

# Two legacies, 50 years later

**KEEBLE AND KING** fought for ‘different things in different ages.’

BY HAMIL R. HARRIS AND BOBBY ROSS JR.  
THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

**M**arshall Keeble was calling sinners home at a 1939 gospel meeting in Ridgely, Tenn., when a young white man approached him after the sermon.

The renowned black evangelist reached out his hand, thinking this was one more soul ready for baptism.

Instead, the man struck Keeble in the face with a set of brass knuckles and ran. The Church of Christ minister recovered his balance and kept encouraging the crowd. The meeting’s organizers wanted to call police, but Keeble told them not to, later remembering, “I had to know how to meet him, or I’d get hurt bad.”

Despite violence and threats from white supremacists, Keeble never wavered in resolve to share the Good News with seekers black and white.

Fifty years ago, the world lost two famous black preachers.

On April 4, 1968, an assassin’s bullet took Keeble’s life. See **KEEBLE**, Page 7

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ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY  
Evangelist Marshall Keeble preaches in Abilene, Texas, in the 1960s.

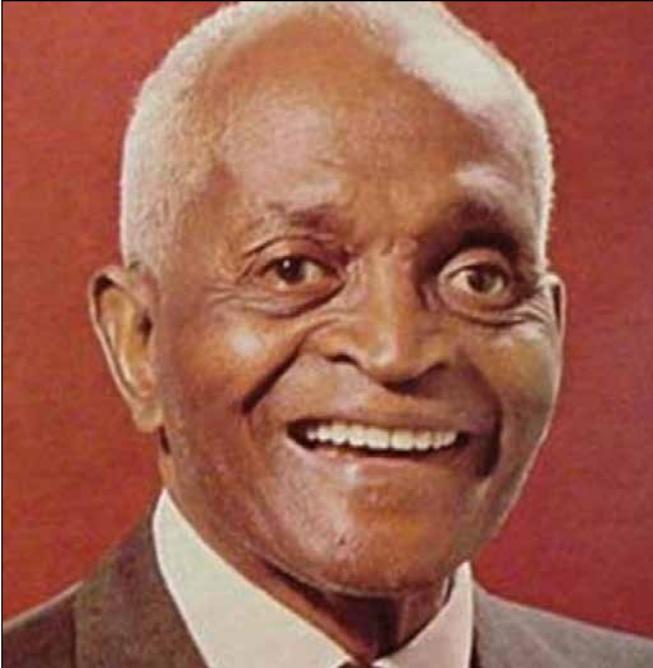
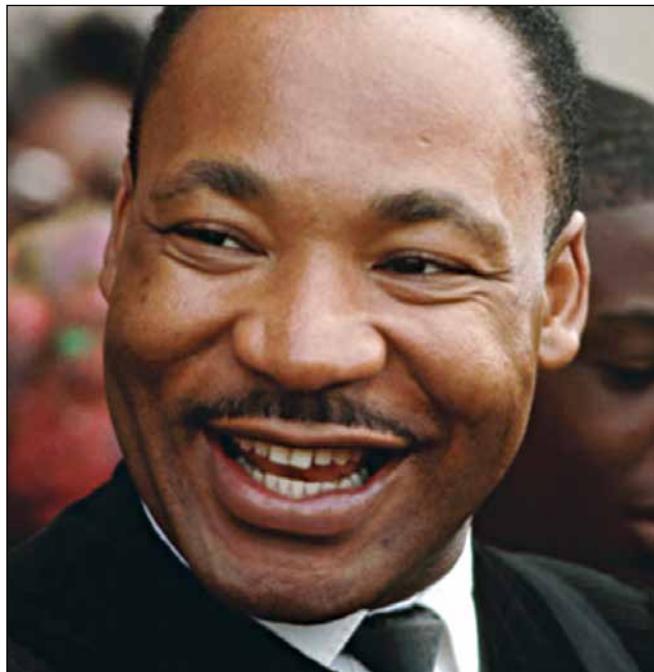


PHOTO PROVIDED

Marshall Keeble smiles from the cover of a vinyl record of his sermons, including “There’s Water in the Plan.”



HISTORY.COM

In 1964, Martin Luther King Jr. smiles as he learns that he has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

# ‘Boy preachers’ still sharing the Word

**LIKE THEIR FAMOUS MENTOR**, Keeble-trained ministers devoted to saving souls.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

## LOS ANGELES

In 1963, an 11-year-old named Dewayne Winrow preached at Southwestern Christian College’s annual Bible lectureship in Terrell, Texas.

The boy’s message resonated with one notable person in the audience: Marshall Keeble, the famous black evangelist who baptized an estimated 30,000 people before his 1968 death.

“Brother Keeble came to the stage, and he offered me immediately a full-time scholarship to begin attending the Nashville Christian Institute,” Winrow, now 65, recalled

at the Reseda Church of Christ, the San Fernando Valley congregation he has served since 1975.

Winrow, the son of a single mother, had been baptized at age 9 at the Bell and Farrall Church of Christ in his hometown of Shawnee, Okla.

The sixth-grader moved to Tennessee and became one of Keeble’s “boy preachers” — students who traveled with Keeble to gospel meetings and delivered short messages before he spoke.

“Brother Keeble’s thing was



Winrow

preaching, and his thing was saving souls and baptizing people,” said Daniel Harrison, another of the former boy preachers.

“Right now, many of us are still carrying on his legacy,” added Harrison, senior minister for the Chatham-Avalon Church of Christ in Chicago for 50 years and director of the national Crusade for Christ since its launch 39 years ago.

At the Nashville Christian Institute, Harrison roomed with David Jones,

See **BOY PREACHERS**, Page 8



Harrison



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## 'Sister Keeble' stayed strong in mind, faith

I never got to meet Marshall Keeble or hear him preach.

I was a baby when Keeble, the famous traveling evangelist who started hundreds of Churches of Christ, died 50 years ago.

"I wish you would have had

the chance of meeting him," Daniel Harrison, minister for the Chatham-Avalon Church of Christ in Chicago, said as we discussed

Harrison's experience as one of Keeble's "boy preachers."

I wish that, too.

But I was blessed to interview Keeble's widow during my time as an Associated Press reporter in Nashville, Tenn.

Laura Keeble was 104 years old — and still strong in mind and faith — when I profiled her for AP in 2003. (Even though I didn't begin work at *The Christian Chronicle* until 2005, the tip for the story came from Lynn McMillon, the *Chronicle's* president and one of my former Bible professors at Oklahoma Christian University.)

On weekday afternoons, Keeble sat in her nursing home room, content to watch Oprah Winfrey on television. But at 3 p.m. on Sundays, she expected someone to wheel her down stairs for worship.

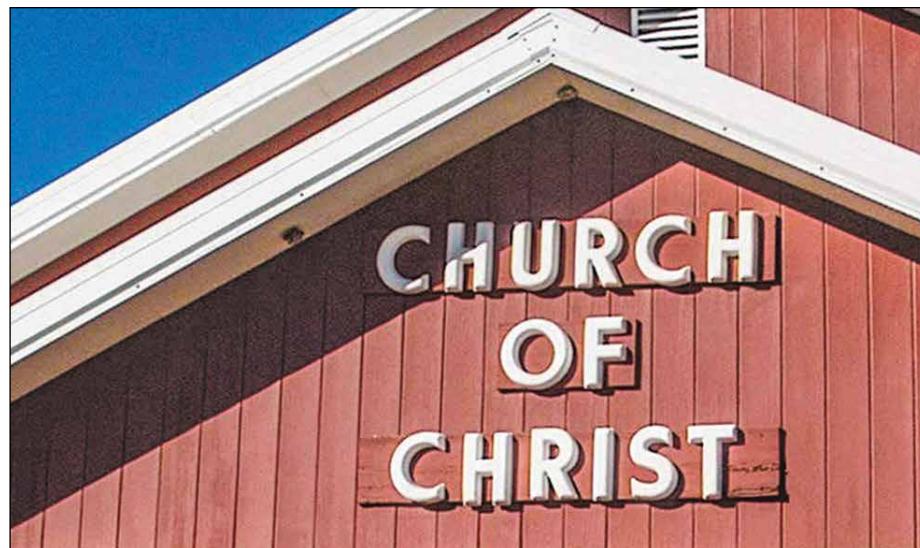
"I'm going as long as I'm able," said Keeble, who lived to be 108.

See **SISTER KEEBLE**, Page 4

### Inside Story



Bobby Ross Jr.



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Like many Churches of Christ, the congregation in Fargo, Texas, opts for all-caps lettering.

# Big C or little c?

**ARE CHURCHES OF CHRIST** truly nondenominational? As numbers decline in the U.S., Christian Chronicle readers discuss definitions and implications — and question whether or not the debate matters.

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

**D**iscussion of Churches of Christ in 2018 often boils down to a single letter.

Many of the fellowship's 1.4 million adherents in the U.S. prefer the lower-case "church of Christ," in keeping with the King James translation of Romans 16:16, from which the fellowship takes its name: "*The churches of Christ salute you.*"

"There's a wide spectrum of what defines a Church of Christ today," said Hollee McAdams, a minister's wife who worships with a congregation in Plano, Texas, that refers to itself as "the church of Christ on McDermott Road."

"Perhaps, though, it could be defined as a community of people that have been clothed with Christ," McAdams said, "who love God and his people and who do their best to glorify him, using the Bible as their directive."



McAdams

Despite the fellowship's lack of man-made creeds, some church members see the body of believers as a capitalized "Church of Christ" — a group of autonomous congregations, born out of the Stone-Campbell or Restoration Movement, that functions as a denomination in everything but name.

"Much ink has been spilled about how Churches of Christ are not a denomination," said Alex Ritchie, a member of the Woodbury Church of Christ in Minnesota. "While this may have been true to previous generations, this claim falls flat to younger Christians."

Creeds are "no longer the standard by which a denomination is measured," Ritchie said. "The Churches of Christ are unified by a common set of values and practices. While these are unwritten in most cases, they serve the same purpose as a formalized creed."

"To the outsider, the Churches of Christ have drawn clear lines on most theological and cultural positions, so we can no longer reasonably claim to be nondenominational."

See **NONDENOMINATIONAL**, Page 12

## *The art of faith-sharing*

**ATLANTA-AREA CHURCH** presents a vivid 'Jesus Journey' to community.

BY ANTHONY RHOADS | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

**MARIETTA, Ga.** — Lauren Williams wanted to teach her 3-year-old daughter, Kena, the significance of Christ's sacrifice on the cross. But how?

"She was ready to learn more about Jesus," said Williams, a former elementary school art teacher. So Williams painted five scenes from Jesus' story, celebrated around the world during Passion Week, on poster boards and set up the display in a friend's backyard.

Walking among the vivid depictions from Jesus' life "left a great impact on all of us, not just our child," said Williams, who earned a bachelor's in studio art from Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn., a university associated with Churches of Christ.

She began thinking about "how great it would be to share this experience with a lot of families," Williams said. "I wanted to create something larger than life and eye-catching so that children and adults alike could experience the wonder surrounding Jesus' life, death and resurrection."

Members of her congregation, the Burnt Hickory Church of Christ,

See **ART**, Page 24



CAMILLE WARREN

Lauren Williams adds details to one of her "Jesus Journey" illustrations.

# SISTER KEEBLE: Evangelist's widow lived by faith

FROM PAGE 3

Baptized in a Mississippi creek in 1913, this gentle woman known as "Sister Keeble" boasted a spiritual strength that belied her wrinkles, white hair and wheelchair.

For much of her life, she lived in the shadow of her husband. But Sister Keeble, who also became "Mama" to dozens of young girls, had her own story.

Born Aug. 6, 1898, Laura Catherine Johnson was one of seven girls and three boys in her family. Her father, Luke, worked in an iron foundry. Her mother, Susan, was a nurse.

Laura attended No. 2 High School, the black school in Corinth, Miss. Her great-granddaughter Gwen Cummings asked her one time if she resented the segregated education.

"We weren't taught that way," Cummings, an elder's wife who attends the Jackson Street Church of Christ in Nashville, recalled her saying. "We stayed busy, and we stayed circled in Christianity."

When Marshall Keeble came along, he was already a well-known minister. Laura was 35, working as a nanny and wondering if she might die an "old maid."

Keeble, the son of former slaves, was a recent widower and 20 years older than Laura. His first wife, Minnie, a Fisk University graduate, helped teach the preacher how to read and write. In 36 years of marriage, the couple had five children, two of whom died in infancy.

"Some of you ought to find me



ROB SCOBIE

**The late Laura Keeble, then 104, talks with Corrinne Osei at the Lakeshore Estates Retirement Nursing Home in Nashville, Tenn., in 2003.**

a good wife," Keeble told friends after Minnie died from an illness. "I can't live single the rest of my life as young as I am."

A relative suggested Laura, and Keeble initiated the courtship with letters. To see a preacher "flirting around with a woman" disgusted him, he said, so he never spent more than five minutes alone with her before they married. Keeble later said the relative "told me I'd get the best rose in the Johnson flower garden, and I think I did."

When I visited with her in 2003, Sister Keeble's love for her husband still shone through.

"Ain't he a dandy?" she said, holding a black-and-white photograph of her husband of 34 years. "He loved to

dress and go preach. He'd say, 'Come on, Mama, let's go to church.'"

She chuckled as she recalled their drawn-out honeymoon: a three-month tent revival that he preached in California.

While the minister spent weeks and even months on the road, Sister Keeble stayed home.

"There was plenty to do at home to keep her occupied," author Willie Cato wrote in the book "His Hand and His Heart ... The Wit and Wisdom of Marshall Keeble." "She became a very loving mother to his three children and also to the grandchildren."

Later, when the minister served as president of the Nashville Christian Institute, a school for black children, Sister Keeble kept up to a dozen

girls at a time in her home. She never gave birth to a child, but she became "Mama" to many.

However busy their days were, the Keebles always knelt and prayed before going to bed — and prayer remained an integral part of Sister Keeble's life when I met her.

When she fell and fractured her back a few years earlier, Sister Keeble insisted on thanking God before she sipped a cup of soup.

"She was in such pain ... but she said, 'Righteous father, I most humbly thank you for these blessings that you've given me,'" Cummings told me in 2003.

Sister Keeble's favorite song was "Faith Is The Victory." The song fit how she lived — by faith.

When I was working on the AP story, she was suffering from a nasty cough. Still, Sister Keeble had a relative roll her wheelchair to the nursing home lobby for worship.

She wore a purple dress and a diamond ring that her husband gave her — and a blue, decades-old church hymnal rested on her lap.

About 40 nursing home residents sang "O for a Faith that Will Not Shrink." Then men prayed and offered communion.

As the collection plate approached, Sister Keeble pulled out a \$5 bill.

"Nobody's expecting her to give," Cummings said. But Sister Keeble saw it differently.

"The Lord is," she said.

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# Demonstrating love despite differences



Christians gather at the West Broadway Church of Christ in Louisville, Ky., for the 50th annual areawide congregational singing.



PHOTOS BY JERRY L. MACON JR.

**Kenneth Ray of Louisville's 36th and Garland Church of Christ leads singing.**

## LOUISVILLE, Ky.

**F**or 50 years, the West Broadway Church of Christ has hosted an areawide congregational singing.

In 1968, the Beach Street Church of Christ moved to a new location and became the West Broadway congregation.

"At that time, they were the largest church building in the area, and it was decided they become the continuous host of the annual event among all the area Churches of Christ," said Jerry L. Macon Sr., ministering evangelist for the West Broadway church.

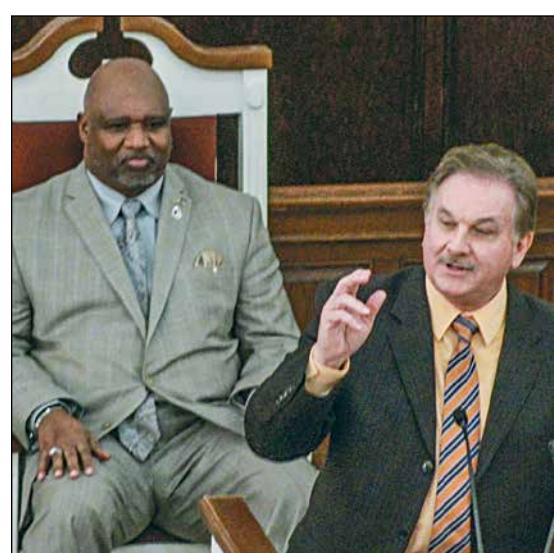
The recent event featured 21 song leaders from 13 congregations with 300 Christians from at least 15 Churches of Christ in attendance, Macon said.

"It is usually a packed house with some room on the balcony," said Doug Lalli, worship minister for the Westport Road Church of Christ in Louisville.

The 50th annual program also drew a letter of congratulations from Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin and a proclamation from Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer.

"We are very thankful to continue as the host for a program that proves we are truly the people of God," Macon said, "demonstrating love for one another despite our economic, geographic, style and racial differences." He closed the program with a reminder that "not only does our singing bring us together, but so does our belief in the Gospel of Christ."

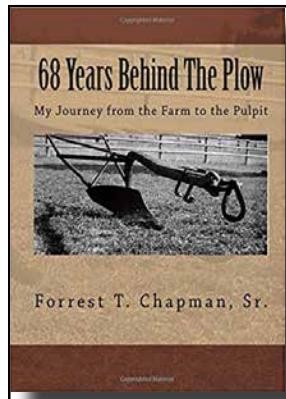
Next year's singing will be on the last Sunday in February, Macon said, "as we endeavor to 'keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.'"



Minister Mickey Burleson of the Watterson Trail Church of Christ in Louisville, Ky., leads singing. West Broadway minister Jerry L. Macon Sr. is seated behind him.



Members of Louisville, Ky.-area congregations enjoy a fellowship meal at the West Broadway church before the areawide congregational singing, which has brought black and white Christians together since 1968.



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## KANSAS

**SCOTT CITY**— Two leaders of the Scott City Church of Christ were killed Feb. 22 in a Kansas plane crash.

Pilot Daniel R. Dunn, 68, and passenger Michael T. Steele, 64, were identified as the victims.

Dunn served the community for 35 years as a family practice physician. He loved delivering babies and caring for the sick.

Steele was a U.S. postal carrier as well as a music teacher. He volunteered with the Boy Scouts and served as a nursing home board member.



Dunn



Steele

"So very proud of Micah Carter!" the church said on its Facebook page. "We love him!"

Carter got ushered into a small room with his younger sisters and a few other children after gunfire broke out Sept. 24. Once inside, the boy started piling furniture against the door to block the gunman from coming inside, according to the Middle Tennessee Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

He also calmed his sisters to get them to stop crying so the shooter wouldn't know they were hiding in the room, the newspaper noted.

## TEXAS

**ALLEN**— Elaine Krazer's Texas-based custom coffee roastery specializes in preparing imported coffee beans grown on Hawaiian plantations.

Through an in-house coffee shop at the Greenville Oaks Church of Christ, Krazer — a church member — helps support local ministries.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY TROY STIRMAN

David and Elaine Krazer

Krazer and her husband, David, "have assisted no less than 18 groups since the church coffee shop started nearly two years ago," fellow member Troy Stirman said.

## U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

**ST. THOMAS**— Months after Hurricane Irma ravaged the island, the 100-member St. Thomas Church of Christ still has no reliable power, minister Elton Terry reports.

"We need the resources to purchase a generator, repair the roof (and) repair interior and exterior damage to our building," Terry said.

Several members' homes also need repairs, and four families have been living in homeless shelters, Terry said. Donations may be sent to P.O. Box 502908, St. Thomas, VI 00805. For more information, email TerryElton@gmail.com.

## OKLAHOMA

**MCALESTER**— Two congregations recently joined together to serve local firefighters.

Members of the Main and Oklahoma Church of Christ and the Northtown Church of Christ hosted a cookout at a McAlester fire station.

"We grilled ribeye steaks to show our appreciation to the firemen," said Colby Clapp, pulpit minister for the Main and Oklahoma church.

About 60 church members encouraged a dozen firefighters, prayed for them and left them with a copy of the Bible, Clapp said.

## TENNESSEE

**ANTIOCH**— A boy who worked hard to protect his younger sisters during last year's shootings at the Burnette Chapel Church of Christ has been named Cub Scout of the Year, *The Tennessean* reported.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Micah Carter, in his Cub Scout uniform.

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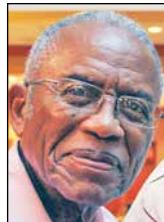
# KEEBLE: Preacher 'hated racism, but he loved the souls of men'

FROM PAGE 1

bullet struck Baptist pastor Martin Luther King Jr. on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn. He was 39.

Sixteen days later — on April 20, 1968 — natural causes claimed Keeble, who had brought an estimated 30,000 souls to Jesus in a 71-year ministry career. He was 89.

King was the most visible spokesman of the Civil Rights Movement, while Keeble — who grew up in a time of racially segregated schools and churches — only quietly worked for integration.



Gray

Fred Gray, a civil rights attorney and longtime elder of the Tuskegee Church of Christ in Alabama, knew both King and Keeble.

"Comparing Keeble to King is to compare two persons doing different things in different ages," Gray, 87, said in a recent interview with *The Christian Chronicle*.

## INTEGRATION: BETTER SLOW THAN WRONG

Keeble's gospel meetings often drew whites as well as blacks, making him a target of the Ku Klux Klan. But some criticized him for not taking a more militant position on racial equality.

"Integration? I would rather get it slow than get it wrong," Keeble said in 1964. He described how he had raised \$50,000 for an all-white Christian college, prompting school leaders to decide "they could not take the money I raised and turn our colored children away."

In the 1940s, Gray attended the Nashville Christian Institute, a Tennessee school for black children where Keeble was the president.

Gray served as one of Keeble's "boy preachers," who joined him at gospel meetings across the nation.

Later, Gray chose to become an attorney instead of a full-time preacher. He was the first civil rights attorney for King and represented Rosa Parks, the black seamstress who refused to give up her Montgomery, Ala., bus seat to a white man in 1955.

## 'LORD BLESS THE KING FAMILY'

While Keeble was popular with white members of Churches of Christ, King had many detractors.

Eugene Lawton, minister for the Newark Church of Christ in New Jersey, wrote a July 1968 piece in the *Chronicle* headlined "Negro Minister Tells What Discrimination Is."

Lawton cited examples such as being unable to attend a Christian college and being sent to the church basement for worship.

He ended with this example: "It's a preacher being dismissed on Monday because he prayed 'Lord bless the King family.'"

In his memoir "Bus Ride To Justice," Gray recounted that some of his fellow Christians had reservations about his work as a civil rights lawyer.

"Even Brother Marshall Keeble, the great pioneer preacher who had carried me, as a boy preacher, around with him representing the Nashville Christian Institute, probably did not understand my position," Gray wrote.

"One preacher who had been a student at NCI when I was there later said to Brother Keeble about me, 'Fred Gray is smart. He is involved in the Civil Rights Movement,'" the attorney added. "Brother Keeble is reported to have replied: 'He's too smart.'"

But Gray wrote that he understood Keeble's position: "A portion of his preaching and work in the church had been sponsored by white mem-

**Marshall Keeble  
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PHOTO VIA WWW.THERESTORATIONMOVEMENT.COM

An advertisement from the late 1960s, just before Marshall Keeble's death, invites believers black and white to a revival at the newly integrated National and High Church of Christ in Springfield, Mo. The church is "happy, united, growing," the ad says.

bers of the Church of Christ. I am quite confident that it was difficult for him to understand how one of his former boy preachers would now be standing in courtrooms fighting against racial discrimination."

In the recent interview, Gray said of Keeble: "He did a tremendous job with the church. I never expected him to do what Dr. King did."

## A MAN OF 'ANOTHER-WORLD SPLENDOR'

Edward J. Robinson is a history and Bible professor at Southwestern Christian College in Terrell, Texas, the only historically black college

associated with Churches of Christ. He wrote the book "Show Us How You Do It: Marshall Keeble and the Rise of Black Churches of Christ in the United States 1914-1968."

"Keeble without question hated racism, but he loved the souls of men," Robinson said. "Consequently, he downplayed racial insults and racial discrimination to accomplish the greater good. ... Keeble understood that had he contested the racial status quo, he would not have garnered widespread

More from this series: [www.christianchronicle.org](http://www.christianchronicle.org)

Robinson

monetary support, which made it possible to travel broadly and plant so many congregations."

A *Chronicle* editorial published after Keeble's death said: "There was another-world splendor about the person of Marshall Keeble while he was in the pulpit. He was popular, not only with his own race, but the white people felt he also was their friend and evangelist."

"Even though some of his best friends did not agree with his position on racial problems, they admired him for his unquestioned spirituality, his serene demeanor, his dedication to the Word of God as his guide, both in his life and the doctrine he preached."

## Online: Marshall Keeble's enduring print legacy

"The book will be preaching after you and I have gone home," Marshall Keeble wrote in 1931 to Benton Cordell Goodpasture, an editor of *The Gospel Advocate*. Goodpasture attended a gospel meeting in Valdosta, Ga., where Keeble preached. The editor had the minister's sermons transcribed into a book that catapulted Keeble to national prominence among Churches of Christ. Abilene Christian University in Texas presents a special exhibit of Goodpasture's correspondence with Keeble and historic photographs. Find links to the exhibit at [www.christianchronicle.org](http://www.christianchronicle.org).

# BOY PREACHERS: Ministers mentored by Keeble still influential

FROM PAGE 1

who retired in 2015 after 52 years as the minister for the Schrader Lane Church of Christ in Nashville.

Jack Evans, president emeritus of Southwestern Christian, the only historically black college associated with Churches of Christ, was another of Harrison's classmates.

"We're still preachers, and we still run together," Harrison said of his old friends from the Nashville Christian Institute. "We have a relationship that's very deep."

Harrison describes Keeble — born to former slaves 13 years after the end of the Civil War — as "the greatest man I've ever met in terms of wisdom.

"He would take difficult things — things you wouldn't even recognize or understand," Harrison said, "and make those things plain and draw pictures or parables with it."

Winrow remembers Keeble as a "mesmerizing" speaker who could hold his attention — even as a young boy — for hours. But Keeble wasn't particularly keen on pointing to a specific Bible chapter and verse. If someone asked for a Scriptural citation, Winrow said, Keeble was apt to say something like, "Just read all of John, and you'll run into it."

## INFLUENTIAL PROTÉGÉS

Many of the most influential African-American preachers in Churches of Christ over the past half-century got their start as boy preachers for Keeble, said James O. Maxwell, vice president of institutional advancement at Southwestern Christian.

Just three of those mentored by Keeble:

- Attorney **Fred Gray**, a long-time elder of the Tuskegee Church of Christ in Alabama. He is best known for representing civil rights icons Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks.

- **R.C. Wells**, minister emeritus of the Harlem Church of Christ in New York. He directed the National Lectureship, the premier annual event among African-American



**Evans**

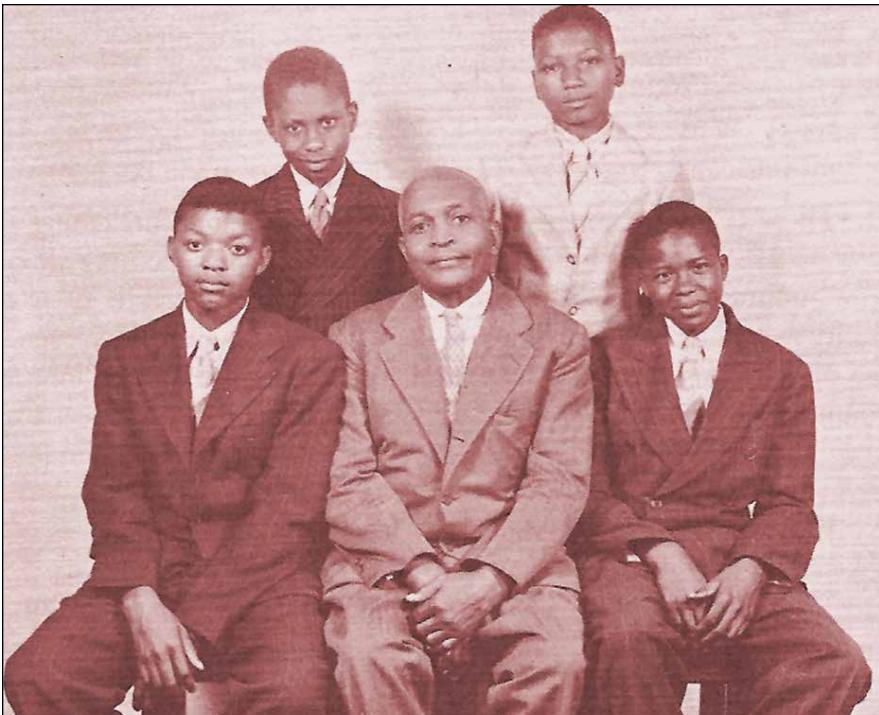


PHOTO TAKEN FROM "ROLL JORDAN ROLL: A BIOGRAPHY OF MARSHALL KEEBLE" BY J.E. CHOATE

Marshall Keeble sits with a few of his "boy preachers," including Hassen Reed and Robert McBride, both standing, and Robert Wood and Fred Gray.

Churches of Christ.

- **Franklin D. Florence**, senior minister of the Central Church of Christ in Rochester, N.Y. He is a longtime civil rights activist whose congregation recently organized a protest against President Donald Trump's alleged demeaning language against immigrants and certain countries.

Maxwell, a professor and administrator at Southwestern for 47 years, said that in the decades he and Evans worked together, the former president spoke often of Keeble.

"Almost every time that brother Dr. Evans and I would get together, he would say something that brother Keeble had said," Maxwell said. "He remembers a lot of the jokes that brother Keeble used to tell and a lot of his mannerisms and all."

"I know he was very, very impacted by him," Maxwell added. "Many others had the same feeling about him."

Keeble, whose ministry career spanned 71 years, became president



**Maxwell**

of the Nashville Christian Institute in 1942. Although his own formal education stopped at the seventh grade, Keeble worked hard to raise money for the fully accredited elementary and secondary school. For a quarter-century, the institute trained African-American boys and girls for service in Churches of Christ.

"As president of Nashville Christian Institute, he held that school together at a time when his pupils were sleeping on dirt floors," a *Christian Chronicle* editorial said after Keeble died at age 89 on April 20, 1968.

Thousands of Christians best remembered Keeble accompanied by two or three boy preachers while holding gospel meetings across the nation and generating funds to operate the school, the late J.E. Choate wrote in "Roll Jordan Roll: A Biography of Marshall Keeble."

Choate cited a 1946 news article in Tennessee's *Chattanooga Times* newspaper, which covered a four-week gospel meeting by Keeble that drew between 1,500 and 2,000 people each night.

Two 11-year-old preachers and an "old-timer" of 14 "are laying down

the gospel law to overflow crowds at the church of Christ tent meeting here and making them like it," the newspaper said. Keeble asked William Robinson — one of the 11-year-olds — if he could recite the entire Book of Acts.

The boy said he could.

But Leroy Blackman — the other 11-year-old — was not as quick to answer, eventually replying, "No, but I know all the fifth chapter of Matthew."

## 'WORKED WITHIN A SEGREGATED SYSTEM'

In 1967, the year before Keeble's death, the Nashville Christian Institute's white-controlled board voted to close the school and transfer its assets to David Lipscomb College, which had denied admission to black students.

In the *Gospel Advocate*, Keeble outlined reasons for the closing: shrinking enrollment following the integration of Nashville schools, the threat of losing accreditation, the difficulty of retaining teachers on their low salaries and the overwhelming need for updated facilities.

But many blacks who had sacrificed to keep the institute going felt betrayed and filed a lawsuit. Gray represented plaintiffs identified in court papers as "Negro members of the Church of Christ and alumni, patrons and students of NCI." The lawsuit failed, but in 2012, Lipscomb University — in an effort at racial reconciliation — awarded Gray an honorary doctorate.

In a recent interview, Gray — a Nashville Christian Institute student in the 1940s — said he and Keeble never discussed race relations.

While Gray set out to "destroy everything segregated I could find," Keeble "worked within a segregated system the best way he could," the attorney said. "There was no reason for Keeble (to talk) about civil rights," Gray said, noting that Keeble's role as president was to raise money for the school — much of it from white Christians — and recruit students.

The young men mentored by Keeble "have been pivotal leaders in African-American Churches of Christ for the past two generations," said Edward J. Robinson, a professor at Southwestern Christian.



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Dewayne Winrow, one of Marshall Keeble's former "boy preachers," has served the Reseda Church of Christ in Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley since 1975. "Brother Keeble was a unique personality," Winrow says.

"Unlike their spiritual 'grandfather,' all of these moved and matured in a different era and openly contested racial and social injustice," added Robinson, author of the book "Show Us How You Do It: Marshall Keeble and the Rise of Black Churches of Christ in the United States 1914-1968."

Wes Crawford, minister for the Glenwood Church of Christ in Tyler, Texas, wrote the book "Shattering the Illusion: How African American Churches of Christ Moved from Segregation to Independence." Crawford points to a "public" Keeble and a "private" Keeble.

"The former publicly acquiesced to white racism out of necessity, in order to raise money for

African-American education, most notably Nashville Christian Institute," Crawford told the *Chronicle*.



Crawford

"The latter resented white racism and looked forward to the day when segregation would be a thing of the past."

Some blacks might have considered Keeble to be an Uncle Tom, Harrison said. But as the



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Daniel Harrison, pictured with his wife, Frances, treasures memories of his time with Marshall Keeble.

boy preachers grew up, they came to understand him better.

"The older we became, the more we would recognize that brother Keeble did what he had to do at that particular time in history to keep the school alive," Harrison said.

Winrow, the California minister, is a highly educated theologian with multiple undergraduate and graduate degrees, including a doctorate in religion and social ethics from the University of Southern California.

Still, some of the former Pepperdine University professor's most important training came, he believes, from a preacher who never finished junior high.

"Brother Keeble was a unique personality," Winrow said.

"He was genuine in terms of his faith and his ministry. He was unselfish and sacrificial in terms of what he gave his life to. I certainly would have to attribute ... my commitment and even my theology and how I navigate theological currents of this day ... to being influenced by men such as Keeble."

Keeble was not a progressive in terms of culture, said Winrow, a former executive board member for the San Fernando Valley chapter of the NAACP.

"It all had to do with his theology," Winrow said. "Keeble was a person who believed strongly in what we would call the sovereignty of God. This is the way that he could function as a pacifist within a racist culture because he believed that in spite of societal ailments, God was ultimately in control. That's how he operated."

At the same time, Keeble was fearless, the California minister added: "He wasn't afraid of white people. He wasn't afraid of saying things that would be upsetting, anything like that. But then he knew how to say things, because he kept people laughing."

ADDITIONAL REPORTING: Hamil R. Harris

## Keeble fought racism by melting hearts

**W**hile Marshall Keeble didn't preach about racial reconciliation, his very life was racial reconciliation.

In the early 1900s, African-Americans were losing their lives at the hands of angry whites stirred up by books like "The Clansman" and the film "Birth of a Nation." But during this period, Keeble developed an ability to appeal to blacks and whites.

His father, Robert Keeble, was born a slave. Historians point out that Marshall Keeble learned many of the social graces of the antebellum South from his parents.

Baptized at age 14, he never went beyond seventh grade. At 18, he married Minnie Womack, who played a key role in educating her husband. She was known not to bite her tongue when it came to critiquing his early preaching.

The Keebles had five children, but two died in infancy and another in a tragic accident at age 10. Minnie Keeble died after 36 years of marriage, and Marshall Keeble outlived the rest of his children. Despite the pain of loss, he stayed positive.

He endured taunts and threats from white supremacists and once was forced to read a racist note from members of the Ku Klux Klan during a gospel meeting. On another occasion, a group of Klansmen sat on the front row while Keeble preached. One even came forward to be baptized.

As one church historian observed, "brother Keeble suffered all these indignities in silence and without any observable resentment."

He was a master of persuasion and thinking on his feet. During a gospel meeting in Memphis, Tenn., he noticed that a rope line had been set up to separate blacks from whites attending the event.

"I can't preach over those ropes," he said, and the organizers took them down.

When we examine the events that have taken place in the past 50 years within Churches of Christ, we must conclude that Marshall Keeble was an anointed man of God who stood alone. He had intellect, insight and a humble spirit that he used to stand at the front door of the angry lion of racism and melt hearts — long before Martin Luther King Jr. and other leaders of the Civil Rights Movement began their important work.

**HAMIL R. HARRIS**, a former reporter for *The Washington Post*, is a correspondent for *The Christian Chronicle* and a freelance writer who has conducted in-depth research on the life of Marshall Keeble. His reporting on race relations 50 years after the death of Martin Luther King Jr. has appeared in *The Washington Post* and *USA Today*. He preaches for the Glenarden Church of Christ in Maryland.

Voices



Hamil R. Harris

**'THE LEGACY OF TRUE SOLDIERS' must live on, says new president of Southwestern Christian College**

# Historically black and crucial to our future

BY LYNN McMILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

**H**e was only 3 years old when Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated and Marshall Keeble, pioneering African-American minister for Churches of Christ, died after a long, distinguished career.

Nonetheless, Ervin D. Seamster Jr. has grown up to serve in the shadow of these great men and many others — including Jack Evans, who served for nearly a half-century at the helm of Southwestern Christian College. In January 2017, Seamster took on the presidency of the Terrell, Texas, school, the only historically black college associated with Churches of Christ.

Seamster, himself a graduate of Southwestern, earned a Master of Divinity degree from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University and a Doctor of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.

In 1999 he became the first African-American special assistant to Royce Money, then president of Abilene Christian University in Texas. Seamster taught university courses, recruited talented men and women of color for ACU and raised money for Christian education.

After serving as a minister at the Marsalis Avenue Church of Christ in Dallas, he founded and served as minister for the Light of the World Church of Christ in southern Dallas county. The church now has about 450 members.

He is passionate about keeping the doors open to Southwestern, which has struggled financially in recent years.

"I believe God can make a way out of no way," he told *The Christian Chronicle*.

**How do you see the legacies of Martin Luther King Jr. and Marshall Keeble playing out in your own life?**

I am ever aware of the sacrifices made — before, during and after the civil rights movement in America. Today, the struggle continues.

The legacy of true soldiers is evidenced by how we remember them. To honor such men, I must use, to the best of my abilities, my

God-given talents, gifts and graces to keep inspiring others, lifting others to work, to serve, to be world-changers at a time when there is still an abundance of inequality, corruption, poverty and injustice.

The 50th anniversary of the loss of these two men gives one much to ponder. For me, that half-century is the bulk of my life here on Earth.

The true test of understanding the legacy of such great men is to never forget the debt they are owed for services rendered to humanity.

**In a desegregated higher education landscape, is Southwestern Christian College still relevant?**

Absolutely.

Many people, from the outside looking in, can't fathom the depth of culture that a majority of black people have always taken such pride in. Our rich heritage and the culture it produced are part of our DNA.

Some may see that as choosing to be separate or making some kind of political statement. In fact, a lot of what we have at Southwestern is a rich tradition of "my grandfather went to Southwestern" or "my parents met at Southwestern."

There is an intimacy here, not only because we are small but also because we strive to be family and to look out for one another. It is crucial for young black men and women to not have to fear that their culture will be frowned on, misunderstood or, sadly, even ridiculed at schools that do not embrace inclusion and true diversity.

**What role does Southwestern play in training young people for service in the Kingdom?**

Southwestern was founded by G.P. Bowser, an intellectual and a gifted theologian who stressed equality in life and in educational opportunities.

Because of segregation and racism, the few schools that admitted black ministerial students still operated under a double standard. That often



PATRICK SEWELL

**Southwestern Christian College President Ervin D. Seamster Jr. and student Jasmyne Burnett celebrate the college's recent grand prize win in the Ford HBCU Drive2Greatness program. Supporters of historically black colleges and universities cast votes for their favorite school. SWCC earned a prize valued at \$150,000.**

meant entering through back doors, drinking from different fountains, being relegated to certain sections of the classroom. Southwestern believes in equality and accountability to one Master.

Our role is the total person. We prepare students to serve in church offices, to understand business and financial decisions, to administer to the various communities where they will be located and to take on musical and praise leadership. And, of course, they train rigorously for the pulpit.

**What attracted you to the presidency?**

A desire to give back to the amazing institution that nurtured and encouraged me as a young man, but also the urgency to save a unique, one-of-a-kind academic structure for future generations.

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

The one that it has always enjoyed. We have not changed anything the great men before me did, as far as being here for everyone, and we are tremendously inclusive.

Remember, Southwestern was founded because there was a great need for schools that accepted, trained and educated blacks. It would be a tragedy to lose the rich history at Southwestern — the last Church of Christ-supported institution of higher learning in the country that is considered and classified as an HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities). That's why it is important to have a more open relationship among black, white, Hispanic — all Churches of Christ, coming together for the greater good.

What is the greater good for Southwestern? Sustaining. Our. Legacy. We do not leave or close or abandon the principles that afforded us access to this incredible, historic journey.

**Is there anything else you'd like to add?**

I was on a conference call recently with officials from the White House. It was an invitation-only call to hear from the newly appointed chairman of the President's Board of Advisors on HBCUs. At present, there are only 103 HBCUs left and Southwestern is proud to be among those schools that have survived and thrived through joys and pains, ups and downs — all of the struggles that make human beings stronger.

But without support — from donors and corporate partners, alumni, and the churches that love us — Southwestern will face an even tougher road ahead. But I believe in God's plan, and I intend to carry it out as we stay on the move.



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# NONDENOMINATIONAL: New Testament church 'can and does exist today'

FROM PAGE 3

Ritchie was one of 645 Christians, representing all 50 states, who responded to a *Christian Chronicle* online survey that coincided with the latest edition of "Churches of Christ in the United States" by Nashville, Tenn.-based 21st Century Christian. The directory shows a drop of more than 72,000 adherents (baptized members and their families) since the previous edition in 2015.



Harris

That decline mirrors trends in denominations across the country, said Erinn Harris, who ministers for the Capital City Church of Christ in Sacramento, Calif.

"Our identity was based on concepts that are not true," Harris said about reasons behind the decline. "For example, (some) people believe things such as Churches of Christ are the only true churches. ... Some believe that we are the only ones with the correct interpretation of Scripture."

Other respondents, including Barry O'Dell, cited a decline in evangelism — changing Jesus' Great Commission in the Gospel of Matthew, "*go and make disciples of all nations*," into "open the building, and they will come" — as a prominent factor in the fellowship's declining numbers.

O'Dell, who worships with the Mammoth Spring Church of Christ in Arkansas, said that one of his concerns for the future is "that many in our fellowship view the church as just another denomination among the many. When there is no distinction from man-made institutions, the church no longer serves as the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

"Every denominational body can

be traced to a specific time, place and human originator," O'Dell said. "The Church of Christ, as found in the New Testament, can and does exist today."

## SPEAK WITH A BIBLICAL VOCABULARY

The *Chronicle* uses the capitalized "Churches of Christ," in keeping with the Associated Press' style for news reporting. Some readers object to the practice, expressing concern that capitalizing "Church" and using the fellowship's name as a modifier ("Church of Christ preacher") is tantamount to identifying the fellowship as a denomination.

When capitalizing "Church," "Is the *Chronicle* referring to something more than, less than, or other than the churches of Christ of which we read in the New Testament?" asked Hugh Fulford, a longtime minister for congregations in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Texas.

"I look forward to the day when those of us who are committed to being the one, non-denominational church of the New Testament will have a clearer concept and view of the church," Fulford said, "when we can and will speak of it with a biblical vocabulary, and when we can again unashamedly set forth the clear and distinctive plea for a return to the New Testament in all things religious."

## DEFINING 'DENOMINATION'

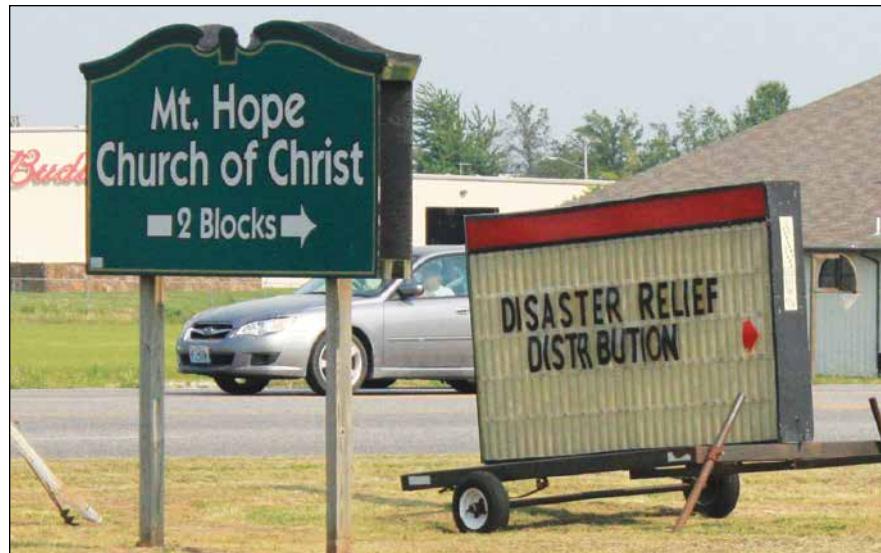
In many ways, Churches of Christ conform to the dictionary definition of "denomination" — a religious organization whose congrega-

tions are united in their adherence to its beliefs and practices, said Wes Woodell, who ministers for The Crossings Church Collinsville in Illinois. The congregation is the third St. Louis-area church plant by The Crossings Church, a Church of Christ in Wentzville, Mo.

# BIG questions for Churches of Christ

## Second in a series

See previous stories in this series plus information about the *Chronicle's* survey at [www.christianchronicle.org](http://www.christianchronicle.org).



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Regardless of the lettering on their signs, Churches of Christ share a desire to help — especially in times of disaster. In 2011, the Mt. Hope Church of Christ in Webb City, Mo., served as a base for relief efforts after a devastating tornado in nearby Joplin.

"I understand the argument about big C and little c congregations," Woodell said, "but practically speaking, most Churches of Christ do have very similar beliefs and practices and would fit the standard English definition of a denomination

"I get the plea to be non-denominational, and it resonates with me personally," he added. "I consider myself a non-denominational Christian. I simply want to understand the Scriptures and do my best to become the man Jesus wants me to be."

## CELEBRATING NONDENOMINATIONAL FAITH

"Legally and technically, the Churches of Christ that grew from the Stone-Campbell movement are not now and have never been

a denomination," said Dan Bouchelle, president of Missions Resource Network, a Texas-based non-profit that serves the fellowship.

"Practically and spiritually, we have often acted and thought like (a denomination) — though we have not often been willing to admit it," Bouchelle said. "I am glad we never organized into a denomination and greatly value our congregational freedoms. However,

to claim with bold defiance, 'We are not a denomination' is disingenuous in spirit though technically correct.

"This is not a time to move more toward being denominational out of fear. Rather, it is time to celebrate that non-denominational Christianity is on the rise and recover our non-denominational, unity focused identity and move into the ambiguity of the times without fear, retaining the best of what we've learned through God's work among our tribe."

## A PLACE TO GO VS. A WAY OF LIVING

"I think 'big C or little c?' is an irrelevant argument on semantics," said Freddie Lorick Jr., youth minister for the Palmetto Church of Christ in Columbia, S.C. "The

important thing is that both Cs continually point to Christ."

In 2018, "churches have become more of a safe haven for people retreating from the world instead of a movement of people seeking to make disciples of all nations," Lorick said. "Churches have become more focused on upholding traditions rather than loving our communities.

"I believe that in many ways our churches have become too closely



Bouchelle



Lorick

associated with our buildings and trying to be this traditional idea of what the Church of Christ is. We have become a place to go instead of a way of living.

"Matthew 5:13-17 states how the followers of Christ should be salt and light. We bring out the 'God flavors' and 'God colors' in this world, meaning the Church of Christ should show people what heaven looks like here on earth."

#### 'JESUS KNOWS WHO HIS SHEEP ARE'

Like Lorick, many survey respondents said that Churches of Christ spend too much effort debating the nature of the fellowship itself.

"Our obsession with talking about our own identity is distracting us while the rest of the world moves on," said Aaron Campbell, a member of the Farragut Church of Christ in Knoxville, Tenn. "As we continue to fuss, fight, split and grow smaller, we will become irrelevant and invisible to the world around us."

Others said they see Churches of Christ less as an earthly body and more as an ideal — born from a desire to practice simple, New Testament Christianity.

"I believe that Jesus knows who his sheep are, and we do not have to delineate exactly where the boundaries of his kingdom's reach," said Daryl Beatty, who worships with Hope Fellowship, a church in the Houston area.

Once, on a trip to China, Beatty looked for a church to worship with on Sunday. He found a congregation on the internet.

"On the website, someone had asked 'What denomination are you?'" Beatty recalled. "The answer was, 'We don't have the luxury of worrying about that here.'

"I fear that, if we focus too much on that luxury here, we may get to the point where we no longer have that luxury. Jesus prayed for unity in John 17, and the modern Church of Christ was born as a unity movement. Let it not become focused on division and delineation of exactly who is a member."

#### 'MAYBE WE HAVE ALL LOST OUR FOCUS'

For centuries, followers of Christ relied heavily on people in authority to tell them what God said, what they should believe and what they

should do, said Carl Royster, data collector for the "Churches of Christ in the United States" directory.

"The Restoration Movement sprang forth from a time when people were free to study the Scriptures for themselves and free to question what they and their ancestors had been told by others for so long," Royster said. "People by the thousands came to hear and believe in the truths found in the Bible."

Two centuries later, far too many believers allow themselves to be consumed by a quest to be "right," Royster said, noting that the Great Commission does not say, "Go and prove yourselves worthy by making sure you get every single minute detail exactly right." Neither does it say, "Go make sure you have an enjoyable experience. You are free to do whatever it is that makes you happy and feel better about yourself."

"Now, do I think that the Churches of Christ as a whole strive

diligently to follow the New Testament pattern as all people should? Absolutely," Royster said. "Have we gotten too caught up at times in the fine details that we have missed the big picture? I think so.

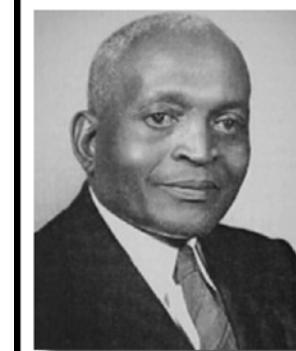
"Perhaps we need to put more energy and effort into the things that really do matter, such as showing the love of Christ to each other and to the world around us, and teaching a lost world about Christ and him crucified. I think being a Christian and a part of Christ's body, his church, does not mean I have to get everything exactly right all the time or that all congregations have to do everything exactly the same, but neither does it mean we are free to just do whatever we want to please ourselves. After all, it's not about us; it's about God."

"So, denomination or non-denominational; one cup or multiple cups during communion; a cappella or instrumental; a paid evangelist or not; a praise team or a single song leader — is that really what Christ is all about? Maybe we all have lost our focus just a little."

**RELATED VIEWS:** 'Of Christ: He's in our heart. He's in our soul. And he's in our name.' Page 28



Royster



## Marshall Keeble

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*A Story of the Most Powerful  
Negro Preacher in  
The Church of Christ*

*Author: Richard Lewis Hunter, Sr.*

This year is the Golden Anniversary of Keeble's death. In April of 1968, I entered the sanctuary of the largest Church of Christ in middle Tennessee where Ira North was the Senior Minister. The church was packed from wall to wall with more Caucasians than African Americans. That same month the nation lost Martin Luther King, Jr. on April 4, 1968. What a paradox--two men that were giants in their respective struggles. As I sat at the funeral I reflected on his many sermons at his home congregation, Jackson Street Church of Christ. No one ever assesses the effect of one's life until you count the fruits of their labor. Everyone views life through a different prism of reality. This book seeks to explore the detrimental effect of Marshall Keeble's life on the Negro Church and the trajectory of its success and/or failure based on his philosophy in dealing with racism within the Churches of Christ.

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The **Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences** invites applications for a full-time, tenure-track position in animal science, beginning August 2018. Applicants must have a master's degree in animal sciences, or closely related field, from an AVMA-accredited institution, with a doctoral degree preferred (Ph.D., Ph.D./D.V.M or D.V.M). Individuals working toward terminal degrees will be considered. Our faculty are expected to be exceptional teachers who value working with and mentoring students. Faculty also are expected to engage in scholarly activity with interest in continued growth and enhancement of the department's participation in ACU's undergraduate research program. The animal science major has four concentrations: animal industry and business, biotechnology and research, livestock management, and pre-veterinary medicine and health. Information about the department is available at [acu.edu/agenv](http://acu.edu/agenv).

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The **Department of Communication and Sociology** invites applications for an instructor-level position beginning August 2018. Duties include serving as director of forensics (DOF) for a national-level forensics program and teaching a variety of communication studies courses. The successful candidate should be a communication generalist and be prepared to teach various courses, including debate and the basic communication course. The teaching load is six courses per academic year within a semester system. The DOF assignment is in addition to the teaching load. Applicants must have a master's degree in communication, and teaching and forensics experience. Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience. The deadline for filling the position is May 1, 2018. Information about the department is available at [acu.edu/communication](http://acu.edu/communication).

The **Department of Engineering and Physics** invites applications for faculty positions in engineering and physics that likely will begin in Fall 2018. The position(s) will be contingent on funding and may be at any faculty or contract level. For a tenure-track position, scholarship/research is required. A strong interest in undergraduate teaching is required, and involving undergraduates in scholarship activities is highly encouraged. ACU offers degrees in physics and engineering with various concentrations. The B.S.E. degree has recently been accredited by ABET, and the department is housed in the new \$50 million science complex that includes the state-of-the-art Halbert-Walling Research Center, the Engineering and Physics Laboratories at Bennett Gymnasium, and the Robert R. and Kay Onstead Science Center. The department has a reputation of producing students who excel not only in academics, but also show strong personal characteristics of honesty and integrity. Information about the department is available at [acu.edu/physics](http://acu.edu/physics) and [acu.edu/engineering](http://acu.edu/engineering).

## The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication

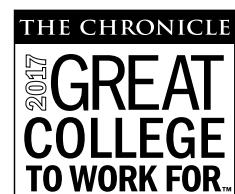
invites applications for a full-time, tenure-track faculty member to join six colleagues beginning Aug. 1, 2018, in an ACEJMC-accredited program in a state-of-the-art facility. About 150 students are enrolled in advertising/public relations, convergence journalism or multimedia majors within the department or in an interdisciplinary graphic design/advertising major. Students in the advertising/PR major spend two semesters working at Morris+Mitchell, a student-run agency. The ideal candidate will have academic credentials and professional experience for teaching public relations courses in the ad/PR major. Though not required, applicants who bring a second area of interest in sports communication, social media or film are particularly encouraged to apply. A terminal degree is strongly preferred, but applicants who are ABD will be considered. Research and service expectations support the university's status as a premier comprehensive university. Information about the department is available at [acu.edu/jmc](http://acu.edu/jmc).

## College of Education and Human Services

*Dr. Donnie Snider, Dean, ACU Box 28276, Abilene, Texas 79699-8276*

The **Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition** invites applications for a full-time instructor with responsibilities as director of the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) and as an instructor for nutrition courses. The DPD is accredited through the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics. The B.S. in nutrition contains four concentrations: DPD, community, exercise science, and food service. The ideal candidate will have a master's degree in nutrition or closely related field and experience in various areas of nutrition. An average of 40-50 students are enrolled in the nutrition degree, and the new faculty member will function as a mentor to nutrition students and as a sponsor of the ACU Student Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. The position will begin Aug. 1, 2018. Information about the degree and DPD is available at [acu.edu/undergraduate/academics/nutrition](http://acu.edu/undergraduate/academics/nutrition).

See [acu.edu/academics/provost/positions](http://acu.edu/academics/provost/positions) for complete descriptions of these positions. 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.





PHOTOS BY GEORGE AKPABL

Muhindo Malembe sets up chairs outside the humble building that serves as a maternity ward for the village of Difemou in the West African nation of Mali.

# Soul searching across the Sahara

## DIFEMOU, Mali

**T**here's no electricity and no school in this small farming community near the southern edge of the Sahara Desert. Girls as young as 9 years old are married to polygamous husbands.

But two African Christians, no strangers to hardship themselves, are working to change that.

Muhindo and Philo Malembe, natives of the faraway Democratic Republic of Congo, serve as missionaries in Difemou, near the town of Kati and about an hour from Mali's capital, Bamako.

George Akpabli, director of the Bible Training Center in Benin, met the couple recently as he skirted the edge of the Sahara. Akpabli, who trains evangelists to serve Churches of Christ across French-speaking



Camels cross George Akpabli's path as he journeys along the south Sahara.

Africa, and his wife, Joyce, visited and encouraged the faithful in Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali.

In the shade of a simple cement building, as the temperature passed 100 degrees Fahrenheit, the Malembes shared their story with the ministry trainer.

They were living in Nairobi, Kenya, where Muhindo Malembe was studying nursing, when war broke out in their home country. Unable to return, they decided to move to Kati to serve the poor at the urging of a mission group that abandoned them

shortly after the move, they said.

"On their own, they decided to work among the malnourished children," Akpabli said. The couple launched a ministry to help the children enroll and stay in school.

"They have more than 200 kids in the program," Akpabli said. "They have adopted seven children who are orphans. They have three children of their own."

The village leaders in Difemou gave the couple the small building to use as a clinic and maternity ward. Philo Malembe serves as a midwife.

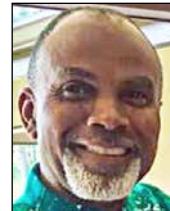


Muhindo and Philo Malembe in Mali.

Their service to the community allows them to share Jesus, Akpabli said. They've planted Churches of Christ in Difemou and another village, Satoly. Muhindo Malembe preaches for both.

Akpabli also visited church members in Bamako including Peter Ofori, a native of Ghana and long-time missionary to Mali.

The Nsawam Road Church of Christ in Accra, Ghana, oversees the work in Mali with support from the North Boulevard Church of Christ in Murfreesboro, Tenn.



Akpabli

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PHOTOS PROVIDED BY THE CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST

A few of the graduates of the SerCris program in Campo Grande, Brazil, celebrate.

## Church appoints elders as it trains leaders for ministry across Brazil

**CAMPO GRANDE, Brazil** — Christians in this city of 850,000 souls receive in-depth Bible study and hands-on ministry experience through SerCris — a training program of the Downtown Church of Christ. The congregation recently celebrated its latest batch of graduates, bringing the total to more than 100 since 2004. The program's goal: assist in leader development for churches throughout southern Brazil.

The church, launched in 1981 by four U.S. families, has more than 200 people in attendance on Sundays and has assisted in planting six other *Igrejas de Cristo* ("Churches of Christ" in Portuguese) in the city of 850,000 souls. The church has operated without foreign support for 23 years, its leaders said.



Carrie and Wes Gotcher in Brazil.

One day after the graduation, the church installed three elders and five deacons. In attendance were Wes and Carrie Gotcher of the Golf Course Road church in Midland, Texas, which was part of the church-planting project and has supported the training program since its inception.

### GREECE

**ATHENS** — The Omonia Church of Christ worships in languages including Greek, English, Bulgarian and Russian. Recently the congregation launched a Friday Bible study in yet another language — Arabic.

The church serves refugees from across the Middle East and has baptized men from countries including Iraq and Syria. The new Christians "invite other believers, as well as their Muslim friends" to the Arabic Bible study, said Omonia minister Alexander Melirrytos. "We see God's hand among these young men and their deep commitment —

not only to study and be fed themselves, but also to teach others, so they can, in turn, teach others."

### HAITI

**CHABELLAN** — The Chabellan Church of Christ, which meets near the tip of Haiti's southern peninsula, rebuilt its facility, damaged by Hurricane Matthew in 2016, with assistance from U.S. congregations and Haitian Christians. The church, planted by members of the Delmas 28 Church of Christ in Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, had more than 1,000 people attend its reopening, said Delmas 28 minister Jean Elmera.

# To heal Africa

**POTHOLE, MOSQUITOS AND KIDNAPPERS** haven't stopped Dr. Bob and Annette Whittaker from serving God in spiritual, medical ministry.

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

## MATSAPHA, Swaziland

**I**f we can get Matsapha under control, we can control the nation." Annette Whittaker points to a map on her smartphone as she repeats those words — told to her by a public health official in this tiny kingdom in southern Africa.

She speaks at lighting speed — the southern California in her voice tinged with West African English — as she describes Matsapha, where she and her husband, Dr. Robert Whittaker, have served as missionaries for five years with the Mathangeni Church of Christ Clinic.

Matsapha is a densely populated neighborhood of young job seekers, factory workers, single mothers and their families. The community has the highest incidence of HIV in Swaziland — which itself has highest HIV prevalence per capita in the world. In 2016, 8,800 of the nation's 1.3 million souls were newly infected with HIV and 3,900 died of AIDS-related illnesses, according to United Nations data.

Annette Whittaker has heard heartbreaking stories, including that of a young woman who routinely tested negative during her pregnancy, but tested positive three weeks after delivery. Weeping, she shared her feelings of abandonment, her fears for her child. Her husband refused to take the HIV test.

Stop the virus here, in Matsapha, and cut the head from the serpent.

Listening to the quiet determination in Annette Whittaker's voice, it's easy to believe that she and her husband may do exactly that — with God's help.

## DIVINE CALLINGS

God, after all, is at the heart of the Whittakers' ministry, begun more than 40 years ago on African soil — in countries thousands of miles apart, and thousands more from their new home in Swaziland.

Both born in the wealthy West, they determined early on to serve the Lord wherever he led them — regardless of the mosquito nets they would have to sleep under or the countless potholes they would have to negotiate on Africa's roads.

For Annette, formerly Lumbleau, that call came at age 7, when the Los Angeles native resolved to dedicate her life to serving others — as a nun. But her beliefs wavered in her teens — partly, she said, because of the science and comparative religion classes she took at a Catholic high school. By age 19, she considered herself an atheist.

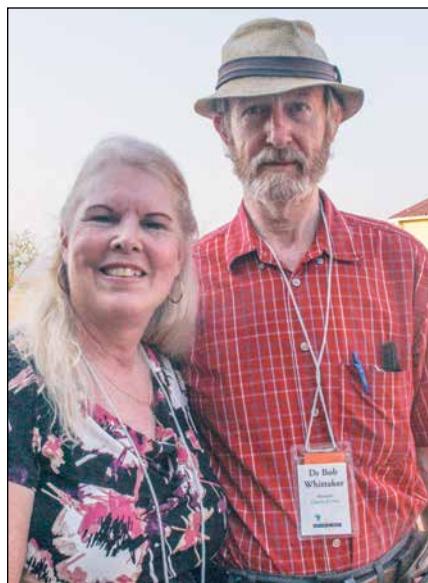
Through circumstances she can only describe as the work of God's hand, she moved

across the country to Kentucky.

"Three days after I arrived, I told my story to a young man who immediately invited me to the Christian Student Fellowship at Northern Kentucky University," she said. "There I found people who not only attended church, but truly believed and had changed their hearts and lives as they read the Bible daily. A year later I was baptized and have never looked back."

She earned a degree in math and joined the Peace Corps as a teacher, serving in Kenya. Her church's elders helped her find missionaries there from Churches of Christ. She later earned a master's in business from Abilene

CONTINUED



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Annette and Dr. Bob Whittaker visit African Christian College in Tubungu, Swaziland, for a recent lectureship.



A sign invites patients to the Mathangeni Church of Christ Clinic, which overlooks a southern African community ravaged by HIV — Matsapha, Swaziland. The clinic's name means "big water tanks" in the local language, referring to the large tanks near the facility. The clinic stands next to the meeting place of the Matsapha Church of Christ, planted by Swazi Christian Bheki Mamba and other students from nearby African Christian College.

ERIK TRYGGESTAD



The Whittakers stand with some of the villagers they served in rural Nigeria during their years at Nigerian Christian Hospital.



Bob Whittaker at NCH in early 2005.



Maasai women and children crowd into a van for Bible study with Annette Whittaker in 2011.

**CONTINUED**  
Christian University in Texas, auditing Bible courses as she studied. She returned to Africa to work with Chimala Mission, a ministry supported by Churches of Christ, where she taught school.

Bob Whittaker, meanwhile, was in West Africa at Nigerian Christian Hospital, another ministry supported by Churches of Christ.

He was born in Wales — in a house next to the birthplace of “Lawrence of Arabia” himself, T.E. Lawrence. As he studied in medical school, Whittaker explored the teachings of Hindu mystics, meditating and fasting. He knew he would soon be dealing with life-or-death situations, so he wanted to base his practice on solid faith.

One day, while cycling, he saw a flyer in the back window of a van advertising “Brother Winstanley’s Evangelistic Meeting.” Curious, he decided to visit.

The minister, Albert Winstanley, had planted Churches of Christ across the United Kingdom — and once worked as a hospital porter to support his preaching. On the day Whittaker visited, Winstanley preached about the conversion of the apostle Paul. The young medical student responded to the invitation and was baptized.

He went to Nigeria in 1975 after

reading an article in a church publication, *Firm Foundation*, by Dr. Henry Farrar. Farrar, who had served at Nigerian Christian Hospital since 1964, encouraged fellow doctors to use their vacation time to work with him.

After two years of volunteering, Whittaker committed to long-term work in Africa. He studied at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in England before returning to Nigeria to serve as Farrar’s successor.

A few years later, while attending a summer seminar in missions at Abilene Christian, Whittaker and Lumbleau met. Infatuated and intrigued by the parallels in their lives, they resolved to visit each other’s ministries.

A year later, Whittaker traveled to Tanzania — to propose.

“I decided that if Annette was going to go to Africa whether she was married or not, that’s the kind of wife I needed,” he said, “so I went and got her.”

Six months later, Lumbleau came to Nigeria. They were married in the chapel at Nigerian Christian Hospital. Veteran missionary Wendell Broom performed the ceremony.

#### ‘YOU COULD HAVE EASILY DIED’

Bob Whittaker shared the Gospel as he healed the sick alongside Nigerian physician Chisara Umezurike. The “preaching doctors”

performed countless operations and delivered about 730 babies annually — sometimes performing Caesarian sections with lights powered by backup generators and car batteries.

“You could have easily died from the illness,” Whittaker once told a patient after surgery, “but God has been merciful to you and spared your life. And now your task is to find out what God’s purpose is for your life.”

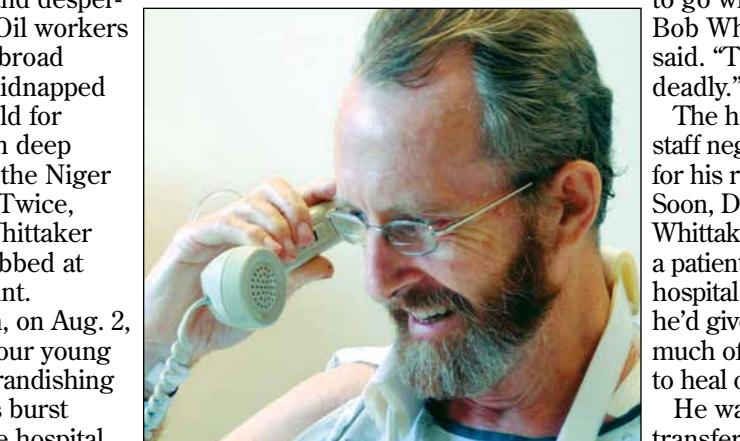
Annette Whittaker launched a “Salvation Nets” ministry. Nigerian Christian women made mosquito nets treated with insecticide to reduce the risk of malaria. Nigerian ministers bought the nets and sold them for a small profit. Annette Whittaker also built a nursery and a primary and high school on the hospital’s grounds to “give to the hospital family the same education I give to my own family,” she said.

The couple had a son, Ozioma, whose name means “good news” in the Nigerian Igbo language. Ozi Whittaker is now a medical student himself, studying at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

#### ‘I COULD HAVE DIED SO EASILY’

God prospered the Whittakers — and the churches they served — during their years in Nigeria.

But as the country of 186 million people entered the 21st Century,



In Nashville, Tenn., Bob Whittaker talks to a well-wisher after his kidnapping ordeal.

and rehab. Despite the suffering, he saw God’s hand at work, he told *The Christian Chronicle* from his hospital bed in Nashville.

“You’ve finally come at last for me,” Bob Whittaker thought to himself, later recalling, “I was totally relaxed. I thought, ‘Well, I’ve always believed in God. I believe this world is a transient place.’ There was no need to worry.”

The men took him to a bamboo thicket just a few miles from the

hospital and held him for 48 hours as his family and Christians around the world prayed for his release. A stray bullet had shattered his right arm. Another had injured his wife.

“These young men ... have these powerful weapons and no wisdom

to go with it,” Bob Whittaker said. “They’re deadly.”

The hospital’s staff negotiated for his release. Soon, Dr. Bob Whittaker was a patient at the hospital where he’d given so much of his life to heal others.

He was transferred to Vanderbilt University Medical Center for surgery

and rehab. Despite the suffering, he saw God’s hand at work, he told *The Christian Chronicle* from his hospital bed in Nashville.

“I’ve been saved,” he said. “I could have died so easily. We can’t tie God down to our expectations. He’s still there, and he’s still caring for me.”

CONTINUED

# Medical missions in Africa

“Their lives are very hard, and this is an understatement,” Dr. Frank Black, a longtime medical missionary, writes of the African people in his new book, *“Happiness is a Fat Gecko.”* Africans have a strong work ethic, he writes, and although “their lives are replete with much suffering and death ... they maintain a strong sense of family, community and a joy — yes, a joy.”

Following is a partial list of Christian hospitals and medical ministries in Africa associated with and supported by members of Churches of Christ. Know of others? Send your medical mission stories to erik@christianchronicle.org.

#### 1. International Health Care Foundation, African Christian Hospitals:

The nonprofit, with U.S. offices in Searcy, Ark., partners with Nigerian Christian Hospital in Abia state, Nigeria; Palmer Memorial hospital in Akwa Ibom state, Nigeria; Jeremy Harper Medical Clinic in Imo state, Nigeria; Church of Christ Mission Clinics in Kumasi and Yendi, Ghana; Tanzania Christian Clinic in Monduli; and Community Health Partnership in Mwanza, Tanzania. [www.ihcf.net](http://www.ihcf.net)

**2. Hope Springs:** The nonprofit provides skills training to refugees from Boko Haram militants in Nigeria and operates an orphanage, school and medical clinic in Dona-Manga, Chad.

The ministry drills clean water wells in both countries and has a U.S. office in Gallatin, Tenn. [hopespringsint.com](http://hopespringsint.com)

#### 3. Chimala Mission:

For more than 50 years, Chimala Mission Hospital has served the people of southern Tanzania.

The facility is part of a nonprofit that includes a ministry training school. The New York Avenue Church of Christ in Arlington, Texas, supports the work. [www.chimalamission.com](http://www.chimalamission.com)

**4. The Malawi Project:** The faith-based humanitarian organization works with the people of Malawi to improve their physical and spiritual wellbeing.

The nonprofit, with U.S. offices in Indianapolis, partners with churches, hospitals and ministry training schools to develop programs in agriculture, education, medicine, mobility, famine relief and resource conservation. [www.malawiproject.org](http://www.malawiproject.org)

#### 5. Zambia Mission:

The ministry includes Namwianga Zonal Health Center, which offers surgical and outpatient services, HIV/AIDS treatment and dental services. U.S. medical personnel participate in large-scale, annual mission trips to rural areas of the southern African nation. The nonprofit’s U.S. office is in Abilene, Texas. [www.zambiamission.org](http://www.zambiamission.org)

**6. Nhewe Mission:** The Brian Lemons Memorial Hospital has specialized clinics for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, obstetrics, surgery and outpatient services. It is part of a ministry that includes a 1,500-student Christian school and orphan care, with a U.S. office in Wichita, Kan. [nhowemission.org](http://nhowemission.org)

**7. Mathangeni Church of Christ Clinic:** The clinic, next door to the meeting place of the Matsapha Church of Christ in Swaziland, offers prenatal services, cervical cancer screening, HIV testing and counseling and immunizations.



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ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Bob Whittaker takes a quick break during a busy day at the Mathangeni clinic in 2017.

#### CONTINUED

#### TO STOP A PANDEMIC

Constructed in 2014, the Mathangeni clinic includes a pharmacy and counseling rooms. The Whittakers and local health workers provide HIV testing, immunization, prenatal care and screenings for cervical cancer. They hope to add a maternity clinic. The clinic's official opening, presided over by Swaziland's king, is proposed for April.

Last year, from September to December, more than 300 people tested positive for HIV at the clinic, Bob Whittaker said. Many, especially men, are reluctant to take the test. So the clinic initiated a program that allows patients accompanied by an adult male to skip the sometimes-lengthy queue for services. But those males are counseled to test for HIV.

"One day three young men came," Annette Whittaker said. "When they became aware that they were going to be asked to test, there was a flurry of excitement, screaming and laughter as they literally ran away."

Counselors talked to the young men and convinced them to take the test. All three got negative results and were overjoyed.

Another man who, at first, gave the typical "I'm not ready to be tested today; I'll come another time" excuse later agreed to the test, Bob Whittaker said. His result was positive and he gladly began treatment for the virus — all in the course of two hours.

"I was amazed and delighted," the physician said. "This restored my faith that the Swazi HIV pandemic might be stopped — stopped by everyday people thinking like this man."

Bob Whittaker is an elder of the Matsapha Church of Christ, a 110-member congregation that for years had dreamed of opening a clinic on its property, said Edith Mamba, whose husband, Bheki, also is an elder.

"Our dream was fulfilled," Edith Mamba said. The clinic gives church members the opportunity to distribute World Bible School correspondence lessons to patients.

"Some have been converted," she said. Others have returned to their communities to share their stories of healing.

#### JOY AND SERVICE

Back in West Africa, "Bob's strong spiritual influence is especially missed at Nigerian Christian Hospital," said Jerry Canfield, board chair for Arkansas-based International Health Care Foundation, which oversees the hospital. But Canfield said he's certain "that the Whittakers will contribute to the strengthening of the church in Swaziland."

"I am but one of many," Canfield said, "who have learned much about faith, humility, perseverance, spirituality and reliance on God by observation of Bob."

In Swaziland, on a quick break between patients at the clinic, Bob Whittaker reflected on the long journey of faith that's led him across the vast African continent.

"My joy," he said simply, "is serving the Lord wherever he wants me to serve."

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Weldon Langfield

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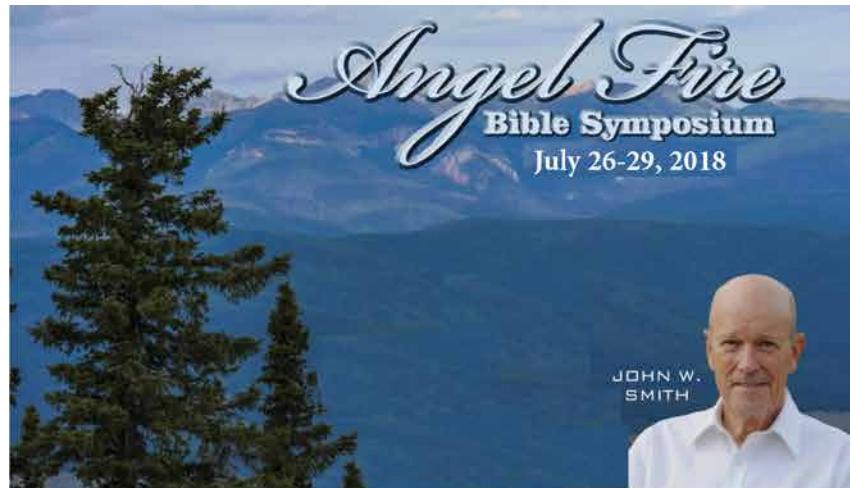
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[angelfirebiblesymposium](http://angelfirebiblesymposium.com)

You can also email John Smith at:

[john@johnwsmith.com](mailto:john@johnwsmith.com)



### Associate Minister

We are seeking an associate minister to work with our pulpit minister with the intention of transitioning to our full-time pulpit minister. The associate pulpit minister will work with our current pulpit minister and elders to serve the West Olive Church of Christ by providing a balanced ministry of preaching, teaching and assisting the elders in implementing our vision to help the congregation grow to its full potential in membership and spiritual growth in Christ. We are a congregation of 450 members in a growing community west of Phoenix, Ariz.

**General Requirements:** *The ideal candidate should be a married, middle-aged man with at least ten years of experience. He should be of strong personal faith and be doctrinally sound and well grounded in the Scriptures. He should have an evangelistic heart to share the Gospel with those who are lost.*

**Principal Responsibilities:** *Responsibilities of this position include preaching, teaching and participation in the life of our church family.*

#### How to Apply:

Those interested in applying should mail a copy of their resume with picture and at least three references to the attention of:

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MICHELLE ROBERTS

## SPORTS

### Champs times three

**CHARLOTTE, N.C.** — For the first time in school history, Lipscomb University's men's basketball team earned a spot in the NCAA Tournament.

The Division I team from Nashville, Tenn., beat Florida Gulf Coast University, 108-96, in the Atlantic Sun championship game to clinch its spot in the Big Dance. But 15th-seeded Lipscomb's March Madness dreams ended with an 84-66 first-round loss to No. 2 seed North Carolina.

Meanwhile, another university associated with Churches of Christ, Rochester College in Rochester Hills, Mich., celebrated a pair of national championships.

The Lady Warriors netted their first-ever national title in the United States Collegiate Athletic Association's Division I, defeating Paul Quinn College, 72-57.

A few hours later, Rochester's men's team won its fourth USCAA men's national championship, beating Oakwood University, 80-61.

### LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** — Lipscomb's new Bison Inn aims to offer guests "VIP" treatment while making them feel at home, manager Bodhi Dark said.

"We are comfortable with mixing hospitality and discipleship," Dark said of the nine-room inn, which recently opened on campus.

For more information, call (615) 966-7031 or email [bisoninn@lipscomb.edu](mailto:bisoninn@lipscomb.edu).

### OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

**OKLAHOMA CITY** — Oklahoma Christian recently announced a new course materials and campus store partnership with Tree of Life Bookstores.

The partnership promises more affordable course material solutions while expanding the selection of branded apparel and merchandise inside the remodeled campus store coming this summer, university officials said.

Through a free service, all students will receive all course materials delivered to their campus residences before classes begin.

## Florida school shooting sparks a 'walk-in' by Christian school

A month after 17 students died at a Parkland, Fla., high school, thousands of young people nationwide walked out of school March 14 to protest gun violence. But at Clarksville Christian School, a Tennessee school associated with Churches of Christ, students staged a "walk-in." They spent 17 minutes in prayer — one minute for each victim. "We prayed for those who are hurting, scared, being bullied and feel like they are alone," admissions director Michelle Roberts said. "We prayed for peace, comfort and the willingness to help those who are in need."

### HIGHER EDUCATION

#### FREED-HARDEMAN UNIVERSITY

**HENDERSON, Tenn.** — "Deaf people want to talk about Jesus," Frank Rushing said at Freed-Hardeman's recent Bible Lectureship. "But," he said, "no one comes to talk to them."

Rushing, minister to the deaf at Nashville's Central Church of Christ for almost 40 years, recounted his experiences as a deaf person.

Rushing has traveled extensively in his attempt to take the Gospel to the

deaf. He has spoken at many conferences and workshops in the United States and participated in international mission efforts in Europe, Africa, Haiti and Australia. For many years, he has also directed a Christian camp for the deaf.

His travels also took him to the Bible lands. He said he wanted to see the place where Jesus healed the deaf man as recounted in the Gospel of Mark.

"I would love to have been in that situation," he said, "but God had other plans for me."

#### HARDING UNIVERSITY

**SEARCY, Ark.** — Students partnered with Make-A-Wish Mid-South to raise more than \$8,000 and grant a wish for Alissa Carter, an 11-year-old Searcy girl diagnosed with a critical illness.

The reveal celebration was held Feb. 25 in the Rhodes-Reaves Field House on the Harding campus. Hundreds of athletes, students and faculty and staff members gathered to support the family.

Alissa's family brought her to

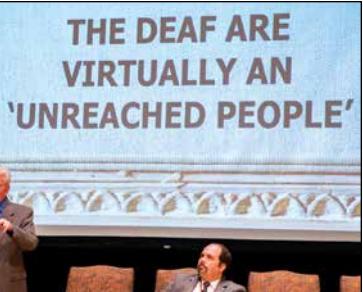


PHOTO PROVIDED BY FREED-HARDEMAN UNIVERSITY

Frank Rushing uses sign language as he addresses attendees at Freed-Hardeman University's recent Bible Lectureship.

campus that Sunday, where she expected to receive an award for a Bison coloring contest.

"Little did she know that it was actually a reveal party and that her wish had been granted," said Robert Carter, Alissa's father. "My daughter was happier than I've ever seen her. I would love to do it all again."

Alissa's wish was to have her own fairy-themed treehouse. Natural State Treehouses in Fayetteville constructed the treehouse and installed it at Alissa's home.



JEFF MONTGOMERY

Alissa Carter, left, and volleyball player Taylor Lake at the Make-A-Wish reveal celebration at Harding University.

# Benton to take new role at Pepperdine

**NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR** will be his last as president after nearly two decades of service.

**MALIBU, Calif.** — Andrew K. Benton, Pepperdine University's president and chief executive officer for 18 years, plans to step down after the 2018-2019 academic year.

Benton, 66, and his wife, Debby, "have decided it is a good time

for a change," the university — which is associated with Churches of Christ — said in a news release.

"This is a significant change that, while difficult, we believe

comes at just the right time — for Pepperdine, for our students and for us," Benton said. "As president, I have always tried to make the hardest institutional decisions from a position of strength, and because of the talent and passion of our people throughout the last several decades, I can confidently say that Pepperdine has never been stronger academically, spiritually and financially."

Benton has requested that the Pepperdine Board of Regents begin the search for a new president.

"Our aspirations for Andy's success have been realized beyond our dreams, and he has become one of our nation's truly great university presidents," said board chair Ed Biggers, speaking on behalf of the regents.

"Serving with Andy has been among the greatest privileges of my life, and the entire board is deeply grateful for his strength, integrity, and grace," added Biggers, who also serves as a trustee for *The Christian Chronicle*.



**Benton**



# HARDING

UNIVERSITY

## FACULTY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

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

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES.** Seeking full-time faculty member. The successful candidate will hold a Ph.D. in Spanish or experience in a closely related field along with teaching and/or professional experience in any of the following: Peninsular and/or Latin American literature, intercultural/global studies, translation and/or interpretation, or K-12 foreign language education. Candidates with training in ACTFL oral proficiency and methodology preferred. Responsibilities will include advising, supervision of student research, and teaching both general and advanced courses.

Submit letter of interest, curriculum vitae, and unofficial transcripts of all graduate-level courses to Dr. Kristi Bond, chair, at [knbond@harding.edu](mailto:knbond@harding.edu) or Box 12263, Searcy, AR 72149.

**COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.** Seeking full-time director of assessment to manage implementation of a comprehensive program of assessment for the purpose of programmatic improvements in accordance with accreditation requirements for the college. Bachelor's degree required; master's degree with emphasis in education, higher education, educational research or related field is highly preferred. At least three years of experience in higher education support services needed. Previous experience with assessment in higher education desired. Responsibilities include working with assessment committee, faculty, staff and administration to implement and review effective strategies for the assessment of student learning at the individual and program levels as well as assessment of college-level mission and goals.

Submit letter of interest to Harding University Human Resources at [hr@harding.edu](mailto:hr@harding.edu) or Box 12257, Searcy, AR 72149.

**INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS.** Seeking faculty/administrator for Harding University in Latin America (HULA). The successful candidate will possess teaching experience in humanities and Bible, fluency in the Spanish language, a background in developing missions experiences, and a minimum of a master's degree; a Ph.D. is preferred. Responsibilities include directing the study abroad program in Latin America; coordinating site tours, classes, and accommodations; and providing meals for student and faculty groups of 40 plus. HULA is currently conducted one semester per year. Position reports directly to the dean of international programs.

Submit an introductory letter, curriculum vitae and contact information to Dr. Jeff Hopper, dean, at [hopper@harding.edu](mailto:hopper@harding.edu) or Box 10838, Searcy, AR 72149.

**Additional openings are available in the following areas:**

**CANNON-CLARY COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING AND PHYSICS**

**DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES**

**DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS**

**DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACY PRACTICE**

**PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM**

Please visit [harding.edu/hr/jobsfaculty](http://harding.edu/hr/jobsfaculty) for further information on these positions. To learn more about open staff positions, visit [harding.edu/hr/jobs](http://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.

## Ready to Relocate?

Why not escape to life in a small town in a beautiful setting?

The church in Lander, Wyo., would invite you to visit or settle in a beautiful western town of approximately 7,500 people at the base of the majestic Wind River Mountains. We offer a strong, self-supporting church of Christ with approximately 80-85 members in regular attendance, a strong mission program and an evangelistic full-time minister. Lander offers a local hospital and clinics for health care. Wyoming has no state income tax. We offer abundant outdoor opportunities for those who enjoy outdoor sports including trout streams, mountain lakes, winter sports and world class big game hunting.

**Lander church of Christ,  
Attn: Elders**

**PO Box 447, Lander, WY 82520**

Visit us on the web:

[landerchurchofchrist.com](http://landerchurchofchrist.com)

Learn more about Lander:

[landerwyoming.org](http://landerwyoming.org)

## Preacher Training Camp

*The elders and staff at the Oldham Lane Church of Christ in Abilene, Texas, feel strongly that the Lord's church needs to be making every effort to train preachers and leaders so that the church will remain sound and thrive for years to come.*

*Preacher Training Camp is for young Christian men (14-18 years of age) who show an interest in preaching and leadership. Cost is \$50 and space is limited. We would love to see you at camp!*

**Chris McCurley**  
**[cmccurley@olcoc.com](mailto:cmccurley@olcoc.com)**  
**(325) 695-0055**

**June 3-9**

**Deadline to sign up is May 1**



A child places palm branches near a painting of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.



As they take the interactive "Jesus Journey," children explore the empty tomb.

## ART: 'Jesus Journey' helps church utilize members' talents, minister says

FROM PAGE 3

agreed. The result: "The Jesus Journey," an interactive, self-guided tour presented during Easter weekend.

"I think it fits Burnt Hickory well because this is — more than most churches I've been a part of — a very artistic church," preaching minister Scott Franks said. "We seem to have a lot of creative people, so it seems to fit what God's brought together here."

"I was intrigued by it because this was something we could do and do well. It was a great outlet for the artists in our congregation."

### THE POWER OF ART

"The Jesus Journey" debuted in 2017. Williams recalled, "It was so beautiful to watch families and individuals going through and gazing, participating or in deep thought."

Geoff Giesemann, the church's discipleship minister, noticed that, as families toured the exhibit, "people were really into explaining to their children what was going on," he said. "By the time they reached the end, you could see that some were visibly affected — some crying, others just very quiet and others emotionally moved," Giesemann said.

Justin and Aubrey Bracegirdle, members of the Burnt Hickory church, took their 1-year-old daughter, Bexley, nephew Zayden, 3, and niece Harper, 2, to see "The Jesus Journey." "Zayden remembers going and

has asked us about it several times," Aubrey Bracegirdle said. "I think the walk and the hands-on aspect helped him retain memories."

Children's minister Beth Tidwell helped guide groups of first to fourth graders through the exhibit.

"It was a welcomed departure from a typical Sunday school lesson," she said. "We were able to spend time at each exhibit, reading the description together and allowing them to interact with it — from laying down palm leaves, pretending to be at the Last Supper and removing the stone at the tomb. The Easter story was really brought to life for them in a tangible way."

One of those most moved by the exhibit was Williams herself.

"Art is very powerful — not only to the viewer but to the creator as well," she said. "So, when I stood at the foot of the cross and touched the nails in the painted Jesus' feet and found myself crying, ... I was sure I had given everything I could and it was a success. God provided an amazing team to put it all together."

### CONNECTING TO THE CULTURE

Franks acknowledged that some in Churches of Christ aren't comfortable celebrating Easter — singling out one



Tidwell



PHOTOS BY CAMILLE WARREN

"Art is very powerful — not only to the viewer but to the creator as well," says Lauren Williams, the artist who developed "The Jesus Journey" for the Burnt Hickory church.

weekend to acknowledge something that should be remembered throughout the year as Christians worship.

"At the same time, Easter and Christmas are the two times of the year when the rest of the world is talking about Jesus," he said, "so why would we not leverage those opportunities?"

Last year the Burnt Hickory church averaged about 450 people for Sunday morning worship. On Easter Sunday, that number swelled to 700.

"It is the best chance for us to connect to the culture on one of the rare times the culture is actually

thinking about Jesus," Franks said.

The "Jesus Journey" also takes advantage of the congregation's talent, said Don Richardson, one of the church's elders.

"Lauren is just brilliant," Richardson said of Williams, "in not just ability. She has the desire to use that to have an impact."

As an artist, Williams "sees things in a way that I don't see them," Franks said, "because she sees them through an artist's eyes. I think this is how she's used by God."

WEBSITE: [www.burnthickory.org](http://www.burnthickory.org)

# Job Listings

Deadline for next two issues: April 13 and May 11.

## Minister Needed

**Is there a congregation ready to send a minister to work in south-central PA?**  
Small church needs a sponsored worker for a growing community.

See on-line ad for more info.

**Chambersburg Church of Christ**  
**P.O. Box 221, Chambersburg, PA 17201**  
(717) 261-0835 (lv msg)  
e-mail: [cofc@innernet.net](mailto:cofc@innernet.net)  
[www.christianchronicle.org/classifieds](http://www.christianchronicle.org/classifieds)

## Full-Time Minister

**Malden Church of Christ** in Missouri seeks a full-time minister. Rural congregation, 50-60 faithful members, led by the Lord and two elders. Compensation commensurate with qualifications and experience. Contact:

Rod Dill at (573) 281-8625  
Jerry Reaves at (573) 276-8071

## Family Life Minister - Northwest Alabama

The Cornerstone Church of Christ is seeking a full-time Family Life Minister. While encompassing all ages, emphasis will be on ministering to parents in their 20s-40s, along with their children. Cornerstone is a congregation of 225-250 typically in attendance on Sunday mornings and is located in the Central Heights community (Florence) of northwest Alabama. Cornerstone has a large demographic of young families and children who are eager to grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord. A strong commitment to faith, family, and community is needed. Job dimensions will include, but are not limited to: occasional preaching, teaching, visitation, in-home hospitality, community and church functions, counseling, off-site events, and follow-up contacts with potentially new families. Married with family and a ministry-related degree and/or experience preferred.

Salary commensurate with experience and credentials. Remodeled home with three bedrooms and two baths available as part of compensation package.

Visit: [Cornerstoneflorence.org](http://Cornerstoneflorence.org) Send resumes to: Arvy Dupuy: [arvy@haitisbs.com](mailto:arvy@haitisbs.com)

## Full-time Pulpit Minister

Riverside Church of Christ in Lafayette, La. ("hub city" of Cajun country) is seeking a full-time pulpit minister. We are a diverse, grace-centered congregation focused on local outreach and foreign missions. The congregation has approximately 250 members, five elders, five deacons, an outreach/family minister, and a youth/worship minister.

[www.riversidechurchofchrist.org](http://www.riversidechurchofchrist.org)

If interested in this position, send resume, family photo and sermon links/recordingsto:

[office@riversidechurchofchrist.org](mailto:office@riversidechurchofchrist.org)

## Gospel Preacher

The SUNSET CHURCH of CHRIST in Taylor, Mich., is looking for a gospel preacher who loves God and his neighbor. Your life here will be alongside 200 other Christians, one fine ministry involved with our youth, a passionate missionary to the largest Muslim population in America, four hard-working servants and three prayerful shepherds. Send resume, one or two audios or videos of you and a one-page handwritten description of your purpose in God's Kingdom to:

Sunset Church of Christ  
c/o Elders @ Sunset 24800 Ecorse Rd  
Taylor, Michigan 48180

## Full-time Evangelist - Davenport Church of Christ

The Church of Christ located in Red Deer, Alberta, Canada, is looking for a full-time evangelist for the purpose of outreach to the community, working together with the congregation and the elders to reach people with the Gospel. We are an active congregation of about 25 families. The city is community focused with a population of approximately 100,000. Salary and benefits offered. For more information or to submit your resume, contact: [rdchurchofchrist@gmail.com](mailto:rdchurchofchrist@gmail.com)

We also invite you to visit our website at: [www.reddeerdechurchofchrist.com](http://www.reddeerdechurchofchrist.com).

## Semi-Retired Preacher - Chillicothe, Texas

The church in Chillicothe is in need of a semi-retired preacher to work with us. We are a very small congregation not capable of much financial support but will furnish a nice brick home adjacent to the church building. Please contact:

F. D. Bradshaw

940-852-5181 or 940-839-5551 (cell)

## Bilingual Minister

The Church of Christ in Pecos, Texas, is seeking a bilingual minister for our Spanish-speaking congregation. Graduate from preaching school or Christian university associated with Churches of Christ preferred. Experience a plus, but will consider a recent graduate. Candidate must be fluent in English.

Church of Christ  
PO Box 1332  
Pecos, TX 79772  
[pecoscofcoffice02@windstream.net](mailto:pecoscofcoffice02@windstream.net)

## FULL-TIME PULPIT PREACHER NEEDED!!!

**Oro Grande Boulevard Church of Christ** is seeking a full-time pulpit preacher. We are a congregation of 35-40 members with three elders. Retirement or other support needed. Located in beautiful Lake Havasu City, Ariz.

Ron Johnson, (928) 855-8047  
[rjohn43611@gmail.com](mailto:rjohn43611@gmail.com)

Fred McIntyre, (928) 846-1970

## Director of Social Services



**Mountain States Children's Home** is searching for a Director of Social Services

This position is to lead and oversee the Social Services Department of a growing and dynamic Christian ministry in the beauty of the Rocky Mountains.

- Candidates must have a Master's Degree in Behavioral Science/Human Services or a related field.
- Residential Child Care experience is preferred.
- Benefits include; salary, insurance, and more.

**For Information Contact:**  
Randy Schow, Executive Director  
303-776-6841  
Email: [rschow@msch.org](mailto:rschow@msch.org)  
14780 N. 107th Street  
Longmont, CO 80504

## Evangelist Search

Church of Christ in Meadville, Pa., is looking for an evangelist to work with us. We are a small congregation of about 35, located in Northwest Pennsylvania with an eldership in place and looking to grow the Lord's body in this rural community. We are committed to sound doctrine. If you are interested in being a part of this great work please send a resume with a cover letter explaining your interest and needs to:

North Meadville Church of Christ  
Attn: Elders  
PO Box 1356  
Meadville, PA 16335

## Full-time Pulpit Minister

We are seeking a minister to administer unto a congregation of 70 members and a town population of 500. If interested in learning more, please contact:

Church of Christ, Attn: Randy Sherrill  
505 S Jefferson, Arnett, OK 73832  
(580) 216-1224



## House Parents

Join the exciting Childhaven ministry team! If you are seeking an avenue for making an eternal difference in the lives of others – consider the ministry of house parenting!

**House Parents Are Needed!** Seeking couples of great faith and love for teen and pre-teen aged girls 14–21. Childhaven provides excellent salary and benefits and hires both husband and wife full time. Become a part of an outstanding and supportive team! For more information, contact Executive Director, Dr. Jim Wright, by phone or email. To learn more, visit [www.childhaven.com](http://www.childhaven.com)!

Childhaven, Inc.

P O Box 2070, Cullman, Ala. 35056  
(256) 734-6720, J.wright@childhaven.com



## Full-time Caretakers

### Needed!

Contact Us:

Phone: (253) 884-2966

Email: [delanobaycc@gmail.com](mailto:delanobaycc@gmail.com)

Perfect for a Retired Couple!

## Full-time Pulpit Minister - Madill, Oklahoma

The Madill Church of Christ, a biblically-sound church with a heart for missions, is seeking a full-time pulpit minister. The ideal candidate will have a bachelor's degree in preaching or ministry from a Christian university or preaching school, at least five years of pulpit experience and a family.

The Madill church is self-supporting with approximately 175 members, four elders, six deacons and an active youth group. Our church is a friendly, family-oriented congregation with a large number of young families and children.

Madill is a city of approximately 4,000 located halfway between Oklahoma City and Dallas, only 15 minutes from Lake Texoma, one of the top recreational areas in the country. A home is included in the competitive compensation package.

Please send a cover letter, resume, video/audio CD, or link along with personal ministry philosophy to:

**Madill Church of Christ, Attn: Ron Frost**

**PO Box 88, Madill, OK 73446**

## Preacher Search

We are a congregation of approximately 35 members who desire to grow spiritually and in numbers. We can offer some salary and a modest four-bedroom home. For full description, please visit our website: [warwickrichchurchofchrist.org](http://warwickrichchurchofchrist.org) (click on preacher search). If interested, email your resume and cover letter, including a brief description of the strengths you would bring to our congregation to: [warwickcoc@cox.net](mailto:warwickcoc@cox.net).

You may also mail your resume and cover letter to:

**Warwick Church of Christ**  
PO Box 7095  
Warwick, RI 02887

## Communion trays needed

If you have any unused communion trays, put them to use in Africa! Send them to:

### African Christian Schools

P.O. Box 41120

Nashville, TN 37204

(615) 542-6282

[acsf1959@gmail.com](mailto:acsf1959@gmail.com)

[africanchristianschools.org](http://africanchristianschools.org)

## CALENDAR

**April 8-11 Ohio Valley University Lectureship.** Vienna, W.Va. [ovu.edu/lectureship](http://ovu.edu/lectureship).

**April 8-12 74th Annual Carolina Lectureship.** Highland Acres Church of Christ, Statesville, N.C. [highlandacres.org](http://highlandacres.org).

**April 18-21 Evangelism and Church Growth Workshop.**

HomeMission. Faith Village Church of Christ, Wichita Falls, Texas. [homemission.org](http://homemission.org).

**April 24 Eastern European Mission's Amarillo Event.**

Amarillo Botanical Garden, Amarillo, Texas. [eem.org/events](http://eem.org/events).

**April 29 75th Anniversary Culver Palms Church of Christ.** Los Angeles, Calif. [culverpalms.org](http://culverpalms.org).

**May 21-24 37th Annual Sermon Seminar.** Austin Graduate School of Theology, Austin, Texas. [sermonseminar.com](http://sermonseminar.com).

**June 3-9 Preacher Training Camp.** Oldham Lane Church of Christ, Abilene, Texas. [cmcurley@olcoc.com](mailto:cmcurley@olcoc.com).

**July 8-13 Summer Honor Choir (High School).** Harding University, Searcy, Ark. [www.harding.edu/honorchoir](http://www.harding.edu/honorchoir).

**July 15-20 Theology Summer Academy.** Oklahoma Christian University, Oklahoma City, Okla. [oc.edu/admissions/undergraduate/visit/theology-summer-academy](http://oc.edu/admissions/undergraduate/visit/theology-summer-academy).

**July 22-27 Texas Normal Singing School.** Abilene, Texas. [singingschool.org](http://singingschool.org).

**FULL CALENDAR:** [www.christianchronicle.org](http://www.christianchronicle.org). To include your event and for pricing, contact [tonya.patton@christianchronicle.org](mailto:tonya.patton@christianchronicle.org).

## Full-Time Family & Youth Minister

The Woodinville Church of Christ has a full-time position open for a Family & Youth Minister. We are a mature 250-member strong congregation with five elders, sixteen deacons, a full-time pulpit minister and a very active fellowship. We are seeking someone to enthusiastically reach out to teens and their family members, assist in guiding our teens to a committed relationship with God, promote the training of teens for service, local and foreign outreach efforts and be a spiritual mentor. The successful candidate will have at least seven years of experience including leading and teaching teens and pulpit preaching with a desire for full-time pulpit ministry; education should include a bachelor's degree (Bible major preferred) or a preaching school graduate or equivalent church-related experience. The city of Woodinville is located in the scenic Puget Sound region of Washington State—a small suburb with all the cultural amenities of Seattle nearby and an abundance of outdoor adventure opportunities.

Please submit your resume and sermon audio sample to the Family & Youth Minister Search Committee:

[searchcommittee@woodinvillecofc.org](mailto:searchcommittee@woodinvillecofc.org)

[www.woodinvillecofc.org](http://www.woodinvillecofc.org)

## Minister/Community Evangelist

Small congregation made up of all ages from young families to senior citizens, in community of 9,000, seeks a pulpit preacher/teacher who would continue and expand what we currently offer to our congregation and community. Housing provided, modest salary, all in wonderful Wyoming where outdoor adventure is just out the door. View the website at:

[rawlinschurchofchrist.com](http://rawlinschurchofchrist.com)

Send resume, references, and sermon tapes, CDs, digital files to:

**Rawlins Church of Christ**

PO Box 2098, Rawlins, WY 82301

[minister@rawlinschurchofchrist.com](mailto:minister@rawlinschurchofchrist.com)

## Full-Time Minister-Stafford Church of Christ

Small, rural congregation in central Kansas seeking a full-time minister to embrace our church family and outreach to the community with zeal. Minister will need to appeal to a wide variety of age groups with lessons (both sermons and bible classes) which are scriptural, relevant and realistic. Nice three bedroom parsonage provided. Previous ministry experience preferred, but all applicants will be fairly considered. Salary commensurate with experience and fair for this area. For more information, call (620) 549-6625. To apply, send resume, cover letter and references to:

[stbatten1228@gmail.com](mailto:stbatten1228@gmail.com)

## Youth Minister - Bradenton, Florida

Fifty Third Avenue Church of Christ is looking for an exceptional youth minister. We are a congregation with an average attendance of about 200. Our youth group is about 20 strong, with a group of involved and dedicated parents.

Youth Minister will plan, communicate and execute programs and activities aimed at enriching the spiritual lives of youth.

Education: Minimum of a bachelor's degree, preferred in Bible, youth ministry or related field. Equivalent experience will be considered. Salary: Commensurate with education and experience.

A complete job description is available on our web page [53avecofc.org](http://53avecofc.org), or request by contacting the church office at [office@53avecofc.org](mailto:office@53avecofc.org) or (941) 753-4153. Please send resume and references to the attention of the Youth Minister Search Committee at the same e-mail address, or mail to:

**53rd Avenue Church of Christ, 3412 53rd Ave. East, Bradenton, FL 34203.**

**Closing Date: Open until filled.**

## NEWSMAKERS



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MATT BARKER

**Coach Dale Neal discusses strategy.**

**INDUCTED:** Dale Neal, women's basketball head coach at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn., into the NAIA Hall of Fame. In his 24th season at FHU, Neal had compiled a 668-176 overall record entering the recent NAIA national tournament.

**APPOINTED:** Foy Mills Jr., as provost and chief academic officer of Lubbock Christian University in Texas. The 1980 LCU graduate previously

served as professor and program leader of agribusiness at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. He taught at Abilene Christian University in Texas for two decades. **Dana**

**Mills**  
**Slinguff,** as chaplain for Willow Brook Christian Village in Delaware, Ohio, and preacher for the Northeast Church of Christ in Galena, Ohio. He and his wife, Cindy, served the Camden Avenue Church of Christ in Parkersburg, W.Va., for 14 years.

**HONORED:** Frank "Butch" Jones, as distinguished alumnus of the College of Biblical Studies at

Faulkner University in Montgomery, Ala. Jones is evangelism and outreach ministry for the Ellijay Church of Christ in Georgia and a Faulkner trustee.

**Itson**  
Andrew Itson, as distinguished young alumnus of Faulkner's Bible college. Itson is minister for the Robertsdale Church of Christ in Alabama.

**Mills**

# Milestones

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

## Anniversaries

**Gary and Emalee Johnson  
50 years**



Gary and Emalee Johnson celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a reception hosted by their family, Jennifer and Jeff Gilliland, Denise and Richard Lofton, Chris Johnson and Marti Davies-Jones. They were married on March 2, 1968, in Watonga, Okla.

Gary and Emalee grew up in Oakwood, Okla., and like many others, moved to Stillwater to attend Oklahoma State University and never left!

Their daughters, Jennifer and Denise, and son, Chris, were raised in Stillwater. They have four grandsons and two granddaughters. Gary is the son of the late Ray and Jeri Johnson of Oakwood. Emalee's parents are the late Jim and Joy Brantly, of Oakwood and Canton.

Gary has been the Airport

Director at the Stillwater Regional Airport for 31 years. Emalee has worked for Stan Clark for 26 years.

Congratulations, Gary and Emalee!

**63rd: Ron and Peggy Holmes**, March 5, Tuscaloosa, Ala.

## Memorials

**Derwood "Tex" Patton  
1927-2018**

N.M.; two brothers, Cloys Patton of Houston, Texas, and Billy Patton of Thompsons Station, Texas; ten grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren. Derwood was preceded in death by a brother, Dwayne Patton, and grandson, Jeffrey Alan Gully.



The family wishes to thank Oliver Levin for his years of wonderful care, support and friendship. Memorials may be made to Mt. Pleasant Church of Christ, PO Box 393, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29465. A memorial message may be sent to the family by visiting the website [www.jhenrystuhr.com](http://www.jhenrystuhr.com) or guest-book at [www.legacy.com/obituaries/charleston](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/charleston).

## Memorial Gifts

*The Christian Chronicle* appreciates and acknowledges generous gifts received in honor of Bailey McBride and Tom Tryggestad and in memory of Cathy Conway, Leo P. Meerscheidt III, Allan C. Mitchell, and Margaret Tryggestad.

**Submit announcements for births, weddings, honors, retirements, memorials and tributes to [milestones@christianchronicle.org](mailto:milestones@christianchronicle.org), or call (405) 425-5071. Submissions start at \$25.**

**Itson**

## EDITORIAL

## The power of the written word

**T**here is not a man living today that knows anything about God's will, except what he learned from the written word.

There is not a man living today that knows anything about heaven except what he learned from the written word.

We wouldn't know that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were in the fiery furnace if it wasn't written; we wouldn't know that God created the heavens and the earth ... And friends, we wouldn't know that such a character as ever made footprints upon the earth as Jesus Christ if it had not been written; we wouldn't have known that he died upon the cross of Calvary if it hadn't been written.

And the supreme thing is, we wouldn't know that he was raised from the dead if the Bible hadn't said so. That same Bible tells us how to become God's children. You can't get around it, no way to get around it.

Why the people of this town, especially preachers, are extremely excited over this meeting, and that is for the reason that brother Keeble is attempting to call his people back to the Bible, to do away with the disciplines, manuals and creeds from the people and back to the written word of God. ...

Go read your Bible. If it's not there, you can't get religion to save your life. You can't find it. ...

May God help you come to Christ. He said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." He said, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock."

(Taken from a 1931 sermon by Marshall Keeble during a gospel campaign in Valdosta, Ga., as recorded in the book "Biography and Sermons of Marshall Keeble, Evangelist" edited by B.C. Goodpasture, published by *Gospel Advocate*.)

# Of Christ: He's in our heart. He's in our soul. And he's in our name

TULSA, Okla.

**Y**ou gotta have a nice sign. You just gotta.

So we'll set it in stone, pick out the perfect font. We'll put a predicate at the end ('meets here') just to play it safe. Then we'll argue if the word 'church' should be capitalized or lower case. And usually we'll go all caps ('CHURCH OF CHRIST) so nobody can argue.

Brute Wolf, a member of the Park Plaza Church of Christ, penned those words to accompany a video shown during the Tulsa Workshop in 2014. He originally intended it as a comedy piece to introduce keynote speaker Phil Robertson of "Duck Dynasty" fame. He thought about altering the words on various church signs to make jokes.

"The first step in doing this on the computer is to erase the word 'Christ,'" he recalled. But when he saw the result, "I started getting teary-eyed ... It had a real chilling effect on me. I told my wife that this was too impacting of an idea to make comical, and it needed to stand on its own. So it began evolving into a stand-alone piece."

The result was a four-minute video, "Church For," that's netted more than 13,000 views on YouTube. In the video, after he quips about "big C or little c," Wolf says:

*We're pretty serious about getting our name out, and we've tried really hard not to leave the wrong impression. But are we leaving any impression at all?*

"From there," he recalled, "I started asking, 'What do people say about our church when they drive by our sign?' 'Oh, that church has a really good basketball program,'



Wolf



VIDEO STILL VIA YOUTUBE

"What do people say about our church when they drive by our sign?" Brute Wolf asks.

or 'That church brings lunch to the homeless shelter!' Those are great things to say, but is that where their conversation ends?"

Perhaps we're too focused on the word "church" and aren't paying much attention to the word "of," Wolf thought. We are "of Christ," but what does Jesus want the people who drive by our buildings to see?

With a few more digital alterations to the church signs, Wolf came up with some answers:

*Church for Prisoners. Church for the Poor. Church for the Abused. Church for the Addicted. Church for the Lonely.*

"I had a feeling Jesus would be very provocative," Wolf said. "I thought about Zacchaeus and the woman at the well. So saying, 'Church for the Atheist' and 'Church for the Gay' didn't seem controversial. It seemed essential."

Thousands of Christians, representing hundreds of Churches of Christ, watched the video during the Tulsa Workshop — which, two years later, ended its four-decade run. Organizers cited falling attendance numbers that indicated the workshop was no longer the best way to reach people.

Online, the video lives on.

"Probably 98 percent of the feedback I've received has been positive," Wolf said, "but I've had people on both ends of the spectrum troubled by the video. I have a gay atheist, former Church of Christ friend who feels that it's insincere. We don't really want to welcome gays; we just want to repair them. I understand that point."

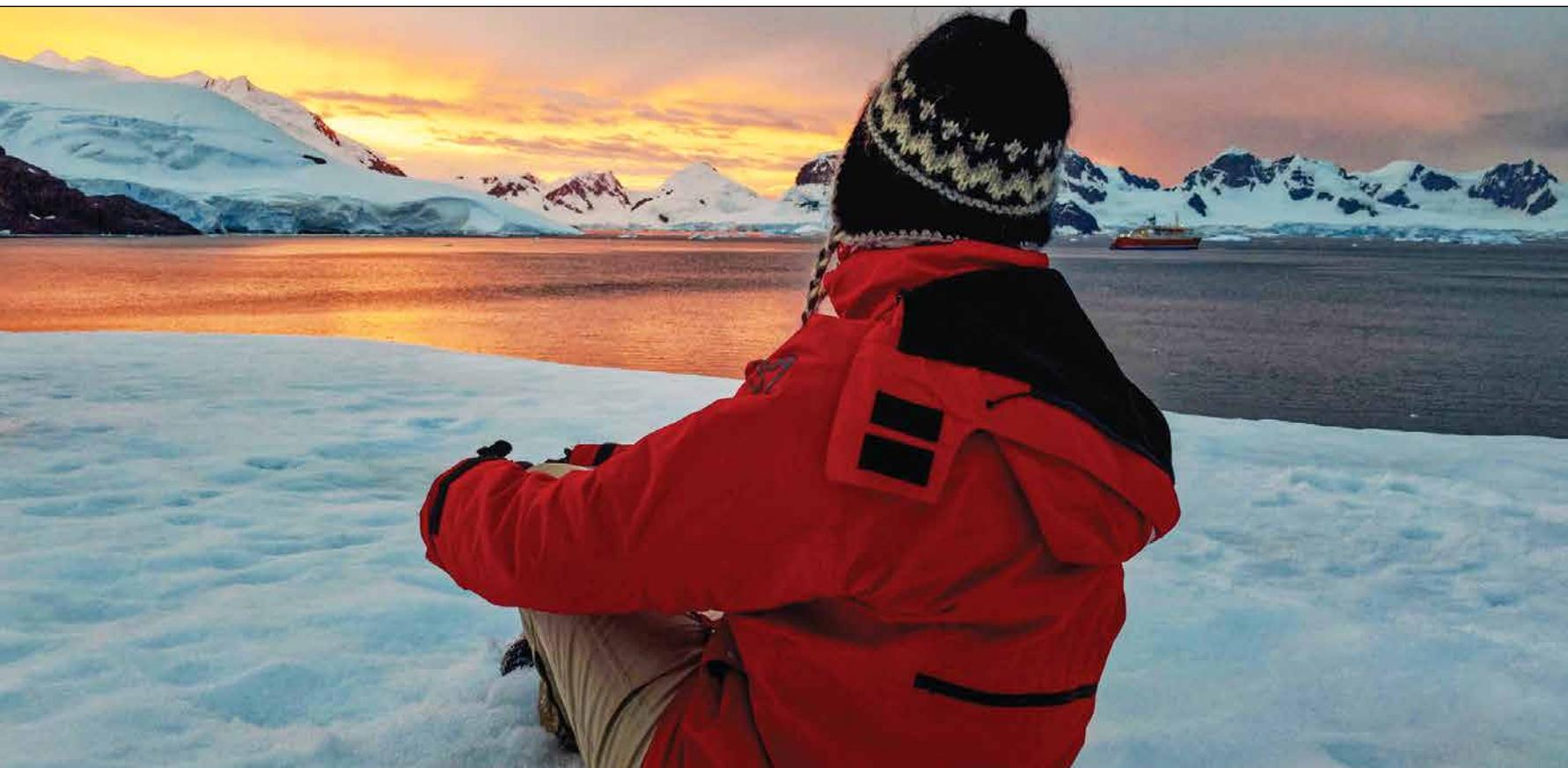
"I've also seen comments from some church members saying the video has the feel of only further de-identifying ourselves as Christ's church. I understand their point."

The video isn't a sermon, he said. It's an illustration, a conversation starter. The people the church should be "for" are any of us who are labeled. The video concludes:

*Every one of us has a label. Every one of us has a reason to feel small. But we come together in these big buildings with the big signs to be reminded of his big love, to forget about our small labels. Because these buildings hold a family of misfits where everyone's welcome.*

*Because he's in our heart. He's in our soul. And he's in our name. He's in our name. And that's worth putting up a giant sign.*

SEE THE VIDEO at [www.christianchronicle.org](http://www.christianchronicle.org).



Kate Hartman watches the Antarctic sunset from a campsite at Paradise Bay, a harbor behind Lemaire and Bryde Islands in Antarctica near two research stations.

# Bearing witness at the bottom of the world

**Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all the depths; fire and hail, snow and clouds; stormy wind, fulfilling His word ...**

— Psalm 148:7-8, New King James Version

## PARADISE BAY, Antarctica

**W**hen I was 13, my English teacher asked us to write out a list of goals for our lives. I don't remember most of my list, but, since that day, I've had my sights set on visiting Antarctica.

Why? I never was completely sure. Often, I'll add a location to my list because I want to encourage the local Christians or to get to know the culture of the people. But in Antarctica, save for a few scientists at 50-some-odd field stations, there aren't people.

Now I know it isn't the people that called me here. It is the awe-inspiring creation.

## In the Word



Kate Hartman

Here, in the land of ice, snow and 15-meter swells on the Drake Passage, life nonetheless survives. Antarctic krill feed on delicate phytoplankton and, in turn, provide nutrient-rich food for penguins, Weddell seals and mammoth whales.

Colonies upon colonies of gentoo and chinstrap penguins collect one stone at a time to build their nests, protecting their young chicks from the dangerous skua seabirds.

Fur seals sunbathe on icebergs. Leopard seals hunt, and adolescent orcas spin barrel rolls as their pods travel across the water. Blue whales and humpbacks make their yearly migration from north to south and back again, keeping the rhythm of their internal calling.

Here, at the bottom of the world, icebergs larger than cruise ships and perfectly untouched glaciers freeze and thaw and freeze again — at just the right time to provide



A curious leopard seal in Antarctica.

the precise water conditions needed for wildlife to survive. The cycle of birth, death and rebirth went on long before I arrived — long before whalers, Sir Ernest Shackleton or anyone knew the Antarctic existed.

This place bears witness to the wonder and creativity of God. It is pure, unspoiled creation that shows me we were made for God's pleasure. And I too see that it is good.



PHOTOS BY KATE AND LUKE HARTMAN  
A chinstrap penguin goes exploring.

**KATE HARTMAN** is a travel agent in Oklahoma City, where she and her family worship with the Memorial Road Church of Christ.

# Dramatic stories of conversion aren't required to reach our neighbors

**W**hat does it truly mean to love my neighbor?

That is the question Kendra Broekhuis asks in **"Here Goes Nothing: An Introvert's Reckless Attempt to Love Her Neighbor."**

From the title it's clear that Broekhuis — who served as a missionary in Guatemala alongside her husband for three years — is one who prefers to stay in her introverted shell but also feels the call to reach out to others in her community.

She reconciles these two things throughout the chapters in her debut book. While she does share a few stories from her mission work in Central America, most of the stories come from her life as she moved back to the States and tried to settle in as a young mother in a new community.

From meeting people in her apartment complex to searching for a new church home for her family, she wrestles with the issues all Christians will face at some point in their lives but does so with humor and honesty.

Many Christians feel like they have to have some big conversion story to reach out to others, but Broekhuis reminds us that, through the power of Christ and what he has done for us, we all have the ability to reach out to others. She can't remain in her introverted shell when she remembers what Jesus has done, and that moves her to reach out to people.

Sometimes we get caught up in thinking that the more grandiose the move, the better. But small interactions in a parking lot, a laundromat or a knock on your neighbors' door can all be catalysts to share God's love.

I am not an introvert, but I really enjoyed this book and related to several of the situations Broekhuis describes. How do I decide who to reach out to? Does it matter who deserves my charity? Is giving too much just enabling? Is being kind and loving enough?

Broekhuis delves into these questions through personal experiences, examining her

life alongside the truth that the Bible teaches us.

One of my favorite passages is her remembrance of a sermon when the preacher asked "Would your neighborhood miss you tomorrow if you were gone? Would the surrounding community miss your church if it ceased to be tomorrow?"

If you are unsure of the answer to those questions, then maybe it's time to do some reflection on how to get to know those around you, Broekhuis writes. Once you get to know your neighbors and have a relationship with them, then you can truly serve them and hopefully introduce Christ to them.

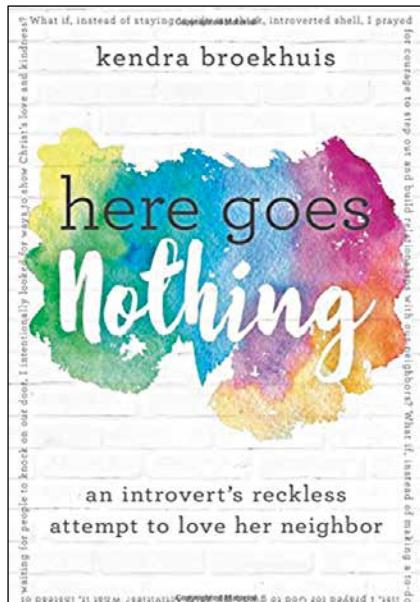
We don't have to go to another country to share God's love. We can share it right here, but to do so might require some of us to get out of our comfort zones.

Broekhuis also challenges you to really explore your own personal faith so that you *do* know how to share it with others when your conversations reach that point.

Maybe you were raised in the church your entire life, so you think you don't have much to share. That is never the case, Broekhuis writes. How have you seen the Lord change you? What do you struggle with that you have to give up to God?

The world loves to see a good 180-degree turn from a life of public debauchery, but what about the silent struggles we face such as worry, control, pride and selfishness? We also need to recognize those sins in our lives and be ready to share how our faith has changed us in ways that others may not be able to see as easily.

Since reading Broekhuis' book, I have also enjoyed many of her writings on her personal blog, [kendrabroekhuis.com](http://kendrabroekhuis.com). There, she offers ways that we can come together to share Christ in our neighborhoods, wherever we might live.



Kendra Broekhuis. **Here Goes Nothing: An Introvert's Reckless Attempt to Love Her Neighbor.** Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson, 2017. 288 pages. \$16.99.

Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson, 2017. 288 pages. \$16.99.

## In Print



Katie Isenberg

# 'Grieving a suicide' will help survivors heal, ministers help

**S**uicide devastates lives — the lives of families, friends and ministry providers. And many ministers, myself included, are confronted with the event of a suicide with little or no training.

That's why I find **"Grieving a Suicide: A Loved One's Search for Comfort, Answers and Hope"** by Albert Y. Hsu to be a much-needed and welcome resource.

The book is a beautifully written, fundamentally sound examination of the subject. Hsu, himself the survivor of a suicide (his father's), writes with compassion and directness. His words aren't shallow. He refuses to wallow in trite, worn-out phrases that help no one. As a survivor, Hsu weaves his story in and out of virtually every chapter, but not in a voyeuristic way. What the reader senses is the companionship of a kind and stable friend.

The book is divided into three sections: Part one deals with the aftermath of a suicide and the emotional and physical changes that survivors experience. Part two addresses three key questions: "Why did this happen?" "Is suicide the unforgivable sin?" and "Where is God when it hurts?" Part three examines life after a suicide.

I was impressed with Hsu's straightforward and even-handed use of biblical principles.

Regarding his treatment of the "unforgivable sin" question, I do not agree with every conclusion he makes, but his final conclusion merits consideration: We simply are not in the position to make the judgment of whether a person receives God's forgiveness in situations where we cannot understand a person's physical, emotional and spiritual state.

The book is written to other survivors of suicides, and not specifically to ministers, but the pastoral lessons throughout the book are invaluable.

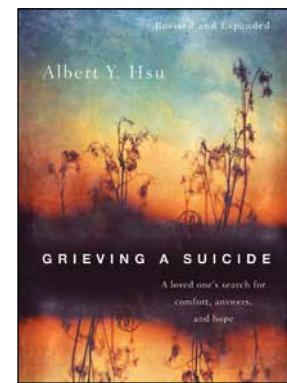
"Grieving a Suicide" is useful for anyone who has been touched by a self-inflicted death — and for those who might be called upon to offer support to those who must struggle with such an event.

**PAUL SMITH** ministers for the Golf Road Church of Christ in Belen, N.M. He and his wife of 33 years, Susan, have a daughter, Kylee. He earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from Fuller Theological Seminary.

## What we're reading



Paul Smith



Albert Y. Hsu. **Grieving a Suicide: A Loved One's Search for Comfort, Answers and Hope.**

Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP Books, 2017. 195 pages.

What are you reading? Send submissions to [erik@christianchronicle.org](mailto:erik@christianchronicle.org).

## New Mexico Christian Children's Home

The New Mexico Christian Children's Home is currently seeking to fill three positions:

### House Parents

Our House Parents work a week on/week off schedule and serve the needs of 6-10 children in their care.

Requirements:

- High School diploma or equivalent is required
- A valid driver's license with a good driving record
- Ability to pass a thorough background check and reference verification procedure
- Must be married at least two years

### Director of Residential Homes

The Director of Residential Homes oversees the Residential Homes in compliance with State standards. Oversees staff and enrollment of children. The ideal candidate will hold a Bachelor's or Master's Degree in Social Work or a related field.

### Director of Health and Education

The Director of Health and Education assists the Residential Homes Director in overseeing educational development and healthcare of our children. The ideal candidate will hold a Bachelor's or Masters Degree in Health, Education or Related Field

Some benefits of working at the New Mexico Christian Children's Home include:

- Housing, utilities and internet access provided
- Health, Vision, Dental and Life Insurance
- 401(k) retirement plan, with company match up to 5 percent

Contact Allen Mann, Director of Public Relations at: [contact@nmch.org](mailto:contact@nmch.org), or call: (575) 356-5372. Please visit our website at: <http://nmch.org> for more information.

## Shults Lewis CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Shults-Lewis Child and Family Services is seeking to fill the opening of EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR of the agency. Those wanting to be considered for the position should have the desire to help at-risk teens reach their full potential, strong administrative skills, excellent people-to-people and networking skills and the ability to represent the agency in public and church settings.

Duties will include overseeing the complete agency, which includes in-residence homes for troubled teens; resident counseling services and an on-site accredited Jr/Sr High School. The Executive Director will also be the "public face" of the agency and will cultivate support for the agency and its programs.

Though not a requirement, a license in Clinical Social Work or other Clinical Counseling license or Master's-level Degrees that can become licensed would be highly prized.

Shults-Lewis Child and Family Services, located in Valparaiso, Indiana, is a dynamic treatment program for struggling teens and their families. At Shults-Lewis, we believe that families shouldn't have to struggle alone, and our residential environment, staffed by Christian houseparents and counselors, offers counseling, love, acceptance and, most of all, hope to teens and their families.

Remuneration will be commensurate with education, experience, licensure, etc.

You may read more about Shults-Lewis Child and Family Services on our website at:

[www.shultslewis.org](http://www.shultslewis.org)

You may submit your resume or curriculum vitae on-line at:

[board@shultslewis.org](mailto:board@shultslewis.org)

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# HONOR ROLL OF CHURCHES, 2017-2018

*With deepest appreciation to those churches who have provided financial support for our efforts to inform, inspire and unite Churches of Christ worldwide.*

**ALABAMA:** Alexander City Church of Christ, Alexander City; Cedar Grove Church of Christ, Andalusia; Bay Minette Church of Christ, Bay Minette; Avondale Church of Christ, Birmingham; Bridgeport Church of Christ, Bridgeport; Church of Christ, Daleville; Elmore Church of Christ, Elmore; Henry Street Church of Christ, Gadsden; Georgiana Church of Christ, Georgiana; Davenport Church of Christ, Hope Hull; Lanett Church of Christ, Lanett; Liberty Church of Christ, Lineville; Madison Church of Christ, Madison; Christian Chapel Church of Christ, Millport; University Church of Christ, Mobile; Union Grove Church of Christ, New Market; North Pickens Church of Christ, Reform; Highland Church of Christ, Selma; East Walker Church of Christ, Sumiton. **ARIZONA:** Church of Christ, Benson; West Valley Church of Christ, Buckeye; Mesa Church of Christ, Mesa; Oracle Church of Christ, Oracle; Mount Vernon Church of Christ, Prescott; Sierra Vista Church of Christ, Sierra Vista. **ARKANSAS:** Church of Christ, Ashdown; Atkins Church of Christ, Atkins; Velvet Ridge Church of Christ, Bald Knob; Beedeville Church of Christ, Beedeville; Brinkley Church of Christ, Brinkley; New Liberty Church of Christ, Cleveland; Robinson & Center Church of Christ, Conway; Dover Church of Christ, Dover; Greenway Church of Christ, Greenway; Church of Christ, Lepanto; Lorance Drive Church of Christ, Little Rock; Melbourne Church of Christ, Melbourne; Levy Church of Christ, North Little Rock; Westridge Church of Christ, Pocahontas; Prairie Grove Church of Christ, Prairie Grove; Cloverdale Church of Christ, Searcy; College Church of Christ, Searcy; Waldo Church of Christ, Waldo. **CALIFORNIA:** Central Church of Christ, Anaheim; Armona Church of Christ, Armona; Auberry Church of Christ, Auberry; Duarte Church of Christ, Duarte; Imperial Beach Church of Christ, Imperial Beach; La Puente Church of Christ, La Puente; Vermont Avenue Church of Christ, Los Angeles; Palmdale Church of Christ, Palmdale; Pleasant View Church of Christ, Pleasanton; Roseville Church of Christ, Roseville; Alisal Church of Christ, Salinas; Temple Church of Christ, San Gabriel; Johnson Avenue Church of Christ, San Luis Obispo; Grand Avenue Church of Christ, Spring Valley; Victor Valley Church of Christ, Victorville. **COLORADO:** Columbine Church of Christ, Greeley; Kim Church of Christ, Kim; Columbine Church of Christ, Littleton; Church of Christ, Montrose; Church of Christ, Walsh; Northwest Church of Christ, Westminster. **CONNECTICUT:** Danbury Church of Christ, Danbury; Groton Church of Christ, Groton. **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:** 13th Street Church of Christ, Washington, D.C. **FLORIDA:** 10th Street Church of Christ, Apopka; 53rd Avenue Church of Christ, Bradenton; Callahan Church of Christ, Callahan; Westside Church of Christ, Daytona Beach; Holly Hill Church of Christ, Holly Hill; South 14th Street Church of Christ, Leesburg; Bay Area Church of Christ, Mango; Palo Alto Church of Christ, Panama City; Fiske Boulevard Church of Christ, Rockledge; Sanford Church of Christ, Sanford; Osprey Avenue Church of Christ, Sarasota. **GEORGIA:** Eastside Church of Christ, Albany; North Macon Church of Christ, Macon; Morgan County Church of Christ, Madison; Church of Christ, Metter; Quitman Church of Christ, Quitman; River Street Church of Christ, Valdosta. **HAWAII:** Church of Christ at Pearl Harbor, Honolulu; Kauai Church of Christ, Lihue. **IDAHO:** Valley County Church of Christ, McCall; Linder Road Church of Christ, Meridian; Pocatello Church of Christ, Pocatello. **ILLINOIS:** Villa Avenue Church of Christ, Addison; Arthur Church of Christ, Arthur; Browning Church of Christ, Beardstown; Brookfield Church of Christ, Brookfield; Far West Church of Christ, Chicago; East Park Church of Christ, Danville; Church of Christ, Freeport; Macomb Church of Christ, Macomb; Park Forest Church of Christ, Matteson; Lake Land Church of Christ, Mattoon. **INDIANA:** Meadowbrook Church of Christ, Anderson; Southland Church of Christ, Bedford; Corydon Church of Christ, Corydon; Orchard Hills Church of Christ, Covington; Church of Christ, Henryville; Fall Creek Parkway Church of Christ, Indianapolis; Fountain Square Church of Christ, Indianapolis; Kingsley Terrace Church of Christ, Indianapolis; North College Avenue Church of Christ, Indianapolis; Main Street Church of Christ, Lynn. **IOWA:** Sac City Church of Christ, Sac City; West Side Church of Christ, West Union. **KANSAS:** Cedar Vale Church of Christ, Cedar Vale; Erie Church of Christ, Erie; Eureka Church of Christ, Eureka; Eastwood Church of Christ, Hutchinson; Independence Church of Christ, Independence; Kingman Church of Christ, Kingman; Norwich Church of Christ, Norwich; Oberlin Church of Christ, Oberlin; 151st Street Church of Christ, Olathe; 15th Street Church of Christ, Ottawa; Russell Church of Christ, Russell; Sabetha Church of Christ, Sabetha; Church of Christ, Saint Francis; Wellington Church of Christ, Wellington; Chisholm Trail Church of Christ, Wichita; Riverwalk Church of Christ, Wichita. **KENTUCKY:** Adairville Church of Christ, Adairville; Hardin Church of Christ, Hardin; Westport Church of Christ, Louisville; Broadway Church of Christ, Paducah; Waynesburg Church of Christ, Waynesburg. **LOUISIANA:** Jackson Street Church of Christ, Alexandria; Church of Christ, Franklin; Jennings Church of Christ, Jennings; Grand Ecore Road Church of Christ, Natchitoches; Crowder Boulevard Church of Christ, New Orleans; Louisa Street Church of Christ, New Orleans; North Church of Christ, Shreveport. **MAINE:** Penobscot Valley Church of Christ, Hudson. **MARYLAND:** Church of Christ of Aberdeen, Aberdeen; Central Church of Christ, Baltimore; Beltway Church of Christ, Camp Springs; Salisbury Church of Christ, Salisbury. **MICHIGAN:** Atlanta Church of Christ, Atlanta; 20th Street Church of Christ, Battle Creek; Brighton Church of Christ, Brighton; Burlington Church of Christ, Burlington; Cheboygan Church of Christ, Cheboygan; Redford Church of Christ, Detroit; Hazel Park Church of Christ, Hazel Park; Lapeer Church of Christ, Lapeer; Marquette Church of Christ, Marquette; Mount Morris Church of Christ, Mount Morris; Newberry Church of Christ, Newberry. **MINNESOTA:** Church of Christ, Hibbing. **MISSISSIPPI:** Highway 182 Church of Christ, Greenville; Hanging Moss Church of Christ, Jackson; Skyline Church of Christ, Tupelo. **MISSOURI:** Blackwater Church of Christ, Blackwater; Bakerville Church of Christ, Bragg City; Church of Christ in California, California; Charleston Church of Christ, Charleston; Church of Christ, Clinton; Florissant Church of Christ, Florissant; Huntsville Church of Christ, Huntsville; Church of Christ, Jefferson City; Slicer Street Church of Christ, Kennett; Kimberling City Church of Christ, Kimberling City; Freedom Church of Christ, Montreal; Rocketdyne Church of Christ, Neosho; Nevada Church of Christ, Nevada; Owensville Church of Christ, Owensville; Flat River Church of Christ, Park Hills. **MONTANA:** Church of Christ, Belgrade. **NEBRASKA:** Beatrice Church of Christ, Beatrice; Hastings Church of Christ, Hastings; Southwest Church of Christ, Omaha. **NEW JERSEY:** Echo Lake Church of Christ, Westfield. **NEW MEXICO:** Mountainside Church of Christ, Albuquerque; Fox Lake Church of Christ, Carlsbad; Sunset Church of Christ, Carlsbad; Cimarron Church of Christ, Cimarron; Clayton Church of Christ, Clayton; Dora Church of Christ, Dora; Adams Street Church of Christ, Hatch; Mountainair Church of Christ, Mountainair. **NEW YORK:** Long Island Church of Christ, Bay Shore; Bethpage Church of Christ, Bethpage; Southtowns Church of Christ, Buffalo; Church of Christ-Hollis, Jamaica; Roosevelt-Freeport Church of Christ, Roosevelt; Sardinia Church of Christ,

# HONOR ROLL OF CHURCHES, 2017-2018

Sardinia. **NORTH CAROLINA:** Scotland Neck Church of Christ, Scotland Neck; Central Haywood Church of Christ, Waynesville. **OHIO:** Ada Church of Christ, Ada; North Hill Church of Christ, Akron; Perry Church of Christ, Bellville; Belmont Church of Christ, Belmont; Forest Hill Church of Christ, Cleveland Heights; Butternut Ridge Church of Christ, Clyde; Miller Avenue Church of Christ, Columbus; Dover Church of Christ, Dover; Brookwood Way Church of Christ, Mansfield; Middletown Church of Christ, Middletown; North Canton Church of Christ, North Canton; South Dayton Church of Christ, Springboro; Pennsville Church of Christ, Stockport; West Jefferson Church of Christ, West Jefferson; Woodsfield Church of Christ, Woodsfield. **OKLAHOMA:** Elm & Hudson Church of Christ, Altus; Tamarack Road Church of Christ, Altus; College Hill Church of Christ, Alva; Ames Church of Christ, Ames; Oak Street Church of Christ, Apache; Church of Christ on Merrick Drive, Ardmore; Church of Christ, Beaver; Downtown Church of Christ, Bixby; Byars Church of Christ, Byars; Central Church of Christ, Chandler; Choctaw Church of Christ, Choctaw; Clayton Church of Christ, Clayton; Church of Christ, Cushing; Carter Park Church of Christ, Del City; Dill City Church of Christ, Dill City; Edmond Church of Christ, Edmond; Memorial Road Church of Christ, Edmond; Gould Church of Christ, Gould; Church of Christ, Hobart; Messer Church of Christ, Hugo; Keyes Church of Christ, Keyes; Kiowa Church of Christ, Kiowa; Rose Hill Church of Christ, Lawton; North Town Church of Christ, McAlester; Church of Christ, Meeker; Chandler Road Church of Christ, Muskogee; Church of Christ, Okemah; Grand Boulevard Church of Christ, Oklahoma City; Soldier Creek Church of Christ, Piedmont; Reydon Church of Christ, Reydon; Church of Christ, Seiling; Farrall Church of Christ, Shawnee; Skiatook Church of Christ, Skiatook; Cincinnati Avenue Church of Christ, Sperry; Highland Church of Christ, Tecumseh; Church of Christ, Vinita; Elm & Murrow Church of Christ, Waynoka. **OREGON:** Church of Christ, Gold Beach; Ontario Church of Christ, Ontario; Eastside Church of Christ, Portland; Church of Christ, Scappoose. **PENNSYLVANIA:** Lower Bucks Church of Christ, Fairless Hills; Chесmоnt Church of Christ, Pottstown; Somerset Church of Christ, Somerset; Church of Christ, Washington. **PUERTO RICO:** Pueblo Iglesia de Cristo, Carolina. **RHODE ISLAND:** Kent County Church of Christ, Coventry. **SOUTH CAROLINA:** Andrews Church of Christ, Andrews; Clover Church of Christ, Clover; Windsor Lake Church of Christ, Columbia; Lexington Church of Christ, Lexington; New Ellenton Church of Christ, New Ellenton; Grand Strand Church of Christ, Surfside Beach; Williston Church of Christ, Williston; Winnsboro Church of Christ, Winnsboro. **SOUTH DAKOTA:** Watertown Church of Christ, Watertown; Yankton Church of Christ, Yankton. **TENNESSEE:** Bartlett Woods Church of Christ, Arlington; Athens Church of Christ, Athens; Eva Road Church of Christ, Camden; Church of Christ at Trenton Crossing, Clarksville; Clinton Church of Christ, Clinton; Airtake Church of Christ, Collierville; Graymere Church of Christ, Columbia; Columbus Church of Christ, Columbus; Pickwick Church of Christ, Counce; Smyrna Church of Christ, Culpeka; East Frayser Church of Christ, Ellendale; Gallatin Church of Christ, Gallatin; Estes Church of Christ, Henderson; Hendersonville Church of Christ, Hendersonville; Lascassas Church of Christ, Lascassas; Fall River Church of Christ, Leoma; Linden Church of Christ, Linden; Madison Church of Christ, Madison; Maryville Church of Christ, Maryville; Graves & Winchester Church of Christ, Memphis; Great Oaks Church of Christ, Memphis; Midtown Church of Christ, Memphis; Millington Church of Christ, Millington; Central Church of Christ, Nashville; Radnor Church of Christ, Nashville; Pegram Church of Christ, Pegram; Union Hill Church of Christ, Portland; Fairlane Church of Christ, Shelbyville; Silver Point Church of Christ, Silver Point; Westport Church of Christ, Westport. **TEXAS:** Westside Church of Christ, Alvin; Houston Street Church of Christ, Aransas Pass; Bertram Church of Christ, Bertram; 14th & Main Church of Christ, Big Spring; Northside Church of Christ, Bonham; Jim Hall Street Church of Christ, Borger; Carter Lake Road Church of Christ, Bowie; Bronte Church of Christ, Bronte; Brownfield Church of Christ, Brownfield; Buna Church of Christ, Buna; Vanderveer Street Church of Christ, Burnet; Callisburg Church of Christ, Callisburg; Clarendon Church of Christ, Clarendon; Pickwick Church of Christ, Counce; Grace Street Church of Christ, Crockett; Flamingo Road Church of Christ, Crowley; Klein Area Church of Christ, Cypress; Mount Mitchell Church of Christ, Daingerfield; 4th Avenue Church of Christ, Dallas; Hawn Freeway Church of Christ, Dallas; Decatur Church of Christ, Decatur; Denton Church of Christ, Denton; Sherman Drive Church of Christ, Denton; Airport Freeway Church of Christ, Euless; Frankston Church of Christ, Frankston; Buckingham Road Church of Christ, Garland; Parker Church of Christ, Granbury; Pecan Grove Church of Christ, Greenville; 4th & Avenue G Church of Christ, Hale Center; Haslet Church of Christ, Haslet; Hebronville Church of Christ, Hebronville; 249 Church of Christ, Houston; Highland Gardens Church of Christ, Houston; Memorial Church of Christ, Houston; Westbury Church of Christ, Houston; North Main Church of Christ, Hutchins; Church of Christ, Iowa Park; Church of Christ, Iraan; Joshua Church of Christ, Joshua; Kerens Church of Christ, Kerens; Chandler Street Church of Christ, Kilgore; La Feria Church of Christ, La Feria; Iglesia de Cristo, Laredo; Liberty Hill Church of Christ, Liberty Hill; Oak Grove Church of Christ, Livingston; Manhattan Heights Church of Christ, Lubbock; South Plains Church of Christ, Lubbock; Smithwick Church of Christ, Marble Falls; Travis Peak Church of Christ, Marble Falls; East Side Church of Christ, Marlin; Maud Church of Christ, Maud; Church of Christ Pharr, McAllen; Valley Creek Church of Christ, Mesquite; North Street Church of Christ, Nacogdoches; 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State Street Church of Christ, Bristol; Eastside Church of Christ, Christianburg; Church of Christ, Covington; Church of Christ at Dale City, Dale City; Emporia Church of Christ, Emporia; Church of Christ in Falls Church, Falls Church; Piedmont Church of Christ, Farmville; Lindell Church of Christ, Meadowview; Orange Community Church of Christ, Orange; Dale Ridge Church of Christ, Roanoke; Tazewell Church of Christ, Tazewell. **WASHINGTON:** Aberdeen Church of Christ, Aberdeen; Cashmere Church of Christ, Cashmere; Twin Cities Church of Christ, Centralia; Kibler Avenue Church of Christ, Enumclaw; Ephrata Church of Christ, Ephrata; Olympia Church of Christ, Olympia; Southside Church of Christ, Spokane; Lakeview Church of Christ, Tacoma; Summit View Church of Christ, Yakima. **WEST VIRGINIA:** Brushfork Church of Christ, Bluefield; Alexander Church of Christ, French Creek; Lewisburg Church of Christ, Lewisburg; Otsego Church of Christ, Mullens; Camden Avenue Church of Christ, Parkersburg; Rockport Church of Christ, Rockport; 36th Street Church of Christ, Vienna. **WISCONSIN:** Southside Church of Christ, Milwaukee. **WYOMING:** Rawlins Church of Christ, Rawlins; Church of Christ, Thermopolis.

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**Mary Louise Bridges**

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"Sometimes the *Chronicle* reports on Kenya and other places where I've sent World Bible School material," she says. "I like to

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Next month we plan to highlight our Keepers of the *Chronicle*, who give regularly to this ministry. We pray that you'll consider joining their ranks. Our dedicated donors have faithfully increased their giving in recent years, taking on a larger share of our support. We would love for more readers to step up and contribute. Just a few dollars per month can make a huge difference.

To all of you who read and all of you who support this publication, we once again offer our humble, sincerest thanks. You bless us.

**CONTACT:** [lyn.mcmillon@christianchronicle.org](mailto:lyn.mcmillon@christianchronicle.org)

### FROM OUR READERS

## Bailey McBride gave decades of Insight

Bailey: I read with sadness your final "Insight" after 38 years (Page 34, March). I will miss seeing your smiling face in *The Christian Chronicle*.

While I always enjoy reading the whole paper, the main reason I read it is to see your smiling picture and learn from your wisdom.

**DONNA J. ANDERS | Edmond, Okla.**

Blessings to you on your retirement, which I'm sure will keep you as busy as ever.

**LISA SHILTS | Wausau, Wis.**

Thank you so much for all you have done all these many years. I will miss your columns but look forward to reading the devotional book you plan to write.

**KATE STAFFORD | Houston**

Thank you, brother McBride, for your service in the Kingdom through *The Christian Chronicle*. I have read your column with interest and appreciate your personal reflections. Praise God for your dedication to his church. May God bless you richly.

**DEBORAH STEPHENS | Owasso, Okla.**

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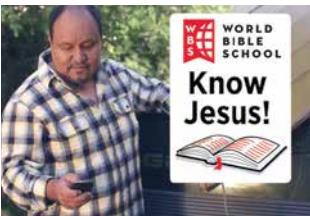
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