

New law protects religious liberty

WHY A CHRISTIAN adoption ministry urged Texas legislators to pass a bill opposed by gay-rights groups.

BY **BOBBY ROSS JR.** | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

ABILENE, Texas

At age 17, Jennifer Griffith discovered she was pregnant.

The daughter of a pro-life advocate, Griffith knew she couldn't abort her baby. Instead, the unmarried teen turned to Christian Homes and Family Services for help.

The 55-year-old ministry — based in this West Texas city where the wind blows hot all day and the sunset explodes with colors

each evening — worked with her to find a faithful couple to adopt her baby.

"I wanted my child to have two parents who were married and who were going to raise their child in the Christian faith," said Griffith, who grew up in the West Freeway Church of Christ in Fort Worth.

A new Lone Star State law — set to take effect

Sept. 1 — protects the freedom of faith-based organizations such as Christian Homes and Family Services to adhere to their "sincerely held religious beliefs."

Under House Bill 3859 — passed by the Texas Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Greg Abbott — state-licensed nonprofits can require, for example, that prospective parents be active church members who attend

See **ADOPTION**, Page 6



DAVIS HAMMETT

VBS smiles — a global phenomenon

Balloons, Bible lessons, games and crafts were part of the fun at a Vacation Bible School in the Nindirí area of Nicaragua, hosted by youths from the Central Church of Christ in Tuscaloosa, Ala. The 300-member congregation sent a team of 15 to the Central American nation. As the teens played and studied the Bible with children, adults assisted Nicaraguan Christians in construction projects.

From Happy to Haiti: See more VBS photos from around the world, Pages 17-19

Ninjas for Jesus

TWO CHURCH MEMBERS battle obstacles in same episode of 'American Ninja Warrior.'

BY **CHELLIE ISON** | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

The Wingnuts got 'em both.

Two members of Churches of Christ — one from Tennessee, the other from Kentucky — competed on the same episode of "American Ninja Warrior." The popular NBC show puts contestants up against challenging obstacle courses, testing their strength, grip and overall stamina, to see who can make it through to the end.

The church members, Dr. Brooks Tiller and Andy Harrington, made it through the first two obstacles easily before they were eliminated on the Wingnuts, a series of three moving bars that require athletes to swing and jump sideways from one to the next — avoiding falling into the water below.

Tiller, a 37-year-old physical therapist, made it to the third

See **NINJAS**, Page 22



VIDEO STILL VIA NBC

Brooks Tiller gets psyched for his run on 'American Ninja Warrior.'

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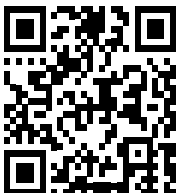
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Fake news vs. journalism that matters

"You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

— John 18:37, New International Version

NASHVILLE, Tenn.

Twenty-three years ago, walking toward the library at Lipscomb University, I suddenly stopped. "No, not today," I said — probably aloud. I dashed back to the basement of Johnson Hall, the newspaper office.

Moments earlier — and just after our deadline — I learned that a promi-

nent official on our campus had resigned unexpectedly.

I grabbed the phone and called Franklin Web, our printer. "Is *The Babbler* on the press yet?" I asked.

(Yes, our student newspaper was *The Babbler*. It's scriptural — from Acts 17:18.)

They hadn't printed it. "Don't!" I shouted into the phone. "I'm bringing you a new front page tonight."

We got the story. The next day, as students picked up the paper after chapel, I heard actual gasps as they read the front-page headline.

Law school — which is why I was headed to the library in the first place — was out the window.

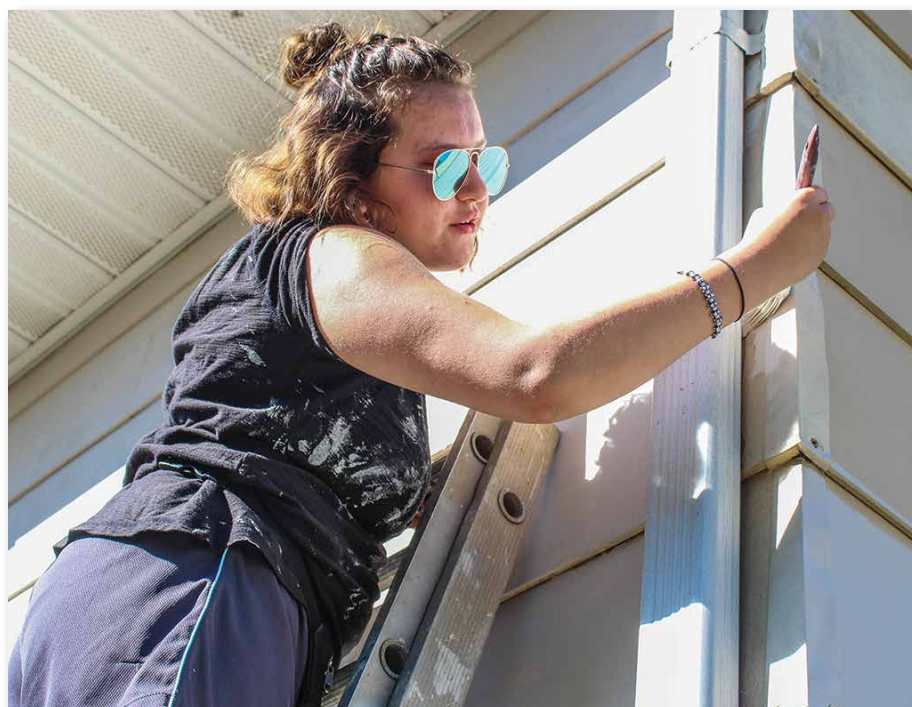
Seven years later, another moment that changed my life happened at Lipscomb

See **JOURNALISM**, Page 4

Inside Story



Erik Tryggestad



HAMIL R. HARRIS

A participant in the Mid-Ohio Valley Work Camp paints Elizabeth Carro's home.

More than painting by the numbers

WORK CAMP helps young Christians serve with attitude.

BY HAMIL R. HARRIS | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

PARKERSBURG, W.Va.

It's been a tough year for Elizabeth Carro. After losing her husband and her mother, she didn't worry much about the state of her home in this West Virginia river town on the Ohio border.

But then, one summer morning, James and Esther Brooks rolled into her driveway in a van loaded with cans of paint, ladders, cases of water and teenagers with plenty of energy.

"It is a miracle," said Carro, 55, whose home got a fresh coat of paint courtesy of the Mid-Ohio Valley Work Camp.

For nearly two decades, the camp has brought together young Christians from across the region to help people

in West Virginia's Wood County who are unable to paint their homes due to age, infirmity or lack of finances.



Carro

But the camp is about more than painting by the numbers.

"We hope that God sent us to these 32 homes for a reason," Muller said. "We try to be good examples so that we will be able to bring Jesus into

See **WORK CAMP**, Page 8

A gift fit for a president: God's Word

CHRISTIAN MINISTRY distributes 50,000 New Testaments in a European nation's native tongue.

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

The people of Slovenia recently celebrated the birthday of Primož Trubar, regarded as the father of their written language.

And Eastern European Mission brought 50,000 New Testaments to the party.

The first copy of the re-translated Dalmatin New Testament went to the Central European nation's president, Borut Pahor. He invited representatives of EEM, a Bible-printing nonprofit supported by Churches of Christ, to take part in the official celebrations at the presidential palace in Slovenia's capital, Ljubljana.

"He was very gracious and appreciative of the gift," said Bart Rybinski, vice president of European operations for EEM. "He spoke of his country's gratefulness for the impact the project will have on Slovenia."

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EASTERN EUROPEAN MISSION

President Borut Pahor of Slovenia receives a New Testament in his country's language from EEM.

JOURNALISM: 'What is truth?'

FROM PAGE 3

— also in the basement of Johnson Hall. Kim Chaudoin, the university's communications director — who was a big sister to me during my years at Lipscomb — forwarded me an email from someone named Virginia Ware at *The Christian Chronicle*. One of their editors, Glover Shipp, was retiring, and they were looking for a reporter who was a faithful member of a Church of Christ. I was working for *The Savannah Morning News* in coastal Georgia at the time.

"I know you're not interested," Kim wrote. But they had asked her to pass the message along to any Christian journalists she knew — and I was basically it.

I wasn't sure I was interested. The *Chronicle* isn't a *real* newspaper, I told myself. Working there would mean sacrificing my objectivity and doing advocacy writing for my faith.

What if it didn't work out? Would the people who run the daily newspapers let me back in?

I've been thinking about what's real and what's fake a lot lately — ever since the folks at my alma mater asked me to speak at this year's Summer Celebration. In the past 16 years, as I've reported on Churches of Christ around the world, I've watched the industry I love crack and crumble. Talented people, who seek only to tell the stories of their communities, have lost their jobs as advertising revenues and circulation dwindle.

Too many of us, meanwhile, have turned away from the words of fact-checkers and reliable sources and

have latched onto the ramblings of Internet trolls, conspiracy theorists and spewers of utter garbage.

Many of us have decried this as "fake news" (a term we should despise — it's not news if it's fake) only to have that phrase coopted and thrown back at any media giving voice to views with which we disagree. The vitriol I sense in Facebook comments from my brothers and sisters in Christ as they lash out at "the media" frightens me.

"What is truth?" Pilate flippantly asked as he confronted Jesus with the fake news of his day — that our Savior had committed an offense worthy of death. That attitude, I fear, increasingly characterizes our society. Have we abandoned the search for truth in favor of the "facts" that support what we want to believe?

When I was a student at Lipscomb, we talked about living in a Christian bubble as we prepared to go out and get jobs in the real world.

I think we got that wrong. If Jesus testifies to the truth, then Christianity isn't an alternate reality. God is reality, and the world that attempts to deny God is the bubble — the deception pulled over our eyes that tells us to believe whatever we want, to embrace the fake.

Christian journalism shouldn't be a subset of "real" journalism. It should be the best journalism — honest, fact-supported, relevant. It should be the mission of Christian journalists to redeem our profession by adhering to sound principles of information gathering. If not us, then who?



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Jovan Barrington, senior minister for the Littleton Church of Christ in Centennial, Colo., speaks on God's righteousness (Romans 3:21-26) at Lipscomb's Summer Celebration.

I tried to communicate that to my audience at Summer Celebration. I received so much positive feedback for our ministry here at the *Chronicle*, and I praise God for all of you who take the time to let us know that what we do matters.

I pray that future generations of

Christian students will experience life-defining moments — like the one I had in front of the library 23 years ago.

Our world is fallen, but salvation has come.

That's the real news. It matters.

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SPOTLIGHT

A healthy servant

STERLING HEIGHTS, Mich. — No one was surprised to see Mike Embry engaged in recent Vacation Bible School activities at the Metro Church of Christ. VBS is just one of many activities in which the faithful member is involved, Metro elder Doug Edwards said.



Embry

On the professional side, Embry is the newly installed president of the National Association of Health Underwriters. In his position as a lobbyist in Washington, D.C., he meets with top congressional staff members, helping put together national health-care legislation.

A profile of Embry in the association's national publication noted that he struggled with alcohol abuse early in his life. "As a Christian, he has overcome that abuse to be a great model for recovery," Edwards said.

Another example of Embry's Christian service is his involvement on the Planned Giving Advisory Council at the Church of Christ Care Center in Clinton, Mich., where his mother resides.



LAUREN KOSKI, AMARILLO GLOBE-NEWS

At a Texas church, a safe place for adults with special needs

Karen Thompson speaks with her daughter Hali Thompson at Zacchaeus' Place, a social night and Bible study at Southwest Church of Christ in Amarillo, Texas. The outings for adults with special needs are part of The Hali Project, a ministry started by Brad and Karen Thompson to honor their daughter. "We wanted to provide for them a place where they could have appropriate, safe interaction, and it's theirs," Karen Thompson told the *Amarillo Globe-News*. "It's their party, not anybody else's."

MASSACHUSETTS

CHICOPEE — Thirty young people and chaperones from the Center Hill Church of Christ in Paragould, Ark., helped canvas the streets and facilitate a Vacation Bible School for the Greater Springfield Church of Christ.

The crew knocked more than 1,400 doors and found 26 neighbors interested in learning more about God's word, Greater Springfield minister Jim Buker said.

Buker expressed gratitude for the visiting Christians' "selfless generosity, enthusiastic efforts and incredible blessing."

TENNESSEE

NASHVILLE — A charity motorcycle ride raised \$1,000 for the Northside Church of Christ's Community Organized Renewal Efforts ministry.

CORE is the congregation's community outreach ministry.

The ride, organized by minister Stan Cunningham, coincided with the Music City Motorcycle Rally at the Fontanel. The rally included a Bless the Bikes worship service, which Cunningham led. Funds raised "will be used to bring blessing into the lives of people living in this low-resourced district of Nashville," the minister said.

TEXAS

FORT WORTH — The West Freeway Church of Christ — now at a new location — is debt free and looking to grow, preaching minister Britt Farmer said.

With the merger of six Churches of Christ, the West Freeway congregation began in 1984 with attendance

of 765 at its first service. But after the loss of General Dynamics and Carswell Air Force Base in 1993 and 1994, the church suffered a major loss of membership.

In May 2016, the congregation was approached about selling its 26-acre property, Farmer said.

Negotiations resulted in the church selling its facilities and buying the old Las Vegas Church of Christ building in Fort Worth. The first worship assembly recently drew 357 people.

KELLER — The Keller Church of Christ recently hosted its fourth annual TITUS Camp.

The four-day preaching camp drew 18 boys entering sixth through ninth grades. TITUS stands for Teens in Training for Useful Service.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Cory Collins, Will Reynolds and Spencer Ross

Ministers Cory Collins and Spencer Ross direct the camp.

WEST VIRGINIA

MORGANTOWN — The Morgantown Church of Christ recently held its annual We Are The Sermon Sunday.

About 120 church members participated in a dozen service projects, *The Dominion Post* reported.

ADOPTION: Faith-based programs win protection

FROM PAGE 1

worship services weekly.

Moreover, taxpayer-funded charities can decline to place children with same-sex couples. However, in such cases, the ministries must refer the couples to more suitable providers.

The law also will permit agencies to place children in religious schools, decline to refer teens for abortions and refuse to enter into contracts with organizations that don't share their beliefs.

Religious groups make up roughly a quarter of Texas' 210 state-licensed child-welfare providers. Texas is home to more than 250,000 members of Churches of Christ — the most of any state.

"We had to create an environment in which the state's work can coexist with the work of faith-based organizations, and I thought this bill really succeeded in doing that," said Sherri Statler, president and CEO of Christian Homes and Family Services, which is associated with Churches of Christ.

But House Bill 3859 drew fierce opposition from gay-rights advocates and progressive religious groups. In response to the law, California banned state-sponsored travel to Texas, accusing it of authorizing discrimination based on sexual orientation.

GLAAD, an LGBTQ rights group, said the law "will soon allow state-



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Sherri Statler reminisces about some of the many babies adopted through Christian Homes and Family Services in Abilene, Texas.

funded or private adoption agencies to use religion as a weapon to refuse adoption requests from LGBTQ couples, Jewish people, Muslims, single parents and other marginalized groups."

Texas Impact, which is affiliated with the Texas Interfaith Center for Public Policy, complained: "While receiving taxpayer money from the state, a Christian provider will be able to refuse to work with Muslim foster parents; a Baptist provider will be able to put a Catholic foster child in a Baptist private school; and a Jewish foster parent will be able to force a Christian child to eat kosher."

A NATIONAL CONCERN

Nearly two years have passed since the U.S. Supreme Court's 5-4 decision legalizing same-sex marriage.

In the wake of that ruling, Christian foster care and adoption agencies nationwide are adjusting their policies to withstand potential legal challenges, said Danny Holmes, executive director of Agape of North Alabama, which is associated with Churches of Christ.

The Huntsville, Ala.-based ministry requires prospective parents to sign a detailed, three-page statement of Christian faith. The document affirms the sacredness of all human life — including unborn babies — and expresses the organization's stance on marriage, gender and sexuality.

"AGAPE believes that God Himself wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female," the form states. "These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen 1:26-27.) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person."

"We believe that the term 'marriage' has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as defined in Scripture (Gen. 2:18-25)."

Holmes serves as president of Network 1:27, formerly known as the Christian Child and Family Services

Association. Nearly 50 ministries associated with Churches of Christ comprise the national group. The "1:27" references Bible verses such as 1 Samuel 1:27 and James 1:27.

Holmes' advice for Christian child-placing ministries: "No. 1, have your policies in place, and know who you are and what you stand for. No. 2, treat everyone who walks in your door with dignity and respect. If you're not a good fit for them, then be prepared to work with them to find an agency or a method through which they can adopt that doesn't hurt your conscience."

CONSCIENCE PROTECTION

Here in Texas, Statler testified for the Freedom to Serve Children Act at legislative committee hearings in Austin, joined by representatives of Catholic Charities and Baptist-affiliated Buckner International.

Supporters said the law doesn't exclude anyone but allows faith-based agencies to keep serving children without violating their consciences.

"For example, we get calls from Jewish couples," said Statler, herself

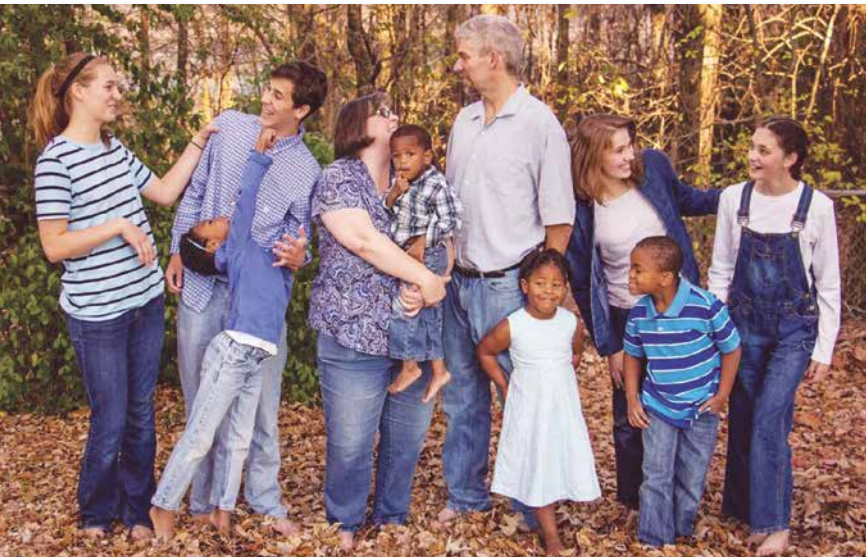


Holmes



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JENNIFER GRIFFITH

Jennifer Griffith, now 34, posing with her husband, Brittain.



JENNA THORNTON

John and Tonda Kuhn, pictured with their family, are longtime ministry partners with Agape of North Alabama, a Christian child-placing organization based in Huntsville.

an adoptive parent of a 16-year-old girl, Caroline. “And when we do, we have to say, ‘We work with Christian couples, but let us refer you to another organization that is equipped and probably better suited to serve you.’”

Besides recruiting couples to serve as foster and adoptive parents, Christian Homes and Family Services offers free maternity care for women with unplanned pregnancies.

State foster care funding covers \$324,000 of the nonprofit’s \$2.1 million annual budget, but 57 percent of that is passed directly to parents, Statler said. The amount the ministry keeps covers only one-third of its costs for the foster program, she said.

Before the law’s passage, some agencies — including Catholic Charities — had started dismantling their child-placing programs in Texas.

“If you look at other states — in California, in Massachusetts, in Washington, D.C. — Catholic Charities closed their foster/adoption programs completely because the state required child placements with same-sex couples,” said Jennifer Carr Allmon, executive director of the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops.

For the 63-year-old Children’s Home of Lubbock — which is associated with Churches of Christ — the law removes the fear of being sued, President Jimmy Moore said.

“It means that we won’t be forced to either sacrifice our closely held beliefs or dismantle

services altogether,” Moore said. “We would like to continue doing work here in Lubbock by helping the most vulnerable children find refuge.”

Glenn Newberry, president of Foster’s Home for Children in Stephenville, said: “I believe the legislation will allow faith-based agencies to operate in an environment of safety for their Scriptural convictions.”

‘A BEAUTIFUL SCENARIO’

Jake, the baby Griffith gave up for adoption, will turn 17 in September.

After her son was born, Griffith played college soccer and earned a counseling degree. Now 34, she is happily married and the mother of four young girls. And much to her delight — thanks to an open adoption — the Houston resident has a friendly relationship with Jake and the couple who raised him.

“It was a God thing because the family that I chose couldn’t have been a more perfect fit,” she said. “Our faith — my faith and his adoptive parents’ faith — is really the underlying factor to it being such a beautiful scenario.”

That faith, Griffith said, provided the solid foundation that turned a difficult situation into something truly wonderful.

She sees Texas’ new law as a way to help other women and children enjoy similar happy endings.

“They’re doing really great work,” she said of Christian Homes and Family Services, “and I hope they are able to do it for a long time.”

ANCIENT SCRIPTURE

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WORK CAMP: Program 'changed the way people see the Church of Christ'

FROM PAGE 3

their lives by our friendship, our good attitudes and our camaraderie.

"Our goal," he added, "is to teach these young folks how to serve the Lord with a positive attitude."

Muller's words were reflected in the hearts of the teenagers who, despite working hard all day, had plenty of energy left over for evenings of praise songs and devotionals. They also participated in a flurry of baptisms in the fountain of nearby Ohio Valley University.

WORKING TO SHOW CHRIST

The camp began in 1999 when about 100 teens from Churches of Christ and their youth ministers painted six homes in the Parkersburg area.

The campus of Ohio Valley University in Vienna, W.Va., a 550-student school associated with the fellowship, houses the participants, who this year came from West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Maryland.

Among them were:

- Tori Cannon, 16, from the St. Clairsville Church of Christ in Ohio, about 100 miles northeast of Parkersburg. For her, the camp has become an annual mission trip.

"I think that it's a real good opportunity to do missions in your own community," Cannon said as she painted Carro's house.

- A team of 12 from the University Park Church of Christ in Hyattsville, Md., a few miles from the U.S. Capitol.

"I was blessed to work with an incredible group of young people — and I'm learning from them as well," said Esther Brooks, a federal employee who led the University Park group along with her husband, James.

Ryan Mbuashu-Ndip, 14, and his sister, Katherine, accompanied the University Park group.

"I hope that people see what we are doing and are inspired — and take a look at Christ," he said.

Garrison Jolly, another member of the University Park youth group, added, "This trip has taught me family because it is all working together to glorify God. We are helping people and bringing them to God."

- Angela Orozco, 16, one of 62 teenagers who came from the Antioch



During the day, young Christians participating in the Mid-Ohio Valley Work Camp paint the home of Elizabeth Carro.

Church of Christ in Nashville, Tenn.

"It's hard," she said, "but we are doing something good. It's a long tradition of our church's youth group."

Cathy Joe Connley of Nashville said she was awestruck when her daughter, C.J., asked her to join her for this year's camp.

C.J. Connley said, "It is such a blessing to have your family be part of it."

- Michelle Lightle, a youth leader who accompanied fellow members of the Xenia Church of Christ in Ohio, 160 miles west of Parkersburg.

"In the Bible we are told to go out and take care of our people — take care of widows, orphans," Lightle said of the motivation for their church's involvement.

'I LOVE THESE CHILDREN'

In addition to helping those in need, the work camp helps shape the image of Christians in the Parkersburg community, said Joe Spivy, minister for the 300-member Grand Central Church of Christ in Vienna.

"This program has changed the way people see the Church of Christ," he said, "because they see that people are actively involved in the community and are actually trying to help people."

Members of the Lynn Street Church of Christ in Parkersburg fed



PHOTOS BY HAMIL R. HARRIS

At night, the campers gather at Ohio Valley University to sing hymns and pray.

the camp participants during their four-day stay. Ron Laughery, minister for the 350-member congregation, echoed Spivy's words.

"This is not just about painting houses," Laughery said. "It is about reaching out and sharing with people the good news of the Gospel."

"One man whose house was painted said, 'I love those children' — and he is here having lunch."

David Blair Couch, president of the Wood County Commission, came to Ohio Valley University on the last night of the work camp. The county provided the camp with \$11,000 for supplies. Although its

budget is limited, "we are not going cut this program back," he said. "We are going to increase."

"This school," he added, speaking of Ohio Valley University, "is the best-kept secret of Wood County."

Beyond the benefits to the community, the work camp provides a chance for families to bond and grow as they follow Christ's example, said James Brooks, of the University Park church, who helped paint Carro's home along with his wife and daughter.

"I'm glad that I can change this lady's life for the better," he said.

WEBSITE: www.movworkcamp.org

In predominantly white West Virginia, a chance to show love across color lines

PARKERSBURG, W.Va.

Sacrificial love is a key to overcoming the challenges of this life. That's what I believe. That's what I preach.

But sometimes we have to leave our comfort zones far behind to practice that sacrificial love.

That sure was the case during the trip I took with my kids to the Mid-Ohio Valley Work Camp in Parkersburg. The city has a population of about 30,600, 95 percent of whom are white, according to U.S. Census data.

We were divided into teams to paint houses. The first day someone told me and the other African-American man in our group that we might get some looks and comments. Sure enough, the next day there was a complaint by an older white man who didn't want us to step on his property — which was next door to the house we were painting.

But by day three, our team — a loving mix of black and white teens — was melting hearts with songs and smiles. People across town started driving by to see some of the 30-plus houses that we were painting.

By Thursday night, my son Isaiah and I had paint all over our clothes. We wore them like badges of honor. It reminded me of 1 John 3:16: *This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.*

The blisters I developed on my toes were frightening and painful. It was hard work, but it made me feel good inside. My phone didn't get great reception for cellular data — and that was a good thing. We had to get to know each other.

Every night we took part in devotionals at Ohio Valley University as more than 350 volunteers gathered to sing hymns and pray. Everyone, it seemed, had a

beautiful singing voice. It sounded great.

I remember one young man who helped me carry my sleeping bag and suitcase to the dorm room where I stayed. The next night, I watched him get baptized.

Every day our group ate lunch at the meeting place of the Lynn Street Church of Christ in Parkersburg. The congregation of more than 300 souls only has about four black members. The church's minister and I talked every day, sharing our faith. I was amazed how many of the church's members really wanted to get to know the youths from our congregation.

Our fellow Christians went out of their way to serve us.

Throughout the week, I found opportunities to share God's love outside my comfort zone. I picked up a man walking alongside the road and gave him a ride to the store. I helped two young women jump-start their vehicle. Their bodies

were covered with the tell-tale marks of excessive drug use.

They opened up to me about their struggles. So did one man who walked by the house we were painting. They talked about the need for jobs in Parkersburg. Up and down the streets of this community — once flourishing from the oil and natural gas industries — I saw crumbling remains of the past.

I pray for Parkersburg, and deep in my heart I believe that love can make a difference here.

By the time we left, I didn't feel quite as far from my comfort zone

as before. The tears and the hugs we shared testify to that.

HAMIL R. HARRIS preaches for the Glenarden Church of Christ in Maryland. A former reporter for *The Washington Post*, he traveled to the Mid-Ohio Valley Work Camp with members of the University Park Church of Christ in Hyattsville, Md.

Road Notes



Hamil R. Harris



PHOTO PROVIDED

Hamil Harris takes a break from a hard day of house painting to visit with Elizabeth Carro, the home's owner.



MICHELLE PRATER ROBERTS

The Memphis Workcamp has rehabilitated 821 houses in its 28 years.

Paint, sweat and love

TRAINING TO SERVE is a key goal for work camps.

WICHITA, Kan. — In Kansas' most populated city, Christians celebrated 10 years of gutter cleaning, paint scraping, dead shrubbery pulling and profuse sweating.

They celebrated by doing it all again.

The Wichita WorkCamp, hosted by the Northside Church of Christ, brings young volunteers from across the region to help rehabilitate homes.

"The church provides the paint, the homeowners provide the house, and we provide the manpower," Brenda Heller, a crew leader for this year's camp, told *The Wichita Eagle*.

About 150 volunteers, including teens, college students and adults, painted 15 homes and helped the city remove graffiti.

"This is our way of teaching

them — training them — that our whole idea here on earth is to serve other people," Heller said.

Across the nation, Churches of Christ host similar work camps. In Memphis, Tenn., volunteers with the Memphis Workcamp have painted 821 houses since the first camp in 1989. Mark McVey, youth minister for the Germantown Church of Christ, brought the idea from Oklahoma City.

"When you dip those rollers ... into that paint, and then you paint on that house, what are you doing?" Memphis-area minister Jim Harbin asked participants in a recent workcamp. "You are spreading the love of God on that house!"

WEBSITES: www.memphisworkcamp.org, wichitaworkcamp.org

Classifieds

Full-Time Pulpit Minister

Candidate should have an in-depth knowledge of God's Word, hold fast to Biblical truths and be able to effectively communicate those truths for the edification of the congregation and growth of the church. A bachelor's degree or higher is an asset, and the candidate should be a Bible scholar and well read.

Salary and benefits are commensurate with experience and education. Please submit your resume, DVDs of two sermons, and a concise one- or two-page statement that characterizes your current ministry efforts and style to:

Central Church of Christ
801 East Airline Road, Victoria, TX 77901
danmarshall44@yahoo.com

Full-time Evangelist

Okemah Church of Christ in Okemah, Okla., is searching for a full-time minister with a love for evangelism. Candidates should have a genuine love for people spanning from young to elderly and be willing to visit shut-ins and make hospital visits. We are a congregation of approximately 70 with the desire to be involved in the community while spreading the Word of God.

Please mail resume and three references to:

Okemah Church of Christ
Attn: Elders
PO Box 407
Okemah, OK 74859



Entry Level Broadcast Engineering Position

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Further, it is desirable that the candidate be willing to travel and have a desire to participate in the mission of sharing God's word in the world.

A more complete job description is available. To ask questions in person, please contact:

Kevin Chambers; VP Engineering
(615) 594-2769
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Church of Christ
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Church of Christ
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The Prescott Valley Church of Christ in Prescott Valley, Ariz., is looking for a full or part-time minister. Prescott Valley is in the beautiful mountains of Northern Arizona with a mild climate in both the winter and summer months. We are a congregation of around 25 members with the potential for growth. We are a **caring congregation** who truly has a **great love for one another**, our **community** and our **faith**. Presently, we can provide some salary as our resources are limited, but with growth, benefits could be forthcoming.

Our ideal candidate is either a retired or semi-retired person who could devote time and energy to building the congregation and especially creating and using social media platforms to attract younger congregants. Prescott Valley is a city of around 40,000. Please email your resume and a paragraph describing the strengths you will bring to our congregation to:

Mark Green
kramred@hotmail.com

Please include references from your current and/or previous congregations.

Full-time Associate Minister

Echo Meadows Church of Christ is seeking a full-time associate minister that is well grounded in Scripture to work with our youth and families. We are located in Oregon, Ohio. Qualified candidates must possess a Bible degree from a Church of Christ-affiliated college or university and have previous experience as a minister. We offer a competitive salary package based upon education and experience which includes a four-bedroom parsonage. Please submit a resume, cover letter, and three references for consideration. Also include two recent sermon samples (CD/DVD, flash drive or online link).

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Deadline for next two issues: August 11 and September 8.
Contact: Tonya Patton at: tonya.patton@christianchronicle.org.*

PROFESSOR AND POLITICIAN Shirley N. Weber wants Christians pursuing elected office to stand for their beliefs from day one.

'Don't play political games'

BY LYNN McMILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Shirley N. Weber says she never sought a career in politics.

Weber, a member of the Division Street Church of Christ in San Diego who represents California's 79th district in the State Assembly, ran for the office after a storied career in education.

She began teaching college at age 23 — in the midst of the turbulent 1960s. While in graduate school at California State University in Los Angeles, she was offered the chance to help San Diego State University develop an African-American studies program.

"I thought I would spend about a year teaching in San Diego while working on my dissertation," she recalls. "Well, after 40-plus years, I am still in San Diego."

She served on the National Council for Black Studies and helped develop study abroad programs in Ghana and South Africa. She hosted a weekly radio program, "It's a New Day with Dr. Shirley Weber" that aired live from Johannesburg in 2006 — in which she shared the perspectives of students in the U.S. and South Africa. She has lectured throughout the United States, the Caribbean and Africa.

In the Assembly, she's a passionate advocate for education. She also has chaired committees for elections, redistricting and the state's budget. She has received Legislator of the Year awards from groups including the Red Cross, advocates for the disabled, the Black American Political Association of California and the Early Childhood Education Network.

She's a regular speaker at church-sponsored events, including the Division Street church's women's seminar, scheduled for December.

Many people have a strong mistrust of politicians. How have you attempted to counter that?

I have a strong bond with the constituents I serve. Prior to coming to the Assembly, I spent 40 years helping families navigate the



CALIFORNIA SPEAKER'S OFFICE OF MEMBER SERVICES

Shirley N. Weber speaks on the floor during a session of the California State Assembly.

educational communities of San Diego. I did this before I sought office, not wanting anything in return.

I have a strong respect for those I serve, and I believe they respect me. We do not always agree. However, they understand that my motives are not driven by personal interest. I try to use God's gifts to help others.

I am a woman of integrity who fights difficult battles on behalf of children and families. Even my Republican colleagues have said they admire my work and integrity. I am not vindictive, and I don't play political games. My word is my bond, and I strive to rise above the fray and make good decisions.

I mentor new Assembly members, and most members meet with me because they believe that people listen to me. When I rise on the floor, the noise ceases because they believe I have something to say — and generally I do.

I came to this position because of my integrity and honesty. I refuse to allow the political climate to taint that.

Working in politics must stress your spiritual values and faith. How do you manage?

I don't wear my religion on my sleeve — or as a big sandwich board on my shoulders. I am not in the Assembly to condemn those who do not share my beliefs. I, however, do want them to see the peace, love, strength and determination I have as a result of my faith.

I accept the fact that I work with persons who do not share my faith. However, they share my belief in democracy and justice.

My faith drives my spirit and brings comfort to me in difficult times. If I thought I was put here to evangelize the Capitol, I would be highly frustrated. However, I can share my faith in my attitude, my perspective and my honesty.

My love for God causes me to love those who agree and disagree with me. Being in a political environment is no different than working at the university or for a major corporation.

Your background is in education. What influenced you to choose an academic career?

My father was a big proponent of education. He was raised in the Jim Crow South and was allowed only to go as far as the sixth grade. His family were sharecroppers despite the fact that they owned and farmed their own land. The society at the time demanded that they work the land of others so that they did not become too "uppity." My father realized how limited he was and decided that his children should put education first.

I — the sixth of eight children — loved school and wanted to become a high school math teacher. I entered UCLA as a math major, but eventually discovered that math was too impersonal. I liked working with people. I met Dr. Arthur Smith (Molefi Asante), who

was a professor at UCLA and a Church of Christ minister. He taught communications and black rhetorical studies.

As a student of his, I found my passion. He became my mentor and shepherded me through the

'If I thought I was put here to evangelize the Capitol, I would be highly frustrated.

However, I can share my faith in my attitude, my perspective and my honesty.'

Shirley N. Weber, California State Assembly

undergraduate program. He nominated me for the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship. As one of 17 fellows in a class of more than 6,000, my fate to become a university professor was sealed. I was admitted to several graduate schools but decided to remain at UCLA for my master's and Ph.D.



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The 4th Avenue Church of Christ in Dallas, Texas, is seeking a full-time minister. Located in historic south Dallas, we are seeking a pulpit minister with substantial urban experience and a heart for outreach.

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Malakoff Church of Christ
Attn: Preacher Selection Committee
PO Box 395
Malakoff, Texas 75148

Pulpit Minister - Valdosta, Ga.

The **Central Avenue Church of Christ** is looking for a Pulpit Minister. We are located on I-75, and we are the last county in Georgia before you get to Florida. We want someone who is visionary in nature, who is a dynamic proclaimer of God's Word and who is committed to building and strengthening a congregation of 500 members (275 families). We are biblically sound yet progressive in methodology. We are seeking a minister committed to equipping a diverse body of believers for ministry and to proclaiming and interpreting God's Word to a rapidly changing world. Supporting the work are five elders, 16 deacons, two ministers, and two secretaries. We have a newly refurbished and well-maintained facility. If you would be interested in working and worshipping with us in South Georgia, please contact:

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Central Avenue Church of Christ
304 E Central Ave
Valdosta, GA 31601



University President

The Board of Trustees of Ohio Valley University invites nominations or applications for the position of President, effective July 1, 2018.

Potential candidates or interested parties are encouraged to contact Cecelia Goff, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees and Chair of the Presidential Search Committee, at:

(304) 865-6132
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**WEBER: Decision
to run wasn't easy**

FROM PAGE 11
How did you decide to run for office?

It was never a goal of mine. When I ran for the school board in 1988, it was because the representative for our neighborhood was retiring. She actively sought a replacement. I had been a strong voice in the community for quality education and equity while working at the university. A group of educators and community leaders approached me about running. I declined, but they — and my husband — were persistent.



Weber

I was in the middle of my career and did not want to interrupt my plans. However, the community was in the midst of an integration court order, and someone needed to protect the interest of all children. I agreed to run. I said I would only serve two terms because I had unfinished business at the university. I served from 1988-96.

I retired from the university in 2010. Two years later, I was approached by Assembly member Toni Atkins to consider running for the California State Assembly.

Initially, I refused. A few months later, after observing the critical state California was in and the need for someone with extensive educational background who knew K-12 and post-secondary, I agreed to run. I ran in the primary of seven candidates and came out first. I had more than 50 percent of the votes cast for Democrats. In 2012, I became the first African-American elected to any state position south of the Los Angeles area. I was re-elected in 2014 and 2016.

What advice do you have for Christians who are considering running for political office?

You set the tone of who you are and what you believe on day one — and people respect that. Your ability to help and care for your colleagues will cause many to seek you out, ask for advice and help you in difficult times.

BRAZIL

SÃO PAULO — God, marriage and family, then ministry. Those are the priorities for church leaders around the globe.

“However, internal and external pressures work to reverse this order,” said Jerry Heiderich, a former missionary to Brazil, now a marriage and family therapist in Texas. Heiderich and his wife, Gail, make regular visits to South America, where they coordinate spiritual renewal and leadership retreats.

In São Paulo, 25 Brazilian couples spent three days in prayer and small-group studies during a retreat featuring Osmar Ludovico — a renowned minister, theologian and author — and his wife, Isabelle.

HONDURAS

SAN MARCOS — Erick Rivera isn’t ashamed of the Gospel — or his chains.

The former prison inmate, now a minister in Santa Anita, Honduras, shared the story of his conversion behind bars during an area-wide worship hosted by the San Marcos Church of Christ.

“There was not a dry eye in the place when they heard what the Holy Spirit did, is doing, and will do in Erick’s life,” said Monte Lalli, director of Missouri-based Doors Slammed Open Ministries. Five baptisms followed Rivera’s testimony.

After prison, Rivera was one of the first two men to graduate from the Bible Institute in Ocotepeque, Honduras, a school supported by Doors Slammed Open Ministries.



DSO MINISTRIES

One of five baptisms in San Marcos.



PHOTO PROVIDED

J.P. Hackett teaches U.S. and Costa Rican teens at the Sarchi Church of Christ.

Teaching character in Costa Rica

SARCHI, Costa Rica — J.P. Hackett got the chance to use his ministry and business skills during a recent mission trip to Costa Rica. Hackett, youth minister for the Gulf Shores Church of Christ in Alabama, led a team of teens and adults from his congregation — plus members of Churches of Christ in the Alabama towns of Summerdale and Robertsedale — on a trip to work with Torch Missions. During Sunday worship with a Church of Christ in the town of Sarchi, he taught a combined Bible class of U.S. and Latin American teens.

“While our team worked with the local government of Sarchi, doing service projects and doing Vacation Bible School in three local schools, I helped present a leadership seminar to local ministers,” Hackett said. The minister, who is an affiliate trainer and coach for Oklahoma-based Strata Leadership LLC, also was invited to present a one-day business leadership seminar to business leaders and government officials on character leadership.

“Our trip did a lot to provide a positive connection between the local Churches of Christ and the community,” Hackett said.

MOZAMBIQUE

MUTARARA — It took an hour of driving on paved roads — and nine more on dirt roads — for Tim Brumfield to reach this town in northern Mozambique, near the Malawi border.

But the fellowship was worth the journey, said Brumfield, a dean of ministry training for Sunset International Bible Institute in Lubbock, Texas. Brumfield visited new Churches of Christ in Mutarara as part of a mission trip to the Portuguese-speaking nation and to South Sudan.

Most of the churches in the regions were formerly denominational, Brumfield said, and have their own buildings. In recent years the churches have grown to 90 congregations, he added, and most are eager to learn more about the Gospel.



Brumfield

PERU

SAMAN — Christians in this South American nation make long, twice-yearly journeys into the remote villages around Lake Titicaca to share the Gospel and encourage small Churches of Christ there.



Garcia

Members of the Montecarlo Church of Christ in Peru’s capital, Lima, have conducted Vacation Bible Schools for more than 200 children in the region and hosted gospel meetings, said minister Helmut Garcia.

Funds for the trips are limited, Garcia said, but he and his fellow Christians do what they can. The church members in Saman District “are always happy for us to help out in evangelism,” he added, “to encourage them to stay faithful and work harder for the Lord’s church.”

SPOTLIGHT

A business-minded mission down under

LILYDALE, Australia — Two Christian families in this eastern suburb of Melbourne are serving lattes and sticky date puddings to their community.

They’re also serving street children in Africa.

Lilydale Pantry is a café and a social enterprise, explained Benny Tabalujan, a member of the Belmore Road Church of Christ in Melbourne.

“The social goals of the café include generating employment opportunities, especially for Christians, and undertaking community-oriented projects,” Tabalujan said.

The first project is fundraising for Made In The Streets, a Kenya-based ministry associated with Churches of Christ and overseen by Charles and Darlene Coulston.

Sandy Bass, another Belmore Road member, serves as the café’s full-time manager. Bass and his wife, Michelle, along with Tabalujan and his wife, Pauline, have invested “time, money and effort as part of an attempt to live out Jesus’ commands to be salt and light to the world,” Benny Tabalujan said. “It’s been wonderful to receive the prayers and support of a wide group of friends and family in this interesting journey — one not entirely devoid of fun.

Search for “Lilydale Panty” on Facebook for more information.



Tabalujan



PHOTO PROVIDED BY INTERSECTIONS MAGAZINE

Australian church members Michelle and Sandy Bass oversee the Lilydale Café.



ROMAN HALAMICEK

Johanna Halamicek attempts to play soccer on stilts, which her husband, Roman, later used to try ballroom dancing.

A ‘cacophony’ of praise in Europe

SINGING IN SEVEN LANGUAGES, *Christians in ‘lonely ministry’ find solace at retreat.*

DOUBRAVA, Czech Republic

‘Everybody go ahead and sing in your own language,” Jaro Marcin told participants in the recent Central European Retreat.

So that’s what a group of about 50 believers did — in Czech, Slovak, German, Dutch, Hungarian, Polish and English — as Marcin, a member of a Church of Christ in Prague, Czech Republic, led “This is the Day That the Lord Has Made.”

It was “a cacophony, perhaps, to the human ear, but our gracious Father gets it,” said Eileen

Emch, an American who works with Christians in Rostov-on-Don, Russia.

Matus and Melissa Dedina, church members in Prague, organized the retreat, which featured lessons on “A Journey with Jesus” from Patrick Boyns, principal of the British Bible School in Corby, England.

Roman Halamicek, a minister in Bratislava, Slovakia, said that many of the participants labor “in lonely ministry, with what can seem like minimal fruit despite many years of service.” The retreat is “a time of fellowship, connection with other believers and restoration.”



ROMAN HALAMICEK

Patrick Boyns teaches that, on a journey with Jesus, the journey can be valuable — not just the destination.



MATUS DEDINA

After a day of Bible study, Christians spend an evening in fellowship as they roast marshmallows.

PRESIDENT: Gift aims to ‘bring back the Word of God’ in Slovenia

FROM PAGE 3

That project — a modern version of the Bible first translated in 1587 by Jurij Dalmatin — is the work of the Trubar Forum, a Slovene-led translation group. Dalmatin, a student of Primož Trubar, published the first Slovene-language translation, which set the standard for the Slovene people’s written language and contributed to their cultural identity.

The Trubar Forum prepared the updated translation to coincide with the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation in October.

Rybinski learned of the project through Andrei and Nina Lovse, Slovene natives and graduates of the Zagreb Bible Institute in Croatia, a school associated with Churches of Christ. The couple lives in Maribor,



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Lovse family, natives of Slovenia, work in youth ministry in Maribor.

Slovenia, and works in youth ministry.

Eastern European Mission once smuggled Bibles into Slovenia — during the Cold War, when the nation was part of Yugoslavia.

Workers with EEM, founded in 1961 by missionaries in Vienna, Austria, packed tiny New Testaments into

spare tires and under the floorboards of vans before sending them through the Iron Curtain and into nations dominated by Soviet influence.

Now the mission prints Bibles and faith-based literature in countries where it once was forbidden, including Russia, and distributes them to churches and schools.

With the Lovses recommendation, EEM worked with the Trubar Forum to print 50,000 copies of the new translation — to be distributed to Slovenian schools, libraries, government offices and to individuals who request them.

Rybinski, who worships with a small Church of Christ in Vienna, said he and his coworkers are excited to help “bring back the Word of God to the people of Slovenia, to enable Slovenia’s passion and love



EASTERN EUROPEAN MISSION

Bart Rybinski, left, of Eastern European Mission, meets with Slovenia’s president, Borat Pahor, in Ljubljana.

for reading God’s Word in their modern language.

“We can’t wait to see how God will use this — and how lives will change in this beautiful country.”

WEBSITE: www.eem.org

‘The little movement that makes a radical difference’

SMALL MISSION TEAM finds an island of blessings.

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

The mission trip almost didn’t happen.

After 10 years of serving street children in Siem Reap, Cambodia through an annual event called Angkor of Faith, young Christians in Southeast Asia looked for a new venue. City ordinances kept the street children away, and Cambodian Christians were taking a growing role in serving their needs.

The organizers chose Bantayan Island, off the coast of Cebu in the Philippines. There, members of Churches of Christ serve a small, struggling community through a Filipino-led relief ministry, MARCH for Christ. They’ve nicknamed it MARCH Village.

“The village kids, teens and even parents need to see examples of young Christians and experience how exactly Christ has worked in their lives,” said Minnie Lagria, a church member who works with the people of MARCH Village. “Without these examples, the kids cannot envision how they can better their lives. Their older siblings have married early, gotten pregnant and are unemployed. The teens do not really see a good future after high school. Their parents cannot afford to send them to college.

“They do not see beyond the sea,” Lagria said. Their only choice is fishing and trying to survive.

Despite the need for short-term workers, only a fraction of the 130 believers who participated in Angkor of Faith were able to sign up for the new MARCH of Faith mission trip. After a terrorist attack on the Philippine island of Mindanao, the trip’s organizers thought they would have to cancel.

Timothy Gong, a member of the Seremban Church of Christ in Malaysia, said he feared that the low



Tommy Gong of Malaysia sings songs and plays games with children in MARCH Village on Bantayan Island, off the coast of Cebu.

numbers were “God’s way of telling us that the mission was a bad idea.”

Nonetheless, a humble team of 11 Christians from five nations made the trip. John Lim, a member of the Pasir Panjang Church of Christ in Singapore, said the group immediately felt like family.

“Our heritage of being the little movement that makes a radical difference, founded on the blood of Christ, unites us no matter where we come from,” he said.

Unlike the detail-heavy Angkor of Faith trips, “this was all new ground,” Lim said. Bantayan Island “was a place to explore new ways we could serve this community.”

The group spent its days walking through the village, interacting with teens and helping students practice English. They hosted activities for children, teaching them Bible songs and serving them dinner. One evening, more than 200 came to eat

“I realize now that God wasn’t just serving the local community,” Lim said. “He was using this chance to

prove to us, the big-city foreigners, that he isn’t limited by human insufficiency. He doesn’t need plans, schedules and itineraries to get his will done.”

The team came just at the right time, Lagria said, and gave the village children the chance “to see Christ in us, to touch Christ through us and to hear him through our examples.”

Chito Cusi, director of MARCH for Christ, said that the campaigners “injected life” into the village. Gigie Carranza, another MARCH worker from Manila and longtime Angkor of Faith participant, said she was overwhelmed by the spirit of her brothers and sisters from abroad.

“If these young people are the kind of passion we have, the future of the church looks bright,” she said. “There were only 11 of us, but we worked together with such fire.”

The group is developing plans for next year’s MARCH of Faith.

“A storm of grace is brewing,” Lim said, “here in this little island in the middle of the Philippines.”



Lagria



PHOTOS BY TOMMY CHIA

Children on Bantayan Island enjoy food provided by the MARCH mission team.

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Children from two Churches of Christ, along with those bused in from nearby neighborhoods, enjoy a carnival on the final night of the churches' joint Vacation Bible School.

A pioneering VBS

PADUCAH, Ky.

We've got spirit!" Children from two Churches of Christ — one predominantly white, the other predominantly black — shouted those words together before settling in to watch the nightly skit at Vacation Bible School.

It was the first joint VBS for the 150-member Ninth Street Church of Christ and the 360-member Broadway Church of Christ, which meet two-and-a-half miles apart in this western Kentucky city. Each evening children from both congregations gathered in the auditorium of the

Ninth Street building. Church members also bused in additional participants from nearby neighborhoods and housing projects. After each night's skits, the children learned about pioneer life and traveling west to new territories — all centered on lessons from the Bible.

An average of 145 children, ages 2 to 18, attended each night's activities, said Jed Lovejoy, worship and children's minister for the Broadway church, and more than 200 kids — plus many adults — gathered for a Friday night carnival in the Ninth Street church's parking lot to "play games, eat food and build unity and fellowship between the two congregations," Lovejoy said.



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY JED LOVEJOY

Mark Rowe, minister for the Ninth Street Church of Christ, winds up to take a shot at the dunking booth.



JULIE DEMPSEY
In Happy, Texas, population 678, a child waits for The Gospel Chariot, a converted cotton trailer, for a ride to VBS. An average of 55 kids attended, including a few grandchildren of the original riders from 1966.



KATHERINE GOULD
Children pray during VBS at the Garden Ridge Church of Christ in Lewisville, Texas.



PHOTO PROVIDED
At the Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ in Austin, Texas, young Christians perform a Bible-based skit complete with a dinosaur and Slinky dog from the movie "Toy Story."



PHOTO PROVIDED
Children sing during a "Star Wars"-themed VBS in La Grange, Texas.

The wide world of VBS

From Happy, Texas, to Cap Haitien, Haiti, children spend a few days each summer getting ‘wrapped up, tied up, tangled up in Jesus’ during Vacation Bible School. Churches of Christ around the globe host the Bible-based programs – some performing elaborate dramas, complete with pyrotechnics, for hundreds of kids. Others use paper, crayons and smiles to share Jesus with young ones.



TIM BARCUS
David Snelling, left, made covered wagons for a trailblazing VBS at the Kirkville Church of Christ in Missouri. After VBS, church members gave the wagons to the participants.



ANDREW BROWN
At a school in Cap Haitien, Haiti, a child colors during a Vacation Bible School, hosted by volunteers from the Christian Relief Fund and older students at the school.



DAVIS HAMMETT
In rural Nicaragua, Natalie Jacks, of the Central Church of Christ in Tuscaloosa, Ala., helps children assemble a Noah's Ark art project during Vacation Bible School.



JEFF ABRAMS
Thad Looser, children's minister, speaks to an auditorium of red shirts during a "Days of Elijah" themed VBS at the Tuscumbia Church of Christ in Alabama. About 475 attended.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST

TUCSON, Ariz. — The University of Arizona’s Ambassadors for Christ softball team lost the recent intramural championship game, 11-10.

But even though campus minister Jesse Warren was out of town, the team — comprised mainly of players recruited from the campus recreation center — gathered in a circle to pray after the game.

A teammate asked Benjie Parsalaw, the only player who is a member of the A4C ministry, to lead the prayer. The ministry is associated with Churches of Christ.



SAMANTHA WHITE

Ambassadors for Christ pray after the game.

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

FAIR HAVEN CHILDREN’S HOME

STRAFFORD, Mo. — The youth group from the Liberty Church of Christ in Conway, Ark., worked to organize and clean the Fair Haven campus and Thrift Haven, the home’s affordable clothing and household goods store.

Twelve students and their adult chaperones spent a week at Fair Haven for the second straight year. At night, the teens ate with Fair Haven residents and played with the children in care.

“We love doing this,” minister Jonathan House said. “It’s a great opportunity for our young people to interact with the children at Fair Haven and to be involved in God’s mission.”

HIGHER EDUCATION

FAULKNER UNIVERSITY

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Faulkner is building a new entryway facing Atlanta Highway. The current entrance is set back from the road and obscured by trees, President Mike Williams said.

The renovation project, which will include burying power lines, will serve to

highlight the university and the Atlanta Highway corridor, Williams said.

HARDING SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Harding has introduced a Live Interactive Video Education — dubbed LIVE — classroom setup for its master’s degree programs in Bible, ministry and theology.

It’s formatted to allow distance learners to better engage with peers in the classroom. Using two-way audio and visual streaming, students virtually attend weekly classes with local students via their computer and webcam. LIVE allows distance students to engage in class discussions in real time and see their classmates and professor on screen.

“Unlike online programs that rely on recorded lectures and typed discussion forums, HST LIVE brings students to an actual classroom,” said Matt Carter, director of admissions. “As students participate in discussions, their ideas are sharpened, and they help sharpen their classmate’s ideas. Real-time, immediate feedback helps them learn and grow.”

LUBBOCK CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

LUBBOCK, Texas — Sixty trees for 60 years. LCU students, faculty and staff recently planted 60 trees across campus in celebration of the university’s 60th anniversary.

“We seek to demonstrate our continuing commitment to good stewardship while creating beautiful spaces on campus where relationships and community can be fostered,” President Tim Perrin said.

OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

OKLAHOMA CITY — Three years ago, Oklahoma Christian launched a campaign called “Thrive.” The goal was to raise \$30 million for projects that would enhance students’ college experience.

More than 9,300 donors helped the university meet the goal ahead of schedule. The campaign recently ended with \$33,940,222 raised or pledged, and 15 major projects already completed.

“We’re thrilled so many people embraced the idea of making quick, tangible things happen for our students,” President John deSteiguer said. “Thrive was the perfect way to do a lot of important things that touched a lot of areas on campus.”



deSteiguer



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY

Students join ‘Bus Ride to Justice’

High school students walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala., during a “Bus Ride to Justice” program. The recent trek was part of “Engage,” a youth theology program presented by Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn. During a 10-day camp, 26 students from across the U.S. spent eight days on Lipscomb’s campus studying theology and history. The other two days featured tours of significant sites of the U.S. Civil Rights Movement throughout Alabama.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, see www.lipscomb.edu/bible/special-programs/engage.



Participants of all ages come together at ‘Engage,’ funded by a Lilly grant.

Camp Hunt marks 70 years

HUBBARDSVILLE, N.Y. — Camp Hunt, established in 1947, is celebrating its 70th anniversary.

About 200 people marked the occasion during the camp’s annual Family Weekend Retreat, said David Owens, elder and minister for the Wetzel Road Church of Christ in Liverpool, N.Y.

“There were three people from the early days who were able to come to the celebration and share some memories,” Owens said.

George Gurganus helped start the camp, and two of his cousins — L.T. Gurganus and Wheeler Pounds — were campers in the late 1940s. Pounds came back as a counselor in the 1960s.

Also telling his story was Wayne Newland, who was involved with Camp Hunt in the 1950s.

“Wayne shared many pictures and memories of people and events from that decade,” Owens said.

Camp supporters hope to organize a larger celebration for Hunt’s 75th anniversary in 2022.

For more information, see www.camphunt.com.

Christian Standard’s new owners plan to continue Restoration ideals

BY LYNN McMILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Christian Standard, one of the oldest publications among churches associated with the Restoration Movement, has a new owner and a new look.

Five men launched the *Standard* in 1866. One of them, James A. Garfield, became President of the United States 14 years later. Another, Isaac Errett, served as the periodical’s editor until his death in 1888. The newspaper gained a following among Churches of Christ in the northern U.S., while Christians in the South turned to the *Gospel Advocate*.

J.W. McGarvey, a prominent Restoration scholar, wrote a regular column for the *Standard* from 1893 to 1904, in which he often focused on combatting the theological liberalism of the day.

When the a cappella Churches of Christ and instrumental Christian Churches/Churches of Christ parted ways in the early 1900s, the *Standard* became the voice of the instrumental fellowship.

After experiencing falling circulation in recent years, the *Standard* was purchased in February by the Solomon Foundation, a financial organization based in Parker, Colo., that works with churches. The publication’s new owners said they remain committed to its purpose: “dedicated to the restoration of New Testament Christianity, its doctrine, its ordinances and its fruits.”

New publisher Jerry Harris emphasized the importance of upholding the Restoration ideal. “The relationship we have with a cappella Churches of Christ could double that influence,” he said.

The new *Standard*, formatted as a magazine, appeared in June, with content focused on practical advice for Christian families and churches. Its circulation of 15,000 serves a fellowship of 1.3 million spread among 5,300 Christian Churches in the U.S.



CHRISTIAN STANDARD MEDIA

The redesigned *Christian Standard*. *Standard*, formatted as a magazine, appeared in June, with content focused on practical advice for Christian families and churches. Its circulation of 15,000 serves a fellowship of 1.3 million spread among 5,300 Christian Churches in the U.S.

WEBSITE: www.christianstandard.com

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Make plans now to meet us in Mainz, Germany, and share the amazing things that our Lord is doing in Europe. If you enjoyed the 2016 Refugee Conference in Greece then you will enjoy and benefit from being with us this year in Germany.

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For more information visit www.sunset.bible/mainz



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NINJAS: On the set of a TV competition, athletes find faith

FROM PAGE 1

Wingnut before he lost his grip.

"I knew I was physically and mentally capable of making it through the course," said Tiller, a member of the Brentwood Hills Church of Christ in Nashville, Tenn. "It was frustrating, but as soon as I got out of the water it was like, 'Hey, I did my best and tomorrow's a new day. It's OK.'"

Harrington, 27, didn't lose his grip, but did dislocate his shoulder. He thought about trying to finish the course, but feared he might severely injure himself. So he fell into the water below.

"At the time, I was really upset with myself, but there was nothing I could do," said Harrington, who worships with the Central Church of Christ in Benton, Ky. "I performed my best. God just had other plans for me."

Though a clip of Harrington appeared in a training montage for the episode, producers didn't air his run at the course. A brief version of Tiller's run appears on the episode.

IT'S A BIG RUSH

Although many competitors make multiple appearances on "American Ninja Warrior," Tiller and Harrington were newcomers to the show.

Harrington, who always has been physically fit and athletic, said a



PHOTO PROVIDED BY BROOKS TILLER

Brooks Tiller, on the set of "American Ninja Warrior," with his wife, Emily, and their son, Thor. Their daughter, Vera Elle, was born after the episode taped.



VIDEO STILL VIA NBC

Brooks Tiller battles the Wingnuts during "American Ninja Warrior." Find a link to watch the episode at www.drbrookstiller.com.

couple of his friends who are big fans of the show encouraged him to give it a try. He trained relentlessly for two years and submitted a video and written application to the show. He learned in early March that he would get the chance to compete.

"It's a big rush when you find out you made it," Harrington said.

He trained about three hours per day leading up to the competition, concentrating on sprints, pull-ups and other upper-body exercises that would increase his strength and stamina. Then, in early April, he traveled to Daytona Beach, Fla., for the late-night taping.

"It's very high energy," Harrington said. "The crowd's really into it."

Tiller, meanwhile, said that the opportunity to compete in Daytona Beach fell into his lap.

In addition to his work as a physical therapist, Tiller is the host of "Healthy Hunter TV," a series of YouTube videos in which he gives advice on workouts, hunting and cooking. His wife, Emily, operates Beyond Wings, a circus company that includes acrobatic acts by aerial flyers.

Producers of "American Ninja

Warrior" found an online video of the Tillers performing with Beyond Wings and asked both of them to consider appearing on the show.

Emily Tiller was pregnant during filming and unable to compete.

'YOU SEE A LOT OF PEOPLE PRAYING'

During his visit to Daytona Beach, Brooks Tiller said he was impressed by his fellow athletes' expressions of faith.

"You see a lot of people praying," he said. "You talk to a lot of guys and find there's a faith with them. They're there, and they're acknowledging that it's not all about them, but about what God's helping them to do."

Harrington added that he enjoyed watching the competitors who were making repeat visits to the show.

"It was neat watching them

compete, knowing I wasn't any less physically capable than they were," Harrington said.

He only remembers "bits and

pieces" of the obstacle course.

"As soon as I stepped on stage I just became hyper-focused and things just seemed to slow down."

His run on the show resulted in shoulder surgery. Doctors told him he had broken bone fragments off of his ball joint.

Nonetheless, he hopes to return to training after he heals — and perhaps try out again someday.

Brooks Tiller might, too.

Being on the course gave him a better idea of what he needs to do to prepare, he said.

"I'm actually building some obstacles in my backyard," he said, "to train more specifically for it."



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ANDY HARRINGTON

Andy Harrington on the set of "American Ninja Warrior" in Florida.

Frances Zorn remembered for sacrifices that made Lads to Leaders possible

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Without her, there would be no Lads to Leaders.

That's how Roy Johnson, executive director of the popular youth-training ministry in Churches of Christ, described his sister, Frances Zorn. The wife of Lads to Leaders founder Jack Zorn died July 15 at their home in Alabama. She was 80.

Her grandfather helped establish a Church of Christ in the rural town of Hollins, Ala., where her father later served as an elder. She studied at Alabama Christian College, now Faulkner University, and worked as an assistant to the registrar.

"Jack Zorn had hitchhiked to campus without a high school education, but a deep desire to preach the Word of God," Roy Johnson said. "The very first day, he met Frances Johnson, and it was love at first sight for both of them. Dr. Rex Turner, president of the school, allowed Jack to finish his high school and then attend college on a work-study program.

"Frances came home to tell her mom and dad that she was getting married to Jack Zorn. Her mom, Sarah, announced that she had some news also. She was having a baby. That was me."

After graduating from college, Jack Zorn preached full time in four states and did mission work. While preaching in Warner Robins, Ga., he founded Lads to Leaders in 1968. The youths he helped train for the program gave their first public speeches on Sunday morning, Jan. 5, 1969. Frances Zorn helped train the first Leaderettes — participants in a version of the program for young women.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY RHONDA FERNANDEZ

Frances and Jack Zorn were married for 61 years. See a feature on the family's health struggles, their children and their faith in our Caregivers series, online at www.christianchronicle.org

"When Jack decided to give up preaching and teaching to devote his life to spreading Lads to Leaders, he had no funding," Roy Johnson said. "Frances took on three jobs — working days, nights, and weekends — to provide enough money to feed the family and travel money for Jack to visit churches and hold workshops across the nation."

In 2018, the ministry celebrates its 50th anniversary. More than 250,000 children, parents, ministers and church leaders have participated in the program, Roy Johnson said. The ministry hosts annual conventions at nine sites in the U.S. and abroad.

Despite suffering from heart problems and memory loss in recent years, Frances Zorn and her husband made appearances at Lads to Leaders conventions to show their support for the ministry.

Phillip Hines, minister for the Hartselle Church of Christ in Alabama and chairman of Lads to Leaders' board of directors, said, "The loss of our beloved Frances Zorn will be deeply felt in the family of Lads to Leaders, Untold numbers of young people have been mentored and nurtured by her gentle guiding hand. I am so honored to have known and loved her."

Roy Johnson added that his sister "passed away ... with her Jack holding her hand."

Frances Zorn is survived by her husband of 61 years; daughters Resa Byrd (Herb), Rhonda Zorn Fernandez (Halo), and Sonya Zorn King (Johnny); five granddaughters; nine great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

WEBSITE: www.lads2leaders.com

Milestones

Showcasing the moments of your life and the lives of loved ones.

Birthdays

100th: Bernice Crudup, July 15, Sun City, Calif.



85th: Bill E. Wilson, Aug. 16, and **83rd: Sue Wilson,** Aug. 5, Edmond, Okla.



82nd: Colonel Carroll Sites, July 4. **62nd Anniversary: Carroll and Sarah Sites,** July 17, Greens Ferry, Ark.



Anniversaries

Wilbert and Juanita Scroggins 70 years

Mr. and Mrs. Wib Scroggins were honored with a reception Saturday, June 17, at the Southwest Church of Christ in Ada, Okla. The occasion marked the couple's 70th wedding anniversary. Hosts for the event were the couple's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Wilbert "Wib" Scroggins and Juanita Foxx were married June 14,

1947, in the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Wommack, at Oakman, Okla. Mr. Scroggins' parents were John F. and Essie Akins Scroggins. He was raised in the Cedar Grove-Francis communities and attended school there. He worked as a machinist for Eureka Tool Company in Oklahoma City and at Oklahoma Machine Company and Kerr Pumps in Ada. Mr. Scroggins retired from Kerr Pumps in 1990 after having worked there for 36 years.

Mrs. Scroggins was raised in the Oakman community, and attended school at Oakman and Byng. She graduated from Byng in 1949. She was employed as a secretary at Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company and later at the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, where she worked for 26 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Scroggins retired the same day in September 1990. Both are active members of the Southwest Church of Christ.

Mr. Scroggins has served as a Bible school teacher, a deacon and an elder in the church. Mrs. Scroggins taught Bible school for many years and serves in fellowship and benevolent works. With the exception of living in Oklahoma City for a few months when they were first married, the couple has lived in Oakman and Ada the remainder of their 70 years of marriage.

The couple has one daughter, Lynda Collins, who lives in Mannford with her husband, Jud; and one son, David, who lives in Frisco, Texas, with his wife, Nancy.

The couple has four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.



(More Milestones, Page 24)

Milestones (continued)



Paul and Millie Woods 70 years

Paul and Millie Woods celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary on Aug. 1, 2017, in Athens, Ala. Millie is a Freed-Hardeman graduate, and Paul has a master's in Bible from Harding University, after attending Abilene Christian University and Pepperdine University. He has been a faithful preacher of God's word with Millie by his side in Michigan, Nebraska, Colorado, Minnesota, Montana, Wisconsin, Missouri and Alabama, starting in the early 1950s. They have been retired and living at 27012 McLemore Circle, Harvest, AL 35749 (near their son) for several years. Congratulations, Paul and Millie!



Arland and Floy Pafford 60 years

Arland and Floy Pafford of Madera Ranchos, Madera, Calif., celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Aug. 17, 2017. They met at the Los Banos Church of Christ in California and were the first couple married in the new church building in 1957. Following service in the Army, Arland graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, on the same day Floy graduated from high school. They were married that August. Their first home was in San Francisco so Arland could attend dental school. Arland had a private practice for several years in Firebaugh, Calif. and

then went to work for the State of California Department of Corrections until he retired in 1997 as chief dentist. After Floy put Arland through dental school, reared three children and became a grandmother, she graduated from California State University, Stanislaus, with a B.S. in accounting in 1993. After moving around the state, they settled in Oakdale, Calif., for 30 years. Four years ago, they moved to Madera Ranchos, Calif., and are members of the Sunset Church of Christ in Madera. Arland and Floy have three children: Evonna (Kyle) Jones, of Edmond, Okla.; Philip (Celeste) Pafford, of Corona, Calif.; and David (Tina) Pafford, of Madera Ranchos, Calif. They also have eight grandchildren. Over the years, Arland has served faithfully as a deacon, an elder and a Bible class teacher while Floy has taught children's Bible classes and led ladies' Bible classes. As a couple, they have been faithful and active members of the church. As parents, they have always made God the center of their loving home and family. Congratulations, Arland and Floy!

Ralph and Marcene Dodd, 75 years, Saint Charles, Mo. William and Pearl Boyd, 72 years, June 11, Newburg, Ore.

Memorials

Ina "Jeanell" Bradley 1930 - 2017

Ina "Jeanell" Bradley was born on Jan. 27, 1930, in the middle of a snowstorm, to James "Jim" Benjamin and Noma Shipman Nease in Punkin Center, Oklahoma. She was the ninth of 11 children in that family and was affectionately known as "Number 9." She went to be with the Lord on July 5, 2017, at Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City. Jeanell graduated as valedictorian of the class of 1948 at Central High (Marlow). She loved music and participated in plays. She married her high school sweetheart,



J.W. Bradley of Marlow, on July 7, 1948. They settled in Duncan, and both went to work for Halliburton Services. She worked for Halliburton until the birth of their first child, Vickie Sue. She then became a wonderful homemaker, wife and mother. She was baptized into Christ in 1952 and lived out her life as a devout Christian woman. She and J.W. attended Westside Church of Christ and Eastside Church of Christ in Duncan. They were janitors at Westside for 25 years. Jeanell loved singing and helped provide music for weddings and funerals. An excellent cook, she also coordinated meals for funerals for many years. People would stand in line to fight for a piece of her coconut or chocolate pie. Many visitors to Duncan were welcomed into her home for a fried chicken dinner. Nineteen years after Vickie was born, J.W. and Jeanell were surprised with a bonus baby, Robin Jeanell. Jeanell continued to be a wonderful mother to both girls for the rest of her life. She would tell you that her greatest joys in life came from being a Christian wife and mother, and she was proud that her children and grandchildren were Christians. *"I have no greater joy than this — to hear that my children are living according to the truth."* (3 John 1:4) Jeanell lived in Duncan for 63 years. She and J.W. moved to Edmond, Okla., to live with Robin after she suffered a stroke. She spent time with both Robin and Vickie for five years. She lived at the Fountains at Canterbury in Oklahoma City for the last few months of her life. Jeanell was preceded in death by her parents, eight brothers and sisters, and one grandson, Thomas Beam. She is survived by her husband of almost 69 years, J.W. Bradley; her daughters Vickie (Clint) Stamper of Kimberling City, Mo., and Robin (David) Beam of Oklahoma City, Okla.; grandchildren Brad (Holly) Morrisett of Edmond, Okla., Lance (Jennifer) Morrisett of Hooker, Okla., Melissa (Greg) Bukovatz of Oshkosh, Wis., and Seth Beam of Edmond, Okla. She is also survived by one brother Gene (Charlotte) Nease and one sister Jimmie Lou (James) Gunkel; 10 great-grandchildren, a great-great-grandchild due in January; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Doyle Dennis Gilliam 1931 - 2017

Doyle Dennis Gilliam, 86, of Lubbock, Texas, passed away on Friday, June 23, 2017. He was born in Granbury, Texas, on Jan. 17, 1931. Doyle graduated from Poly High School in Fort Worth and received a master's degree from Abilene Christian University. He married Louise Humphrey on June 9, 1952.



Doyle had a career as a preacher, missionary, and a 38-year career teaching at Sunset International Bible Institute. He had a passion for the people of Southern Africa. He was an avid golfer and won many tournaments as a young man as well as during his time in Africa. Doyle is survived by two sons, Stephen Gilliam and John Gilliam; three daughters, Charlene Hosking, Ellen Abshier, Laura Close; a brother, Bob Gilliam; nine grandchildren, Louise Benz, Colin Hosking, Jessica Shroyer, Jordan Abshier, Luke Close, Ashley Close, Brianna Close, Shelby Seals, Sawni Seals; four great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Hugh Wayne Hemingway 1919-2017

Hugh Wayne Hemingway, died May 21, 2017. Born July 9, 1919, in Detroit, he lived 97 years. He leaves behind three children, Beth, Lois Ferrell and Pat Hemingway; five grandchildren; and twelve great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his bride of 69 years, Annile Chambers Hemingway and grandson, Derek Wayne Hemingway. Wayne knew the Scriptures well and lived by their teachings, serving as elder, minister, Bible class teacher and song leader. A gifted teacher for 75 years teaching the Bible, science and



(continued on Page 25)

NEWSMAKERS



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MOUNT DORA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Scholarship winner Sebastian Rolon, third from left, with Steve Eckman, Howard Todd and Nathan Mellor.

AWARDED: Sebastian Rolon, senior at Mount Dora Christian Academy in Florida, the inaugural Howard Todd Servant Scholarship. The scholarship is a four-year, full-tuition award by York College in Nebraska. Eligibility is limited to participants in the Presidential Leadership Institute, hosted on the York campus each July.

NEW PRINCIPAL: Rachel Goode, Ezell-Harding Christian School upper school in Nashville, Tenn. Goode is a graduate of Lipscomb University in Nashville and Harding Academy in Memphis, Tenn.



Goode



Heflin

NEW PULPIT MINISTER: David Heflin, Woodward Church of Christ in Oklahoma. Heflin previously served the Third and Kilgore Church of Christ in Portales, N.M.

HONORED: Charles Riley, member of the Grant Street Church of Christ in Decatur, Ala., with the Audie Murphy Patriotism Award. Jerry Smith, elder of the Canadian Church of Christ in Texas, for serving the congregation since 1976. José Demecio Romero, with the the Harold and Sally Paden Memorial Distinguished Christian Service Award, presented at the Red River Family Encampment.

Milestones *(continued)*

math, he was a founder, teacher and administrator of Athens Bible School in Athens, Ala., Crowley's Ridge Academy in Paragould, Ark., Madison Academy in Huntsville, Ala. and later at Northland Christian School in Houston, Texas. For 20 years he taught public school junior high science in South Orange, N.J. He was an elder at the Chatham Church of Christ in N.J., a new congregation that began under his leadership. After his third retirement, he taught GED and math at the Lone Star College System in Texas until 2015! Wayne Hemingway will live within the hearts of those who knew him, and his legacy will be carried forth for future generations.

Parker Henderson
1924-2017

Parker Henderson, 92, former teacher at Sunset International Bible Institute, finished his earthly ministry June 22, 2017, and has entered his eternal home. He was a missionary in Thailand for twenty years and then spent thirty years serving in Trinidad. He taught at Sunset for relatively short stints and always took a team he personally recruited back to the mission field with him. Parker, along with his wife Donna, had moved back to Lubbock several years ago. This dear brother will be missed by people he led to Christ in a number of countries and by a host of other brethren and friends.

Geneva Sadler Jones
1927 - 2017

Geneva Sadler was born in Nashville, Tenn., on April 14, 1927, to Henry Clay and Lena Demonbreun Sadler. She graduated high school from Central High School in Nashville in May of 1944 and attended business school thereafter. She met Joseph F. Jones in 1948, and they were married on

Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 22, 1951, in Nashville. Together they raised six children and were married almost 57 years until he preceded her in death in 2008.

Geneva was a devoted and tireless mother, always putting her children above herself. She was mother to Ronald (Diane), Terrell (Diane), Deborah, Danny (Cynthia), Lisa, and Kevin (Kelly). Her grandchildren include: Ronald Jr., Stephanie, Ashley, Adam, Alysa, Aaron, Nicholas, Emily, Ethan, and Rachel. She is also survived by several sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Geneva supported many charitable causes throughout her life. She was particularly involved with the South Oakland Shelter, helping with this cause for over 20 years. As a member of the Troy Church of Christ for 50 years, she also was involved with many outreach and ministry programs. Geneva was known for being quiet and sweet, but having a quick wit, sharp mind and the uncanny ability to corral her children (mostly the four boys) when needed. She was a devoted wife, a fantastic mother and grandmother, and a wonderful Christian woman who will be missed dearly. We love you, mom.

Harold Dean Wade
1938 - 2017

Harold Dean Wade, 78, of Tomball, Texas, passed from this life into the next on July 12, 2017, at his home surrounded by his wife, Mary Elizabeth (Beth) Grobe Wade and his daughters, Lorie Wade Addison and Julie Wade Crum.

Harold was born Oct. 1, 1938, in Booneville, Miss., to Oren and Hester Mae (Armstrong) Wade. He graduated from Holcut High School in 1957 and he completed an associate's degree in education from North East Mississippi Junior College and finished his bachelor's and master's in education from Memphis State University.

While in college and during his early career, he served as a non-commissioned

officer in the Mississippi Army National Guard and the Tennessee Air National Guard. In Memphis, he taught and coached at Sherwood Middle School.

Harold's life was dedicated to education and specifically to education from a Christian perspective. He served as a dormitory director for Lubbock Christian University and as an administrator of Lubbock Christian School in Lubbock, Texas. He served as the Superintendent of Dallas Christian School in Mesquite, Texas, Fort Worth Christian School in North Richland Hills, Texas, and Westbury Christian School in Houston, Texas.

In other areas of vocation and service, Harold served as a manager for University Inns (a dormitory management group) at Texas Tech University, San Diego State University, and The University of Michigan (Ann Arbor). He was also a Regional Director of Development for Eastern European Missions and served as a fund-raising consultant for Manhattan Christian College in Manhattan, Kansas.

Harold was one of the founding board members for the YMCA of North Richland Hills, Texas. After retirement, he worked with his wife, Beth, presenting marriage enrichment seminars and encouraging healthy Christian relationships in the Houston metropolitan area. He was a dedicated member of a local church throughout his life and served as a non-paid minister and preacher on numerous occasions. He participated in multiple mission trips domestically and internationally and encouraged his children to always follow the call to service to the Prince of Peace.

He is survived by his wife, Beth G. Wade; his children: Len (Lisa) Wade, Lorie (Glenn) Addison, Jonathan (Jodie) Wade, Jennifer (Stephen) Shewmaker, Julie (Andy) Crum; and his grandchildren: Nikki Addison (Brian) Lee, Austin Addison, Landon (Nicholl) Wade, Luke Wade, Logan Wade, Anne Wade, Rylan Shewmaker, Nathan Wade, Catherine

(continued on Page 26)



Milestones *(continued)*

Shewmaker, Ian Crum, Annalee Crum, Alexandra Shewmaker, Binyam Crum and Joseph Crum; his great-grandchildren: Lainey Lee, Camden Lee, and Kinsey Lee; his siblings: Lyonel (Maxine) Wade, Myra Wade Underwood, Vonceil Wade Enlow, Hoyt (Joan) Wade, Mackey (Margaret) Wade; in-laws: Lottie Wade, Charlene Wade, Judy Johnson, Ginger Herbert, Terri (Kevin) Lowry; and a number of dearly loved nieces and nephews, friends and co-workers.

He passed in peace as he lived, surrounded by love. Harold asked that, in lieu of flowers, mourners make a donation in his memory to a local Christian school.

Dr. Perry L. Morren,
82, June 25,
Childress,
Texas.



Memorial/Honor Gifts

The Christian Chronicle appreciates and acknowledges generous gifts received in memory of Jack L. Fields and Gordon Russell.

Entries should be submitted to milestones@christianchronicle.org or call (405) 425-5071. Rates and guidelines are available upon request (credit card preferred).

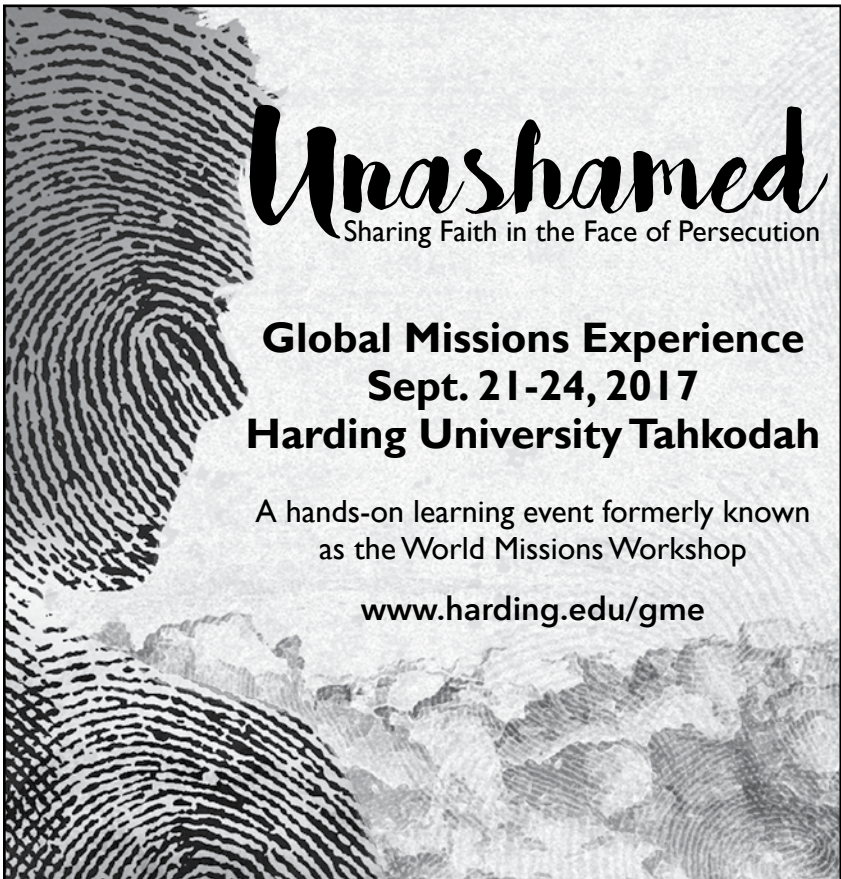
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A Spirit-led stop at my father's grave

So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.

— Galatians 5:16, New Living Translation

DALLAS

I debated whether or not to stop. We had so much highway ahead of us.

Driving from Abilene to Birmingham proved to be as daunting as it looks on a map. I know Texas is big. I'm from Texas, born and raised. But when you actually have to drive through it, the sheer enormity of it makes you feel so small.

But still I wrestled with stopping by Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery just off I-20. My father is there. And I hadn't visited his grave in years.

I felt obligated. Perhaps it was the Holy Spirit telling me I'm too close not to stop. Living outside Texas, I wasn't sure when I'd get another chance.

We pulled up to his tombstone. I talked to it like it was my dad — a real person, alive and kicking. I know he's not really there, but it felt comfortable and intimate.

Kennedy got out with me and talked to the marker, acknowledging

the grandfather she never got to meet. He would have loved his granddaughters, deeply and proudly.

In the Word



Wendell Edwards

Then I noticed it — two streaks across the bottom of stone, rust color, like they'd been there for a long time.

My heart raced. Anger began to seep into my subconscious. I squashed it. No need to get mad. That won't help. I needed to take action.

What is it? How did it get there? How do I get it fixed?

I tried a baby wipe from the minivan, some bottled water and muscle. Nothing. I took a picture with my phone and drove to the front office. They couldn't help. They gave me a lovely brochure with a 1-800 number to call.

I wanted to scream. I could picture myself diving into the bureaucracy of the Department of Veteran Affairs. I just needed someone to fix my father's gravestone.

Then the woman behind the desk said, "You know, you're in luck." She pointed to the window. There was

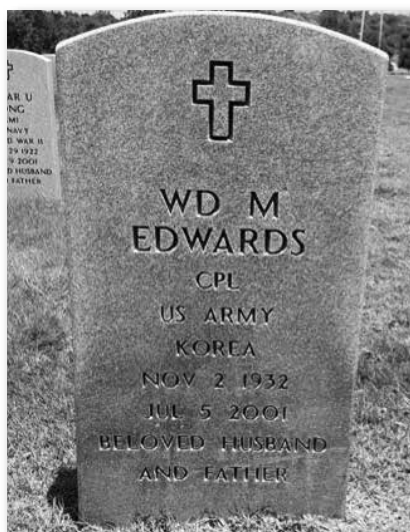


PHOTO PROVIDED BY WENDELL EDWARDS

The photo sent by Mr. Melvin — after the gravestone was cleaned.

a man walking toward the building. "He's the man in charge here."

I met him on the walkway, told him my problem, showed him the picture.

"That's a rust mark from a lawnmower, Mr. ... uhh?" He was reaching for my name. I hadn't even told him. I did, and I learned his

name was Mr. Melvin.

Those marks don't happen often, Mr. Melvin said. The grounds crew mows close to the markers, keeping the grass short and pristine.

Sometimes they get a little too close.

"Can you fix it?" I asked. He could — and he would, soon. He'd send me a picture and, if I wasn't satisfied, he would order a new headstone. I smiled and briefly teared up. I wanted to embrace him, pull him into a deep, long, tight bear hug. But I didn't. "Thank you," I said and shook his hand.

A week later, I got a text with a picture of the fix. The line is faintly there, but I'm OK. It certainly looks much better. I sent Mr. Melvin a thank-you card.

More so, I'm glad we stopped in the middle of our 14-hour drive home. I'm glad I was there. It was a debate within myself, and I'm glad the Holy Spirit won.

WENDELL EDWARDS co-anchors the morning news for WBMA, ABC 33/40 in Birmingham, Ala. He and his family attend the Riverchase Church of Christ in Birmingham.

FROM OUR READERS

Praise for single-parent ministry, baptisms

This is such a wonderful work. ("Hope for single parents," Page 1, July.) Prayerfully, I hope that Christians across the brotherhood will mimic what Mount Dora Children's Home is doing and make this whole world a better place for many.

Nancy George | Kansas City, Kan.

This was a day of celebration that I will never forget! ("After paralysis, a spiritual healing," Page 21, July.)

We rejoice in Luke and Elliott's baptisms. These young men are

courageous, strong, determined, loving, caring and kind. I am thankful that this story is being shared by *The Christian Chronicle*.

Please keep these boys and their family in your prayers, as each day brings new challenges for them.

Mary Jo Foster | Derby, Kan.

Responses to London attacks

In regard to brother Patrick Boyns' statement on page 29 of the July edition of the *Chronicle* dealing

with the recent "radical Islamic terrorism" attack in London (Page 29), I would like to say that I agree that "we live in a fallen and broken world," but to say that "all of us have done our bit to contribute one way or another to the carnage and that there are no innocent victims" is incorrect.

We cannot compare other wanton acts across the world — exclusive of wars — with the depravity of the ISIS acts of terror; the 911 slaughter of 3,000 in New York; the Orlando, San Bernardino and Paris massacres; and literally thousands of other terrorist acts across the

world in the past few decades.

H. Banks | Muscle Shoals, Ala.

A well-worded article. We must never lose sight of the root cause of all that is evil — sin. The only answer to the problem of sin is found in Jesus Christ.

It was rightly said by Patrick that acts of terror are highlighted often when it affects the affluent or famous, yet countless numbers suffer daily without comment being made. It is a complicated problem with a simple answer: love God and love your neighbor.

Mark Hill | Loughborough, England



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Steve Shaner and his eighth grade English teacher, Dorothy Fisch, at left in photos from the 1960s, were reunited in 2017. Fisch, a librarian, read to Shaner's grandchildren.

Thanking a teacher — 50 years later

Pay to all what is owed to them ... respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

— Romans 13:7, English Standard Version

FRANKFORD, Del.

You've no doubt heard, "Give a man a fish, and you'll feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you'll feed him for a lifetime."

Well, I say, "Have a Fisch teach a man, and he'll become anything he wants."

In 1967 I was 13 years old. I walked into my eighth grade English class at Middletown High School in Rhode Island and met my English teacher, Dorothy Fisch. That day was a turning point in my life.

By that time I had been to 10 different schools. Every time I moved I got a little further behind. I was told repeatedly to "just get caught up at home." I was the second of five children. My mother struggled to give me the kind of personal attention I needed.

Mrs. Fisch opened up a whole new world to me. Eighth grade was when literature started to be part of the curriculum. I had never been a good reader, and the fact that Mrs. Fisch read aloud to us made the difference for me. I remember being captivated as I listened to her. The words just came alive.

Later in my adult life I was diagnosed with learning disorders. I learn more by listening than by reading. So what she was doing was playing right into my skill set.

I was a short kid and had to develop a feisty attitude in order to navigate the hierarchy of school life. When I misbehaved, Mrs. Fisch spoke softly but firmly and gave me "the look" — the same one moms give us when we misbehave in church.

It worked.

Near the end of the school year, Mrs. Fisch gave me an assignment: produce a magazine with articles, advertising and cover design. I even had to pitch the magazine to the rest of the class.

I got an A-plus — an A-plus! I had never gotten one before. The note she wrote on the front page said something like, "Everything about this was excellent, and the presentation portion gave you the extra plus. You should go into journalism or advertising; you would be really good at that."

Four years later, I headed off to college. When I was asked what I had chosen for my major, I responded with those same words — journalism or advertising. Every time I thought about changing my major — or adding a second major — I remembered the sweet, calm, but reassuring voice of Mrs. Fisch.

Views



Steve Shaner

After two years I transferred to Harding College and majored in mass communication. I was a photographer for the *Petit Jean*, our yearbook. I managed to cram four years of college into five and graduated — not cum laude. I worked as an advertising salesman, a TV reporter, a portrait studio photographer and a radio announcer. I was co-owner of a small community newspaper.

(I was even asked to become a photographer for the newly elected governor of Arkansas, but I turned that job down because they were offering me only 50 percent of my present salary. "Think about this offer, Steve," the governor's chief of staff said. "This man will become the president one day." I laughed and said to myself, "Bill Clinton will *never* be the president of the United States!")

I opened an advertising and public relations agency and did a little speech writing. Through the financial setbacks and ups and downs, I stayed in the industry because, in my head, I heard the voice of Mrs. Fisch: "You should go into journalism or advertising; you would be really good at that."

In 2007, I got a call from my alma mater, asking me to apply for a faculty position — a chance to teach others advertising and speech. I moved to Searcy, Ark., and began working for Harding University in August 2008.

Earlier this year our university's

chapel organizers challenged us to find and thank someone responsible for a turning point in our lives. I knew exactly who I wanted to thank. But it had been 49 years. Could I even find Mrs. Fisch?

I did, thanks to some of her friends on Facebook. She lives in Ocean View, Del., and retired from teaching after 28 years. For the past two decades, she's been a librarian in Frankford. My wife and I had planned to spend our spring break in Fairfax, Va., with our son and his family, and Frankford was only three hours away. So I arranged to meet Mrs. Fisch.

We sat in the library for more than an hour, catching up over iced tea and cinnamon rolls while a few family members and friends watched and listened. I asked if she would do me a favor before we went to lunch. Would she read a story to two of my grandchildren?

She quickly found a book that my grandchildren, Gavyn and Josie, would enjoy. They sat at her feet as the story unfolded in her soft-but-animated voice.

I am a mass communication professional because of you, Dorothy Fisch.

Who is it that you want to thank?

Don't wait 50 years.

STEVE SHANER is an assistant professor of communication at Harding University in Searcy, Ark., and an elder of the Downtown Church of Christ in Searcy.

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Please visit **harding.edu/hr/jobsfaculty** for further information on these positions. To learn more about open staff positions, visit **harding.edu/hr/jobs**. Harding is committed to hiring a diverse faculty and staff. Women, minorities, individuals with disabilities and veterans are encouraged to apply.

Aug. 7-10 Respite: Renewal for Missionaries on Home Assignment. Emory, Texas, mrnet.org/events.

Aug. 11-12 Dikaosune: A Social Justice Symposium. Winston, N.C., dikaosune.org.

Aug. 12-13 Back to School Bash. Garden City, Kan., scott7stewart@gmail.com.

Aug. 13-17 49th Annual Florida State Lectureship. Orlando, Fla., floridastatelectureship.com.

Aug. 26 50th Anniversary, Camp Manatawny. Douglassville, Pa., manatawny.org.

Aug. 25-27 PeacePrints Retreat #5, CenterPeace. Watchtower Ranch, Texas, centerpeaceinc@gmail.com.

Aug. 26-27 80th Anniversary, Collinsville Church of Christ. Collinsville, Okla., (918) 371-4296.

Sept. 5-8 National Christian Camping Workshop. Las Vegas, N.M., naccamps.org.

Sept. 7 Mission Lazarus Gala. White Creek, Tenn., wendy@gcrcc.org.

Sept. 8-10 Spanish Bible Seminar. Nashville, Tenn., (615) 244-0608.

Sept. 10 70th Anniversary, Mount Vernon, Mo. Church of Christ. mtvcoc.org.

Sept. 14-15 New Day Conference, North Boulevard Church of Christ. Murfreesboro, Tenn., info@nblvd.org.

Sept. 14-17 Midwest Women's Conference of Churches of Christ. Louisville, Ky., mwccc2017.com.

Sept. 17-20 Summit. Abilene Christian University, Abilene, Texas, acu.edu/events.

Sept. 24 125th Anniversary Celebration, Southside Church of Christ. Fort Worth, Texas, sscofc.org.

Sept. 21-24 Global Missions Experience 2017. Harding Univ., Camp Tahkodah, harding.edu/events.

Sept. 24-27 Bible Lectureship. Harding University, Searcy, Ark. harding.edu/lectureship.

Sept. 30-Oct. 1 50th Anniversary, Burlington Church of Christ. Burlington, Mass., burlingtonchurch.com.

Oct. 1-3 Oklahoma Christian University Lectureship. Edmond, Okla., oc.edu/events/lectureship.

Oct. 1-5 Southeastern Regional Lectureship. Decatur, Ala., moultonheights.org.

Oct. 10-13 Abundant Living Branson Retreat. abundantliving seniors.com.



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Dr. Gregory Straughn, Dean, ACU Box 29210, Abilene, Texas 79699-29210

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

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Hobby Lobby founder shares family strategy for laser-focused generosity

David Green and Bill High's new book, **"Giving It All Away ... and Getting It All Back Again,"** will be a blessing to church leaders and families wanting to create a legacy of generosity.

The book tells the story of Hobby Lobby, started as a family business in the Greens' garage. Now the Oklahoma City based arts and crafts chain has 600 stores nationwide — and donates more than 50 percent of its pretax profits to a portfolio of evangelical ministries.

The Greens are honest about the tough times they've endured, including some decisions that took them off focus. They also discuss some current-day challenges that they try to respond to in wisdom and faith.

The book begins by recounting Hobby Lobby's opposition to the Affordable Care Act's provision mandating that companies fund the distribution of emergency contraceptive (often called "morning after") pills for their employees. This violated the family's conscience, and the resulting lawsuit was heard by the U.S. Supreme Court.

In June 2014, the court ruled that companies such as Hobby Lobby cannot be required to pay to cover some types of contraceptives for their employees. (Christian Chronicle readers may remember that Lori Windham, a Church of Christ member and graduate of Abilene Christian University, served on the Greens' legal team.)

The book then shifts to the story of the Greens' journey into generosity — and into a competition to "out-give God." Although they know it cannot be done, the Greens decided to try to give their fortune away — following the challenge given by God to the prophet Malachi (*"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."* — **Malachi 3:10**)

That challenge, the authors write, has resulted in God's honoring the Greens by granting new opportunities to grow the company and touch more lives.

Two key points I find in the book are the family conferences held by the Greens to develop a heritage as givers and a legacy of generosity. This did not happen by accident. The family's hard labor created an intentional plan that now involves three generations of Greens in the mission, strategy and values of a family committed to generosity and giving.

Even more, this family brought in Bill High and the National Christian Foundation to help them develop a strategy to be as generous as possible — and to use the tax laws to Kingdom benefit. This resulted in better communication across the family and a structure that requires family members to work for a living and give generously from the family fortune to churches and nonprofits — with a keen eye upon Kingdom initiatives.

Bill High's son, Joseph, attends Lipscomb University, where I serve. He is my son's soccer coach and has become dear to our family. The faith and intentionality of the Green and High families inspire me.

Bill High's son, Joseph, attends Lipscomb University, where I serve. He is my son's soccer coach and has become dear to our family. The faith and intentionality of the Green and High families inspire me.

If your church has an 80/20 principle (where only a few families give about 80 percent of the weekly offering), then know that this book can benefit everyone in your congregation.

It will be especially helpful for your larger givers. Green and High will remind them to be intentional and laser-focused in giving — and not to coast behind large donations that do not engage the heart of the entire family.

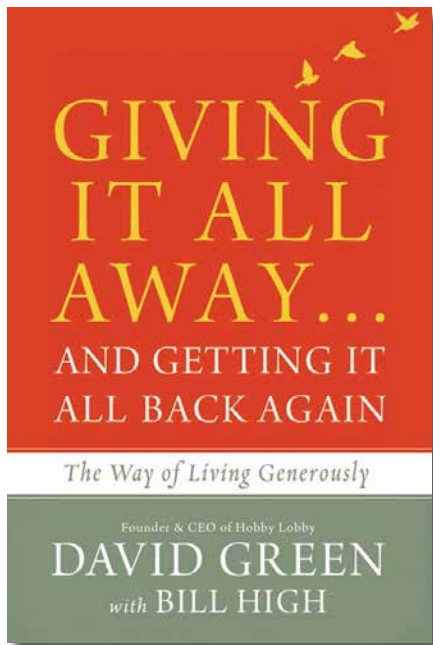
To build a legacy of generosity for your family, start with this book. Then call a family meeting.

SCOTT SAGER is vice president for church services and a member of the Bible faculty at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn. He is a former minister for the Preston Road Church of Christ in Dallas.

In Print



Scott Sager



David Green with Bill High. **"Giving It All Away...and Getting It All Back Again: The Way of Living Generously."** Grand Rapids, Mich. Zondervan, 2017. 192 pages. \$19.99.

Church elder delivers laugh-out-loud school bus stories

As a retired teacher, I can tell you that school bus drivers are some of the most important, yet unappreciated, people in the world of education. So when a book arrived in our office with a man — complete with sunglasses, mustache and mutton chops — smiling in front of a big yellow school bus, I immediately wanted to read it.

Tom Brandon, author of **"Mr. Brandon's School Bus: What I Heard on the Way to School,"** has worked as a teacher, coach and bus driver for a rural school in northern Alabama. He's a graduate of Harding University in Arkansas and an elder of the Meridianville Church of Christ in Alabama. He has served on a number of education advisory councils and received a Steve Harvey Neighborhood Award, sponsored by the actor and comedian, for Best Bus Driver of the Year.

The book is a collection of short, page-long (or less) tales from the school bus. Mr. Brandon narrates his escapades with the elementary age characters he serves. I laughed out loud many times, shed tears and read a few of his stories to those who sat still long enough to laugh with me. I grew fond of his regular riders — Hot Pickle Boy, Mr. Mucus and the Twins That Are Not Twins. The vivid writing style made me feel like I was on that yellow bus.

Mr. Brandon is a storyteller. He has a front-row seat to the wonder and innocence of childhood, and he helps these kiddos get to school safely so they can learn. We all learn on Mr. Brandon's school bus.

I will never look at a big, yellow school bus the same way again. Most likely, when school starts each fall and I miss it for a nanosecond, I'll pick up "Mr. Brandon's School Bus" and feel like I'm back.

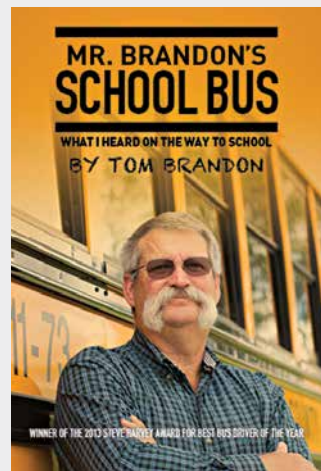
I may even become a bus driver myself. OK, maybe not.

MELINDA WILSON is an administrative assistant for *The Christian Chronicle*. She worships with the Memorial Road Church of Christ in Oklahoma City.

What we're reading



Melinda Wilson



Tom Brandon. **Mr. Brandon's School Bus: What I Heard on the Way to School.** Montgomery, Ala.: NewSouth Books, 2017. 144 pages. \$15.95.



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Executive Director Search

Sunny Glen Children's Home of San Benito, Texas, is seeking candidates for the Executive Director position. Sunny Glen Children's Home is a faith-based general residential operation that provides nurturing homes and treatment services to children from difficult backgrounds. The Executive Director has strategic and operational responsibility for staff, programs, expansion, and the execution of its mission. Qualified applicants will: 1) be a faithful member of the Church of Christ, 2) have a Bachelor's (Master's preferred) in a social science field, 3) possess an LCCA, or be eligible to obtain an LCCA, and 4) have substantial administrative and residential childcare experience. Interested applicants may submit a cover letter and resume by **August 31, 2017**, to:

Tim Ousley,
Search Committee Chairperson
info@sunnyglen.org

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PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

Heritage Christian University is conducting a national search for its next President.

The university seeks in its next leader the values, skills, and knowledge to build upon its commitment to the advancement of churches of Christ by equipping servants through undergraduate and graduate programs and continuing education. The new president will continue HCU's legacy of producing effective communicators, preachers, teachers, and missionaries for real-world ministry with a focus on evangelism and a commitment to scripture.

The new president must be a person of strong faith in Christ, evidenced by exemplary character, personal integrity, respect for scripture, love for souls, and service to the Lord's church.

The Board of Directors has named a Presidential Search Committee that will seek broad input, identify and interview candidates, and make recommendations to the Board.

Interested parties should submit a resume and any relevant information on or before August 15, 2017, to Dale Kirkland, Heritage Search Committee Chair, at HCUPresidentialSearch@gmail.com.

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Home again – and far from home – returning missionaries begin new life

Jesus' last words to his disciples, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth," call all of us to be evangelistic.

The Nichols family has done that for eight years in the Rio de Janeiro suburb of Niteroi, Brazil. Since January, the family — Brent, Jill and their sons Titus, 5, and Jack, 3 — have been my neighbors as they transition back into life in the U.S. Brent now works in real estate.

As a college student, Brent traveled to Warsaw, Poland, with his campus minister before he graduated from college. He served as a campus minister in Oklahoma and yearly took college students to Brazil to teach and encourage.

Jill graduated from Texas A&M University before she moved to Oklahoma. She and her mother traveled to Warsaw to read the Bible with people wanting to improve their English. Jill also traveled to Brazil with Brent's campus ministry.

In 2003 they married and worked to help college students develop faith and spiritual leadership.

When a group of students in their ministry started talking of forming a team and going to Rio, they began praying about the work and eventually became one of four families that moved and planted a church in Niteroi. The team helped bring people to Christ. Eventually, the church bought property and built a meeting place.

They left as two, but came home as four. When I visited with them about their experiences, neither had any regrets. Jill had a chance to get proficient in Portuguese, and Brent provided teaching and leadership as the team planted the congrega-

tion. The couple grew closer as they lived in a different culture. They had great respect for their teammates — including those who joined the team in later years. They have confidence in the leaders of the church they helped start. They still feel very connected to the work in Niteroi and recently returned there for the inaugural service in the new building.

When I asked about the decision to return to the United States, they told me that family was their greatest concern.

Both have aging parents, but their greatest concern was for their children to grow up seeing grandparents more than once or twice a year.

While the transition for adults can be a challenge, the transition for

Titus and Jack will be harder. They are coming to a place they have only visited. Now it is their home. Both have friends in Brazil that are closer than the friends they have made here. They have to move between English and Portuguese, without understanding how either works.

The Nicholises have worked very hard to help their sons make friends in this community. Jill arranges play dates with cousins and

friends. She is careful to help Titus and Jack work through the confusion that accompanies a major move.

The Nicholises were a blessing to the Kingdom in Brazil, and they will be a blessing to the Kingdom in the United States as they continue their lives of faith.

Insight



Bailey McBride



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Nichols family stands behind the word "GO," decorated with the fingerprints of their fellow Christians, during a recent Missions Sunday.

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Notes of encouragement from readers, posted in the offices of *The Christian Chronicle*.

EDITORIAL

You have blessed us

Thank you, *Christian Chronicle* readers! The Lord has touched your hearts to respond to our urgent need by giving generously. We are very grateful!

Many of you added notes of encouragement to your contributions, and we're so thankful for that. One reader simply wrote, "You make a difference!" How powerful and humbling!

In the June issue I explained the *Chronicle's* need for \$50,000 to make up a deficit in the operating budget. As of this printing you have given \$72,566 and for that we are deeply appreciative.

This is the first time in 21 years that I have had to ask for money to end a fiscal operating year in the black. For those many years, the Lord's blessing, your giving and good management have resulted in



Lynn McMillon

positive ending balances. But things changed this past year, and you have responded generously.

Partnership in Christian ministry is a great blessing. All of us at the *Chronicle*, our Board of Trustees, writers and administrative assistants see our work as a ministry to inform, inspire and keep Churches of Christ connected. Our autonomous structure challenges all of us to stay informed and to know each other.

We believe that this paper meets that need. However, it costs a great deal of money to produce a quality publication written by professional Christian journalists.

Your inspiring responses are helping us close the gap in our budget. I truly do not like to ask for funds beyond what you have already given, but this year it was needed.

With sincerest thanks,

Lynn F. McMillon

Lynn McMillon, President, CEO

Why we support The Christian Chronicle® Alan and Michelle Bain

Did you know that 114 donors (individuals, couples and families) have contributed to *The Christian Chronicle* for 20 consecutive years — or more?

Alan and Michelle Bain are among them.

A lifelong resident of Chicago, Alan Bain grew up in the Northwest Church of Christ, where he now serves as an elder. He preached his first sermon at age 15 for the church — now a trilingual congregation that shares the Gospel in English, Spanish and Korean. The church also supports a missionary and a school in Honduras.



Alan and Michelle Bain

perspective that the church is indeed worldwide — and is not limited to our own country, our own city, our own congregation," Alan Bain said.

Why do you read *The Christian Chronicle*?

Alan: "I think it gives a balanced approach on the different issues facing the church. I especially enjoy the international outlook, whereby the newspaper broadens our vista in respect to the church. I think often we get focused on the local congregation and the issues and the problems there, but the *Chronicle* opens our eyes to efforts around the world. I know we could receive it for free, but I felt that we needed to pay the equivalent of a subscription for something that is worthwhile. I think it's a blessing to the brotherhood as a whole."

To make a donation or to find out how to bless the *Chronicle* through our monthly Keepers program, contact Lynda Sheehan at (405) 425-5070.



BOBBY ROSS JR.

(Left) A child reads a Korean song book during Bible class at the Northwest Church of Christ in Chicago.

Visit www.christianchronicle.org/continuing-coverage/churches-that-work to read our Churches That Work feature on the trilingual congregation.



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a Master of Divinity degree while continuing
a ministry to youth in Oklahoma.” — **DOUG OAKES**

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