary school and helped hurricane victims rebuild their homes and their lives.

Several Tammany Oaks members met with church leaders to discuss concerns about direction, Hines said.



In 2005, Janet Hines shows off a poster made by volunteers who helped with the disaster relief effort of the Tammany Oaks church in Mandeville, La.

Eight families, including Hines', began meeting in homes and later bought a piece of property. They started the North Pointe Church of Christ in Covington, La. The new church averages Sunday attendance of 50 to 60.

"The challenges we faced were unrelenting, and we were exhausted — mentally, physically and spiritually," Hines said of the hurricane's aftermath. "Our marriages suffered, with some ending in divorce and severe trials."

"Not surprisingly, many of us who were determined to provide

care to those in great need gave up altogether on the church and its leaders and walked away, never to return. Even though we survived the storm that nature engulfed us in, many of us did not survive the emotional storm that set in after."

The White's Ferry Road Church of Christ in West Monroe, La., tried to help, sending a team to offer spiritual support. Despite leaving the Tammany Oaks church, Hines said she still has great relationships with many of its members.

See **HURRICANE**, Page 11

HURRICANE: Elder says storm brought 'good ... and some bad things'

FROM PAGE 10

"We just needed to be able to worship and be healed from our brokenness and study the Scriptures together," she said of those who left. "It was like Paul and Barnabas — we went separate ways, and the Lord's work has been multiplied."

DISASTER RELIEF VS. MINISTRY?

Not everyone would agree, of course, with Hines' recollection of what transpired. As in most difficult situations, it's impossible to discern the full picture through only one lens.

Certainly, on one level, the clash at Tammany Oaks pitted long-term disaster relief efforts against more traditional church ministries and priorities.

But in Helton's view, that assessment falls short of the whole story. "That's the surface issue, but the fact is, and always is, that some of these families have been at odds with each other for some time," he said. "But what happened, it's as if you put stress on the system, and all the cracks begin to show. All the cracks that normally folks would have lived with, they couldn't live with anymore."

Before the storm, the church built a worship center that could seat 500 people. With pre-Katrina attendance approaching 250, that seemed to provide plenty of room for growth, Helton said.

But with attendance down to about 80 most weeks — and as low as 40 one recent Sunday — the space seems to engulf the remaining crowd.

Helton operates a website called "The Church Doctor" that seeks to help churches fulfill their missions. At Tammany Oaks, he knew he was coming into a difficult situation. But Helton, a former minister of the

Carrollton Avenue church, said he did not realize the extent of the challenges.

"Some of our people are suffering from post-traumatic stress," he said. "They had tremendous losses, and they go through life just trying to make it right now, you know? Get the house together. Hope that another hurricane doesn't take it out again. And I've found a lot of folks in this part of the world to be in what I would call a subdued depression."

'I LOVE THOSE PEOPLE ... DEEPLY'

At Carrollton Avenue, Franke served as one of three elders at the time of Katrina. After Katrina, he immediately began organizing relief teams from across the nation and housing them at the church building.

"We are a long way from being even close to normal, and we still need a lot of help," Franke told *The Christian Chronicle* a year after the storm. But the other two elders, Charles Edgeron and Robert Carpenter, determined that relief work could not go on forever.

At a special church service in April 2007, the congregation gave Franke a plaque recognizing Operation Nehemiah's efforts — and unofficially signaling the end of both his and the ministry's association with Carrollton Avenue. Franke stepped down as an elder and started attending a different New Orleans church.

Still, Franke said of the Carrollton Avenue church, "I love those people over there deeply."

In five years, Operation Nehemiah has hosted 22,000 volunteers from more than 500 church mission groups, Franke said. The nonprofit organization, which welcomes groups from Churches of Christ, Christian Churches and a vari-



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Ministers Kirk Garrison and Charles Marsalis pose by the sign at the Hollygrove Church of Christ in New Orleans. The new congregation is a church plant by the Carrollton Avenue Church of Christ, about 10 minutes away.

ety of Christian denominations, charges participants about \$195 per person, which Franke said covers a week's worth of lodging, meals and expenses.

"Even as far as New Orleans has come, we've still got a long way to go," Franke said. "In May, the local news announced that there were still 58,000 blighted homes without any work going on in these homes. There's still so much work to be done."

Back at Carrollton Avenue, Edgeron said the hurricane "brought out a lot of good things and some bad things, too."

"You know, we had a problem with Fred Franke and Operation Nehemiah ... so eventually, we broke off from that," Edgeron said. "And Fred is on his own, doing his thing. And we're still doing what God called us to do, I believe, and that's just to reach out to the community and around us and do his will."

With Kirk Garrison and Charles Marsalis serving as co-ministers, the Carrollton Avenue church restarted its summer Kids Camp program to reach out to inner-city youth and planted a new congregation in Hollygrove, a high-crime area about 10 minutes away.

Carrollton Avenue's attendance averaged about 130 before Katrina. It's about 80 now. An additional 30 to 40 people worship at the Hollygrove church.

The Carrollton Avenue church has hired Xavier Waites, an M.Div. graduate of Abilene Christian University in Texas, to serve as an urban missionary. He'll live for free in the house next door to the church, but won't receive a salary.

"We're kind of trying to change the model a little bit to where we're moving kind of more to tent-making, where he gets a job out in the community," Garrison said of Waites' hiring. "The only compensation we could afford was the house."

Before Katrina, the Elysian Fields church drew 250 to 300 worshipers on any given Sunday.

That number had dropped to 75 by the time Nunnery arrived in February. Since then, attendance has risen to 175.

"Steady progress!" Nunnery said. "With the help of God, it's growing. And we just keep on feeding them spiritually, keeping them busy, giving them things to do. And they fellowship and they love, and that's one of the things I felt

that had probably left us: a genuine, heartfelt love for each other. That's what we want to restore, that Christian love and fellowship."

At Tammany Oaks, Helton prays for God's direction — and hand.

Help to meet physical needs flooded into the church after Katrina. Now, the church could use the same kind of support to rebuild spiritually, he said.

"Our leaders are worn out," Helton said, mentioning a desire

to see a stronger congregation partner with Tammany Oaks.

"I've been here a year now, and the youth ministry is finally starting to grow a little bit. Our children's ministry is starting to figure out where it's supposed to be. Our adult ministry, we're still floundering there a little bit."

Asked what help the church needs, he replied, "What would be really nice ... is if someone would lend us an elder to come over and be a pastoral leader in this congregation and share with our elders some of the load."



Helton

'Some of our people are suffering from post-traumatic stress. They had tremendous losses, and they go through life just trying to make it.'

Stan Helton
Minister, Tammany Oaks church

Not the Big Easy: Reaching New Orleans with the Gospel

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

HARAHAN, La. — New Orleans is not what it seems.

That's the message that Dennis Jones would like to convey to fellow members of Churches of Christ.

"To the tourist, it's fancy restaurants, loud music, the French Quarter," Jones said.

Look closer, though, and it's a city of fine universities, hospitals and museums, he said. Even better, as he sees it, it's a city full of souls open to the Gospel.

"There's a spirituality about this place," Jones said. "People here are probably, if you take them as a whole, as spiritually sensitive as any place I know that you can go."

Jones serves full time as president of Heritage Christian University in Florence, Ala.

But 40 weekends a year, he makes an 850-mile round trip to the Hickory Knoll Church of Christ in this New Orleans suburb, on the east bank of the Mississippi River.

"My goal is to strengthen, stabilize and rebuild the church in New Orleans," said Jones, who began work with the Hickory Knoll church in 2007.

"I have a five-year commitment to do all I can — with the Lord's help — to rehabilitate the image of the church in the area and encourage young families to move here and start a business or put down roots some way. We need more people who are firmly grounded to help us evangelize the area."



Dishongh

Recently, the Hickory Knoll church hosted a men's leadership breakfast that drew representatives from nearly 20 congregations.

"We considered the event a success," said Jones, who offered to help the churches in any way he could.

At Hickory Knoll, Jones teaches an adult Bible class on Sunday morning and preaches



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Worshippers sing at the Hickory Knoll Church of Christ in Harahan, La., a New Orleans suburb.

on Sunday night.

Co-minister Eric Dishongh, a graduate of Harding University in Searcy, Ark., grew up in the congregation.

Dishongh delivers the Sunday morning sermon and handles day-to-day ministry.

The Hickory Knoll church lost its roof during Hurricane Katrina. Member Charlie Martinez Jr. lost his father.

The younger Martinez, who has a wife, Patricia, and three children, Tori, Tristen and Sadie, had evacuated to Texas.

After his father died, fellow members supported him in every way possible, he said.

"Everything was still kind of hectic, but they actually got the keys to our house and set up a bunch of food and things like that for family members," Martinez said.

In October 2006, 14 months after the storm, the church met for the first time in its rebuilt auditorium.

Before Katrina, the Hickory Knoll church was mostly white with a Spanish-speaking group sharing the building.

After the storm, the congre-

gation became more diverse as it attracted members of closed congregations.

Eight to 10 black families placed membership, and others visit frequently, Dishongh said.

Total attendance in the English and Spanish assemblies averages between 170 and 180, making Hickory Knoll one of the area's larger congregations.

"Sometimes, when I'm speaking at Hickory Knoll," Jones said, "I'm talking to whites, blacks, Asians, Cajuns, Yankees, rednecks and Hispanics. So, it's an exciting place to be."

Minister Jose Luis Campos works with the Hispanic group.

The Hispanic ministry has had to rebuild post-Katrina because a major apartment complex where many Hispanic residents lived was destroyed, Campos said.

While many Hispanic members never returned, the disaster recovery effort drew many Spanish-speaking construction workers to the area, he said.

"In some ways, it's really good because it gives us an opportu-

nity, if they are not Christians, for them to become Christians and go back to their countries and continue in service over there," Campos said. "But at the same time, it's a little more difficult to make a strong church when you have maybe single brothers who are coming or a family that is here for one or two years."

Besides increased diversity,

Katrina brought a renewed recognition of other area Churches of Christ to Hickory Knoll members, Dishongh said.

Before the storm, Hickory Knoll members were less likely to know Christians at other congregations, he said.

Part of that had to do with Hickory Knoll's doctrinal positions and leaders' concerns with progressive approaches, he acknowledged.

But simply "not knowing each other" was just as big a factor, he said.

Now, churches that once labeled each other "legalistic" or "liberal" attend each other's special events, such as youth rallies and singing nights, Dishongh said.

"At Hickory Knoll, we believe in Bible truth," he said. "But one of our themes is 'speaking the truth in love.' Sometimes, in the past, churches have done more harm with the truth than good."

To reach a city the size of New Orleans, it will take Christians working together to reach the lost, he said.

Dishongh, a New Orleans Saints season-ticket holder, said the team's improbable Super Bowl win gave him hope.

"If the New Orleans Saints can win the Super Bowl, then the church in New Orleans can grow," the minister said.,



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Dennis Jones, president of Heritage Christian University, has a passion for reaching the lost in New Orleans — 425 miles from home.

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- I Love To Tell The Story
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- What A Friend We Have In Jesus
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- In The Sweet By And By
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- Faith Of Our Fathers
- This Is My Father's World
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- Face To Face
- The Kingdom Is Spreading
- When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder
- Because He Lives

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- As The Life Of A Flower
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- I Must Tell Jesus
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Experience: This position requires a bachelor’s degree with at least ten years of senior level experience in university advancement and/or development with a successful record of accomplishment. Position requires exceptional interpersonal and communication skills in relating to the Board of Directors, university administrative and academic leaders, University Advancement staff, external audiences, and community leaders. A demonstrated ability to lead with energy, optimism, diplomacy, humility and integrity is vital to the position’s success. The Senior Vice President for Advancement must be a proven strategist in accomplishing short-term and long-term goals. An entrepreneurial spirit with an affinity for maintaining a broad portfolio of projects and responsibilities.

Director of Government Relations and Grants Services

Responsibilities/Qualifications: The Director of Government Relations and Grant Services provides University wide leadership and coordination of government relations and grant services in the development of proposals to support University initiatives under the direction of the Vice President. Will work with the president, vice presidents, deans, faculty, institute directors, university alumni, and civic leaders to secure government funding for University programs and general operating support. This includes developing, writing, and preparing proposals (and contracts) and assisting university faculty and directors to design programs to meet the requirements of specific requests for proposals or application (RFPs/RFAs). S/he will support a sustained effort of identifying, soliciting, and retaining institutional support with a strong focus on government grants.

Typical Duties and Responsibilities: Coordinate and prepare RFP proposals, contracts and reports for government grants, including city, state and federal funding opportunities. The majority of the work load for this position will be government grants related; assist in the management of compliance and reporting requirements of agency contracts; provide liaison activities between University personnel and federal entities in the pursuit of grants, federal earmark funds and program participation; work with the Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations to identify funding opportunities and develop support/advocacy documents; perform other duties as assigned.

Experience: At least five years of experience in legislative affairs or a related field. Significant experience preparing and writing government technical project proposals or reports with a proven track record of successful outcomes.

Development Officer - Major Gifts (Emerging Professionals)

Responsibilities/Qualifications: Develop and implement strategies for major gifts fundraising and engage emerging leaders and professionals to build significant donor investments. Maximize individual support by establishing and maintaining relationships with alumni, parents, and friends securing major gifts for the support of the University’s mission, facilities, endowment, and annual support.

Typical Duties and Responsibilities: Assist the administration, faculty, staff, and volunteers with the identification, cultivation, solicitation and stewardship plans for prospects capable of making individual gifts of \$25,000+; responsible for face-to-face cultivation and solicitation of major gift donors and prospects; develop and cultivate relationships with existing and prospective key alumni, donors, and prospects for philanthropic support; maintain a donor portfolio of 150 prospects; Perform related duties as assigned.

Experience: At least three years of professional fundraising or business development experience. Demonstrated accomplishments in the acquisition of major gifts or closing complex commitments including planned gifts, campaign and endowment gifts, and investment options.

Director of Development - Leadership Gifts

Responsibilities/Qualifications: Develop and implement fundraising strategies that engage Middle Tennessee philanthropic community leaders to build significant donor investments. Maximize individual support by establishing and maintaining relationships for the support of the University’s mission, facilities, endowment, and annual support. Assist the administration, faculty, staff, and volunteers with the identification, cultivation, solicitation and stewardship plans for major donors and new prospect donors in the Middle Tennessee area (individuals, foundations, corporations, associations, alumni, etc.); manage and cultivate a personal portfolio of prospects; maintain and establish strong relationships with corporate leaders, government officials, donors, alumni, and the Middle Tennessee philanthropic community in the interest of gaining knowledge and resources to support the University; attend appropriate activities and events that present opportunities to initiate and/or deepen donor relationships, including appropriate follow-up; engage support to aid in the cultivation and solicitation of individual gifts; perform related duties as assigned.

Experience: At least seven (7) years of development or related experience is required. Established relationships in the Middle Tennessee philanthropic community is also a must.

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

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RAVE: Living a life ‘worth raving about’

FROM PAGE 3

“We want to RAVE about what Jesus has done for us, and we want to live a life worth raving about,” the team proclaims at www.raveministries.org.

Team members, all with Church of Christ backgrounds, include adult leaders Becca Daniel and Janna Beth Hunt, both 28, along with King; Becca Carden, 18; Chaslynn McAvoy, 19; Heather Saunders, 19; and Chelsea Stevens, 20. Daniel and King are sisters. RAVE expects to add a few new members soon.

The ministry combines DVD presentations, an online curriculum, in-person dramatic presentations and a Facebook-like community for girls and mentors on the RAVE website.

“What’s really neat about the website is when you look at our discussion questions,” said Hunt, a second-grade teacher and graduate of Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn. “It’s more than just the seven (team members) and their responses to these questions. It’s other girls around the country helping other girls.

It’s like a community of teenage girls that we’re trying to create.”

Too often, in Daniel’s view, the church has told girls, “Don’t.”

“Don’t have sex before marriage.” “Don’t get drunk.” “Don’t do drugs.”

“Finally, teenagers are like, ‘What can we do?’” said Daniel, who hangs out with her husband, Nathan, and daughter, Fenley, 3, when she’s not organizing RAVE events.

Through its videos and dramas, RAVE is not shy about answering that question. “You know, what you can do is love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind,” Daniel said. “And what does that look like in everyday life? Well, it looks like this: Going to the pool and laying out with your friends and not talking about your friends in a bad way.

“What does it look like? It looks like going out to dinner with your boyfriend, but keeping it pure when you’re in the car and riding to the movie.”

Since RAVE Ministries’ founding a year ago, team members have gained a

following with appearances at events such as Winterfest, Lipscomb’s IMPACT and various retreats and girls’ days.

Dudley Chancey, Winterfest director and youth ministry professor at Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City, helped organize RAVE as a nonprofit 501c3 organization and serves on its board.

Chancey knew Daniel and King through their father, Russ King, a former youth minister who preaches for the Rural Hill Church of Christ in Antioch, Tenn., south of Nashville.

“RAVE Ministries comes alongside parents and churches to provide encouragement and education/information to teen girls about courageously living out the Christian lifestyle (Ephesians 4:11-13),” Chancey said in an e-mail. “RAVE is relevant. RAVE is encouraging. RAVE rocks!!!”

RAVE team members see a potential for the ministry’s online materials to fill a niche in small congregations where no one might feel qualified to address the issues teen girls face.

Even in larger churches, RAVE’s expertise might benefit an unmarried youth minister, team members said. As Hunt, whose husband, Ryan, helps with RAVE’s website, described it, “I’m sorry, but men just really don’t know what it’s like to be a girl, especially not a teenage girl.”

RAVE’s first DVD features three videos: “The Line” (on sexual purity); “ily bff” (on gossip); and “Red Dress” (on self-image).

In the first video, a discussion of the Bible’s teachings on sex follows the dramatic opening scene. Daniel narrates the presentation and refers to specific Scriptures as she addresses the question of what constitutes “sex.”

She sympathizes with those who have fallen short of God’s ideal — and stresses his forgiving nature — but makes clear that Christians must avoid even the hint of sexual misconduct.

“Fooling around is not OK,” Daniel says, as she confronts issues such as pure thoughts, proper flirting and modest dress.

“This whole ‘not having sex’ thing is not just about not having sex,” she concludes. “It is about a pure and holy life.”



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Director of Graduate Studies in Exercise and Nutrition Science

Lipscomb University, a 119 year old faith-based institution located in Nashville, Tennessee, seeks qualified candidates to serve as the Director of Graduate Studies for the recently created Master's of Science program in Exercise and Nutrition Science. The successful candidate has leadership experience in higher education, demonstrates innovative and creative leadership practices, possesses excellent management skills and a collaborative attitude, and is an effective classroom teacher. Because of the distinctive discipline combination in this graduate program, persons with backgrounds in both Exercise Science and Nutrition are especially encouraged to apply.

STARTING DATE: August 1, 2010

POSITION TYPE: Administrative/12 month

SALARY: Commensurate with experience and qualifications

QUALIFICATIONS: Earned doctorate degree in either Exercise Science or Nutrition; Five years of academic management experience in higher education; ACSM certification and/or registry in Dietetics; Ability to relate well with students; Ability to work effectively within two academic department structures (Kinesiology and Nutrition); Active member of the Churches of Christ.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Lead and manage all aspects related to the graduate degree in Exercise and Nutrition Science, including marketing the graduate program and student recruitment and admission to the graduate program; Provide creative leadership in maturing the current graduate program and in developing new graduate programs in the areas of Kinesiology and Nutrition; Provide leadership in accreditation efforts associated with the graduate program in Exercise and Nutrition Science; Maintain and develop appropriate graduate curriculum; Monitor the academic progress of graduate students; Manage the graduate course scheduling process; Recruit qualified faculty (both full-time and adjunct) to deliver graduate coursework; Supervise or manage the supervision of practicum and thesis experiences; Coordinate advising of graduate students; Effectively manage the graduate operating budget; Teach graduate and/or undergraduate courses in the area of academic preparation (Exercise Science or Nutrition); Participate in professional development activities in order to remain academically current and remain aware of graduate program relevancy in the professional community; Entrepreneurially develop relationships in the Nashville community; Develop and maintain positive relationships between the graduate program in Exercise and Nutrition Science and potential practicum sites; Work collaboratively with the Kinesiology and Nutrition Department's academic chairs; Serve on the Graduate Academic Leadership Team and other university committees as needed.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Applications are currently being accepted and will be reviewed until the position is filled.

APPLICATION PROCESS: Submit a letter of application/introduction including qualifications, leadership/teaching experiences, and a statement of philosophy explaining how the candidate will integrate his/her faith into the practices of leading and teaching; Curriculum vitae; Official transcripts; Names, addresses (including email) and phone numbers of three references (2 professional, 1 personal/elder or minister); Mail information to: Dr. Randy E. Bouldin, Associate Provost for Academic Development and Graduate Studies, Lipscomb University, One University Park Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37204-3951. For other information call 615-966-6287 or email randy.bouldin@lipscomb.edu. See our website at Exercise and Nutrition Science <http://exns.lipscomb.edu>.



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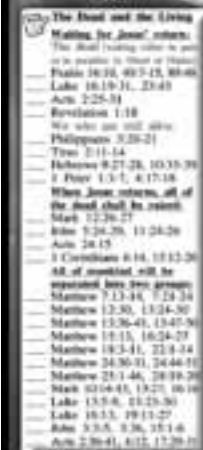
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Side 1

Side 2



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PHNOM PENH, Cambodia

Sokhom Hun had every reason not to come back here. His wife, Phaline, echoed that sentiment, telling him over and over, “We’re not going back.”

The young couple fled their homeland after Hun barely survived imprisonment, torture and persecution by the Khmer Rouge in the 1970s.

Seeking a classless society, the radical Communist party forced Cambodians to farm rice on large collectives. Party leaders abolished private property and money. Religion was forbidden.

They showed particular disdain for the educated — including Hun’s family. The regime killed 16 of his relatives, including his father and brother.

Sokhom and Phaline Hun escaped into Thailand. Phaline was pregnant, but they survived the dangerous journey and immigrated to the United States.

They studied the Bible and were baptized. They raised a family, ran an upholstery business, helped launch a congregation for Cambodian Christians and prepared to retire comfortably on eight acres in Texas.

Only, something happened to Hun.

“God changed my heart,” he said, simply.

Now 53, Hun sits in the shade of a veranda in this Southeastern Asian capital.

Though the sun’s glare is deflected somewhat, the refugee-turned-missionary sweats in the sticky heat.

Outside, mopeds clog the dusty streets.

Orange-clad monks dodge street vendors selling pastries from bicycles.



Global SOUTH

The changing face of the church

POL POT’S LEGACY

The scene is a stark contrast from the one 35 years earlier, when virtually no people could be found in Phnom Penh.

The Khmer Rouge evacuated the city after seizing power in 1975, claiming that the

Americans, who had just pulled out of neighboring Vietnam, were about to bomb the city.

It was a lie — one of hundreds of lies the regime would tell the people of Cambodia in the next four years. And the effects of those lies are still felt today.

As many as 2 million

Cambodians died from torture, combat and starvation

under the Khmer Rouge. The regime killed doctors, lawyers — even people who wore glasses — and tortured them, claiming they were spies for the CIA.

The regime buried its victims

in mass graves, later known as “The Killing Fields.”

Sokhom Hun was imprisoned for two years. He spent six months of his sentence shackled to iron bars, enduring bouts of malaria and dysentery.

Today, the average age of the nation’s 14.7 million people is 22.5 years, compared to 33.7 in neighboring Thailand and 36.8 in the U.S.

With few role models, Cambodia suffers from a moral vacuum. Poor families sell their children into slavery. Child prostitution is rampant, according to watchdog group humantrafficking.org.

Though the country is one of the poorest in the world, its burgeoning upper class is evident

from the number of luxury cars on the roads of Phnom Penh.

A local newspaper interviewed a woman who bought a Lexus sport-utility vehicle. With importation fees and taxes, the total

cost was nearly \$100,000 U.S.

The woman said that she survived the Khmer Rouge so she deserved the car.

As they suffered under the regime, most



Sokhom Hun

Cambodians never heard the name “Pol Pot” — the enigmatic leader of the Khmer Rouge. They were told only that they were part of “Angka” — “the organization.”

Neal Pollard, minister for the Bear Valley Church of Christ in Denver, makes mission trips to Cambodia. One Cambodian he knows, Mr. Han, drives a motorized bicycle taxi, or “tuk tuk.”

Mr. Han “is sympathetic to Christianity,” Pollard said, “but refuses to convert because he never, ever wants to be a part of any kind of group again.”

Those who do convert face persecution, Pollard said.

Recently, a young Christian was shunned by her parents and beaten by her brother because she refused to have a traditional Buddhist wedding.

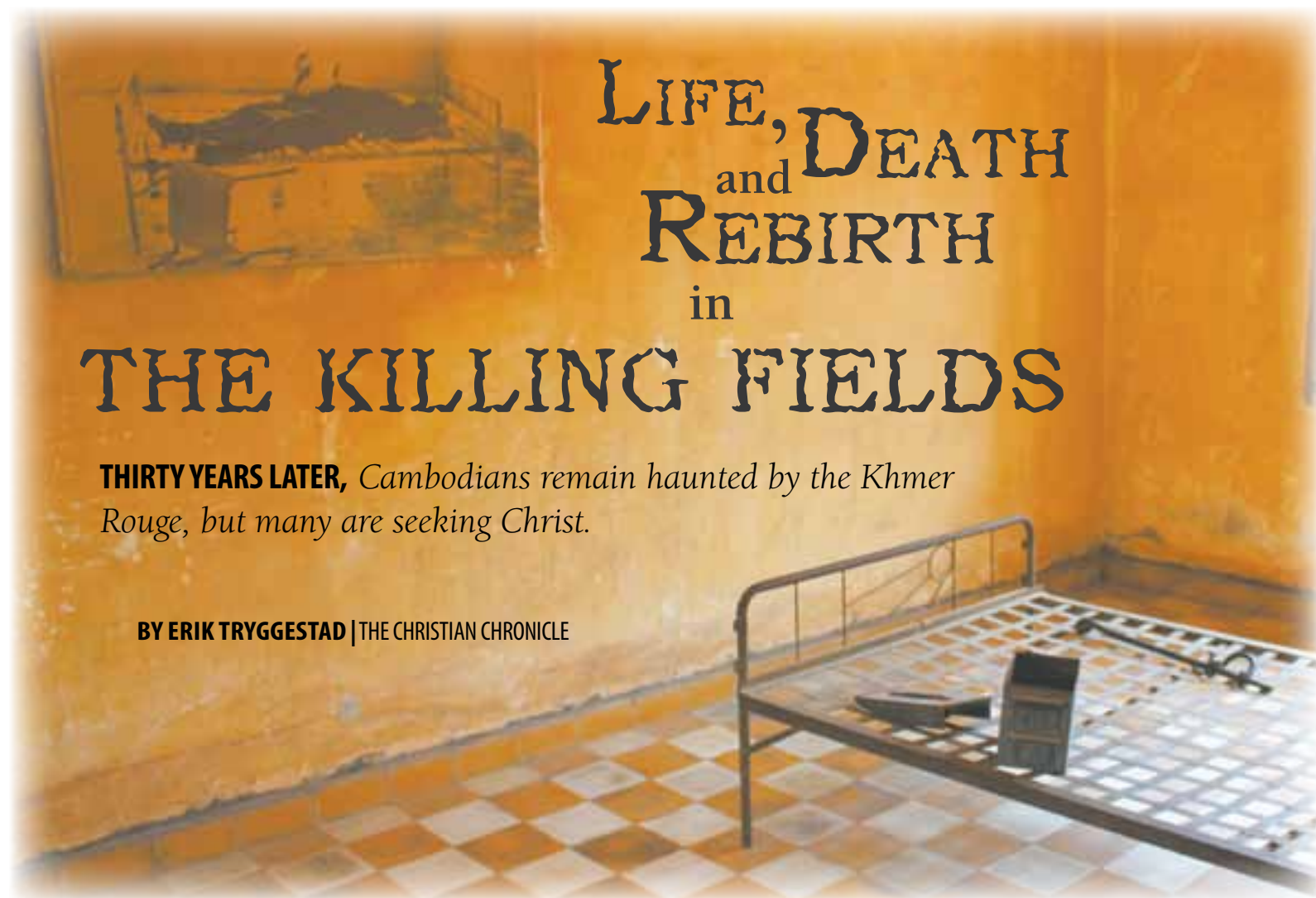
“No one ... spends much time thinking about the Khmer Rouge, compared to the daily,

CONTINUED

LIFE, DEATH and REBIRTH in THE KILLING FIELDS

THIRTY YEARS LATER, *Cambodians remain haunted by the Khmer Rouge, but many are seeking Christ.*

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE



PHOTOS AND PAGE DESIGN BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD

An interrogation room at the Tuol Sleng Genocide Memorial contains a bed frame and implements of torture used by the Khmer Rouge. A photo at left shows a body found in the room by the Vietnamese in 1979. Only a handful of the estimated 17,000 people imprisoned here survived.

‘They crave knowledge. It is such an open door right now.’

— **Julie Broyles**, program administrator, on opportunities to teach English in Cambodia



In a village near Phnom Penh, Cambodia, young women listen to a lesson presented by students from the Cambodia Bible Institute.



A Buddhist monk shades himself from the midday sun with his robes as he walks by a large “wat,” or temple, outside Phnom Penh. An estimated 96.4 percent of Cambodia’s 14.7 million people claim Buddhism as their faith.

‘There’s nobody ... like Sokhom. He commands unbelievable respect because most Cambodians that are 50 years old and are educated are dead.’

— **Mike Meierhofer**, Texas minister, on Cambodian Christian Sokhom Hun



Rich Dolan baptizes a young woman at the Partners in Progress center in Phnom Penh.



A young Cambodian leads singing at the Phnom Penh Church of Christ, where James Lork serves as minister.

The people of Cambodia ‘realize that there is someone higher’

CONTINUED

present struggles they face in leaving a religion (and) worldview that has dominated their country for over 1,100 years,” Pollard said.

LOTS OF NEEDS — AND OPEN DOORS

On a sultry Tuesday evening, 19 people squeeze into the apartment home of Troy and Tabitha Snowbarger in Phnom Penh.

Sokhom Hun is the only Cambodian in the room. The rest are Westerners — young families learning the Khmer language and retirees on mission trips. They sing and pray about the opportunities and challenges they face.

The next morning, Troy Snowbarger helps Cambodian workers load trucks with bread, peanut butter and soy milk. In rural villages, the workers conduct lessons on hygiene, English and the Bible for children before giving out the nutritious snacks.

The Snowbargers graduated from Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif., and worked for the Peace Corps in East Timor until the tiny country became politically unstable.

Waiting for their next assignment in Thailand, they met Bill McDonough, director of Partners in Progress. In 2006 the Arkansas-based ministry launched the Ship of Life, a medical mission serving villages along the Mekong River.

McDonough recruited the Snowbargers to oversee a rural nutrition program, which serves about 1,600 children in 11 villages. Tabitha Snowbarger runs a back-to-school program and a village library club for Cambodian children. Cambodians need education about health, nutrition and hygiene, her husband said.

Most importantly, they need the “example of Christ to guide them toward lives of integrity, perseverance and the peace that passes understanding,” he added.

In one of the villages, Troy Snowbarger crosses paths with students from the Cambodia Bible Institute, a satellite campus of Lubbock, Texas-based Sunset International Bible Institute. Rich and Rhonda Dolan oversee the school, with assistance from Dennis and Sharon Welch.

As the students play games with the village children and teach Bible lessons to young adults, Tawn Lork observes. He translates for the American teachers at the institute and helps with administration.

Lork’s brother, James, introduced him to the Gospel. James Lork ministers for the 75-member Phnom Penh Church of Christ. Two more brothers, Chann and Sokchea, preach in the city of Siem Reap.

Cambodians are inherent worshipers, Tawn Lork said. Most buildings have “spirit houses” — ornate, mailbox-size shrines meant to provide shelter for mystical beings that might otherwise cause trouble.

In the countryside, humble villages sit next to elaborate Buddhist temples. “Some worship trees, ancestors,” Tawn Lork said. “People realize that there is someone higher.”

Cambodians are eager to hear the Gospel, but often think Jesus is one of many gods. Some claim to follow both Christianity and Buddhism, he said.

Some get baptized in hopes of receiving a gift, said Lor Sovann, a student at the institute. He remembers the first time Tawn Lork told him that Jesus died for his sins.

“At first, I didn’t believe him,” Sovann said. “I said, ‘I’m not a sinner.’” But after more Bible study and prayer, he came to the conclusion that he had sinned, and that “God has canceled the debt.”

To help Cambodians understand God’s word, visiting church members use it to teach English. Julie Broyles, who grew up in a missionary family in Thailand, oversees the Bible English Study and Training, or BEST, center in Phnom Penh. The center pairs Cambodians with teachers, using material from World English Institute.

One teacher, 84-year-old Nita Mansholt, has come twice a year for five years,

staying two to four months each time, Broyles said. The center recently hosted eight members of the Aggies for Christ campus ministry from Texas.

“I really need teachers,” Broyles said. Cambodians are “eager to learn English and talk to a foreigner face-to-face, but also very eager to learn about religions.” “They crave knowledge,” she said. “It is such an open door right now.”

Pollard has made mission trips across Europe, Africa and Asia, but he said, “I have never felt such a strong affection for and bond with my Christian family than on my trips to Cambodia.”

He has taught classes at the Bear Valley Bible Institute’s campus in Siem Reap. Graduates are starting an orphanage there and taking the Gospel into the surrounding villages.

Increasingly, Cambodian Christians are reaching their own people, he said.

KINDRED SPIRITS SERVING CHRIST

In 2005, Sokhom Hun returned to his hometown, Svay Rieng, in southeastern Cambodia. There he saw a man who had helped murder his family.

The man recognized Hun and ran. Hun

yelled for him to stop.

The man fell at his feet, weeping.

“I am not here for revenge,” Hun told him. “I’m bringing you mosquito nets, medicine and the good news of Jesus Christ.”

Last year, Sokhom and Phaline Hun gave up their retirement plans and moved to Phnom Penh to serve as missionaries. The Walnut Hill Church of Christ in Dallas supports their work. Preacher Mike Meierhofer joins the couple in medical missions to rural Cambodian villages. In January, they treated 8,838 patients and fitted 1,956 with eyeglasses.

Sokhom Hun recruits Cambodian and Vietnamese doctors to help with the missions — and has baptized a few of them.

“There’s nobody over there like Sokhom,” Meierhofer said. “He commands unbelievable respect because most Cambodians that are 50 years old and are educated are dead.”

In Phnom Penh, as a Buddhist temple’s loudspeaker hums a chanted prayer in the background, Sokhom Hun talks about his partnership with Lim Sreng, a Cambodian who converted to Christianity from Islam.

Sreng is a Cham, an ethnic group of about 1 million people spread across Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. More than 96 percent of Cambodians are Buddhists, but the Chams are predominantly Muslim.

Sreng was 10 when the Khmer Rouge were in power, and his people suffered

immense persecution.

Just like Hun, Sreng watched as the regime killed his father and brother.

A few years ago, he began reading the New Testament and became fascinated by Jesus’ teachings on forgiveness. He learned that a loving savior was willing to forgive him for his wrongdoings. He also learned that he could forgive those who had wronged him. His own people persecuted him for converting, Sreng said as Hun translated, but this only gave him more chances to forgive.

“I asked him to be my younger brother,” Hun said, “so I work along with him.”

The two men are forming a non-governmental organization to do medical mission work among the Cham people. Sreng also is building rooms onto his house for new Christians from the villages to participate in a ministry training program.

In areas where they do medical missions, Hun has helped plant at least 17 churches.

“The Gospel is being spread everywhere in Cambodia,” Sokhom Hun said, and the young churches “need a lot of strong leadership training.”

“Right now,” he said, “I realize that God saved my life for a purpose.”



Children smile as they snack in a Cambodian village. The nutrition program feeds about 1,600 children. Congregations including the Central Church of Christ in Stockton, Calif., support the work.



Snowbarger



Tawn Lork



Sreng

PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY

WILLIAM S. BANOWSKY PRESIDENT EMERITUS, PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY THE MALIBU MIRACLE A MEMOIR

The Malibu Miracle

by William S. Banowsky
President Emeritus, Pepperdine University



The triumphs and tragedies that brought Pepperdine University to Malibu

During the historic decade from 1968 to 1978, George Pepperdine College grew from a small, inner-city Los Angeles school to a major university on the rim of the Pacific Ocean. At the helm of this transformation was then Pepperdine president William S. Banowsky. In his new memoir, Banowsky tells the story of how Pepperdine University came to be where and what it is today.

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—William S. Banowsky

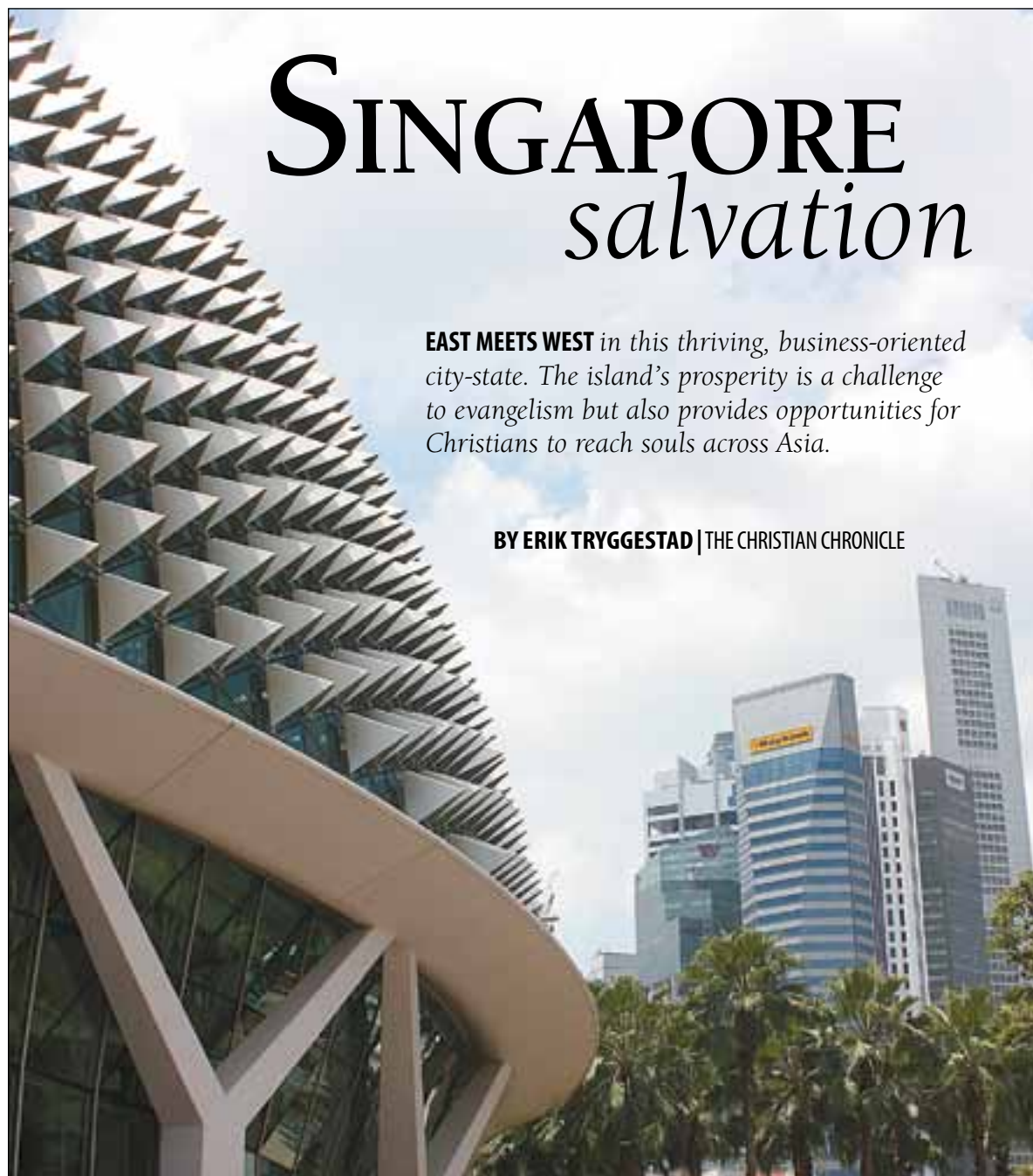
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SINGAPORE salvation

EAST MEETS WEST in this thriving, business-oriented city-state. The island's prosperity is a challenge to evangelism but also provides opportunities for Christians to reach souls across Asia.

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE



The towers of Singapore's Central Business District rise near the city's domed opera house.

PHOTOS BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD

SINGAPORE

Contrary to popular belief, chewing gum is legal here. But only the sugar-free stuff that's good for your teeth. And you have to get it from a dentist or pharmacist.

And they make you sign for it. The laws here may seem fastidious, but they have played a role in making this island city-state virtually spotless. Located off the southern tip of Malaysia, Singapore's 4.9 million people live among glittering skyscrapers and manicured tropical

vegetation. In Chinatown, vendors sell steaming plates of *char kway teow* and handmade baby clothes — just blocks from Burger King and Louis Vuitton.

When Dave Hogan and his family moved here in the 1960s to serve as Christian missionaries, Singapore was a town of British colonial brick buildings. The Four Seas Bible College, where he trained in ministry,



Hogan

had no indoor plumbing.

Now Singapore is one of Asia's "tigers" — known for its rapid industrialization and competitive, market-based economy. Today its people enjoy one of the world's highest standards of living.

The global recession has done little to stall growth here. On a tour of downtown Singapore, Hogan notices a massive bridge that he's never seen before, built on land reclaimed from the South China Sea.

Holding his head in disbelief, he says, "What are they doing to my island?"

SERVING IN A BUSY WORLD

The Church of Christ where Hogan and his wife, Debbie, worship meets in a two-story building on Moulmein Road, between a Buddhist temple and a Hindu center. City officials often use pictures of the side-by-side buildings to demonstrate their nation's religious diversity — and tolerance.

Inside the church, Alan Ng teaches a young adults' class on a Sunday morning. Several of the students, including Sue Ann Mak, are second-generation Christians. Keeping them in the faith is a challenge. Singapore's prosperity brings with it distractions, and some teens lose interest in church, she said.

Paul Tan, minister for the Geylang Church of Christ on the eastern part of the island, agrees. In a society driven by a need for academic and financial success, "people find church irrelevant and not essential," he said. "They give it up for exams and work."

The island has about a dozen Churches of Christ with a combined membership of about 1,200. Church growth in Singapore has slowed in recent years. Door-knocking or anything seen as threatening the country's religious harmony is prohibited, Tan said.

But Christians here have found other ways to reach out and serve their community.

S. Roogmann, a Moulmein Road member who converted to Christianity from Hinduism, oversees Friends of the Disabled Society, a nonprofit that offers skills training, job placement and social interaction for Singapore's disabled population.

The church member, known as "Roogu" to her friends, got the idea for the society after conducting a Bible study with a dis-

abled person in the late 1970s.

Hogan and Edwin Choy, a minister for the Moulmein church, work with the Centre for Fathering, which promotes involvement of fathers in their children's lives.



Roogmann

Increasingly, Singapore is a nation of two-income families, Choy said, and businessmen often spend long hours at work. Many grew up in families where

mothers did most of the parenting. The government has recognized the dilemma and supports the Centre for Fathering's work.

The institute takes its mission statement from Malachi 4:6, "He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers ..."

At the Centre's fathering camps, businessmen spend a weekend bonding with their children and are encouraged to tell them, "I love you."

The Centre also hosts seminars for families. One guest speaker was Paul Faulkner, a U.S. church member known for his seminars on marriage and family. Hogan watched, somewhat amazed, as Muslim women in Singapore lined up to buy Faulkner's book on Christian principles in parenting.

Recently the Centre hosted a seminar by Hal Runkel, a mem-

ber of the North Atlanta Church of Christ and creator of the ScreamFree parenting program.

FROM EXECUTIVE TO ELDER

For all the challenges it presents to church growth, Singapore's high-pressure business environment also has played a role in leading souls to Christ.

See SINGAPORE, Page 22



Alan Ng teaches Bible class at the Moulmein Road Church of Christ.



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A sign on the wall of the Pasir Panjang Church of Christ bears a reminder for speakers.

SINGAPORE: Gateway to Asian church plants?

FROM PAGE 21

Winston Chong is one example.

Chong trained in business in Canada and New Zealand before landing a job with the prestigious J.P. Morgan financial services company in New York. He moved to Singapore and climbed the corporate ladder. But he knew something was missing in his life.

Raised Taoist, he found himself “spiritually walking the streets,” he said. He lit prayer sticks in a Buddhist temple but “didn’t know who I was praying to.”

Then God started sending him Christian friends, he said. Eventually, he visited “a weird church with no music and no stained glass.” But the members of the Pasir Panjang Church of Christ greeted him warmly. The Bible class topic was “What Jesus said about money.” He had never heard anything like it.

Chong and his family became regular visitors at the church.

Not long after, the businessman watched in horror as the TV news reported terrorist attacks in the city where he once worked — New York.

As the second plane flew into the World Trade Center, “I had names going through my mind,” he said. He knew people who worked in those buildings. Later he learned that his former colleagues had survived the attack.

By then, Chong had made up his mind. “I’m giving up on the world,” he said. “I’m giving myself to the Lord.”

He was baptized Sept. 16, 2001.

Last year, he became one of five elders of the Pasir Panjang church.



Chong



Kong

A LAUNCHING POINT FOR REACHING ASIA

Members of Pasir Panjang, the largest Church of Christ in Singapore, look for ways to foster church growth — at home and abroad, minister Henry Kong said.

The church sponsors retreats for church members in neighboring Malaysia. The goal is to foster indigenous leadership among Churches of Christ in the region and to increase congregational unity, Kong said. Church members also have participated in mission trips to Nias, an island of Indonesia that continues to recover from the 2004 tsunami.

Chong, on behalf of the church, signed a memorandum of understanding with Missions Resource Network in February. The Texas-based ministry and the church agreed to partner in “Kingdom expansion and movements of church planting throughout Asia,” the document read.

To accomplish this goal, the church cooperated with Sunset International Bible Institute in Lubbock, Texas, to launch a branch of the ministry training school in Singapore. School administrators plan to train preachers and teachers to reach souls in Malaysia, China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Australia and even India. The school received government registration to begin its work.

The Pasir Panjang church is a vital partner, said Thomas Goracke, the school’s dean of students. The church has a viable leadership and feels a burden to spread the Gospel across Asia.

“They definitely understand the mission of the Lord’s church, to step up to that responsibility,” Goracke said.

The new school gives Singaporean church members “something deeper” in their spiritual growth, Kong said. It also provides an opportunity to work with Christians from across Asia.

“It’s really a blessing and a win-win deal all around,” Kong said.

A conversation with Phyllis Holt Davis

LONGTIME EDUCATOR *discusses spiritual development, race relations.*

BY LYNN McMILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Phyllis Holt Davis comes from a long line of prominent preachers. She is the great-granddaughter of renowned evangelist George Philip Bowser and the daughter of minister G.P. Holt. Her mother, Olivia, is a preacher's daughter, and many of her uncles also are ministers.

For 30 years, Davis helped train future generations of preachers and church members at Southwestern Christian College. She recently retired as professor of social science and history from the Terrell, Texas, college.

She attended Michigan Christian College before earning a bachelor's from Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif., where she also earned a master's in sociology.

A lifelong advocate for adoption and foster care, she has served as a caseworker for public agencies including the Red Cross and as a recruiter and parent trainer for the Dallas Minority Adoption Council.

She and her husband of 42 years, Willie, attend the Marsalis Avenue Church of Christ in Dallas, where they have taught marriage classes and assist in college ministry. They have three children and five grandchildren.

What was it like growing up in the home of a well-known preacher?

One of my fondest memories is sneaking out of bed, sitting in the dark hallway and listening to my dad and visiting preachers talk about the Bible and go over sermon outlines way into the night and early morning. They were enthusiastic and excited about the Word.

Dad, in his preaching, was a wonderful storyteller. My favorite sermon was "The Scarlet Line." I must have heard it a hundred times and never tired of it. Dad often worked other jobs in addition to preaching. He filled vending machines, sold Amway, fire extinguishers and lots of other things so Mom could stay at home.

How did traveling with your father influence your life?

We traveled by car to so many states. California was our favorite. Dad was usually en route to conducting a Gospel meeting, many of which were held under a tent and lasted from two to four weeks.

When traveling through the South, we could not stop at hotels or restaurants, so Dad would stop and buy his favorite food: cheese, crackers and bologna.

We slept in the car, but it never seemed like a burden. Actually, we had fun and sang most of the way. Wherever we went, people were good to us.

What did you learn from the students you taught at Southwestern Christian College?

Southwestern is unique in so many ways. The teachers are dedicated and determined to give students the best of themselves. They challenge their creativity by encouraging them to write, perform, organize and serve their communities.

It thrills my heart to travel this country and have students come and tell me that

I made a difference in their lives or gave them a word of encouragement — or even a shoulder to cry on. I have enjoyed having them in my home, traveling with student groups, sponsoring projects and campus events.

If I have become a good teacher, it is because God saw fit to lead me to Southwestern and to send such wonderful people into my life.

How can Christian women better prepare younger women for active lives in the kingdom?

Young women are crying for good examples — not perfect examples, but honest ones who will share their successes and

'When traveling through the South, we could not stop at hotels or restaurants, so dad would stop and buy his favorite food ... We slept in the car, but it never seemed like a burden.'

Phyllis Holt Davis



PHOTO PROVIDED

Phyllis Holt Davis outside her home in Dallas.

weaknesses and give them hope.

We must reflect the Holy Spirit in our walk. Successful kingdom living is centered in God's word and is demonstrated by obedience. We must mentor in such a way as to give them opportunity and encouragement to prepare to take our places, and we must not be intimidated by new ideas and methods.

Please name some Christian women who played a role in your spiritual development.

At the age of 16, I was taken under the wing of a wonderful sister, Ella Shows. She let me be her assistant in Vacation Bible School and taught me how to organize and prepare a lesson outline. Sister Evelyn Proctor in Oklahoma City had no children, but took time out of her busy life to attend my school programs and open her home for slumber parties and music rehearsal.

Their involvement may have seemed small to them, but to me they were saying I was important and worthy of their time and love.

When I moved to Dallas, I met Yvonne Rosenquist, who studied the Bible with me and others in her home, helping us better understand the Word but also helping us see the bountiful grace and mercy of God.

Joan Thurmond, a fantastic teacher, taught me to consider what the text meant when it was written and what is its meaning for us today. She also taught me to go deeper — to find the response God wanted from me and the steps I should take in fulfilling his purpose and will.

There are many others who contributed to my growth by allowing me to see God more clearly. I thank God for the women he has placed in my path.

How does life in the church today compare with past years?

I remember some pretty lively discussions about whether or not the announcements were actually part of the worship and whether they should be included at the beginning or the end of the service.

I visited a congregation 30 years ago where a woman made the announcements at the end. I also worshiped in a congregation that allowed women to guide us to our seats. They didn't call them ushers, so nobody complained.

As someone said, "You can do it if you don't name it." I never associated either practice as being a determining factor as to whether or not I could go to heaven. It seems that we are still uncertain as to whether what we choose to do is about doctrine or tradition.

What is your assessment of race relations within the church today compared to 20 years ago?

I am encouraged by the open, frank dialogue I hear about the past and how it has hurt the church.

I attend the unity rallies and forums and enjoy them. However, when they are over, we all go back to our comfortable corners and wait for the next event. It is wonderful to be able to acknowledge our hurts, fears and doubts, but just as important to come to a place of repentance and make a sincere step toward change.

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

Every sincere change must take us back to our God — who he is and what he desires.

It means seeing ourselves and others through the cross. Our conversation must change. Our tolerance of bigotry and hate must cease. We must no longer laugh at jokes and inappropriate comments about race.

I am not sure we can go to heaven from our comfort zones.

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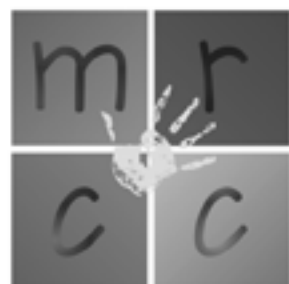
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KIDS

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 - Curriculum for all ages
 - Creation Station (Bible hour)
 - Special Events

See www.mrcc.org/children for a detailed schedule



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

AGAPE VILLAGES

SAN FRANCISCO — About 400 people attended a Gospel concert at the Uptown Church of Christ benefiting Agape Villages Foster Family Agency.

Kinwood DeVore, director of the Metropolitan Fresh Start House in San Francisco, served as master of ceremonies, while Dick Blythe, minister of the Lake Merced Church of Christ and former longtime president of Agape Villages, led the opening prayer.

The guest speaker was Ammar Saheli, minister of the West Oakland Church of Christ. The concert featured a cappella soloists and groups.

CHILDREN'S HOMES INC.

PARAGOULD, Ark. — Volunteers from three out-of-state youth groups recently spent time helping Children's Homes renovate some of its inside and outside facilities, the *Paragould Daily Press* reported.

Volunteers from the Glendale Road Church of Christ in Murray, Ky.; the Cedar Rapids Central Church of Christ in Cedar Rapids, Iowa; and the Vaughn Hill Church of Christ in East Alton, Ill., worked alongside residents from the Paragould Children's Home.

"To me, the best part of the week was the relationships that developed between the young people who live at Children's Homes and those visiting from the Glendale Road, Vaughn Hill and Central congregations," Terry Austin, director of public relations, told *The Christian Chronicle*.

"Our kids are still buzzing about the week and their new friends, and they will be for quite some time."

HIGHER EDUCATION

HARDING UNIVERSITY

SEARCY, Ark. — Teenagers who attended Harding's Uplift summer camp were not content just to listen.

More than 200 students coordinated an effort to serve Searcy and their own hometowns.

Ten youth groups from several states participated in a range of activities, including playing with children at day cares and handing out water and frozen treats to workers across town, picked up trash at a park, brought coloring books and crayons to children in the hospital



PHOTO PROVIDED BY HARDING UNIVERSITY

Harding Chorus shares singing talents during mission trip

The Harding University Chorus performs in the student center at University of Vina del Mar in Chile during the group's recent mission trip to South America. Dr. Cliff Ganus III directs the chorus. In Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the singers worked with church members Rodrigo and Adrienne Almeida. The students also visited Buenos Aires, Argentina, and worked with church members Osvaldo and Laura Valdez and missionary Jane Caldcleugh. In Vina del Mar, site of Harding's South American campus, chorus members worked with missionaries Zane and Tae Perkins.

and sang and prayed over several areas of Searcy.

"They're thinking outside the box when it comes to listening to sermons. They're thinking about what they can do," said Chase Froud, youth group leader at West Ridge Church of Christ in Pocahontas, Ark. "Teenagers today are ready to help the world."

LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Lipscomb is offering a new master's of human resources degree, allowing personnel professionals to take a conflict management curriculum on alternating weekends and complete the degree in one year.

OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

OKLAHOMA CITY — The newest mobile device from Apple is now available to Oklahoma Christian students. Students already receive a Macbook laptop and their choice of an iPhone or iPod touch. As an alternative, they can now choose to pay an upgrade cost and receive an iPad.

"The bigger screen and the usability factor really make this device stand out," John Hermes, Oklahoma Christian vice president and chief technology officer, said of the iPad.

ROCHESTER COLLEGE

ROCHESTER HILLS, Mich. — The college recently conducted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new school of nursing.

SOUTHWESTERN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

TERRELL, Texas — Southwestern has been accredited for an additional 10 years by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

"This milestone puts SWCC in a better position to seek a substantive curriculum change from SACS to offer a master's degree in collaboration with Oklahoma Christian University," said James Maxwell, Southwestern's vice president of institutional expansion.

WESTERN CHRISTIAN

REGINA, Saskatchewan — The college and high school raised nearly \$500,000 after a fundraising appeal earlier this year, ensuring that the institution will reopen this fall.

"We are grateful for the responses to our letter, for the prayers that have been offered on our behalf and for the alumni who have shared their many stories of gratitude for their years at Western Christian," leaders said on the school's website at www.westernchristian.ca.

SPORTS

Bringing out readers' 'MVP'

TULSA, Okla. — Terry Rush loves baseball, and he loves Jesus — but not in that order.

Rush, minister of the Memorial Drive Church of Christ, is perhaps best known as the director of The Tulsa Workshop.

The avid St. Louis Cardinals fan has written a new book called "MVP."

"'MVP' is written for the person who feels they've drawn the short straw in life," Rush said. "While it has a baseball flavor due to former Cardinals endorsing it, the book is completely Bible-based, simply targeting the sports world."

The Christian Chronicle featured Rush's baseball ministry in a March 2008 story. The minister is a regular at the Cardinals' annual Legends Camp in Florida.

For information on ordering the book, contact Kelly Press Inc. at (800) 365-5212 or colin@kellypressinc.com.



Rush

K-12 CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

NCSA

OKLAHOMA CITY — The National Christian School Association has launched a new website at www.nationalchristian.org, association President Philip Patterson said.

PUBLICATIONS

LA VOZ ETERNA

HOUSTON — Spanish-language Bible lessons for children are now available through the website of La Voz Eterna ("The Eternal Voice") Publications.

Bible school teachers at the Lawndale Church of Christ, a Spanish-speaking congregation in Houston, said they were thankful for the new material.

The church has five children's classes, "and the five teachers have been teaching the same Bible story each Lord's day," said Sue Mozley, the publication's assistant editor.

"But they were simply selecting the passage from the Bible with a story they agreed on, with nothing printed to help them present it in a more thorough manner."

Download the Bible lessons at www.lavozeterna.org.



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

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Chasing his dreams

AUBURN GRADUATE anchors the news on weeknights, shares the Good News on weekends.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE



PHOTO PROVIDED

Chase Gallimore on the set of the KAVU-TV news in Victoria, Texas.

Chase Gallimore has a made-for-TV name. That's appropriate, too, given his day job — *er*, night job.

Gallimore, 27, anchors the weeknight news for KAVU-TV in Victoria, Texas, which is known locally as ABC 25.

But on weekends, he steps behind the pulpit of the College Church of Christ, where he serves as the preacher.

Gallimore grew up in Huntsville, Ala., and studied communication at Auburn University. Still an avid Auburn Tigers football fan, he's pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn.

In a wide-ranging interview with *The Christian Chronicle*, he talked about his life, ministry and career. Some highlights:

• **His background:** "When I was about 10 or 11, along with some other families in our area, my family started a new congregation in Huntsville called the Winchester Road Church of Christ. I started serving during worship service at a pretty young age. I was baptized when I was 12.

"Beginning in the third grade, I was part of the Lads to Leaders program. I really feel like this program played a significant role in my development."

• **His childhood ambition:** "In the third grade, I won the very first speech competition I ever entered. From that moment, I knew I wanted to talk to people for a living. I just wasn't sure what that meant."

• **What he likes best about anchoring the news:** "It is pretty neat to walk around town, and a stranger comes up and says, 'You are doing a great job,' or just walks up and says hello. But working in the eye of the public can be bad as well. I once had a viewer call in and tell me I looked like I did not brush my hair that particular day.

"I have also had a lot of great experiences because of my work with the news. Just this past February, I did a special report called 'Chasing Your Dreams' where I got to fly an airplane for the first time."

• **His future plans:** "I plan on sticking with the news business for a while and seeing where it leads me. I would like to continue to preach wherever I end up. 1 Peter 3:15 says, 'Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.' I am very passionate about sharing the good news about Jesus Christ."

• **Faith's role in his life:** "When I was a student at Auburn University, my campus minister shared a philosophy that I have tried to live by ever since. He said, 'You are not a student that just happens to be a Christian. You are a Christian that just happens to be a student.' I think we should

all model our lives this way. My No. 1 priority in life is to bring glory to God.

"I am no longer a student. But I am a Christian that just happens to be a news anchor and a preacher."

• **His communication skills:** "My experience anchoring and reporting has helped me develop my communication skills. I write every day when I am working at the TV station.

"So, I think that really helps me improve my ability to tell a story. I use a lot of the same skills with my two jobs. I am just glad they don't make me wear makeup in the pulpit. I usually preach from a script. It would be nice if I could get a teleprompter like I have at the TV station."

• **His best sermon:** "My first 'real' sermon was about Gideon. It is amazing

how God uses ordinary men to do great things. That one was pretty special. But it certainly was not my best.

"One of my recent favorites was about Moses and his encounter with God at the burning bush in Exodus 3. The title was, 'Take a Look at Your Shoes.'"

READ AN EXPANDED INTERVIEW and see a video of Chase Gallimore on the air at www.christianchronicle.org.

NEWSMAKERS

NAMED: Ada Portillo, intern for The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars in Washington. Portillo is a student at Ohio Valley University in Vienna, W.Va.



Portillo

AWARDED: Yonavea Hawkins, member of the Choctaw, Okla., church, second place in personal ornamentation of culture clothing item at the Red Earth Festival.



Hawkins

NEW ELDERS: Dexter Freeman, David Fulbright, Maynard Leese, James McDaniel and Thomas Zimmer, the Northside church, San Antonio. Dan Branch, Brad Cheves, Ron Fuqua, Jim Marcum and Stan Shipley to serve along with Mike Boone, Ray Currey, Cooter Hale, Fred Orr and Larry Pearson, Preston Road church, Dallas, Texas.

ANNIVERSARIES: 70th: James and Marie Cate, Springville, Tenn; Glen and Verla Henry, La Grande, Ore. **63rd:** Chuck and Ruth Cromwell, Lubbock, Texas. **62nd:** Dan and Lois Whitaker, Cleburne, Texas. **61st:** Vernon and Bobbie Alexander, Amarillo, Texas. **60th:** Billy and Melba Burr, Amarillo, Texas. **50th:** Leonard and Dona Blake, Hornbeak, Tenn.

BIRTHDAYS: 92nd: Goldie L. Jackson, Bethlehem, Md. **90th:** Edith Giallombardo, Richardson, Texas.

PASSAGES: Henry Grady "Bud" Connally, 85, Apr. 21, Amarillo, Texas, former deacon and elder of the San Jacinto church in Amarillo. Texas **Coleman Crocker**, 75, July 3, Maury City, Tenn., former Bible professor and director of public relations for Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn., longtime minister in Kentucky and Tennessee. **Don Hayes**, 72, Altus, Okla., longtime member of the Tamarack Road church in Altus. **Russell "James" Sellers**, 58, June 9, Baltimore, Md., minister for churches in Washington, California and Maryland.

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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Aug. 13-15 Founder and Friends Weekend. Upper Valley church, Quechee, Vt. Contact uvcoc@uppervalleychurch.com or (802) 295-9631.

Aug. 14 Canadian Churches of Christ Historical Society Annual Meeting. Tintern church, Vineland, Ontario, Canada. Contact (519) 885-3702 or www.ccchs.ca.

Aug. 21 Arkansas Statewide Lectureship. "That they all be one." Airport Holiday Inn, Little Rock, Ark. Hosted by Southeastern Arkansas churches. Contact Jodie Carter at (501) 240-4722.

Aug. 26-28 European Christian Workshop. "The Kingdom of God." Lancaster University, Lancaster, UK. Contact www.europeanchristianworkshop.com, (615) 893-1520 ext 137 or stephen.woodcock@hotmail.co.uk.

Aug. 27-Sept. 2 Polishing the Pulpit Workshop. Sevierville Events Center, Sevierville, Tenn. Contact www.polishingthepulpit.com or (877) 338-3397.

Aug. 28 Heritage University presents an evening with Laura Bush. Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa, Florence, Ala. Contact www.heritageevent.com.

Aug. 29-Sept. 5 80th Anniversary and Homecoming, Woodlawn church, Valdosta, Ga. Contact (229) 242-7628, wdlawn1@bellsouth.net or www.woodlawnforrest.com.

Sept. 3-6 35th Anniversary and Homecoming, South Baton Rouge church, Baton Rouge, La. Contact (225) 927-4673, gmeyer@yahoo.com or www.sbrcc.org.

Sept. 4-5 50th Homecoming, Weber Road church, Corpus Christi, Texas. Contact (361) 853-7701 or www.webercofc.org.

Sept. 10-12 Prayer Enrichment Workshop. 17th Annual. "Praying the Prayer of Faith." Calhoun, La., church. Contact Keith Roberts at kroberts@calhounchurch.org, (318) 644-2216 or www.calhounchurch.org.

Sept. 18 Aberdeen Annual Singing. Aberdeen, Md., church. Contact (410) 272-5450 or www.aberdeencoc.org.

Sept. 19-22 Summit. 104th Annual. "Aliens & Light; Finding god in the Darkness". Abilene Christian University, Abilene, Texas. Visit www.acu.edu/summit.

Sept. 20-22 Kansas Men's Retreat. 42nd annual. "How to Live in the World in Which We Live". Silver Maple Camp, Kingman, Kan. Contact David Blankenship (316) 777-4155.

Sept. 23-26 East Tennessee Christian Singles Conference. Smoky Mountain Christian Village, Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Contact (423) 877-6232 or (423) 875-4816.

Sept. 26-29 Harding University's Bible Lectureship. "Hear the Word of the Lord." Contact (501) 279-5123 or www.harding.edu/lectureship.

Sept. 26-29 West Virginia Christian Lectureship. "A Defense of the Christian Faith." Contact (304) 723-1160, ssmithbauer@hotmail.com or www.whchurchofchrist.com.

Sept. 27-29 47th Annual Midwest Preacher's Retreat. "God's Promised Future." Fallhall Glen, Black River Falls, Wis. Contact Monroe Hawley (414) 281-8667 or mehawley@execpc.com.



ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

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College of Arts and Sciences

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

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, ABD required.

Journalism and Mass Communication

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

Sociology

The Department of Sociology and Family Studies invites applications for a tenure-track position in sociology or a closely related field (e.g., criminal justice). Applicants at all levels of instructional rank will be considered; a terminal degree or ABD status is preferred. Responsibilities include teaching general undergraduate sociology courses, pursuing scholarly research, and performing service for the department and the university community. The successful applicant will demonstrate an ability to work in collaborative, collegial relationships in a multi-discipline department.

College of Biblical Studies

Dr. Jack Reese, Dean
ACU Box 29400, Abilene, Texas 79699-9400

Marriage and Family Therapy

The Department of Marriage and Family Therapy invites applications and nominations in writing for a tenure-track position beginning in the Spring 2011 or Fall 2011 semester. The MFT program at ACU has held continuous COAMFTE

accreditation since 1983. The candidate will be expected to teach courses relative to the modern theories of family therapy, family life cycle and human development, testing and assessment, and DSM-IV-TR diagnosis. In addition, the candidate will be expected to supervise graduate interns, mentor student research, and accept departmental, college and university committee assignments. The candidate should possess a well-defined program of research as evidenced by peer-reviewed publications and presentations. The candidate also should demonstrate competence in the integration of theological and spiritual issues with therapy. The candidate 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.

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The Department of Bible, Missions and Ministry (DBMM) invites applications for two tenure-track positions, both as assistant/associate professors of Bible. An earned terminal degree in the field (Ph.D. or Th.D. preferred) is required for a DBMM position focused on the applicant's terminal specialty. The second position will require the applicant to teach half time general education. All applicants for this position will have earned an M.Div. or higher. Responsibilities include administrative management and teaching undergraduate Bible courses. Application deadline is November 30, 2010.

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

ACU's College of Business Administration (COBA) offers undergraduate degrees in accounting and financial management as well as a Master of Accountancy degree. It is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International (AACSB) at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Accounting and Finance

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The Department of Accounting and Finance also invites applications for a tenure-track position in finance. Applicants

at all levels of instructional rank will be considered. A terminal degree or ABD 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 as assistant or associate professor of marketing for Fall 2010. Responsibilities include engaging with undergraduate students and colleagues in teaching, research and service. The normal teaching load is 9 hours per semester. Qualifications include a doctorate in marketing or cognate field, research history and/or plan, and a strong commitment to teaching.

College of Education and Human Services

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

Department of Graduate Studies in Education

The Department of Graduate Studies in Education invites applications for a tenure-track position as assistant/associate professor of education. A doctorate is required, as well as certification and experience as a teacher, principal or in another leadership role. This faculty member will assist with the development of online graduate courses along with teaching in the online program. A strong commitment to quality teaching and research is necessary, along with an understanding of current issues facing educational leaders in PK-12 schools.

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

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

ACU does not unlawfully discriminate in employment opportunities.

EDITORIAL

Church camp: An idea worth exporting

Gander Brook. Quartz Mountain. Bootheel. High Rock. White River. Manatawny. Palmetto. Pettijohn Springs. Aloha. Yamhill. Blue Haven.

For many of us, these names — and please forgive us for the many we're leaving out — trigger memories of campfires, nature hikes, canteen food and even a few summertime romances.

More importantly, we remember the late-night devotionals and hours spent wrapped up in

Scripture, pouring our hearts out to our heavenly father and cheering loudly as new Christians arose from lakes, creeks and swimming pools.

Recently, we asked readers of *The Christian Chronicle's* news blog to share their favorite church camp memories. To our delight, we received dozens of responses. The post quickly rose to the top of our blog's "most commented" items.

More encouraging to us was the content of the responses.

'Church growth in Europe is slow, but the responses at these camps inspire us.'

Though many mentioned the daily activities of camp, the memories that stuck most were the spiritual ones.

Adam Faughn, minister of the Lebanon Road Church of Christ in Nashville, Tenn., attended Bootheel Youth Camp in Missouri. He remembers one sleepless night he and a fellow Christian spent studying God's word with a friend.

"Finally, about 3 in the morning, he decided to put Christ on in baptism. My friend

baptized him, but he wanted me to be in the water, too, which was a thrill that I won't soon forget."

Shei Wells grew up at Quartz Mountain Christian Camp in Lone Wolf, Okla., where her dad

served as camp manager. At age 13, Wells' father baptized her in the swimming pool at the camp.

"The singing, the friendships I made that are still alive today, those are the things that made camp what it was," she said.

The U.S. isn't the only place



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Russians and Americans witness a baptism at a youth camp near St. Petersburg, Russia.

where church camp makes a difference in young lives. Dozens meet every summer across Europe. Christians have exported the life-changing camp concept to a part of the world where it is surely needed.

Eric Williamson, minister of the Chesmont Church of Christ in Pottstown, Pa., returned recently from Camp Hope — a weeklong experience for orphans in the former Soviet republic of Latvia.

"We had children reading the Bible who had never read the Bible before," Williamson said. "One young man who was

given a children's Bible finished reading the whole Bible by the end of the week."

YouthReach International, formerly known as World Wide Youth Camps, coordinates Bible-based camps in Russia and Ukraine. In recent years, the ministry has expanded its mission beyond camp — to care for and mentor orphans and youths year-round.

Church growth in Europe is slow, but the responses at these camps inspire us. Missionaries invest their time and resources in Christian camping because they see it molding future

generations of church leaders.

Be a part of this effort.

Camps are expensive, and many struggle to stay funded in this time of recession. But their mission is important to the future of the church. Find ways to help them reach their financial goals.

Or go yourself. Take the games, crafts and activities overseas. Get to know campers in a foreign land.

Take your Bible and show them the truth that you found in God's word.

The future of the church may be at stake.



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

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

Managing Editor: **Bobby Ross Jr.**

National, Partners news: bobby.ross@christianchronicle.org

Assistant Managing Editor: **Erik Tryggestad**

International news, features: erik@christianchronicle.org

Advertising Director: **Tamie Ross**

tamie.ross@christianchronicle.org

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

Reviews Editor: **Harold Shank**

harold.shank@christianchronicle.org

Associate Editor: **Joy McMillon**

joy.mcmillon@christianchronicle.org

Administrative Assistant: **Tonda Stafford**

tonda.stafford@christianchronicle.org

Administrative Assistant: **Virginia Ware**

virginia.ware@christianchronicle.org

Administrative Assistant: **Lynda Sheehan**

lynda.sheehan@christianchronicle.org

Correspondent: **Ted Parks**

TO SUBSCRIBE:

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After parents' divorce, God provided a new family through the church

I am a child of divorce.

Twenty years into my parents' marriage, everything fell apart — our family, our emotions, our lifestyle. They got divorced, even though they were churchgoers.

I was 7 when it happened in 1996. I didn't know exactly why Dad moved out, but I knew my family would never be the same. I knew I would always have to feel the hole in my life where my two married parents should have been.

For me, Christmases were separate. I remember packing bags for every-other-weekend trips to Dad's house. I resented watching other kids my age have both parents in the bleachers at the basketball game or seeing both parents at the dinner table at sleepovers. I felt like I missed out on some of my emotional upbringing because I didn't have a father at home.

However, the more I've thought about it — as I look back on the situation at 21 — I realize that some good accompanied the bad after my parents' divorce, especially where the church was involved. While the divorce may define a part of me, I believe the rest of me is defined by how those around me treated me after the divorce.

Church members took one of two routes. Some found it appropriate to treat my mother as though she had a disease, sending her cassette tapes about the ugliness of divorce or silently shunning her from family life groups for being single.

Others saw the split as an opportunity to step up for my family. Some members offered to change my mom's oil. Others, including our preacher, helped my mom find a job. Members called to check up on us, not because they felt like they had to, but because they wanted to. They genuinely cared.

These people became my family, making up for the shortcomings of my split family. They encouraged me to be baptized, to go to church camps and to keep an optimistic outlook amid the pain. They filled the hole I had, taking me under their wings to act as role models. They were positive influences

and showed me that, when I became an adult, my family could be different. They gave me a future to look forward to. They showed me what the church and its people should be about and how it should treat its members — divorced or not.

Views



Amanda Jordan

Isn't that what the church should be about — helping those in need? We are commanded to assist the widows and orphans, but what about those whose families have been destroyed by divorce? What man tears apart, the church should try to repair.

I'm happy that statistics show a decline in the number of divorces in America. The church should do its best to prevent divorce, long before it becomes an issue. And if it's too late, the church should support those struggling through it. Some churches have taken on the task wholeheartedly, offering premarital counseling to those soon-to-be married and services and counseling to those going through divorce.

'We are commanded to assist orphans and widows, but what about those whose families have been destroyed by divorce?'

What man tears apart, the church should try to repair.'

Each week, my church hosted divorce recovery programs for children of divorce and adults that had recently undergone a divorce. This program offered me and my mom a chance to escape the emotional aches and to connect with people who felt the same way we did. We were able to go through exercises to work through our feelings and activities to help forget what we were feeling for a time.

These experiences strengthened my faith.

Even though I wasn't dealt the best earthly father under the best set of circumstances, I learned that an earthly father and an earthly family, while important, can be supplemented by and would always be under the control of the Heavenly Father.

I have firsthand knowledge of what it's like to be without. And, without that knowledge, I don't think I could have recognized the plans and provisions God made especially for me.

AMANDA JORDAN is a senior at Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City. A member of the Highland Oaks Church of Christ in Dallas, she served as *The Christian Chronicle's* intern during the 2009-2010 school year.

LETTERS

Readers praise prison ministry coverage

We need more articles like this ("Ministries shine Christ's light inside prison walls," Page 1, August) to stir up the church. I have been teaching the Word of God in Texas prisons and jails for 15 years. The church shows herself to be verbally supportive but could do so much more. If the members only understood that those behind bars need our Lord and his salvation as much as anyone.

Lynne Ferguson | Gunter, Texas

Well done. You took in a lot of information in short time. I hope that this article and others you have written will encourage others to nurture the prison ministries. It is as much for the good of the churches as the inmates.

Sam Drake | Madison, Ala.

You left out one means of reaching into the prisons in your survey. World Bible School teachers send lessons into many prisons. To my understanding, the Madison Street Church of Christ in Clarksville, Tenn., has the largest WBS ministry into U.S. jails and prisons. They go to nearly every state in the union, including Hawaii.

Diana McArthur | Clarksville, Tenn.

Re: "Did 'jailhouse religion' save Jeffrey Dahmer, Inside Story, August. Amen! The end of this article was difficult to read through the tears. Jesus came to seek and save all of us, regardless of who we are or what we've done, because we're all sinners and lost. Thanks for reminding us.

Jay Kelley | Levelland, Texas

'Islam does not promote tolerance'

I was horrified to read my statements taken completely out of context in "Can Christians and Muslims coexist?" (Page 1, June). Please let me clarify. My e-mail to your reporter said the exact opposite of what he wrote.

While some individual Muslims are broad-minded, Islam does not promote tolerance. In fact, the constant brutality of the culture fostered by Islam attracted some Muslims in Yendi, Ghana, to Christianity.

Christian converts were persecuted in Yendi, at times fleeing for their lives. The Hadith demands, "Whoever changes his (Islamic) religion, you kill him." This is not vague or optional. See www.islamonline.net. Where Islam controls the civil government of a country, foreigners are tolerated, but renouncing Islam often is legally punishable by death.

After 9/11, some Muslims in Yendi

apologized to us as Americans, not as Christians. Ordinary people everywhere associate America with generosity.

Muslim patients, including men, appreciated my praying with them, because they acknowledge that physical health and spirituality are linked, and they do see Christ as a prophet. But while there were exceptions, Muslims in Yendi were not generally respectful of women, instead taking advantage of the power of the strong over the weak, often with deception. Had your reporter asked me about women directly, instead of cutting and pasting from my general e-mail, I would have described a Yendi woman who was forced to grovel as she entered and exited the room to bring her husband his meals.

That typifies the Islam I observed.

Linda Benskin | Austin, Texas

Board has no plans to close California school

I am writing in response to the short article regarding Pacific Christian Academy in the August 2010 issue of *The Christian Chronicle* (Partners).

I have been on the board of directors of Pacific Christian Academy for over 30 years, and Chuck Lanier has been administrator for over 23 years. During those years and before, we have had good times and hard times. We know that we only exist by the grace of God and through the prayerful support of his servants.

The Lord has blessed us for the past 92 years, and we fully expect him to continue for at least another 92. The board has never entertained the thought of closing the school.

We are pleased that our enrollment is once more gradually increasing as we make plans for the 2010-2011 school year.

Like any Christian endeavor, we continue to need both your prayers and financial support.

Thomas Nicholas | Graton, Calif.

Books detail histories of Christian schools

BY PATRICK ODUM | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Tertullian once famously asked, “What has Athens to do with Jerusalem?” noting the apparent divide between academics and the church.

According to two distinguished authors from two universities associated with Churches of Christ, Tertullian’s question is no easier to answer nearly two millennia later.

In their books “The Malibu Miracle” and “Soaring On Wings Like Eagles: A History of Oklahoma Christian University” William S. Banowsky and Stafford North show their universities struggling, at key points in their histories, with Tertullian’s query.

More often than not, this paradox is at the heart of the significant decisions and central conflicts that play out in the pages of the two books.

Banowsky, who was president and then chancellor at Pepperdine during the college’s attainment of university status and move from southwest Los Angeles to Malibu, is especially well placed to write his account. He was an insider during arguably the most critical period of Pepperdine’s existence, in the chaotic 1960s, when the college had to make difficult decisions about leaving its deteriorating Los Angeles neighborhood.

Naturally, his book focuses mostly on that era of the university’s history and he is remarkably frank in showing a college wrestling not only with where it would be located but also with who it would be.

Banowsky cites founder George Pepperdine’s background in non-institutional churches, and his “contempt for church-related colleges,” as the “colossal paradox in Pepperdine’s DNA.” Banowsky shows that Pepperdine envisioned a college that would train young men and women from Churches of Christ in a Christian environment but would scrupulously avoid an official church relationship.

This paradox affected the way Pepperdine administrators responded to external and internal accusations that

“the Malibu Miracle” was an abandonment of the school’s “Christian mission” in the inner city of Los Angeles. It also allowed room for the political leanings of wealthy donors to imprint their image on the University that would emerge from the turmoil of the 1960s and 70s.

North, a longtime faculty member at Oklahoma Christian, acknowledges the same ambiguity in his book. While Banowsky’s work is a memoir, written in the personal, reflective style of someone who was there, North’s work is a much more encyclopedic review of OC’s history. Nevertheless, North includes some intriguing detail on many of the most formative events in the university’s history.

One such event is a resolution passed at an early board of trustees meeting, where it was agreed that the college

“should be kept separate and apart from the church” and that “no funds shall be accepted from any congregation of the Lord’s church.” Of course, the board was to be formed exclusively of members of Churches of Christ, and funds could be solicited from individuals in those churches.

Both authors show how ambiguity in the relationship between church and university may have left room for other influences.

Banowsky, in particular, makes no apologies for the political philosophies and connections that have characterized Pepperdine from the beginning and helped to make the “Malibu miracle” possible. The friendships of former President Gerald Ford and especially former California Governor and later President Ronald Reagan are shown to be pivotal in the relocation to Malibu.

Similarly, North credits President James O. Baird’s establishment of a “Citizenship Training Center” in 1959 with considerably broadening the appeal of Oklahoma Christian

among prospective donors in conservative political circles. Three decades later, Oklahoma Christian was a stop on President George H.W. Bush’s campaign trail, and a few years after that he appeared on campus again headlining a Republican political rally. Though by that time the university had presumably dropped their ambivalence about donations from churches, an association with conservative political interests had been deeply stamped on its identity.

Both authors describe sit-ins by African-American students on their campuses within a few years of one another in the 60s. Baird’s and Banowsky’s inflexible handling of the demonstrations illustrates the effects of this ambiguity in the schools’ identities.

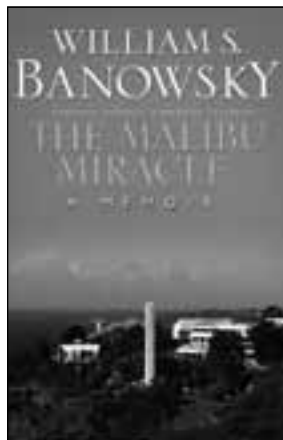
Banowsky is frank about his concern that the sit-ins would have a “disastrous impact” on Pepperdine’s “law and order supporters” during the construction of the Malibu facility. While, to his credit, he handled the sit-in without police involvement or violence, his memoir shows no consciousness that university policies or the pending move to Malibu might have given the students legitimate cause for dissatisfaction.

Recent stories in *The Christian Chronicle* about the changing student bodies of many of the colleges and universities that have traditionally been “ours” might suggest that it is time to revisit the questions again of who these universities are and what their relationship to the church is.

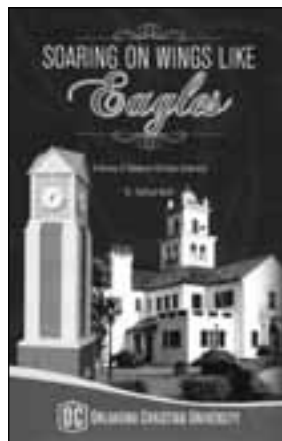
Both of these authors do their readers the great service of opening the institutions for which they’ve lived, and even their own actions, to the searching gaze of history. In doing so, they allow colleges and universities associated with Churches of Christ, along with their supporters and

detractors, to consider in our day what Athens and Jerusalem have to do with one another.

PATRICK ODUM is a minister for the Northwest Church of Christ in Chicago. He is a graduate of Harding University and North Park Theological Seminary.



William Banowsky. **The Malibu Miracle.** Malibu, Calif.: Pepperdine University Press, 2010. 393 pages. \$29.95.



Stafford North. **Soaring On Wings Like Eagles: A History of Oklahoma Christian University.** Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Christian University, 2008. 530 pages. \$24.99.

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

CHURCH HISTORY

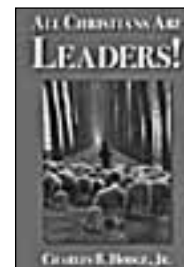
Dyron B. Daugherty. **The Changing World of Christianity: The Global History of a Borderless Religion.** New York: Peter Lang, 2010. 290 pages. \$34.95.



Several books document the movement of Christianity to the Global South — Asia, Africa and Latin America. Daugherty, assistant professor of religion at Pepperdine University, offers what may be a first — a textbook for understanding Christianity’s new ethos. Going region by region — and country by country — Daugherty circles the globe, giving an encyclopedic look at the faith’s growth and changing demographics. Each of the book’s nine chapters contains maps, statistics and discussion questions.

LEADERSHIP

Charles B. Hodge Jr. **All Christians Are Leaders!** Searcy, Ark.: Resource Publications, 2010. Leafwood Press, 2010. 141 pages. \$7.95.



Defining leadership in a broad way to include all Christians, Hodge, longtime preacher in Texas Churches of Christ, explores how leadership involves faith, wisdom, character and trust. Rooted in biblical passages and Scriptural examples, Hodge also tackles topics including the words for leaders, the requirements for leadership, women as leaders and how leaders use the art of negotiation.

ETHICS

Mark Rooker. **The Ten Commandments — Ethics for the 21st Century.** Nashville, Tenn.: B&H Academic, 2010. 234 pages. \$24.99.



Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary Old Testament professor Rooker offers a chapter on each of the Ten Commandments, exploring them in their ancient context with careful attention to proper exegesis before moving on to the relevant and contemporary questions. Extensive footnotes and three indices point the reader to other sources on each of the commandments.



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- Baptisms-36/Youth Group-30+

Send resumes and a video of teaching to avelinahiggins@sbcglobal.net or
Montwood Church of Christ, 11845 Bob Mitchell Drive, El Paso, Texas 79936.

Associate Minister Needed

The Hartville Church of Christ in Hartville, Ohio, is seeking a full time associate minister: a married man who is scripturally sound. We are in need of someone who can help our congregation grow, spiritually and in number. We have approximately 200 members, 3 elders, 8 deacons, and a full time minister. Interested individuals may request an information packet by emailing hartvillecofc@sbcglobal.net. Please put "Associate Minister Inquiry" in the subject line. All responses need to be received by Aug. 31, 2010.

RIVERSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST, KERRVILLE, TEXAS

Located in the hill country of Texas, Riverside Church of Christ is seeking a **full-time pulpit minister**. Riverside is a congregation of 200 members plus, having grown to this number in less than four years. We have elders, deacons and a youth minister. Our new \$2.5 million building houses an auditorium, fellowship hall, classrooms and offices. Riverside serves its members with a variety of ministries including visitation, missionary, and youth programs. We are an evangelistic-minded congregation.

Please send resume to: **Dr. Lawrence Ray Smith, 522 East Lane, Kerrville, Texas, 78028** or e-mail attachments to: lawrenceraysmith@gmail.com.



Children's Education Director

The church of Christ on McDermott Road in Plano, Texas, is seeking an individual to help facilitate our children's education program. The ideal candidate must be a dedicated disciple of Jesus Christ with a deep love for the members of the body of Christ. He/She must have a passion for working with children and a demonstrated ability to teach children from birth to 5th grade. Some of the qualifications we are looking for include:

- A degree in children's ministry, early child development, or education with an emphasis on ministry preferred.
- Experience in teaching and working with children's classes, working with and recruiting volunteers and finding or writing curricula.
- Commitment to continuing education is highly desired.

Interested candidates may go to our website for a complete job description as well as additional information regarding this position. www.cc McDermott.org. All information will be confidential. Please, no phone calls.

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Dean of the School of Law Pepperdine University

Pepperdine University invites inquiries, nominations, and applications for the position of **Dean of the School of Law**.

Pepperdine University is an independent, private Christian university enrolling approximately 7,700 full-time and part-time students in its five colleges and schools. With a full-time faculty of approximately 365, Pepperdine offers bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in a wide range of disciplines. Seaver College, the School of Law, and the School of Public Policy are located on Pepperdine's beautiful Malibu campus overlooking the Pacific Ocean, along with the University's principal administrative offices, student and faculty housing, and arts and athletic facilities. The Dean is the chief academic and executive officer of the School of Law. The Dean reports directly to the Provost of the University, represents the law school to the Board of Regents (along with the President), and is a member of the University's Deans' Council. The School of Law seeks a Dean to build on the significant momentum in recent years. Prospective candidates should be experienced legal educators, jurists, or practitioners, with experience in legal education. The candidate should have a strong record of legal scholarship, be eligible for a tenured teaching appointment at the School of Law, possess excellent administrative and leadership abilities, and demonstrate a commitment to advancing the intellectual and spiritual mission of the School.

To review the full position description, please visit:
www.pepperdinelawdean.kornferry.com

Confidential review of applications, nominations, and expressions of interest will begin immediately and continue until an appointment is made, to be effective June 2011. To be ensured full consideration, please forward a letter of interest and curriculum vitae to **pepperdinelaw@kornferry.com** by October 1, 2010 (electronic submission preferred). Please direct inquiries and nominations to John F. Amer, Esq., Client Partner - Korn/Ferry International (310-556-8577).

Pepperdine University is an equal opportunity employer and does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of any status or condition protected by applicable federal or state law. Pepperdine is religiously affiliated with Churches of Christ. It is the purpose of Pepperdine to pursue the very highest employment and academic standards within a context that celebrates and extends the spiritual and ethical ideals of the Christian faith. While students, faculty, staff, and members of the Board of Regents represent many religious backgrounds, Pepperdine reserves the right to seek, hire, and promote persons who support the goals and mission of the institution, including the right to prefer coreligionists.

Our longing for closer walk with God shows need for spiritual disciplines

As a longtime professor at a Christian university, I have had many conversations with students who seriously seek to live for God.

When I was an elder, some of the best dialogues I had were with preachers, other elders and dedicated Christian people who were concerned that they were missing out on something really significant in their walk with God.

I have those feelings in my life and have come to realize that few ever believe that they are as close to God as they desire. A small number of these believers have thought that some great sin was wedged between them and God, but most only were longing to have a greater sense of God's presence.

To help me sense a greater connection to God, I have explored many paths. I have read widely, seeking advice and instruction for drawing close to God. I have followed the thinking of those teaching the concepts of spiritual formation. This school of thought believes that our best course for reaching God is to view the world and all that is in it as a manifestation of God's creative and redemptive work.

What has been most fruitful for me personally has been the practice of spiritual disciplines to establish a closer relationship with God. These disciplines are reflected in the lives and teaching of biblical personalities from Adam to the apostle John.

I value the works of Richard Foster, who has written widely about the disciplines that allow God to have a central place in all we see and do. The spiritual disciplines, he writes, are "a means of receiving God's grace." They "allow us to place ourselves before God so he can transform us." Foster writes that the spiritual disciplines are like a narrow ridge with a sheer drop-off on either side. There is the abyss of trust in works on one side and the abyss of faith without deeds on the other.

The spiritual disciplines included in Foster's writings are solitude/silence, fasting/frugality, secrecy/sacrifice, study/prayer, service/submission, worship/celebration and fellowship/confession. In his most recent works, he includes spiritual autobiography as a helpful way to trace spiritual development in all parts of our lives.

What has been most helpful to me

is my spiritual journal. I have kept a journal for most of my adult life, but in the past 10 years my journal has tracked my practices of the spiritual disciplines.

Insight



Bailey McBride

I also keep a prayer journal, and that practice has revealed to me how shallow and superficial my prayers often are. I have learned that my prayers are mainly requests of God ("give me") with a note of thanks and another of praise.

My journal is helping me express thanks more thoughtfully for all the blessings I have received — often without asking for them. When I started the prayer journals, most prayers were 10 percent thanks and adoration and 90 percent petition. I have almost reversed that pattern. The more I seek wisdom in finding ways to adore, honor and worship God, the greater my awareness of his greatness and meaning to mankind.

The spiritual discipline of silence/solitude is most challenging in this era. We are so accustomed to TV, music, telephones and conversation with friends that silence seems weird.

Often the great characters of the Bible were sent into deserts or lonely places where they were strengthened for a challenging mission. Runners tell me that the solitude and quiet of the track lets them look into their hearts and souls.

Meditation is a possibility only in solitude where consideration of life and God's nature flow naturally. But the human mind jumps rapidly from thought to thought, requiring some discipline for the serious pursuit of insight and understanding.

All spiritual discipline requires carefully learned concentration and focus.

I urge you to learn more about all of the disciplines. Foster has great insights, but of course he is mortal and not always perfectly correct. Others have written on these subjects, and the Bible is replete with information about godly people developing habits and practices to draw closer to God.

Read the Bible through, looking specifically at ways people sought to know God and get closer to him. God will bless you with spiritual vitality.

CONTACT bailey.mcbride@christianchronicle.org.

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