



Quake stirs tears, ripples of compassion

Haitian churches in U.S. wait, watch, pray

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Members of the Central Haitian Church of Christ listened as Joe Worndle told the latest news from the country most still call home.

“Bolosse is destroyed. Delmas is destroyed,” the missionary said. “Leogane, destroyed. We have six churches in Jacmel — four destroyed.”

Worst of all, 150 members of the Lamentin church perished when the earthquake struck Haiti. On their way to a Tuesday night Bible study, the Christians took refuge in a building that collapsed.

The Haitians gasped, clucked their tongues and shook their heads as they absorbed the grim statistics.

Then they sang “God is so



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Members of the Central Haitian church in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., sing hymns in Creole during a Sunday night service.

Good” — in English first, then in Creole. “*Dieu est si bon.*”

“God is so good. We can say that every time, everywhere ... in the bad moments and the good,” said minister Surin N. Edouard.

Luders Jean-Philippe, another minister, cited 1 Thessalonians

5:18, which calls believers to “give thanks in all circumstances.” For Haitian Christians, “it’s normal” to do so, he said.

The church’s 75 members experienced the quake like most Americans — through TV news reports.

One member cried as she recalled watching on CNN the rescue of an 11-year-old girl
See **HAITIANS**, Page 12

MORE COVERAGE

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EDITORIAL: SHOWING CHRIST’S LOVE 30

Christian students join forces to help

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Bryan Clifton could see the faces.

The Harding University student association president traveled to Haiti three times on mission trips with his home congregation — the 37th Street Church of Christ in Snyder, Texas.

“I have lots of personal friends who are from Haiti,” the 21-year-old said after a 7.0-magnitude earthquake struck the poor Caribbean nation Jan. 12 and killed at least 150,000 people.

Inspired to act, Clifton reached beyond Harding’s Searcy, Ark., campus and helped organize a relief effort involving Christian universities across the nation.

See **STUDENTS**, Page 13



The T-shirt logo designed by a student.

All eyes on Canada

As world comes to Vancouver, churches reach diverse population.



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A second ‘home’
Church in Washington state welcomes military families.

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Jimmy Allen

After 50 years and thousands of baptisms, he’s still sharing the Gospel.

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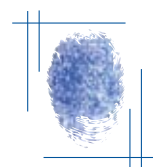
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Her lifetime of love, faith and devotion

HUNTINGDON, Tenn.

Her name was Margaret. Ten months before the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, the pretty girl — barely 16 — married a handsome young man named Lloyd.

Lloyd, 22, hocked his shotgun for less than \$5 to pay for the marriage certificate. He lied on the paperwork because Margaret wasn't yet 18. "I know God forgave me," he said decades later, "because this marriage was arranged up in heaven."

To the couple's countless loved ones — including four children, 12 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren — there was no doubt about that.

Married for nearly 69 years, Lloyd and Margaret, members of the Huntingdon Church of Christ, built their lives on faith, love and hard work.

Both grew up in single-parent households during the Great Depression.

Before their first anniversary, the Army drafted Lloyd and, after basic training, sent him to Sicily and North Africa.

While her husband served in World War II — surviving a machine-gun wound to the face — Margaret cared for their firstborn son Chuck and gave birth to daughter Cathy. Cathy celebrated her first birthday before Lloyd got to see her. Sons Bob and Kenneth came along later, after Lloyd returned home.

After the war, Lloyd worked as a cotton sharecropper,

See **LIFE OF FAITH**, Page 4



Bobby Ross Jr.

Military families find second 'home' at church

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

TACOMA, Wash. — When Army 2nd Lt. Kenny Coleman deploys to Afghanistan this spring, he will thank God for his church family back home.

Coleman, an ordnance officer with the 864th Engineer Battalion, expects that his year in combat will keep him too preoccupied to worry about his wife, Cindy.

That's why, he said, he feels so blessed by the warmth and fellowship of the Lakeview Church of Christ, a 450-member congregation with an active military outreach ministry.

"It's a nice place to be to know that when you go, you don't have to worry about your wife or daughter being taken care of because there are people that will be there for them," said Coleman, a father of two whose younger daughter is a high school senior. "It is a load off your shoulders and off your mind."

About 35 miles south of Seattle in Washington's Puget Sound region, the Lakeview church is a close-knit congregation that enjoys



Coleman

Sunday night singings where members call out page numbers of their favorite hymns.

It's a community-minded congregation that shed tears and played a leading role in healing efforts after a Nov. 29 shooting spree left four police officers dead at a coffee shop less than a mile from the church building.

And, because of its proximity to the Fort Lewis Army post and McChord Air Force Base, it's a congregation with a large military contingent.

Close to 40 percent of the membership has ties to the military, said Air Force

See **LAKEVIEW**, Page 14



DAVID BUNDY, THE MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER

Ministry on wheels: Church helps with mobile food pantry

A volunteer holds pastries as members of the Southside church in Montgomery, Ala., distribute food to those in need in drive-through fashion. With side doors opened and trunks popped, drivers are greeted by more than 30 volunteers who manage to find humor even in 40-degree weather as they load groceries, laugh and enjoy fellowship with the drivers and their passengers. The church offers the periodic mobile food pantry in cooperation with the Montgomery Area Food Bank.

Did the Chronicle skip a month? Not really

This month *The Christian Chronicle* adjusts the dates on its print edition to reflect more accurately the newspaper's arrival in the mailboxes of its 105,000 subscribers.

This issue, the second of 2010, is dated "February-March." The next issue will be

dated April 2010. The paper will continue to publish monthly — 12 times per year.

As press deadlines have drifted later into the month, so have the paper's delivery dates. The adjustment is meant to assure readers that they have received the latest edition of the *Chronicle*.

ACU names two finalists for president

ABILENE, Texas — Abilene Christian University will promote from within when the 4,800-student university names its next president.

Richard S. Lytle, dean of ACU's College of Business Administration, and Phil Schubert, the university's executive vice president, were named as finalists to succeed Royce Money, who will step down from the presidency at the end of the school year.

"The decisions ACU faces as it moves into this next era are daunting," said Schubert, who has served the university for 16 years, "yet I can't help but focus on the tremendous opportunities inherent in the work that lies ahead."

Lytle, who came to ACU in 1991, said he wants Christ to remain central to the university's mission.

"There are 4,000 other colleges and universities who can deliver educational content void of faith," Lytle said. "I am not interested in building ACU without Christ in the center of all we are doing."

ACU trustees plan to announce the next president in mid-February.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, see acu.edu/presidentialsearch.



Lytle



Schubert

www.christianchronicle.org

Go online to find news from the print edition plus an expanded calendar, classifieds and much more.

WEB EXCLUSIVES THIS MONTH:

- **Haiti earthquake:** See more news and photos on relief work by Churches of Christ.
- **Breaking news alerts:** Don't wait to read the latest news. To receive our news alerts by e-mail, contact Tamie Ross at tamie.ross@christianchronicle.org.

LIFE OF FAITH: She showed 'unconditional love'

FROM PAGE 3

carpenter and commercial fisherman in Missouri and Tennessee.

Margaret helped support the family by sewing in a garment factory, but her life revolved around church and family.

"My whole being is wrapped around who she was, what she stood for, how she stood for it, and to the end, her unconditional love and her daily example of caring for her family," said Patty Ball, Lloyd and Margaret's first grandchild. Patty and her brothers came to live with their grandparents at early ages.

Four decades later, Patty remains in awe of what her grandmother could accomplish in a single weekend.

After working all week, Margaret would arise bright and early on Saturday. She'd clean house, make breakfast, wash laundry and go to the grocery store. She'd buy fabric and often make Patty a new dress for church, saving the scraps to sew into one of the colorful, detailed quilts that she made all her life.

Margaret would prepare her Sunday school lesson, visit all the children on her JOY bus route, work on her flower garden and assemble a bouquet of marigolds to adorn the pulpit Sunday morning.

On Sunday, she'd wake up early once again. She'd put a roast in the oven, make banana pudding, ready the grandchildren for worship and then begin the JOY bus route. She'd stand up on the front row of the light blue bus as she and Lloyd drove all over the countryside, picking up children, taking them to church and teaching them to sing "Jesus Loves Me."

Many of the bus riders were black, a fact not appreciated by everyone at Lloyd and Margaret's white church in southeastern Missouri's Bootheel in the 1970s.

But Margaret did not see the children as black or white. To her, they were simply precious young souls in need of Jesus.

Later, Lloyd and Margaret entered full-time ministry as houseparents at a Christian children's home. When they finally retired, they moved in with their son Kenneth, who noticed that his mother



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Margaret Ross in 2007, with Kenneth, Lloyd, Bob and great-granddaughter Peyton.

read her Bible every night before bed.

Unlike Lloyd and Kenneth, Margaret didn't care much for hunting deer. But she loved to fish.

She'd spend long hours in the family's boat and, more often than not, catch more crappie or bluegill than anybody.

Much to the delight of family and friends, she also liked frying fish.

But fish was just one of her specialties, along with chicken and dumplings, tamales, biscuits and gravy, and the freshly grown vegetables such as green beans and tomatoes that she canned herself.

On the sweet side, she perfected coconut cream pie, chocolate meringue pie and chocolate syrup (served hot on pancakes).

Just before Christmas 2009, Margaret, 85, finally succumbed to a lengthy illness that had dropped her weight to about 80 pounds and left her in severe pain.

In her final weeks, Margaret repeatedly expressed her deep desire for all her extended family to accept Jesus and live as Christians. Her greatest hope was that she could see her loved ones — including her husband, Lloyd, who turns 92 in March — again in heaven.

In the entire world, I suppose, you might find as splendid and humble a Christian servant as Margaret Ross. Trust me, though, you won't find one any better.

Her name was Margaret. But I was proud to call her Grandma.

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

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CALIFORNIA

SAN FRANCISCO — The Golden Gate church recently hosted the second quarterly ACAPINOY — an a cappella singing of favorite hymns and Gospel songs in English, Spanish and major Philippine dialects such as Tagalog, Ilokano, Pangasinan and Cebuano.

MARYLAND

DISTRICT HEIGHTS — Two years ago, four women at the District Heights church embarked upon a journey to improve their health — and incorporate God in the process.

A year later, the Faithfully Fit ministry was opened to the rest of the congregation, said Tabatha Akins, one of the organizers.

“Today, the ministry has expanded, with other congregations in the area modeling similar ministries that incorporate practical health knowledge with the wisdom found in the Scriptures,” Akins said.

MICHIGAN

LIVONIA — In his 36 years as a church elder, Hayward Burton chaired a missions committee, performed 13 weddings and a dozen funerals and taught numerous Bible classes.

His wife, Sandra, created a neighborhood Bible study program, taught Sunday school for 40 years and started a weekly chicken soup ministry for hospice patients.

Together, they visited missions overseas, welcomed missionaries into their home and cared for foster children in addition to their own five youngsters, the *Livonia Observer* reported.

The Livonia church, the couple’s home congregation, recently celebrated the Burtons’ service and commitment to the church with a special dinner and program.

“It takes a love of God and his people, not just church people, but people in our community,” minister Larry Stephens told the newspaper. “I’ve known them for 34 years myself, but they have been very special people to a lot of people. They had been involved 36 years, and we felt that kind of longevity needed to be honored.”

MISSOURI

KIRKSVILLE — The Kirksville church helps smokers kick the habit. The church’s “Cold Turkey” program offers free events, literature, support and vouchers for nicotine patches, KTVO reported.

“I don’t know if you’ve ever heard of Sojourner Truth. She was an abolitionist some years ago, and she also smoked a pipe, and someone asked her, ‘How do



ERICA RODRIGUEZ, VICTORIA (TEXAS) ADVOCATE

A place of prayer, encouragement for inmates at a Texas county jail

Tattooed hands grip Bibles during an assembly at the Victoria County Jail in Victoria, Texas. A Central Church of Christ outreach program offers Bible study and spiritual guidance to both male and female inmates. William

“Bootie” Pearson, 68, with the Central church co-founded the program in 1978, the *Victoria Advocate* reported. Pearson prays with the inmates and offers encouragement. “Live every day for Christ,” he urges.

you expect to get to heaven with smoker’s breath?” She paused, reflected and said, “Well, I expect when I get to heaven, I’ll leave my breath behind,” elder Barry Poyner told the television station.

“And so we’ve kind of approached it from that angle, that we all have problems, and smoking is one of those for some of us.”

TEXAS

ABILENE — Through a program called Proof of Love, the Oldham Lane church hopes to provide preaching and teaching materials to congregations that either have no minister or need additional help.

The Oldham Lane church is offering to help these congregations by providing, free of charge, DVDs of sermons and classes to satisfy their need for biblical preaching and teaching.

“In addition to the DVDs, we will also travel to the various participating congregations to conduct Gospel meetings,” pulpit minister Chris McCurley said.

“Our teens will also choose to conduct a Vacation Bible School for one of the congregations each year.”

For more information, call (325) 695-0055 or e-mail chris@proofoflove.org or nathan@proofoflove.org.

WASHINGTON

PUYALLUP — The Renovo church celebrated 20 baptisms in 2009, lead church planter Scott Christensen reported.

The congregation is associated with Kairos, a church-planting ministry based in Portland, Ore.

“What makes this number so strong is that they launched in October 2008,” said Stan Granberg, Kairos executive director. “They began with 12 people on their seed team, had 50 on their launch team and averaged 79 in 2008 after their launch.

“Now ... they are averaging 150.”

WEST VIRGINIA

NITRO — For nearly 18 years, Helen Arthur has managed the baby basket program at the Nitro church.

Arthur calls her service to the community her “labor of love,” as the *Charleston Daily Mail* reported.

In 2009, Arthur donated more than 380 baskets to a birth center and a hospital in Charleston.

“A lot of people don’t give clothes because (mothers) are having the baby out of wedlock, and that really upsets me,” Arthur told the *Daily Mail*. “We don’t do it for the mothers. It has always been about the babies.”

SPOTLIGHT

Scout overcomes obstacles

LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Seth Mullen became an Eagle Scout, the Boy Scouts of America’s highest rank, in a recent ceremony at the Elmwood Church of Christ, his family’s home congregation.

He earned the honor in spite of needing a wheelchair because of severe cerebral palsy, the *Journal and Courier* reported.

To complete his Eagle Scout project, Mullen, who is nonverbal, organized volunteers to scrape and seal 31 picnic benches at the Indiana Veterans’ Home in West Lafayette.



JAMIE LYNN CHEVILLET, JOURNAL & COURIER

Seth Mullen smiles after receiving the Eagle Scout award in a ceremony at the Elmwood church.

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JOE ELLIS, THE CLARION-LEDGER (JACKSON, MISS.)

Sweat and smiles: Members work to improve shelter

Janie Totty, top, Lisa Cantrell, center, and Linda Edwards prep a bathroom for painting recently at a shelter for women and children in Jackson, Miss. The women and other members of the Meadowbrook Church of Christ painted and made repairs at the shelter, known as the Sims House.



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Bible professor, minister named director of World Convention

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Gary Holloway, Bible professor at Lipscomb University and minister of the Natchez Trace church, has been named executive director of the World Convention.

Leaders say the World Convention, headquartered in Nashville, provides those whose spiritual heritage can be traced to the Stone-Campbell Movement a chance to fellowship, develop under-



Holloway

standing and practice cooperation.

The convention includes members of Churches of Christ, Christian Churches and Disciples of Christ. Holloway is the first person from an a cappella church to serve as the organization's director.

"The appeal of this position for me is the opportunity it gives to experience and promote the wholeness of the church across denominational, racial, language and national boundaries," Holloway said. For more information, see worldconvention.org.

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- Cross Medley
- Lord I Lift Your Name On High
- Shall We Gather At The River?
- Hallowed Be Thy Name
- My God And I
- AMAZING GRACE No. 6
- Be Still My Soul
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- There's A Sweet, Sweet Spirit
- Each Step I Take
- AMAZING GRACE No. 7

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- Father
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- Lord I Want To Love You More
- There Is No Condemnation
- Pass It On
- Unto Thee O Lord
- To Be Like Jesus
- I Know The Lord Will Find A Way
- I Will Serve You
- He Is Lord
- Bind Us Together, Lord
- Let All That Is Within Me
- In My Father's House
- Worthy Is The Lamb
- Jesus, Name Above All Names
- Humble Yourself
- Sing Amen
- Kum Ba Yah
- Oh How He Loves You And Me

- Hard Fighting Soldier
- Have You Seen Jesus?
- Beautiful
- Do Lord
- Amen
- Teach Me Lord
- Reach Out To Jesus
- By The Rivers Of Babylon (Psalm 137)
- Jesus Loves Me
- Rejoice In The Lord
- The Greatest Commands
- This Is The Day (Psalm 118:24)
- Reach Out
- Roll Jordan Roll

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- I've Been Crucified With Christ
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- God Is Good

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- You've Got To Have The Lord

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- Where Your Treasure Is
- The Steadfast Love Of The Lord
- I Love You With The Love Of The Lord
- This Little Light
- Heaven's Road
- I Want Jesus To Talk With Me
- Soon and Very Soon
- Jesus In The Morning
- I want To Know Christ
- Were You There
- Hear, O Israel
- There Is A Balm In Gilead
- Poured Out Like Wine
- Seek Ye First
- Thank You Lord
- I've Been Redeemed
- I Have Decided To Follow Jesus
- He Paid A Debt He Did Not Owe
- Sing Amen
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- It's Me
- My Eyes Are Dry
- A Common Love
- I'm Gonna View The Holy City
- Jesus Is Lord
- I Keep Falling In Love With You

- It Is No Secret What God Can Do
- There Is A Balm In Gilead
- Take My Hand Precious Lord
- When The Saints Go Marching In
- I Want To Know
- Because He Lives
- Amazing Grace
- He Set Me Free
- Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory
- This Old House
- Peace In The Valley
- How Great Thou Art
- Where Could I Go?
- Just A Closer Walk With Thee
- Precious Memories
- Will The Circle Be Unbroken
- I'll Fly Away
- There's A Church In The Wildwood
- On The Jericho Road
- He
- Do You Know The Song?
- When I Get To The End Of The Way
- When I've Gone The Last Mile Of The Way
- Thank God For Jesus He's Mine
- Jesus Took My Burden
- My God Is Real
- How Long Has It Been?
- He'll Understand And Say Well Done
- I'll Be Somewhere Listening
- I Love The Lord
- My God And I
- I'd Rather Have Jesus
- The Half I Cannot Tell
- The Half Has Never Yet Been Told
- Sing, Oh Sing His Praises
- Oh I Want To See Him

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- Soon-ah Will Be Done (Interlude)
- Good News, The Chariot's Comin'
- Lead Me Gently Home, Father
- Give Me Jesus
- Hope Of Earth And Joy Of Heaven (Interlude)
- Shall We Gather At The River
- Precious Lord. Take My Hand

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- Lord, Make Me Thine Instrument
- Softly And Tenderly
- Light The Fire
- Holy Radiant Light
- Hosanna In Excelsis
- This Is My Father's World
- The Lord Bless You And Keep You

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

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

DURRES — Anila Kafexhiu and other members of the Durres church in this southeastern European country hosted a community worship service for women recently. About 70 attended.

“God was glorified in this event and ... God has provided new opportunities for people to hear the whole story of Jesus,” said Kafexhiu’s husband, Cimi, the church’s minister.

BRAZIL

CURITIBA — Podcasts from ministers in this South American city now can be viewed on YouTube.

In celebration of their 50th podcast, church members have switched from an audio to video format. The latest podcasts feature inspirational talks by Joao and Edson Cruz, interviews, answers to questions submitted by viewers and a performance by an a cappella group — all in Portuguese.

Go to www.youtube.com and type “jcruzweb” into the search field to see the videos.



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Phaline and Sokhom Hun at the Cambodian church in Texas.

CAMBODIA

PHNOM PENH — After serving a Cambodian Church of Christ in Texas, Sokhom Hun and his wife, Phaline, have returned to their home country to spread the Gospel and train church leaders.

Sokhom Hun spent the first 23 years of his life in Cambodia and suffered near-death experiences at the hands of the Khmer Rouge, the totalitarian regime of Pol Pot. He and other members of the Cambodian church in Balch Springs, Texas, have made mission trips to Cambodia.

The Walnut Hill Church of Christ in Dallas sponsors the



PHOTO PROVIDED BY EDELTO VILLA

Winning souls, planting churches in the heart of Cuba

Edelto Villa baptizes a new believer near the historic city of Santa Clara, Cuba. The city, founded in the late 1600s, sits near the geographic center of the island and was the site of the final battle of the Cuban Revolution in 1958. Villa has helped plant seven churches in Santa Clara and the surrounding region. He also works with about 25 Cuban evangelists — some in the extreme eastern city of Guantanamo. “God has allowed through his grace that many folks in the center (of Cuba) are worshipping Jesus — and in the right way, the way he intended for us in his covenant,” Villa told *The Christian Chronicle*. Villa is one of 34 Cuban evangelists supported by the Gulf Shores, Ala., Church of Christ with assistance from the White Rock Fund in Texas. To help support the work or for more information, see www.gulfshoreschurchofchrist.org.

work. The church “feels this is a unique opportunity to develop an effective mission work because of Sokhom’s and Phaline’s understanding of the language, culture and history of Cambodia,” the congregation’s elders said in a news release.

CANADA

MONTREAL — After more than six years of ministry in his native Quebec, Michael Mazzalongo and his wife, Lise, are moving to Choctaw, Okla., to work with their supporting congregation.

“Our original goal was to help reorganize and grow this congregation,” Michael Mazzalongo said of the Verdun Church of

**Mazzalongo**

Christ in Montreal. “These twin objectives have been reached, and I have recruited a young minister to replace me.”

CROATIA

ZAGREB — Church members here hosted a farewell worship service for Vlado and Renata Psenko recently. The couple has served churches in Zagreb and surrounding areas for about 18 years. They will move to Vukovar, a city in eastern Croatia that suffered heavy damage during the Eastern European conflicts of the early 1990s.

“We were thankful that this dedicated Christian couple chose one of the hardest spots in Croatia — the war-torn Vukovar — but at the same time it was not easy to see them leave,” said Mladen Jovanovic, minister for the Kuslanova church in Zagreb.

LIBERIA

HARBEL — Youths from 22 congregations in this West African nation gathered for an annual lectureship at the Firestone rubber plantation in Harbel, about 35 miles from the capital, Monrovia. Liberian minister Arthur David was a guest speaker. One youth was baptized during the lectureship.

TOGO

KARA — Missionaries hosted their second monthly training session for church leaders among the Kabiye people of northern Togo recently.

Missionary Matt Miller led a study of Bible passages that describe the actions of good leaders — including verses in Philippians and Ephesians.

“The Kabiye leaders also developed their statements of vision,

SPOTLIGHT

Finding Africa’s hidden treasures

BATOKA, Cameroon — Church members distributed eyeglasses and Bibles in this seaside village in West Africa.

“We studied about the hidden treasures of the Kingdom,” said missionary Tamu Blakeney. “We had more amazement from the villagers that a missionary from the U.S. Church of Christ would come to their village and care.”

**Blakeney**

Blakeney works with Cameroonian Christians including Forju Mary Forbin. Blakeney conducts women’s Bible studies in her home and uses her master’s in counseling to help engaged couples, prison inmates and Christian families. The Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, church sponsors her work.

One Cameroonian, Esther, accompanies Blakeney from town to town as she works. “Esther wants to be a missionary,” Blakeney said.

mission and core values, which will shape all of our work in the future,” said Miller’s wife, Andrea. “We are so encouraged to see the way the spirit of God is filling these leaders with dreams and visions for what they want to accomplish in Togo.”

For more information, see www.togoadventures.net.

UGANDA

MBALE — In 2009, the Church Planting and Discipleship Ministry helped establish 27 new congregations in this East African nation. Minister James Luchivya, who oversees the ministry, announced the number at a recent prayer and planning meeting attended by church leaders from Kenya, Uganda and Sudan. The ministry plans to plant additional churches this year, Luchivya said.

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JONATHAN HANEGAN

Colombia's National Youth Camp has international appeal

Youths in South America stop for a photo during the fourth Colombian National Youth Camp in Medellin, Colombia. In four years the national camp has grown from 90 to 190 participants. It also has become an international event. Youths at this year's camp attended from Colombia, Peru, Ecuador and Venezuela. Speakers were Juan Jose Flores from Quito, Ecuador; Jonathan Hanegan from Caracas, Venezuela; Jorge Mercado from Pilar, Argentina; Carlos Escobar from Santa Marta, Colombia; Alberto Castaneda from Pereira, Colombia; Darwin Mendez from San Andres Island, Colombia; Carlos Roldan from Medellin; and Jose Santoyo from Puerto la Cruz, Venezuela. In 2011 the National Youth Camp will take place in Colombia's capital, Bogota.

More than 500 church members are expected for the National Conference of Churches of Christ in Colombia, April 1-4, in Pereira.

S.F. Timmerman, pioneering missionary to Belgium, dies at 92

Samuel F. Timmerman, a longtime missionary to the French-speaking world, died Dec. 28 in Searcy, Ark., after a long battle with cancer. He was 92.

Born in Alabama, he preached for churches in Tennessee before he and his wife, Maxine, moved to Belgium in 1948 to serve as the first missionaries there for Churches of Christ.

The couple spent 16 years in the European nation. They focused on the French-speaking region of the country and helped plant churches in Verviers, Liege and Brussels.

Later the couple served in the Canadian province of Quebec, working with French-speaking churches there.

In 2008 Timmerman spoke at the French World Mission Workshop in Castle Rock, Colo., about the challenges of evangelism. The Gospel has spread through Europe in the past half-century, but "not like we'd like to see it spread," he said.

"Oh, there are so many cities, there



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

S.F. and Maxine Timmerman at the French World Mission Workshop in 2008.

are so many people in France, Belgium, Switzerland that have never heard the Gospel," Timmerman said.

Arnold Dzah, a Ghanaian-born evangelist working in the French-speaking African nation of Senegal, met Timmerman at the Colorado conference and said he was inspired by the missionary's sacrifice and devotion.

"Let his life be a great example for us to also try and be dedicated," Dzah said.



HARDING

U N I V E R S I T Y

FACULTY POSITIONS AVAILABLE FALL 2010

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

COLLEGE OF BIBLE AND RELIGION. Seeking full-time faculty member to teach Old Testament and Hebrew. Candidates should have a Ph.D. and must demonstrate consistent involvement in Christian ministry and ability to relate well to university students. Other responsibilities will include teaching general education Bible. Must be willing to develop skills in distance education. Other curricular assignments consistent with preparation may be negotiated.

Submit letter of application, resume with contact information for three references, and transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work by February 15 to Dr. Monte Cox, dean, at mcox@harding.edu or Harding University, Box 12280, Searcy, AR 72149.

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY. Seeking full-time faculty member to teach analytical chemistry, instrumental analysis and first-year chemistry. Candidates should have a Ph.D. in chemistry, preferably in analytical chemistry, but other applicants will be considered. Should have good communication skills and view teaching in a Christian university as a personal ministry.

Submit letter of application and curriculum vita to Dr. David Cole, chair, at dcole@harding.edu or Harding University, Box 12272, Searcy, AR 72149.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH. Seeking full-time faculty member teaching liberal arts writing and literature courses. Ph.D. is preferred, but M.A. applicants are welcome.

Submit letter of application and curriculum vita to Dr. John Williams, chair, at jewilliams@harding.edu or Harding University, Box 12248, Searcy, AR 72149.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE. Seeking full-time faculty position in history. Candidates should hold a terminal degree. Preferred classical and early European history specialization, but all areas of emphasis welcome.

Submit letter of application and curriculum vita to Dr. Kevin Klein, chair, to ceaken@harding.edu or Harding University, Box 12247, Searcy, AR 72149.

DEPARTMENT OF KINESIOLOGY. Seeking full-time faculty member to teach exercise science. Candidates should hold a D.Sci. in exercise science; Ph.D. preferred. Being nationally certified as athletic trainer a plus.

Submit letter of application to Dr. Travis Thompson, dean of College of Sciences, to thompson@harding.edu or Harding University, Box 10934, Searcy, AR 72149.

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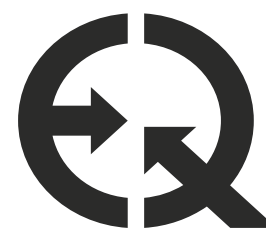
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HAITIANS: 'I think each one of us has lost someone in Haiti'

FROM PAGE 1

from the rubble. The girl later died.

But for the Haitian church members, the tragedy is more than images on a screen.

"I think each one of us has lost someone in Haiti," Jean-Philippe said. The minister lost a cousin, who died in his car returning home from work. Another cousin survived the quake, but his wife and children did not.

Member Fanie Alexander's son-in-law died in the quake. Now her daughter is a widow with five children to support.

Member Bettie Pierre's family also suffered losses.

"I was devastated when my mom called me," she said. "We lost our house. We lost our brother. ... Even so, I didn't lose faith. I bow down and serve the Lord."

Though thankful for their safety, some members said that a sense of survivor's guilt mingles with the sense of loss.

Member Magalie Fortune put it simply: "I feel very guilty because I'm here and the rest of my family is there."

HAITI'S 'MACEDONIAN CALL'

Worndle was in Haiti when the quake hit.

"I just came back to fill up," he said, adding that he planned to return in three days with money and supplies to help the suffering.

To some, it might seem odd for a white, European Christian to tell a room full of Haitians in Florida about events in their own country. But after 20 years of ministry in Haiti, "I'm 85 percent Haitian," Worndle said.

Originally from Austria, Worndle and his wife were Pentecostal missionaries in Africa when they met a missionary from a Church of Christ in Texas.

They converted and traveled to the U.S., where Worndle studied ministry at Sunset International Bible Institute.

Later, the couple sailed to the islands of Turks and Caicos to plant churches in the



PHOTOS BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Joe Worndle jokes about preaching in a sweat-drenched tie in Haiti as Luders Jean-Philippe translates his words into Creole at the Central Haitian church in Florida. "It is wonderful to have a good sense of humor even if times are not so good," Worndle told the church. Worndle planned to return to Haiti and asked church members to give him the names of missing family members in Haiti so his team of workers could search for them.

Caribbean. There, they met Haitian Christians who urged them to come to Haiti.

"That was my Macedonian call," Worndle said.

He's helped plant Churches of Christ across Haiti. Some, on their own, have planted four "generations" of additional churches.

CREOLE WORSHIP IN FLORIDA

Haitians' zeal for evangelism doesn't stop at their country's borders, Worndle said.

The missionary has helped Haitian Christians establish churches in Florida to spread the Gospel to the state's burgeoning Haitian population.

Many come to the U.S. illegally, so estimates of Haitians living in the States range from 500,000 to 1 million. Many work in service industries. Some become U.S. citizens and manage businesses.

About 10 groups of Haitian church members meet in southern Florida, worshipping in a mixture of English and Creole, a French dialect spoken in Haiti.



Edouard



Pierre Julien Etienne gives a Sunday night sermon at the Margate, Fla., church.

"They have a huge outreach," Worndle said. "They go into homes ... they bring them to lectures, assist them in finding jobs. They will give up jobs if they can't have Sundays off."

The Central Haitian church rents from a small Lutheran congregation and meets at 7:30 a.m. on Sundays to accommodate the other church's schedule. The church has a second service from 7:30 to 9 p.m. for those with jobs on Sunday morning. On a recent Sunday, 118 people came for morning service and 100 for the evening. A few members attended both.

Edouard, one of the ministers, grew up in Haiti. Like Worndle, he was converted by a missionary from the U.S. He also studied ministry in Texas before

settling in Fort Lauderdale. He works full time for a cleaning service to support his family.

Unlike Edouard, most of the church's members were baptized in the U.S.

Saint-Gerard Telus began studying the Bible with church members after a friend invited him to visit. Soon, he said, he decided that it was "the church I was looking for." Now he is a deacon.

Twenty miles north of Fort Lauderdale, about 45 Haitians worship at the Margate Church of Christ. Pierre Julien Etienne preaches Sunday mornings for the church's Creole service and in English Sunday nights for the entire congregation.

The Haitian members' children are fluent in English.

On Sunday mornings they sit beside Anglo children in Bible class as their parents worship.

"I can hear them singing in Creole when I'm teaching Bible class," said Margate member Kathy Arink. "I like it."

FINDING PEACE BY HELPING OTHERS

The children in Bible class have prayed for Haiti in the weeks since the earthquake, Arink said.

Meanwhile, Etienne has tried to help his fellow Haitians cope with the massive loss of life and devastation in their home country. Hurricanes, floods and political violence all have claimed lives in Haiti. But, "in 200 years we never experienced this kind of thing," he said.

"Everything happens for a reason," Etienne said. "This is what happened. Sometimes you have no answer."

At the Central Haitian church, Jean-Philippe tries to comfort his congregation while coping with his own sense of loss.

"I'm not concerned about me," he said. "I try to encourage them. Someday, we all have to go. This is the work of the Lord."

Diana Clark, a natural health consultant and massage therapist in Fort Lauderdale, grew up in Port-de-Paix, Haiti. She has visited the Central Haitian church and studied Scripture with its members. After the quake, she spent four long days waiting for word that her brother in Haiti was OK.

"Really, my heart was beating," she said. A friend finally contacted her and said her



Clark

brother was safe.

The waiting seemed unbearable until she told herself, "Get up. Do something." She started volunteering in her community, helping

to direct Haitians to centers accepting donations for relief.

"As I was concentrating on helping others, I was able to have that peace," she said.

Churches mourn losses, send aid

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Shock waves from the Jan. 12 earthquake near Port-au-Prince, Haiti, have reached Churches of Christ around the globe.

As congregations and ministries collect funds and mobilize emergency medical teams to help, reports of casualties and damage trickle in from the nearly 40 Churches of Christ in the quake zone:

- About 150 members of the Lamentin church in Port-au-Prince died when they took refuge in a building that collapsed. The church members were on their way to a Tuesday Bible study, said missionary Joe Worndle, who spoke with the church's minister, Erique Bathard. At least eight church buildings in the quake zone were reported as destroyed, Worndle said.

- At least nine members of the Delmas 43 Church of Christ in

Port-au-Prince died in the quake, minister Jean Robert St. Hillare said. The top two floors of the Delmas Christian Secondary School, which also serves as the meeting place of the Delmas church, crumbled and fell into the road. At least 311 Christians lost their homes, St. Hillare said.

- Nicky, a 15-year-old boy at a church-supported children's home near Port-au-Prince, died when a wall collapsed. The boy lived with other children at Son Light Children's Home and Nutrition Center, overseen by Haitian Christian Roberta Edwards.

Multiple church-supported ministries are providing relief for Haiti, using cities undamaged by the quake, including Cap Haitien, as bases of operation. Many church members are flying to the neighboring Dominican Republic and driving supplies into Haiti.

Edwards has driven to Haiti's border with the Dominican



GRANT RAMPY

Workers with Abilene, Texas-based Global Samaritan Resources pray after loading a jet with relief supplies bound for Haiti.

Republic to receive supplies for transport back to the quake zone. She's also trying to help treat her neighbors' wounds. During the quake, many Haitians suffered cuts that have become infected.

"We are doing what we can do," she said. "I continue to

praise God as I look around at the destruction and disaster.

... I know it is hectic and crazy, but things are coming together — and for that reason we just rejoice and keep on working."

SEE EXPANDED COVERAGE AND UPDATES at www.christianchronicle.org.

STUDENTS: Christian schools, universities help after quake

FROM PAGE 1

"It's a tremendous opportunity to be able to see a problem, see a need, and just come together as believers to show Christ to people who are in such desperate need," Clifton said. "To me, it's what God called us to do."

Harding, Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn., Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn., Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City and Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif., combined forces.

Students sold T-shirts with the Creole phrase "Ansanm pou Haiti" on the front and its translation "Together for Haiti" on the back. Harding student Jonathan Alexander designed the logo.

Proceeds were earmarked for Haiti relief in what Clifton called an effort to "show that we are in this together for Haiti."

A related project, using a Web site called GiftCardGiver.com, let students donate leftover gift cards from the Christmas season.

"At the core of our Christian beliefs is a call to help our fellow man," said Greg Lee, Pepperdine's student president.

Amid the aftershocks, students at Christian universities and K-12 schools associated with Churches of Christ responded with countless acts of generosity and compassion.

At Clarksville Christian School in Tennessee, students donated \$462.65. Many earned the cash by doing extra chores, while a kindergartner gave his "tooth fairy" money, head of school Lisa Tucker said.

Courtney Shuman, a student at Lubbock Christian University in Texas, and her husband, Landon, adopted a 3-year-old Haitian orphan. Courtney's grandmother operates an orphanage in Haiti.

"The Shumans made plans to

adopt a girl over the holidays," said Randal Dement, assistant vice president of student affairs. "It is typically a four-year process. With the quake, the timeline is quickened."

Twenty-three girls from an eighth-grade Bible class at Columbia Academy in Tennessee used Christmas gift cards to buy toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, brushes, bandages, soap and shampoo for Haiti "survival kits," teacher Michelle Shrader said.

At Riverside Christian Academy in Fayetteville, Tenn., the student council sponsored "Hats on for Haiti." For a \$2 donation, students were allowed to wear a hat all day at school, student council sponsor Dana Eldridge said.

In Georgia, Greater Atlanta Christian School raised more than \$18,000 for the Eternal Hope orphanage in Haiti, where the school sends mission groups.

Students at York College in Nebraska organized "In Their Shoes — Hope for Haiti," selling

shoelaces with the logo on them.

"Shoes are hard to come by in Haiti, and it is something we all take for granted," said Mitchell Roush, student association vice president. "Wearing the shoelaces is a feasible way for students to donate, and wearing them is a physical reminder of the ongoing struggle going on right now in Haiti."

David Vanderpool, a senior at Abilene Christian University in Texas, helped his father, David, and a team of medical missionaries on the border Haiti shares with the Dominican Republic.

After returning to Abilene, Vanderpool and a group with Global Samaritan Resources began planning a trip back to the quake-ravaged region.

"Yes, I've seen the bodies being burned on the beach. Yes, the situation is dismal," Vanderpool said. "But it's not impossible. I have seen the work that is being done to help the injured and the survivors. I'm optimistic."



Clifton

HOW TO HELP

Following is a list of ministries accepting donations for Haiti relief.

Find additional ministries online at www.christianchronicle.org

Christian Relief Fund

www.christianreliefund.org
P.O. Box 19670
Amarillo, TX 79114-1670
(800) 858-4038
crfinfo@christianreliefund.org

Estes Church of Christ

(sponsors the work of Roberta Edwards, including the Son Light Children's Home and Santo Nutrition Center)

www.estes.tn.org
P.O. Box 191
Henderson, TN 38340
Attention: Haiti Relief Effort
(731) 989-7990

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

Manna Global Ministries

mgm.mannadr.org
P.O. Box 2993
Clarksville, IN 47131
laurabethlamb@manna-globalministries.org

West Broward Church of Christ

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Plantation, FL 33325
Attention: Haiti Disaster Relief
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LAKEVIEW: Church in Washington state welcomes military families

FROM PAGE 3

Master Sgt. Jeff Oden, who returned home in August from a year in Iraq.

After 22 years of military life, Oden and his wife, Cindy, said they have developed a routine: When given orders to a new Air Force base, their No. 1 priority is to locate a church home.

After Cindy Oden contacted the Lakeview church, two women whose husbands retired from the military — Pat Farnsworth, wife of elder Rex Farnsworth, and Paula Davis, wife of deacon Darrell Davis — reached out to the family.

Cindy Oden said she let the women know when she and Jeff were going to be in Tacoma to search for a house.

"They were looking for us to be here at services," Cindy Oden said. "They found us immediately and started introducing us. It was an instant welcome home."

WANTED: AN EXTRA GRANDMA

Cindy Coleman, whose family placed membership with the Lakeview church last summer, related a similar experience.

"I had gotten in touch with Pat (Farnsworth), and the first Wednesday night we were here, she recognized me from my picture on my e-mail," Cindy Coleman said. "She hunted me down and said, 'I've been looking for you,' and she has been very close to me ever since."

Far from the Bible Belt and thousands of miles from home, finding a church family that is both Scriptural and the right fit personally becomes even more

crucial, the Colemans said.

It takes a special congregation to recognize the unique challenges of a military family, Cindy Coleman said.

"You look for that extra grandma at church or those extra aunts and uncles that are going to help you raise your kids when your husband is gone or when you are tired and you need somebody else to give you a break," she said. "That's why we ended up here."

Wherever they have traveled with the military, the Colemans said, they have tried to remain faithful.

But often, they said, they have developed their closest relationships in places where the church is more isolated.

"In our experience, the farther we got from home, the tighter we were with our church family," she said.

'We are all going through the same things, and we're all there to support each other when our husbands are gone.'

Cindy Oden, military wife, Lakeview church, Tacoma, Wash.

WHEN 'THINGS FALL APART'

In his 12 years in the Army, Sgt. 1st Class Eric Buggeln has served three one-year tours in Iraq. He was assigned to Fort Lewis in June.

His wife, Shannon Buggeln, said she knows what it's like to be left home alone to care for three young children without the backing of an understanding church family.

She'd watch the news and see a vehicle on fire that looked like her husband's, and there was nobody at church she could call for comfort.

Her children would ask questions such as, "Has Daddy shot anyone?" And there was nobody at church she could ask for advice on how to answer.

Looking back, she said, "small things"

could have made a huge difference — someone sitting on her pew to help with the children; an invitation to Sunday lunch; a mechanically inclined member offering to look under her car hood.

"A lot of things happen when the guys are deployed," said Buggeln, whose children are 9, 11 and 12. "Everything always seems to break, and things fall apart. Cars break down.

"I was there in a state with no family, nothing, just all by myself with three little kids," she added. "So here, having the support group that we have, is such a tremendous help to the wives."

Meg Joyner, whose husband, Army Capt. Leo Joyner, was scheduled to return home from Iraq in February, agreed.

Joyner, who is originally from Texas, said church members made it a point to include her in holiday gatherings.

"They are very open and welcoming for gatherings, saying, 'Come join us,'" she said. "It's nice to know if you are bored ... or if you need to go do something ... they are willing to say, 'Come on.'"



Joyner

A SPECIAL CAMARADERIE

Senior Airman Bennett Eggar and his wife, Chelsea, who have two young children, are among families who participate in the military outreach ministry's fellowship activities.

The military group gets together at least once a month for activities such as bowling, game nights and picnics, said Eric Buggeln, who helps coordinate the ministry.

Group members carved pumpkins

at Halloween and went caroling at Christmas.

"For me, the bonds of friendship I have within this congregation are stronger amongst this particular group of people because of the things we do have in common," Cindy Oden said. "We are all going through the same things, and we're all there to support each other when our husbands are gone."

"Even with our younger group that is raising little kids, we as older ones have been there, done that, and we can help support them the best we can," added Oden, mother of a 14-year-old son and 12-year-old daughter.

The Odens said that the older military families at the church feel a special responsibility to mentor the younger ones.

"We've all dealt with military hospitals and rules and that kind of thing," Jeff Oden said. "Just with more years of experience, not only raising kids but dealing with the quirks and how things go and the daily ins and outs of the military, it is a good circle to have, that wealth of knowledge."

Besides serving those who show up at services, Lakeview ministry leaders work with military chaplains and the American Military Evangelizing Nations program — known as AMEN — to identify and contact military Christians who move into the area.

"We are in an effort now to try and make sure we keep pulling in the rest of the military members and say, 'Hey, you really need to be a member of this group,'" Jeff Oden said. "I think it is very important for us to fellowship together."

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Christian universities: Too expensive?

In considering a college education, students and parents have many choices. Often their perception is that private Christian universities are "just too expensive." They should look more closely!

It is true that public community colleges and state universities are heavily subsidized by taxpayers and can charge prices far lower than private Christian universities that do not receive such subsidies. But "sticker price" alone is not the actual cost of a college education. To compare costs, one must also look at the financial assistance provided, the time it takes to complete a four-year degree and the placement of students after graduation. Including those factors, Christian universities are often much more affordable than the "sticker price" would suggest.



*L. Randolph Lowry
President, Lipscomb University*

Our Christian universities provide millions of dollars in financial assistance for students, much of which is based on a student's financial need or academic merit. The total institutional aid provided by private universities to qualifying students is equivalent to 30%-40% of the price of tuition — far more than public institutions provide.

Our Christian universities graduate students on time. In addition, the cost of education includes not only what the university charges, but also how effective the university is in getting students to graduation. Students at our Christian universities who plan carefully and work deliberately can graduate in four years. (At Lipscomb, we recently went further and

announced a three-year bachelor's degree program that can be completed in more than 60 fields of study.) Many public institutions cannot come close to that time frame. When one considers the cost of additional years of education and the lost opportunities of not working during that time, private universities become a much more achievable option.

Our Christian universities place students in jobs and graduate school. For example, of the May 2009 graduating class at Lipscomb University, ninety-two percent of those who sought employment or additional education were placed in jobs or graduate schools, even during the worst economic year in recent history. That "return on investment" is substantially different from other college options but typical for

our Christian universities.

Finally, even with relatively comparable costs, attending a private university may still necessitate sacrifice. Paying that difference will reflect how valued the special attributes of a Christian education are to students and parents. Small classes, deliberate spiritual development, faith-based communities and concerned faculty all offer the promise of a different kind of education. Some value it. Some do not. But for those who do the cost might not be as great as imagined. In reality, the right education is rarely "too expensive!"

Randy

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



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IN THE HOST CITY OF THE 2010 WINTER OLYMPICS, *in a nation long known for its largely secular culture, the Gospel finds receptive hearts among Canada's growing immigrant population.*

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

VANCOUVER, British Columbia

For two weeks, the world's spotlight will shine on this coastal metropolis as athletes from more than 80 nations compete in the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Long after the Games end in late February, however, the Pacific Northwest city will retain its international flavor, as leaders of Churches of Christ can attest.

Roughly half the 2.1 million residents of Vancouver and surrounding communities were born outside of Canada and speak a native language other than English.

"It's like the United Nations," elder

John Clelland said of the multicultural crowd of 150 that worships each Sunday morning at the South Burnaby Church of Christ, east of Vancouver.

Growing up, Belisha Duan accompanied her mother to a Buddhist temple. As an adult, the Chinese immigrant claimed no religious affiliation.

But when a friend invited her to visit the South Burnaby church, she accepted.

"When I came to this church, I felt very warm and peaceful," said Duan, a real estate agent.

As a result, she began attending

a "Roots" class offered on Tuesday nights by minister Kirk Ruch. The course, designed for beginners who never have picked up a Bible, focuses on the fundamentals of Christianity.

"By going to this class, like the seeds to the earth, little by little, day by day, you'll see the blossom and flower in the near future," Duan wrote in an e-mail to *The Christian Chronicle*.

"The more I learn the Bible, the more I have a will to be baptized," she added. "Because I think if I become a Christian, I would get more Spirit, more power and

more close to the God. In the same time, I can help more people in need."

RED AND YELLOW, BLACK AND WHITE

For more than a century, Restoration Movement churches have struggled to influence Canada's largely secular culture.

Among the growing immigrant population, however, congregations and church planters are finding hearts more open to the Gospel, said Jim Hawkins, a longtime minister in Western Canada.

CONTINUED



PHOTO PROVIDED BY TOURISM VANCOUVER

Vancouver's BC Place Stadium, the domed building at right, will host the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2010 Winter Olympics as well as nightly medal presentations.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY TOURISM VANCOUVER
Snow-capped slopes near Vancouver will host ski events during the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Exploring British Columbia

LOCATION: Canada's westernmost province is bordered by the Pacific Ocean to the west, Alaska to the northwest, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories to the north, Alberta to the east and Washington, Idaho and Montana to the south.

POPULATION: 3.9 million.

CHURCHES OF CHRIST: A 2001 survey counted 26 congregations with less than 1,000 total members. A decade later, the number of churches has dropped to about 20 — with membership numbers declining at many, according to Jim Hawkins, a longtime minister in British Columbia.

NATIONWIDE: Home to about 33 million people, Canada has about 150 Churches of Christ. Their combined membership totals about 7,000. Only about 7 percent of Canadians identify with evangelical churches of any denomination, reported Geoffrey Ellis, chairman of the Canadian Churches of Christ Historical Society.

OLYMPICS: Thousands of athletes and spectators will converge on the Vancouver area for the 2010 Winter Games from Feb. 13-28.



CURRENTS DESIGN: Erik Tryggestad



BOBBY ROSS JR.
Church planters Amy and Aaron Etheridge pose beneath Canadian flags at a Vancouver shopping mall. The couple started dating after joining a church-planting team at Harding University.

CONTINUED

“Brown and black skins far outnumber the whites” at some congregations, said Hawkins, who preaches for the Delta Church of Christ, south of Vancouver. Situated amid high-rise apartment buildings two blocks from a SkyTrain transit station, the South Burnaby church mixes immigrants from Asia, refugees from Africa and even a few families from Albania.

“That’s how we see the family of God,” member Amal Kago said of the red and yellow, black and white faces at South Burnaby. “That’s how we picture it because all of us come together in the body of Christ.

“We have to speak one language,” added Kago, who escaped war-torn Sudan with her husband, Gumaiz Mahmoud. “That’s the language of faith.”

Located in a densely populated area, the congregation frequently draws visits from immigrants curious about church and Christianity, Ruch said.

“They say to us, ‘I’ve never been to a church before. Is it OK if I stop in and see what this is like?’” Ruch said. “They’re a little afraid that maybe we won’t take them.”

But after receiving a heart-felt welcome, immigrants often return, form friendships with church members and study the Bible.

“We’re doing the work that God gives us,” said Clelland, a graduate of the now-defunct White’s Ferry Road School of Biblical Studies in West Monroe, La. “But really, God’s the one reaching lost souls.”



Hawkins

Immigrants help spur church growth

“That’s how we see the family of God. That’s how we picture it because we all come together in the body of Christ. We have to speak one language. That’s the language of faith.”

— Amal Kago, church member and refugee from Sudan, on the many nations represented at the South Burnaby church



LORI RUCH
A boy enjoys a sunny day outside the South Burnaby church after participating in a homework club for Sudanese immigrant children organized by the congregation.



BOBBY ROSS JR.
Minister Kirk Ruch holds Joy Kimwemwe. Also pictured are Joy’s sister Gift and brother Tresor.



BOBBY ROSS JR.
Filipino immigrants Rey and Beth Ylaya, with their adopted Canadian son, Danny, between them, sing during a Sunday morning worship assembly at the South Burnaby church.

RAISING A NEW GENERATION IN CHRIST

Milton Diaz, a Spanish-speaking immigrant from El Salvador, preaches each Sunday — in improving English — at the Oakridge Church of Christ in Vancouver. Once near death, the Oakridge church has enjoyed a resurgence thanks to an influx of families from places such as Ghana, Honduras and the Philippines, Diaz said.

Attendances ranges between 45 and 70 most Sundays but can top 100 on fellowship meal days.

“We are excited that we are raising a new generation in Christ,” said Diaz, who last year baptized his daughter, Anita, 17. “God is working.”

Another glimmer of hope for Christians in Vancouver: a church-planting effort by two young couples educated at Harding

University in Searcy, Ark.

Working with Kairos, a church-planting ministry based in Portland, Ore., Paul and Julie McMullen and Aaron and Amy Etheridge hope to start a group of house churches in Vancouver.

For now, the couples meet with a small group at 5:30 p.m. each Sunday at the McMullens’ apartment. They sing, pray, study the Bible and partake of the Lord’s Supper in a setting designed to be inviting and non-threatening to those less likely to step into a traditional gathering in a church building. Among the first additions to The Vine church plant’s core group: William Zhang, a Chinese immigrant who speaks Mandarin and Cantonese; and Min Jeong, a Korean student who studies the Bible with Amy Etheridge and was recently baptized.

“In some ways, it’s really challenging.

But in some ways, it’s just really exciting,” Aaron Etheridge said of starting a church from scratch.

Driving along a bustling street overflowing with coffee shops and ethnic restaurants, the Etheridges reflected on the joy of sharing the Gospel with people who don’t know anything about Jesus.

“When you get to tell them all these great things and they’re just excited, it’s like, ‘Wow, I’ve known this my entire life, and now I get to share it with someone who’s never heard it before,’” Amy Etheridge said.

SHE FOUND STRENGTH AND PEACE

When Ruch first arrived at the South



Duan

Burnaby church 20 years ago, the congregation sang mostly classic hymns from an old-style songbook, he said.

On a recent Sunday, though, contemporary praise and worship songs such as “He Has Made Me Glad” and “You’re Worthy of My Praise” dominated the lyrics shown on a big screen.

“For immigrants, it’s a lot easier to sing songs where it’s in more or less everyday English instead of really good songs that use older vocabulary and older styles,” said Ruch, a transplanted Oregonian and an alumnus of Abilene Christian University in Texas.

That’s just one example of how the church tries to make the assembly as accommodating as possible to newcomers.

When Ruch preaches, he directs the congregation to specific page numbers in

the Bibles kept in pews. That way, visitors don’t have to search for Colossians 1 — they know it starts on page 833.

For the same reason — the guests’ lack of experience with the Bible — Ruch refrains from putting the text on PowerPoint.

“For this particular group, I enjoy not using it because it gives them the physical experience of opening the Bible,” he said.

Life as an immigrant can be difficult, said Duan, who accepted Christ last year. But at the South Burnaby church, she found a hope she never imagined.

“I became more strong and peaceful,” the Chinese immigrant said.

“Fortunately, I have a circle of Christian friends, and I get a lot of help and encouragement. ... I know they are always there, just like God will be there when you need him.”

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

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A conversation with Jason Bandura

NATIVE-BORN MINISTER credits much of his faith to close family relationships among Western Canada's Churches of Christ. The region's small churches face big challenges reaching the lost, he says.

BY LYNN McMILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Jason Bandura is Canadian through and through — right down to his love of the Saskatchewan Roughriders, one of the eight teams that comprise the Canadian Football League.

Born and raised among Churches of Christ in the central province of Saskatchewan, he earned a bachelor's in theology from Western Christian College and a Master of Divinity from Canadian Theological Seminary. For two years he served the Saskatoon church. Now 32, he ministers for the 170-member Glen Elm church in Saskatchewan's capital, Regina.

In Canada, "our culture is obsessed with freedom, leisure and comfort," Bandura said. Winning souls is difficult.

Churches of Christ in Canada also face an "identity crisis" of sorts, he said.

"At times, we wonder about our place within the larger evangelical community. For some, the matter of distinctness within this larger Christian community is crucial. For others, unity is the headline concern."

Though small and scattered, churches in Western Canada have close family relationships. Such connections were essential to Bandura's development as a Christian, he said.

"Perhaps our greatest challenge is tied to our greatest opportunity — to be authentic in our faith and to seriously seek our Father, our Lord and our comforter," he added.

Bandura is married to his high school sweetheart, Shannon. The couple has a 1-year-old daughter, Emmanuelle.

What, in your opinion, is the state of unity among churches in Canada?

In the West, I witness warm relationships among congregations. Doctrinal discussions, especially around matters like instrumental worship and women's roles, have caused the usual ripples, but I like to think that we are a well-focused people who recognize that

unity among diversity speaks a beautiful word into a society suspicious of the church as nothing more than a peculiar group of petty people.

Churches in Canada are small and few. Few cities have more than one congregation, and many congregations are separated by hundreds of kilometers. This has driven us to pursue wider Christian unity with a greater intensity than a Bible Belt congregation might feel.

How active are Canadian churches in evangelizing Canada?

In a sentence, not as active as we need to be.

I think the average congregation, even the average Christian, struggles to see how real-life evangelism should take place.

Much of the discussion these days on the missional church springboards off ideas that Lesslie Newbigin expressed in the 1980s, upon returning to Europe after decades in India. He spoke to how evangelism should happen in a land that is already "mostly Christian."

Much of what I read now comes from American authors. I occasionally sense a measure

of shock that their "Christian nation" might no longer be.

In Canada, that illusion was laid to rest before I was born.

And perhaps that has slowed our evangelism efforts. We know that people are suspicious. They are on guard against "sellers," and sadly, many Christians have never seen another way of sharing Christ. So we seek ways that are authentic and true to connect with people.

It is slow going most times. We very much need the Spirit to lead us.

What opportunities do you see for Canadian churches in the near future?

Our greatest opportunity may lie in the fact that the vast majority of people in our society are not lovers of religion. In fact, most are skeptical of organized religion.

How is *that* an opportunity?

If we show ourselves to be more than merely "religious folks," if the grace of God and the ways of Jesus and the work of the Spirit are evident in our lives — in other words, if we are the "real deal" — then the opportunity is grand to show our nation that there's more to Christianity than they thought there was.

Our current "cold-to-religion" context forces us to be authentically God's children. If we do so, our witness could be powerful. If we do otherwise, we'll simply confirm what so many already believe about religion. I see that as a grand opportunity.



SHANNON BANDURA

Jason Bandura stands in front of the Regina Legislative Building.

What changes are happening with young Canadian leaders, and how is this affecting the church?

I am blessed to meet regularly with ministers from a half-dozen other congregations around the region. Some commit to multi-hour drives to make this day together happen four times annually.

What stands out to me about this group is the deep sense of

'Our current "cold-to-religion" context forces us to be authentically God's children. If we do so, our witness could be powerful. If we do otherwise, we'll simply confirm what so many already believe about religion.'

brotherhood that exists despite our diverse backgrounds and diverse congregations. Perhaps this type of thing would have happened in past decades, I can't be sure. But it strikes me as unique and beautiful.

I also take note of the wide range

of influences upon leaders my age. The writers we read, workshops we attend and speakers we listen to extend from within the tightest core of the Churches of Christ to practically every corner of the evangelical world, and beyond that.

In my opinion, both of these factors are thoroughly good for the church — not always settling,

but good, all the same. Our sense of God's family is growing, and our quest for truth is leading us to refreshing and life-giving wells, some of which have not always been on our maps.

Aside from financial assistance, how can U.S. churches help Canadian churches?

We need the prayers of brother and sisters. As is often the case, the moving of the Spirit can be preceded by the interceding of the saints. We need both of these — the interceding and the moving — in our efforts to impact our land with the message of Jesus.

While financial assistance is assumed in the question, a qualifying statement may be worthwhile. Financial assistance may be most fruitful if directed towards ventures such as new church plants or the development of our Bible colleges. Both of these are essential to the future of Canadian churches.

Some final thoughts: Inspire us. Show us lives lit up with God's Spirit. Be churches known for their love. Display a passionate pursuit of Jesus Christ.

And look northward every so often. You may find yourself as the one inspired by seeing how the Kingdom is being built north of the 49th parallel.

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Anchorage Church of Christ, Anchorage, AK; University Church of Christ, Mobile, AL; University Church of Christ, Montgomery, AL; North Pickens Church of Christ, Reform, AL; Winfield Church of Christ, Winfield, AL; Atkins Church of Christ, Atkins, AR; Bethel Church of Christ, Cecil, AR; Foreman Church of Christ, Foreman, AR; Church of Christ, Green Forest, AR; Valley View Church of Christ, Greenwood, AR; Windsong Church of Christ, Little Rock, AR; Jackson Street Church of Christ, Magnolia, AR; Monette Church of Christ, Monette, AR; Levy Church of Christ, North Little Rock, AR; River City Church, North Little Rock, AR; Liberty Church of Christ, Paragould, AR; Steve Church of Christ, Plainview, AR; Westridge Church of Christ, Pocahontas, AR; Prairie Grove Church of Christ, Prairie Grove, AR; Raven- den Springs Church of Christ, Raven- den Springs, AR; West Side Church of Christ, Russellville, AR; Saint Joe Church of Christ, Saint Joe, AR; Success Church of Christ, Success, AR; Gold Canyon Church of Christ, Apache Junction, AZ; Mi- amii Church of Christ, Miami, AZ; Auberry Church of Christ, Auberry, CA; Dos Palos Church of Christ, Dos Palos, CA; Church of Christ, Eureka, CA; Church of Christ, Fairfield, CA; Church of Christ, Hanford, CA; Magnolia Center Church of Christ, Riverside, CA; San Lorenzo Church of Christ, San Lorenzo, CA; Springville Church of Christ, Springville, CA; Temple City Church of Christ, Temple City, CA; Westside Church of Christ, Torrance, CA; Woodlake Church of Christ, Woodlake, CA; La Junta Church of Christ, La Junta, CO; Tri-Lakes Church of Christ, Monument, CO; Rye Church of Christ, Rye, CO; South Fork Church of Christ, South Fork, CO; Stamford Church of Christ, Stamford, CT; Dunnellon Church of Christ, Dunnellon, FL; Orange Ave. Church of Christ, Eustis, FL; Vero Beach Church of Christ, Vero Beach, FL; Hiawasee Church of Christ, Hiawasee, GA; North Macon Church of Christ, Macon, GA; North Church St. Church of Christ, Thomaston, GA; Halls Valley Church of Christ, Trion, GA; Church of Christ At Honolulu, Honolulu, HI; Tent Chapel Church of Christ, Blackton, IA; Church of Christ, Burlington, IA; Council Bluffs Church of Christ, Council Bluffs, IA; Idaho Falls Church of Christ, Idaho Falls, ID; Linder Road Church of Christ, Meridian, ID; Rockford Church of Christ, Rockford, IL; Heritage Church of Christ, Huntington, IN; Fountain Square Church of Christ, Indianapolis, IN; North Central Church of Christ, Indianapolis, IN; Lebanon Church of Christ, Lebanon, IN; Eastside Church of Christ, Terre Haute, IN; Augusta Church of Christ, Augusta, KS; Belle Plaine Church of Christ, Belle Plaine, KS; Cedar Vale Church of Christ, Cedar Vale, KS; Hoxie Church of Christ, Hoxie, KS; Eastwood Church of Christ, Hutchinson, KS; Isa- bel Church of Christ, Isabel, KS; McPherson Church of Christ, McPherson, KS; Oberlin Church of Christ, Oberlin, KS; Russell Church of Christ, Russell, KS; Church of Christ, Satanta, KS; Chisholm Trail Church of Christ, Wichita, KS; Westport Road Church of Christ, Louisville, KY; Mt. Vernon Church of Christ, Park City, KY; Railroad Ave Church of Christ, Morgan City, LA; Natick Church of Christ, Natick, MA; Beltway Church of Christ, Camp Springs, MD; Oxon Hill Church of Christ, Temple Hills, MD; Houlton Church of Christ, Houlton, ME; Redford Church of Christ, Detroit, MI; Vinewood Church of Christ, Detroit, MI; Escanaba Church of Christ, Escanaba, MI; Lapeer Church of Christ, Lapeer, MI; Holford St. Church of Christ, River Rouge, MI; Traverse City Church of Christ, Traverse City, MI; Woodbury Church of Christ, Woodbury, MN; Lemay Church of Christ, St. Louis, MO; Church of Christ, California, MO; Chilli- cothe Church of Christ, Chillicothe, MO; Church of Christ, Jefferson City, MO; Raytown Church of Christ, Raytown, MO; Redwood Dr. Church of Christ, Strafford, MO; Oak Grove Church of Christ, Como, MS; Orange Grove Church of Christ, Gulfport, MS; Hanging Moss Road Church of Christ, Jackson, MS; Church of Christ, Big Timber, MT; Church of Christ, Glendive, MT; Church of Christ, Livingston, MT; Freehold Church of Christ, Freehold, NJ; Toms River Church of Christ, Toms River, NJ; Montgomery Blvd. Church of Christ, Albuquerque, NM; Sunset Church of Christ, Carlsbad, NM; Santa Rosa Church of Christ, Santa Rosa, NM; No. Las Vegas Church of Christ, North Las Vegas, NV; Linwood Church of Christ, Buffalo, NY; Middletown Church of Christ, Middletown, NY; Belpre Church of Christ, Belpre, OH; Cadiz Church of Christ, Cadiz, OH; Church of Christ, Allen, OK; Hudson & Elm Church of Christ, Altus, OK; Church of Christ, Beaver, OK; Clayton Church of Christ, Clayton, OK; Westwood Church of Christ, Edmond, OK; ByPass Church of Christ, Idabel, OK; Indianola Church of Christ, Indianola, OK; Morris Church of Christ, Morris, OK; Chandler Road Church of Christ, Muskogee, OK; Grand Blvd Church of Christ, Oklahoma City, OK; Oakcrest Church of Christ, Okla- homa City, OK; 7th & Jackson Church of Christ, Perry, OK; Church of Christ in Spiro, Spiro, OK; Stillwater Church of Christ, Stillwater, OK; 12th & Vinita Church of Christ, Sulphur, OK; Wapanucka Church of Christ, Wapanucka, OK; Astoria Church of Christ, Astoria, OR; Church of Christ, Roseburg, OR; Camp Hill Church of Christ, Camp Hill, PA; Somerset Church of Christ, Somerset, PA; South Williamsport Church of Christ, South Williamsport, PA; Blackstone Val- ley Church of Christ, Cumberland, RI; Summerville Church of Christ, Summerville, SC; Athens Church of Christ, Ath- ens, TN; Saint Elmo Church of Christ, Chattanooga, TN; Madison St. Church of Christ, Clarksville, TN; Covington Church of Christ, Covington, TN; Walnut St. Church of Christ, Dickson, TN; Lascassas Church of Christ, Lascassas, TN; Leoma Church of Christ, Leoma, TN; Maryville Church of Christ, Maryville, TN; Crescent Church of Christ, Murfrees- boro, TN; Old Hickory Church of Christ, Old Hickory, TN; Union Hill Church of Christ, Portland, TN; Raus Church of Christ, Shelbyville, TN; Exchange St. Church of Christ, Union City, TN; Woodland West Church of Christ, Arlington, TX; Avery Church of Christ, Avery, TX; 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Lytle Church of Christ, Lytle, TX; Travis Peak Church of Christ, Marble Falls, TX; Mesquite Church of Christ, Mesquite, TX; Eastside Church of Christ, Midland, TX; Broad Street Church of Christ, Mineola, TX; Munday Church of Christ, Munday, TX; New Summerfield Church of Christ, New Summerfield, TX; Nolanville Church of Christ, Nolan- ville, TX; Church of Christ, Palacios, TX; Lamar Avenue Church of Christ, Paris, TX; Ninth & Columbia Church of Christ, Plainview, TX; North Bay Church of Christ, Portland, TX; Wieland Church of Christ, Quinlan, TX; Roaring Springs Church of Christ, Roaring Springs, TX; Rusk Church of Christ, Rusk, TX; Laurel Street Church of Christ, San Antonio, TX; Sidney Church of Christ, Sidney, TX; Walnut Church of Christ, Texarkana, TX; North Tenna Church of Christ, Tyler, TX; Welch Church of Christ, Welch, TX; Logan Church of Christ, Logan, UT; Glen Allen Church of Christ, Glen Allen, VA; Church of Christ, Pullman, WA; Holgate St. Church of Christ, Seattle, WA; Waupaca Church of Christ, Waupaca, WI; Rawlins Church of Christ, Rawlins, WY.



The Christian Chronicle

EVANGELISM

RIVER CITY MINISTRY

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — The ministry served more than 2,000 homeless and nearly homeless people during 2009, evangelist Anthony Wood reported.

In offering hot showers, laundry services, a food pantry, hot meals and medical, eye and dental care, the ministry opened doors that led to 120 baptisms and 158 restorations, executive director Jim Woodell said.

"This is a true witness to God's presence and the homeless' desire to give their lives to Jesus," Wood said.

HIGHER EDUCATION

ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

ABILENE, Texas — Students, faculty and visitors to campus have a new on-campus restaurant option after the recent opening of Einstein Bros. Bagels. The restaurant, the first Einstein Bros. west of Interstate 35 in Texas, is located in the McGlothlin Campus Center at the Hilton Food Court.

"ACU Dining is committed to providing new and innovative dining options for our students," said Anthony Williams, chief auxiliary services officer at ACU.

CROWLEY'S RIDGE COLLEGE

PARAGOULD, Ark. — The college has received a \$63,000 grant from the Mabee Foundation of Tulsa, Okla., to help with construction of its new student center.

"We greatly appreciate the confidence that the Mabee Foundation has in our financial stability and operations and the positive impact that their support will have on our remaining fundraising efforts," Crowley's Ridge President Ken Hoppe said. The 3,080-square-foot student center is expected to cost \$320,000.

FAULKNER UNIVERSITY

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — The Faulkner athletic department has adopted a chapter of the TeamMates mentoring program, the brainchild of Tom Osborne, former long-time head football coach at Nebraska.

Faulkner's chapter will be the first one outside the states of Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota.

HARDING UNIVERSITY

SEARCY, Ark. — Dale Manor, professor of Bible, authored a chapter on the Bible book of Ruth in the "Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds



RON HALL, PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY

Pepperdine statue dedicated at namesake university

A memorial honoring Pepperdine University founder George Pepperdine and alumnus Barney Barnhart was dedicated recently on the Malibu, Calif., campus. Both men served as elders in Churches of Christ. "Barney's Bench" is cast in bronze with a life-size statue of Pepperdine seated atop it. Pictured are university President Andy Benton, top right, and relatives of Pepperdine. Beside Benton are Jill Pepperdine and Steve Louderback. In the bottom row are Mariellen Pepperdine Ostwald, Abigail Ostwald, Nancy Pepperdine Batanides and Alexis Ostwald.

Commentary: Volume 2," which was published recently.

Zondervan asked Manor, who already had published a commentary on Joshua, Judges and Ruth a few years ago, if he would be interested in writing the chapter.

LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Lipscomb's Department of Global Learning is expanding its international study options through a selection of short-term, discipline-specific courses offered throughout the spring.

Each trip provides three academic credits to participants but requires less time and financial resources than the university's traditional semester-long study abroad options.

Among the new offerings is The French Paradox, a week that immerses students in French culture and cuisine at the Ecole des Trois Ponts near Lyon, France.

OHIO VALLEY UNIVERSITY

VIENNA, W.Va. — OVU graduated its first three nursing students recently: Sarah Baillargeon, Ashleigh Campbell and Megan Heldreth.

"This is a significant milestone event for our university," said Jim Bullock, vice president for academic affairs.

OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma Christian's chapter of Wishing Well, which works to provide clean water to impoverished people in Africa, recently partnered with the Water4 Foundation to drill a well on OC's campus.

Wishing Well members and faculty, staff and students demonstrated the low-cost hand drilling method and the low-cost durable hand pump. The participants included some of the 50-plus Rwandan students who are studying at Oklahoma Christian as part of the university's Rwandan Presidential Scholars program.

K-12 CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

CLARKSVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. — The school recently conducted a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the construction of its new building. In its third year of operation, Clarksville Christian has grown its facilities at the Hilldale church building.

About 120 people attended the ceremony. The school has raised more than \$900,000 for construction, said Michelle Roberts, whose husband, Robert, is board vice president.

SPORTS

Tuberville's church roots

LUBBOCK, Texas — Tommy Tuberville, new head football coach at Texas Tech University, discussed his faith and Church of Christ upbringing in a recent interview with the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*.

"That's big in my life, my family's life," said Tuberville, an active member of the Auburn, Ala., church during his time as Auburn University's head coach.

"There's something other than football, I believe, and so we'll be active in the church here. Actually, I want to bring in a full-time team chaplain here in our football program," he added.

"We've done that every place I've been. We don't push any religion. ... I just believe, give players the opportunity to be involved." The chaplain will visit with players about home life and family and give them "somebody they can relate to."



Tuberville

MINISTRY TRAINING

NAIROBI GREAT COMMISSION SCHOOL

NAIROBI, Kenya — Thirty-one ministry students stood in a semicircle and sang "I am ready to go and serve in your kingdom" during the 11th graduation of the Nairobi Great Commission School.

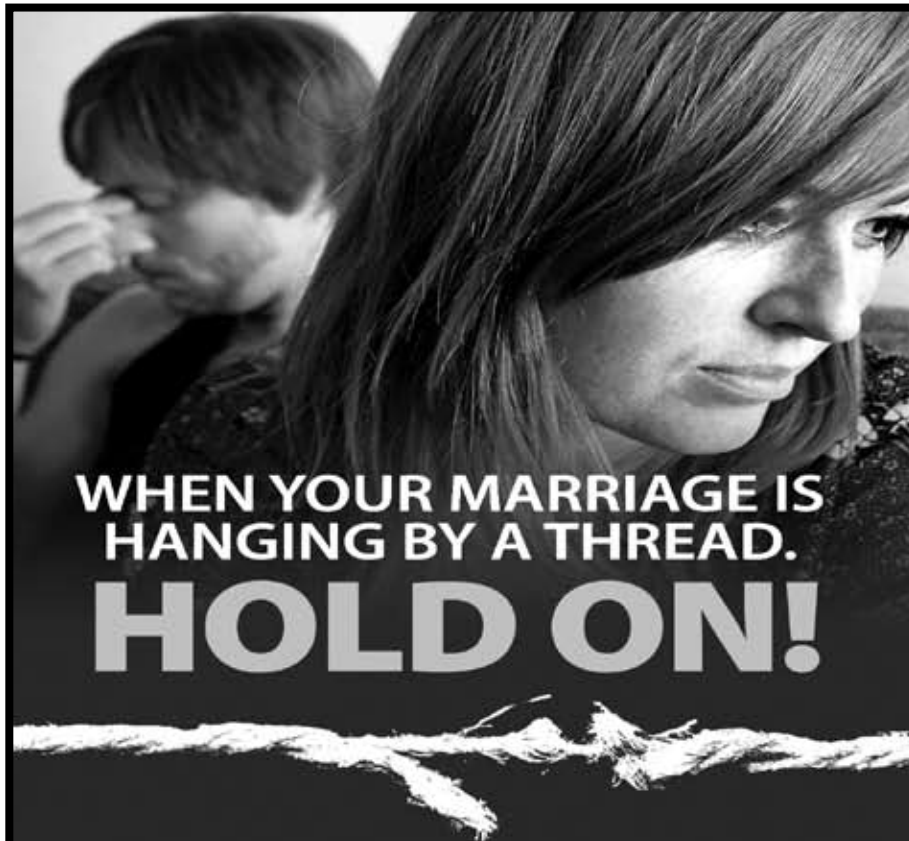
The 31 graduates will work for churches across East Africa, said Tom O. Opondo, the school's registrar. Kenyan church leaders and missionaries established the school in 1988.

For more information, see www.nairobigreatcommission.com.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MICHELLE ROBERTS

Children dig into the dirt at groundbreaking ceremonies for Clarksville Christian School.



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SEAN GALLAGHER

Florida retreat features fun, focus on reaching out

Students participating in the recent Family Vacation 2010 share their excitement for the camera. Family Vacation is an annual retreat for mission-minded campus ministries held on the beach of Pensacola, Fla. The goal is to motivate students to reach out on campus going into the spring semester. Pictured are Leo Vargas, Chuck Hoffman, Aldo Sidartawan, Josh Hoffman, Juan Black and Sean Gallagher. For more information on the retreat, e-mail campusministryunited@gmail.com.

Former York president dies at 92

YORK, Neb. — Dale R. Larsen, who served as president of York College from 1960 to 1978, died Dec. 29. He was 92.

After retiring as York's longest-tenured president, Larsen served for three decades as the Christian college's chancellor.

"He was a man of great honor and integrity," York President Steve Eckman said. "Without his contributions of time, effort and wisdom in the early years, York College would not exist today."

In October 2009, York dedicated the Larsen Commons to honor Dale and Raylene Larsen for their lifetime of service to the college.

After growing up in Albion, Neb., Dale Larsen enrolled at Harding University in Searcy, Ark., where he earned a bachelor's degree in Bible and English and met Raylene, his wife for 65 years.

Their life together took them to New York City, where he preached and earned his master's degree in education.

Upon returning to Nebraska in the 1950s, he was instrumental in opening

York. After retiring to Brandon, Fla., he served as a church elder, teacher and pulpit minister for 30 years.

"Dr. Dale Larsen was the standard of excellence for York College presidents who would be fortunate enough to follow his markings along the path of Christian education," said Wayne Baker, York's chancellor and former president.

York alumnus Dennis Cady of Wichita Falls, Texas, was one of hundreds of students influenced by Larsen.

"He was so humble and took a genuine interest in me and others," Cady said. "I was no one special, but he made me feel special. He led by example."

"For a long time I struggled with how to address him. Mr. was too ordinary. Dr. was too formal. I certainly wasn't going to call him Dale. To me he was always brother Larsen. That is the nearest and dearest term I know for him."

Besides his wife, survivors include his daughter, Aloha Humphrey; his son, Zayne Larsen; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.



Dale and Raylene Larsen

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NEWSMAKERS

NAMED: Kent Allen, vice president of alumni relations, and Bob Lashley, executive director of alumni relations, Oklahoma Christian University, Oklahoma City. Allen is an elder and Lashley a deacon of the Memorial Road church, Oklahoma City. Grant Rampy, public relations director for Abilene Christian University in Texas. Amy Colgrove, women's golf coach, and Seth Miller, men's golf coach, Ohio Valley University, Vienna, W.Va.



Rampy

HONORED: Ruth Ann Gibbs, alumna of the year, and Bill and Nancy Bowen, honorary alumni, Ohio Valley University, Vienna, W.Va.



Colgrove

MILITARY: Pvt. John Andrew Harrington Jr., a member of the Calvert City, Ky., church, completed basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C., and will be stationed at Camp Lejeune/Camp Geiger, N.C., for infantry training.

NEW ELDERS: Jack Lowry and Larry Miller, the Edmond, Okla., church. David Bobo, the Ross Road church, Memphis, Tenn.



Miller

NEW MINISTERS: Matt Springfield, the Huntsville, Texas, church. Johnny Hinton, the 29th and Yale church in Tulsa, Okla.

ANNIVERSARIES: 70th: R. J. and Margaret Henderson, Little Rock, Ark. Smith and Mary Kite, Gothenburg, Neb. 68th: Elton and Eleanor Dilbeck, Roswell, N.M. 62nd: Reed and Betty Munsell, Hastings, Neb. 60th: Lee and Alma Cooper, Commerce City, Colo. 59th: Charles and Bonnie Sheppard, Abilene, Texas.



Gibbs

BIRTHDAYS: 90th: Ray Zawicki, Overland Park, Kan. 87th: Muriel Luke, Hastings, Neb. 85th: Gaye Cox, Oklahoma City. 83rd: Joe Cannon, Memphis, Tenn.



Bowen

PASSAGES: Durward Boggs, 92, Jan. 21, served churches in Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado and Kansas as a leader and preacher. Clara Jackson, 105, Nov. 27, church member in Hutchinson, Kan. Gertrude Mae Oglesby, 87, Dec. 20, member of the Brownfield, Texas, church, helped teach more than 32,000 students through World Bible School. Timothy Wiblin, 50, Dec. 28, church member in Belpre, Ohio.



Oglesby

'Passion, intensity and urgency'

AFTER 1,400 GOSPEL MEETINGS AND 10,000 BAPTISMS, Jimmy Allen retires from a half-century of teaching Bible at Harding University. But he's not done preaching the Gospel.

BY JOY McMILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

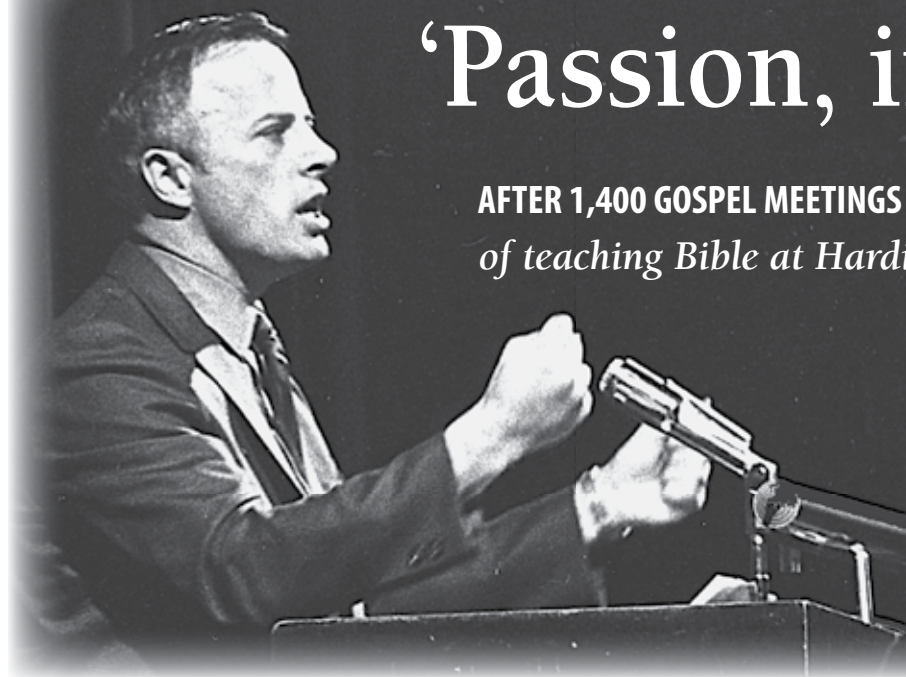


PHOTO PROVIDED BY HARDING UNIVERSITY

Jimmy Allen, shown preaching during his younger years, keeps holding Gospel meetings and says he's "still trying to convict people of sin and show them Christ."

To many, the name Jimmy Allen is almost synonymous with the word "evangelist."

In his long preaching career, he estimates he has conducted about 1,400 gospel meetings, with 40,000 to 50,000 responses and at least 10,000 baptisms.

Allen, who was baptized while studying at Harding College in Searcy, Ark., is perhaps best known for his 50 citywide preaching campaigns to tens of thousands in civic centers, coliseums and sports stadiums across the nation during the 1960s and 70s. During one 10-day meeting in Memphis, Tenn., in 1965, Allen said 270 people were baptized.

"From the day I became a Christian at Harding, I knew (the Gospel) was too good for me to keep my mouth shut," Allen said. "I've shared the Gospel wherever I go — with hitchhikers, in a restaurant, on an airplane. Seems to me like this is what Christians are supposed to be doing."

Last spring, Allen, 79, reached another milestone, retiring from teaching Bible at Harding University after 50 years. His favorite class was Romans, which he taught more than 40 times. Still, he said he re-studied

the book each time he taught it.

"I would rather teach Romans than eat when I'm hungry," he said, "and I love to eat."

Friends say Allen's influence will live on through his 13 books and in the lives of thousands of Harding students who took his classes.

Among those students was Monte Cox, who later served as a missionary to the African nation of Kenya and now is dean of Harding's College of Bible and Religion. Cox took classes on Romans and the history of the Restoration Movement from Allen in the late 1970s.

"We learned about salvation through grace from him," Cox said. "He was convicted that we are saved by grace through faith, and that was revolutionary for a whole generation of us."

Cox called Allen "a man of courage and conviction" and a "bold spokesman for non-sectarian Christianity." The professor also was outspoken about civil rights and racial discrimination.

Another former student and later faculty colleague, Jerry Jones of St. Charles, Mo., believes Allen will be remembered for the "passion, intensity and urgency with which he



JEFF MONTGOMERY

Jimmy Allen with his wife, Marilyn, and children Jimmy Allen, Mike Allen and Cindy Payne.

preached the Gospel."

Allen grew up during the Great Depression — spending his formative years in the grinding poverty of the 1930s in tiny Grand Glaize, Ark. His early years were lean ones — filled with deprivation and disappointment.

He never knew much about his father, a local politician, who was married — but not to his mother. His mother and grandmother invented the surname "Allen" for him.

Gertrude Elizabeth Tucker,

his mother, eked out their hard-scrabble life working in the fields and later as a stenographer wherever she could.

Despite his mother's devotion, Allen said he always sensed there was "something wrong" with him.

"All the other kids had fathers, but I had none," Allen said, "and when I learned I was illegitimate, feelings of anger and inferiority were stamped on my soul."

After his mother was killed in a train wreck in 1941, Allen moved in with his 74-year-old

grandmother in Grand Glaize. He worked in the cotton and strawberry fields, where he earned what he could to boost his grandmother's \$48-per-month subsistence income.

In public school, Allen discovered something that was to change the tenor of his life and become a life-long passion — athletics. Fortunately, he found that he could excel at school sports, earning status and recognition among his peers.

Later, with the exception of volleyball, he played every sport on the Harding campus both as a student and later on the faculty intramural team for many years. For 40 years, he played alongside his boss and neighbor, Clifton Ganus Jr., then president of the university.

"Jimmy is a very good competitor and athlete in all sports," Ganus said. "He plays basketball like he preaches — hard! And he puts everything he has into it."

Today, Allen serves as interim preacher for the church in Delight, Ark., and plans to continue hosting gospel meetings.

"I'm still trying to convict people of sin and show them the Christ," he said.

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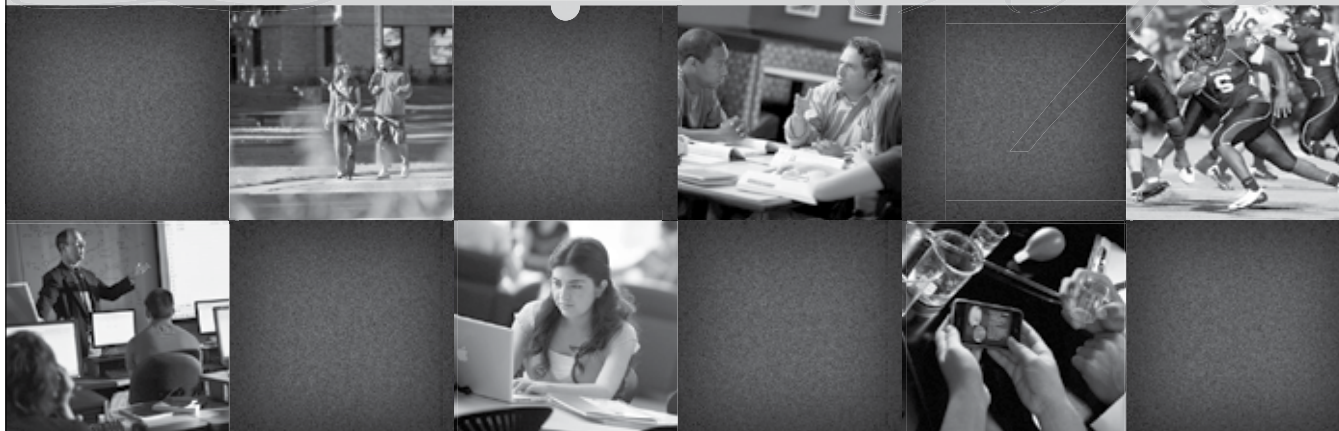
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Feb. 5-7 Central Church of Christ Jubilee Celebration (50th anniversary). Central church, Lufkin, Texas. Contact lufkincentral.com.

Feb. 6 Encouraging the Encourager Leadership Seminar. 12th annual. Edgemere church, Wichita Falls, Texas. Contact (940) 766-0107 or www.edgemere.org.

Feb. 7-12 Freed-Hardeman Bible Lectureship. 74th annual. "Perfecting God's People: Christ and Culture in Corinthians." Freed-Hardeman University, Henderson, Tenn. Contact www.fhu.edu/lectureship or (731) 989-6622.

Feb. 11-13 Ministers' Peacemakers Retreat. "A three-day retreat to help us better understand same-sex attraction." Scarlett-Bennett Retreat Center, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn. Contact www.centerpeace.net.

Feb. 14 50th anniversary of the Clearwater, Kan., church. Contact Wayland Whitlow at (620) 584-6301 or cwksoc@sktc.net.

Feb. 17-20 Great Smoky Mountain Marriage Retreat with David Shannon and Phillip Hines. Sponsored by the Jacksonville, Ala., church. Holiday Inn Conference Center, Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Contact (256) 435-9356 or www.polishingthepulpit.com

Feb. 19-20 Affirming the Faith Seminar. North MacArthur church, Oklahoma City. Contact www.affirmingthefaihtok.com or (405) 621-5962.

Feb. 19-21 Winterfest Gatlinburg. "The Veil." Gatlinburg, Tenn. Contact winterfest.org.

Feb. 25-27 Ohio Valley University Golden Anniversary Homecoming. Vienna, W.Va. Contact www.ovu.edu/homecoming.

March 1-4 Faulkner University Bible Lectureship. "The Great I Am." Montgomery, Ala. Contact www.faulkner.edu, cstinson@faulkner.edu or (334) 386-7154.

March 12-14 SOAR Youth Rally 2010. Central church, Augusta, Ga. Contact beenjamin@hotmail.com, www.soaryouthrally.org or (706) 855-0801.

March 13 New England Church Growth Conference. Manchester church, Manchester, Conn. Contact www.newenglandcgc.org or (203) 265-2787.

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.

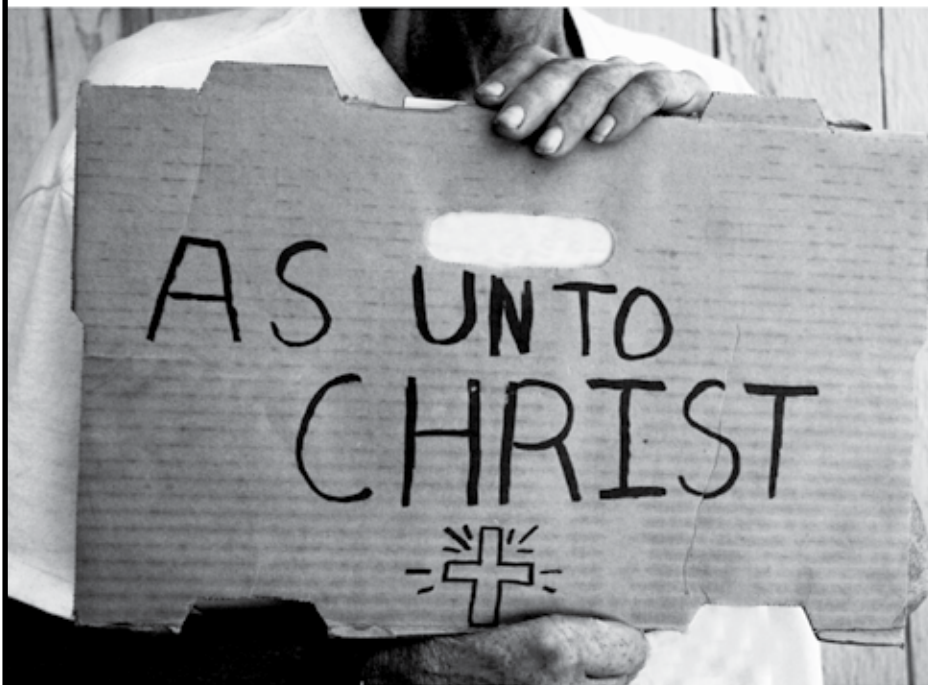
March 28-April 1 Memphis School of Preaching Lectures. "Shadows of Good Things: A Study of Types and Metaphors in the Bible." Memphis, Tenn. Contact www.msop.org.

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

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EDITORIAL

Showing Christ's love, together

It was Katrina all over again.

As soon as a 7.0-magnitude earthquake hit Haiti, Churches of Christ around the globe went to work.

Congregations took up special contributions to help ease those suffering from one of the worst disasters of our time. Members planned emergency medical mission trips.

Our fellowship has learned a lot about responding to disasters — from an Ethiopian famine to a Gulf Coast hurricane.

Increasingly, our ministries are first responders. From Kansas to Honduras, church-supported groups cooperate to deliver effective aid that means more than a TV sound bite.

But there's room for improvement, as evidenced by phone calls we received after the quake. Christians across the nation were preparing relief teams and collecting funds. They wanted to be added to the "how to help" list on our Web site. That list quickly grew to 13 churches and ministries collecting funds. It bewildered a

few of our readers.

They called and asked, "Which one should I pick?"

Others wanted to go to Haiti and be part of the relief effort. Did we have a comprehensive list of who's doing what and going where? We told them what we knew, but explained that compiling such information is a difficult task.

Younger church members — and people outside our fellowship — sometimes ask why Churches of Christ have no "central office" for coordinating such relief efforts. Older members know the answer. In pursuit of non-denominational Christianity we eschew any centralized, policy-making body that robs us of congregational autonomy.

Some in our fellowship believe it is unscriptural to support specialized ministries, preferring that all benevolence be done on a congregational level. Autonomy means unique opportunities and challenges in missions. We get invested in our efforts in ways that other religious groups can't.

It thrills us to see children

in Bible class point to a map of South America and name their church's missionaries there.

But it saddens us to see two mission groups in the same city — sometimes within miles of each other — who don't cooperate. Some simply don't know of the other's existence.

We love and celebrate Churches of Christ. We support the role of church elders as shepherds of our Lord's flocks. And we believe that church autonomy is the model that Scripture gives us to follow. But we urge churches and ministries to find new ways to work together — to share not only relief efforts, but to share information in a way that empowers Christians who want to help.

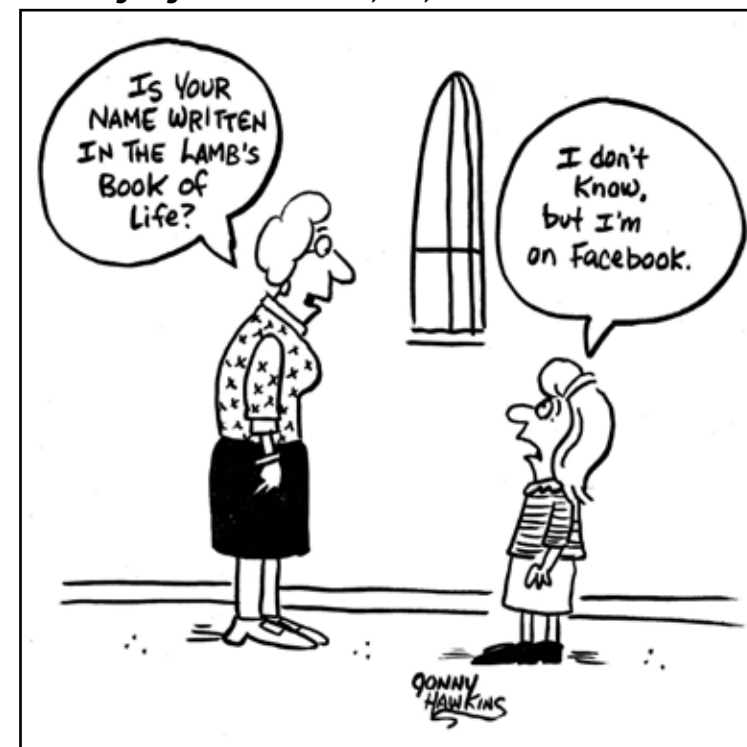
We are thankful that God has allowed us to play a part in this, helping to direct believers to resources and contacts. Doing so is part of our goal — to inform, inspire and unite.

In the coming months, we all should focus on Haiti. Churches of Christ need to be working in Haiti long after the TV cameras are gone. The challenge of helping this nation of 9.7 million souls to heal and rebuild is immense. So, too, are the opportunities to show Christ's love — and to do it together.

'We all should focus on Haiti. Churches of Christ need to be working in Haiti long after the TV cameras are gone.'

Ever-Laughing Life

by Jonny Hawkins



TO OUR READERS

Changes you might notice

We can all use a little humor. As you can see, our Opinion page features a slightly new look with the introduction of an editorial cartoon called "Ever-Laughing Life," drawn by Jonny Hawkins of Sherwood, Mich.

You'll notice another change in our staff box: Tamie Ross, who had served as *The Christian Chronicle's* online editor, has assumed new

duties as advertising director.

Along with donations from readers, paid advertisements for Christian services, products and events play a crucial role in helping us fund our nonprofit ministry of informing, inspiring and uniting Churches of Christ.

We invite potential advertisers to contact Tamie Ross at (405) 425-5071 or tamie.ross@christianchronicle.org.



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Beauty from the ashes of a crumbling marriage

Raised and now living in one of those churchy families that seem to have it all together, I was as shocked as anyone else when I looked around and realized that my marriage had crumbled into a million little pieces.

My husband and I were reeling from a series of stressful events and finally looked at each other and had to decide if staying married would be worth the battle.

We were fairly new in our town — one of the many stressors of the time — and I hadn't had much of an opportunity to make friends. Now my best friend, my husband, was just as broken and wounded as I was and unable to offer comfort and counsel. It was, unquestionably, the loneliest time of my adult life.

I have a long list of things that I did wrong to get us to that point and through that time. Graciously, though, God allowed some goodness to seep in, and I actually got a few things right.

One thing I got right was to seek counsel from godly women who were committed to their own marriages. Being new in town, I wasn't really sure, but I suspected they would encourage me to stick with my own marriage, even through the tough times.

Turns out, I was right.

There were times when I grew weary, when I didn't think I could go any further. These ladies would not let me throw in the towel, knowing my ultimate goal of a restored marriage.

It is incredibly humbling to confess to people whom you don't know well that your marriage is a wreck and you need help, but the rewards are immeasurable.

These women remind me of the friends in Mark 2, who brought their crippled comrade to Jesus through the roof. They fought through the crowd and dug through the hardened mud of the roof with their hands so that their friend could make it to Jesus when he could not get there on his own.

That is what my friends did for me, carrying me again and again to the foot of the cross when I was too weary to get there alone.

Another thing we got right during that time was to go to marriage counseling. My experience leads me to believe that it is important to see a Christian counselor who will understand your viewpoint. Sometimes commitment to marriage seems logical or reasonable only from the eyes of faith.

For varying reasons, I don't readily recommend "pastoral counselors" — generally those on a church staff. If finances allow it, I highly recommend seeking a licensed therapist. Many insurance plans now cover at least a few sessions of marriage counseling.

We also simply left room for God to work. Honestly, most of this was because we did the other two things, and simply didn't have the energy to do much else, like seek legal counsel or move out. But I look back at that time and realize that in the midst of what seemed like the blackest time, God was healing and comforting.

Through this time, our church family also did many things right to help us through.

They were trustworthy confidants, for one thing.

Struggling marriages do not need the rumor mill to add fuel to the fire, and my church family knew that. I never felt as if I were walking into the middle of a conversation about me or becoming the object of wondering glances from a huddled conversation.

Nor did I ever feel pitied or pathetic. People simply took their cues from us. If it was a sad day, they were there to listen and comfort. If it was a good day, they rejoiced with us and let us laugh with them.

If they had words of wisdom, it was God-honoring, grace-filled advice. Words of love, words of forgiveness and grace. Words that the world would not understand or condone.

They didn't choose sides or seek out the ugly details.

Rather, they longed to see a restored marriage and worked beside us to make that happen.

They prayed. They counseled. They helped. They babysat. They cleaned our home. They bought us groceries.

They were digging-through-the-clay friends we didn't even realize we had until we needed them — and we desperately needed them.

Putting my marriage back together turned out to be far more difficult a task than I ever imagined.

Honestly, it is the hardest thing I've been called to do thus far in my life.

Typical of the work in God's kingdom, however, my marriage now has been redeemed and made more lovely and beautiful than I ever thought it could be — beauty from ashes.

May this redeemed covenant be a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, as we show others what God can do with a tangled, unholly mess of a marriage.

SARAH STIRMAN, a freelance writer and speaker for The Coffee Group, lives in Abilene, Texas, with her husband, Troy, and their two children, Ashley and Riley. The Stirmans are members of the Southern Hills Church of Christ. Read Sarah Stirman's blog at sarahstirman.blogspot.com. Contact her at sarah@thecoffeegroup.net.

Views



Sarah Stirman

'It is incredibly humbling to confess ... that your marriage is a wreck and you need help, but the rewards are immeasurable.'

VOICES

Can you remember circumstances when fellow Christians were there for you in a time of need?

Asked by managing editor Bobby Ross Jr.



When we adopted our son. We didn't have much, and the adoption had taken most of our money. But the church hosted a baby shower that blew us away. We filled two cars with diapers, formula, toys, clothes, etc.

Terry Laudett | Tulsa, Okla.



Going through a miscarriage was devastating. Our brothers and sisters didn't let us go through it alone. They sent cards, called, brought food, wept with us and prayed. In a few years when the new baby came, they rejoiced.

Paula Harrington | Calvert City, Ky.



The summer of 2003 was a tough one. Doctors had just discovered I had cancer and was going to be having multiple surgeries. I was amazed by the amount of Christian brothers and sisters that supported and prayed for me.

Trey Morgan | Childress, Texas



Our church family from various congregations has been there for us every time — some good and some bad. We have had friends drive 500 miles to attend funerals. Countless friends helped us survive a number of hospitalizations for our youngest son.

Dana Leach | McKinney, Texas

LETTERS

Academics vital to church-related schools

I read with interest the column about Christian universities written by Bailey McBride (Page 34, January). I was dismayed by the statement, "Whenever academic excellence, national reputation or athletics begin to be the principal concerns of trustees, institutions will gradually slip away from founding principles."

It seems to me the primary function of any educational institution should be academic excellence and should be of great concern to the trustees.

Students who attend church-connected institutions of higher learning should not be asked to spend thousands of dollars for a second-rate education. Academic excellence should not be compromised. It should be a given.

Church-connected schools may make regulations and put in place practices that encourage good, moral living and spiritual growth, but this should in no way diminish academic excellence.

Mary Button | Little Rock, Ark.

Appreciation for Lester Holt's anchor of faith

I knew there was a reason I liked Lester Holt. (See "An anchor for his soul," Page 3, January.) His reports and entertaining dialogues on the "Today" Show and NBC News have always struck me as balanced and fair, not aggressive or rude to those he is interviewing. Now, knowing his faith, I will enjoy him even more.

Douglas Bagwell | Warrington Pa.

Worldly wisdom for a divine calling

BY MATTHEW DOWLING | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

While it may not be widely admitted, navigating the sometimes-dangerous shoals of ministry can range from sheer exultation to extreme terror.

Today's ministers need to have answers to a broad range of questions and challenges, all seemingly delivered at the speed of light. As a result, the demanding world of ministry has created two related phenomena: an ever-greater demand for dynamic leadership and a subsequent increase in ministry burnout.

Fortunately, two timely books address both issues.

Anne Jackson, a first-time book author and well-known Christian leadership blogger (flowerdust.net), addresses burnout in **"Mad Church Disease: Overcoming the Burnout Epidemic."**

Jackson's father is a former full-time minister. She grew up watching trials and burdens weigh heavily upon him. "The sparkle in his eyes was gone," she writes. That pained observation played a role in driving her from church entirely.

As an adult she returned to full-time ministry, realizing the heavy toll it can take upon those called to do it — if it is not managed well. The title of the book

is drawn from a parallel Jackson sees between the famous bovine wasting illness and the ministry burnout she experienced first-hand. Jackson's purpose is to offer helpful and proactive ministry advice — how to keep from burning out by managing the risk factors and symptoms of stress before they claim you and your ministry as a victim.

Jackson's writing style manages to be both empathetic and challenging, urging you to anticipate the bumps in the ministerial road ahead. Her observations are intuitive and sometimes predictable.

Critics might feel that Jackson's advice trends towards being too general, but she tends to balance broad counsel with more specific and practical advice for protecting you and your ministry, and thus on the whole her book is helpful and effective.

The strength of the book is its suitability for more than just full-time ministers. In particular, it would be appropriate for those in lay ministry, including small-group leaders and Bible class teachers, who are asked to do more within our churches all the time.

A weakness of the book is that its formatting (breakout boxes, varieties of font sizes per page) suggests the book is intended for a younger audience. Despite this limitation, the book is accessible, practical and helpful and should probably be re-read on occasion as a self-assessment tool.

Every chapter ends with a series of questions meant to spur thoughtful reflection about your ministry. There is a series of interviews with high-profile ministers, such as Bill Hybels, who give helpful insights for how they deal with stress in their ministries.

In a time when frequent ministry burnout is an unfortunate reality, this type of book is immediately helpful.

The topic of dynamic leadership is ably addressed in **"The Three Tasks of Leadership: Worldly Wisdom for Pastoral Leaders."** The book is a critical, theological reflection on the leadership wisdom of longtime corporate CEO Max DePree and is an edited compilation of 16 essays offered by scholars and ministers affiliated with Fuller Theological Seminary.

On the surface, the book's specificity of genre might dissuade some readers from engaging with it, but overlooking this

volume would be a mistake. There is a dearth of valuable, critical, theological reflection on whether or not "worldly" or secular leadership wisdom is really good for the church — despite the fact that this wisdom is often adopted

carte blanche by ministers. To paraphrase Tertullian: What has the corporate boardroom to do with the church?

Magnificently, this book seems equal to the task of actually answering the question.

The essayists include David Augsburger, Richard Mouw, Robert Banks and James Bradley, among others. Their reflections are organized within three main sections of the book, corresponding to what Max DePree contends are the three definitive tasks of leadership: defining reality, displaying servanthood and saying thank you.

As editor Eric Jacobsen points out, "this definition of leadership (is) saturated with theologically informed wisdom. But it is wisdom that has been developed and tested in the boardroom rather than the pulpit. What are the possibilities and limitations of taking DePree's insights into a pastoral setting?"

Good question.

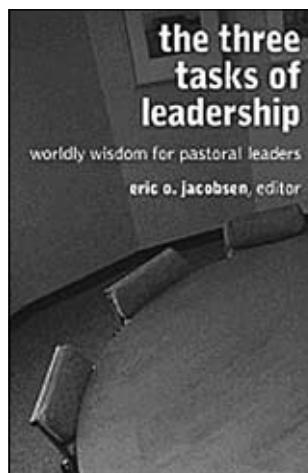
The strength of the book is the quality of essays and essayists it presents, all addressing an important and under-appreciated topic in ministry — how ministers should engage with secular leadership wisdom and strategies born in the corporate world.

The voice and register of the book are academic, and readers will need to prepare for a careful and nuanced reading of the essays in order to appreciate their value. Because elders and ministers are administrators and leaders within our churches, the book would be most appropriate for them.

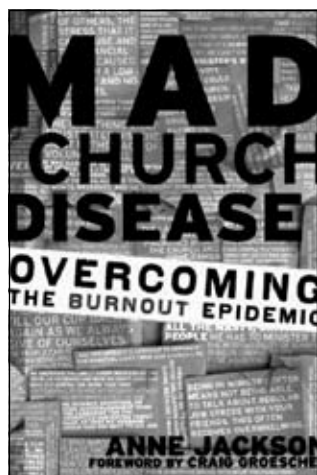
Both of the books admit the challenges one faces in ministry today and then move on to the larger and more important task of helping find answers to those challenges. The two books are largely successful.

As both a preacher and seminary student, I am thankful for the wisdom they contain and glad I read them early in my ministry.

MATTHEW DOWLING is preaching minister for the Piedmont, Okla., Church of Christ and a student in the Master of Divinity program at Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City.



Eric O. Jacobsen (ed.). **The Three Tasks of Leadership: Worldly Wisdom for Pastoral Leaders.** Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 2009. 208 pages. \$22.

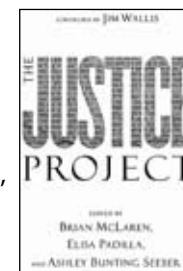


Anne Jackson. **Mad Church Disease: Overcoming the Burnout Epidemic.** Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2009. 192 pages. \$16.99.

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

BENEVOLENCE

Brian McLaren, Elisa Padilla and Ashley Bunting Seeber (editors). **The Justice Project.** Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker, 2009. 285 pages. \$21.99.



This collection of 30 essays by contemporary thinkers uses biblical stories of social concern to understand and guide the increased focus of many congregations on helping the poor. Among the contributors are Peggy Campolo and Lynne Hybels. Topics include the Holy Spirit and justice, concern for the poor in the U.S. and around the world and how congregations are responding.

BIBLE STUDY

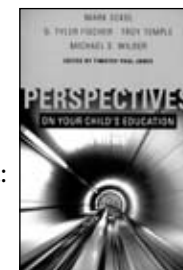
Duane Warden. **1 & 2 Peter and Jude — An Exegesis and Application of the Holy Scriptures.** Searcy, Ark.: Resource Publications, 2009. 526 pages. \$29.95.



A New Testament professor at Amridge University, Warden contributes another component to the "Truth for Today Commentary" on the Bible. Aimed at adult and children's Bible class teachers and preachers, the commentary spends a page or so on each verse of the three biblical books. The volume also points to the significance of the text in the contemporary world.

EDUCATION

Timothy Paul Jones, (editor). **Perspectives on Your Child's Education — Four Views.** Nashville, Tenn.: B&H Academic, 2009. 130 pages. \$19.99.



Four authors present views on education — Christian parents should consider public schools, children should be sent to open-admission Christian schools, education is best done by schools that admit only Christians, and Christian parents should homeschool their kids. Each author builds a case based on biblical teaching. The volume also includes chapters that probe weaknesses of each option.

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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)

To find out more, visit the Web site .



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Telling the stories of remarkable people clothed in qualities of holiness

During the nearly 30 years I have been writing for *The Christian Chronicle*, I have had the opportunity to cover a wide variety of subjects. My columns reflect a personal search for the true church, my concern for spiritual disciplines, people of amazing faith and my questioning our traditions and practices.

As I contemplate future columns, I want to tell the stories of people who have clothed themselves in the qualities of holiness seen in Jesus' ministry on this earth.

I begin with a remarkable man who has been a special light in my life, in the church where he has served as an elder for 38 years, in churches around the world and at Oklahoma Christian University. Stafford North became connected to Oklahoma Christian in January 1952. He was a graduate of Abilene Christian University, where he played as a child when his mother was teaching Spanish and his father operated a laundry/dry cleaner store near campus.

His mother died when he was young. The campus was his second home, and he was 16 when he enrolled. He was preaching very early in his life, and he divided his studies between Bible and speech. North graduated, went immediately to Louisiana State University, and then began working with Oklahoma Christian. He served as a teacher, assistant to the president, dean and executive vice president. A few years ago he retired from the administration to teach Bible.

Having worked with North since I was a student in his speech class, I am aware that he is a man driven by his love for the Kingdom and his commitment to projects at hand. When he used to direct plays, he was a demanding perfectionist. He had a hand in planning every building on the OC campus built between 1958 and 1994. Always working within budget, North made buildings useful, attractive and lasting — always consulting with faculty who would use the facilities. Throughout his years of administrative leadership, North worked hard to create a sense of community. For years the North family hosted a July 4th celebration for all the campus at their home.

Throughout the years, North has preached regularly. He also taught the preaching course at the university and at other schools. He has written a book on preaching that is still in use at various

schools. He and his wife, JoAnne, have helped in teacher training programs in many states and countries.

Insight



Bailey McBride

At the church where he serves as an elder, he has taught regularly — for several years a college class, many auditorium classes on many subjects and small groups on special issues. His interest in evangelism has produced at least two books to help disciples share their faith. His interest in the Revelation

prompted him to develop a thoughtful, logical analysis of the fascinating and often confusing last book of the New Testament. He has done workshops on Revelation in more than 200 churches.

North has work habits that have made him extremely productive. While he was an administrator, he was usually the first person on campus, and he left promptly to have time with his family. He normally eats dinner and relaxes with his family and then works for two or three hours. The university has recruited him for several projects. One of the biggest was a history of Oklahoma Christian that was published in 2008 after nearly three years of research and writing. Of course, he had lived through and worked on most of the events in the university's history.

The Norths have led several travel excursions to the Bible lands, and they have done mission tours in Nigeria, Kenya, India and more places than I recall. In addition to their other works, the Norths have been active in the prison ministry. JoAnne has worked in women's facilities for at least 20 years where she taught and mentored many women. The Norths have extended themselves to people after they re-enter society. They hosted some when they were released. They have helped find housing, transportation and jobs for many.

Stafford North soon turns 80, but his wit and his devotion to God only grow with each new day. His latest project is recruiting young men to become pulpit preachers to provide teaching and exhortation for unborn generations. He has been a wonderful teacher, mentor and friend for me and many others.

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