



1.5 million blessings

AT A GEORGIA CHURCH, a donor's \$1.5 million gift is shared by the congregation and spent in the Lord's name.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Let God write the story. Pulpit minister Don McLaughlin made that request of the 1,400-member North Atlanta Church of Christ last fall as he revealed astonishing news.

A donor who asked to remain anonymous had given \$1.5 million to be divided among all present that Sunday — from first-graders up — and spent on good works in the Lord's name.

"The most amazing thing to me was that if you were at the service that day, even if you were a visitor, you could get a voucher because the elders felt like God had placed that person there for a reason," said longtime member Cari Thornton, who has taught children's Sunday school classes for more than 30 years.



Thornton



McLaughlin

But please, McLaughlin asked, no Facebook posts, no Twitter messages, no mass e-mails about the news.

"We recognized that God was the one guiding every step of the process up to that point, and the story was just getting better and better," McLaughlin told *The Christian Chronicle*. "It seemed to us that at such a critical moment in the development of the story, we should wait on the Lord to show us what he would do."

But now the story — God's story — can be told.

"The reason we are willing to share it now is because we are able to tell some of the wonderful things God is doing," the minister said.

Brent Adams, 28, paralyzed and nearly killed in a dirt bike accident two years ago, got to know church members David and Mendie Hogan while undergoing rehabilitation in Atlanta.

When David Hogan called to see if Adams needed help with bills, Adams thanked him but said he had them covered.

The next day, a \$4,000 medical

See **BLESSINGS**, Page 12



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Teens in Asia build friendships, faith at Cambodian camp

Angelize Tham shares a laugh with her new friend, Pala, at Angkor of Faith, an annual, church-run camp in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Tham, who lives in Malaysia, joined youths from across Southeast Asia for the weeklong camp, which included hands-on service projects for Cambodia's underprivileged children. In recent years, the teen participants have played a greater role in organizing activities, coordinators said.

REPORTS FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA, Pages 17-21

Churches in Chile deliver aid to earthquake victims

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

A small group of church members in the South American nation of Chile saw firsthand the devastation and suffering that followed a massive earthquake.

"At every fire hydrant there

were lines of people with every kind of liquid-holding receptacle you can imagine, trying to get some water to carry back to their homes," said Scott Emery, a missionary in the Chilean capital, Santiago.

Emery was part of an eight-

member team, representing two Churches of Christ in Santiago, that traveled south, toward the epicenter of the Feb. 27 earthquake. The group distributed food, bottled water, hygiene items and winter coats. Chilean

See **EARTHQUAKE**, Page 10

Youth's views

Student athlete Caleb Smith on challenges faced by teen Christians.

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Faith and Facebook

Does social networking technology help or hurt church growth?

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A heart for orphans

Missionary Imogene McNulty serves children in Romania.

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Cecil Cooper adjusts to life out of baseball

KATY, Texas

Brother Cooper?" I asked. "Yes," he said and smiled.

My friend David Duncan, my sons Brady and Keaton and I were meeting Cecil Cooper for breakfast at Cracker Barrel. But somehow we missed each other on the way in.

Inside Story



Bobby Ross Jr.

When I spotted him at a table across the room, I thought it was Cooper. However, he was wearing street clothes — not a major-league baseball uniform — so I had to ask.

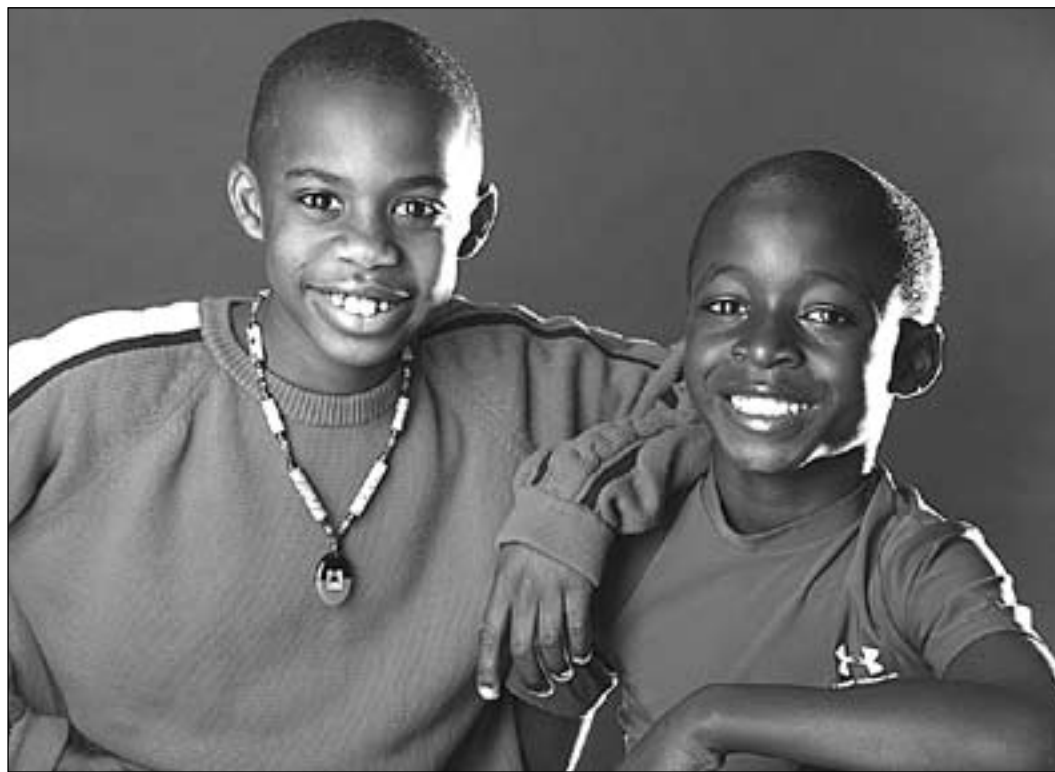
A year ago, Cooper, 60, was starting his second full season — or so he thought — as manager of the Houston Astros.

Expectations were high after a 2008 season in which the Astros won 86 games, going 42-22 down the stretch. But the 2009 team struggled, and Cooper was fired last September. So this spring, after 41 seasons as a player, agent, coach and manager, Cooper finds himself at a strange place — home.

"I was having some tension here about a month ago when it came time to go," acknowledged Cooper, a five-time All-Star during a 17-year playing career. "I started thinking, 'Oh, I need to do something.' I started feeling guilty because here I am at home."

But while Cooper would love to manage again, he is a faithful Christian who has taken advantage of the opportunity to devote more time

See **COOPER**, Page 4



JANET MCCOY

Ryan Dennis, left, with best friend Duchaine Paul after the boys were reunited in Ada, Okla.

Boys from Haiti reunited

AT THE ORPHANAGE where they lived, Ryan and Duchaine were best friends. But when an Oklahoma family adopted Ryan, Duchaine was left behind — until the earthquake.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

ADA, Okla. — "There's Ry," Tommy Paul told Duchaine, his newly adopted son from Haiti, as the two walked down a tunnel at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport.

The 10-year-old took off running toward the group of well-wishers who had come to greet him.

"Wow, he got taller," Ryan Dennis, 9, said

when he saw his friend coming.

The two hugged each other and renewed a friendship that began when both were toddlers at Cap Haitien Children's Home, about 100 miles north of Port-au-Prince.

The reunion came less than two weeks after a devastating earthquake struck Haiti on Jan. 12 and capped a remarkable saga that first saw Ryan adopted — and years later, Duchaine — by separate Christian families in the same southeastern Oklahoma town.

Dr. Bruce Dennis and his wife, Sheri, traveled to Haiti for the first time in 2000, leading a mission group from the Southwest

See **HAITI**, Page 14

Jim Bill McInteer dies at 88

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Jim Bill McInteer, a minister for 70-plus years, died March 8. He was 88.

The former president and publisher of *21st Century Christian* and *Power for Today*, McInteer served on the board of Harding University in Searcy, Ark., for decades. Harding named its center for Bible and world missions after him.

He preached at the West End Church of Christ in Nashville for 30 years.

A 1942 Harding graduate, he met his late wife, Betty May Bergner, at Harding.



McInteer

More than 50 readers posted their tributes and memories of McInteer on *The Christian Chronicle's* Web site at christianchronicle.org and Facebook page at facebook.com/christianchronicle.

"He and Betty were like family to everyone that knew them," wrote M. Emily Stinson of Bartlett, Tenn. "They always extended the Love of the Lord to everyone they were with. They were a blessing to all of us. Now there will be some celebrating and singing as they have gone home."

Survivors include his daughter, MariLynn Canterbury; his son, Mark McInteer; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the McInteer Scholarship Fund at Harding.

Nigeria: Church member dies in violence; kidnapping victims released

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Recent violence near the Nigerian city of Jos claimed the life of Theodore Essemu Ebulla. The 34-year-old native of Cameroon had preached in a rural Nigerian village and was returning to the School of Biblical Studies in Jos when he encountered a group of rioting Muslims who killed him with machetes, said Steven Worley, a missionary who works with the school.



Ebulla

Nigeria negotiated for his release.

South of Jos, Okon Mkpong, a longtime church leader in Nigeria, was released unharmed by his kidnappers after nearly 12 days in captivity. Mkpong was abducted from his home Feb. 11. The kidnappers demanded a ransom, and family members in

Nearly two months after Mkpong's abduction, another minister, Jacob Achinefu, was kidnapped while driving a van for the Nigerian Institute of Arts and Theological Studies. He was released after seven days in captivity, but was beaten by his captors. Achinefu was treated at a hospital in Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

At press time, friends were attempting to secure a visa for him to travel to the U.S. for additional treatment.



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ERIK TRYGGSTAD

Mikayla Bezner of Okinawa, Japan, gets to know a Cambodian child during Angkor of Faith 4.

COOPER: Former manager devotes himself to church

FROM PAGE 3

to his home congregation. "To be able to kind of reconnect is good," said Cooper, a member of the Anderson Street Church of Christ in Sealy, 50 miles west of Houston.

He just finished a quarter teaching the Sunday adult Bible class and is leading the Wednesday night class. He's working to organize a four-day Gospel meeting in July.

"We're going to do a lot of door-knocking, a lot of advertising," he said.

I first met Cooper during the 2006 season when he was serving as the Astros' bench coach. I interviewed him before a game at Minute Maid Park. Duncan, minister of the Memorial Church of Christ in Houston, came along with me as the photographer.

At the time, I don't think Cooper was familiar with *The Christian Chronicle*. From the beginning of that first conversation, he was friendly and helpful. But after he realized our Church of Christ connection, he seemed to open up.

As a result of that meeting, Cooper began attending the Memorial church's early service before home games. He also accepted an invitation to lead singing and sign autographs after a Sunday night service as part of an outreach event at Memorial.

One night, Duncan was at his daughter Anna Beth's youth basketball game when he heard someone calling, "David! David!" He turned around, and it was Cooper. They talked for a long time.

Now, on the one hand, that was impressive to me because I grew up collecting baseball cards — and Cooper was a star whose stats I memorized. On the other hand, it illustrated that Cooper is just a regular guy.

Another result of that first meeting was that Cooper started reading the *Chronicle*. So when I wrote a 2007 profile

of Minnesota Twins bench coach Steve Liddle, a member of the Roseville, Minn., church, Cooper read the story.

Cooper and Joseph "Stretch" Suba, a fellow Christian and longtime Houston bullpen catcher and batting practice pitcher, made it a point to meet Liddle when the Astros played the Twins.

"Actually, I didn't know Bobby Murcer was a member of the church until I read it in the *Chronicle*," Cooper said, recall-

ing the famed New York Yankees broadcaster and five-time All-Star who died of brain cancer in 2008.

Like their father, Brady, 16, and Keaton, 12, are big baseball fans, so they enjoyed meeting Cooper.

Brady, never one to turn down food, gladly accepted one of Cooper's pancakes. Brady plays baseball but has been sidelined this season with a knee injury.

"So you're rehabbing?" Cooper asked. "Yeah," Brady said.

"All right," Cooper said. "What year?" "A junior," Brady replied.

"So you'll be ready next year?" Cooper said, and Brady nodded.

Cooper will be ready, too, when his next call to the big show comes.

He played in the World Series with the 1975 Boston Red Sox and the 1982 Milwaukee Brewers. He coached on the Astros' 2005 World Series team.

"That's kind of my mission," he said. "I'd love to be able to do it and take a team myself."

Here's hoping he gets that shot.

But if not, he's already making an impact — an eternal one — right here at home.

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



Cooper

ALABAMA

GADSDEN — Ray Cox, a member of the Rainbow church and a leader of its prison ministry, said living out Matthew 25 is the congregation's mandate for providing a 12-step program, a behavioral ministry and a transitional home for female inmates after their release.

Cox and Tony Cleveland, another program leader, told *The Gadsden Times* that their "captive audience" has been so receptive that success stories abound.

"I tell them, now God has their attention," Cox told the newspaper. "It's an ideal time and way to find God."

FLORIDA

TAMPA — Father-and-son duo Jim and Wes Woodell teamed up recently to preach and host a father/son men's retreat with the Bay Area church.

More than 100 attended and heard lessons on "Real Sins, Real Struggles" as well as the Gospel and God's grace.

The partnership was the first for Jim Woodell, executive director of River City Ministry in North Little Rock, Ark., and Wes Woodell, a domestic missionary with the Lake Merced church in San Francisco.

It was also a homecoming of sorts, as both men credit members of the Bay Area church with helping Wes Woodell overcome addiction and become a Christian.

MICHIGAN

KALAMAZOO — "We have no intention of closing our doors."

So says Jim Miller, minister at the North Westnedge church, which has about 100 members. The congregation has been facing tough financial times, but told the *Kalamazoo Gazette* that its mortgage company reduced its building payoff by half — from \$100,000 to \$50,000 — and that the church has raised just under half that amount.

"We set the goal ourselves" to raise funds to pay off the mortgage and make necessary repairs to the building," Miller said, adding that the roof is a key concern.

North Westnedge also serves as a food distribution location for the city's Loaves & Fishes program, which provides emergency food assistance for residents of Kalamazoo County.

MISSISSIPPI

WAILUKU — Every Tuesday, volunteers from the 61 South church provide food for up to 150 families that come to its building. That's more than five times the number of members at the small church.

With the closing of the Natchez Food



SHELLY KELLIS

Maine church's lock-in draws teens from six congregations, two states

Kathryn Eberhart, Rebekah Kellis and Christi Jenczyk, from left, play a game called "tap" at the annual lock-in of the Greater Portland Church of Christ in South Portland, Maine. Teens and adults from six congregations

in two states attended the recent event. "With New England being so spread apart, we need events like this ... to encourage their relationships with each other and with God," sponsor Shelly Kellis said.

Pantry, that number could increase. While the Mississippi Food Network provides the food, 61 South members count, sort and package the 20-pound boxes it distributes each week. "We help all the people we can," member John Seyfarth told the *Natchez Democrat* as he carried a box to one recipient's waiting car.

OREGON

TIGARD — The Southwest church has become a Tuesday morning café for hungry high school students, according to the *Tigard News*. "We saw cold, hungry teens walking across our church parking lot (and) we thought we should feed them," said Youth Minister Jeff Grow, remembering a conversation with church staff four years ago.

About 200 students now meet at the building at 7 a.m. once a week for an hour of hot food, conversation and encouragement. Donations and volunteers help provide 24 dozen eggs, 450 pancakes, 250 sausage links, hash browns and beverages. Leftovers are shared with the city's Good Neighbor Center, Grow said.

TEXAS

MESQUITE — What began as an apartment ministry more than four years ago has

evolved into a congregation called At the Cross Church of Christ, said member Donna Oldright.

The primary focus remains on reaching lower-income apartment residents with the Gospel and assisting them with physical needs, she said. To that end, the congregation worships in two locations: its donated facility at 10910 Bruton Road in Dallas and the Allenhurst Apartments in Mesquite.

The plant was a joint project of the Golf Course Road and Highland Oaks congregations. Bruce Archer serves as minister. More information may be found at atthecrosscofc.org.

WISCONSIN

KENOSHA — John Wright celebrated his 80th birthday recently with his family, friends and neighbors surrounding him — at church.

Wright, who served as a branch president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, still works for civil rights advancement and preaches some at the 23rd Avenue Church of Christ, which he helped found. So it only made sense that he celebrate his milestone there with the people who have blessed his life, he told the *Kenosha News*.

SPOTLIGHT

Mixing ministry, mystery

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — Becky Wooley's first book might give her husband pause: In it, three preachers ignore the warning to "repent or die" and are knocked off systematically by a serial killer.

But Bruce Wooley, minister of the Brainerd church, doesn't seem worried.

The humorous tale set in a small town in the South doesn't hit that close to home, he said.

"Non-Prophet Murders: A Grit and Grace Mystery" is a satirical novel that showcases the classic theme of good vs. evil and grace vs. law. It is available at Amazon.com, at Christianbooks.com or from the author, beckywooley@hotmail.com.



Becky Wooley



CHRISTIE MELLOR

Acappella: the sound of the Thunder

The group Acappella sings the national anthem before an Oklahoma City Thunder game. Oklahoma Christian University coach Dan Hays led the prayer as part of the team's recent OC/Thunder Night, a partnership between the university and Wishing Well to raise funds for water wells around the world.

Minister's family welcomes quads

HAVEN, Kan. — The proud parents of a 5-year-old son named Cullen, Lance and Jennifer Morrisett wanted another child.

God blessed them with four. Quadruplets Emma Elizabeth, Kaden Zachary, Lane Dalston and Bennett Grant were born March 1 at Banner Good Samaritan Hospital in Phoenix.

"We were scared out of our wits at first," said Lance Morrisett, minister of the Haven Church of Christ, about 25 miles northwest of Wichita.

Jeremiah 29:11 provided them with strength: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."



PHOTO PROVIDED BY LANCE MORRISETT

Jennifer and Lance Morrisett, with Cullen and the quadruplets.

Jennifer Morrisett, who worked as an administrative assistant for *The Christian Chronicle* from 1993 to 1998, said the babies are doing great.

"We just sit and watch them sleep and just are in awe of how perfect they are," she said. "It's just fun to watch them and hold them and rock them."

FAITH AND TECHNOLOGY

Snowed in, members take a seat at home, log on to 'online church'

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Stuck at home after a snowstorm, youth minister Paddy Flanagan could not make it to a recent Sunday assembly.

However, that did not keep him from joining fellow members of the Concord Road Church of Christ in Brentwood, Tenn., in praising God.

Flanagan logged on to the church's Web site and watched live streaming of the singing, prayers and sermon.

"It was obviously a little different watching services from home," he said. "I was sitting in the floor and my wife in the computer chair. I also missed being there in person but did feel a little more part of the group knowing that what I was seeing was happening right then."

That same Sunday, the Wilkesboro, N.C., church, where Dale Isom serves as an elder, canceled services because of hazardous driving conditions.

Isom and his wife, Michelle, planned to have a short Bible study, share communion and call it "church," he said.

But after a friend mentioned the idea of online worship, he decided to "visit" the Prestoncrest Church of Christ in Dallas. "Our first mistake was to show up for church an hour early," Isom said, noting the time difference between North Carolina and Texas.

"We prepared our communion and took our seats," he said.

"When the time did come, the screen came to life with songs for us to join in and sing. ... We enjoyed an excellent lesson and took part in a meaningful communion service with a congregation hundreds of miles away."

Amid technological advances, a growing number of congregations use live streaming to make the Sunday assembly available to shut-ins, out-of-town members and other interested guests.



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

The Concord Road church in Brentwood, Tenn., streams its services online.

Church leaders interviewed by *The Christian Chronicle* see the potential both for tremendous blessings and unexpected pitfalls from "online church."

"I think there are problems associated with being able to worship online," said Charlie Harrison, minister of the Brunswick, Maine, church.

"These problems are no different from deciding to attend a ballgame or auto race and not attending worship but having 'mini-worship' in the van or camper so you can be at the track or stadium."

The Manchester, N.H., church already tapes videos of its Sunday morning assemblies and shows them on a community cable station, minister Park Linscomb said. That congregation is considering live streaming for invalids and the occasional ill regular attendee. "Our greatest fear about streaming, however, is that people will take this as a substitute for coming to the assembly," he said.

Neither Flanagan nor Isom plan to make a habit out of online worship. Isom expressed his gratitude to the Prestoncrest church for mak-

ing its service available "for just such an occasion."

"It was nice to have the option of joining a church family when that snow is coming down," he said.

In Flanagan's case, only about one-third of the congregation made it to the Concord Road assembly that Sunday. Many — like Flanagan — chose the Internet option, and the Web

'We prepared our communion and took our seats.'

Dale Isom
Elder, Wilkesboro, N.C., church, on watching an online service

server had trouble supporting all the viewers.

If unable to worship with his church family, Flanagan said he'd prefer a small gathering of family and friends to a cyber-service.

But he likes the advancements technology has allowed. "As far as podcasts go, I am an avid runner, and I often listen to sermons while running," he said.

Brett Emerson, a missionary in Togo, West Africa, shares Flanagan's enthusiasm for the sermons available online.

"We have two or three (podcasts) we download regularly and listen to when we have the time," Emerson said. "It's enriched our lives tremendously, and we are incredibly thankful for this and other technologies we have available to us."

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- My Faith Looks Up To Thee
- There's Power In The Blood
- Abide With Me
- The Lord Bless You And Keep You
- My Jesus, I Love Thee
- I Can Hear My Savior Calling
- I Am Thine O Lord
- Jesus Keep Me Near The Cross
- A Wonderful Savior
- Because He Lives
- Great Is Thy Faithfulness
- Holy, Holy, Holy
- Garden Of Prayer
- An Empty Mansion
- In The Sweet By And By
- It Is Well With My Soul
- His Eye Is On The Sparrow
- Finest Lord Jesus
- Whispering Hope
- Mansion Over The Hilltop

#3 "MOST POPULAR RELIGIOUS SONGS OF ALL TIME" Volume 3

- Thank God For The Lighthouse
- He's Got The Whole World In His Hands
- When The Saints Go Marching In
- 'Tis The Old Time Religion
- Onward Christian Soldiers
- God Be With You Till We Meet Again
- Eternal Father, Strong To Save
- O God, Our Help In Ages Past
- Sweet Hour Of Prayer
- Will The Circle Be Unbroken?
- There Is A Place Of Refuge
- O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee
- I Can Only Imagine
- You'll Never Walk Alone
- Jesus Love Me
- Shall We Gather at The River?
- If That Isn't Love
- Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind
- When I Survey The Wondrous Cross
- O Sacred Head
- The Old Lamp Lighter
- Little Jimmy Brown
- The Wonder Of You
- I Love To Tell The Story
- Faith Of Our Fathers
- A Mighty Fortress
- Blessed Jesus
- Put Your Hand In The Hand

#4 "MOST POPULAR RELIGIOUS SONGS OF ALL TIME" Volume 4

- In Christ Alone
- Wonderful Words Of Life
- Jesus Savior, Pilot Me (Live)
- Have Thine Own Way, Lord (Live)
- Purer In Heart, O God (Live)
- More Love To Thee, O Christ
- In The Hour Of Trial (Live)
- The Lord's Prayer
- Beyond The Sunset
- Crossing The Bar
- Praise Him! Praise Him!
- Rescue The Perishing
- Tell Me The Story Of Jesus
- Hide Me, O My Savior
- To God Be The Glory
- Safe In The Arms Of Jesus
- Redeemed
- Morning Has Broken
- Our God, He Is Alive
- Sun Of My Soul (Live)
- Take Time To Be Holy (Live)
- Mercy Lord
- This Is My Father's World (Live)
- Nearer, Still Nearer (Live)
- Deep River
- Sweet Beulah Land
- Trust And Obey
- I Am Mine No More
- On Jordan's Stormy Banks
- I Fly Away

#5 "MOST POPULAR RELIGIOUS SONGS OF ALL TIME" Volume 5

- Climbing Up The Mountain Children
- Let My People Go (Live)
- You Raise Me Up
- I'd Rather Have Jesus
- I'm In The Glory Land Way (Congregational)
- Church In The Valley By The Wildwood
- Where Could I Go?
- On The Jericho Road
- There's Not A Friend Like The Lowly Jesus (Congregational)
- Alleluia (Congregational)
- Lord, I'm Coming Home
- My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less
- Do You Know My Jesus?
- The Greatest Commands
- Why Me Lord?
- As If
- A Beautiful Life
- How Beautiful Heaven Must Be
- When We All Get To Heaven
- I Am Resolved
- Though Your Sins Be As Scarlet
- Beneath The Cross Of Jesus
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- Come, Christians, Join To Sing
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- I Sing Praises To Your Name
- My Tribute (To God Be The Glory)
- We Shall Rise
- In Moments Like These
- The Greatest Commands
- Rejoice In The Lord Always
- Spirit Of The Living God
- How Majestic Is Your Name
- Jesus Is Lord (Interlude)
- He
- Come Into His Presence
- Highest Praise
- Yes, I'll Live In Glory
- Adoration (Worship The Lord)
- Lord, Be There
- We Shall Assemble
- His Name Is Life
- Poured Out Like Wine
- Come Shake The Lord
- Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus
- Holy, Holy, Holy Is The Lord Of Hosts
- If That Isn't Love
- Majesty
- Sweet, Sweet Spirit
- God's Family
- We Have Come Into His House
- Hear, O Israel
- A Wonderful Savior (Boyd)

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

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

#8 "TEACH ME LORD TO WAIT"

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

#9 "PEOPLE NEED THE LORD"

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

NASSAU — David and Dinah Caskey, missionaries to the Bahamas, attended a leadership workshop at the Central Church of Christ in Nassau recently.

"We had a series of special services and meetings with groups as we look to the future and the appointment of elders and deacons," David Caskey said.

**Major**

The missionary praised the Central church's minister, Andrew Major, who hosts a radio program and oversees an after-school program for children in Nassau.

Major also makes monthly trips to Cat Island in the Bahamas to work with a church in Smith's Bay.

BRAZIL

RECIFE — Missionary Auren Pruitt asked for prayers for Rebecca, a 23-year-old who was baptized a few months ago at the Recife church. Rebecca began studying the Bible recently with Pruitt, who serves in Recife with her husband, Mike.

"We talk about the difficulties she has at home, being the only Christian there (and) friends that don't accept the changes she is going through," Pruitt said.

The missionary also asked for prayers for Ceica, 21, another Brazilian who recently became the only baptized believer in her family.

"Her family is from the traditional religion here and is opposed to her decision of being immersed and added to the church," Pruitt said. "Even though she has been trying to be obedient to her parents ... there is one decision she couldn't give up."

CROATIA

ZAPRESIC — The Longmont, Colo., Church of Christ donated \$500 recently for outreach at Laduc Children's Home in this central European country.

"With this money, we were able to furnish the home with a new television, ... house shoes,



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ISAAC DAYE

Graduation day in Gambia: Eight students earn degrees

Students sing hymns during a graduation service at the School of Religious Studies in Banjul, Gambia. The tiny West African country has a population of 1.7 million people, and about 90 percent of them claim Islam as their faith. Missionary Isaac Daye has helped plant Churches of Christ in Gambia and also does mission work in Sierra Leone. Counting the latest graduating class, the Banjul school has trained 90 people to minister to their people, Daye said.

outdoor shoes and winter hats," minister Ivan Tesic said.

Church member Connie Mauney sent Tesic boxes of sweaters donated by churches in the Brentwood, Tenn., area.

"We donated them to needy people in our community, and they were much appreciated due to our colder-than-usual winter," Tesic said. For more information, see www.zapchurchofchrist.org.

GHANA

ACCRA — Church members in this West African nation recently received a shipment of 638 boxes of gospel tracts, courtesy of Arlington, Texas-based Mission Printing.

"Several distribution exercises have already taken place in order to get the tracts into the hands of visitors to our services at Nsawam Road Church of Christ and those we come in contact with on the street,

market places, on the bus, hospitals, schools, etc.," missionary Willie Gley said.

ITALY

PADOVA — "Competing in the Church" was the title of a lesson presented at a recent lectureship hosted by the Padova church. Lewis Short, a missionary in Milan, Italy, was the guest speaker.

**Korodaj**

"The lecture was very positive despite how the title may sound," Padova missionary Jeremy Korodaj said. "Using various 'one another' passages in the New Testament, Lewis encouraged every Christian who attended to compete with each other in the sense of trying to outdo each other in biblical ways (including love, encouragement.)"

SUDAN

OPARI — Samuel Akeri, a Sudanese Christian living in Nashville, Tenn., returned to his home village of Opari in southern Sudan about a year ago to establish a church there.

When members of the Sudan Project, a mission outreach of the Mount Juliet, Tenn., Church of Christ, visited the village recently, they found it thriving.

The church had 99 people in attendance for Sunday worship — 54 adults and 45 children. For more information, see www.sudan-project.org.

UNITED KINGDOM

CUMBERNAULD — Church members in Cumbernauld hosted their first Men's Day recently, evangelist Graham McDonald said. The theme was "The Church: Mission, Vision and Passion — Most Valuable Peace." Thirty-nine men from across Scotland attended.

SPOTLIGHT**Reaching teens**

OLOMOUC, Czech Republic — Seven American Christians moved to this Central European nation in October 2006. Their goal — to share the story of Christ and help plant churches in Olomouc, a city of about 110,000 souls.

Three and a half years into their mission, the relationships they have built with the Czech people are resulting in spiritual questions — especially from teens, team member Corey Keen said.

Recently the team launched two spiritually focused conversation groups on Friday evenings.

Christie Shockley and a few young women from the Olomouc church lead a group geared toward teen girls. Mitch Anderson and Graham Kervin lead an introduction to the Bible and faith.

"What we are already experiencing through these opportunities is an outlet for teens to have a voice about what they believe, to share fears — feeling secure that they will not be judged or chastised," Keen said. The missionary asked for prayers for the team's outreach to teens.

"We know we are often the first people in their lives that are confronting them with the reality that they have a choice to make in life — to follow or to not follow Christ," Keen said. "We do not take this lightly and need your help in lifting this ministry up to God."

**Keen****Shockley****Anderson****Kervin**

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Oklahoma Christian is a private university affiliated with the Churches of Christ. All faculty and staff are expected to be active members of the Church of Christ and to uphold the spiritual mission of the university. The Oklahoma Christian School of Engineering has twelve full-time faculty members; offering ABET-accredited Baccalaureate degree programs in Computer, Electrical, and Mechanical Engineering and a Master of Science in Engineering. Additional information may be found at www.oc.edu/engineering.

Review of applications for this position will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled. Interested candidates should send a curriculum vitae and a statement of research/teaching interest to:

Dr. Byron L. Newberry, Chair of Mechanical Engineering
Oklahoma Christian University
2501 East Memorial Road, Edmond, OK, 73013
 E-mail: byron.newberry@oc.edu

EARTHQUAKE: More than 800,000 homeless

FROM PAGE 1

Christians and members of the Santiago community donated some of the items. Church members purchased others with donations from Churches of Christ in Chile and the U.S.

In the city of Concepcion, hardest hit by the quake, the group saw more than 2,000 families living in tents with no food, gas or water.

"Every time we opened the van's doors to deliver food and water, we had to do so quickly and quietly," Emery said, "for an at least moderate fear that we might incite a mob that would try to take what little we had been able to bring with us."

'THE EARTH MOVED BELOW US'

Emery and fellow church members in Santiago felt the quake, which measured 8.8 in magnitude — greater than the January quake that leveled Port-au-Prince, Haiti. In Santiago, about 270 miles north of Concepcion, the quake measured 7.0. It knocked out power and cracked walls in the Chilean capital.

"The earth moved below us," said Manuel Soto, a minister in Santiago. The house where the minister and his wife, Melissa, live did not suffer significant damage, but Soto's congregation did not meet for Sunday worship because its building was damaged.

Another Church of Christ, the Providencia congregation, survived the quake with power, water and Internet access intact, missionary Jeff Hatcher said. The church offered the facility for use as a collection point for donations.

"We hope to take advantage of this situation in order to touch people with the love of Christ," Hatcher said. "We're convinced that (God) has blessed us so that we can be a blessing to others."

The Chilean government reported that 452 people died in the quake, which also caused \$30 billion in damage and left 800,000 Chileans homeless, according to news reports. No church members were reported among the fatalities. Two members of the Church of Christ in Chiguayante, part of greater Concepcion, were forced to evacuate their apartments.

Thirty-three students at Harding University in Searcy, Ark., were scheduled to travel to Chile just days after the quake for a study abroad program, Harding University in Latin America, or HULA. The students had to delay their departure. Tom Hook, the program's director, said that the HULA facility in Vina del Mar was undamaged by the quake.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY SCOTT EMERY

Church members unload relief supplies in Chiguayante, Chile.

MORE AID NEEDED

In addition to Concepcion, Emery and his team gave supplies to Churches of Christ in the cities of Parral, Chillan and Coronel. Though no church members suffered significant property damage, many did not have easy access to food and water. Many also were unemployed due to the quake and the looting that followed.

"In the end, what we were able to deliver ... was greatly appreciated by the brethren and a few of their neighbors in the affected areas," Emery said. "Perhaps the greater service we rendered was just being with them, even if briefly, letting them know that the folks in Santiago were thinking about and praying for them."

Members of the Coronel and Lota Church of Christ wrote the team a letter thanking them for making the difficult trip into the quake zone. The visit made the church members realize "that we aren't alone — that our Lord has given us so many brothers of whom we previously had heard but had not met."

"Some of us, prior to your arrival, had been unable to shed tears," the members wrote. "But when you arrived, with so many donations brought to us with huge sacrifice and effort, it became impossible not to finally break down and cry."

Church members in Santiago plan additional relief trips — with more workers — to the quake zone, Emery said.

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BLESSINGS: Georgia church uses anonymous \$1.5 million gift to show God's love

FROM PAGE 1

bill arrived in the mail. Adams called Hogan back.

"I am forever in their debt and so grateful," said Adams, a member of the West Orange Church of Christ in Winter Garden, Fla. "The story behind how everything worked out is just amazing. It is definitely no coincidence, and I know God was behind everything."

THE FIRST CHAPTER

Let God write the story.

In 2008, McLaughlin delivered the Thursday night keynote at Lipscomb University's Summer Celebration lecture series in Nashville, Tenn.

After sitting down, McLaughlin was surprised when the big screen flashed his name as the speaker, too, at a teen gathering later that night.

Unprepared and unsure what to say, McLaughlin orchestrated an impromptu discussion on tackling world problems.

Four girls from an El Cajon, Calif., church described the poverty they witnessed on a

'I am forever in their debt and so grateful. The story behind how everything worked out is just amazing.'

Brent Adams

Member, West Orange church, Winter Garden, Fla.

mission trip to the City of Children in Ensenada, Mexico.

Touched by the girls' experience, fellow teens agreed that they wanted to help the orphanage.

"Well, then, get in your purses and your pockets and put your money on the table," McLaughlin told them. The total given: about \$40.

While that might not sound like much, McLaughlin stressed how far it could go in a Third World country. Later, students returned to their rooms and brought back more money. By night's end, the total topped \$100.

But the teens didn't stop there. The students made an appeal at the next morning's large-group gathering for adults to join the cause. By the event's conclusion, the change and dollar bills added up to \$4,000.

Excited, McLaughlin shared the story at North Atlanta.

The following Sunday, members placed cash on the communion table after the regular offering and sermon. The collection raised funds for orphanages in Kazakhstan, Mexico, Nigeria and Ukraine.

The total given: \$46,000.

INSIDE THE ENVELOPE

Let God write the story.

After the special contribution, a brother in Christ called McLaughlin and told him he was moved by what God was doing.

"I want to help with this," said the man, who explained his desire to put money in members' hands and let them find needs. "I want to give \$1 million."

"Let's pray about it," McLaughlin said.

While the idea excited the minister, the North Atlanta church has a thriving recovery ministry and counts hundreds of former addicts among its members. Handing large amounts of cash to recovering addicts was not an option.

"The bottom line is, we were not going to get up and say,

'Everybody that doesn't have a history of addiction gets to do this project,'" McLaughlin said. "That's just not going to fly with the DNA of our love for each other."

Leaders came up with a plan whereby members

— including those in recovery — would receive vouchers that they could use to help people with rent, medicine, groceries and other needs. Members would decide how to spend the voucher, and the church would take care of the actual financial transaction.

But in September 2008, the stock market crashed. And the benefactor asked to meet with McLaughlin. "I'm not going to be able to do it," he told the minister.

End of story. Except that this was God's story. Last summer, the man called McLaughlin again. He explained that he had



PHOTO BY KARENINGAMES.COM

Members of the North Atlanta Church of Christ assemble for a recent Sunday morning worship service.

just met with his corporate board and repented for his lack of faith.

"Did you use the word 'repent' in a corporate board meeting?" McLaughlin asked.

"My mom taught me to live by faith and not by fear. Last fall, I lived by fear. I am repenting," the man said. "I want you to come over and pick up this check."

McLaughlin gave the envelope to a church accountant without opening it. "Did you look at this?" the accountant asked minutes later. "It's for \$1.5 million."

'A MIRACLE FROM GOD'

Let God write the story.

It's a story of third-graders feeding the homeless and fourth-graders providing school supplies for girls in Afghanistan.

It's a story of teenagers supporting mission work in Honduras and adults covering rent for out-of-work, soon-to-be-evicted apartment dwellers.

Before disclosing the donation, church leaders engaged members in a 40-day Bible study called "Open Eyes, Open Hearts, Open Hands." Leaders dubbed the experience a "journey toward a life of compassion."

McLaughlin taught on the parable of the Good Samaritan and

urged members to see themselves not as the Samaritan, but as the innkeeper entrusted with someone else's money to help a person in need.

Adults were given \$1,250 vouchers. High school students received \$500, middle school students \$100 and elementary school students \$50.

After praying, Bethany Bagwell, wife of youth minister Justin Bagwell, asked to receive her funds in the form of gift cards.

On a Friday, she enlisted the help of youth group members Shelby McVey and Mary Mayfield and went in search of strangers in need.

At a pharmacy, they met a woman named Debra who was waiting for prescriptions. The prescriptions were \$270 and not covered by insurance. Bagwell and the teens stepped in to pay.

"Both Debra and the pharmacist just stood there with their mouths open," Bagwell said. "We just told her that we were wanting to help someone and show God's love."

Thornton, a paraprofessional in a preschool special-needs class, paid a colleague's \$300 medical bill, bought a \$250 supermarket gift card for a relative and donated \$400 to

Rainbow Omega, an Alabama ministry that serves adults with developmental disabilities.

She also helped a part-time custodian at her school. The custodian, named Carolyn, works two jobs during the day and cleans a hospital operating room at night.

Thornton knew that Carolyn often drove her small car close to empty, and sometimes slept in it to avoid using gasoline to go home to sleep between jobs.

Tears came to Carolyn's eyes when Thornton explained that she wanted to buy gas for her.

"She said, 'I can't believe this is happening. I didn't know if I was going to get to work this morning. I didn't know if I had enough gas to make it across town,'" Thornton said.

Besides buying a \$250 gas card for Carolyn, Thornton also took her grocery shopping — and paid for it out of her own pocket. The total bill: \$260.

"Is there anything else that you would like to eat or have around the house?" Thornton recalls asking after an hour and a half of shopping.

"No," Carolyn replied. "This is more groceries than I've ever had in my cart in all my 58 years. It's like a miracle from God."

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HAITI: Boys renew friendship after adoptions by church members

FROM PAGE 1

Church of Christ in Ada. Bruce Dennis is a board member for the Haitian Christian Foundation.

Although they have three biological children — Zac, 19; Holly, 17; and Coleman, 15 — the couple said they had felt a calling throughout their marriage to adopt a child, too.

Seeing the living conditions in Haiti — and the faces of the children at the Cap Haitien orphanage, which is associated with Churches of Christ — brought focus to that calling.

“The poverty was so overwhelming,” Sheri Dennis said. “We just thought, ‘That looks so bleak, but we can help one.’”

Sheri Dennis returned to the orphanage in December 2001 and met Ryan, then about 6 months old.

“He had these really kind eyes and wanted to be held,” she said.

She fell in love. But the couple also considered adopting Duchaine.

In April 2003, Bruce Dennis flew to Haiti to

meet both boys. Ryan already had the paperwork required to start the process; Duchaine did not.

After her husband returned, Sheri Dennis spent three months in Haiti completing the complicated process of adopting Ryan. She endured tropical storms and witnessed an airport shooting.

“My boy was there,” she said. “I had to bring him home.”

In October 2003, mother and son arrived in Oklahoma.

By Christmas, he refused to speak his native Creole anymore.

“I can’t say those words anymore,” he told his mother.

But Ryan never forgot Duchaine.

When told of the earthquake that claimed more than 200,000

lives, Ryan asked, “Is Duchaine OK?”

“Yes, Duchaine is fine,” his father told him.

“OK, then,” Ryan said.

‘SOMETHING ABOUT THAT PICTURE’

More than a year before the earthquake, Tommy Paul, a member of the Southwest church in Ada, made his first trip to Haiti.

His wife Kim Paul’s grandfather Reese Scott started going to Haiti in the 1980s and played a leading role in starting the orphanage.

Tommy Paul, a chiropractor, did a weeklong seminar at the Center for Biblical Training on health, nutrition and wound care.

While there, he spent a couple of evenings at the orphanage and met Duchaine.

“I came home and told Kim about Duchaine,” said Tommy Paul, who showed his wife a photograph of Duchaine.

The parents of

six — Kami Rodebush, 23; Clint Bowker, 21; Kasi Bowker, 18; Chase Bowker, 16; Eli Paul, 12; and Scott Paul, 10 — decided to add a seventh.

“There was something in his eyes,” Kim said. “I had never thought of adopting, but I don’t know, there was something about that picture.”

When Tommy Paul called, though, he found out a couple from Tennessee already had started the process of adopting Duchaine.

But a few months later, Tommy Paul returned to Haiti to check on a widows’ housing program that the Southwest church sponsors.

He asked about the progress on Duchaine’s adoption and



Ryan Dennis with his mother, father, sister and brothers.

NIKKI CALLISON



BRUCE DENNIS

Duchaine Paul enjoys a laugh while Ryan Dennis watches in this picture taken at a Haitian orphanage in 2003.

learned it had fallen through.

“This has just become a very expensive trip for me,” he joked to a friend.

QUAKE BRINGS UNCERTAINTY

Tommy Paul and his wife spent about a year working on adoption paperwork.

“We were just about to move Duchaine to Port-au-Prince to have some medical examinations done,” Tommy Paul said. “So when the earthquake hit, my fear was it would be years before we were able to complete that adoption.”

The week after the earthquake, a group that included Tommy Paul and Bruce Dennis traveled to Haiti to visit church members and assess needs.

Just before they left, Tommy Paul learned that adoptions already in progress could be

granted a humanitarian parole and the child given an emergency visa to enter the United States.

At the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince, an official reviewed Duchaine’s paperwork and dispatched him and his new father to board an Air Force C-17 cargo plane bound for Florida.

Weeks later, Ryan and Duchaine agreed to an interview with *The Christian Chronicle*, in exchange for their parents taking them to McDonald’s.

“He’s my best friend,” Ryan said of Duchaine.

Why? “Because I met him when he was a baby.”

What do you remember about him? “Well, I remember that he was tiny.”

Duchaine, what do you remember about Ryan? “I remember when he would bite me.”

‘When the earthquake hit, my fear was it would be years before we were able to complete that adoption.’

Tommy Paul

Member, Southwest church, Ada, Okla.



TINA DAVIS

Duchaine Paul with his mother, father, brothers and sisters.

Does he still do that? “Nope. He stopped that.”

Arms around each other, sitting in the same chair watching television, the boys acted like they’ve known each other forever.

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Proverbs 20:1

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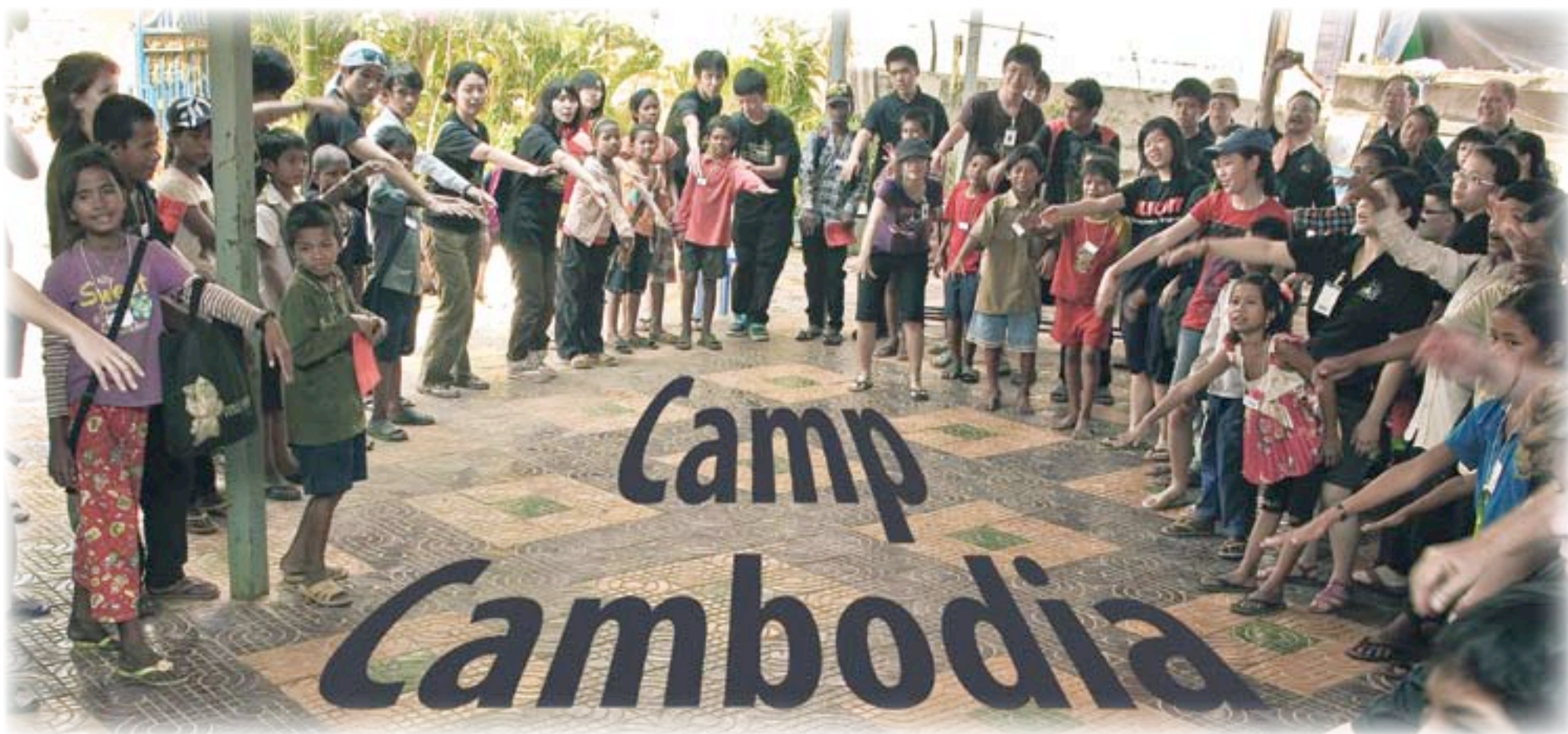
(From Dr. Leonard Goldberg in *The Bible and Strong Drink* by Howard Winters, page 31)

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PHOTOS BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Cambodian children and teens from Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines sing "You put your right hand in ..." at Angkor of Faith 4 in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

Christians in Southeast Asia make friends and serve at Angkor of Faith

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

SIEM REAP, Cambodia

Today I felt so embarrassed," Vinod Brennaven said. The 15-year-old from Tampin, Malaysia, had just checked into his hotel for the Angkor of Faith youth camp. "When I came out of the lodge, I heard a boy calling my name," Brennaven said. "I couldn't remember his."

The Cambodian children who roam the streets of this tourist city, famous for the ancient Angkor Wat temples, don't forget the teens who visit annually for the weeklong camp.

Launched four years ago, Angkor of Faith gives teens from countries including Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines and Thailand the chance to interact as they serve food, host par-

ties and play games with less fortunate children in Cambodia, one of the poorest countries in the world.

An estimated 24,000 children live and work on the streets of Cambodia, according to humanitarian groups. The country is a source of, and destination for, human trafficking. Children here are sold for sexual exploitation and forced labor, according to humantrafficking.org. Hotel rooms in Siem Reap post warnings for tourists not to engage in sex with children.

"They really need us. They need people to care for them," said Aaron Wong, 16, a member of the Bedok Church of Christ in Singapore, who has attended Angkor of Faith since its beginning. "They live very simply, and they're content with what they have — not like Singapore."

A group of missionaries and Asian

church leaders got the idea for the camp after visiting Siem Reap for the Asia Mission Forum, said Joel Osborne, a missionary in Japan, who coordinates the camp.

In addition to serving kids in Cambodia, Angkor of Faith gives young Christians a chance to connect with fellow believers across the region. "It's a good opportunity to give them a vision," Osborne said.

The young Christians also have taken an expanded role in planning and coordinating camp activities — a promising sign for the future of the church in Southeast Asia, he added.

During the camp, the 80-plus participants were divided into "international groups" for meals and service projects. Using a common language, English, they prayed and sang hymns during spirited

devotionals in the lodge's common area. Some of their Cambodian friends watched.

"We have different cultures, but we have the same love for service," said Mark Anthony Metilla, a church member in Davao, Philippines.

The teens found unique ways to serve during parties they hosted for more than 170 children. Some set up a hair-washing station while others played an aggressive, three-legged balloon pop game with the kids. Por

Khumvan, a 17-year-old from Chiang Mai, Thailand, brought a huge box of

See **ANGKOR OF FAITH**, Page 21



Khumvan



Metilla

Global
SOUTH

Seventh in a series

PAGES 18-19: Southeast Asia is diverse — in faith and in socioeconomic levels. Increasingly, Asian Christians take the lead in spreading the Gospel. As part of its ongoing "Global South" series, *The Christian Chronicle* profiles Churches of Christ in the region.



二儿元 亻果保 手戈我羊義
two + people = beginning, first man + fruit = naked hand + lance (spear) = me + sheep = righteousness

Southeast ASIA

Church growth is slow, but spiritual seekers abound

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

JOHOR BAHRU, Malaysia — Sitting on the couch in his living room, Gary Lye opens a notebook filled with hand-written Chinese characters. Between cups of Chinese tea, he shows how the symbols that represent “person,” “eight” and “boat” combine to form the character for “large ship” — perhaps a reference to the first ship mentioned in Genesis and its eight human passengers. Other words in Chinese — one of the world’s oldest written languages — allude to biblical accounts of creation, the Garden of Eden and the Tower of Babel. Lye became a Christian at age 18, about a year after a classmate first brought him to church. “The Christian faith is more logical.

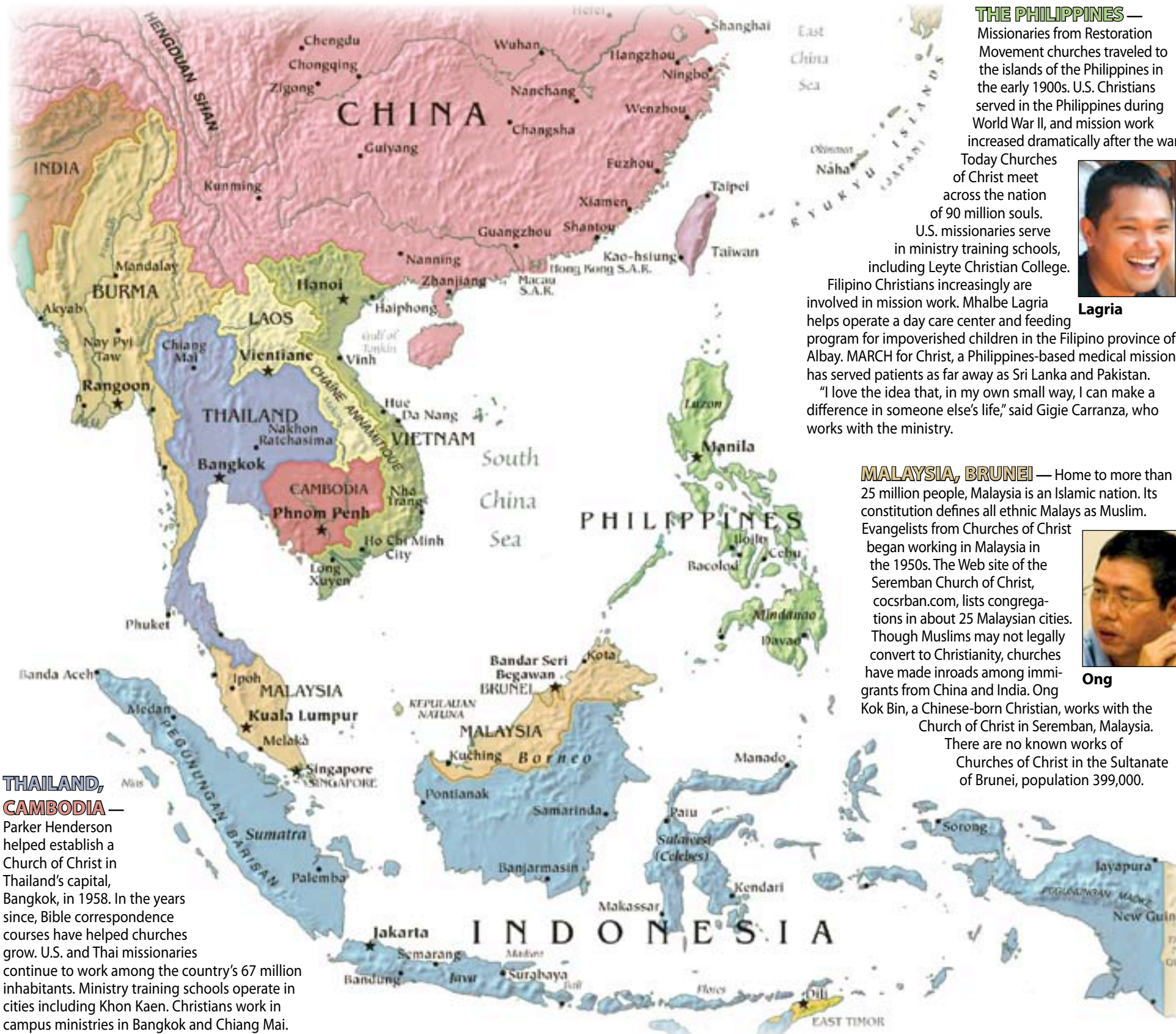
... God’s salvation is more believable” than the Taoist teachings of his youth, he says. Now he studies Scripture with his Chinese neighbors, who are fascinated by the possible links between their history and the faith. “Christianity is not from the West,” Lye says. “Christianity is actually from the East.” Followers of this Eastern faith represent a tiny fraction of Southeast Asia’s faith groups. Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam are prominent beliefs here. In Singapore, the Moulmein Road Church of Christ sits between a Buddhist temple and a Hindu education center. Johor Bahru, a city of 802,000 people just north of Singapore, has two

Churches of Christ with a combined membership of about 70. In the region’s wealthy communities, churches struggle to grow — not because of opposition from other faiths, but apathy toward religion in general, said Ong Kok Bin, a church member in Seremban, about three hours northwest of Johor Bahru. His congregation conducted a house-to-house survey in a predominantly Chinese neighborhood recently. “Only about 3 percent were interested in anything that is religious at all,” Ong said. “Most are interested in what will make their family happy ... in social mobility.” In less-developed regions of Southeast Asia, Christians find receptive audiences. Church members from

Johor Bahru make trips to the Malaysian state of Sarawak on the island of Borneo. Christians have baptized at least 200 people there since 2006, said Chee Yong, who helps coordinate the work. “Our objective is to have 100 churches established throughout Sarawak within 20 years or before I expire, whichever is later,” Yong said. Christians also find spiritual seekers in China itself. Hundreds of church members have traveled to the communist nation to teach English. In 2005 a U.S. teacher assigned students an essay on “the most important thing for China right now.” One student wrote that what China needs most is faith. “I am a communist now, but in the bottom of my soul I am empty,” the student wrote. “I believe most youths in China are ... caught in the same puzzle.”

BURMA, LAOS, VIETNAM — Evangelism is difficult in communist Laos and Vietnam and military controlled Burma (also known as Myanmar), with a combined population of about 141 million people. Christians meet in small groups in Laos and receive support from believers in neighboring Thailand. Tom Tune, a former missionary in the South Pacific, works with young churches in Vietnam and serves underprivileged children in the capital, Ho Chi Minh City. Churches around the globe contributed aid to Burma after a 2008 cyclone claimed more than 138,000 lives. The country has several small Churches of Christ and a ministry training school.

CHINA, TAIWAN — A nation of more than 1 billion souls, China has countless small groups of Christians meeting in homes. In 2005 about 100 U.S. and Asian church members formed an informal effort to foster church-planting movements in China. A government-sanctioned Church of Christ for expatriates meets in the capital, Beijing. The island of Taiwan, population 23 million, has six congregations with a combined membership of less than 100.



THAILAND, CAMBODIA — Parker Henderson helped establish a Church of Christ in Thailand’s capital, Bangkok, in 1958. In the years since, Bible correspondence courses have helped churches grow. U.S. and Thai missionaries continue to work among the country’s 67 million inhabitants. Ministry training schools operate in cities including Khon Kaen. Christians work in campus ministries in Bangkok and Chiang Mai. Some of the first Cambodians to encounter Churches of Christ were refugees in Thailand. In recent years, U.S. missionaries have moved to Cambodia to work in medicine, benevolence and ministry training. Missionary Bill Singleton has assisted in launching about 25 congregations. James Lork ministers for a Church of Christ in the capital, Phnom Penh. Two of Lork’s brothers work with churches across the nation.



Lork

THE PHILIPPINES — Missionaries from Restoration Movement churches traveled to the islands of the Philippines in the early 1900s. U.S. Christians served in the Philippines during World War II, and mission work increased dramatically after the war. Today Churches of Christ meet across the nation of 90 million souls. U.S. missionaries serve in ministry training schools, including Leyte Christian College. Filipino Christians increasingly are involved in mission work. Mhalbe Lagria helps operate a day care center and feeding program for impoverished children in the Filipino province of Albay. MARCH for Christ, a Philippines-based medical mission, has served patients as far away as Sri Lanka and Pakistan. “I love the idea that, in my own small way, I can make a difference in someone else’s life,” said Gigie Carranza, who works with the ministry.



Lagria

MALAYSIA, BRUNEI — Home to more than 25 million people, Malaysia is an Islamic nation. Its constitution defines all ethnic Malays as Muslim. Evangelists from Churches of Christ began working in Malaysia in the 1950s. The Web site of the Seremban Church of Christ, cocsrban.com, lists congregations in about 25 Malaysian cities. Though Muslims may not legally convert to Christianity, churches have made inroads among immigrants from China and India. Ong Kok Bin, a Chinese-born Christian, works with the Church of Christ in Seremban, Malaysia. There are no known works of Churches of Christ in the Sultanate of Brunei, population 399,000.



Ong

SINGAPORE, INDONESIA, EAST TIMOR — Singapore is a high-tech, wealthy city-state of 4.8 million people. Ira Rice helped plant churches here in 1955. Today the island has about 14 Churches of Christ. The largest, Pasir Panjang, has more than 400 members and supports mission work across Southeast Asia. Sue Ann Mak, a second-generation Christian at the Moulmein Road Church of Christ, said that teens in Singapore struggle with distractions similar to those faced by U.S. teens. Growing churches in Singapore have effective outreach to Chinese immigrants, she said. About 86 percent of Indonesia’s 228 million inhabitants claim Islam as their faith, making it the world’s largest Muslim population. The nation has more than 150 Churches of Christ with a combined membership of nearly 10,000, said Winston Bolt, director of Batam Bible College, south of Singapore. Congregations have grown dramatically on the island of Nias and other locales, due in part to relief sent by Churches of Christ after the 2004 tsunami. There are no known works of Churches of Christ in East Timor, an independent nation since 2002 with 1.1 million inhabitants.



Mak

木女婪 口八舟船 市一口田福
two trees + woman = to covet, desire person + eight + boat = large ship God + one + man + garden = happiness, blessing

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Dr. Harold Shank



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Bill Watkins





ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Than Chanoknard of Thailand and Vinod Brennaven of Malaysia teach children to sing "My God is so Big" during Angkor of Faith. About 170 Cambodian youths attended the camp.

ANGKOR OF FAITH: Teens find ways to serve

FROM PAGE 17

fingernail paint and gave free manicures.

"I love to paint," she said. "I do that in Chiang Mai as an outreach."

Some older Cambodian children who have attended the parties in past years helped the teens serve the younger children, said Robert Reagan, a missionary in Chiang Mai.

"Plus, these same older kids helped as English teachers during our service projects to teach English in poor village schools," Reagan said. "So we are now teaching the older street kids to serve the younger ones."

Not all of the teens who participate in Angkor of Faith are Christians. Some are the children or friends of church members who heard about the camp and wanted to attend.

After seeing Christians in action, some attendees have decided to be baptized, Osborne said.

Several non-Christian Japanese teens told Reagan that they were moved by seeing the Cambodian children cry as they said their goodbyes.

"These (teens) said this is the first time they have felt the power of Christianity," Reagan said.

Grace Ong, another member of the Bedok church in Singapore, has attended each Angkor of Faith and said she enjoys seeing the Cambodian kids "grow bigger, smarter and taller."

Working with the youths also has forced the 18-year-old to ponder a

problem faced by missionaries in many developing countries — showing charity without creating dependence.

"How can I help them without them becoming dependent on me ... just handing out things?" she said.



Reagan



Ong

As she shared steaming plates of rice and chicken with her international group, Ong said the camp has helped her become "more optimistic" back home.

In Singapore, many of her peers worry about which university they'll attend. Few seem to realize how blessed they are to be able to choose a university at all.

"Of course I'm privileged ... I get to choose what I want to wear and eat," she said.

Brennaven agreed. He and Ong paid for their dinners — and meals for a few of their Cambodian friends — before heading back to the lodge. The next day he helped lead the children in a rousing chorus of "My God is so big, so strong and so mighty, there's nothing my God cannot do."

"It's a one-of-a-kind experience," he said. "I'm really glad I came."

RELATED VOICES, Page 31

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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?

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BY LYNN McMILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Caleb Smith, 17, is a big guy. Not just because of his 6-foot-6-inch frame, but because of his faith, involvement and attitude.

Smith is a junior at Pikes Peak Christian School in Colorado Springs, Colo., and a member of the Tri-Lakes Church of Christ in the nearby city of Monument. At school he plays basketball, football and is on the track team.

A favorite hobby is performing in school plays and musicals. Last year he received the Soaring Eagle Award at school for exhibiting Christian qualities.

At church he is an active member of the youth group, preaches on Youth Sunday and participates in Bible bowls, food drives and serve-a-thons.

"I accept it when I am called dorky," he said. "Without dorks, life wouldn't be so interesting."

Smith lives with his parents, Greg and Trish. His two brothers, Jacob, 24, and Cole, 22, tagged him with the nickname "Moose."

What things in life are most important to your friends?

It seems these days that everything matters in the moment.

It's always a new fad, a new hair style, new clothes ... whatever is "chill" as some teens say (or "funky," from the lingo of my father).

This also applies to the youthful generation today. Everything is taken to the extreme, and what is defined as most important seems in retrospect to be trivial.

One of the biggest worries of many teens today is being accepted. They believe that the most important thing in high school — or even in life — is to be accepted.

We all need to know that the one person who understands acceptance most is God. No clique or gang can change that, even if they are the "hippest."



APRE PHOTOGRAPHY

Caleb Smith plays basketball and football for Pikes Peak Christian School.

A conversation with Caleb Smith

TEENAGE CHRISTIAN ATHLETE discusses the challenges of sharing faith with friends and keeping young believers in the church.

What do your non-Christian friends think about Christians?

Many times non-Christians aren't too fond of discussing our beliefs and actions in the Christian faith. They think we are prisoners. In a sense, that is true, but we will be the happiest prisoners ever seen when we redeem our promise from the Redeemer.

Because of our differing views, it is sometimes extremely difficult to talk with them about Christianity. There isn't only a fear of judgment but also the

fear of losing that person as a friend. This makes it even more important to trust in God. They think we could be pushing or even forcing truths on them.

Even though discussing God can result in bickering and ridicule sometimes, there is always a common ground. All we have to do is find it.

What life experiences most get the attention of your peers?

Loss. It can be one of the most impacting experiences in life. It can be so crushing when a loved

one or thing is gone. Eyes can be opened, and even beauty can be found in the rubble of what was.

Through a loss, young people can find the benefit in opening their eyes and listening. Of course it will hurt for a while, but God's plan can be shown even in devastation.

Many teens don't really want to get involved in something unless it directly involves them. It almost seems that it takes something monumental to influence some teens.

Do you know teens that have left the Church of Christ?

Why and where did they go?

It is very heartbreaking when teenagers leave the church. They often are scared, bored, lost or can't find something they are looking for in life.

One of my own personal friends is struggling with staying in the church. There was a loss of interest, and he states that he has more important things to worry about.

It is so important to keep our youth in the faith. They will lead the future.

There is no family that can comfort and console a person like the family of God. God will never leave them, and, as family, neither should we.

How can we hold on to Christian teens and keep them from leaving the church?

Because we are in the "now" age, the same old routine can tire teens. They are looking for a modern and personal church.

There are so many things that teens struggle with that can make them prioritize rashly. It is comforting when members of the church can relate to what you are going through. They can say "I understand" or "I've been there."

When members of the church relate to a situation, the opportunity for keeping youth is increased immensely. Relating

to teens can assist in keeping the sheep in the flock.

What kinds of sermons and music most speak to you?

I find it much more than coincidence when a lesson or a song in church corresponds directly to an issue in my life. If I feel confused or lost, we could be singing "Jesus Gently Lead Me Home," a minute after thinking that. If I feel in the dark or alone, the next song could be "Heavenly Sunlight." You can even see some of God's humor after feeling shallow and then singing "There's a Sea."

There are times when the sermon or the singing states something that represents exactly what I needed to hear. When these kind of things happen, I am reassured that

there is purpose for everything. The lessons that speak to me loudest are the ones that seem made for me.

'It is so important to keep our youth in the faith. They will lead the future. ... God will never leave them, and, as family, neither should we.'

What would you like to say to the older generations?

We have been ridiculously blessed with life here on earth. God has been

there since day one, because he created day one. He has inspired many and loved all.

Without the guidance and understanding of some of the past generations, the situation may be different for our church and family. Proverbs 3:5-6 ("Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding ...") gives us a marvelous lifestyle. We can't know everything, and God takes care of the rest.

We've also been blessed by the older generations of the church — from the "Pac-Man" era to the "Halo" era — and thanks are due to God.

It is a different world than what you grew up in, and we aren't out to change everything. We are trying to find our own way to relate in today's world. Be patient with us, and we love you!

“O SING TO THE LORD A NEW SONG;
SING TO THE LORD, ALL THE EARTH.” —PSALM 96:1

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ABILENE, Texas — The bridge between teachers and students can be a tricky one to cross, but the ACU College of Business Administration is allowing students to get to know their professors on a more personal basis.

Through the “Business Lunch” program, students can sign up to share a midday meal with any professor in the department. Students and professors can enjoy a free lunch on campus through a partnership with Aramark.

“The goal of the program is simple: relationship building and networking,” said Amanda Pittman, a marketing associate in the College of Business Administration.

FAULKNER UNIVERSITY

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Reed Sutton, a state champion coach at Houston’s Westbury Christian High, said he’s excited about starting a women’s basketball program at Faulkner.

He began work in March as the Faulkner women’s basketball coach. The program will begin play in the fall, the *Montgomery Advertiser* reported.

HARDING UNIVERSITY

SEARCY, Ark. — When the career services office at Harding wanted to come up with a unique new way for churches across the country to interview potential interns, they developed C-Harmony, which closely resembles speed dating and allows churches to interview multiple students in one afternoon.

The recent event took place on campus and drew representatives from 36 churches across eight states, with more than 225 interviews conducted.

“There are a wide variety of churches that come,” said Deb Bashaw, director of the career services office. “Some of the churches have youth ministries, and they’re just adding interns for the summer. And some of them are wanting somebody to come in and do a youth program for the summer.”

C-Harmony stands for Church Harmony and focuses on the importance of the relationship between congregations and ministers.

LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — An Operation Yellow Ribbon event brought 4,000 people to Allen Arena on March 23 for an evening of songs and stories featuring retired



BRYSON LEACH

Soles4Souls: Freed-Hardeman students gather shoes for Haiti

Students at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn., organize some of the thousands of shoes they collected for Haitians devastated by the Jan. 12 earthquake. Senior Arianne Krulish called the initiative “Project: Haiti.” The shoes were donated to the organization Soles4Souls, which collects footwear for people in need, the *Jackson Sun* reported.

Gen. Tommy Franks and country singer Charlie Daniels.

About 170 people, including injured military veterans, attended a symposium that day to address many of the issues veterans face upon returning home.

Thousands gathered in Allen Arena to hear Kix Brooks, Amy Grant, Gretchen Wilson and Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers — along with Franks and Daniels — in a fundraiser for Lipscomb’s Yellow Ribbon scholarship program and other nonprofits serving the needs of returning veterans and their families.

OHIO VALLEY UNIVERSITY

VIENNA, W.Va. — The OVU alumni association, with assistance from the university’s music department, is planning an alumni chorus reunion and retreat for June 4-6.

Alumni singers from Ohio Valley and the now-defunct Northeastern Christian Junior College in Villanova, Pa., will gather on campus for three rehearsal sessions and a live-audience concert June 5. The chorus also will perform June 6 at the Grand Central Church of Christ in Vienna.

“We’ve been talking about a summer-time alumni chorus reunion off and

on for years,” said Dennis Cox, alumni association executive director. “I could not be more pleased that we could do this as part of our Golden Anniversary Celebration.” For more information, call (304) 865-6081.

OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

OKLAHOMA CITY — A closed church contributed \$100,000 to establish the North Irving Church of Christ Endowment Fund for Oklahoma Christian University’s Beam Library.

The North Irving Church of Christ was founded in September 1958 and disbanded in September 2009. The liquidation of its assets provided an opportunity for the former members to support a number of faith-based programs.

“We are so grateful to the members ... for their generosity and foresight in providing this important gift for our library,” said Tamie Willis, library director.

K-12 CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

FORT WORTH CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

FORT WORTH, Texas — Former President George W. Bush spoke recently at a

SPORTS

Baseball star helps Boles Home

QUINLAN, Texas — The Vernon Wells Perfect 10 Foundation, a project of the Toronto Blue Jays baseball star and his wife, Charlene, will build two homes for single mothers and their families at the Arms of Hope/Boles Children’s Home campus.

A groundbreaking ceremony was planned April 6 during the Blue Jays’ series against the Texas Rangers. Wells is a native of Arlington, Texas.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ARMS OF HOPE

Toronto Blue Jays star Vernon Wells, second from left, poses with high school students served by Arms of Hope.

benefit gala for Fort Worth Christian.

“Every day, I tried to bring honor and dignity to the office,” Bush told a crowd of more than 1,100 at the Omni Fort Worth Hotel.

The school’s gala sold out in 10 days as families from the school scooped up the \$150 tickets that would enable them to see the former president, *The Dallas Morning News* reported.

The school enrolls 865 children in kindergarten through 12th grade.

MINISTRY TRAINING

MAPEPE BIBLE COLLEGE

LUSAKA, Zambia — This ministry training school in southern Africa recently launched Growth Groups, partnering six or seven students with a faculty or staff member for the purpose of mentoring, said director Kennedy Mukuka.

“We have realized that, for us to fully be helpful to our students, we need to spend more time with them — not only in class, but also out of the classroom setting,” Mukuka said. “If we want to bring about spiritual formation in the lives of our students, we need to mentor them like Jesus did with his disciples.”

THE 37TH NATIONAL JAIL & PRISON MINISTRY WORKSHOP

June 9-11, 2010

At the Madison, AL
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Co-Host: NewLife Behavior Network of Alabama

Information at: www.alprisonworkshop.com
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ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

www.acu.edu

Dr. Don Pope, Chair, Department of Management Sciences
ACU Box 29309, Abilene, Texas 79699-9309, don.pope@coba.acu.edu

College of Business Administration: Marketing

The College of Business Administration at Abilene Christian University seeks qualified applicants for an assistant or associate professor of marketing, effective Aug. 1, 2010. Responsibilities include engaging with undergraduate students and colleagues in teaching, research and service. The normal teaching load is 9 hours per semester. Qualifications include a doctorate in marketing or cognate field, and research history and/or plan. Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. Additional position information at: www.acu.edu/academics/provost/positions.html.

In a letter, applicants should address their qualifications for the position. They should include in the application a statement of how faith informs their teaching and administration; a discussion of their spiritual journey; a curriculum vita; transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work; and names, addresses and phone numbers of five references. Review of applicants will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Nominations of and applications from qualified women and minorities are especially encouraged. ACU is affiliated with the fellowship of the Churches of Christ. All applicants must be professing Christians and be active, faithful members of a congregation of the Churches of Christ and deeply committed to service in Christian higher education. The mission of ACU is to educate students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world. ACU does not unlawfully discriminate in employment opportunities.

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TAMIE ROSS

Worship at the Tulsa Workshop

Teens and young adults blend their voices as part of a praise team that helped lead worship at the Tulsa Workshop, which was held March 24-27 at Expo Square in Tulsa, Okla. In its 34th year, the workshop drew participants from across the nation as well as several countries. "God has truly, truly blessed us," said Terry Rush, minister at the Memorial Drive church in Tulsa, which oversees the event. "I am overwhelmed ... that people still want this workshop after all these years."

Fires destroy Texas camp building, damage cottage

A fire destroyed the main building at Camp of the Hills in Marble Falls, Texas, on March 24, trustee Jennifer Cook said. No one was injured, and the cause of the blaze is under investigation.

The next day — March 25 — a separate fire at Cottage 5 of The Children's Home of Lubbock, Texas, destroyed the kitchen and left heavy smoke damage throughout the house, President Lynn R. Harms said. The fire apparently started in a dishwasher. No one was injured as smoke alarms awakened houseparents Andrew and Darlene Hernandez shortly after midnight.

The building destroyed at Camp of the Hills housed the camp's dining hall, commercial kitchen, nurse's station, offices and counselor's quarters. Because the camper cabins and other facilities remain intact, 2010 summer sessions will continue as planned, Cook said.

Camp of the Hills is a Christian camp that serves low-income children from the urban centers of Texas and Oklahoma.

"The majority of campers arrive for a week of camp without sufficient clothing,



JENNIFER COOK

The remains of the main building at Camp of the Hills are shown after the March 24 fire. Camp leaders are asking for financial help.

bedding and toiletries," Cook said. "The camp previously gathered extra items for the campers, and all of these items were destroyed." Immediate financial support and donations are needed, Cook said.

In Lubbock, the teen girls who live in the damaged cottage have been moved into temporary quarters until the house can be repaired, Harms said.

Romania missionary a 'whirlwind of energy' for children

BY JOY McMILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Imogene McNulty remembers the disturbing images of children tied to their cribs — cold, ignored, underfed and covered in filth.

The images came from state-run orphanages in the central European nation of Romania. They surfaced after the death of President Nicolae Ceausescu, the communist dictator who was executed in 1989. Among the president's legacy were 96,000 children living in appalling conditions.

For McNulty, an American missionary living in Bucharest, Romania, in the 1990s, a visit to the orphanages ignited a passion to show God's love.

"I was driven to serve ... because I was there," said McNulty, a native of Fayetteville, Tenn.

Today, nearly 1,500 children in nine orphanages and four hospitals in Romania regularly receive powdered milk, clothing, shoes, food and medical supplies from American and Romanian Christians.

McNulty, now 77, and her husband, Dale, 79, returned to the U.S. recently after 34 years on the mission field — 15 in Lille, France, and 19 in Bucharest.

"She's a whirlwind of energy," said Sharon Horrell, director of development for Christian Relief Fund in Amarillo, Texas. Horrell met McNulty in 1991 at a symposium on Romanian relief. The relief group partnered with the missionary, contributing funds earmarked for food and medical supplies to Romanian orphanages.

When McNulty, a graduate of Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn., visited orphanages and hospitals, children greeted her with smiles, hugs and happy shouts. They clamored to sit in her lap.

FEEDING THE HUNGRY

In recent years — with help from churches, ministries including Nashville-based Healing Hands International



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Imogene McNulty has served children in Romania's hospitals and orphanages for nearly 20 years.



Imogene and Dale McNulty

and volunteers from Lipscomb — McNulty also has annually purchased, assembled and delivered nearly 6,000 Christmas packages. Filled with food, clothing and stuffed toys, the packages go to children and needy Romanian families.

While McNulty's actions have blessed the lives of thousands of children, "God has also used the work to open doors for the Gospel," said Ken Smith, an elder of the McNultys' sponsoring congregation, the Cedar Lane Church of Christ in Tullahoma, Tenn.

Dan Davis agreed. He worked with the McNultys in Bucharest from 1992-95. Later he and his family moved to the Romanian city of Cluj to plant a church.

ADVICE FOR MISSIONARIES:

Imogene McNulty's advice for women considering mission work:

"You need to be secure in your own faith. Don't go there to get faith. You have to believe that you are God's saved children and that you have a message people need to hear. You have something they need, and you want to share it. And if you don't have that, you aren't ready to go."

"Sometimes God will show you that you aren't ready because, perhaps, you may not be able to find support. And if you can't take rejection from your own brethren, you aren't ready to be in the mission field. If you can't convince elders that this work needs to be done and that you are willing to do it, then you can't convince people that they need to change their lives."

Missionaries in Romania have experienced few problems renewing their visas to stay in the country — compared to many other former Soviet nations. Imogene McNulty's work with children is a likely cause for the Romanian government's goodwill, Davis said.

Romanian Christians said that McNulty's work has given Churches of Christ a good reputation in Romania. Emmanuel Sanda and his wife, Cristina, were converted by the missionaries in 1991 and are members of the Mihai Bravu congregation in Bucharest.

"In the early '90s people were hungry for both the Word as well as food and supplies of any kind," Emmanuel Sanda

said, "and Dale and Imogene provided the perfect combination of love, care, knowledge and funds to meet many of those needs."

PASSIONATE FUNDRAISER

McNulty's ministry to Romania's children was accompanied by an ever-growing need for funds. She spent four months per year in the U.S., speaking to church groups. The trips allowed her to visit her children and grandchildren, but meant leaving her husband behind and living out of a suitcase.

"She's a take-no-prisoners kind of person when it comes to helping the less fortunate," said Cedar Lane elder Mike Fitzgerald. Members of the

Tennessee church have visited the McNultys numerous times and were instrumental in leading the effort to fund a church building in Bucharest, which opened in 1998.

Linda Purdy, director of the Christian Relief Fund, recalled McNulty speaking to a group of women about her ministry. She was raising funds for orphans and children in the burn unit of a Romanian hospital. She spoke, showed pictures and stopped suddenly, Purdy said.

"What's wrong with you? Get out your checkbooks!" she urged the women.

"And they did," Purdy said.

TEACHING BY GIVING

This spring the McNultys moved to Abilene, Texas, where they are building a house.

"She's not really going to retire," said their son, David, a clinical psychologist and professor at Abilene Christian University. "She'll continue to speak and raise funds for orphans."

Difficult as it was to leave friends in Bucharest, the McNultys said the work is in competent hands.

Imogene McNulty has trained two Romanian Christians to serve as liaisons with donor groups and Romanian officials. Her husband has trained members to preach, lead singing and handle finances for the Mihai Bravu church.

The couple looks forward to returning yearly to teach and encourage Romanian Christians.

As the McNultys prepared to leave Romania, physicians whose hospitals have benefited from their work thanked them for their giving spirit.

"Mrs. McNulty, you and your church taught us how to give," said Dr. Dan Enescu, a physician in a hospital burn unit. "You didn't give with an expectation of anything in return."

"That's how Christ gave," she replied.

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

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

Stated clearly by the former president of Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee, “Today, research universities are thoroughly secular and comprise one of the

few places in America where openly acknowledged religion is not a life option. Consequently, academic freedom has become a casualty at these institutions.”

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

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

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

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

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

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



*L. Randolph Lowry
President, Lipscomb University*

Randy

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



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NEWSMAKERS

NAMED: Turney Stevens, one of Ethisphere Institute's 100 most influential people in business ethics.

Stevens is dean of the College of Business at Lipscomb University, Nashville, Tenn. **Mike Miller**, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Development Officer of Predisan-USA, Atlanta. **Malcolm Coco**, Abilene, Texas, and **Mary Creech**, Murfreesboro, Tenn., to the Board of Director of Herald of Truth Ministries, Abilene. Coco is an elder of Hillcrest church, Abilene. Creech worships with the Vultee church, Nashville, Tenn. **Thomas G. Bost**, interim dean of Pepperdine University School of Law, Malibu, Calif. Bost is an elder of the Culver-Palms church, Los Angeles. **Tim Burow**, dean of international studies, Sunset International Bible Institute, Lubbock, Texas. Burow is a former missionary to Ukraine. **Meredith Rosenbaum**, women's volleyball coach, and **Delton Deal**, men's basketball coach, York College, York, Neb.



Coco



Creech



Bost



Jones

AWARDED: Jake Stewart, the 2010 James R. Snyder International Student Paper of the Year for the North America Region. Stewart is an assistant professor of business at Harding University, Searcy, Ark. **Craig Jones**, the national Teacher of the Year award by the National Christian School Association. Jones teaches music, drama and Bible and directs the chorus at Harding Academy, Searcy. **May Rydl**, Valley Christian Heritage School, Alamo, Texas, the Vaughn D. Luster Administrator of the Year Award by the National Christian Schools Association.

ANNIVERSARIES: 50th: Don and Sandra Humphrey, Mt. Juliet, Tenn.

BIRTHDAYS: 99th: Ben F. Hughes, Beaumont, Texas. **90th:** Harvy and Amy Robins, Searcy, Ark. **86th:** Paul Eckstein, Flint, Mich.

PASSAGES: Robert Lee Barnhill, 75, Feb. 23, Nashville, Tenn. Served as minister for churches in Texas and Tennessee and as elder of the West End church, Nashville. **Berbel (Barbara) Achtelek**, Feb. 5, East Islip, N.Y. Member of the Exodus Bay Shore church plant (now the West Islip, N.Y. church) and former board member of the Timothy Hill Children's Ranch. **Roberto Mondragon**, 88, Jan. 19. Pioneer of the church in Catacamas, Honduras. **Kathryn "Kay" Patton**, 87, Feb. 22, Abilene, Texas. Former missionary to Germany and member of University church in Abilene. **Charles B. Vrooman**, 89, Dec. 9, Syracuse, N.Y. Longtime member of Wetzel Road church, Liverpool, N.Y.

April 10-14 Southwest Bible Lectures.

29th annual. "Proclaiming Christ: Called Unto Salvation." Southwest church, Austin, Texas. Contact (512) 282-2486 or www.swcofc.org.

April 13-16 National Christian Camping Workshop. 43rd annual. "A New Point of View." Tallgrass Christian Camp, Harveyville, Kan. Contact www.naccamps.org.

April 18-21 Crowley's Ridge College Bible Lectureship. 10th annual. "The Ten Commandments." Paragould, Ark. Contact www.crc.edu.

April 23-25 Mid-Atlantic Youth Forum. "Fully Alive." Camp Wamava, Linden, Va. Contact www.silverspringchurchofchirst.org or office @silverspringcofc.org.

April 23-24 Women Walking with God Conference 2010. Wichita, Kan. Contact www.womenwalkingwithgod.org or (316) 838-5200.

April 24-25 50th anniversary of the West Main church, Tupelo, Miss. Contact (662) 842-9263 or www.westmainchurch.org.

May 1-2 100th anniversary of the Pleasanton, Texas church. Contact (830) 281-5511.

May 12-15 The Ascending Voice II. "An international symposium of sacred a cappella music." Pepperdine University, Malibu, Calif. Contact www.pepperdine.edu/ascendingvoice or (310) 506-4261.

May 13-15 21st Annual Men's Retreat. "The Mind of Christ." Augusta, Mont. Hosted by the Great Falls, Mont., church. Contact Bob Alfred (406) 788-7599 or alfredfamily@hotmail.com.

May 16 100th anniversary of the Panhandle, Texas, church. Contact J. D. Kelly Jr., (806) 537-3004.

May 17-19 Retirees Ministry Conference. "Connecting Retirees to Ministry." Abilene Christian University, Abilene, Texas. Contact www.acu.edu/gerontology or (325) 674-2350.

May 20-22 North Canton, N.C., church Gospel Meeting. "Glorify Jesus and Show Him to Others" by Jeff Walling. Contact northcantonchurch.org or (33) 499-4303.

May 22-23 75th anniversary of the Montwood church, El Paso, Texas. Contact James Jones Jr. (915) 855-9896.

June 9-11 National Jail and Prison Ministry Workshop. 37th annual. Madison, Ala. church. Contact www.alprisonworkshop.com, (256) 772-3911, wcedwards@knology.net.

June 11-12 Northeastern States Men's Retreat. Kent School, Kent, Conn. Contact www.cocmensretreat.com.

June 12-13 40th anniversary of the Westlake church, Indianapolis. Contact www.westlakechurch.org or reunion@westlake.org.

June 15-19 Quest: A retreat for all ages. "Love One Another." Wisconsin Christian Youth Camp, Black River Falls, Wis. Contact Jim Frost (312) 420-0859 or www.wcyc.org.

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.

COMPLETE CALENDAR available at www.christianchronicle.org.

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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EDITORIAL

Will Facebook kill the church?

Richard Beck posted a provocatively titled discussion recently: "How Facebook killed the church."

Actually, the social networking Web site isn't the only culprit, Beck writes on his blog, experimentaltheology.blogspot.com. The growth in instantaneous communication technology — from cell phones to wireless Internet — has played a role in declining church attendance in the Western world, says Beck, an associate professor and experimental psychologist at Abilene Christian University in Texas.

Those of us who use such technology bristle at this thought. We receive text messages about upcoming church events. Hundreds of ministries, including *The Christian*

Chronicle, have fan pages on Facebook. Our reporters have used the Web site to connect with believers around the globe.

If anything, technology has increased our connections to our church community, right?

Exactly, Beck says.

And that's the problem.

"Church has always been about social affiliation," he writes. "You met your friends, discussed your week, talked football, shared information about good schools, talked local politics, got the scoop and made social plans."

Today's young adults "don't need physical locations for

social affiliation," Beck writes. "They can make dinner plans via text, cell phone call or Facebook. In short, the thing that kept young people going to church ... has been effectively replaced."

Before you balk at Beck's assertions about church, think about a time in your life when you felt alone. Perhaps you left home for college and found yourself in a community of non-believers. Or you graduated from a Christian university and moved to a city where you had no Christian friends.

Do you remember feeling a strong need to attend church

— not just for spiritual renewal, but for interaction with fellow believers? What happens when younger generations find virtual venues to fill that need?

Regardless of our views on technology in a changing world, we can agree that our churches must be about more than "social affiliation." Many of our outreach programs function on an "if you build it, they will come" mentality. We attract young people with the promise of activities and interaction. The Gospel comes later. If Beck's assertions are true, the days of such programs succeeding are gone — if indeed they ever existed.

Last year the *Chronicle* interviewed young Christians about their faith. None of them said they wanted their churches to be sites for social networking or places for entertainment. They longed for meaningful ministry. They wanted to get involved, to feel useful.

Our churches can provide such opportunities — for those inside the church and those outside seeking a deeper relationship with God. How can we effectively communicate such opportunities to a generation that interacts and "meets" only in cyberspace?

Oddly enough, the likely answer is Facebook.

Ever-Laughing Life

by Jonny Hawkins



"And to know how you can pray for me when I'm migrating, remember - I twitter."

TO OUR READERS

That's right, we're on Facebook

Yes, it's a bit unusual to discuss the merits and drawbacks of Facebook as it relates to church attendance — and then advertise our presence on the social networking site.

Nonetheless, *The Christian Chronicle* has a Facebook fan page, and more than 4,400 fans. Find the fan page at www.facebook.com/christianchronicle.

On our fan page you'll find links to the latest stories and online exclusives on our Web site, christianchronicle.org.

You'll also find links to stories about Churches of Christ in secular media.

We welcome and encourage comments from our Facebook fans.



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Voices, hearts and lungs as spiritual instruments

Multiple forces conspire against the venerable practice of a cappella singing in worship. The challenge is partly external, the consequence of a changing culture.

Group singing of all kinds — whether in schools, homes or churches — is in danger of extinction in America.

As financially strapped schools cut arts programs, denying children the opportunity to sing; as Americans become a passive, listening culture, accustomed to highly produced professional recordings; as more churches rely increasingly on amplified bands, whether vocal or instrumental, the net effect is the marginalization of the voices of ordinary people.

Where in today's culture are people socialized to sing often, naturally, in groups? Pete Seeger observed, "Once upon a time wasn't singing a part of everyday life, as much as talking, physical exercise, going to church? Our distant ancestors ... sang while pounding grain, paddling canoes or walking long journeys." Those days are over. While older Christians may cherish fond memories of robust singing, we cannot assume the young will enjoy the same memories. Will the next generation continue to sing? Perhaps so, but we have much to do.

It is easy to blame external forces that diminish singing, but to rail against instrumental music does nothing to cause one to love a cappella music. A strong argument for a cappella singing is to experience it in its full power. If one never experiences the soul-stirring power of human voices joyously united in song, theological argument alone will scarcely sustain the tradition. If we are honest, we will admit that our own inattention and poor choices work against the survival of a cappella singing.

If we want to preserve congregational singing, we will devote much more positive attention to it, developing talented song leaders who are devoted to excellent music and able to teach old and new songs in fresh ways. With excellent leading, old hymns can be made new. We will devote special attention to children's singing. Children naturally love to sing. If they no longer love to sing when they reach adulthood, church leaders must ask: What might we be doing wrong?

We must scour the earth to identify the finest, truly "singable" songs. Most congregations rely on too narrow a repertoire. Fine hymns are being written by believers around the globe. Why shouldn't some of these enter our worship services? Some fellowships, such as the Mennonites, have done an impressive job of building a repertoire of hymns from around the world — folk,

Asian, African, old American hymnody, new American hymnody, old Psalms and new, gospel, Taizé and spirituals. Our congregations could learn much about hymnody from our neighbors.

Views



Darryl Tippens

'If we are truly serious about preserving congregational singing, we will invest in music instruction for all the church.'

If we are truly serious about preserving congregational singing, we will invest in music instruction for all the church, just as we invest in preaching and teaching. We will argue about it less; we will practice it more. We will build or remodel our buildings so that they enhance, rather than mute, the bold, harmonious voice of the people. How sad it is that many church buildings today inhibit congregational singing.

Very importantly, we will reframe the reasons why we sing. For some, singing is important only because it serves as a mark of the true church, a legal requirement, which does little to inspire the love of singing. What if singing is less a sectarian marker and more the sacrifice of sincere praise? What if we understood our voices, hearts, and lungs as spiritual instruments, played by the very Spirit of God? What if every singer saw hymns as "magnificent structures" which "every participant helps build in mid-air, built out of air, out of the spirit and breath God gave us," which "we offer back to him in love," as Frederica Mathewes-Green maintains? What if we were to sing, not because we had to, but because it is a rare privilege, the sacrifice of one's self to the very One who gives us breath?

Will congregational singing survive? Yes, because it is true to the Word of God. Yes, because in song God's people encounter their Creator. Yes, because God is enthroned on the praises of Israel (Psalm 22:3). Yes, because we mortals cannot resist the God-given urge to express our greatest joys and deepest longings through song.

However, if we want singing to thrive, not merely survive, then we must restore the joy of singing. Singing must be a powerful, transformative, experiential element in our lives. Old and young alike must be taught to sing, to sing well. They must be invited to sing the best that has been composed — the best lyrics, the best music.

The great Mennonite hymnologist Mary Oyer has written, "We have a wonderful heritage. I think we will keep it only if we sing. We have to sing much more. We have to practice by doing it. Sing more. Keep singing. Sing. Sing. Sing. Sing before church. Sing during church. Sing after church. Just do it."

DARRYL TIPPENS is provost of Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif., and organizer of The Ascending Voice II, a symposium of sacred a cappella music set for May 12-15 at Pepperdine.

LETTERS

Reasons for changing student populations

"Member numbers down at Christian universities" (Page 1, April) didn't mention the two reasons I have heard from many Christian parents for not sending their children to some Christian schools: cost and teachings.

Parents are willing to pay the higher cost at a Christian school when they believe it provides a Christian atmosphere and that it teaches what the parents hold important. Schools with teachers known for other views shouldn't be surprised when parents look elsewhere to send their children. Schools which downplay the Christian nature of the school shouldn't be surprised when parents decide the school isn't worth the cost.

Terry Pace | Otisville, Mich.

Praise for story on star NCAA basketball player

I loved the article on Scottie Reynolds (Page 1, April). We moved from Oklahoma to Pennsylvania before Scottie's sophomore year and have since become Villanova (Scottie Reynolds) fans!

He is an awesome young man who is such a wonderful example to many. As fellow members of the King of Prussia church, we have been blessed to become friends with Scottie, and we have been encouraged by his faith and commitment.

Wishing Scottie much success!

Jana Walker | Berwyn, Pa.

VOICES

Why did you come to Angkor of Faith 4? What was your favorite part?

Asked by Erik Tryggstad, assistant managing editor, at the annual youth camp in Siem Reap, Cambodia.



To reach out to the less fortunate people by showing them the love of Christ. My experience with the kids is that they are really lacking in love. We can't give much to them in material, but certainly we can give them love.

Philip Wl Loh | Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



I came for the first one (four years ago) and came back for this one. The first one was more like an experiment — more getting to know the kids. Now it's more like mission work. Now the kids know us. They don't want us to go.

Jia Ni Lee | Singapore



Actually, at first I didn't know what they do here. After I got here, I saw the immediate expression of those (kids) after we got off the bus. Thus far I haven't been doing much to help children. Now that I'm here, my No. 1 goal is to get to know as many people as I can.

Jonathan Lee | Melaka, Malaysia



I love going to Cambodia to show the kids how there are people in world who can love them, give to them and share with them without asking anything in return. I want to comfort them with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

Gemma Avisado | Taguig, Philippines

Don't compromise your values, advises 'Cowdog' author

BY NATHAN A. DAHLSTROM | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

What do you get when you cross a Harvard education, a working cowboy and a sincere commitment to Jesus Christ?

The answer is a viewpoint that is about as uncommon as a Harvard Christian cowboy.

Primarily known for the bestselling children's series "Hank the Cowdog," John R. Erickson makes an unpretentious offering in cultural criticism in **"Story Craft: Reflections on Faith, Culture & Writing."**

Erickson is surprisingly aware of Christian worldview literature — considering that he spent the past 28 years writing about a smelly, quixotic dog that protects his ranch from silver monster birds.

Erickson's early works were rejected by New York publishers as "too regional" or "not enough sex." He refused to give up, launched the "Hank the Cowdog" series and now returns to critique the culture that sent him the pink slips.

The encouraging message Erickson preaches is that you must keep working and not compromise your values.

After the initial rejections, this University of Texas and Harvard man opened his own publishing company and

started printing books on his own tab, believing in the quality of his stories. After verging on bankruptcy, the experiment worked. The fledgling Maverick Books grew and quickly came to be courted by movie heavyweights Disney and Nickelodeon.

Million-dollar signing offers challenged Erickson's ethics. He was even railroaded by a major network into a postmodern Hank the Cowdog pilot, but learned his lesson and teaches us from the bruises.

Some 7 million books later "Story Craft" demands our attention as a critical view from the inside of writing and publishing.

Erickson launches a frontal attack on the literary establishment and popular culture. He

takes a stab at network media, vacuous secular education and the jagged world of modern art by declaring "A good deal of popular culture offends me."

Less a critic, more a cheerleader for parents, artists and consumers, Erickson pushes us toward a better definition of what we consider art. He implores us to look for what will "nourish" the reader, not to simply shock or amuse.

Every piece of cultural material contains a worldview, he writes. It makes us either better or worse. A story should enrich, not poison, the reader.

While little of this overt faith talk has made its way into his previously published work, it bubbles up to the surface in "Story Craft" frequently. Quoting the Bible, C.S. Lewis and Francis Schaeffer more often than his Texas and Harvard professors, he makes his case for a worldview that carefully appraises the stream of media we are offered today.

Erickson argues that even his dog humor is laced with Christian worldview — in contrast to preachy Christian literature and blatantly secular humanistic stories that dominate the mainstream. Pulling no punches, Erickson challenges Christian writers and artists. Their work often lacks authentic, quality storytelling and defaults to dogmatic, oft-repeated storylines and thinly veiled sermons, he writes.

The millions of "Hank the Cowdog" fans will enjoy this book for its insight into the life of the series' creator — not to mention Hank himself. But "Story Craft" is also a valuable tool for teachers, librarians and aspiring writers along with any parent or homeschooler whose children are watching television, going to movies, listening to popular music and learning to read.

Aspiring writers and college students

will also find savvy advice, both technical and ethical, throughout the book. Three chapters offer 20 simple keys for how to write. The most striking and profound; "Before we write, we should live."

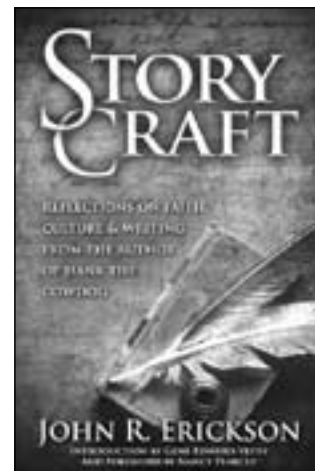
Erickson's experienced and honest voice drives the book.

Unfortunately, he frequently abandons that perspective and relies on other voices, namely C.S. Lewis and Gene Edward Veith.

Many have written similar Christian worldview treatises on writing, culture and art (Veith and well-known author Nancy Pearcey write the introduction and foreword). Erickson points to many of the same conclusions but does so as a man with a lifetime in the actual arena of publishing, art and culture.

The battles he has fought in this theater, while maintaining his Christian integrity, will both instruct and inspire. "Story Craft" will give every reader something worthwhile to consider and aid in helping the reader form a better lens for what they pick up next.

NATHAN A. DAHLSTROM is a director for The Children's Home of Lubbock in Texas. He and his wife have three daughters and attend the Greenlawn Church of Christ in Lubbock.



John R. Erickson. **Story Craft: Reflections on Faith, Culture & Writing from the Author of Hank the Cowdog.** Perryton, Texas: Maverick Books, 2009. 168 pages. \$12.99.

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

BIBLE STUDY AND THE LOCAL CHURCH

Ron Clark. **The Better Way — The Church of Agape in Emerging Corinth.** Eugene, Ore.: Resource Publications, 2010. 166 pages. \$23.



Clark, who recently helped plant the Agape Church of Christ in Portland, uses 1 Corinthians to guide contemporary churches through the violence, discrimination, sexuality and fear of popular culture. Rather than taking a verse-by-verse approach, Clark stresses the way Paul's message aids congregations in facing a difficult world.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Ivy Beckwith. **Formational Children's Ministry: Shaping Children Using Story, Ritual, and Relationship.** Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker, 2010. 157 pages. \$10.87.



Beckwith, associated with Gospel Light Publications, argues that too many children's ministries center on entertainment or baby-sitting. She proposes a ministry geared toward children growing up in a postmodern world that is based on building faith, not just instilling knowledge. The volume is amply illustrated with examples from effective children's ministries.

MISSIONS

Fiona Soltes. **Virtuous Servant.** Franklin, Tenn.: Providence House, 2009. 114 pages. \$24.95.



Sarah Sheppard Andrews served as a missionary in Japan from 1915 to 1960. She helped establish four Churches of Christ and worked with other missionaries, including the J. M. McCaleb family.

This brief review of her life cites her as a courageous and faithful woman noting especially the difficult days of living in Japan during World War II. The volume includes 23 black-and-white photographs.

CHRISTIAN PRACTICE

David L. Smith. **Learning from the Stranger — Christian Faith and Cultural Diversity.** Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 2009. 184 pages. \$20.



Smith, associated with Calvin College, uses Scripture to guide Christians on interactions with people from other cultures.

Aimed especially at American college students who increasingly encounter international students sitting next to them in the classroom, the volume centers on what the call to "love your neighbor" means to one's perceptions and behaviors.

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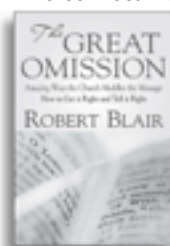
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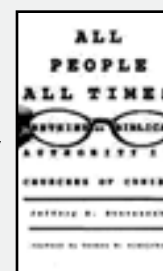
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Time's rapid advance reminds us to slow down, seek renewal

My junior year of high school, our English class studied Edward FitzGerald's translation of "Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam."

The long poem was full of stanzas describing the brevity of time. Several of my friends became fascinated with the idea, and we often spent lunch reading and quoting the lines. One passage we all memorized was the 51st stanza:

*The Moving Finger writes;
and, having writ,
Moves on: nor all your Piety nor Wit
Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line,
Nor all your Tears wash out
a Word of it.*

That statement rang true — even to my 16-year-old mind, and now that 60 more years have passed, the sobering truth that time moves on and can never be called back is stark reality.

My life has been blest, and I know of only a few times I would cancel a line or "wash out a Word of it." Still, I wish I had lived my life with a keener awareness that no do-overs are possible.

Almost my only regret has to do with family. I rationalized about not spending time with my elderly parents — my work schedule was too busy. And even now I rationalize neglect of my grown children and growing grandchildren.

Although I love teaching 18-to-22-year-olds the importance of faith, ideas and literature, too often that work keeps me from meaningful time with my four youngest grandchildren, who live in the same city with me. I am praying that I can be wise in balancing work that gives meaning to my life and valuable time with my precious impressionable young children.

Last spring I reread Darryl Tippens' "Pilgrim Heart," a wonderful, thought-provoking study of finding meaning for all life through knowing and understanding God. Tippens devotes several chapters to the importance of Sabbath for mankind. Most Christians think of the Sabbath rules of the Old Testament. Tippens talks about the principle of rest and reflection.

In an age when most jobs require much more than 40 hours a week, and when families have a calendar for each child to keep up with school, sport and music activities, quiet and reflection are hard to come by. Tippens encourages us to respect our bodies and our spirits

by protecting time for relationships with God, family and friends.

If we consider the example of Jesus, he had three short years to accomplish his mission of preparing disciples to carry on the work of the Kingdom and teaching men everywhere to live by faith.

Insight



Bailey McBride

The Gospels show clearly that he was pressed on every side by people who wanted to hear him or to be blessed by him. Even when he went to the desert, crowds followed to hear him and seek miracles. Even when he journeyed back to Galilee from Jerusalem and his group stopped in Samaria to buy food, Jesus took time to teach a sinful woman about living water and true worship. He seemed never too busy for any seeker. When he was busiest, he took his disciples away for a retreat to pray and rest.

Many people are so accustomed to having a schedule or working on projects that time has to be taken an hour or two at a stretch. Scheduling a time for personal Bible study requires discipline of the first order.

Each person must find the way that best brings peace, awareness and renewal in God. If each of us could manage our lives so that we had one day — other than Sunday — to give attention to our spiritual needs, to our spouse's spiritual needs and to spiritual needs of other friends and brothers, we could be more pleasing to God, have more joy in our relationships and glorify God within our communities.

I have great admiration for people who always seem to be there for others who are having problems or celebrations. Those Christians who visit any friend or church member in the hospital inspire great respect. Many families regularly prepare meals to share with the elderly or families with struggles. Many people are vigilant about greeting cards to express concern and love for others.

God does not command us to keep the Sabbath, but his guidance from another era can be a way for all to find renewal through Jesus.

CONTACT bailey.mcbride@christianchronicle.org.



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