



Grand ole mess

Tennessee churches, Christian university rally to help after major disaster strikes.

BY TED PARKS | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Waters from a swollen creek cover a street near Woodmont Hills Church of Christ in Nashville, Tenn.

NASHVILLE, Tenn.

In Jesus' familiar parable, a host demands that his servants search "streets and alleys" for people to serve at a great banquet. But for the Bellevue Church of Christ, it was the freeway — Interstate 40, closed by torrential rains — that brought people to its doors.

They came seeking shelter. The church served them a banquet.

On that first Sunday in May, when the Bellevue church served and housed stranded motorists and people washed out of their homes, the congregation experienced just a trickle of the need that was to come.

Storms that weekend claimed 20 lives in Tennessee as well as six in Mississippi and four in Kentucky.

An unprecedented 13.5 inches of rain fell in parts of Middle and West Tennessee in a two-day period, overwhelming the Cumberland River and submerging Nashville's iconic landmarks, including the Grand Ole Opry. Thousands of homes were flooded, and damage is estimated in the billions of dollars.

The Bellevue area, southwest of downtown Nashville, was one

of the city's hardest hit.

Steve Blackman, pulpit minister for the Bellevue church, said 40 families in the congregation suffered property damage, most of them losing everything.

"The Harpeth River flows through here in a serpentine fashion," Blackman said. "Well, the snake bit us."

The banquet his congregation shared with the stranded motor-

ists on May 2 was intended for the church's graduating seniors. Blackman arrived at the building at 7 a.m., as usual, to make final preparations for the morning's services.

Within an hour, floodwaters blocked the roads between his house and the church. His family wouldn't be joining him for worship. Then the minister heard that the songleader's house had flooded.

Only 89 people made it to the 9 a.m. assembly out of the customary 700. Once there, some couldn't make it home.

The congregation opened its doors to other people caught by the flood. The meal prepared for the graduates went to about 100 overnight guests. Bellevue

See **FLOOD**, Page 12



Volunteers with Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort box supplies for distribution in the ministry's home state.

PHOTOS BY TED PARKS

Higher learning

To recruit more students, Christian colleges cast wider nets.

3, 15



Africa on a mission

Profiles of Ghanaian-led churches and ministries — in Africa and the U.S. 17-19



Healing the sick
Dr. Ellen Little on eight years of overseas medicine. 27

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Touched by an angel at D.C. congregation

WASHINGTON

There's an angel singing behind me.

I'm sitting on the second row at the 13th Street Church of Christ, a predominantly black congregation in the nation's capital.

Inside Story



Bobby Ross Jr.

On the pew right behind me is a young woman with a remarkable voice. When I sneak a peek, I notice that her eyes are closed and her hands lightly clapping as a heavenly

melody pours from her.

"I'm so glad that Jesus lives in me. I'm so glad — so glad — that Jesus lives in me. I'm singing, glory hallelujah, Jesus lives in me."

My friend Lisa Brewer, whose husband, Greg, serves as a deacon at the Wilkesboro Church of Christ in North Carolina, encouraged me to visit the 13th Street church during a recent trip to the Washington area.

"You will find the warmest welcome ever there! We LOVE that congregation," Lisa Brewer told me in an e-mail.

So I took a Metro train from my hotel to a subway station near the 13th Street church in northwest Washington.

When I walked into the church building, brothers and sisters in Christ greeted me with friendly smiles and loving handshakes. I immediately felt at home.

Guess what, Brewer was right about this congregation!

She was right about something else, too: The services run a good two hours at the

See **13TH STREET**, Page 4



PHOTOS BY RON HALL, PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY

Experts discuss the future of congregational singing at "The Ascending Voice II" at Pepperdine University. Pictured are Darryl Tippens, Ken Adams, Rebecca Slough, Alice Parker and Ken Nafgizer.

Pepperdine aims to renew, refresh a cappella singing

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

MALIBU, Calif. — This sun-drenched city on the Pacific coastline is known for sandy beaches, surfboards and stargazing — Hollywood style.

It was singing, though, that drew an estimated 500 music composers, choral directors, choir members, biblical scholars and



The Pepperdine University Chamber Singers perform at "The Ascending Voice II," an international symposium of sacred a cappella music.

ordinary church members to Pepperdine University for a recent four-day conference.

"The Ascending Voice II," an international symposium of sacred a cappella music, involved members of Churches of Christ as well as Mennonites, Eastern Orthodox, Reformed Presbyterians, Episcopalians and Roman Catholics.

"Because Pepperdine is affiliated with Churches of Christ, it's natural that we have a lot of people from Churches of Christ and have a very strong a cappella tradition," said Darryl Tippens, Pepperdine's provost and co-convenor of the symposium along with music professor Lincoln Hanks. "But what's clear is we're not the only ones ... who have a love of congregational singing and a love of a cappella music."

THE SEQUEL TO 2007 EVENT

"The Ascending Voice" debuted at Pepperdine in 2007 — the brainchild of Tippens, who saw it as a way to celebrate and promote a cappella worship in a world of praise bands and recorded music.

See **ASCENDING VOICE**, Page 21

To recruit students, Christian colleges casting wider nets

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

YORK, Neb. — At 9 p.m. each Sunday, York College students gather at the campus prayer chapel — a restored white church built in the 1880s — for a candlelight communion service.

In fall 2008, when high school soccer player Katie Kynion visited York "on a whim," that assembly marked her introduction to the small Christian college, which had mailed her a recruiting letter.

"It's intimate, and they sing songs, and everything's a cappella, which I was not used to," Kynion

said of the Sunday night service. "They take communion. Someone gives a devotional. And then there are more songs and fellowship afterward."

"I had never been to anything like that before. That was special to me," added Kynion, a soon-to-be sophomore from Olathe, Kan., about 250 miles southeast of this Nebraska farming community of 8,000 souls.

Kynion exemplifies a growing national trend: She was among more than 2,500 freshmen from outside Churches of Christ who chose to attend a college or university associated with the fellowship in fall 2009. That number represents a 34-percent increase in the last 10 years, according to a study by Flavil Yeakley, director of the Harding Center for Church Growth in Searcy, Ark.

A decade ago, Church of Christ members comprised 70 percent of freshmen at 18 Christian higher education institutions studied by Yeakley. By fall 2009,

See **YORK**, Page 14



BOBBY ROSS JR.

York College President Steve Eckman, left, leaves the campus prayer chapel after a weekend devotional.

Retiring?

Move here and help the church located in Shirley, Arkansas, near Greers Ferry Lake. We are 10 miles from Clinton, six miles from Fairfield Bay. Acreage and reasonably priced homes are available in the surrounding area. We are a sound church that is interested in the community and mission work.

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WEB EXCLUSIVES THIS MONTH:

- **A cappella singing:** See a video interview with Darryl Tippens about "The Ascending Voice II."
- **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.

13th Street: A friendly welcome in D.C.

FROM PAGE 3

13th Street church, not counting Bible class. However, the incredible singing and preaching make it seem like 10 minutes.

Minister Graylon A. Freeman, a Detroit native with three decades of preaching experience, wears a bright red sports jacket as he steps to the pulpit. He takes his lesson from Psalm 124 and preaches on escaping the snare of the Devil.

He strolls into the audience. He calmly, at times comically, touches on common temptations: buying drugs on the street, sleeping with someone who is not your spouse, losing your temper, getting drunk, spending more money than you make.

"The Devil knows what entices us. The Devil knows what's going to trip us up," Freeman says. "Amen?"

"That's right," the crowd echoes.

Freeman's voice rises in a crescendo as he declares the Good News.

"Whatever it is that's binding you up. Whatever it is that has enslaved you. Whatever it is that's tripped you up. But blest be God!" the preacher exclaims. "The snare has been broken!"

About 150 people worship at the 13th Street church on a typical Sunday. Many ride the subway or drive from the suburbs to attend services here.

Rodney Broadnax, who sat beside me on the second row, has been a member since the Navy transferred him to the area in 1995.

"I like the atmosphere for my family," said Broadnax, who has a wife, Kelly, and a daughter, Kirby 12. He grew up at the Woodin Boulevard Church of Christ in Dallas.

The 13th Street church, started in 1934, has outgrown its facilities. There's a "For Sale" sign outside the building. The congregation has bought property about seven miles away in southeast Washington.

"Our ministries are really hindered here if we try to have any type of activities, Gospel meetings, revivals or special fellowships," Freeman told me after the service. "There's no parking whatsoever."

Lisa Brewer came in contact with the



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Church members enjoy fellowship after a Sunday morning worship assembly at the 13th Street Church of Christ in Washington.

13th Street church through her son, Zack, 21, an international studies major at American University.

"Zack has found a wonderful spiritual confidante and adviser there in brother Freeman," Lisa Brewer said.

Zack is white, but race made no difference at the 13th Street church.

The congregation reaches out to university students — regardless of color — through its SAFE ministry, which stands for Student Academic Family Enrichment.

"Black, white, Hispanic — we have all kinds of nationalities, and they come from literally all over the world," Freeman told me.

Sherice Nelson, the angel behind me, came from California. She grew up at the Southside Church of Christ in Richmond, Calif., north of Oakland. She's attending graduate school at the University of the District of Columbia.

And yes, Nelson, 22, has loved singing for as long as she can remember.

"Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior" is her favorite hymn.

"When I was little, like 4 or 5, I used to get the songbook from church and sit on the toilet and sing. And I'd be there for hours," she said with a chuckle.

REACH BOBBY ROSS JR. at bobby.ross@christianchronicle.org. See videos from the 13th Street church service at www.christianchronicle.org.

ALABAMA

MADISON — The Women of the Cloth get together at the Monrovia church each Tuesday to make things for people in need.

Recently, they made teddy bears for local ambulances, *The Huntsville Times* reported.

The hand-sewn bears are carried on ambulances and given out when first responders answer a call involving a child.

"I enjoy sewing and knowing it gives someone else joy," member Cynthia Noles told the newspaper.

MICHIGAN

LANSING — More than 300 people attended the recent Michigan Christian Convention — about 50 to 60 of them from a cappella churches, said Al Meakes, outreach and involvement minister at the Plymouth Church of Christ.

Meakes, a minister in Michigan for 20 years, described the gathering as "the most unified, yet diverse, meeting of brothers and sisters in Christ that I have witnessed in our state."

WALLED LAKE — Fifty-two teams from 15 congregations competed in the recent Great Lakes Bible Bowl 2010, sponsored by the Walled Lake church.

The Rochester church in Rochester Hills and the Gateway church in Southgate hosted regional competitions as participants tested their knowledge of the books of Esther and Daniel.

First-place winners at the state level were the North Warren church in Warren in the primary division, the Walled Lake church in the junior division and the Northwest church in Detroit in the senior division.

OKLAHOMA

DEL CITY — Fellow church members rallied to help after a May 10 tornado destroyed Chris and Shelly Stephens' mobile home.

The Stephenses are members of the Del City church, where Shelly serves as children's minister.

The couple and their two daughters had heeded storm warnings and taken shelter elsewhere.

"They have most of their clothing, plenty of boxes and helpers," youth minister Jerred England said as he joined other church volunteers in cleaning up debris.

PENNSYLVANIA

SOMERSET — The Somerset church is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2010.

At its birthday, the rural congregation is experiencing a spike in attendance, especially among people ages 30 and younger, minister Jimmy Hinton said.

"We are averaging 80 to 85 in atten-



PHOTOS BY GREG KENDALL-BALL

Bread of life: Fresh-baked loaves welcome visitors

Collin Longoria, above, prepares to hand out miniature loaves of bread to visitors at the Hillcrest Church of Christ in Abilene, Texas, on a recent Sunday. The "Bread for the Journey" ministry is designed to help visitors feel welcome and appreciated. At right, one of the loaves is shown.

Started by Kay Istre, then organized by Carol Houston and now headed by Deanna Prince, the ministry gives each Hillcrest visitor a small, fresh-baked loaf of bread, the *Abilene Reporter-News* reported.

"We have four teams of 12 to 15 people that rotate weekly baking nine to 18 mini-loaves of bread," Hillcrest involvement minister Alan Clute told the newspaper.



dance, which may not sound like many," Hinton said. "But in a small town, God continues to bless an old church."

TENNESSEE

HENDERSONVILLE — The Hendersonville church is sponsoring a full-time "traveling evangelist."

With Bible and car keys in hand, Keith Parker — who spent 16 years as the congregation's pulpit minister — is open to traveling anywhere in the United States to share the Gospel.

In the ministry's first year, God blessed it with 10 baptisms and 74 prayer requests, mission committee chairman Jim Weiss said.

"Across our country, cities and towns still crave the Gospel of Christ," Weiss said.

For information on scheduling Parker, call (615) 824-6622.

TEXAS

ABILENE — The 2,000-member Highland church — one of the nation's largest Churches of Christ — has chosen a successor to Mike Cope, the preaching minister for 18 years.

Jonathan Storment, associate preaching minister at the Richland Hills church in North Richland Hills, Texas, near Fort Worth, will start his new duties at Highland in August.

Cope announced his departure last year to join Heartbeat Ministries, founded by longtime friend Landon Saunders.

MARBLE FALLS — The first Texas Bible Bowl drew 150 participants, including adult volunteers, to the Marble Falls church, said Paul Hendrickson, preaching minister at the Hawley church.

The Magnolia church and the Lake

SPOTLIGHT

RON HALL, PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY

Lynn Anderson, right, signs a copy of his new book, "Talking Back to God: Speaking Your Heart to God through the Psalms."

Minister 'talks back to God'

MALIBU, Calif. — Lynn Anderson, former minister at the Highland Church of Christ in Abilene, Texas, is battling lung cancer.

He debuted his new book, "Talking Back to God: Speaking Your Heart to God through the Psalms," at the recent Pepperdine University Bible Lectures. Leafwood published the book.

"I definitely am getting help from the Psalms — more than I could have expected — as I've been battling cancer," Anderson said in an interview with Abilene Christian University's Grant Rampy. "But my readings aren't a new thing. For several decades, I've been reading and praying a psalm every day and also memorizing a psalm every month. The Psalms have always been food for my God-hunger."

To see a video of the full interview, go to www.christianchronicle.com/blog and search for "Lynn Anderson."

Houston church in Humble started the Bible bowl, which organizers hope to make an annual event, Hendrickson said.

WEST VIRGINIA

CHARLESTON — If all goes as planned, this item will be a surprise to Jerry Alderson, minister of the Park Avenue church.

In June, Alderson marked 40 years with the congregation — a milestone that his wife, Sandra, wanted to recognize.

A 1963 graduate of Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn., and a 1970 graduate of Harding University Graduate School of Religion in Memphis, Tenn., Alderson also serves as a Park Avenue elder.

"We both feel most blessed to have worked among the Park Avenue people for so long," Sandra Alderson said. "They are really a unique group of Christians, willing to do whatever you ask."

HEAR THE LORD OF THE LORD

September 26-29

Sunday p.m. **Evertt W. Huffard**
How Can We Hear God Over All the Noise?

Monday a.m. **B. Chris Simpson**
Does the Word of God Really Matter on Monday?

Monday p.m. **Don McLaughlin**
What Does the Word of God Look Like?

Tuesday a.m. **Pat Bills**
Can't We Just Be Spiritual?

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?

Wednesday p.m. **Jim Baird**
Can the Word of God Still Be Heard in 2010?

Howard Norton
Celebration of Ministry dinner on Monday night

Harding University 2010
Bible Lectureship



JUDSON COPELAND

Christian Chronicle staff: Lynn McMillon, Bobby Ross Jr., Harold Shank, Tonda Stafford, Tamie Ross, Virginia Ware, Joy McMillon, Erik Tryggestad, Lynda Sheehan and intern Amanda Jordan.

Chronicle's 'Global South' series honored by church press group

ARLINGTON, Va. — *The Christian Chronicle* earned eight "Best of the Christian Press" national awards — five related to the ongoing "Global South" series — in an annual contest sponsored by the Associated Church Press.

Winners were announced at the religious press association's recent annual awards banquet at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City. The international newspaper for Churches of Christ was honored for work produced in 2009.

"I had a lot of confidence in the 'Global South' series, and I am thankful that the judges recognized the effort," said Lynn McMillon, the *Chronicle's* editor, president and CEO. "I want to thank everybody on the staff as this level of work is the result of the work and effort of all."

Assistant managing editor Erik Tryggestad and managing editor Bobby Ross Jr. won first place for theme issue, section or series for their package of "Global South" stories.

The winning entry included coverage by Tryggestad from Belgium, Burkina Faso, Ecuador, India, the Netherlands, Nigeria and Togo and reports by Ross from Ghana, South Africa and the United States.

"A truly awesome effort," judge John Wylie said of the series. "This took a great deal of planning and commitment."

Tryggestad also won a first-place design award for a "Global South" center-spread on church growth in Africa. The

project captured second place in the in-depth reporting category, and another second place for Tryggestad's front-page design of the series' opening installment from Nigeria in July 2009.

"The stories were well-written and compelling," judge Jeff Kunerth said of the series. "The reporting was thorough and deep, providing both intimacy of detail and the context of historical perspective."

After taking top honors a year ago, the *Chronicle* received third place in the prestigious "Best in Class" contest for top national or international newspaper.

Ross won third place in the news story category for his coverage of a partnership between Abilene Christian University in Texas and Heritage Christian College in Ghana — part of the "Global South" series. Ross also won third place for his feature article on the ministry for children with special needs at the Brooks Avenue church in Raleigh, N.C. The other third-place honor went to Tryggestad, in the department category, for the *Chronicle's* Around the World section.

Funds for the *Chronicle* to pay its Associated Church Press annual dues and enter the contest were donated by Howard Hayes, 96, father of *Chronicle* administrative assistant Lynda Sheehan. Hayes gave the money in memory of his late brother-in-law Calvin T. Mannen, a dedicated Christian and longtime editor of the *Daily Leader* in Stuttgart, Ark.

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The Best of Dallas Christian Sound

#1 The Best Of Dallas Christian Sound: Jesus Is Lord

- I Can Only Imagine
- Jesus Is Lord
- Jesus, Name Above All Names
- I Want Jesus To Walk With Me
- Thomas' Song
- Jesus, Flow Like A River
- Heavenly Love
- Awesome Power
- Nobody Fills My Heart Like Jesus
- There Is Strength In The Name Of The Lord
- I'm Telling The World About His Love
- Reach Out To Jesus
- He Is Ever Over Me
- Jesus, Savior Pilot Me
- Instruments Of Your Peace
- We Are One In The Spirit
- There's A Stranger At The Door
- Go Light Your World
- There's Not A Friend Like The Lowly Jesus
- The Steadfast Love Of The Lord
- Sing Hallelujah To The Lord
- Holy Father, Grant Us Peace
- Do You Know My Jesus?
- Tho Your Sins Be As Scarlet
- There's A String
- The Lily Of The Valley
- Savior, Lead Me Lest I Stray
- Alleluia
- Under The Water
- I Awaited
- Down In The River To Pray



#7 I Can Hear My Savior Calling

- Be With Me Lord
- He Leadeth Me
- Jesus, Savior Pilot Me
- Does Jesus Care?
- I Can Hear My Savior Calling
- Walking Alone At Eve
- Have Thine Own Way Lord
- Blest Be The Tie That Binds
- O God, Our Help In Ages Past
- Eternal Father, Strong To Save
- The Sands Of Time Are Sinking
- The Lord Bless You And Keep You
- Day Is Dying In The West
- How Great Thou Art
- Face To Face
- In The Land Of Fadeless Day
- Wonderful Words Of Life
- Yes, For Me He Careth
- O Jesus, I Have Promised
- Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind
- God's Family
- Because He Lives
- If That Isn't Love
- Morning Has Broken
- I Love The Lord

#2 Requested Favorites & New Songs

- Under The Water
- I Awaited
- Let Us Break Bread Together
- Do You Know My Jesus?
- Learning To Lean
- Crying In The Chapel
- As The Deer
- My Faith Looks Up To Thee
- How Shall The Young Secure Their Hearts?
- Never Grow Old
- Every Time I Feel The Spirit
- Jesus Is Calling
- There's A Gold Mine In The Sky
- The Golden Rule
- Jesus Rose Of Sharon
- Rescue The Perishing
- Mansion, Robe And Crown
- The Steadfast Love Of The Lord
- Sing Hallelujah To The Lord
- Holy Father, Grant Us Peace
- Give Thanks
- I Am A Sheep
- I Am Thine, O Lord
- Heaven Is Going To Shine
- Will You Not Tell It Today?
- Let Him Have His Way With Thee
- Reach Out To Jesus
- There's Room At The Cross
- Are You Coming To Jesus Tonight?
- Holy And Anointed One
- Shout To The Lord
- Light The Fire
- There's A String
- Lord, I Lift Your Name On High
- I Will Celebrate
- Great Are You Lord
- These Are The Days Of Elijah
- Here I Am To Worship
- Ancient Words
- Lord, Reign In Me

#8 Eternal Hymns Of Praise by The Harding University Concert Choir

- Oh, The Depth Of The Riches
- Lead Me To Calvary
- Each Step I Take
- Let Us Break Bread Together
- His Grace Reaches Me
- The Love Of God (Highfield)
- The Love Of God (Lehman)
- Amazing Grace
- Only In Thee
- He's My King
- Where No One Stands Alone
- Won't It Be Wonderful There
- Grace Greater Than Our Sin
- Follow Me
- A Wonderful Savior/Precious Lord, Take My Hand
- His Eye Is On The Sparrow
- He Lives
- Peace In The Valley
- Heaven Came Down/Paradise Valley
- God's Family
- Crown Him With Many Crowns
- God Is The Fountain
- Because He Lives
- The Steadfast Love Of The Lord
- We Shall Rise
- Yes, I'll Live In Glory
- Bless His Name
- Great Is Thy Faithfulness/Heaven's Really Gonna Shine
- Teach Me Lord To Wait

#3 Classic Hymns & New Songs

- We Have Come Into His House
- In Moments Like These
- The Way That He Loves
- Bless God
- Learning To Lean
- Thomas' Song
- He Is Ever Over Me
- Jesus Flow Like A River
- Go With God
- God Will Make A Way
- Hallelujah
- Heavenly Love
- Ivory Palaces
- O Sacred Head
- One Day
- Be With Me Lord
- How Beautiful
- Awesome Power
- Walking Alone At Eve
- Were You There?
- Beauty For Ashes
- Sweeter Than All
- Take Time To Be Holy
- Lord Be There When I Call
- Redeemed
- Boundless Love
- Praise God
- The Lord Reigns
- No Tears In Heaven
- Highest Place
- The Majesty And Glory Of Your Name
- When The Night Is Falling
- Just A Closer Walk With Thee
- I Just Want To Be Where You Are
- I Can Only Imagine
- Above All
- Send Your Rain
- I Want To Love You More
- All The Heavens
- My God Reigns
- Refiners Fire
- Ancient Of Days

#4 The Best of Congregational Singing

- Lord We Come Before Thee Now
- Guide Me, Oh Thou Great Jehovah
- I Am The Vine
- Ready To Suffer
- The Church's One Foundation
- Just As I Am
- God Is Calling The Prodigal
- I Love Thy Kingdom Lord
- Out Of My Bondage
- There's Not A Friend
- The Great Physician
- Break Thou The Bread Of Life
- Only A Step
- Who At The Door Is Standing?
- Almost Persuaded
- Give Me The Bible
- Alleluia
- I Know The Lord Will Make A Way
- Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah
- I Am Resolved
- Sweet Hour Of Prayer
- There Shall Be Showers Of Blessing
- I Gave My Life For Thee
- Wonderful Love Of Jesus
- More, More About Jesus
- What A Day That Will Be
- I Want To Be A Worker
- Work, For The Night Is Coming
- Careless Soul
- There's A Stranger At The Door
- Jesus Loves Me
- Tell It To Jesus
- There's Within My Heart A Melody
- There Is A Habitation
- Why Did My Savior Come To Earth?
- Far And Near
- Hark! The Gentle Voice Of Jesus Falleth
- We Shall See The King Someday
- Where The Gates Swing Outward Never
- The Last Mile Of The Way
- When We Meet In Sweet Communion
- Closer To Thee
- Wonderful Story Of Love
- Tarry With Me
- Kneel At The Cross
- True Hearted, Whole Hearted
- Father Of Mercies
- Yield Not To Temptation
- My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less
- Love, Love, Love
- God Of Our Fathers
- Lead Me To Calvary
- Trust And Obey
- Though Your Sins Be As Scarlet
- Is Thy Heart Right With God?
- O Praise The Lord
- Take The Name Of Jesus With You
- I Love The Lord
- Come To The Feast
- Nothing But The Blood Of Jesus
- O Why Not Tonight?

Most Requested Traditional Hymns by The Harding University Concert Choir

#9

- Holy, Holy, Holy
- Precious Memories
- No Tears In Heaven
- Blessed Assurance
- Crossing The Bar
- O Love That Will Not Let Me Go
- Rock Of Ages
- Beyond The Sunset
- Come Ye Disconsolate
- Old Rugged Cross
- Only In Thee
- Safe In The Arms Of Jesus
- The Garden Of Prayer
- In The Sweet By And By
- Never Grow Old
- An Empty Mansion
- Amazing Grace
- It Is Well With My Soul
- Fairest Lord Jesus
- Whispering Hope
- My God And I
- Savior Breathe An Evening Blessing
- What A Friend We Have In Jesus
- I Need Thee Every Hour
- Softly And Tenderly
- In The Hour Of Trial
- There Is A Place Of Quiet Rest
- Sweet Will Of God
- He Lifted Me
- The Last Mile Of The Way
- In Heavenly Love Abiding
- God Be With You Till We Meet Again
- Nearer My God To Thee
- My Faith Looks Up To Thee
- Abide With Me
- Beneath The Cross Of Jesus
- Must Jesus Bear The Cross Alone
- When My Love To Christ Grows Weak
- Purer In Heart, O God
- Sweeter As The Years Go By
- Sun Of My Soul
- More Love To Thee
- My Jesus, I Love Thee

#5 Title Songs Both Old and New

- Mansion Over The Hilltop
- I Need Thee Every Hour
- Only In Thee
- Greatest Commands
- Follow Me
- He Lifted Me
- Walking Alone At Eve
- You Are The Words And The Music
- Stand By Me
- I Go To The Rock
- Teach Me Lord To Wait
- People Need The Lord
- Does Jesus Care?
- Blessed Assurance
- Who At The Door Is Standing?
- Just As I Am
- Under The Water
- Shall We Gather At The River?
- Sweet Will Of God
- An Empty Mansion
- Nobody Fills My Heart Like Jesus
- Hold To God's Unchanging Hand
- There Is Strength In The Name Of The Lord
- Lord, I'm Coming Home
- I Can Hear My Savior Calling
- Hills Of Glory/ Salvation Has Been Brought Down/ I'd Like To Stay Here Longer
- Lord, Feed Your Children
- I'm Telling The World About His Love
- If I Stand
- Glory
- There's A Fountain Free
- The Potter's Hand
- When I Look Into Your Holiness
- Keeper And Sustainer
- Fear Not My Child
- Who Am I?
- Had It Not Been The Lord
- To The King
- And Can It Be
- Bless The Lord
- Let Your Glory Fall

#6 The Best of Dallas Christian Sound: The New Songs

- Come Into His Presence
- Worthy The Lamb That Was Slain
- Hear, O Israel
- We Shall Assemble
- My Eyes Are Dry
- We Bow Down
- Spirit Of The Living God
- In His Presence
- Poured Out Like Wine
- Come Share The Lord
- Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus
- I Stand In Awe
- Thank You, Lord
- A Common Love
- Glorify Thy Name
- Faithful Love
- Gentle Shepherd
- There's Something About That Name
- As The Deer
- There's A String
- O How He Loves You And Me
- The Greatest Commands
- You Are My All In All
- How Beautiful The Body Of Christ
- Sanctuary
- Awesome God
- The Battle Belongs To The Lord
- Shine, Jesus Shine
- Thou Art Worthy
- Above All Else
- He Is Exalted
- I Love You, Lord
- Lord, Take Control
- Thank You Lord
- Lamb Of God
- He Is Able
- I Love You With The Love Of The Lord
- God Is So Good
- I Will Call Upon The Lord



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- Boundless Love
- Follow Me
- The Love Of God
- Learning To Lean
- Praise God
- Thou Art Worthy, Great Jehovah
- His Grace Reaches Me
- He Is Exalted
- Blessed Be The Lord God Almighty
- He Has Made Me Glad
- Sing, Amen!
- When He Comes In Glory By And By
- Each Step I Take
- The Battle Belongs To The Lord
- The Family Of God
- Let Us Break Bread Together
- I Keep Falling In Love With Him
- Great Is The Lord Almighty
- I Just Came To Praise The Lord
- Easter Song
- Peace In The Valley
- Shine, Jesus, Shine
- Above All Else
- You Are My All In All
- Lord, Let Us Now Depart In Peace
- He Touched Me
- Step By Step
- Holy God, We Praise Your Name
- He Lives
- Lead Me To Calvary
- Oh, The Depth Of The Riches
- Freely, Freely
- Awesome God
- Sanctuary

#1 Jesus Is Lord

#2 Req. Fav. & New

#3 Class. Hymns & New

#4 Best Cong. Singing

#5 Title Songs

#6 New Songs

#7 I Can Hear My Sav. Calling

#8 Eternal Hymns

#9 Most Req. Trad. Hymns

#10 I Need Thee Ev. Hour

#11 Follow Me

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PHOTO PROVIDED BY ISAAC DAYE

World Bible School graduates are 'Marching to Zion' in West African nation of Sierra Leone

Wearing T-shirts emblazoned with the World Bible School logo, students sing "We're Marching to Zion" as they walk down the main street in Pujehun, Sierra Leone. The 24-member Church of Christ in the predominantly Muslim city hosted a graduation for 97 students who completed the World Bible School

curriculum. Church members in Louisiana provide support for the Pujehun church. This December workers with Cedar Park, Texas-based World Bible School plan to host a graduation for 200 more students in Sierra Leone. For more information, see www.wbschool.net.

AUSTRALIA

MANSFIELD — In "the land down under," seasons are reversed from those in the Northern Hemisphere, so Churches of Christ recently hosted their Autumn Camp.

About 75 people attended the camp at Lake Nilacootie in the state of Victoria. The theme was "Something New Under the Son," and speakers included Bob Abney, Graeme Offer, Raymond Kirkpatrick, Geoff Thomas, Brett Christensen, Ray and Mark Davison and Philip Dow.

CROATIA

CRIVENICA — About 70 church members attended an annual, five-day Bible retreat in this Central European city on Adriatic Sea. Toney Coffey, a minister in Dublin, Ireland, was the guest speaker.

EL SALVADOR

SAN MIGUEL — The High Pointe Church of Christ in McKinney, Texas, has set up a fund for the family of Antonio Lara. Lara, a longtime minister and church leader in the San Miguel area, died April 25 after he was gunned down in the doorway of

the El Platanar Church of Christ.

Survivors include his wife, Milagro, daughter Cindi and son Leo. Mark contributions "Lara Family Fund" and send to deacon Brian Tinsley at the church, 3201 N Central Expressway, McKinney, TX 75071.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ALEXANDER CASTELLANOS

Church leader Antonio Lara and his wife, Milagro, at a conference.

GUADELOUPE

BASSE-TERRE — Arlin and Pamela Hendrix, missionaries in Lyon, France, ate curried goat on banana leaves and conducted Bible studies on this island in the Caribbean, a protectorate of France.

Arlin Hendrix conducted a three-week series on grace while his wife taught Bible studies for women. The church printed and distributed 9,500 invitations to its community during the visit.

"We make a mission trip to Guadeloupe almost every year," Arlin Hendrix said. "This French-speaking island has never had a full-time preacher, which is why we go over to help out."

GREECE

ATHENS — Members of the Omonia Square Church of Christ reach out to Athens' large refugee population through an organization called Hellenic Ministries. Members make weekly trips to a facility that offers free showers and laundry services for women and children.

"The women and children are mostly Afghani and Iranian, but recently some from Somalia have been coming," said Omonia minister Dino Roussos.

KENYA

MOMBASA — About 270 people sang songs of praise, ate meals together and witnessed baptisms at the National Youth Conference of the Kenya Church of Christ.

Churches in Mombasa hosted the event, which took place at the Changamwe church, said Michael Mutai, principal

of the church-run Mombasa Educational Institute.

"It was a very successful conference," Mutai said. "I keep receiving messages from e-mail and Facebook about it."



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MICHAEL MUTAI

A baptism at the National Youth Conference in Mombasa, Kenya.

NORWAY

BERGEN — A small congregation meets in this Scandinavian city, the second-largest in Norway. The church hosted a gospel meeting recently with guest speaker David Hurst, a church member from the U.S.

The church offers private Bible studies and correspondence courses by mail. For more information, see churchofchrist.no.

SPOTLIGHT

A camp of hope

SIGULDA, Latvia — Janeks Vimbsons grew up an orphan in this former Soviet republic. Now he wants to introduce orphans in his home country to the Father he came to know in the United States.

Vimbsons came to the U.S. in 2007, hoping to be adopted by an American family. The adoption fell through, but Vimbsons was able to stay in the country and attend Coventry Christian Schools in Pottstown, Pa. He lived with a Christian family.

One year after enrolling at the school, associated with Churches of Christ, he asked to be baptized.

"He was baptized in front of the whole school," said Eric Williamson, minister for the



Vimbsons

Chesmont Church of Christ in Pottstown. "Janeks shared in chapel how he finally knew the love of a Father, a love that he had never experienced before,"

This month Vimbsons, Williamson and a team of 20 U.S. church members will host Camp Hope, a weeklong camp for Latvian orphans in Sigulda, a town northeast of Latvia's capital, Riga. About 80 children are scheduled to attend. Members of the Bastrop, Texas, church and Riga Center church will assist.

"We hope that not only will this help the orphans, but also the church in Latvia," Williamson said.

Camp Hope is the first wave of a new long-term mission project to Latvia by the Chesmont church.

Eastern European Mission, a church-supported ministry, helps with similar camps in Ukraine and produced a video, "The Love of a Father," telling Vimbsons' story. The ministry will supply Camp Hope with curriculum and Bibles.

"Hopefully, this summer — and in future summers — we'll teach these kids what it is to have a father," Vimbsons said.

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Border violence cancels more Mexico missions

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

For 22 years, Rick and Sherry Owens have led American mission teams all over Mexico — with nobody hurt or killed.

And “that is how it is going to end,” Rick Owens said in a recent e-mail to supporters.

The former Alaska oilfield worker has helped build more than 150 church buildings in Mexico. He plans to continue building, but with Mexican crews instead of U.S. volunteers.

“The situation in Mexico continues to deteriorate,” he said. “It is not stable, and I no longer feel confident that our groups will be safe. The violence is escalating and spreading. There is no way to exaggerate how bad things have gotten ... and I have no idea how or when it will end.”

Danger along the U.S./Mexico border has intensified as Mexican President Felipe Calderon has increased measures to curb the influence of his country’s powerful drug cartels.

Calderon has deployed 45,000 federal troops and police to combat the gangs, and more than 22,700 people have died in clashes since 2006, The Associated Press reported.

Last year several Churches of Christ canceled mission trips to Mexico — especially those that included bus trips or caravans through the U.S./Mexico border.

This year, U.S. churches have varied in responses to the ongoing border violence. Some have continued or resumed work in Mexico. A group of students from Harding Academy, a K-12 school in Searcy, Ark., associated with Churches of Christ, made a trip to Casa de la Esperanza in Anahuac, Mexico, without incident, said chaperone Jay Simpson.

“Our trip last year was canceled due to the violence,” Simpson said.

The Edmond, Okla., church also canceled its annual trip to Aquiles, Mexico, last year but took a group of college students, teens and families there this year without incident.

Mike Reeves, minister and youth director for the Prineville, Ore., church, takes teen mission groups south of the border near San Diego.

“This year we went to El Nido, a tiny suburb of Tijuana,” Reeves said. “We



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Rick Owens gives instructions to Americans helping with a project in Mexico in 2008.

had a wonderful experience with positive interaction with the church there.

“We had no problems with border crossing and not a single negative incident while there,” Reeves said. “We will plan another mission trip to Mexico for 2011.”

In Abilene, Texas, the Highland Church of Christ decided to focus its mission efforts in other directions after working with Owens for nearly 20 years.

“It was a very hard decision since the trips to Mexico have been life-changing for our youth and sponsors,” church member Jim Trietsch said.

“Last year, we worked with the relief efforts in New Orleans, and this year we are working with the Navajo nation in Crownpoint, New Mexico,” Trietsch said. “Short-term efforts are very beneficial to both the missionaries and the groups being helped. We are glad that we do have some options.”

Mexico’s loss is New Orleans’ gain, said Fred Franke, a New Orleans church member who founded Operation Nehemiah after Hurricane Katrina devastated his city.

“Sometimes when we desire to go somewhere or do something for the Lord, he leads us in another direction, a detour,” Franke said. “While these detours have been a drawback for the work in Mexico, they have been a godsend for mission work in our country — and specifically to our ministry here in New Orleans. We are experiencing massive numbers of mission teams this summer, many of which are being detoured to New Orleans.”



PHOTO PROVIDED BY STEPHEN WOLF

Praising Jesus on the island of Jeju

Church members gather for a photo on the island of Jeju, off the southern coast of the Korean peninsula. The island is home to the highest mountain in South Korea — the volcano Halla-san. It's also home to the Jeju Jung-Ang Church of Christ, which hosted an island-wide lectureship recently. Malcolm Parsley, a longtime missionary to Korea, organized the event. Stephen Wolf was the guest speaker. About 35 people attended. Wolf, an active-duty officer with the U.S. Air Force, is stationed on the island of Okinawa, Japan, and worships with the Chibana Church of Christ there. Seven evangelists also attended an all-day preacher workshop, Wolf said.

Two 'pillars' of South African church die in Libya plane crash

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Norbert and Paula Taferner, longtime church members in South Africa, died in a May 12 plane crash near the Tripoli airport in Libya.

The Airbus 330, operated by Tripoli-based Afriqiyah Airways, crashed as it arrived in Libya from Johannesburg, South Africa. The plane carried 93 passengers and 11 crew. A 9-year-old Dutch boy, Ruben van Assouw, was the only survivor.

Norbert Taferner, 70, was an aerodynamics engineer and a manager for Global Aviation in Libya. He retired in February, said Johan Kuit, the company's CEO.

The Tafernerts began attending church in the 1960s and were founding members of the Boksburg Church of Christ, located between Johannesburg and Benoni. The Benoni congregation planted the Boksburg church, said Donna Horne, whose husband, Al, is president of Southern Africa Bible College in Benoni. The Tafernerts' two sons and a daughter-in-law attended the college, Donna Horne said.

"Due to the unemployment in South Africa, Norbert's work took him to



Paula and Norbert Taferner

places like Iraq, Libya and Albania," she said. "He often preached for the Albania congregation. He was one of the pillars in the Boksburg church."

Arian Zhusti, a member of the Tirana, Albania, Church of Christ, said the Tafernerts were "the kind of people everyone would have loved to know."

"Norbert was, to me, the splendid pattern of the loving husband and the excellent professional with a rare and astonishing, dynamic way of thinking," Zhusti said.

The Tafernerts "will be sorely missed on the South African church scene," Donna Horne added. "We have suffered a great and irreplaceable loss."



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FLOOD: 'One of the most amazing things is the churches working together'

FROM PAGE 1

members supplied air mattresses, sheets and blankets.

The last "customers" arrived at 4 a.m. Monday, said Blackman, who finally got home that night.

NEEDS IN A DIVERSE COMMUNITY

In the days that followed, the Bellevue church became a focal point for relief and reconstruction. The congregation has worked with aid organizations to train volunteers to enter damaged homes and prepare them for rebuilding, tearing out waterlogged drywall and removing articles fouled with river water.

Southeast of downtown, the Antioch Church of Christ serves an area hard hit by waters from Mill Creek.

In a community known for diversity, the congregation reaches out to residents from 66 countries in its English classes, said Lisa Steele, director of English-language classes and the Hispanic ministry.

While a few in the congregation suffered damage, the Antioch church assisted 700 families — 60 to 70 percent of them immigrants — the first six days after the flood, Steele said.

"We were surrounded by water," Steele recalled. "They were launching rescue boats right in front of our building."

With the church forced to cancel services, the Antioch staff got to work as waters receded. On Tuesday, leaders went door to door surveying damage. In touch with Nashville-based Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort, the church received a truckload of supplies Tuesday night. And Steele said Antioch served "hundreds and hundreds" of meals with the help of Lake Jackson, Texas-based Disaster Assistance CoC, a mobile-food ministry.

About two weeks after the disaster, the church hosted a Hispanic community meeting with representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other assistance organizations. An information booth in Spanish

located in the church lobby offers information to people still seeking help.

WIDOWS, ELDERLY DISPLACED

Other parts of Nashville — and places far from the state capital — mirrored the destruction in Bellevue and Antioch.

The small Pennington Bend Church of Christ meets across from Opryland Hotel, which was evacuated because of Cumberland River floodwaters.

Three Pennington Bend members lost their homes, and eight suffered considerable damage, said minister Tom Boyette. Most of the victims are widows, Boyette said, adding that many in his congregation are in their 80s.

At press time, one Pennington Bend family was temporarily living in the church building, which escaped damage. Boyette and his wife hosted a displaced member and her neighbor and son.

With Pennington Bend's resources limited, the minister said, the congregation was working closely with the larger Mt. Juliet Church of Christ, east of Nashville.

In West Tennessee, members of the Millington Church of Christ, north of Memphis, also suffered damage from heavy rainfall and breached levees.

Family minister and elder Howard Howell said that 10 families in the congregation lost nearly everything. He said he was grateful for volunteers from nearby congregations helping rebuild Millington homes.

"One of the most amazing things is the churches working together," Howell said. "It's totally different when you have other folks working with you."

'IT'S ALL COME HOME TO US'

While congregations helped members and neighbors, organizations tied to Churches of Christ also played key roles in the Tennessee flood response.

By the end of the third week after the floods, Nashville's Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort had shipped \$1.5



PHOTOS BY TED PARKS

Drywall and plumbing gutted from flood-damaged homes crowd a cul-de-sac off Nashville's White Bridge Road, a week after the region's devastating rains. Some homes bore a spray-painted "X" indicating total ruin.

million worth of flood-related supplies, said vice president and executive director Joe Dudney. The organization set up 20 distribution centers at Tennessee churches, including nine in Nashville. In addition to the Antioch church, the Bellevue, Pennington Bend and Millington congregations received shipments.

Launched in 1990, the Disaster Relief Effort has distributed relief supplies to almost all 50 states.

With a disaster in the organization's own backyard, Dudney acknowledged the tasks ahead.

"It's all come home to us," he said. "It's big, and it's going to get bigger."

A LONG-SERVING SHELTER

Five miles from the Disaster Relief Effort's 48,500 square-foot warehouse, Lipscomb University opened its doors to displaced people by hosting a Red Cross shelter.

Operating for 18 days, the shelter was the area's first to open and last to close, according to university officials.

"While we have celebrated the work of students and staff who have traveled around the world to do mission and humanitarian



On a Lipscomb gymnasium floor, Red Cross and AmeriCorps volunteers write notes as part of their service in the university's Red Cross shelter.

work ... this opportunity for service reflected the urgent needs of our own community," Lipscomb President Randy Lowry told employees in an e-mail.

As many as 500 volunteers helped, serving between 400 and 800 people, said Walt Leaver, vice president for university relations.

Lipscomb agreed to the request May 1, just as the flooding began. A Red Cross trailer arrived with 200 cots that Lipscomb students unloaded in the pouring rain, Leaver said.

Around 10 p.m., the first

guests arrived — a father, mother and several children. By dawn, the shelter had 70 occupants. Sunday afternoon, it reached capacity.

The university used its Student Activities Center as sleeping quarters and McQuiddy Gymnasium for guests to eat and relax.

"We just tried to provide some semblance ... of life for those who were here," Leaver said.

TO CONTRIBUTE TO FLOOD RELIEF, see a list of ministries accepting funds in this month's editorial, Page 30.

Give a Hand Up

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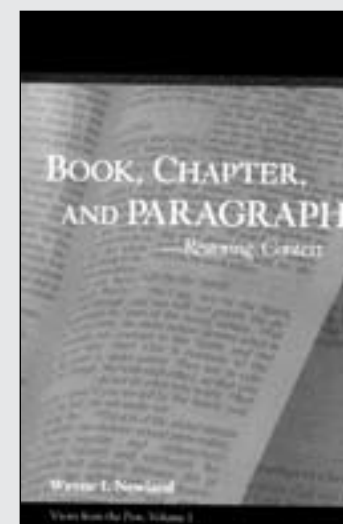
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PERSPECTIVES

The Christian Chronicle interviewed York College students during a recent visit to the Nebraska campus. A few excerpts:



Marissa Petrilli | Bakersfield, Calif.

Petrilli questions whether women need to be silent in church and if baptism is essential to salvation but appreciates the faith-based atmosphere at York. "Obviously, my views ... are a bit different than the Church of Christ," she said.



Mark Smesrud | Minot, N.D.

Smesrud, who grew up in a Church of Christ, gained ministry experience at York and plans to become a youth minister. "We really push for community, but we also emphasize such things as baptism," he said of York.



Renee Willard | Golden, Colo.

Willard has a Baptist background but said York has strengthened her faith. "You can still be godly people and love each other and worship the same God even though you read the Bible and the same words and interpret them differently," she said. "That's all anyone can do."

YORK: President describes college as 'a mission field'

FROM PAGE 3

that figure dropped to 53 percent.

Until a few years ago, a majority of students came to York from Church of Christ backgrounds.

But in fall 2009, 58 percent of York freshmen — including Kynion — listed their religious affiliation as something other than Church of Christ.

"Many students are brought to Christ while on this campus," York President Steve Eckman said. "York College is not only located on the mission field — it is the mission field."

York's changing enrollment patterns reflect the appeal of a Christian liberal arts education to students outside Churches of Christ, leaders say.

But that's only part of the story — at York and elsewhere.

A shrinking pool of potential Church of Christ students in Nebraska and surrounding states also makes it crucial to recruit from a wider base, said Rick Eldred, York's director of church relations and a minister at the East Hill Church of Christ, next to campus.

This past school year, York drew 262 of its 432 full-time students — 61 percent — from Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

"Our congregations in this area are aging, so the numbers of potential students are smaller than in the past decade or so," said Eldred, a longtime church observer in Nebraska.

"I don't see those numbers increasing," he wrote. "York College increased enrollment will grow not from our own fellowship but from the broader 'Christian' fellowships. I'm sure this is the case with most of our sister universities as well."

Maintaining — or better yet, growing — enrollment is essential at a college such as York, which has struggled financially in recent years, experts say.

Just last year, *The Christian Chronicle* reported that York was among three colleges associated with Churches of Christ that

were deemed in fragile financial condition by a U.S. Education Department analysis. The others were Rochester College in Michigan and Ohio Valley University in West Virginia.

Eckman said then that \$9 million in debt — much of it related to the construction of two new residence halls — caused his college to make the list. The residence halls give the college more room to house students, but it takes time to increase



Eckman

enrollment to fill the new dormitories, he said. In the last year, York experienced an 8.5-percent fall enrollment increase and a 17-percent rise in the spring, the president said. The college ended the 2009 fiscal year in the black and improved its financial condition enough to be removed from the federal watch list, he reported.

"While we have a long way to go financially, I believe that ... we have made progress in many areas during this one-year period," Eckman, a York alumnus who took over as his alma mater's president last year, wrote in a recent report.

'CHRIST-CENTERED EDUCATION'

Along with dealing with budget concerns, York also has given its mission statement a makeover — one designed to put more focus on the college's faith-based nature, Eckman said.

"The mission of York College is to transform lives through Christ-centered education and to equip students for lifelong service to God, family and society," the new statement reads.

Operated by members of Churches of Christ since 1956, York College sits at the crossroads of Interstate 80 and U.S. 81.

As might be expected in the "Cornhusker State," corn is the major local crop, along with some soybeans and milo. Catholic and Lutheran parochial schools also have a presence in the town.

"We have so many people that

work at York that could make more money and have greater opportunities (elsewhere) ... but they positioned themselves here in a quiet place to do work that's very important and significant," said Tim Lewis, who attended York in the early 1980s when it was a junior college.

"These students (from Churches of Christ) that stay in the area go back to these churches, and they will be the leadership at these churches in the future. So it may not seem important on the outside — this small little place, this little outpost up here in Nebraska — but for this whole region ... it's very vital to the church," Lewis said of York College.

For seven years, Lewis has served as York's full-time campus minister. He works with 15 student ministry interns who help organize a weekly campus devotional, Bible studies and small-group spiritual activities.

"The challenge is not to assume all our students know the Bible," Eckman said. "We must engage them at entry level. How we introduce them to God, Christ and the church is vitally important. This starts in their freshman Bible class and in daily chapel. We can't assume they have a biblical knowledge base."

A CHURCH OF CHRIST SCHOOL?

Mitch Roush, a recent York graduate, is the son of longtime choir director Clark Roush and alumni and community relations director Sue Roush.

While he attends a Church of Christ, he rejects that label.

"I learned really quickly just how radical Jesus is in my first year here," said Mitch Roush, 22, who majored in drama. "We're

not a Church of Christ school. We are a school that is desperately trying to get Jesus to these people, and to understand why the foot of the cross is so important in our lives.

"I'm telling you right now, the moment I threw out all of those traditions and I just read the Gospel and tried to be like Jesus and allowed the Holy Spirit to be my source of courage ... I noticed that God was changing lives," added Roush, who enjoyed baptizing some of his York friends.

But Kynion sees York from a different perspective.

Told that the college's student breakdown is about 50/50



Kynion

between Church of Christ members and other students, she found the numbers difficult to believe.

"It feels like there's a lot more Church of Christ students here," she said. "Everyone seems to be." At home, Kynion worships with a community church that uses drums and guitars and does not partake of the Lord's Supper every Sunday. This summer, she's serving as a ministry intern with Hope Alive Christian Center in Overland Park, Kan.

At York, she said, "I've talked to a lot of Church of Christ people that don't believe in being spirit-filled. I don't really know where I stand on that in my life right now."

"And then I've talked to some other people that have said, 'To be saved, you have to be baptized.' And I think baptism's great. I was baptized; it's a great faith statement. But I'm not sure that I believe you have to be baptized to be saved."

However, she remains pleased with her decision to attend York. The experience, she said, has challenged her — and helped her grow — spiritually.

As for Sunday night, she still loves the candlelight communion service that drew her to York.

"There's just something about it that seems so pure," she said. "It's like, 'This is all I have and I'm laying it out there right now.' And that is my worship. That's what I really like about it here."

BY LYNN McMILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Phil Schubert has spent much of his life preparing for the presidency of Abilene Christian University, a role he assumed June 1.

After completing a bachelor's degree in accounting at ACU in 1991, he became a Certified Public Accountant. He later completed an MBA at Duke University and an education doctorate at the University of Pennsylvania, with a concentration in higher education management.

Schubert, 40, worked for the accounting firm Arthur Andersen and Co. from 1991 to 1993, when he joined ACU.

At ACU, Schubert has served in several roles, including director of student financial services, chief financial officer and vice president for finance and administration. Most recently, he served as executive vice president.

In recent years, Schubert renewed the marketing, recruiting and university relations departments, resulting in the largest one-year increase in new student enrollment in more than a decade.

Schubert also led the development of the university's strategic plan for 2009-2013, known as "21st Century Vision." This is the overall plan that will guide ACU's development in coming years.

Schubert was selected as the new president of the 4,800-student university after a yearlong search. He succeeds Royce Money, who served as ACU's president for 19 years.

Schubert and his wife, Jamie, have been married for 17 years. They have three children: Sydnie, 13; Mason, 11; and Ella, 3. They are members of the Southern Hills church in Abilene. Phil is a golfer, and Jamie plays tennis.



THOMAS METTHE, ABILENE REPORTER-NEWS

Phil Schubert is the 11th president in Abilene Christian's 104-year history.

A conversation with Phil Schubert

NEW PRESIDENT of Abilene Christian discusses university's history, faith and role in a changing world.

What relationship to Churches of Christ will ACU have under your leadership?

ACU was founded with Churches of Christ as its primary constituency. That's not going to change. Churches of Christ have been, are today and will be in the future ACU's core market.

The university's purpose is not only to educate young men and women to be mature Christian servants and leaders, but also to serve as a resource to the church.

As such, ACU will expand its presence in and support of Churches of Christ across the country while continuing to attract students from a wide variety of denominations and faith. In doing so, ACU will always maintain its core identity as an institution of higher learning.

While serving the church, we will neither attempt to be a church nor replace the church. We will seek both to lead and to follow in our efforts to strengthen the church and serve as good

stewards of the tremendous resources God has provided.

Most colleges founded on religious principles do not remain true to those for even a century. What direction will you plot for ACU?

Several books have been written about institutions of higher education that started out with a strong Christian commitment but later, in a quest for academic excellence, ultimately gave way to secular influences, thus profoundly changing each institution. Some have even suggested that the coexistence of true academic excellence and a real faith commitment is virtually impossible to achieve. I'm certainly aware of this research.

On the other hand, there are those who believe that an institution of higher learning may at one and the same time be Christian in its core beliefs and excellent in its academic standards.

To be sure, institutions able to achieve such a status are a small and distinctive breed. ACU will be such an institution.

Are the founding purposes of ACU relevant for today's church and society?

ACU's mission is to educate students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world. Never has that mission been more relevant than it is today.

We live in a world that is starving for men and women of strong values and selfless attitudes who live for a purpose beyond themselves. We need strong Christian men and women who are passionate about helping the marginalized within our society as well as being capable of leading the most sophisticated and educated of our world.

Preparing young men and women for such diverse callings is the purpose of ACU and

should remain the purpose of Christian higher education.

What interested you in becoming president of ACU?

As the youngest of three boys, I grew up constantly aware of much of what was going on within Churches of Christ and on the ACU campus.

Both my parents as well as both my older brothers attended ACU, and my father spent virtually his entire career as a pulpit minister in the Church of Christ

(after a short time as dean of students at then Oklahoma Christian College). I continued my family's legacy at ACU, enrolling as a freshman in the fall of 1987.

What took place over the next four years was a transformational

experience that helped to shape every aspect of who I am. I developed my own personal faith, determined what life values were most important to me and began my journey to make a difference in the world.

I experienced the value and purpose of Christian higher education in a way that was very personal. I love ACU, and I want to ensure that future generations benefit from the same experience.

What do you see as the next great challenge for ACU?

Our vision for building a national reputation for academic excellence while ensuring an unwavering commitment to the spiritual development of our students will prove tremendously challenging.

As discussed earlier, a number of historically faith-based colleges and universities have been unable to keep such a dual focus. ACU's commitment to remain faithful to our spiritual heritage and our ability to remain relevant among higher education's best institutions will define much of our future.

'While serving the church, we will never attempt to be a church nor replace the church. We will seek both to lead and follow in our efforts to strengthen the church.'

Phil Schubert

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ABILENE
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Mr. Boateng goes to Washington

BELIEVERS FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH *worship across D.C., with prayers focused on their homelands.*

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

HYATTSVILLE, Md.

For Kingsley Boateng, Sunday mornings are reminders of home — not just the heavenly one he anticipates in the hereafter, but the earthly one he misses in Africa.

Born in Ghana, Boateng is the only one of seven siblings to come to the U.S. for higher education. He earned a doctorate in biochemistry in Ohio before moving inside the Washington Beltway, where he works as a research fellow for the National Institutes of Health.

He's also one of the leaders of the 75-member Church of Christ (Ghanaian Congregation) in Hyattsville, a Maryland suburb about seven miles from the U.S. Capitol.

"We have one mind, one focus," Boateng said. "It makes the work go a little bit faster."

The church meets in the building of the University Park Church of Christ, a 165-member congregation. Ghanaian and American children attend Bible classes together. One pre-school class has 14 kids on the rolls. All but two are Ghanaian, said Linda Simpson, a University Park member who teaches Sunday school.

As University Park members worship in the main auditorium, the Ghanaians gather in a smaller sanctuary across the hall. The Africans sing hymns and listen to sermons in a mixture of English

and Twi, a Ghanaian language.

The two congregations consider each other as family, said King Binney, who teaches an adult Bible class for the Ghanaian church.

"We are all the Church of Christ," he said.

But both churches need space, Boateng said. The Ghanaians are looking for a new home in the pricey Washington suburbs.

"We're struggling to raise funds to buy property," he said.

'WE ARE ABLE TO SEE GOD HERE'

On a recent Sunday, Binney, a registered nurse, launched a series on the book of Acts. He bombarded his audience with questions about the church's rapid growth after Pentecost.

"The first African to become a Christian was in what chapter?" Binney asked.

"Chapter eight," they replied.

Many Africans have followed the Ethiopian's example in Acts. Today Churches of Christ in Africa outnumber those in the U.S., and estimates of total membership top 1 million. Churches also are booming in other

parts of the Global South — Southeast

Asia, Latin America and the Indian subcontinent.

African Christians are eager to spread the Gospel, but

when they come to the U.S., some "forget about the Lord," Boateng said. The Ghanaian church baptized eight people last year but also has restored many "backsliders" who had stopped attending, he said.

Some Ghanaians who attend American churches are less active than they were in Ghana,



Boateng



Ninth in a series



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Glory Mensah leads children's worship time at the Church of Christ (Ghanaian Congregation) in Maryland.

said Emmanuel Odame.

"So coming together helps them also to ... use their God-given talent in their own language," Odame said.

Ghanaian Churches of Christ also meet in New York and Columbus, Ohio. Smaller groups exist in Florida, Mississippi, West Virginia and Canada.

In July the Maryland church hosts an annual Ghanaian lectureship. Nicholas Mensah is the host minister.

Recently the church hosted a separate conference for Ghanaian Christian women. Mensah's wife, Glory, was a speaker.

"We do miss home, but we feel great that we are able to see God here," she said.

A 'CROSS-SECTION OF THE WORLD'

Thirteen miles from Hyattsville, a diverse body of believers worships at the 16th and Decatur Church of Christ.

The church, located in the District of Columbia, has about 125 members, minister Edward Wilson said. About 30 are from Latin America.

"We have people from all over ... Africa, Jamaica, the Philippines," he said. "It's a pretty good cross-section of the world."

George Roy, a native of Bangladesh, found out about the church after he moved to Washington in the early 1990s.

He called a Presbyterian church and asked to meet with the pastor, who said he was free in two weeks. Then he called the

16th and Decatur church. Member Wayne Crump asked him to come right away and gave him directions.

"I got the truth," Roy said.

He was baptized and has attended the church with his family ever since.

HELPING 'THE CHURCH BACK HOME'

Regardless of where they worship, the Global South Christians share a desire to spread the Gospel in their homelands.

Since 1997 Roy had traveled to Bangladesh for month-long

mission trips and has planted congregations there. His church supports the work.

The economic downturn kept Roy from making the trip last December. It also cost him his accounting job with a construction company. He drives a taxi to make ends meet, but that isn't his main concern. Almost half of Bangladesh's 162 million souls live on less than a dollar a day. He wants to help.

"We need \$3,000 to \$4,000 per year to pay for one congregation," he said.

Members of the Ghanaian church also feel a burden to help their mother country. The congregation supports the Hope Foundation, which provides financial support for ministers in rural Ghana and the work of Arnold Dzah, a Ghanaian-born missionary in Senegal.

"Our ultimate aim is to be able to help the growth of the church back home," Boateng said.

CONTACT the Ghanaian congregation at churchofchristghmd.org or the 16th and Decatur church at (202) 882-4711.



Roy

To give hope, it takes a village

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

GOMOA FETTEH, Ghana

Roland Bulley and his wife, Gladys, have a big family — 24 children, to be exact.

For the past 15 years, the couple has helped transform the lives of less-fortunate youths at the Village of Hope. The church-supported work provides a home, education, medicine and vocational training for hundreds of children in this West African nation.



Roland Bulley



Asare

The ministry was the idea of Ghanaian church members Emmanuel Asante and Christian Nsoah and American missionary Jerry Reynolds. After struggling for several years, the elders of the Vertical Centre Church of Christ in Tema, Ghana, took oversight of the ministry with assistance from the Traverse City, Mich., church.

The Bulleys were chosen in 1995 to serve as the ministry's first houseparents. Eight children were brought to the first house in the town of Ayawaso.

The ministry later purchased 25 acres of land in Fetteh, a village in Ghana's Gomaa region, about an hour from the Ghanaian capital, Accra. Today, the Village of Hope cares for more than 170 children in eight homes. Ghanaian Christian Fred Asare serves as director of the children's home.

Children from the Village and the community attend the three-story Hope Christian Academy. The ministry also oversees a medical clinic and a vocational training program.

ON THE WEB: www.thevillageofhope.com



A child leads a prayer before classes are dismissed at Hope Christian Academy in Ghana.

PHOTOS BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD



Students walk through the Children's Art Village plaza outside Hope Christian Academy. In 2009, 35 American and five Ghanaian artists conducted classes for more than 200 children at the school and the Village of Hope.



ABOUT THIS SERIES

Churches of Christ are changing. Less than a century ago, most of the members were concentrated in the United States. But after decades of evangelism, the epicenters of church growth have shifted from Nashville, Tenn., and Dallas to cities including Hyderabad, India; Tegucigalpa, Honduras; and Accra, Ghana.

Today, Christians from the Global South — Africa, the Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia and Latin America — increasingly are taking the lead in evangelizing their own people and reaching beyond their own borders. Today, the people converted by missionaries have become missionaries themselves.

The Christian Chronicle launched Global South in July 2009 to spotlight the changing face of the church. The series focuses on indigenous-led ministries, including the Village of Hope in Ghana. Features in the series also describe how the changing demographics of faith are transforming Churches of Christ in the Western world, including the U.S. and Europe.

Read more stories from Global South at www.christianchronicle.org. Look for the "articles" tab and click on "continuing coverage."



AUBRIE ROSS/WWW.HEARTBEATFORHOPE.COM

Francis Sosu speaks to children at the Memorial Road Church of Christ in Edmond, Okla. The children collect money to support Ghanaian children in the Joy Barnett house at the Village of Hope.

Law school grad: 'Love lifted me' from the streets to success

BY JOY McMILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

EDMOND, Okla.

Born to an alcoholic father and a struggling, uneducated mother, Francis Sosu lived something of a double life.

By day, he was an academically brilliant student — an up-and-coming leader in the West African nation of Ghana. He was named "Class Prefect" each year.

Local media repeatedly featured him for spearheading a social initiative — advocating a change in Ghanaian law that would give educational access to the disabled and needy.

But by night, Sosu was a homeless street child. His parents were unable to provide for him and his four siblings, so he joined the throngs of Ghana's "hawkers" who clog its busy city streets. He peddled fish, water and oranges.

Sometimes, he just begged. At school, he tried to hide his circumstances, dodging school officials who pressured him to pay his fees.

"I simply had only one option which I held onto — to succeed despite my circumstances," Sosu said.

Now 31, Sosu has done just that. He earned a degree in sociology and graduates this summer with one in law. He traveled to Washington recently to participate in an international mock trial competition.

After the competition, he visited the suburbs of Oklahoma City to talk about the Village of Hope, a ministry that changed — and likely saved — his life.

In Ghana, Sosu was an active leader in a religious group. But

no one asked him about the life he lived away from the pews.

"No one seemed to care," he said "I asked myself, 'Where is the love of Christ that we always speak and sing about?'"

That changed during his senior year, when he met Roland Bulley, a Christian educator and long-time houseparent at the Village of Hope. Bulley brought the young man to the attention of the ministry's administrators, including managing director Fred Asare.

"He was malnourished and close to dropping out of school when the Village of Hope came forward to help this destitute boy," Asare said of Sosu.

Though he was far beyond the usual age for admittance, administrators took Sosu in. They gave him a home, food and clothing and paid his school fees.

"This is the place where Christ is, and this is where I want to

be," Sosu said, recalling his first impressions of the Village of Hope. Soon, he began referring to Asare as "dad."

In Oklahoma, Sosu visited Christians and congregations that have supported him, including the Memorial Road Church of Christ in Edmond. The church sends mission teams to the Village of Hope. Children give their allowance money and host fundraisers for the Ghanaian children.

Memorial Road members Don and Marita Barnett met Sosu in Ghana five years ago during a trip to the Village of Hope.

"Francis was one of those unusual street kids," Marita Barnett said. "He had a definite idea of what he wanted to do with his life. It's amazing to talk with him and see the depth of spirituality that he has."

The Barnetts helped finance Sosu's law degree. After gradua-

tion, he plans to use his skills to serve less fortunate souls.

But he also has bigger plans.

"His long-term goal — and he will tell you quickly — is to become president of Ghana," Marita Barnett said.

Before returning to Ghana, Sosu spoke during a worship service at Memorial Road. As he approached the pulpit, he sang "Love Lifted Me."

He can hardly hear the song without weeping, he said. It's also the title of his autobiography.

"I was not only 'sinking deep in sin,' but also in pain, frustration, and poverty," he wrote in his book. "I wasn't just 'far from the peaceful shore,' but also far from the basic necessities of life, which to me were luxuries that were beyond the reach of the ordinary person."

"When nothing else could help, love lifted me."



Sosu



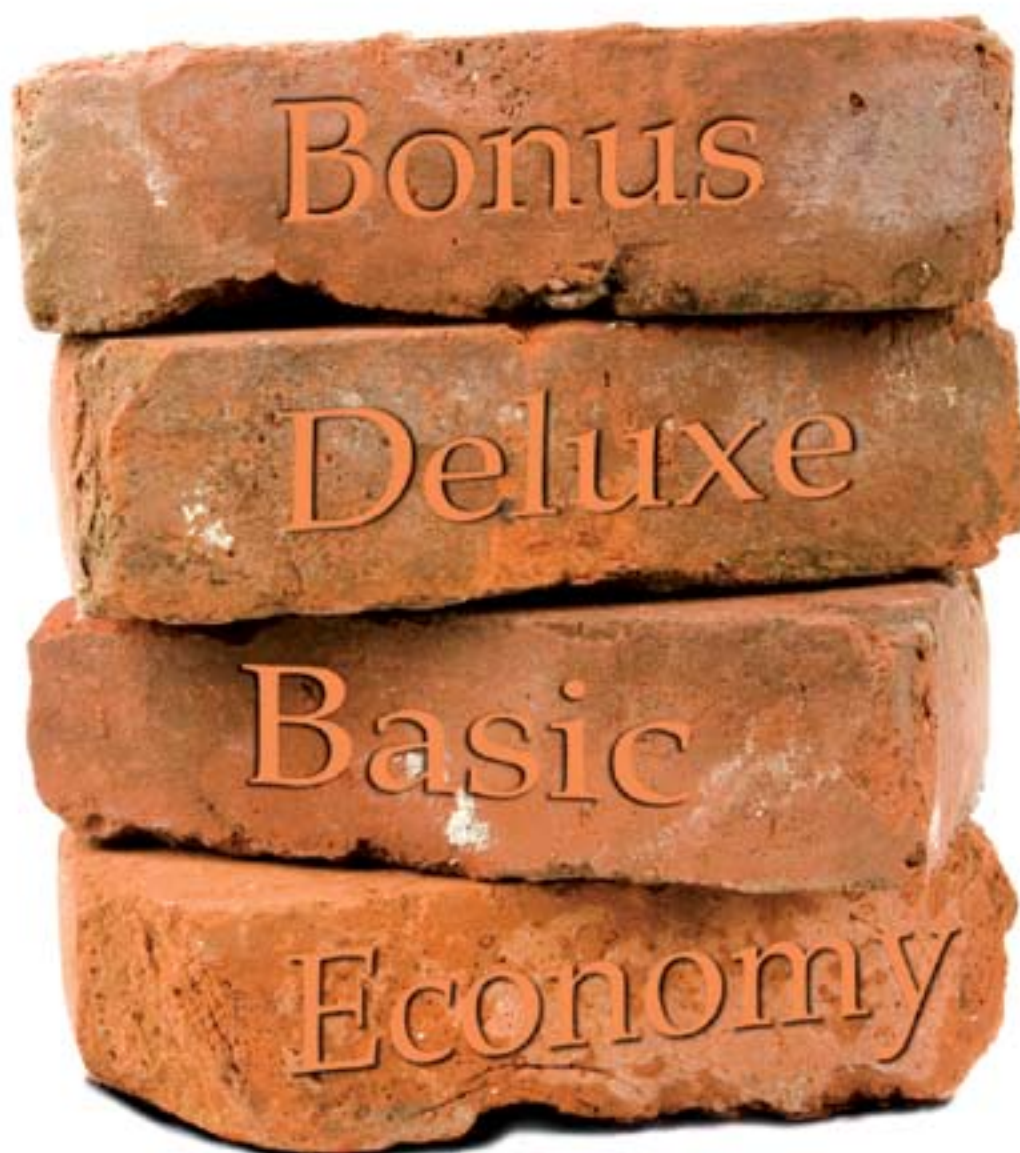
Roland Bulley talks to a student after class at Hope Christian Academy.

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ASCENDING VOICE: Symposium focuses on sacred a cappella singing

FROM PAGE 3

Like the first symposium, the sequel combined scholarly presentations on topics such as “Little Known Pages from the History of Russian Sacred Music” and “Singing in Reformation Scotland and Early America” with more contemporary themes such as “Singing and the Spiritual Formation of Children” and “Worship Spaces and Effective Singing.”

Performers included singing groups from universities associated with Churches of Christ, including Abilene Christian University in Texas, Harding University in Searcy, Ark., Rochester College in Michigan and Pepperdine.

Everett Ferguson, distinguished scholar in residence at Abilene Christian and a leading authority on ancient Christianity, presented a theology of singing. Tom Olbricht, distinguished professor emeritus of religion at Pepperdine, discussed singing in early American churches.

Tippens said he hoped the symposium could play a role in refreshing and renewing a cappella singing.

“I hope we’re planting a mustard seed here, and that by bringing in people literally from all over the United States and from around the world, we will create a rich new understanding of a cappella music,” he said. “(I hope) there will be a new fervor about the importance of preserving it, taking it home to our local congregations, sharing what we’ve learned, and in a sense, renewing the tradition.”

Asked if he thinks of a cappella singing in terms of tradition or doctrine, Tippens replied, “Well, obviously, there’s a doctrinal element to it.

“But let me also say, in many churches, we have turned

a cappella singing into a barrier,” he added. “It’s become a wall of separation between us and others. It doesn’t have to be a wall. I think this week the wall has fallen, and it’s become a bridge.

“A cappella music should be a bridge to all sorts of people in our culture. And if we find it’s a barrier, we’re doing it wrong.”

‘COMMON LANGUAGE’ LACKING?

Neglect of congregational singing — not any outside force — poses the biggest threat to a cappella worship, Tippens suggested.

Panelist Ken Adams, professor of music and chorale director at Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City, agreed.

“It’s lost ground already, and unless steps are taken, just the course of inertia will continue to send it down that road, I’m sorry to say,” Adams said.

In an earlier interview with *The Christian Chronicle*, Adams said many congregations sing fewer — and in some cases, none — of what he described as “the great Protestant four-part hymns or even the Stamps-Baxter songs, which used to be the more popular style of our song repertory.”

“Instead, they are quickly moving to praise songs,” Adams said. “Thus, we are producing a generation that, if they are not in school music, may have never looked at a piece of written music. They have not learned to sing a harmony part in church, and that musical concept is generally foreign to them.”

In Adams’ view, Churches of Christ are losing the “common language” of sacred song.

“The different generations no longer have a body of worship songs that is known by the entire congregation,” he said.

“Grandchildren don’t know the

‘The different generations no longer have a body of worship songs that is known by the entire congregation.’

Ken Adams

Professor of music, Oklahoma Christian University



RON HALL, PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY

Ken Nafgizer, a Mennonite music professor, leads a cappella spirituals at Stauffer Chapel on the Pepperdine campus.

music of grandparents, let alone the music of the worldwide body of believers from the past four to five centuries. We are experiencing the fragmentation of the main corporate activity in our common worship experience.”

Brad and Alice Anne Light, a married couple in their 20s, performed at “The Ascending Voice II” with the Harding Chamber Singers.



A. Light

The couple, both of whom grew up in Churches of Christ, said churches put too little emphasis on teaching young people to sing.

“It seems like we spend 50 percent of our worship time singing, but there’s almost no education ... on how that process works, how you read music, what music is good for singing and that sort of thing,” Brad Light said.

KIDS AND ACOUSTICS

How can congregational singing be improved?

Two potential keys were explored at the symposium:

• Marti O’Rear, children’s minister at the Greenville Oaks

Church of Christ in Allen, Texas, shared insight on singing and the spiritual formation of children.

O’Rear, a trained vocalist and a music education graduate of Pepperdine, mixed advice on teaching children to sing with demonstrations of songs ranging from “Hear O Israel” to “I’ve Got the Joy, Joy, Joy.”

“As always, we want some fun songs that help our children to engage in singing but mostly want to encourage music that calls our children to worship — songs that help convey truth, songs that incline their hearts toward God, songs that reflect Jesus’ love and sacrifice and songs that express thankfulness,” O’Rear told the *Chronicle*.

• Kelly Neill, assistant professor of music and concert choir director at Harding, focused on church building acoustics.

Congregational singing places unusual demands on a room, but often, acoustics are not even considered when a church building is constructed or remodeled, Neill said.

In many cases, weak singing may be less of a reflection of a church’s health than of a building’s poor design, he said.

“Improving the acoustics in a worship facility may improve

the singing and, in turn, our perception of a church’s health,” Neill said.

“Better acoustics are probably not a panacea for every church problem, whether low attendance or active involvement or singing,” he added. “I simply want to make the case that careful consideration of acoustics will help congregational singing more than most people realize.”

The 400-member Johnson Street Church of Christ in Greenville, Texas, is developing plans for a new building.

Johnson Street minister Randy Daw, who heard Neill’s presentation, said the advice will come in handy, as will other insights he gained at “The Ascending Voice II.”



Daw

“I’m also a composer, but I think congregational singing has more influence on the health of the church than the preacher does,” Daw said. “I think a cappella singing is gaining traction in the wider world of Christendom, and I’m glad to see it happening.

“I think that treasuring that and making it better is a very important part of our heritage.”



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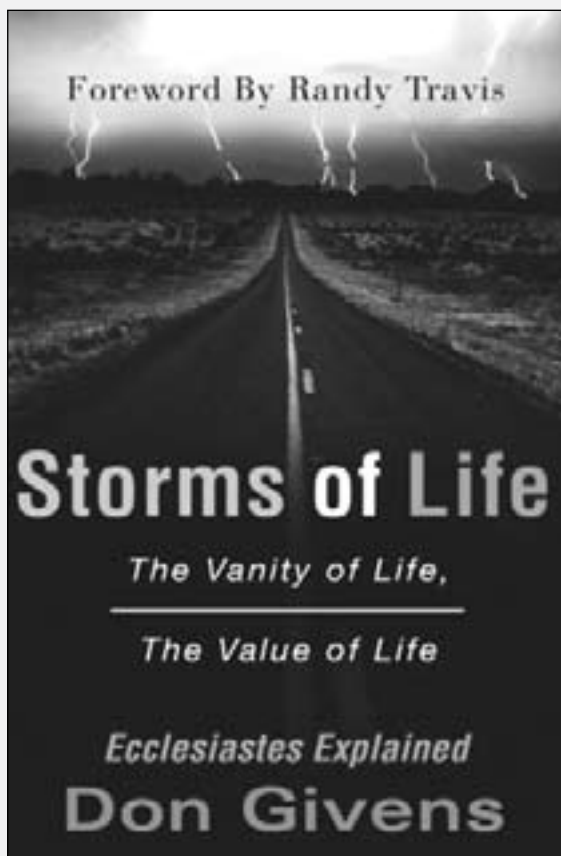
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Foreword By Randy Travis

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CAMPUS MINISTRY

MUSTANGS FOR CHRIST

WICHITA FALLS, Texas — Students with the Midwestern State University campus ministry recently traveled to Boulder, Colo., to work with Benny Nowell, his wife, Niki, and their three children.

The Nowells reach out to the homeless in Boulder, said Johnny Bond, Mustangs for Christ campus minister.

"This is an exciting ministry being brought to the 'least of these,'" Bond said.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

CHILDPLACE INC.

JEFFERSONVILLE, Ind. — About 120 volunteers from General Electric Co. were on hand at the children's home recently.

The volunteers did everything from building decks to putting down mulch to building to painting a basketball court, the *Evening News and Tribune* reported.

HIGHER EDUCATION

CROWLEY'S RIDGE COLLEGE

PARAGOULD, Ark. — For the first time in its 46-year history, the college awarded bachelor's degree at its spring commencement ceremonies.

The first nine bachelor's degree recipients since Crowley's Ridge became a four-year college included Katie Smith, granddaughter of Emmett Smith, who founded the college in 1964. Eighteen two-year associate's degrees also were conferred.

"I know my Grandpa would be proud of the way CRC is growing, and he would be so pleased," Katie Smith said. "I am proud to be part of the first graduating senior class of CRC." Other inaugural graduates were Josh Hale, Stephen Fields, Steven White, John Mark Warnick, Elise Edmonds, Michael Chaffin, Bethany Binkley and Michael Warnick.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY CROWLEY'S RIDGE COLLEGE

The first nine recipients of bachelor's degrees at Crowley's Ridge College in Paragould, Ark.



JEFF MONTGOMERY, HARDING UNIVERSITY

'Extreme Dorm Makeover' at Harding University

The physical resources department at Harding University in Searcy, Ark., joins other staff members and construction workers on the campus recently to kick off renovations for Sears Hall. The \$4.5 million project has been dubbed "Extreme Home Makeover: Dorm Edition 2010." Sears, the largest dorm on campus, was built in 1975 and is undergoing the first renovations since its construction. Renovations will include mechanical upgrades, a new cooling and fresh air system, an allergy-free wing and cosmetic improvements, Harding officials said.

HARDING UNIVERSITY

SEARCY, Ark. — Harding's 88-year-old chancellor and former president has returned to Arkansas after a four-day boat trip down the Mississippi River, *The Daily Citizen* reported.

Clifton Ganus Jr., his son and two others took the 700-mile trip from Georgetown to New Orleans.

Ganus said being on the water and visiting his hometown of New Orleans are two of his favorite things to do.

The foursome spent their nights during the trip on islands in the river, stopping in towns along the way to buy gas for the boat.

FLORIDA COLLEGE

TEMPLE TERRACE, Fla. — Two science courses have been added to the Florida College curriculum that will serve students interested in the medical field: microbiology and genetics.

LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Lipscomb is one of the nation's most environmentally responsible colleges, according to *The Princeton Review*.

Lipscomb is included in a new resource for college applicants — "The Princeton

Review's Guide to 286 Green Colleges."

Developed in partnership with the U.S. Green Building Council, the guidebook focuses on institutions of higher education that have demonstrated an above-average commitment to sustainability in terms of campus infrastructure, activities and initiatives.

OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

OKLAHOMA CITY — The university's program in video game design ranks in the top 50 nationally, according to *The Princeton Review* and *GamePro* magazine.

About 500 game design programs in the United States and Canada were evaluated.

"The final choice for the top 50 schools really came down to teaching, curriculum and software," said Jeff Price, gaming program adviser in Oklahoma Christian's art and design department.

YORK COLLEGE

YORK, Neb. — The college has launched York College Online with more than 30 courses available throughout the summer, President Steve Eckman said.

The program is available for students seeking undergraduate hours and degree completion leading to a bachelor's in business administration or general studies.

SPORTS

Top Bulldog at Miss. State

STARKVILLE, Miss. — Scott Stricklin, a member of the Starkville Church of Christ, has been named director of athletics at Mississippi State University.

"This guy is a very godly man full of integrity," said his friend Jim Martin, pulpit minister of the Crestview Church of Christ in Waco, Texas.

Martin said Stricklin's wife, Anne, attended Abilene Christian University in Texas.

Stricklin's father-in-law, Bailey Howell, a former Mississippi State basketball star, serves as an elder at the Starkville church.

Stricklin, 40, had served as senior associate athletics director for external affairs with the Southeastern Conference program since 2008. He previously was employed in media relations and marketing positions at Auburn, Tulane, Baylor and Kentucky before returning to Mississippi State, his alma mater.



Stricklin

RELIEF MINISTRIES

HEALING HANDS INTERNATIONAL

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — In the months since the Haiti earthquake, Nashville, Tenn.-based Healing Hands International has drilled 16 water wells, providing water to more than 100,000 people displaced by the quake, said Alisa Van Dyke, development officer.

Harry Hames, a deacon of the Beltline Church of Christ in Decatur, Ala., is working as the ministry's on-the-ground representative in Haiti. He is coordinating the launch of several "micro-businesses" that will provide jobs for up to 50 people, Van Dyke said.

"This summer we have plans to begin conducting food sustainability workshops that will empower the people of Haiti to begin feeding themselves," she added. For more information, see www.hhi.org.

HIS KIDS TOO

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — A house in Ukraine used by this relief ministry for orphans burned down recently, destroying hundreds of dollars in aid. Supporters have replaced much of what was lost, but more help is needed, the ministry reported. For more information, see www.hiskidstoo.org.



Positions Available Fall 2010

All candidates must be active members of the church of Christ and committed to Christ-centered Liberal Arts education and Christian service.

Chair of the Education Department

The Department of Education is seeking a person qualified to direct the Graduate and Undergraduate Education degree programs who will be dedicated to the maintenance, as well as development of these disciplines at Faulkner University. The Chair will also have teaching responsibilities at the undergraduate and graduate levels. This is a 12-month position.

Faculty Position in Education

The Department of Education is seeking a person qualified to teach in the Education degree programs who will be dedicated to the development of these disciplines at Faulkner University. The teaching responsibilities will be at the undergraduate and graduate levels. This is a 9-month position.

Additional details regarding these positions, including application requirements, are available on Faulkner's website: www.faulkner.edu

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Rwandan president visits Georgia, Oklahoma schools

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Sixteen years after genocide claimed 800,000 lives in Rwanda, Paul Kagame wants schools associated with Churches of Christ to help rebuild his country.

The African president toured the campus of Greater Atlanta Christian School recently. A delegation from the Norcross, Ga., school visited Rwanda in 2008 and invited Kagame to come to Atlanta.

The delegation also approached Kagame about building a school in Rwanda to help train the next generation of Africa's leaders, said Sam

Shewmaker, facilitator for African church planting for Texas-based Missions Resource Network. Shewmaker and his wife, who live in Rwanda, hosted the delegation.

Before leaving GACS, Kagame said, "This visit has brought great appreciation for the initiative to replicate this model in Rwanda," the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reported. "We have seen that we share a fond passion in investing in the education for the good of our young people. In Rwanda, education is a top priority."

From Atlanta, Kagame traveled to Oklahoma City and spoke at

Oklahoma Christian University's graduation. Among the graduates were 10 Rwandan students who attended the university through an international exchange program. Oklahoma Christian has about 60 Rwandan students, studying under an agreement that they return to Rwanda.

"They will put to good use the knowledge they have acquired here when they go back to Rwanda," Kagame said of the 10 graduates. "What you get from a university is only the start of a much bigger assignment, a much longer journey."

After graduation, about 100 of the Rwandans' relatives, host families in the U.S. and government officials attended a prayer service on campus.

"We want to send the students off to make the world a better place," OC

President Mike O'Neal said, adding that this can be done only through prayer.

American Christians have "earned no right" to tell Rwandans how best to govern their country, O'Neal said, "but we do have access to the wisdom of eternity ... and we leave you with that today."

Rwandan students presented Kagame with an OC baseball jersey. One of them, Yves Mujiyambere, told the Rwandan president that he and his classmates had been good ambassadors for Rwanda in their adopted state.

"Now, we hope to be good ambassadors of Oklahoma in Rwanda," he said.

During Kagame's visit, an Oklahoma attorney attempted to serve the president with a wrongful-death lawsuit on behalf of the widows of the former presidents of Rwanda and Burundi.

The presidents' plane was shot down in 1994, and their deaths sparked the Rwandan genocide, which ended when Kagame's Rwandan Patriotic Front took control of the country. Some have accused Kagame of ordering the assassination — a charge Kagame denies.

During graduation, six protesters with a civil rights group

stood across the street from the university, holding signs accusing Oklahoma Christian of "sleeping with the devil."

The group alleges that Kagame has violated human rights and taken innocent lives during incursions into the neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo.

"From everything we see, it's a very good school with a very good mission," protester Claude Gatebuke, a Rwandan, said of OC. "We're just concerned that (Kagame's) lack of respect of human rights is going to descend Rwanda into another genocide."

At the prayer service, Shewmaker asked God to "bless the people of Rwanda who still harbor hatred and anger. Turn it into the ability to rebuild the nation of Rwanda in peace."



GREG MORRIS

Rwandan President Paul Kagame receives flowers from sixth-grader Victoria Garner at Greater Atlanta Christian School as GACS President David Fincher watches.



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All candidates must be active members of the church of Christ and committed to Christ-centered Liberal Arts education and Christian service.

Vice President for Academic Affairs

Faulkner University is seeking a highly qualified individual to serve as Vice President for Academic Affairs. This individual will serve as the University's chief academic officer and will report directly to the President.

Candidates must have an earned doctorate from a regionally accredited institution, a minimum of 5 years of academic administrative experience, and a significant record of teaching, research and scholarly achievement. The start date for this position is January 1, 2011.

Additional details regarding this position, including application requirements, are available on Faulkner's website:
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Freed-Hardeman University Faculty Position Available 2010

Freed-Hardeman University, a private, liberal arts Christian university offering undergraduate and graduate programs, is inviting applicants for the following position:

Director of Nursing Position Available

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

Rank and Salary: Academic rank is dependent upon academic qualifications and experience. The salary is commensurate with

highest degree earned and years of experience. Benefits package is included with the position.

All candidates should submit a letter of application with teaching philosophy, comprehensive resume, transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work, and names and addresses of three references to: Dr. LeAnn Self-Davis, Dean of the School of Sciences and Mathematics, Freed-Hardeman University, 158 East Main Street, Henderson, TN 38340, ldavis@fhu.edu, (731) 989-6032 Office, and (731) 989-6996 Fax.

The position will remain open until filled, with employment to begin in August of 2010. All applicants need to be members in good standing of the churches of Christ according to university policy. See <http://www.fhu.edu/humRes/humRes.asp> for an application and further details. Freed-Hardeman University is an equal opportunity employer.

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After eight years in Africa, Dr. Ellen Little comes home

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

ABILENE, Texas

Before she began her new job, Dr. Ellen Little acknowledged, she “had to figure out how to be American again.”

Last July, after eight years as a medical missionary in Uganda, she became campus physician for Abilene Christian University.

In Africa, “I treated people who provided reimbursement in the form of avocados, eggs, occasionally live poultry,” she said. “It is a different world here.”

But it was here, on the plains of West Texas, where she first was inspired to consider serving God in Africa. Little grew up at the Hillcrest Church of Christ, near ACU’s campus, hearing reports from missionaries in South Africa. In high school she and her sister, Alicia, decided to be missionaries.

Alicia married Jay Walls and served for seven years in Italy.

Ellen Little, meanwhile, got involved in medical missions. As a student at ACU, she traveled to Guatemala as an apprentice in the Medical Evangelism Training program, sponsored by Health Talents International.

Living in primitive conditions didn’t bother her, said Marie Agee, the program’s director.

“Very youthful ... with hair down to her waist, she did not look like your typical missionary,” Agee said. “But Ellen’s heart was there.”

On her first day of medical school at Texas Tech, Little met Lisa Dunham, who also trained in the Health Talents program. Little was at the top of their class, Dunham said, and later was one of the best pediatric residents at the University Medical Center in Lubbock.

“But I think the thing that impresses me the most is that she decided to serve in Uganda as a general physician ... rather than pursue seemingly loftier career opportunities like a subspecialist or an academician,” said Dunham, who also became



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Dr. Ellen Little shows some fair-trade paper giraffes produced in Africa for Eternal Threads (www.eternalthreads.org).

a medical missionary, living in Guatemala and working for Health Talents.

Agee described Little as someone “who knew what she wanted to do with her life and single-mindedly set about preparing herself for it.”

“She is living proof that, when God gives you a vision, watch out,” Agee said.

SINGLE, FEMALE, MISSIONARY

During her residency, Little traveled to Uganda and was recruited to join a mission team there in 2001. The Hillcrest church sponsored her work.

In Uganda, she treated patients and gave talks on abstinence and other health issues to teens.

“Some things I treated were ordinary ... colds and viruses, high blood pressure, asthma,” she said. Other maladies were common to Africa — malaria and illnesses caused by

parasites. AIDS was common, though Uganda is thought to have lower infection rates than its African neighbors.

Little also treated victims of torture — refugees from conflicts in Uganda, Sudan and other locales. Many suffered from severe physical, mental and spiritual wounds.

“Those were the ones I was least prepared to see,” she said, “and those were the days when I just felt like ... crawling home because it was so hard.”

But she persevered, despite the hardships and despite being a single female in Uganda’s rigid social hierarchy.

“I got extra points for being a doctor, points taken away for being female and more points taken away for being a female that has never produced,” she said. “That’s a big, big deal, having a baby — more so than being married.”

But her unique status gave her chances “to learn from Ugandans things that they would not be willing to tell a 60-year-old white man with gray hair,” she said.

Little worked with Ugandan church leaders, including Isaac Sanyu, who described her as a gifted physician and Bible teacher.

“Dr. Ellen was very instrumental during my mom’s battle with cancer,” Sanyu said. She

bought drugs the minister couldn’t afford and tried to make his mother comfortable.

One day, “Ellen asked my mom what else she could do for her,” Sanyu said. “My mom replied, ‘I want to be baptized.’ Immediately Ellen drove her up to the church building.”

A few weeks later, Sanyu’s mother died. Little helped the minister make the 10-hour drive to his mother’s village, where she was buried.

“Such is the kind of gift Dr. Ellen was — and continues to be — to all of us,” Sanyu said.

WHERE TO NEXT?

Little lost her own father in October 2008 and came home to be with her family. She hasn’t made any five- or 10-year plans but believes that, in her life, God has opened doors to foreign fields — and may do so again.

“I’d love it if I end up going somewhere else,” she said. “It might be Africa. It might be China. It might be Afghanistan. It might be Brazil. Who knows?”

In her role as ACU’s campus physician, Little “is proving to be a wonderful catalyst for holistic missions,” said Larry Henderson, the university’s missionary coordinator for Asia.

“Students appreciate hearing what God did through Ellen in Uganda and are motivated to be more available for his work in their own lives,” Henderson said.

She enjoys talking about the Christians she encountered in Africa. Though American churches understand some spiritual truths that Africans struggle to grasp, “there are other ways in which African churches have grasped spiritual truths that American churches have not,” she said.

“My hope and prayer would be that we can learn from each other and grow,” she added. “The more we are able to relate to each other — and believe me, that is so much more difficult than it seems to be on the surface — the better we’ll be. The more we’ll be Christ’s body. The more we’ll be a kingdom.”

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NEWSMAKERS

NAMED: Dan Bouchelle, executive director of Missions Resource Network, Bedford, Texas. Bouchelle, minister for the Central church in Amarillo, Texas, succeeds **Bob Waldron**, founding director. **Steve Baber** to the Arkansas Academy of Computing. Baber is professor of mathematics and computer science at Harding University, Searcy, Ark.



Bouchelle

AWARDED: Kris Miller, the ITA Regional and National Coach of the Year awards. Miller is head tennis coach for Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City. **Juan Antonio Monroy**, the George Borrow Prize for Biblical Broadcasting during the Christian Literature Encounter at the University of Salamanca, Spain. Monroy works for Herald of Truth Ministries in Abilene, Texas.



Waldron

HONORED: Willie Hubbard Jr., for 21 years of service, by the District Heights, Md. church. Hubbard helped plant the church in April 1989 and serves as one of its elders.



NEW MINISTER: Terry Kitson, Central church, Topeka, Kan.

Monroy

ANNIVERSARIES: 70th: Frank and Elma Towell, Weiser, Idaho. **60th:** Don and Mary Lee Boston, Fort Worth, Texas; Noel and Betty Davis, Springfield, Mo.; Lee and Ann Marsh, Nashville, Tenn. **59th:** Dan and Charlena Freeman, Deatsville, Ala. **50th:** Garrie and Gloria Yates, Charlotte, N.C.



Hubbard

BIRTHDAYS: 100th: Edna Johnson, Atwater, Calif. **95th:** Frank Towell, Weiser, Idaho. **88th:** Elma Towell, Weiser, Idaho. **84th:** Reed Munsell, Hastings, Neb. **79th:** Kenneth Lockling, Hastings, Neb.

PASSAGES: **Betty Casida**, 75, Feb. 24, Amarillo, Texas, longtime member of the Southwest church in Amarillo. **Mary Ann Sweet Eggleston**, 77, April 28, Edmond, Okla., attended Central Christian University (now Oklahoma Christian University) in Bartlesville, Okla, a longtime church member in Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas. **Maria Karikou**, 84, Feb. 10, Athens, Greece, one of the first church members in Egio, Greece, mother of Eleni Melirrytos, church worker in Athens. **Daniel Chukwuyem Ojeh**, 65, April 8, chairman of the governing board of West Nigeria Christian College in Abeokuta, Nigeria. **Lucy Stansberry**, 91, April 28, longtime member of the 2nd and Adams church in Elk City, Okla.



Ojeh

June 20-25 National Deaf Christian Workshop. "Sound Doctrine." Faulkner University, Montgomery, Ala. Contact Elba, Ala. church (334) 897-2057 or www.deafworkshop.com.

June 21-27 Morro Bay Family Encampment. "Islam, the Quran and New Testament Christianity." Morro Bay, Calif. Contact (805) 772-7248 or morrobaycc1@hotmail.com.

June 26-30 Red River Family Encampment. 24th annual. "Listening to the Heart of God." Pre-register at www.rrfe.org. Contact (806) 468-7676.

June 30-July 2 Summer Celebration. "How Great is Our God! Learning Praise from the Psalms." Lipscomb University, Nashville, Tenn. See summercelebration.lipscomb.edu.

July 4 50th anniversary of the University Park church, Hyattsville, Md. Featured speaker: Pancho Hobbes. Contact (301) 927-7277 or upcoc.com.

July 8-11 Campus Ministry United Workshop. Harding University, Searcy, Ark. See www.campusministryunited.com.

July 11-14 Caribbean Lectureship. 40th annual. San Fernando, Trinidad and Tobago. Contact Ken Dye at kdye@comcast.net.

July 11-15 Christian Training Series 2010. "How to Build a Great Church." Freed-Hardeman University, Henderson, Tenn. Contact Samuel Hester at (731) 989-6625 or www.fhu.edu/CTS.

July 15-18 2010 Mid Atlantic Lectureship. "Perfect Love Casts Out Fear." Hosted by the East Baltimore, Md. church. Contact (410) 248-9080, cocineb@aol.com or www.coceb.com.

July 17 International Lectureship for Churches of Christ (Ghanaian Congregations). Cherry Hill Manor, College Park, Md. Contact (240) 330-6462 or churchofchristghmd.org.

July 23-24 Central Texas Bible Teachers Workshop. "Teachers Shine Like Stars." Hosted by the Cameron Road church, Austin, Texas. Contact (512) 452-0639 or visit www.crccaustin.org/ctbtw.html.

July 25-29 Power Lectures. 18th Annual. "Moses: The meekest man in all the land." Southaven, Miss. church. Contact (662) 393-2690 or visit www.southhavencoc.org.

July 29-Aug. 1 Connect 2010 Conference. "Breathe ... Bringing your campus ministry to life." Contact www.campuscrosswalk.org.

July 29-Aug. 1 Spiritual Growth Workshop. "God Almighty Reigns." Orlando, Fla. Contact (352) 357-6616 or oacoc@comcast.net.

July 31-Aug. 1 100th anniversary of the Scott City, Kan., church. Contact Howard King (620) 872-2932.

July 31-Aug. 3 Campaign for Christ. "Jesus is Able to Transform Lives." George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston. Contact (281) 561-0881 or www.houstoncampaignforchrist.com.

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

Aug. 7 OVU Teacher Training Workshop. Contact kim.haynes@ovu.edu or (304) 865-6025.

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

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

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

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

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

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

What does this mean? For most people it simply does not matter. But for tomorrow's college students and their parents, it is the difference between an education that supports a vital Christian faith and one that will not. In a Christian college, academic freedom will allow life's most important questions to be asked, beliefs to be explored and faith to be expressed. As a Christian college environment demands critical thinking and pragmatic preparation for success in the real world, it also proclaims that God, faith and the Christian walk are part of that world, the world God created.

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



*L. Randolph Lowry
President, Lipscomb University*

Randy

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



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EDITORIAL

The true character of Nashville

Facing their worst natural disaster in recent memory, Tennessee church members found signs of hope and embraced opportunities to meet not only physical needs, but also spiritual ones.

"We've drawn closer as a community," Bellevue Church of Christ pulpit minister Steve Blackman told Ted Parks, *The Christian Chronicle's* correspondent in Nashville. "Just the knowledge that we do need each other, we are not independent of one another, is actually a good lesson."

Tom Boyette, minister of the Pennington Bend Church of Christ, echoed that sentiment: "If we're not challenged with calamities, where in the world would we find ... the true character of people?"

"Our response ... really is letting God's light shine through us," Boyette said. "We think it's going to be furtherance to the kingdom of God. ... That's what we're going to work toward."

In Davidson County alone,

damage from May's record flooding to more than 11,000 pieces of private property reached \$1.9 billion, *The Tennessean* newspaper reported.

On a national level, the disaster failed to draw the sort of major media coverage that it deserved. For one thing, the flooding occurred at the same time as a major oil spill and a failed terrorist attack.

'Tennessee suffered a big blow. The Volunteer State needs our prayers — and our help.'

At the same time, the Tennessee story lacked the kind of political drama that feeds much modern news reporting.

Rather than a disaster response marked by disarray, dedicated volunteers working together characterized Tennessee's relief effort. Churches of Christ and Lipscomb University played a major part in that.

But make no mistake: Nashville and other parts of Tennessee suffered a big blow. The Volunteer State needs our prayers — and our help.

"Unless you are here, you can't appreciate the scope of the flood," Bob Smietana, religion writer for *The Tennessean*, told us. "So far 18,000 people

have applied for FEMA relief to repair their homes — a striking number. It's all over Nashville — from the wealthy Bellevue community to the impoverished Bordeaux community north of downtown to immigrant communities in Antioch to rural Hickman County. Unless you get your feet on the ground and into neighborhoods, you don't get a feel for the enormity of the disaster."

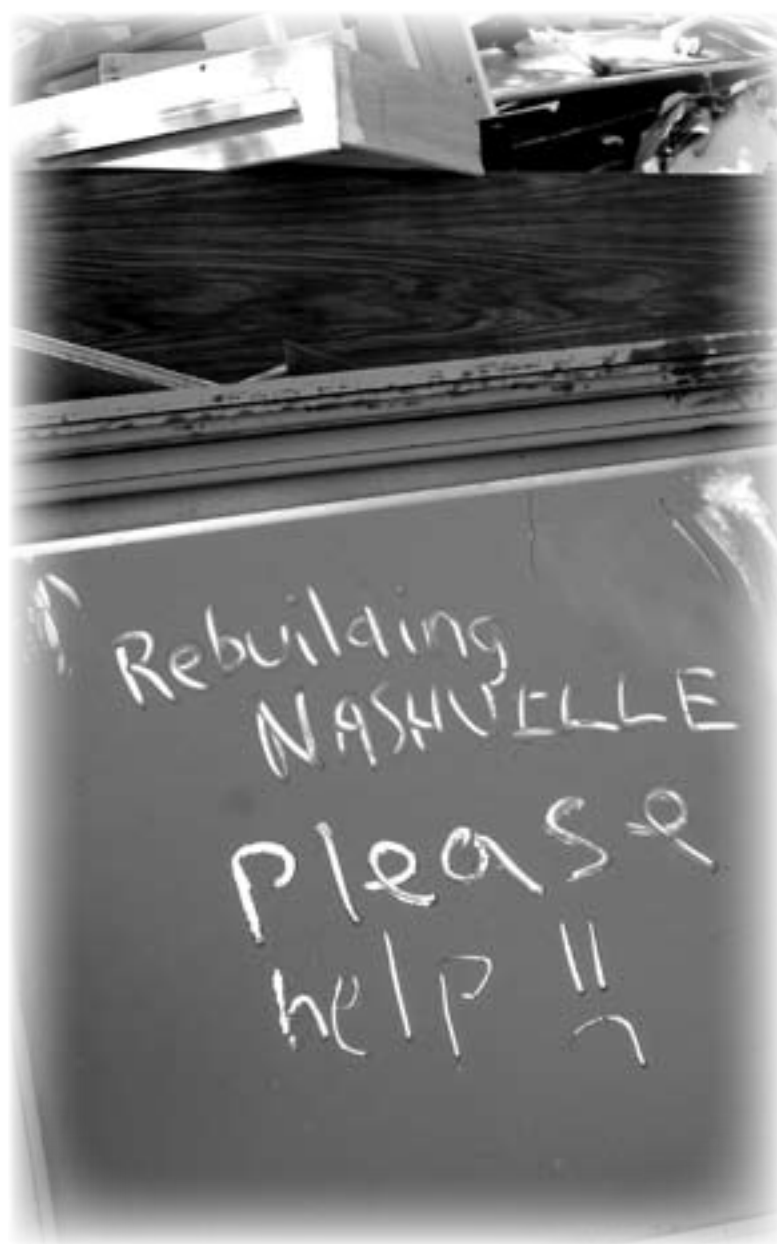
Here are just a few opportunities to help with flood recovery:

- **Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort** (www.disasterreliefeffort.org). The organization uses volunteers to sort and pre-pack relief supplies.

- **Give a Hand Up** (www.giveahandup.com). The ministry of the Mt. Juliet Church of Christ will help rebuild damaged homes.

- **Disaster Assistance CoC** (www.disasterassistancecoc.com). The ministry sets up mobile kitchens to provide meals during disasters.

- **Millington Church of Christ** (www.millingtonchurchofchrist.com). "The needs of our members, as well as the community at large, are just beyond our ability to fully address," reads a note on the West Tennessee church's website.



TED PARKS

In the rubble torn from a flooded house, a scribbled message on glass clouded by muddy water conveys determination and the need for help.



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Elders: Developing shepherds in God's image

When the apostle Paul traveled through Galatia, he planted churches. Upon his return to Antioch, he appointed elders in these churches. These congregations were less than two years old, and the elders would have been fairly recent Christians. At Crete, the newer churches also had elders appointed by the evangelist Titus.

The ancient church leaders illustrate that appointing elders was an important part of the health, growth and establishment of the Christian congregations. For Paul, developing and appointing elders was a major task in establishing and developing new and healthy churches.

Today, however, many churches exist without elders. For some, elders seem like a luxury. For others, they are a hassle. Still others make the position unattainable for any imperfect human being.

However, few churches intentionally train and develop Christians for this leadership position. While we do an outstanding job identifying, training and developing evangelists, elders seem to be an afterthought. Even worse, on the mission field, few evangelists see training and developing elders as their role, even though they spend time training other preachers.

As a church planter who left an established church, I see the need for good leaders who are gifted at shepherding. The early church teaches us important lessons concerning elders.

First, elders are relational. The verbs for bishop/overseer in Hebrew suggest “giving attention to” people. Pastor/shepherd is also a relational word, indicating a personal involvement in the lives of people under his care.

Both words describe God's actions with his people. God gives attention to, is concerned for and guides humans. He develops and nurtures those who are weak. He protects the oppressed and confronts the oppressor. Likewise, Jesus is both shepherd and bishop of our souls. Elders who shepherd and give attention to the congregation reflect the ministry style of God, Jesus, and the Spirit. Elders are necessary to the health and growth of the church because people need relational leaders.

Second, elders were affirmed by both God and people. They lived among the community and led by example. As part of the community, they were able to identify those who were weak and in need of guidance. Since the word for bishop also means “to visit,” elders — like God and Jesus — intervene personally to meet with people and encourage them.

Third, elders were intentionally developed by other ministry leaders. From the early stages of a church, Paul and the other evangelists sought out leaders to shepherd the congregations.

We intentionally train evangelists for new churches. We build preacher training schools in new mission fields. We encourage young people to enter ministry. We should carry this same passion into training others to shepherd churches. Few churches, and elders, can tell the congregation who will be their elders in the next two, five or 10 years. Being intentional about elder development gives a church hope for their future.

Fourth, elders were primarily family men and reflected a compassionate character. Often I am told, and observe firsthand, that elders are chosen if they are successful businessmen, community leaders, good speakers or from an influential family in the church.

However, the biblical text emphasizes family men and men of compassion as those candidates for this ministry. Elders are to be committed husbands and family men. Concerning families, Paul does not use the common Greek term and concept for managing their families but a unique term that suggests involvement.

Views



Ron Clark

Most Roman/Gentile males hired slaves to raise their children or delegated the child rearing to their wives. However, Paul expected elders to be involved in their home. They are to be gentle, peaceable and hospitable and have a good reputation in the community.

The church today has an opportunity to grow by focusing energy on these leaders who are absent from many churches. In my work with men in ministry and with domestic/sexual violence issues, I have found that a quality missing in the normal behavior of males is empathy and compassion. The ancient world, like today, also lacked this empathy and compassion. Modern church leaders need to reflect these ethical qualities to young people seeking acceptance, support and healing.

First, elder development must be intentional. As an evangelist, I have been taught that training, appointing and developing elders is one of my main tasks in ministry.

Now as a church planter, I experience the freedom to seek out and develop healthy couples to shepherd people who come to the Agape Church of Christ for healing and hope. However, we must be intentional and share this vision with those who may be gifted to lead in this ministry.

Second, we live in a world deeply affected by dysfunctional marriages, father wounds, violent males, sexual shame, self injury and addictions. The modern church cannot nurture the faith of men and women scarred by these dysfunctions if elders are emotionally distant, spiritually immature, abusive, lack empathy and compassion or fail to be loving husbands or fathers.

We need healthy role models for our marriages, sexual purity and definitions of manhood and womanhood. This comes through people of compassion and empathy.

Finally, our ministers and their families are among the most neglected people in our churches. Articles that list Top 10 low-paying jobs/high-stress jobs routinely include

ministers. Ministers and their families are vulnerable to rejection, sin and burnout. They depend on the church and elders to be their families and provide models of healthy behavior, support, guidance and spiritual development.

Unfortunately, many elders see the minister as a threat rather than an ally.

Ministers are also expected to shepherd people, which prevents them from becoming active as community leaders and a prophetic

voice in a dark world.

Elders who shepherd ministers and their families help them develop their giftedness for evangelism and provide a safe place to grow, find support and gain acceptance and strength.

RON CLARK is the lead church planter for the Agape Church of Christ in downtown Portland, Ore. He received his doctorate in ministry from Harding University Graduate School of Religion in Memphis, Tenn., and serves as an adjunct faculty member at George Fox Evangelical Seminary in Portland. He is the author of the book “Emerging Elders: Developing Shepherds in God's Image,” published by Leafwood Publishers. He and Lori, his wife of 22 years, have three sons.

LETTERS

Coexistence with Islam questioned

And what of the Great Commission? Or do we, as Christians, simply “coexist” with the feel-good, spiritually relativistic, results of the so-called Pew study? (See “Can Christians and Muslims coexist, Page 1, June.) Don't be misled. Islam openly denies the divinity of Jesus Christ. Let us, as Christians, not be lulled into misleading ideas of “coexistence” with evil while forgetting just why we are Christians — John 14:6. To “coexist” is simply “compromise” for me.

Dale H. Leach | Houston

Prayers for slain minister's family

Sorry to hear this news and know the unfortunate thing that happened to our brother Antonio Lara (Page 3, June).

We share the pain felt by the Church of Christ in San Miguel, El Salvador. Pray for the family of sisters and brothers of the congregation, for the Lord of strength and that we move forward in the fight and that this does not lead to more violent situations. God bless.

Carlos Garcia | Matamoros, Mexico

I am saddened to read how someone that does so much good in a community is killed senselessly.

We will continue to bring the church before our God — and we know God has heard them already.

Gerhard Van Wyk | Pretoria, South Africa

On behalf of the congregation, my family and myself, I would like to express sincere condolences to the wife, children and all the brethren in El Salvador at this painful time.

Lewis Romain | Portsmouth, Dominica

My friend, Antonio Lara, is now reaping the reward he worked for all his life. Antonio was a true servant leader, and his zest for the Lord was so refreshing.

I have worshiped with him, Mila, Cindi and Leo at El Platenar. Antonio had a way of including us “gringos” who were struggling to understand a word or two of the service.

All of our Christian family needs to pray special healing and blessings on the church's children and their families who are certain to be traumatized by this event.

Satan has attempted to find a way to target vulnerability, but we know the rest of the story — God wins!

Sharon Stephens | Bells, Texas

SUBMIT LETTERS to letters@christianchronicle.org.

New books help readers dig deeper into their faith

BY BILLIE SILVEY | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Many books are written for new Christians — books on the fundamentals of the faith, the milk of the Gospel, growing in Christ.

It's more difficult to find challenging books for the spiritually mature — those of us who have grown up in the church, heard thousands of sermons, read through the Bible repeatedly and studied individual books in depth. We need "meat," books that help us relate to God and to our fellow beings in a radical, abandoned, fully trusting manner.

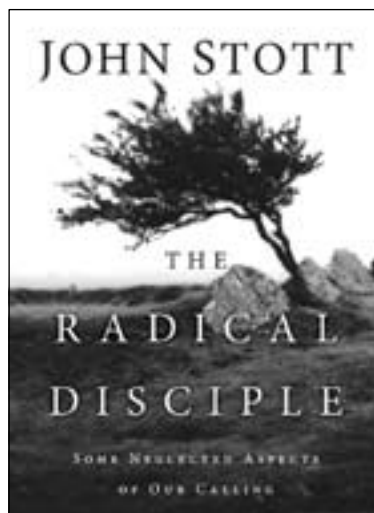
Four new books have come out this year that help us do that, in varied ways.

John Stott, 88, reflects on the church and Christians today in **"The Radical Disciple: Some Neglected Aspects of Our Calling."** He calls us to follow, submit to and be like Jesus.

Stott warns against buckling under to the pressures of pluralism, materialism, ethical relativism and narcissism, encouraging us to withstand them with truth, simplicity, obedience and love.

"If only the blindfold could be taken away from our eyes!" he writes. "If only we could see Jesus in the fullness of who he is and what he has done! Why then surely we would see how worthy he is of our wholehearted allegiance, and faith, love and obedience would be drawn out from us and we would grow into maturity. Nothing is more important for mature Christian discipleship than a fresh, clear, true vision of the authentic Jesus."

Summarizing much of Christianity in the world today as "growth without depth," Stott urges us to expand our view of Christ as the Lord of creation and of the church. He challenges us to emulate Christ in humility, service, love, patient endurance and mission, recognizing that Christ-likeness leads to suffering, evangelism and the indwelling Spirit.



John Stott. **The Radical Disciple: Some Neglected Aspects of Our Calling.** Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2010, 144 pages. \$15.

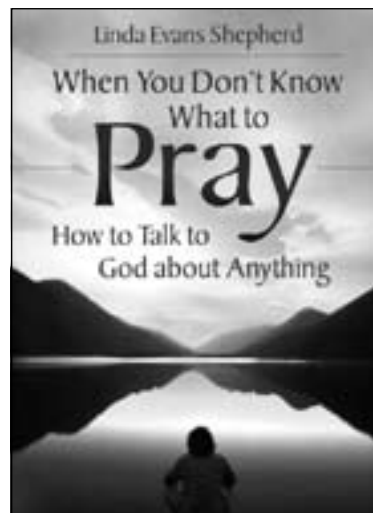
He calls us to cooperate with God in caring for his creation for the common good. He champions simple living and sacrificial giving. And he challenges us to radical dependence on Christ, seeing death as the only way to life.

The next two books describe specific ways to become radical disciples.

Radio personality Linda Evans Shepherd, in **"When You Don't Know What to Pray: How to Talk to God about Anything,"**

urges us to abandon ourselves to radical trust and submission to God in our prayer lives. One aspect of spiritual immaturity is a superficial understanding of prayer as a way to get God to give us what we want. True Christian maturity recognizes which of us is God in the relationship.

Shepherd, whose daughter was severely handicapped as the result of an auto accident, urges us to pray in all circumstances, from the most serious to the most mundane.



Linda Evans Shepherd. **When You Don't Know What to Pray: How to Talk to God about Anything.** Grand Rapids, Mich.: Revell, 2010. 192 pages. \$12.99.

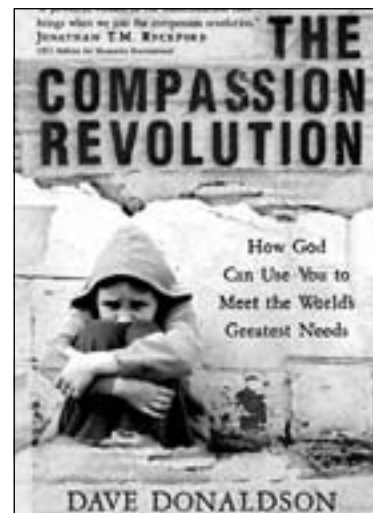
"If you've been tempted to fret about unanswered prayer," Shepherd writes, "perhaps it's not that God has rejected you, but rather that you're suffering from 'feelings of rejection' because God has not come through the way you've

insisted. Perhaps a change of perspective is in order."

Shepherd points out that God is big enough to handle our anger, that he loves and cares for us and that prayer helps us realize his presence, bear our burdens and grow.

Shepherd encourages us to pray with submission, trust and gratitude, surrendering bitterness and hopelessness to live triumphant lives of praise.

In **"The Compassion Revolution: How God Can Use You to Meet the World's Greatest Needs,"** Dave Donaldson, co-founder of Convoy of Hope, challenges us to radical service to the poor, orphans, the hungry, thirsty and homeless. Another aspect of spiritual immaturity is the idea that greed is good and that fulfilling our every desire is God's will. True



Dave Donaldson. **The Compassion Revolution: How God Can Use You to Meet the World's Greatest Needs.** Eugene, Ore.: Harvest House, 2010. 198 pages. \$13.99

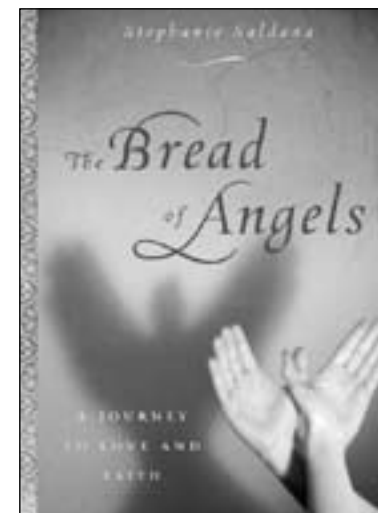
Christian maturity ministers to those in need as Jesus did.

Donaldson reminds us that selfishness and self-absorption blind us to the needs of those around us, as well as to biblical teaching on the subject. The topic of injustice and the poor "doesn't just pop up in a random discussion here and there," he writes. "It is a prevalent theme you can trace through the entirety of Scripture."

Donaldson supplements his examples and teachings with lists of action items, Scriptures and recommended compassion organizations.

Referring to Jesus' feeding of the 5,000, he points out, "You were not created to live an ordinary existence. God has something more for you — a life of experiencing the joy and adventure of making a difference in people's lives. An extraordinary God placed you on this planet to accomplish extraordinary things. So heed the call and join the compassion revolution! Even if you have only limited resources and gifts — just some bread and fish — God can do something amazing with your life!"

Stephanie Saldana's **"The Bread of Angels: A Journey to Love and Faith"** is the



Stephanie Saldana. **The Bread of Angels: A Journey to Love and Faith.** New York: Doubleday, 2010. 303 pages. \$24.95

memoir of a 27-year-old's growth in maturity from self-obsession to love for God and other people during a year of study in Damascus.

One key is gratitude for the smallest blessing. "Like everyone here," Saldana writes from the context of Middle Eastern violence and suffering, "I have spent many hours trying to understand why some of us are taken and others of us are left to live. I've made my uncomfortable peace, in part because I don't think that the dead would want us to spend our time left walking on earth absorbed in such questions. But they would want us to notice. To at least give thanks. For the simple miracle of that childhood prayer, 'Give us this day, our daily bread,' has been answered."

Each of these books teaches us to grow in Christian maturity so we can face the blessings and challenges of life with an open mind and heart, trusting God to care for us and loving and serving our fellow beings

BILLIE SILVEY has been a Christian for more than half a century. The author, editor and former director of the Culver Palms Life Skills Lab works and worships with the Culver Palms Church of Christ in Los Angeles.

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

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Mentors come in different forms, but all contribute to our growth

Last June, I shared the story of my father and his long journey to find God only 10 years before he died.

This year, I share the stories of men who played a vital role in my spiritual development. Looking back, I see them as mentors, although most of them would never have used that term to describe their relationship with me.

Barnabas and Paul were men who had true hearts for mentoring. Barnabas took Paul and John Mark under his wing to lead them to fuller spiritual service. Paul, in turn, guided Silas, Timothy, Titus, Priscilla and Aquila to greater knowledge of the Gospel and to greater service.

My mentors had different backgrounds and helped me at different stages of my life. The first was the preacher I heard throughout my adolescence; the second was a college professor; the third was a colleague; and the fourth is a collection of former students.

Although I did not have a close relationship with the first, he became a model of serious study of the Bible and Christian thought. He trained me to be an attentive listener, an introspective thinker and a truth seeker. I have always remembered a powerful lesson on Eli's sin of not rebuking his evil sons. He also taught me to seek fuller understanding of God's nature as a central mission of my life.

My second year of college, I encountered a professor who had a tremendous influence on my life and thought. I had him for several classes, but his real impact came through private conversations and discussions. He was the first adult who asked to pray with me. He was an electrifying personality whose intensity always made me feel as though I were on the hot seat — and he inspired me to some of my best dreams and plans. He taught me to be a serious student of the Word, seeking the whole truth. He expressed confidence in me that caused me to dream of things I had long considered impossible. He was sure I would make an acceptable college professor, and his trust has always driven my professional life. His model has encouraged me to single out people, especially students, and help them have vision of their potential.

My third principal mentor was a colleague from another department. He is an avid reader whose curiosity drives him to keep learning and studying. He

planted the idea that reading a book a week would help me stay mentally alert and connected to the world of ideas.

Insight



Bailey McBride

His passions as a father helped me have perspective in dealing with my children. Even when he had a child interested in things that were unimportant to him, he would listen and study with the child. He truly is a great teacher who knows how to challenge students to look beyond the surface for the truth and significance of ideas or works of art. In him I have seen the wonder of ageless living, always living "deliberately, fronting only the essential facts of life" (in the language of Thoreau).

My fourth mentor is not a single person, but a composite of many students who have helped me become a stronger, better person. Many students have helped me remember humility's role in learning. I have taught many students who are far brighter than I am, but they have respected what I know and what I am seeking to understand more fully.

They have become partners in understanding God and using the power of language to discern and communicate truth. Many have introduced me to subjects that are important to them. I have been challenged to think about science and what science can teach me about the universe and the atom. Through the questioning of students, I have sought to understand the work of Freud, Darwin, Einstein, Dewey and a host of philosophers and theologians.

Others have taught me the importance of evangelism as they invited my family to share in mission trips and in providing financial support for mission efforts. Still other students taught me a more compassionate spirit in looking at the need for drinking water and humanitarian aid. Some have made me sensitive to spirits that are broken by abuse and neglect in formative years.

Jesus called us to his church, a community of believers who can mentor, support and serve each other in the journey to heaven where we will live, eternally worshipping God.

CONTACT bailey.mcbride@christianchronicle.org.



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