



TRENDS IN FRESHMAN ENROLLMENT

Member numbers down at Christian universities

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

A decade ago, a majority of freshmen at Rochester College in Michigan, York College in Nebraska and Abilene Christian University in Texas claimed membership in Churches of Christ.

That's no longer the case.

An increasing number of colleges and universities associated with Churches of Christ draw more freshmen from outside the fellowship than within, a survey by *The Christian Chronicle* found.

Ten years ago, Church of Christ members comprised 70 percent of freshmen at 18 Christian higher education institutions, according to a separate study by Flavil Yeakley, director of the Harding Center for Church Growth in Searcy, Ark.

By fall 2009, that figure dropped to 53 percent.

"I think many of us were surprised at the extent of that decline," said Mike O'Neal, president of Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City and chairman of the Christian Higher Education Foundation, which commissioned Yeakley's study.

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

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

Yeakley collected annual data for 1997 through 2009.

The 18 institutions he studied reported total freshman enrollment of 5,361 in fall 2009 — down 19 percent from a high of 6,636 in fall 2001.

"Most of that decline came because fewer members of the

See **UNIVERSITIES**, Page 12



ELLIOT JONES

Chris Lindsey leads singing during chapel at Rochester College.



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Churches serve thirsty souls in Haiti

Minister Jean T. Elmera gives a cup of juice to a child at a feeding center operated by his congregation, the Delmas 28 Church of Christ in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The church lost 51 of its members, and its three-story building, in the Jan. 12 earthquake. In the weeks following the quake, the congregation has baptized dozens of people.

SPECIAL REPORT FROM HAITI, Pages 16-19

Faith, not hoops, drives NCAA star

BY HAMIL HARRIS | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

WASHINGTON — It was not the best day for Villanova basketball star Scottie Reynolds.

A blizzard of historic proportions prevented the senior point guard's planned personal cheering section — including his parents and about 250 friends from his D.C.-area alma mater — from attending a key game at Georgetown.



Reynolds

Even worse, the Big East rival Hoyas served Reynolds' Wildcats, then ranked No. 2 in the nation, just their second defeat of the season. But outside the visitors' locker room in the bowels of the Verizon Center, Reynolds wore a smile and displayed a spiritual attitude.

"We walk by faith, not by sight," said Reynolds, 22, who is active at the King of Prussia Church of Christ, near the

See **REYNOLDS**, Page 14

Bright ideas



for improving relationships

Want to be a better neighbor? First, examine your own life, authors advise.

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Adopting in Ethiopia

Christian couples look to horn of Africa to give children a new home.

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Keeping kids in the faith

Suggestions for fostering spiritual development.

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A time to be born and a time to die

The words of the song “Blessed Be Your Name” keep playing in my mind. *You give and take away, You give and take away, My heart will choose to say, Lord, blessed be your name.*

Inside Story



Bobby Ross Jr.

day is coming.

As a father, my greatest desire is that my three children will become faithful Christians and spend an eternity in heaven with God.

Eight years ago, I had the privilege of baptizing my son Brady, then 8 years old.

After much reading and studying of the Bible and discussion with his parents, Brady came to the conclusion that he had sinned. My son, whose wisdom exceeded his age, decided he needed to profess Jesus Christ as his savior and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins.

In one of the best moments of my life, I walked into the baptistery with him and immersed him.

On a recent Monday night, Brady, now 16, stepped back into that same baptistery — this time to immerse his brother, Keaton, 12.

Before a crowd of fellow Christians at our home congregation, Brady asked Keaton, “Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that he came to

See **JOY AND PAIN**, Page 4

In recent weeks, my family has experienced joy and pain — and we are not alone.

Such is the reality of life. But, praise God, a better



GERALD EWING

At his introduction as the new president of Abilene Christian University in Texas, Phil Schubert receives a standing ovation from the Moody Coliseum crowd.

‘ACU’s best days are ahead’

ALUMNUS PHIL SCHUBERT is named to succeed Royce Money as president of the 4,800-student Christian university.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Even as a boy, Phil Schubert bled purple.

His late father, Joe Schubert, longtime minister of the Bammel Church of Christ in Houston, attended Abilene Christian University. So did his mother, Kathy Schubert, who lives in Dallas, and his older brothers, David and Kelley.

Therefore, it came as no surprise when Phil Schubert showed up on the West Texas campus two decades ago.

But did the 1991 accounting graduate expect that he’d someday lead his alma mater? Not really, he said.

“At some point, I might have had a fleeting thought of it,” Schubert acknowledged in a telephone interview with *The Christian Chronicle*.

Trustees announced Feb. 12 that the 40-year-old alumnus will succeed Royce Money as president of the 4,800-student university, which is associated with Churches of Christ.

“Dr. Schubert is an individual in whom the university and this board have tremendous

confidence,” ACU trustees Sharron Drury and Jim Porter, who co-chair the presidential transition team, said in a statement. “The fact that someone of Dr. Schubert’s caliber will now lead this 104-year-old institution bodes well for ACU’s future. We are excited about the energy and enthusiasm he brings to this new role.”

‘The gravity of leading ACU forward is tremendous. It’s an incredible honor and daunting at the same time.’

Phil Schubert
President-elect, Abilene Christian University in Texas

Schubert, ACU’s executive vice president since 2007, was one of two finalists for the presidency, along with Richard S. Lytle, dean of ACU’s College of Business Administration. Schubert will assume the presidency June 1.

“This is a place that I love and am passionate about,” Schubert said. “The gravity of leading ACU forward is tremendous. It’s an incredible honor and daunting at the same time. ... God is opening doors for us on many different fronts.”

Money, who has served as president for 19 years, announced last year that he would step down at the end of this academic year. He will remain at ACU in a new role as chancellor.

“I have great confidence in Phil’s ability to lead ACU in the future,” Money said. “I will assist him in whatever way he sees fit. I believe that ACU’s best days are ahead.”



GERALD EWING

Phil Schubert speaks at a news conference on his appointment as ACU’s 11th president.

Phil Schubert

FAMILY: Married to wife Jamie for 17 years. Three children: Sydnie, 13; Mason, 11; and Ella, 3.

CHURCH: Member of Southern Hills church in Abilene since 2009. From 1993-2009, attended Highland church in Abilene, serving as budget committee chairman, high school huddle leader and eighth-grade boys Bible class teacher.

EDUCATION: Doctorate in higher education management from University of Pennsylvania, 2009. Master’s degree in business administration from Duke University, 2006. Bachelor’s degree in accounting from Abilene Christian University, 1991.

EXPERIENCE AT ACU: Executive vice president, 2007-2010. Vice president for finance and administration, 2001-2007. Chief financial officer, 1998-2001. Director of financial operations, 1997-1998. Director of student financial services, 1995-1997. Assistant to vice president for finance, 1993-1995. Development officer, 1993.

HEAR THE LORD OF THE LORD

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How Can We Hear God Over All the Noise?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Howard Norton
Celebration of Ministry dinner on Monday night

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ERIK TRYGGSTAD

Tim Yarbrough gives a tetanus shot to Mackendy Charles as Jasmine St. Pierre watches at a children's home in Haiti.

JOY AND PAIN: Life brings time for dancing, mourning

FROM PAGE 3

Earth and died so that you can be forgiven of your sins?"

"Yes!" Keaton proclaimed.

Dripping wet and wiping his face with a towel after his baptism, my middle child said, "This is the most important day of my life."

Amen.

The first few verses of Ecclesiastes 3 take on new meaning.

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:

*a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance.*

Seven days after Keaton's baptism — the next Monday — my cell phone rang.

My wife Tamie's name flashed on the screen. When I answered, I heard her sobbing. Her grandmother Reba Dooley, 84, had died.

"I'm so sorry" was all I could say.

A month and a half earlier, we had mourned my grandmother Margaret Ross, 85, as I shared in last month's column paying tribute to her.

A part of me hesitates to take space to reflect on another loss in my own family. We live in a world of pain and suffering, of brain tumors and cancer, of way too many lives taken way too soon. My family's loss is no greater than anyone else's.

But I can't let Reba Dooley pass without mention. "Mamaw," as her seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren knew her, welcomed me into her family more than 20 years ago.

She treated me like an extra grandson, even though — to the amazement of

everyone — I did not like her famous shrimp gumbo. But that was OK; it left more for the rest of the family. (I never met Tamie's grandfather Homer Dooley, who died before we started dating.)

Mamaw was baptized in her 30s and lived a faithful Christian life for 50 years.

She was a member of the Holly Lake Church of Christ in Hawkins, Texas, and a loyal reader of *The Christian Chronicle*.

Any time Tamie and I visited, Mamaw proudly introduced us to everyone she knew and made sure to tell them that we work for the *Chronicle*.

Mamaw planned her own memorial service, and one of the songs that Holly Lake member Tommy Wheeler led at her request was "I Love The Lord."

*I love the Lord, he has been so good to me,
He gave his life, from sin to set me free;
No greater love, than his could ever be,
I love the Lord, because he first loved me.*

If you look in your songbook, you'll notice the name of the person who wrote the words and music to that hymn back in 1970: that same Tommy Wheeler.

My son Brady led "Amazing Grace" at the service. No, he did not pen the words or the music. But I was so proud to see him play that role at his great-grandmother's service.

The next afternoon, sleet and snow caked our faces as we stood at a small, country cemetery near Idabel, Okla. My mother-in-law, Pat Dillard, and her brothers, Lonnie and Teddy Dooley, wept as they buried their mother's ashes.

"Today was really hard," Tamie said as we drove away. "But I know where Mamaw is, and it's not where we carried her today."

Praise God for that.

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

ALASKA

WASILLA — The Valley church celebrated the recent third annual Chilly Willy Day Fellowship with a chili cook-off and pie contest. Members gave cash donations at the event to benefit six young people from the church. The young people are raising money to go on an AIM Camp Adventure Trip, part of the Adventures in Missions program of Sunset International Bible Institute in Lubbock, Texas.

COLORADO

MEEKER — Church members and the community responded with an outpouring of support after a Jan. 19 automobile crash claimed 9-year-old Stone Martin.

He was the son of Paul Martin, preacher for the Meeker church. Martin's wife, Vanessa, escaped with slight injuries, but daughter Alahna, 12, suffered serious injuries, although her condition has improved, *Rocky Mountain Christian* reported.

Cards to the family may be sent to 900 3rd Street, Meeker, CO 81641.

GEORGIA

ATLANTA — The Hillcrest church in Decatur and the East Cobb church in Marietta teamed up to fill a 40-foot container with food, cookware, clothing and other supplies for Haitian earthquake victims.

They are among scores of congregations nationally that have responded to the tragedy with special collections.

HAWAII

WAILUKU — On the first Saturday of each month, the Maui church provides the evening meal for a homeless shelter.

Jana Womack leads the ministry and prepares the bulk of the meal. Members help with vegetables and desserts and serve the meal.

KANSAS

GOODLAND — Seven years ago, the rural Goodland church was down to about 20 members and nearly shut its doors.

But after "a lot of soul searching and going back to the basics," attendance has grown to about 60, minister and farmer Brent Flanders said. Thirteen people have been baptized the last two years.

"I preach a very simple sermon every Sunday morning: 'Jesus and Him Crucified,'" Flanders said. "We believe that New Testament Christianity does not need to be watered down to grow a church."

OKLAHOMA

MUSTANG — In September 2009, Carrin Cook-Hamilton, a member of the



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JOHN HAWKINS

'Where's the cat?': Louisiana members read to children, serve community

Rhonda Beatty, a member of the Southern Hills church in Shreveport, La., reads to 2- and 3-year-olds at the Alphonse Jackson Early Head Start Center. A dozen Southern Hills members volunteered to read at the center

as part of a service project. The church makes an effort each year to highlight ministries and service organizations that allow members to serve the community, minister John Hawkins said.

Lakehoma church, was given 60 days to live unless she received a new liver.

After much prayer by family, friends and church members, the 32-year-old wife received a liver — and a new chance at life — in December 2009, minister Clyde Slimp said.

Now, loved ones are raising funds to pay for anti-rejection drugs through the National Foundation for Transplants and the Lakehoma church.

Donations are requested in her name at www.transplants.org.

TENNESSEE

NASHVILLE — After nearly three years of trying to sell the Charlotte Avenue Church of Christ building, members are seeking government approval to demolish the old structure, *The Tennessean* reported.

Historic Nashville Inc. lists the church building, almost 90 years old, as one of the most endangered properties in Davidson County.

The newspaper report prompted concerned church members to start a Facebook page called "Save the Charlotte Ave. Church of Christ." The group grew to nearly 700 members by press time.

The Charlotte Avenue church merged with the West Nashville Heights church

in 2007. The last service in the Charlotte Avenue building came late that year.

TEXAS

AUSTIN — Shane Hill, a member of the Brentwood Oaks church, suffered severe burns Feb. 18 when a disgruntled pilot crashed a plane into the Internal Revenue Service building where Hill works.

Hill, a Texas Comptroller's Office investigator, caught fire when the plane burst into flames. He was treated at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio.

"My family and I are so grateful for all of the prayers and concerns that so many have expressed on our behalf," Hill said. "Our own prayers are for the many others who were affected by this tragedy."

EL PASO — Since 2007, the Montwood church has grown to 300 members, up from 130, minister James Jones said.

The church welcomed the addition of the Montana Vista church, a Spanish-speaking congregation, into its fold. In addition, 36 people were baptized in 2008 and 36 more in 2009, Jones said.

"The Lord has blessed us," the minister said. "We are a culturally diversified congregations of Hispanics, whites, blacks, Koreans, Hawaiians and Germans."

SPOTLIGHT**Wyoming rally 'powerful'**

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — About 300 children and adults from five states traveled to Cheyenne for a recent youth rally.

The Cheyenne church hosted the rally, which featured lessons on shame.

"The youth rally was unlike many in that it focused on such a serious and emotional theme," Cheyenne youth minister Wes Baldwin said. "It was a very powerful weekend."

Speakers included Lendy Bartlett and Willie Sanchez. Blake Beckham led singing, and Warren Baldwin taught an adult class.

The Singing Youth of Denver performed.



JAMIE LYNN CHEVILLET, JOURNAL & COURIER

Hunter Wooten, Mica Quintana and Aubrey Cote enjoy time at the youth rally in Cheyenne, Wyo.

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Starr named Baylor president, plans to join Baptist church

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

After his 2004 hiring as dean of the law school at Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif., Kenneth Starr voiced his thankfulness "to be worshiping again in the Churches of Christ."

But after his recent appointment as president of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, Starr expressed his "great sense of kinship and fellowship" with Baptists and said he intends to join a Baptist church.

Starr, 63, the former independent counsel best known for his investigations into the administration and conduct of former President Bill Clinton, will begin his tenure as Baylor's 14th president June 1.

"Judge Starr is familiar with Baylor's Baptist history and tradition and offered to join a Baptist church if he accepted the position," said Lori Fogleman, a Baylor spokeswoman.

Baylor, the world's largest Baptist university with 14,000 students, created a stir in Baptist circles when it tapped a new president with Church of Christ roots.

"It's at least ironic," wrote David Wilkinson, executive director for Associated Baptist Press. "Out of 105 million Baptists worldwide, Baylor's presidential-search committee and board of regents could not find a solitary soul deemed worthy of occupying the executive's office in Waco."

Starr, a regular weekly attendee of the University Church of Christ while at Pepperdine, grew up the son of a Church of Christ minister in Texas and Oklahoma. His father, Willie, studied for two years at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn. The younger Starr began his college career at Harding University in Searcy, Ark., before transferring to George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

While at George Washington, Starr worshiped with the 16th and Decatur Church of Christ and taught the high school Sunday class, he told *The Christian Chronicle* in a 2004 interview.

"As the years went on, I moved into evangelical Christianity," Starr told the *Chronicle*. "I worshiped for many years at the McLean, Va., Bible church. Now, we are worshiping at the University church on Pepperdine's campus, which



BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

New Baylor University President Kenneth Starr, left, accepts congratulations from regent Chairman Dary Stone.

we love. I am thankful to be worshiping again in the Churches of Christ."

But in an interview with *The Baptist Standard* after accepting the Baylor job, Starr said he began having questions about age 18 about certain Church of Christ practices, including the lack of instrumental music. He said the McLean Bible Church, where he was active from 1978 to 2004, continued to capture his attention and remained his "home congregation" after he left Washington.

"I'm comfortable with the articulation of Baptist distinctives — including the role of baptism," Starr told the *Standard*, which noted that Churches of Christ, unlike Baptists, teach that baptism is essential for salvation. Starr also told the Baptist paper, "I feel a great sense of kinship and fellowship with the Baptist community."

Andrew K. Benton, Pepperdine's president, thanked Starr for his service to the law school and university and congratulated him on his Baylor appointment.

"Ken has had a tremendous impact on our students, the law school and the Pepperdine community at large," Benton said in a statement. "His leadership, his love of scholarship and his devotion to our students helped raise the national stature of our school."

Benton said a national search for Starr's replacement will begin soon.

Provost Darryl Tippens said Pepperdine's reputation among law schools has risen in recent years.

"From working closely with our faculty and mentoring our students to hosting luminaries on campus and arguing prominent cases, Dean Starr's energy and enthusiasm have been inspiring," Tippens said.



Haiti

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ALL PEOPLE, ALL TIMES: Rethinking Biblical Authority in Churches of Christ

Jeffery S. Stevenson

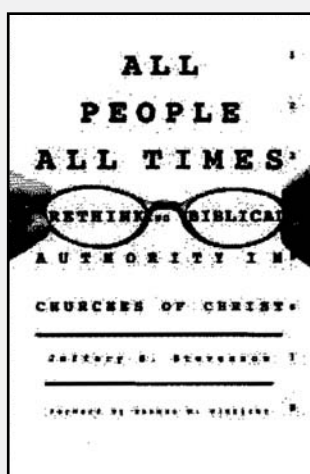
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All People, All Times: Rethinking Biblical Authority in Churches of Christ explores the assumptions traditionally held in a *cappella* Churches of Christ regarding how one knows what in Scripture is binding on all people at all times. The book critiques, but does not abandon, the tripartite model (i.e., command, example, implication). **All People, All Times** provides a biblically based grid to more accurately discern Scripture's emphases and introduces a means for the formational use of Scripture. **All People, All Times** can provide a hermeneutical bridge between the widening streams of a fellowship devoted to speaking where the Bible speaks.

Chapters include "Myopic Inferences," "Interpreting Biblical Silence," "Seeing Through Campbell's Soup" and "The Tripartite Model in Postmodern Times." In addition, the book contains chapters that provide a full explanation and application of the proposed Transformational Restoration Hermeneutic (TRH) to both restoration and spiritual formation issues.

For 19 of his 33 years in preaching, **Jeffery S. Stevenson** has served the Church of Christ at Louisville, Ohio, and is the Director of Second Wind Christian Counseling Ministries. Jeff holds degrees from Ohio Valley University, Freed-Hardeman University, the University of Akron and a Doctorate from Ashland Theological Seminary. He has published articles in the Gospel Advocate and Restoration Quarterly. Jeff and his wife, Tonnie, have three grown daughters.

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FIJI

SUVA — Joshua and Anna Conivanua serve a small congregation in this South Pacific capital, but their ministry often takes them across its many islands.

“Most of the time ... the work involves traveling to visit other small congregations in the outer islands,” Anna Conivanua said. “Other small Churches of Christ around the region need (spiritual) support ... so Josh travels to encourage, strengthen, solve conflicts, solve marriage problems and conduct Bible lessons for those who request.”

The Conivanuas, both graduates of South Pacific Bible College in New Zealand, seek sponsors to help them cover travel expenses. The Pine View Church of Christ in Longview, Texas, helps support their work.

GHANA

ACCRA — Church members in this West African nation are mourning the death of Victoria Effah, who died Feb. 15 from liver failure. Effah was a houseparent at the Village of Hope, a church-sponsored children's home outside of Accra.

**Effah**

“Needless to say, the children are heartbroken, especially so since they have lost their birth parents, and now they’ve lost another who loved them dearly,” said Josiah Tilton of Ghana West Africa Missions, which supports Village of Hope.

INDIA

KUKATPALLY — Edward Rouse, a minister in Hyderabad, spoke at a recent gospel meeting of the Kukatpally Church of Christ, about 30 minutes northwest of Hyderabad. More than 1,000 people attended, including several Indian public officials. Rouse also speaks on a weekly television program viewed in Hyderabad and other parts of India's Andhra Pradesh state.

INDONESIA

JAKARTA — Church members in this predominantly Muslim country are feeding 20 children per day through a program called Kids of Indonesia.

“These are children of people so poor that they spend all of their time scavenging in the garbage dumps of the city, looking for anything that can be recycled for money,” said Steve Cate, who coordinates the effort. “Jesus said, ‘The poor you have with you always.’ That is certainly true. They are everywhere, but not many are willing to help with these



PHOTO PROVIDED BY DOYLE KEE

Despite obstacles, church in Congo thrives

Members of the Goma Church of Christ stand for a photo in front of their meeting place. Goma is a city in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo, close to the massive African nation's border with Rwanda. In the past decade, the people of the region have endured bloody civil wars and even a volcano eruption. But the church, planted in 2002 by Congolese Christian Dunia Kaendo, has experienced steady growth, said Doyle Kee, one of three church members from Switzerland who visited the region recently.

children in Jakarta.” For more information, see www.steve-cate.com.

PAKISTAN

SAHIWAL — Church members in the United Kingdom have collected more than 2,100 pounds sterling (about \$3,280) to help Pakistani Christians minister to victims of recent violence there.

Naeem Sabir, a minister and principal of Sahiwal Bible College, is using the funds to help victims of “looting, burning and even murder in some villages,” said Barbara Fisher, who oversees the collection. For more information, see www.christian-worker.org.uk or e-mail blfisher888@aol.com.

SOUTH KOREA

SEOUL — Lee Seung Soo has returned to South Korea after 20 years of mission

work in Turkey.

“I believe brother Lee was our first true missionary from the Korean brethren,” said missionary Malcolm Parsley.

During his time in the predominantly Muslim nation, Lee helped establish four small congregations.

He also trained others to carry on his work, Parsley said.

“He is now looking for a preaching job so that he can support his family,” Parsley said. “Please be praying for him.”

UKRAINE

KHARKOV — Brandon and Katie Price, recent graduates of the Sunset School of Missions in Lubbock, Texas, will return to Ukraine, where they served previously, to join a team of Sunset graduates in Kharkov.

“It is Brandon and Katie’s dream to

SPOTLIGHT**Mexico to Philippines**

TIJUANA, Mexico — After 13 years of ministry in this city on the U.S.-Mexico border, Steve and Josie Mock are headed west — or, more accurately, to the Far East.

The couple plans to move this summer to the Philippines to serve at Leyte Christian College.

Steve Mock has served as an instructor at the Latin American Christian Institute in Tijuana. He expressed thanks that “the Lord gave us the opportunity to serve him and the Mexican people.”

**Steve Mock**

However, “Tijuana is one of the most dangerous cities in the world, due to the drug cartels fighting over lucrative profits from selling to North America,” he said. “And the ongoing U.S. financial crisis seriously affected the Latin American Bible Institute’s foundation and the generous individuals who fund it. ... Our school’s funding was cut by 60 percent, and we have fewer students as a result.”

Leyte Christian College, founded in 2007, is a work of Project Philippines, a 15-member team of Filipino and U.S. Christians. The group also plans to construct Christian elementary and secondary schools and an orphanage.

“Missionaries pray for opportunities like this,” Steve Mock said. “This is because of the educated, servant-like attitude of the team we’ll be joining, as well as the receptivity of the culture and people.”

create disciples in Kharkov who will be eager and able to carry on the work long after they are gone,” according to a recent issue of Sunset’s *Lifeline* magazine.

UNITED KINGDOM

NORTHAMPTON — In the past year the 69-member church in Northampton, about 70 miles northwest of London, has baptized four people — Erica Kamanga, Audrey Wood, Sarah Hardy and Elaine Raynsford.

“One of these ladies was contacted by reading our Web site,” deacon Richard Sharpe said. Another came into contact with the church through friends.

A third decided to be baptized “by example of her parents” and a fourth “by the example of her daughter and grandchildren,” Sharpe added.

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Churches pray for kidnapped Nigerian minister Okon Mkpog

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Okon Mkpog, a longtime church leader in Nigeria, was kidnapped from his home Feb. 11 and, at press time, had not released.

Mkpog is an elder of a Church of Christ in Uyo, a city in southern Nigeria's Akwa Ibom state. He launched a Christian school, a ministry training school and a hospital in his home country.



Mkpog

The kidnappers demanded a ransom for Mkpog's release. Family members in Nigeria are negotiating, said one of Mkpog's daughters, Uduak Afangideh, who teaches biology at Faulkner University in Montgomery, Ala. Another daughter, Idongesit Mkpog-Ruffin, chairs Faulkner's computer science department. "Church members in Nigeria, like

those over here, are tarrying in prayers and pleading that the Father intervenes," Afangideh told *The Christian Chronicle*.

In a recent message to supporters, Afangideh wrote, "My family is resolute in the fact that God is fully in control, that the Bible is full of promises to rescue those who trust in him, secure in the fact that my father has served him all his life. We stand on the faith of our fathers and refuse to give in to fear."

Last August Dr. Robert Whittaker, a British-born physician and church member, was abducted from his home near Aba, Nigeria, about 50 miles west of Uyo. After 48 hours, church members negotiated for his release. Whittaker continues to recover from a gunshot wound he suffered during the kidnapping. The physician recently returned from a medical mission trip to Haiti.

RELATED STORY, Page 26 — Christians mourn death of Dr. Henry Farrar, medical missionary to Nigeria.

Missionary seeks a ScreamFree Russia

BARNAUL, Russia — Joseph Rhodes wants people in his adopted country to experience faith-based peace in their relationships.

Rhodes, who first traveled to Russia in 1996, helped the church in Barnaul host Russia's first "ScreamFree Living" seminar last year.

Rhodes designed and organized the seminar to expose Russian churches to practical instruction for living life according to the principles detailed in the ScreamFree parenting program.

Hal Runkel, a member of the North Atlanta Church of Christ, developed the ScreamFree program. The Atlanta congregation has a long history of involvement in nations of the former Soviet Union. Runkel was a keynote speaker at the seminar.

"Church leaders from various Russian cities received private training and practical experience in how to be calm and connected in their own relationships and how to teach others," Rhodes said. Then, more than 150 members from 20 Russian congregations



Runkel



PHOTO PROVIDED

Joseph Rhodes, his wife, Sonia, and son Mason sport ScreamFree's logo in Russian.

participated in the seminar. Churches in Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania and Albania have asked for recordings of the seminar.

This year, Rhodes plans to develop a "traveling seminar" for other cities in Siberia and beyond.

"I am completely convinced," he said, "that 'ScreamFree Living' is biblical, practical, useful and therefore a powerful tool for the churches in Russia."

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FRESHMEN

Total enrollment

1997: 5,820
 1998: 5,882
 1999: 6,219
 2000: 6,643
 2001: 6,636
 2002: 6,351
 2003: 6,164
 2004: 6,299
 2005: 6,553
 2006: 6,331
 2007: 5,328
 2008: 5,371
 2009: 5,361

Church of Christ members

1997: 3,664 (63%)
 1998: 3,754 (63.8%)
 1999: 4,351 (70%)
 2000: 4,411 (66.4%)
 2001: 4,461 (67.2%)
 2002: 4,060 (63.9%)
 2003: 4,034 (65.4%)
 2004: 4,208 (66.8%)
 2005: 4,175 (63.7%)
 2006: 4,029 (63.6%)
 2007: 3,080 (57.8%)
 2008: 2,948 (54.9%)
 2009: 2,858 (53.3%)

Not members

1997: 2,156 (37%)
 1998: 2,128 (36.2%)
 1999: 1,868 (30%)
 2000: 2,232 (33.6%)
 2001: 2,175 (32.8%)
 2002: 2,291 (36.1%)
 2003: 2,130 (34.6%)
 2004: 2,091 (33.2%)
 2005: 2,378 (36.3%)
 2006: 2,302 (36.4%)
 2007: 2,248 (42.2%)
 2008: 2,423 (45.1%)
 2009: 2,503 (46.7%)

SOURCE: Study by Flavil Yeakley, director of the Harding Center for Church Growth in Searcy, Ark. Yeakley studied freshman enrollment trends at 18 higher education institutions associated with Churches of Christ. Yeakley reported that some university presidents found his report hard to believe and asked him to double-check his figures. While that effort uncovered a few minor changes, the general trend held. "This, of course, is just *what* and not *why*," he said of his findings.

UNIVERSITIES: Study draws call for 'open dialogue in Churches of Christ'

FROM PAGE 1

Churches of Christ were enrolling in these schools," Yeakley reported to the Christian Higher Education Foundation, which consists of presidents of colleges and universities associated with Churches of Christ.

At the beginning of this school year, 2,858 freshmen claimed membership in Churches of Christ — down 36 percent from a high of 4,461 in fall 2001, Yeakley reported.

"As we begin to examine this trend," O'Neal said, "it appears that two of the most significant reasons contributing to the decline are the attraction of our schools to families outside our fellowship ... and less encouragement of Church of Christ young people by parents and church leaders."

Included in the study were Abilene Christian; now-closed Cascade College in Portland, Ore.; Crowley's Ridge College in Paragould, Ark.; Faulkner University in Montgomery, Ala.; Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn.; Great Lakes Bible College in Waterloo, Ontario; Harding University in Searcy; Heritage Christian University in Florence, Ala.; and Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn.

Also included were Lubbock Christian; now-closed Magnolia Bible College in Kosciusko, Miss.; Ohio Valley University in Vienna, W.Va.; Oklahoma Christian; Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif.; Rochester College; Southwestern Christian College in Terrell, Texas; Western Christian College in Regina, Saskatchewan; and York College.

"Yeakley's findings should serve as a catalyst for open dialogue in Churches of Christ," said Brian Starr, Lubbock Christian's executive vice president. "Why are we in decline? Why does the decline seem to disproportionately be hitting our youth? How is God calling our fellowship and its universities to engage the world in this new environment?"

RECRUITING POOL SHRINKS

At Rochester College, 24 percent of traditional students gave their religious affiliation as Church of Christ in fall 2009.

That's down from 55 percent in



JUD DAVIS

Students assemble for a daily chapel service at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn. Unlike many of its sister colleges and universities, Freed-Hardeman still draws most of its student body from Churches of Christ.

2000, said Rubel Shelly, president of the Detroit area college.

One explanation: More students with Church of Christ backgrounds write "non-denominational," "Christian" or "independent" on their registration forms, Shelly said. But a bigger factor, he said, is a decline in the membership pool of Churches of Christ.



Eckman

Detroit to build cars after World War II retired and returned to the South.

At York College, a majority of freshmen have come from outside Churches of Christ the last two years. In fall 2009, 42 percent of freshmen listed their religious affiliation as Church of Christ.

While citing some of the same factors as Shelly, York President Steve Eckman voiced concern about "a lack of emphasis on Christian education among the families and churches. It is no longer assumed that these kids will choose a Christian education."

For the first time since its 1906

founding, Abilene Christian enrolled a majority of freshmen from outside Churches of Christ in fall 2008.

A decade ago, two-thirds of ACU students identified with Churches of Christ, the university said. That has declined to about one-half.

Phil Schubert, who will succeed Royce Money as ACU president June 1, said he does not see the changing student demographics as a negative.

He points out that some of the non-Church of Christ students are the children and grandchildren of ACU graduates. They do not attend a Church of Christ, he said, "yet they resemble the heart of our alumni base." Other students have no past ties to ACU or Churches of Christ, he said.

"We feel that honoring our Church of Christ heritage and remaining firmly committed to it is at the core of who we are," said Schubert, ACU's executive vice president. "At the same time, we think the growing interest in ACU from broader circles is something to be celebrated."

At Faulkner University, 31 percent of freshmen identified with Churches of Christ in fall 2009; 36 percent claimed a different affiliation; and 33 percent cited no religious preference or marked "other."

Factors contributing to Faulkner's declining number of Church of Christ students include the expansion of a commuter scholarship program and the addition of new intercollegiate sports, said R. Joel Farrell, director of the university's Center for Assessment, Research and Evaluation.

"One of the factors affecting Faulkner ... is the increasing appeal of a conservative, religiously based liberal arts education to the general population," Farrell said. "An increasing number of parents and students are interested in the distinctiveness of our worldview."

Before it became a senior college 17 years ago, Ohio Valley University drew 80 percent to 90 percent of its students from Churches of Christ, said Dennis Cox, senior vice president. In recent years, however, the traditional student enrollment has been split about 50-50, Cox said.

"First, there are fewer prospective students in the churches in what has been our primary 'territory,'" Cox said. "Secondly, most of our Church of Christ alumni with college-age children are also alumni of sister colleges and universities."

In fall 2009, Lubbock Christian
 See **ENROLLMENT**, Page 13

ENROLLMENT: Some fear changes could hurt universities

FROM PAGE 12

joined the list of universities with more freshmen from outside Churches of Christ than within.

Non-Church of Christ students represented 57 percent of the freshman class this school year — up from 36 percent a decade ago.

“The majority of our students come from the area in and around Lubbock,” Starr said. “The Church of Christ population is declining in many West Texas towns, and that decline changes our recruiting pool.”

At Lipscomb University, a slim majority of freshmen — 51 percent — came from Church of Christ backgrounds in fall 2009. Five years ago, 62 percent of freshmen were Church of Christ members.

“Enrollment by freshmen who identify themselves as members of Churches of Christ has declined over the last three years, but not as fast as our overall enrollment has grown,” said Ricky Holaway, Lipscomb’s senior director of admissions. “Part of the issue is, we are attracting more students who are seeking out the faith-based education, grounded in our brotherhood’s faith principles, that we offer.”

At Pepperdine University, the proportion of freshmen from Churches of Christ hit 26 percent in 2003. In fall 2009, such students represented 16 percent of freshmen.

“With an overall declining church population nationwide, the task of recruiting and enrolling qualified applicants from the Churches of Christ is a growing challenge,” said Mike Truschke, Pepperdine’s dean of admission and enrollment management. “University-wide, there has been an increased effort to reach students from the Churches of Christ.”

EXAMINING THE IMPACT

Oklahoma Christian still draws a majority of students from Churches of Christ — but the percentage is on the decline. In fall 2009, 68 percent of Oklahoma Christian students came from Churches of Christ. That’s down from 80 percent seven years ago.

Oklahoma Christian has appointed a strategic issue group to examine the impact of student demographic changes.

“We are experiencing some decline in the last few years in our new student enrollment from Churches of Christ,” said Bill Goad, OC’s vice president for

institutional effectiveness. “Our percentages remain above the composite in the Yeakley numbers, but they are clearly following that general trend.”

At least a few universities, however, seem to be bucking the trend.

At Freed-Hardeman University, 85 percent of freshmen claimed Church of Christ membership in fall 2009, up from 84 percent a decade ago.

“If indeed fewer Church of Christ students are enrolling at our brotherhood institutions, we should be concerned,” said Jud Davis, Freed-Hardeman’s director of marketing and university relations.

However, he questioned whether other factors could be at play — including the recession and a desire by some students to attend college closer to home.

At Harding University, Church of Christ members made up 75 percent of the freshman class in fall 2009.

That’s down slightly from past years, but it’s no cause for concern, said Glenn Dillard,

assistant vice president for enrollment management.

“The aggregate number of Church of Christ students at Harding has declined very little,” Dillard said.

“However, Harding has experienced dramatic growth in the number of bright students from non-Church of Christ backgrounds.”

As student populations change at universities associated with Churches of Christ, some express fear that the institutions could lose what makes them distinct.

“This trend,” Yeakley said, “can continue to the point where the school follows the path of Harvard, Yale, Princeton and other schools that started out as religiously oriented schools that lost their religious emphasis.”

But at places such as Rochester College, survival demands adapting to the new realities, leaders said.

“True to the rhetoric of our non-denominational heritage,” Shelly said, “Rochester College is committed to being a Christian college for our region that young people from a variety of backgrounds can choose as their destination campus.”

IN A FUTURE ISSUE: What challenges and opportunities do changing student demographics create? How are colleges and universities associated with Churches of Christ dealing with those issues? Read expanded coverage and comment online at www.christianchronicle.org.

‘The Church of Christ population is declining in many West Texas towns, and that decline changes our recruiting pool.’

Brian Starr

Executive vice president, Lubbock Christian University in Texas

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REYNOLDS: Villanova star says he feels 'fortunate and blessed'

FROM PAGE 1

Villanova campus in a Philadelphia suburb.

"You don't know what is going to happen in life," he added. "Things are going to happen, good or bad. It is all about how you handle it. It is how you become a better person."

Already, say those who know him, Reynolds has more going for him than making three-point shots and winning games at the buzzer, like he did to earn his team a Final Four bid last year.

Even after late-night, out-of-town games that might tempt less dedicated church members to stay in bed, Reynolds shows up to worship first thing Sunday, King of Prussia minister Daniel Fletcher said.

"He's very faithful and has even taught our teen class," Fletcher said. "He attends worship service while the team practices on Sunday mornings. He goes to practice after services. ... He's definitely a Christian role model."

The roots of Reynolds' faith can be traced to his adoptive parents, Rick and Pam Reynolds. His father is the son of a missionary to Ghana.

"He is a blessing, and he always has been," Pam Reynolds said. "It's not basketball. It is just who he is. He has always put God first in his life, and in our family, worship comes first, and everything else is afterwards."

When Reynolds was in high school, the family worshiped at the Annandale, Va., church, southwest of Washington. Today, the family is part of a newer congregation in Ashburn, Va.

Reynolds was baptized at age 18. "I have been going to church since I can remember," he said after the Georgetown game. "It has always been a part of me, but there comes a time in your life when you don't just go, it becomes a part of you. When I was 18, that was that time, and ever since that time I have tried to grow and lead others to the Lord."



PHOTO PROVIDED BY VILLANOVA MEDIA RELATIONS

Villanova's Scottie Reynolds, who attends the King of Prussia, Pa., church, gives God all the credit for his success.

As a McDonald's All-American at Herndon High School in Virginia, Reynolds was known for showing up late to Wednesday night games, only to do something spectacular once he arrived.

According to a 2006 *Washington Post* story, Herndon was playing Maryland's Potomac High School and losing badly in the first half while Reynolds was at a Wednesday night Bible study.

But then Reynolds showed up at halftime: He scored

30 points in 16 minutes and brought his team to within 10 points, even though Herndon still lost. Herndon coach Gary Hall told a reporter that Reynolds had done the same thing many times.

"The doors would open, and it would be like Superman coming into the gym," Hall said. "He would be pulling off his tie and his shirt and sprinting on the court to save us."

While Reynolds became a Christian during his senior year of high school, he has worked

hard to grow in his faith since he enrolled at Villanova. When asked about attending the King of Prussia Church of Christ, he smiled broadly.

"My faith is very important to me because God put me in a very unique situation," said Reynolds, who this year became only the eighth Wildcat and 460th player in NCAA history to score more than 2,000 points in his career.

Following the Georgetown game, in which he scored 19 of his 24 points in the second half, Reynolds won praise from

Villanova coach Jay Wright as well as Georgetown coach John Thompson III.

"In a 40-minute game, you are not going to be able to slow Scottie down the whole time," Thompson said after the Hoyas' 103-90 victory. "He's too good of a player."

After the loss, Wright expressed confidence that his star player would bounce back.

"He approaches every game the same way," the coach said. "He struggled the first half, but there was no doubt in my mind that he was going to get it going the second half. He brings it every night."

Reynolds originally signed a letter of intent to attend the University of Oklahoma. But when former Sooners coach Kelvin Sampson left for Indiana, Reynolds decided to play for Villanova, where he has started for three years and was named Most Outstanding Player for the 2009 East Regional.

Despite his basketball prowess, however, Reynolds displays none of the arrogance or swagger that is common with many NCAA and NBA stars, observers say.

Whether his team wins or loses, Reynolds maintains his composure, his mother said.

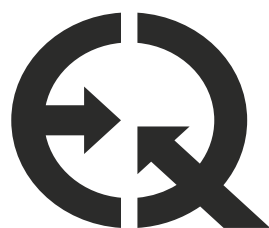
"You have to keep everything in perspective," she said. "It's about going out and letting your light shine."

While Reynolds considered leaving Villanova early last year to enter the NBA draft, he changed his mind and decided to finish his senior year.

As March Madness begins and Reynolds' final college season nears an end, he said he takes nothing for granted.

At the same time, he gives all the credit for his success to God.

"It is not given to me to have this opportunity. That is why I try to give 100 percent," he said. "Not just playing basketball, but I am blessed to be at a great institution like Villanova. I feel fortunate and blessed, and I don't think that anyone could put me in this position but him."



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CHRISTIANS IN THE DOMINICAN

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BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic

You're going to Haiti?" The immigration officer asked the question of every visitor in line at the Las Americas International Airport. If they said yes, he waved them through. They were excused from the \$10 tourist fee.

The Dominican Republic has a long history of foreign visitors — all the way back to 1492, when an explorer named Christopher Columbus first landed here. Today, the Spanish-speaking nation of 9.6 million people occupies two-thirds of the Caribbean island called Hispaniola.

Since Jan. 12 the Dominican Republic has experienced an influx of relief workers headed across its western border into Haiti. The 7.0-magnitude earthquake that struck the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince, claimed an estimated 200,000 lives and canceled all commercial flights to its airport.

Chad Mynatt felt the earthquake in the Dominican city of Rio San Juan, more than 200 miles from the epicenter. He was sitting on the floor of the children's home where he's worked since graduating from Harding University in Searcy, Ark., last May.

"I felt dizzy," he said. He saw ripples in the water of the five-gallon jugs at the children's home.

In the weeks since the quake, Mynatt has made multiple trips to the Santo Domingo airport.



Mynatt

"There's definitely a lot going on here on the Dominican side," he said as he shuttled American church members to the relief staging area — two seaside apartments rented by Manna Global Ministries. The Indiana-based ministry oversees the children's home in Rio San Juan and other works in the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

Air mattresses and canned goods lined the walls of the apartments. Wipe boards contained detailed notes about flight arrivals, departures and supply runs into Haiti.

"It's been crazy," said Norm Currington,



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Tim Bynum and Mark Gibson of the Fairfax, Va., church load supplies in Santo Domingo for transport to Haiti. Bynum grew up in Costa Rica, where his parents served as missionaries.

a missionary and director of Manna's board. "Every day we don't know what we'll be doing. But by the end of the day, God has opened doors."

Dominican-owned businesses have helped the ministry, Currington said. Workers bought food wholesale from a Santo Domingo grocery store and used volunteers to deliver it to Haiti.

Mark Gibson and Tim Bynum, members of the Fairfax, Va., Church of Christ, spent about a week making the supply runs. Every morning they rose at 4 a.m. and drove to the grocery store. After filling their truck with rice, canned sardines, tomato paste and spaghetti, they made the five-hour trek west to the Dominican border. On each trip, border agents waved them through.

Once in Haiti, they met Roberta Edwards, director of Son Light Children's home in Port-au-Prince. Then they moved their payload to Edwards' truck and began the long trip back to Santo Domingo. By the end of the week, Gibson had memorized most of the bumps in the road.

Another missionary with Manna, Brian Wallace, arrived at Son Light just days after the earthquake and helped coordinate relief efforts there. Haitian ministers have distributed the food from Manna



Currington

to church members and others in need. Manna also has sent supplies and small medical teams to Haitian Community Hospital in Port-au-Prince.

"We have had so many amazing people step up and come help us in this venture — in both the Dominican Republic and Haiti," said Laura Beth Lamb, Manna's administrative director. "We have been blessed to rekindle old friendships and strengthen new ones through all of this."

Wilson Reyes, a native of the Dominican Republic, formed new friendships with Haitian Christians after he made the trek across the border with a group of relief workers from a church in Tennessee.

Reyes, who attends a 120-member Church of Christ in the Naco community of Santo Domingo, has worked for Manna on well-drilling projects in the past. In Port-au-Prince he mixed cement and helped repair a gate at Son Light's guest house. In his spare time, he played basketball with the neighborhood children.

"Most of the Haitians think the Dominicans aren't very friendly," Reyes said. "For me, it was a good thing to be there — to meet them and play with them, tell them that we're friends, to show them Christ's love."



Reyes

HOW TO HELP

Following is a list of ministries accepting donations for Haiti relief. Find additional Haiti coverage and updates online at www.christianchronicle.org

Bread for a Hungry World — www.givebread.org, 6250 NE Loop 820, North Richland Hills, TX 76180-7899, (817) 485-9944, bobby@givebread.org

Britton Road Church of Christ — brittonroad.org, 2520 W. Britton Rd., Oklahoma City, OK 73120, Attn: Ron Bever, (405) 478-0125

Christian Relief Fund — www.christianrelieffund.org, P.O. Box 19670, Amarillo, TX 79114-1670, (800) 858-4038, crinfo@christianrelieffund.org

Churches of Christ Disaster Response Team — www.churchesofchristdrt.org, 810 Hollywood Blvd. West Melbourne, FL 32904, (937) 308-2259, info@churchesofchristdrt.org

Estes Church of Christ — www.estes.tn.org, P.O. Box 191, Henderson, TN 38340, Attn: Haiti Relief Effort, (731) 989-7990

Global Samaritan Resources — www.globalsamaritan.org, 2074 N. 1st St., Abilene, TX 79603, (325) 676-9991

Haitian Christian Foundation — www.haitianchristianfoundation.org, 402 Cypress, Suite #511, Abilene, TX 79601, (325) 677-0033

Haiti Christian Development Project — www.hcdp.net, 10100 Kanis Road, Little Rock, AR 72205, hcdp@cordoc.net

Healing Hands International — www.hhi.org, 455 McNally Drive, Nashville, TN 37211, (615) 832-2000, contact@hhi.org

Hope for Haiti's Children — hopeforhaitischildren.org, P.O. Box 936, Sugar Land, TX 77487-0936, (281) 240-3550, info@hfhministries.org

Judsonia Church of Christ — judsoniachurchofchrist.org/haiti.html, P.O. Box 422, Judsonia, AR 72081, (501) 729-3004 (please note "Haiti Earthquake Relief")

Manna Global Ministries — mgm.mannadr.org, P.O. Box 2993, Clarksville, IN 47131, laurabethlamb@mannaglobalministries.org

Northeast Church of Christ — www.northeastchurch.org, 2217 Beechnut Drive, Kingsport, TN 37660, (423) 288-7910, skross@chartertn.net or driley44@chartertn.net

Orphan's Lifeline of Hope International — www.orphanlifelinelife.org, P.O. Box 1100, Kalispell, MT 59901, (406) 257-0868, info@orphanlifelinelife.org (please note "Haiti fund")

Southwest Church of Christ — www.swcocada.com, 505 W. 17th, Ada, OK 74820 (please note "Haiti Earthquake Relief")

West Broward Church of Christ — wbcoc.com, 12550 W. Broward Blvd., Plantation, FL 33325, Attn: Haiti Disaster Relief, (954) 475-7172

White's Ferry Road Relief Ministries — www.wfchurch.org/relief, 3201 N. 7th Street, West Monroe, LA 71291, (318) 396-6000



PHOTOS BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Laura Lee, right, and another girl sit in front of piles of bricks at Son Light Children's Home. Just beyond the cardboard boxes is the spot where the children found 15-year-old Nicky, who was killed by a collapsing wall during the Jan. 12 earthquake. The tents set up behind the basketball goal house Haitian Christians who lost their homes and relief workers from the U.S.

Finding hope in a broken place

IN EARTHQUAKE-DEVASTATED PORT-AU-PRINCE *Christians from Haiti and the U.S. clear rubble, deliver food and brace for more suffering.*

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti

Laura Lee fades in and out of sleep as her adopted mother, Roberta Edwards, tries to find a route home. They spent most of the morning picking up supplies and checking on Christians still living among the ruins of Haiti's capital.

As they head back, almost every road leading to the Son Light Children's Home is blocked by United Nations troops. It's rumored that Bill Clinton is in town.

Peering over the cracks in the windshield, Edwards steers the Daihatsu truck down a narrow backstreet, hoping the way is clear. Laura Lee, who just turned 7, gazes at a wall of concrete that's leaning sideways, ready to fall.

"This place is broken," she says, wearily.

Weeks after the Jan. 12 earthquake, most of the bodies have been cleared from the streets of Port-au-Prince. Haitians step around the piles of broken concrete, past power lines hanging uselessly from poles, and attempt to go on with their lives.

Even those who didn't lose their homes spend their nights under the stars.

"I sleep in my yard ... like everybody else," said Oreste Antoine, a minister for the Santo Church of Christ. "I don't feel like going inside of the house to sleep."

Antoine was driving home when the 7.0-magnitude quake struck about 5 p.m. At first he thought it was a flat tire. Then he saw people falling and thought someone was shooting.

Another minister, Felix Saint-Hubert, was at home with his family when the walls shook. His children fell on the floor and called for Jesus. He rushed them from the house and began praying.

"We were going to confess our sins and go to the Lord together," he said.

The family was spared, as were the 60 members of the Varreaux Church of Christ. But the church's meeting place, which also housed a Christian school, was destroyed.

So was the three-story Delmas 28 Church of Christ, where a class of nursing students was studying when the quake hit. A doctor who cared for many of the church members died, as did 36 nursing students, minister

Jean T. Elmera said. Fifty-one of the church's 650 members perished, and at least 350 are homeless, Elmera said.

Elmera has survived political upheavals and at least four hurricanes.

"This is the worst, I confess," the minister said, raising his right hand toward the massive pile of rubble where the church used to meet. "An earthquake

CONTINUED



Felix Saint-Hubert stands in front of the ruins of the Varreaux Church of Christ in Port-au-Prince. "Because there were no deaths, the members of the church are rejoicing because they feel they have been protected by God," he said.

Hope in a broken place



Roberta Edwards, director of Son Light Children's Home, drives past one of the many "tent cities" set up across Port-au-Prince. An estimated 2 million Haitians are homeless after the Jan. 12 quake.



David and other residents of Son Light move broken concrete with help from U.S. volunteers.



Thomas Widlord performs one of three baptisms after Sunday worship at the Santo Church of Christ. "After the earthquake, everywhere people were praying to God," said Riviere Antoine, one of the church's ministers. Many members — including Antoine — lost their homes in the earthquake.

"A lot of people are questioning why this happened. But a lot of them are saying, 'There must be a God.' Our churches are full."
— Roberta Edwards, children's home director



Children line up at one of the feeding centers operated by the Delmas 28 Church of Christ in Port-au-Prince. The church meets in a Catholic school across the street from the ruins of its building.

CONTINUED

is a big-time nightmare."

And it's not over.

As she crisscrosses Port-au-Prince to get home, Edwards passes countless "tent cities," where Haitians have assembled shelters from bed sheets, boxes and anything else they can find — even American flags. Many of the camps are in flood plains, the only clear tracts of land in Port-au-Prince. Outbreaks of cholera are likely when the rainy season starts.

"Every night, they pray it doesn't rain," said church member Spingle Etienne.

A MINISTRY BORN FROM RUBBLE

When she was younger, Etienne lived at Son Light Children's Home, a church-run facility in the Port-au-Prince suburb of Santo.

Now in her late 20s, she again has taken refuge here, after the earthquake destroyed her home and killed her step-mother, brother and sister. Edwards, who oversees the home, has become "a friend, a sister and a mother," Etienne said.

Edwards built the ministry from the

rubble of a collapsed marriage. She moved from North Carolina to Haiti in 1995 with her husband, a native Haitian. Five years later he left, and Edwards' parents expected her to come home. But by then she already was caring for several orphaned and abandoned children.

"So I decided to stay and do whatever needed to be done," she said.

The Estes Church of Christ in Henderson, Tenn., began supporting her work, which expanded to include 30 children. She also oversees a nutrition center that feeds about 120 neighborhood chil-

dren twice per day, five days each week. She works closely with church-supported groups, including Indiana-based Manna Global Ministries.

For her 50th birthday, Edwards' parents took her on her first real vacation since she moved to Haiti — a Caribbean cruise. She was exploring Grand Cayman when

the quake hit.

"I didn't sleep another night until I got there," she said. "I had to get home. I had to get to my kids."

She left the cruise ship in Belize and found a plane bound for Haiti, thanks to Missionary Flights International. On Saturday, four days after the quake, she was with her kids.

"When I got here, they were doing fine," she said, proudly.

Thomas Widlord, 23, grew up at Son Light and was in charge while Edwards was away. He and some of the older children were on the porch, giving the babies their baths, when the house began to tremble.

"Mom taught us, if we have an earthquake, all of us need to go outside," Widlord said. As shelves fell and massive trucks bounced in the driveway, he rushed the children onto the lawn.

When the earth stopped shaking, he counted heads.

Somebody was missing.

Nicky, 15, had come to Son Light from another orphanage just weeks ago. He was

playing basketball by himself on the court next to the house. He was albino, and his lack of skin pigment made him a target. Superstitious Haitians believed his mother had mated with the devil, Edwards said.

The children at Son Light loved him.



Nicky, right, laughs with friends at Son Light Children's Home, days before the earthquake.

"He had a lot of ingenuity ... a smart kid," Edwards said. "You could tell he took a lot of ribbing in his life, but he just let it roll right off his back."

The children found Nicky under the

remains of a 9-foot wall. They buried him the next day under a mango tree.

Colton Shannon, a sophomore at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, and a team of volunteers conducted a Vacation Bible School and gospel meeting at Son Light in early January. They left Port-au-Prince the day before the earthquake.

Weeks later, Shannon returned to the orphanage with a relief team.

"Nicky ... he was a real cool kid,"

Shannon said as he shared a lunch of macaroni and cut-up hot dogs with the children of Son Light.

One of the children, 9-year-old Madochee, pointed to Shannon's white skin.

"His hands were like yours," the boy said.

BREAKING ROCKS, BAGGING RICE

Shannon reflected on the devastation he had seen since returning to Haiti.

"I try not to think about it," he said. "I haven't had time to process it. I just want to do all I can to help."

After lunch, he joined a small group of volunteers from Manna Global Ministries

and churches across the U.S. In 90-degree heat they pounded sledgehammers against fallen concrete and hauled it into the street. Nearby, a Haitian work crew rebuilt the walls. A church leader from Cap Haitien, in northern Haiti, supervised the work.

Curtis Wasmer, a contractor and member of the Westminster, Md., Church of Christ, spent about 10 days hauling rocks, restoring water and electrical lines and repairing a security gate at the orphanage.

"In 2007 my family lost our home in a fire," he said. "I don't understand devastation of this magnitude, but I understand loss. It's been a humbling thing to come down here and ... help restore hope."

Oreste Antoine made frequent stops at the orphanage to pick up food for distribution. He marveled at the volunteers' progress.

"This is a great encouragement to us, when we see our brothers from the

States," he said. "They come here ... lifting heaving things. I don't think they even do that in their own country. That shows us what Christianity is."

When they weren't breaking concrete, the volunteers joined Haitian Christians as they unloaded trucks packed with relief supplies from the Dominican Republic. At night they assembled family-size bags of rice, beans, sardines, tomatoes and pasta. Each bag bore a Creole translation of Psalm 43, "God is our refuge and strength ... though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea."

In an after-dinner devotional, Hayward Brooks, a volunteer from the Bell Shoals Church of Christ in Brandon, Fla., told the children about reaping what they sow.

"All the work you've been doing since the earthquake has been blessing others," Brooks said, "but it's also been blessing you yourselves."

A few days later, 233 people packed under a pavilion next to the orphanage for the Santo Church of Christ's Sunday service. After the service, Widlord

baptized three people.

That same Sunday, the Delmas 28 church had a dozen baptisms, Jean T. Elmera said. The church meets in a Catholic school in downtown Port-au-Prince and operates feeding centers for those in need.

"A lot of people are questioning why this happened," Edwards said of the earthquake.

"But a lot of them are saying, 'There must be a God.' Our churches are full."

Joshua Wyatt, minister for the Rosemark, Tenn., Church of Christ, preached for the Santo church before picking up a sledgehammer for an afternoon of rock-breaking. Wyatt and his wife, Rachel, have an 8-year-old Haitian daughter, Florine, whom they adopted from another orphanage.

"Generally, the world hasn't paid much attention to Haiti," Wyatt said. "I heard someone say that this is Haiti's darkest hour. But I hope this is the chance for God's church to shine the brightest."



Etienne

PHOTO PROVIDED

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

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BY LYNN McMILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

To many Brazilian Christians, Maria Dutton is known as “Senhora or Dona,” a term of respect and endearment.

Fluent in six languages — Portuguese, English, Spanish, Italian, German and French — she earned a master’s in languages from the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, and also studied at the University of Michigan. In 1961, she was hired by a team of 15 missionary couples and one single missionary — Allen Dutton Sr. — to teach them Portuguese.

“Soon, I began studying the Bible to find out what they believed in, and I discovered many wonderful reasons to believe in the Word,” she said. “The missionaries were always honest, sincere, punctual and helpful.”

She was baptized, married Dutton and became a missionary to her own people. The couple helped establish five congregations in Brazil.

Allen Dutton Sr. died in 2001. The couple’s son and two daughters are all faithful Christians. Their son, Allen Dutton Jr., is a medical missionary in Campinas, Brazil. Maria Dutton attends the Guanabara Church of Christ in Campinas. She has six grandchildren.

What do American Christians need to understand about Christianity in Brazil?

American Christians need to understand that we have a different outlook on life. We are poorer than the U.S. in general, but we have a happy way to see things, and once we are determined to keep our commitments, we do.

Unfortunately, the masses are led by promises of financial wellbeing and cling to whatever is preached without questioning. They believe in a lie, thinking that they will receive material blessings. When they discover the lie, they are at first frustrated but later on decide to study in depth the Word so as not to be deceived again. This is where the Church



PHOTO PROVIDED

A native Brazilian, Maria Dutton became a Christian after studying with a group of missionaries in 1961. She lives in Itu, Brazil, near Campinas.

of Christ comes in strong. We love to study God’s Word.

What attracts Brazilians to the Christian faith?

I believe Brazilians are attracted by the straightforwardness and truth of the Bible. Not many of us were used to reading the Bible, and sincere Christianity offers study of the Word.

Many Brazilians are amazed at what they find when reading the Word. What they thought was true cannot be found in what they are reading, whereas plain truth is not observed at all. For example, bishops should be married and have faithful children.

What changes have you seen in people’s attitude toward the Christian faith in Brazil?

Years ago, it was a matter of

status to be a Catholic. It is not anymore.

Also, in general, people with a lot of money thought they would be involved and asked to contribute more than they wished. Gradually, the Church of Christ is clarifying that notion. He who sows much reaps much. He who sows little reaps little.



Increasingly, Christians in the Global South are taking leadership roles in the church and international evangelism. Do you see evidence of this in Brazil?

Global SOUTH

The changing face of the church

Many Churches of Christ in Brazil already have elders and deacons. Many are evangelizing by planting other congregations that are fully supported by the local work and not by outside funds. This is happening throughout Brazil.

Brazil is very receptive to the Gospel, and the growth of the church in Brazil is evident.

Across Latin America, charismatic churches have seen phenomenal growth. What is their appeal?

In my understanding, their appeal is largely emotional, offering healing and tongue-speaking — emotions that are very difficult to go against.

But if you really come to the conclusion that Jesus is the Word, you need nothing else but to follow him, as it is evident in the Bible.

People get so emotional that they forget to study and be rooted in Jesus, the Word.

How have you seen Churches of Christ change in Brazil since your conversion?

Changes in the church in Brazil have been happening in recent years, and they worry me a lot. Opinions and differences in culture are, for sure, subject to adaptation, but I am afraid that what the Bible says about singing and women’s role are being taken another direction.

I have attended services where musical instruments are used and people are entertained

as in a show. Even though the lyrics are praising God, one is distracted by the noise of several instruments.

I have also heard of congregations where women are taking the lead in worship services little by little, praying or using the pulpit for other things excluding preaching.

This concerns me because I do not see this teaching in the Word. When I was converted, this was not even heard of in the Church of Christ.

What challenges does Christianity face in South America today?

I understand it is very difficult to evangelize tropical countries because of beaches, Carnival, summer clothing and the spirit thus created, but it is not impossible.

In spite of all this, Brazil continues to be very open and receptive to the Word. It may take longer for these people to realize the seriousness of eternal life. With the examples of evangelists following the Word, they eventually will.

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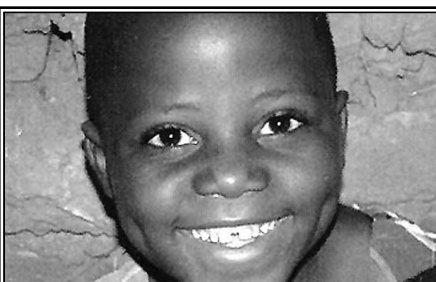
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CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

THE TIPTON HOME

TIPTON, Okla. — When a snowstorm knocked out power to the children's home campus, executive director Dennis Smith welcomed more than three dozen guests to his house.

"We played a lot of games and had a lot of fun," Smith said. "Now, the kids keep asking when they can come back to stay at my house."

Fifty children and adults attended a church service in Smith's garage.

While at his house, the children competed in a T-shirt contest. The winning design soon to be worn by Tipton residents: "Survivor 2010 — Iced Out."

HIGHER EDUCATION

ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

ABILENE, Texas — ACU's student-run media plans to produce the first newspaper of its kind for Apple's new iPad device.

Cheryl Bacon, chairwoman of ACU's Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, says students and faculty members are working to achieve the goal.

HERITAGE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

FLORENCE, Ala. — Ralph David Underwood, a Bible professor at Heritage Christian for 35 years, died Feb. 12. He was 81.

Underwood began preaching at age 20, ministering across the U.S. and serving as a missionary across the Caribbean and in West Africa. He served as an elder of the Chisholm Hills church in Florence for 25 years.



Underwood

Survivors include his wife, Myra; daughter, Rebecca Dorfmueller; sons, David and Bryan; six grandchildren; a great-grandson; and two sisters.

LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The College of Bible and Ministry plans to establish the Institute for Christian Spirituality, dedicated to nurturing personal spirituality and discipleship of Christ and directed by Earl Lavender. The institute will kick off its efforts March 2 with a seminar featuring John Ortberg, author of "The Me I Want to Be: Becoming God's Best Version of You."

Among the institute's offerings will be:

- A one-year certificate program to learn and develop spiritual disciplines.
- An 18-month program for those who want to become a "spiritual director."
- A master of divinity degree and a



PHOTO PROVIDED BY HARDING UNIVERSITY

Tents and Tarps project raises funds for Haiti earthquake relief

Students at Harding University in Searcy, Ark., set up tents in the Ganus Athletic Center for a recent InTents Night. About 75 students gathered for a benefit concert and lock-in that raised about \$2,000 for the Tents and Tarps project. Students organized the project to send tents to Haiti earthquake victims.

master's in theological studies with an emphasis on spiritual formation, offered through the Hazelip School of Theology.

- Conferences, academic writings and research on Christian spirituality.

LUBBOCK CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

LUBBOCK, Texas — Lubbock Christian's board voted unanimously to extend the contract of President Ken Jones.

Jones, president since 1993, has signed a new contract that extends his role as president and provides for him to transition into the role of chancellor in future years.

"We are thrilled that Dr. Jones accepted this extension," board Chairman Jerry Harris said.

SOUTHWESTERN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

TERRELL, Texas — Southwestern Christian is praising God after receiving a \$345,000 gift to help construct a foundational arts building.

Thomas Foster, minister of the Missouri City, Texas, church, and leaders of a proposed Houston Christian Institute donated the money.

They raised it for the proposed institute but determined they could not afford to operate a school.

The donation will help build Southwestern "into a more powerful instrument for the good of humanity and the glory of God," President Jack Evans said.

SPORTS

Willard Tate dies at 74

ABILENE, Texas — Willard Tate, teacher, minister, motivational speaker and basketball coach, died Feb. 12 after a long illness. He was 74.

Throughout his career, Tate found ways to combine preaching, teaching and coaching.

In 1961, after earning a bachelor's degree in Bible from Alabama Christian College — now Faulkner University — he started the athletics program there.

He coached basketball during the week and preached on Sundays, serving 13 years as athletic director and seven as head basketball coach.

After moving to Texas to become head men's basketball coach at Abilene Christian University, he preached for 28 years at the Hamby church and also served as an elder.

He coached the Wildcats for seven seasons, winning two conference championships. The 1979-80 team set the school record for wins in a season, finishing 27-5.

Inducted into the ACU Sports Hall of Fame in 1996, Tate enjoyed as much success in the classroom as on the basketball court, teaching popular courses in the communications department.

He developed motivational workshops and spiritually focused family seminars that he presented to churches, family retreats and conferences. Christian university lectureships frequently featured him as a speaker.

Survivors include his wife, Bobbie; son, Mark; daughter, Elisabeth Pringle; and six grandchildren.



Tate

K-12 CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

COVENTRY CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

POTTSTOWN, Pa. — With Coventry Christian facing financial difficulties, secondary school Principal Paul Fisher has come up with a unique way to raise funds.

After nine years and 27 attempts, Fisher has qualified to participate in the Boston Marathon on April 19 — and he's using his run to generate support for the school's ministry.

"It just seemed like a good idea to use the spiritual analogy of running the race to inspire others to help us with the race we are running at Coventry," said Fisher, a graduate of Harding University.

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?

Randy

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



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Christian couples look to Ethiopia for adoption

BY AMANDA JORDAN | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Alisha Rusher described the recent adoption of her daughter, Tsehay, as one of the “most exhilarating and most difficult experiences” of her life.

Rusher and her husband, Brian, are part of a mission team in Vienna, Austria, supported by Churches of Christ in the U.S. They plan to return to the States this year with their new daughter.

“Brian and I knew that we wanted to grow our family though adoption long before we were ready to start a family,” Alisha Rusher said. “When we began thinking about starting a family, we researched our options and decided that international adoption was the best fit.”

Adoption requirements vary by country. After some research, the couple decided that Ethiopia was the best option.

They aren’t alone. An increasing number of Christian families look to the horn of Africa to adopt.

Ethiopia suffered a devastating drought and famine in the 1980s. Though the situation has since improved, many families still live in poverty and must give their children to orphanages to keep them alive, said Rob Webb, a member of the Brentwood Hills Church of Christ in Nashville, Tenn.

In the summer of 2008, Webb and his wife, Emily, began the process of adopting two girls from Ethiopia. International adoptions are expensive, so the couple hosted raffles to raise funds. The first was a success, but the second netted nothing.

Webb began thinking about ways to help others families raise the money for the legal fees and paperwork associated with adoption.

During his own adoption experience, he read books about Ethiopia and learned that it is thought to be the birthplace of coffee. That resonated with Webb, whose family has been in the coffee business since he was



PHOTO PROVIDED

Alisha and Brian Rusher with their daughter, Tsehay, whom they adopted recently from Ethiopia.

2. His father launched Webb’s Coffee Service, which supplies refreshments to businesses in middle Tennessee.

Webb created Just Love Coffee Roasters (www.justlovecoffee.com). Interested couples sell the company’s fair-trade coffee and put some of the profits toward adoption expenses.

“Fundraising is a lot of work for little return to the number of hours of labor involved,” he said. “So I developed a system that required the least amount of work for the adoptive family or organization that produced effective results.”

Some of the profits go toward a school-building project at the orphanage where the Webbs adopted their daughters in Ethiopia’s capital, Addis Ababa.

Though she was thrilled to be united with her daughter, Alisha Rusher found it difficult to see the poverty and hardship surrounding her during her visits to Addis Ababa.

She also was moved by the way Tsehay’s former caretakers at Toukoul Orphanage responded to her departure.

“Three of her four caretakers at the orphanage joined us to hold Tsehay and tell her goodbye,” she said. “The fourth caretaker was too emotional to tell her goodbye.”



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Ethiopian native Allen Thompson and his wife, Laura.

A STORY OF ADOPTION

Leaving Ethiopia also was hard for Allen Thompson, who moved to Wisconsin with his adopted family at age 14. He considers his adoption to be the best thing that happened to him — aside from becoming a Christian. But he sometimes struggles with the fact that so many of the children in his orphanage didn’t get adopted.

“Instead of complaining, ‘Why me?’ and ‘Why not me?’, I let God use me,” he said.

Thompson met his wife, Laura, at Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City. The couple moved recently to Mito, Japan to teach English. They assist a church-sponsored ministry for the homeless.

Though vastly different from Africa or the U.S., their mission field seems appropriate, said Thompson, who grew up in the

city of Mito, Ethiopia.

He and his wife want to do for another Ethiopian child what his American family did for him. They plan to adopt from Ethiopia — whether they are able to have biological children or not. Currently, the Thompsons support an 7-year-old girl in Ethiopia.

“I thank everyone who God used for me to be where I am today — and everyone who supports the Ethiopian work,” Thompson said, “I am a result of their outreach.”

LEARNING A NEW CULTURE

Thompson and Webb stressed that families adopting internationally should incorporate the practices and culture of the adopted child’s native country into their everyday routine.

Studying the culture the child is from helps prepare for the adoption journey, Webb said. Thompson suggested keeping part of the child’s original name intact so they can hold onto a piece of their native culture.

“If you have a roof over your head and a heart for children, then I would urge (you) to begin praying about it,” Webb added. “There is such an enormous need, and there are so many families who have room for these children.”

NEWSMAKERS

NAMED: Colleen Netterville, president of Dallas Christian School, Mesquite, Texas. **Gary Prater**, men’s and women’s cross-country coach, Ohio Valley University, Vienna, W.Va. **JJ and Ashley Blevins**, house-parents at the Sherwood and Myrtie Foster Home for Children, Stephenville, Texas.



Netterville

AWARDED: Ryan Newell, the Medal of Merit in Psychology. Newell is chair of the Department of Psychology and Family Studies at Oklahoma Christian University, Oklahoma City, and is an elder of the Wilshire church, Oklahoma City. **William Arbuckle**, the Medal of Merit in Education. Arbuckle is a mathematics instructor for Edmond, Okla., Public Schools and a member of the Memorial Road church, Edmond. **Teddy Tackett**, Parkersburg, W.Va., Medal of Merit for Christian Service and **Glen Hawkins** Massillon, Ohio, Medal of Merit in Bible and Religion by the Ohio Valley University Alumni Association, Vienna, W.Va.

ANNIVERSARIES: 70th: Merle and Anita Elliott, Searcy, Ark. **69th:** Perryman and Vivian Denison, Jacksonville, Fla. **56th:** Herman and Shirley Pope, Fruitland, Idaho.

BIRTHDAYS: 95th: Lloyd Nealeigh, Hastings, Neb.

PASSAGES: **Walter Bruce Henry**, 72, Feb. 4, Fort Worth, Texas. Member of the Altamesa church, Fort Worth. **Daryl Lane**, 77, Jan. 4, Victorville, Calif., preacher for more than 50 years. **Evelyn Gertrude Menefee**, 92, Jan. 20, wife of the late P. T. Menefee. Together they worked to establish congregations in Charlottesville, Va., and Marlinton, W.Va. They also served for many years as missionaries in the African nations of Sierra Leone and Gambia.

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Dr. Henry Farrar, pioneer medical missionary, dies

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Dr. Henry Farrar, a pioneering medical missionary in Africa, died Feb. 22 in a Nashville hospital. He was 83.

Six days before his death, Farrar fell and hit his head after arriving at Carthage, Tenn., General Hospital where he worked. The fall caused a neck fracture and complications from which he never recovered.

In 1965 Farrar became the first located surgeon at Nigerian Christian Hospital, a church-supported medical mission in south-eastern Nigeria. The West End Church of Christ in Nashville sponsored Farrar.

British physician Dr. Robert Whittaker

succeeded Farrar 20 years later. Whittaker came to Nigeria after reading an article by Farrar inviting physicians to spend vacation time at the hospital.

Farrar earned his medical degree from the University of Tennessee. In addition to his work in Nigeria, he served as a surgeon at Chimala Mission Hospital in Zambia. In 2005 a leader of the Asa community in Nigeria gave him the honorary title of chief. He and his wife, Grace, had six children.

At his bedside, Farrar's family sang his favorite hymns, including "Let the Lower Lights be Burning" and "We're Marching to Zion," said daughter Marty Highfield.

Janice Bingham, associate professor in the College of Nursing at Harding University in Searcy, Ark., described Farrar as an "icon in medical missions."

In a message to Farrar, Bingham wrote, "You have influenced literally thousands of people to serve the Great Physician in Africa."



PHOTO PROVIDED

**Dr. Henry Farrar
operates in Nigeria
in 2004.**

Jack Exum Sr. remembered as Gospel preacher, author

LAKE CITY, Fla. — On the night before he died, Jack Hardeman Exum Sr. sat on the edge of his hospital bed and sang "Blest be the Tie that Binds." It was an appropriate choice for his last song, said his son, Jack Exum Jr.

"For Dad, the church was very important — unity and grace and the Holy Spirit," the younger Exum said.

Jack Exum Sr., 81, died Feb. 7 from complications after a heart attack. The long-time minister was well-known among Churches of Christ in the Southeast for "Three Unusual Days," a series of Gospel meeting focused on grace and the work of the Spirit.

He authored 39 books, including "The ABC's of Grace," "Winning Over Worry" and "How to Win Souls Today." For about 15 years he wrote a column that appeared in the *Lake City Reporter* each

Saturday. He received an Amy Writing Award, which recognizes faith-based writing published in secular media.

Born in Nashville, Tenn., he grew up in Miami and served as a missionary in Belfast, Northern Ireland and Canada. He and his wife, Marion, had six children. He was a member of the Central Church of Christ in Lake City.

Jay Guin, an elder of the University Church of Christ in Tuscaloosa, Ala., heard Exum speak in Tuscaloosa years ago. "He was a fantastic speaker and remarkably courageous in teaching his beliefs at a time when most were afraid to say what they really believed from the pulpit," Guin wrote in a post on his blog, oneinjesus.info, "and he did this even though his livelihood depended on being invited to preach meetings. He was a remarkable man who deeply influenced the Churches of Christ for good."



Exum Sr.

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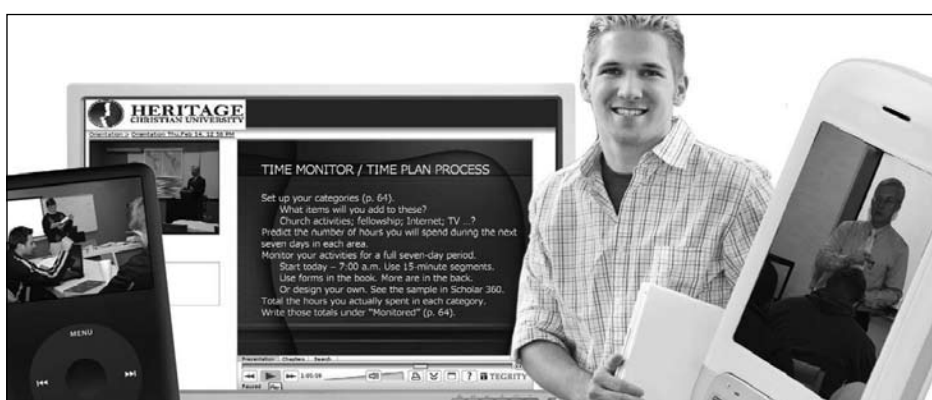
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March 16 Roast of President Dennis Jones. Heritage Christian University, Florence, Ala. Contact (800) 367-3565.

March 24-27 The Tulsa Workshop. "Our Journey: Pressing on to the Goal." Tulsa Fairgrounds, Tulsa Okla. Contact www.tulsaworkshop.org or (918) 838-1621.

March 26-27 The EQUIP Conference. "Creating a Culture of Involvement." Mount Juliet, Tenn., church. Contact www.equipconference.net, (615) 758-2274 or info@equipconference.net.

March 28 Restoration Sunday. Emporia Avenue church, Wichita, Kan. Contact (316) 262-8045

March 28-April 1 Memphis School of Preaching Lectures. "Shadows of Good Things: A Study of Types and Metaphors in the Bible." Memphis, Tenn. Contact www.msop.org.

March 30-April 4 National Lectureship of Churches of Christ. 66th annual. "The Building of a New Nation: Studies in the Book of Acts." Philadelphia. Contact (484) 557-5036 or www.66thnationallectureship.com.

April 1-4 Oklahoma City School of Biblical Studies Lectureship. 21st annual. "The 21st Century Church and the World About Us." Barnes church, Oklahoma City, Okla. Contact (405) 736-1001 or Benjamin Williams, (405) 788-9958.

April 2-4 Alaska Statewide Lectureship. "Revive Us Again." Hosted by the East Homer church, Homer, Alaska. Contact (907) 235-7606 or lectureship@alaska.net.

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 23-24 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 16 100th anniversary of the Panhandle, Texas, church. Contact J. D. Kelly Jr., (806) 537-3004.

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

COMPLETE CALENDAR available at www.christianchronicle.org.



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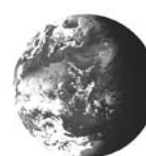
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EDITORIAL

Bringing up faithful children

The future of the church is bright.

You can't see the excitement of the thousands of young people eagerly preparing for Lads to Leaders and Leadership Training for Christ events across the nation this spring and not believe that.

You can't witness the passion of thousands of young people filling church vans and chartered buses on their way to Winterfest events in Arlington, Texas, and Gatlinburg, Tenn., and not believe that.

You can't realize that the Almighty God sent his Son down to Earth and allowed him to die on a cross to save the world from its sins and not believe that.

At the same time, we acknowledge that membership numbers in Churches of Christ have seen declines in recent years.

And, yes, even this month, we report on Page 1 that freshman enrollment by members of Churches of Christ has fallen at most of our Christian universities.

That can't help but concern those of us who recognize the value of Christian education. This trend should, as a Lubbock Christian University official urged, "serve as a catalyst for open dialogue in Churches of Christ."

But let us not lose heart.

Rather, let us focus on bringing up our children in the Lord and doing all we can to help them develop spiritually.

God is big enough to handle the rest.

A few suggestions:

- Lads to Leaders and LTC, Winterfest, youth rallies, church camps and other such endeavors are crucial in the lives of many young people. We should do all we can to promote and support them.

At the same time, let us recognize a simple fact: Parents cannot delegate all the spiritual and biblical training of their children.

The Christian walk needs to be modeled by parents at home. Bible reading needs to occur at the kitchen table after school and in bed at night, not just on Wednesday night and Sunday.

Let your children see your own faith, so it's "caught," not

just "taught."

- We know that today's young people are service-minded and want to "show Christ" to their friends and their community. They want to walk the walk, not just talk the talk.

We applaud that take-charge, make-faith-real approach. At the same time, let us find creative ways to make deep, serious Bible study a priority among our young people. Let us model and train them in spiritual disciplines, from prayer to fasting. Let us teach the importance of quality time in God's word, so they can mature as Christians.

- Finally, let us involve our young people in teaching, song leading, reading Scriptures, serving at the Lord's Table and preaching as soon as it is practical.

Depending on the size of your congregation, you might even consider a regular youth-led worship assembly — perhaps once a quarter. And let us not neglect the young women of the church. Let us find ways to involve them, from helping teach children's classes to leading special public worship assemblies for women.

The future of the church is bright. May we all do our part to ensure that.

'Let us find creative ways to make deep, serious Bible study a priority among our young people.'

Ever-Laughing Life

by Jonny Hawkins



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From Vienna sausages to voodoo, Haiti trip showed God at work

Getting the story often requires a leap of faith. I wasn't sure what to expect when I signed up to accompany a relief team for Manna Global Ministries. In eight years of traveling internationally for *The Christian Chronicle*, I've gotten used to the bizarre mix of anticipation, anxiety and nausea that comes when I click the "purchase" button ordering airline tickets.

But God always shows me what I need to see. That's what he did in Haiti.

Getting there was a two-day process. I left Oklahoma at 7:30 a.m. and changed planes in Dallas and Miami before arriving in the Dominican Republic.

After a night at Manna's staging area, I hopped on a supply truck bound for the border. We drove through without stopping and suddenly were on a dirt road in Haiti.

We pulled into Port-au-Prince at dusk and unloaded the truck at the home of Roberta Edwards, director of Son Light Children's home. Relief workers had set up a camp next to the pavilion where the Santo Church of Christ worships. I grabbed a tent and air mattress from my suitcase and joined them.

A crew of sunburned church members had been there for at least a week and was headed home the next day. They showed me the supply tent where I could get water.

I stayed in the camp for two nights before moving to the orphanage's guest house, where I could recharge my camera batteries off the facility's generator. The guest house had cold showers, but I preferred the bucket and hose the guys at camp had rigged. During the day the water was nicely heated. Sheer luxury.

The workers spent the days busting and hauling jagged, heavy chunks of concrete from the fallen walls. About six feet of one wall had fallen into a neighbor's yard, flattening a row of banana trees. My heart sank when I saw it. How would we ever

get this place cleaned up and rebuilt? I imagine that's what a lot of Haitians think as they looked at the ruins of Port-au-Prince.

The volunteers took "the Dave Ramsey approach" to rock busting. They picked a small "debt" of rubble, cleared it quickly and took a break, building a sense of accomplishment. By the end of the trip, it was amazing how much debris they had cleared.

I helped out a little — and tried in vain to hide how out-of-shape I was. (That's difficult when a 9-year-old Haitian kid is racing by you with a wheelbarrow twice as full as yours.)

I got to know the relief workers as we took lunch breaks under the pavilion, eating the Vienna sausages and tuna we had packed. I also bagged beans with the Son Light kids. Many came from backgrounds of abuse and neglect, but their kindness, intelligence and optimism astounded me.

I can't forget the woman who approached us next to the ruins of the Delmas 28 Church of Christ. She said she was a follower of God and a voodoo practitioner.

"How does voodoo explain this?" I asked, pointing to the rubble.

"This wasn't voodoo. This was God," she said.

The emotion of Port-au-Prince didn't really get to me while I was there, but I've had several near-breakdowns in front of my computer, looking back at the photos. I hope that our churches continue to give generously to Haiti — in dollars and workers. But even if we can help rebuild it to where it was before the earthquake, that's not enough.

I think Thomas Widlord said it best. He grew up at Son Light.

"I hope that Haiti gets a new start," he told me. "It's 200 years after independence, and we're not moving forward. It's like we're going backward. Maybe we will go forward now."

CONTACT ERIK TRYGGESTAD at erik@christianchronicle.org

Views



Erik Tryggestad

VOICES

What did you learn in Haiti — about yourself or the Haitian people — that you didn't know before?

Asked of U.S. relief workers in Port-au-Prince by assistant managing editor Erik Tryggestad.



Our God is awesome. I learned that, in a crisis, it does not matter what man-made divisions exist in the church. What

matters is that we pull together and show the love of Jesus to all men. And let his love bring them to obedience of the Gospel.

Kyle H. White | Clarksdale, Mo.



The Haitian people are basically resilient and joyful. I was blessed to speak for a church on Delmas Street. There was not a

vibe of gloom and despair, but rather one of praise and determination, though they all had lost much.

Ed Perry | Chattanooga, Tenn.



Haitians are very strong-willed. They should start a "machete channel." I never knew you could do so many things with one. Also, be

careful how you treat your neighbor, including the homeless. You could be in the street with them tomorrow.

Frank Leasure | Searcy, Ark.



Loving others is more than just sending a check. Sometimes it takes a comforting touch to let them know they are loved and not alone. When

it feels like the world has forsaken them, they need to know that there is a love unlike any other — agape, willing and unconditional.

David Gaddy | Savoy, Texas

LETTERS

Praise for coverage, prayers for Haiti

We cannot tell you how helpful your e-mail news has been to us. While our congregation is anxious to help in Haiti, we need guidance on how, when and to whom.

Your news briefs have given our mission ministry team the information they needed, and the team is now moving forward in getting our donations to those who need it most.

God bless you all in your efforts to keep the body of Christ informed and making the best decisions we can in terrible times such as these.

Cindy Vick | Pegram, Tenn.

We, the Christians here, pray about the nation of Haiti and especially for Christians there.

May God be with you and help you in this horrible situation of this natural disaster. Thanks to all who are able to help them.

Nadya Pahomova | Sosnogorsk, Russia

I did not realize the number of people led to Christ in Haiti, and am sending all my prayers to those who are trying to help, those who have lost loved ones and those hurt physically and spiritually. God bless you all.

Gene Widner | South Beloit, Ill.

I know this sounds trite as I sit here in the comfort of my house, but I want you to know there are many prayers going to God for all of the people there and especially for our Christian brothers and sisters.

Gladys Laas | Bellville, Texas

When we hear of these catastrophes, some wonder why bad things happen to Christians.

It's so sad to hear brethren losing their lives in such an agony, but we will continue to remember Christians in Haiti in prayers, that God will be their comforter. God bless you, *Christian Chronicle*, for a wonderful work.

Philemon Gyasi-Antwi | Kumasi, Ghana

Ministry to soldiers' families appreciated

I'm thrilled to know more about the military outreach ministry in Tacoma, Wash. (Page 3, February-March).

Praise God for men and women who love and care for military personnel and their families. We stand ready to assist you in any way to promote the Gospel of Christ around the world via military missionaries.

Ed Linebaugh | Military OutReach and Encouragement (MORE), Huntsville, Ala.

Self-examination is key to improving relationships

BY AMY SMITH | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

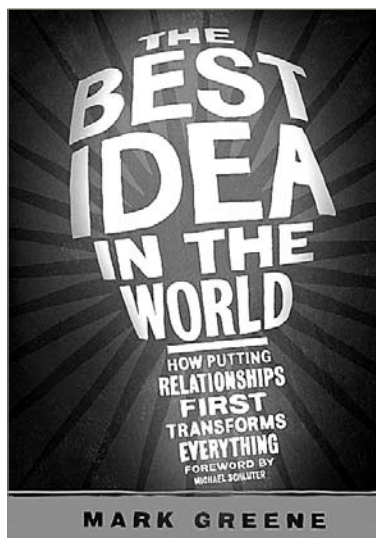
Do you want to improve your relationships? Whether you are learning to love your neighbor, practice self-control around others or helping your children become more independent, three recent books reach the same conclusion — you first need to learn more about yourself.

In **“The Best Idea in the World: How Putting Relationships First Transforms Everything,”** Mark Greene takes up the age-old dilemma: How can I love my neighbor? Greene bases our relationships with each other on God’s relationship with us. Since God came to earth to build a relationship with us, that allows us to transform our relationships with each other.

While we are globally wired, we are relationally disconnected, Greene explains. He says we are electronically linked, but “losing the art of conversation.” We substitute objects for relationships. As a computer-savvy person, I regularly use technology as a means to stay in touch, yet as I text and tweet, I am increasingly aware of the distance technology creates.

Greene draws in the reader with his lively anecdotal style. I read it slowly and then reread portions that called out to me. I especially appreciated the emphasis that “All people are created in the image of God and are worthy of respect and dignity and entitled to a voice.” Being made in God’s image is enough to prompt us to treat people with that same dignity and respect. This concept begins with self, then in our interaction with others and finally in our relationship with our Creator.

Greene outlines five factors of relational proximity that define the closeness of relationships. For example, relationships get deeper when we speak directly and when we have continuous



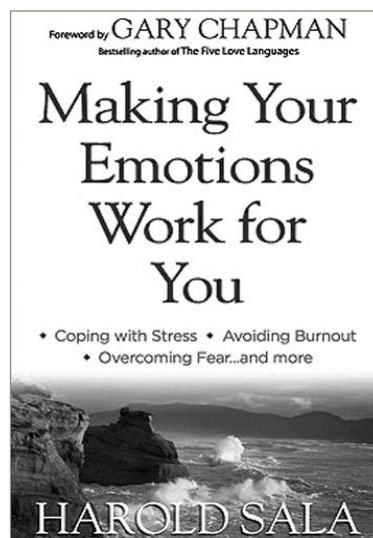
Mark Greene. **The Best Idea in the World: How Putting Relationships First Transforms Everything.** Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2009. 160 pages. \$9.99.

contact. While these five factors were helpful, I wished for more depth.

I was fascinated by Greene’s examination of whether it is possible to love your neighbor without loving God. He concludes that “history seems to show that the further a society — whether nominally Christian or not — moves away from an understanding of a loving personal Creator ... the more likely that society is to treat people inhumanely or to create conditions in which people feel more anxious and alienated.”

After examining relational qualities, I was able to further the journey with Harold Sala’s **“Making Your Emotions Work for You.”** Sala examines our emotions and shows us how to tame the wayward ones. He echoes Greene: With God’s blessings we can overcome. The journey begins by loving self. We then learn to tame our emotions by embracing them and accepting who we are.

Sala takes an almost-clinical approach. He describes common emotions and then explains how they work. For example, if you are easily

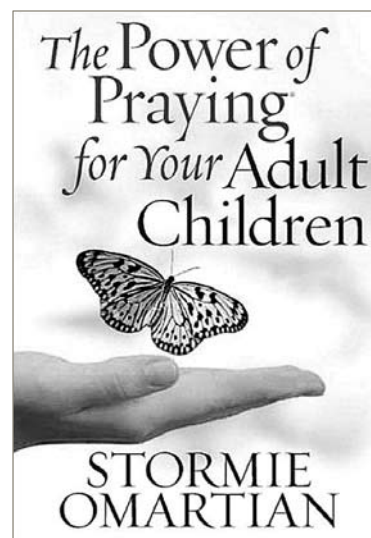


Harold Sala. **Making Your Emotions Work For You.** Eugene, Ore.: Harvest House Publishers, 2009. 236 pages. \$12.99.

angered, you must understand where the emotion originates, avoid circumstances that will allow it to be easily ignited and learn to contain it but also seek an outlet so that it doesn’t consume you. He illustrates the systematic method of subduing each negative emotion to help the reader imagine the successful outcome.

“Making Your Emotions Work for You” is meant to be shared in a setting such as a group discussion or small class. It would lend itself well to a weekly study in which the lessons are used workbook-style and the questions asked in group discussions.

The third book, **“The Power of Praying for Your**



Stormie Omartian. **The Power of Praying for Your Adult Children.** Eugene, Ore.: Harvest House Publishers, 2009. 233 pages. \$13.99.

Adult Children” by Stormie Omartian, encouraged me a great deal. As a parent of two adult children and through the experiences of some of my friends, I recognize that parenting does not end when your child is grown. Omartian confirmed my personal outlook on the need for parental involvement throughout life and convicted me to hold up my two children in prayer even more regularly.

Omartian begins by gently unfolding the truth that our children remain our children forever. At some level they continue to need us.

Critical to this ongoing relationship is learning to forgive at several different levels. First

forgive the child, then the child’s other parent and after that yourself for any wrongdoing or lack of proper guidance. Finally, forgive others who may have influenced your child in an improper way.

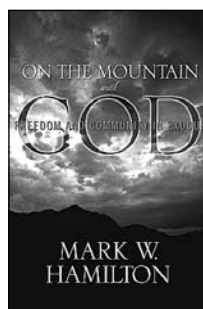
Omartian outlines helpful ways to pray for your children, including asking God to help them develop a heart for him, to grow in wisdom and discernment and to find freedom and wholeness. Some prayers are specific to each of their own needs: to understand God’s purpose for their lives, to work successfully and to be financially stable. Omartian calls us to ask God to teach them how to resist evil and destructive behavior and to avoid temptations of various kinds.

This book will encourage any parent whose children are approaching adulthood, but it would also be appropriate for any parent who wishes to help their child begin learning early how to put on the whole armor of God.

These three books outline the need and the way to grow closer to God, to learn who we are in his sight and to begin to see each other as his offspring. Only then can we keep the first and second greatest commandments: “Love the Lord your God with all your strength, soul and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.”

AMY SMITH serves in office ministry and benevolence at the Nashua Church of Christ in New Hampshire. She has been married for 24 years and is the mother of two adult children.

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY



BIBLE STUDY

Mark W. Hamilton. **On the Mountain With God: Freedom and Community in Exodus.** Abilene, Texas: Leafwood, 2009. 135 pages. \$11.04

Hamilton, who teaches Old Testament at Abilene Christian University, uses the book of Exodus to answer contemporary questions about God.

Each of the seven chapters takes up

a set of passages from the book that explores one aspect of the divine being.

In addition to being a serious study of Exodus, the volume includes sometimes humorous “dialogues” between the author and the reader over an issue raised in the chapter. Boxes scattered throughout the book supply background information while questions at the end make the book useful for groups.

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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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The Taylors, shining examples of holy living, keep on giving

In 1998, *The Christian Chronicle* received word that it was a will recipient, along with 15 other educational, missionary and church organizations dear to Ernie and Mary Taylor's hearts.

The spirit and lives of the Taylors were so impressive that I wanted to share this news immediately, but the editorial council decided to hold the story until the estate's distribution was nearing completion.

So now I want to share the Taylors' story, and that is possible only because Marilyn Finley, a cousin of Mary and the executrix of the estate, has helped me piece together much about the couple.

Mary's and Ernie's parents moved from Tennessee and Kentucky, respectively, to Highland Park, Mich., to find work. Both families attended Hamilton Boulevard Church of Christ. Mary and Ernie grew up in that congregation, dated in high school and married in 1934.

They were active in the church, with Ernie teaching Bible classes and serving in many ways. He was employed by Detrex Corp. and invented a thermostat used in 3-M desk copiers. Detrex allowed inventors the revenue of patents for 10 years. The Taylors lived simply and frugally, invested wisely and shared generously. Both saw life as stewardship to God.

In 1941 the couple moved to Chicago, where they became active in the Cornell Avenue Church. During the war, Marilyn said, "Sailors would visit the church. Ernie and Mary would invite them home to their one-bedroom apartment for dinner or take them out. Guests were invited to sleep on the couch if they had shore leave. The Taylors even allowed the servicemen to use their car for a date on condition that they brought the date to church."

Mary kept records of all the servicemen they met and corresponded with them for years. Ernie was asked to serve as an elder because of his wisdom, biblical knowledge, good judgment and commitment to God.

By 1946 Ernie began his own business as a manufacturers' representative. He traveled across the country and always visited churches. Mary often traveled with him. Marilyn said, "Mary was not the typical wife. She was his business partner, his secretary, his accountant, his driver, his personal assistant, his confidant, his eyes, his nurse, his nutritionist, his sweetheart, his best friend and his encourager." They were private people

who could warmly visit with friends for hours without talking about themselves.

The Taylors' sense of stewardship focused attention and resources on helping others. They assisted many with college tuition, including family members. They also made loans to allow family members to start businesses. Their extensive records indicate that they sent checks to nine colleges. They also made contributions to 21 charities not mentioned in their will. They regularly sent large gifts to the *Chronicle*. They helped many missionaries who returned from international sites with few retirement resources.

The Cornell Avenue church building burned in 1960, and the Taylors helped the church rebuild as the Stony Island Church of Christ, and they also sought to fully integrate the church. A friend described them as the most colorblind people he knew.

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Then in 1974 their apartment building sold, prompting them to consider moving to Tennessee, where Mary's mother had died, leaving her father alone. The move was delayed until 1978 so they could help the church fully integrate and become financially sound.

In Madison, Tenn., they became involved with the Madison Church of Christ, where they were active in members' lives. I was given access to their church directory: It shows evidence of their seeking to know other members and their visits to many. In 1969 Ernie became a member of York College's advisory board and a trustee in 1971. York awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1993.

One of the most touching things I saw was a billfold Mary always had with her in times of crisis. It contains no money, but is filled with clippings of Bible texts offering encouragement. Inside the first fold of the trifold is this quotation: "We find the way to life and living is not in keeping, but in giving."

The Taylors, who died exactly 365 days apart, were shining examples of holy living, and their estate will ensure continuance of many great works.

CONTACT bailey.mcbride@christianchronicle.org.

Insight



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