In this remote mountain village, water gushes from a well drilled by Healing Hands International. As one woman pumps the handle, another gleefully splashes the clear, flowing liquid on her face. Little boys and girls giggle as they cup their hands under the spout, taking giant gulps before filling plastic buckets to carry home.

In an area where donkeys ferry supplies and entire families squeeze onto small motorbikes, the $7,500 well’s dedication brings celebration and dancing — and the opportunity for healthier lives.

“The people wanted it so badly,” said Art Woods, president of the Nashville, Tenn.-based humanitarian aid organization, which is associated with Churches of Christ.

It’s a scene repeated hundreds of times in this impoverished Caribbean island nation: Since the Jan. 10, 2010, earthquake that claimed 230,000 lives and left 1.5 million people homeless, Healing Hands has focused on providing access to clean water.

“We truly believe that if you’re going to change the world, it’s going to start with water,” said Sean Judge, president of Healing Hands International.

“Right now, prayers are solicited for those affected,” Gary Lyons told The Christian Chronicle, noting that one church member was forced to evacuate her home after losing her husband to a brain tumor just a week earlier.

Lyons ministers for the Waimea Church of Christ, which meets on Hawai‘i, the largest of the Hawaiian islands, often called “The Big Island,” home to about 187,000 souls and four small Churches of Christ.

Danny Keahey, who worships with the Kona Church of Christ and has lived in Hawaii since 1991, calls the eruption “the biggest one we’ve had in a while.”

At least two families from Churches of Christ evacuated their homes as streams of lava burned trees, houses and vehicles in Hawaii.

The church members were among about 2,000 evacuees from Leilani Estates, a subdivision under siege by molten rock from Kilauea, the world’s longest-erupting volcano. Lyons told The Christian Chronicle, noting that one church member was forced to evacuate her home after losing her husband to a brain tumor just a week earlier.

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Danny Keahey, who worships with the Kona Church of Christ and has lived in Hawaii since 1991, calls the eruption “the biggest one we’ve had in a while.”
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From Vietnam to Kenya, lives touched by God

MALIBU, Calif.

A little boy from Vietnam. A little boy from Kenya.

This is the story of how one of those boys — all grown up — paid forward his blessings from God.

The recipient of that boy’s extreme gratitude? The other boy.

At age 11 in 1975, Hung V. Le escaped Vietnam on a military transport plane, but he was forced to leave his family behind. Just a few weeks later, Saigon fell to the communists.

For the next several years, Le lived with foster parents in the Seattle area. When he finished high school, a guidance counselor urged him to consider Pepperdine University. That’s how he ended up at the Southern California university, which is associated with Churches of Christ, in the fall of 1983.

At Pepperdine, Le — who had grown up in a devout Roman Catholic household and contemplated becoming a priest — studied the Bible and felt he truly understood it for the first time. The campus minister, Tom Reynolds, baptized Le, and he met his future wife, Corinne, a fellow student, through the University Church of Christ.

“God just gave me so much more than I could ever imagine,” said Le, who earned a degree in business administration and worked...

Breaking the sound barrier

A TENNESSEE CHURCH MEMBER’S sign language club unites deaf and hearing children.

BY KEN BECK | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

It’s a story I want to shout from the mountaintops,” says Poppy O’Guin Steele, an advocate for a multitude of Middle Tennessee children who are deaf.

Steele, who worships with the Hendersonville Church of Christ, northeast of Nashville, has shared her mission so loudly that deaf and hearing alike have heard her roar.

Her actions prove even louder than her words, whether spoken by mouth or signed by hand. She founded the Sign Club Co. in 2012. Since then the organization, based in Tennessee’s Sumner County, has taught sign language to more than 1,800 youngsters, with Steele teaching about 900 of them herself.

“Our No. 1 goal is to create friends for our deaf children. I find that, especially for deaf children, Korean Christians dare to show optimism as summit approaches

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Will it happen or not? And if it does happen, will anything change?

Christians on the Korean peninsula waver between oh-so-cautious optimism and outright cynicism as they ponder those questions in light of the summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and U.S. President Donald Trump. At press time, the summit was still on for June 12 in Singapore.

However, North Korean leaders, angry at joint U.S.-South Korea military exercises, halted talks with the South and threatened to pull out of the summit entirely if the U.S. insisted on the dismantling of North Korea’s nuclear program.

Nonetheless, “I feel something is different this time, though the leadership in North Korea is unpredictable,” said Sang Yang, a minister for a Church of Christ in South Korea’s capital, Seoul, and director of the Bible Correspondence Center, a ministry-training program.

“One thing I always do believe is that God is in control.”

Like many on the peninsula, Yang’s is a family divided. His parents fled from the North during the Korean War, a three-year conflict that claimed 2.5 million lives, though some historians estimate the number was much larger. Some members of his extended family stayed in the North.

“I have my relatives right there,” Yang said, standing just south of the Imjin River and pointing across the...
TWO BOYS: ‘The biggest gift our church has received’

FROM PAGE 3
on Wall Street for a few years before returning to serve on Pepperdine’s staff in 1990. “I expected a school, and I found a family.”

Not only did Pepperdine nurture Le’s faith, but the university community also rallied to reunite him with his family. “When people heard about our story, they organized letter-writing campaigns to bring them to the U.S. — students, faculty members, board members. Everyone,” he wrote in a testimonial on Pepperdine’s website.

That dream was fulfilled in 1991 when Le’s father, mother and siblings were allowed to move to California.

Fast-forward to present day: Le serves as Pepperdine’s associate vice president and university registrar. He and Corinne have four sons: Zachary, 23, a Pepperdine graduate; Benjamin, 20, a Pepperdine junior; Jaime, 19, a Pepperdine sophomore; and Garrett, 17, a Malibu High School senior.

In 2012, the entire family traveled with the University church on a mission trip to Kenya. They helped with Made in the Streets, a Christian nonprofit that has a mission of loving and serving street kids in Nairobi, the capital.

While there, Le met a little boy named Victor Ngatia, then 5.

“He had the most beautiful smile, and there was something about him,” Le told me in an interview in his Pepperdine office.

“I probably took 10,000 pictures the first time I went to Kenya,” the registrar added. “But my favorite picture was one day in the children’s center. I see Victor in the corner by himself, writing something on the board.”


Right there, the little boy won Le’s heart.

Only later did Le learn that Victor suffered from a serious birth defect. The boy could not control his bladder. Without surgery, he would not be allowed to attend school.

Back home in California, Le got to work and overcame a myriad of financial and bureaucratic obstacles to bring Victor to the U.S. for a life-changing operation sponsored by Mending Kids International. (Just a side note: One of the major donors to make this happen was a man named Gene Simmons, whom some might recognize as a singer for the rock band KISS.)

To put it in a nutshell, the little boy from Vietnam assured a better life for the little boy from Kenya.

“He’s the most amazing child,” Le said. “He’s been here three times for different medical procedures.”

Victor’s last U.S. visit was just a few months ago when he came for a checkup. While at Pepperdine, the boy celebrated his 11th birthday. To recognize those years, an American friend gave Victor $11. But — and you might want to grab a tissue — he didn’t keep the money for himself.

“That’s a lot of money for a Kenyan, especially for a little boy,” Le said. “But that night, he handed me the money and said, ‘Hung, can you give this to the church?’ I looked at him and said, ‘Why? This is yours, Victor.’ And he said, ‘The church has given me so much. I want to do something.’”

Hey, remember the biblical story of the widow’s mite?

This is a modern-day version. “You see the spirit of God living in him,” Le said of his young friend. “I would say that’s probably the biggest gift our church has received. I don’t think anyone has ever given everything they had to the church, except for Victor.”


CONTACT: bobby.ross@christianchronicle.org

On a 2017 visit to Kamulu, Kenya, the Le family poses with Victor Ngatia and his mother, Nancy Nduta. Pictured, from left, are Garrett Le, Victor, Nduta, Corinne Le, Hung Le, Jaime Le and Ben Le.
**CALIFORNIA**

**LOS ANGELES —** The Culver Palms Church of Christ, a congregation known for its ethnic diversity, is marking its 75th anniversary.

On a recent Sunday, 332 people worshiped and celebrated how God has worked in and through the church, minister Mark Manassee said.

The service was led by former ministers Doug Cole, Dan Knight, David Skates and Matt Soper, along with Manassee and the congregation’s Chinese minister, Shifan Man.

Amy Bost Henegar reflected on growing up at Culver Palms, and Eleni Melirrytos, one of the church’s Greek ministry partners, prepared — with a team of helpers — a feast of Greek dishes and recipes she learned from refugees.

**FLORIDA**

**ROCKLEDGE —** The predominantly white Rockledge Church of Christ and the predominantly black Fiske Boulevard Church of Christ worshiped together on a recent Sunday night.

The congregations, about 2.5 miles apart, conduct joint worship assemblies once a quarter.

The unity effort began with a call by Rockledge minister Kerry Buckley to the other church.

“I thought it was important for the two churches to show our community that Christians in the Lord’s church are united regardless of skin color or politics or opinions,” Burkey said.

Randy Cole Sims Sr. serves as minister for the Fiske Boulevard congregation.

**OKLAHOMA**

**WOODWARD —** The Woodward Church of Christ is helping with disaster relief after recent wildfires in northwest Oklahoma.

The church hosted a dinner and informational meeting on how to help victims work through insurance claims and questions, minister David Heflin said. The families who attended were given Wal-Mart gift cards.

In addition, the congregation is directing special financial assistance to five families in the community, Heflin said.

“It is our hope ... that we will be able to build long-lasting relationships and make a difference spiritually in their lives while helping them get back on their feet,” he said.

**SPOTLIGHT**

**‘Revive Us Again,’ workshop urges**

**WICHITA FALLS, Texas —** More than 500 Christians from eight states attended the recent “Revive Us Again” church growth and evangelism workshop, hosted by the Faith Village Church of Christ.

Home Mission, a domestic mission effort directed by John Orr and a team of evangelists, sponsored the four-day workshop.

Attendees “devoted their week to discussing ways to grow the church in America,” said Faith Village minister Jacob Hawk, who with Orr directed the workshop.

Among the topics addressed were ministering to millennials, evangelizing through listening, community outreach programs, technology and how to begin, continue and finish Bible studies.

Hawk moderated a panel of church leaders each afternoon, addressing key issues such as social justice and racial unity.

A Friday night barbecue dinner cooked by Faith Village volunteers drew more than 400 people.

A Saturday youth day involved groups from Texas and Oklahoma, and children’s classes and programs were also offered each day.

“Revive Us Again strives to encourage and equip churches for the glory of God,” said Hawk, noting that the Faith Village church plans to make the workshop an annual event.

**CHICKENS, DOGS, GOATS AND RABBITS, OH MY!**

Adrein Ricci, 2, checks out the chickens at a Forever His ministry day camp sponsored by the Karns Church of Christ in Knoxville, Tenn. More than 100 volunteers gathered to love and minister to the campers, said Kim Higginbotham, an organizer of the recent event for children with special needs. “With the theme ‘Down on the Farm,’ we had a member bring several live animals for the kids to see and touch,” Higginbotham said.

The animals included chickens, dogs, a miniature horse, goats and rabbits.

“prayer tour.” The tour coincided with the National Day of Prayer.

“Along the way, we'll be asking people to pray over specific areas of Flint,” Cunningham told ABC 12 News, mentioning the police department, public schools, addiction recovery centers, homeless shelters and community outreach charities.

**MICHIGAN**

**FLINT —** Steve Cunningham, minister for the Bristol Road Church of Christ, helped organize a recent community event.
FACULTY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

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

Initial application should include a letter of interest and curriculum vitae. To complete the application, three church references, three professional references, and a transcript of the highest degree are required.

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PAUL R. CARTER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION. Seeking full-time nine-month faculty member beginning August 2018. Preference will be given to a Ph.D. in a business field with at least 18 graduate hours in marketing. Preference also will be given to those with professional experience in marketing analytics, electronic marketing and/or integrated marketing management.

Submit application materials to Dr. Jim Shelton, associate dean, at jgshelton@harding.edu or Box 10774, Searcy, AR 72149.

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Submit application materials to Dr. Kimberly Flowers, director of educational leadership, at kaflowers@harding.edu or Box 12261, Searcy, AR 72149.

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY. Seeking full-time 12-month faculty members. Applicants with internal medicine, ambulatory care or clinical psychiatry specialty are encouraged to apply. Qualified applicants will possess a Pharm.D. as well as residency/fellowship training. At least two years of academic experience is preferred. Eligibility for pharmacy licensure in Arkansas is required. Responsibilities include didactic instruction in pharmacotherapy and related clinical sciences, maintenance of a clinical practice site for the purposes of service and experiential teaching, and active engagement in scholarship.

Submit application materials to Dr. Julie Kissack, chair, department of pharmacy practice, at jkissack@harding.edu or Box 12230, Searcy, AR 72149.

Additional openings are available in the following areas:

CANNON-CLARY COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

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After 76 years, prayer answered

FAMILY FINDS CLOSURE, PEACE as the remains of a Church of Christ member killed during the attack at Pearl Harbor are identified.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

For 76 years, the family of U.S. Navy sailor Henry Glenn Tipton — a Church of Christ member from Arkansas — prayed for answers.

Tipton, 20, was aboard the USS Oklahoma when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. “I believe all prayers are answered,” said Ken Tipton, who was born in 1944 and never knew his late half-brother. “Thankfully, most don’t take 76 years before the answer comes.”

Finally, the answer in Glenn Tipton’s case came in recent months, said Ken Tipton, a member of the Palm Beach Lakes Church of Christ in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

DNA testing confirmed that the seaman first class was among the 2,402 U.S. deaths — including 402 on the capsized USS Oklahoma — on that “date which will live in infamy.”

Ken Tipton described his family’s decades of praying — and waiting — in a first-person article for Abundant Living, a publication of Harding University in Searcy, Ark.

“For more than 76 years, our family had prayed for closure,” Ken Tipton wrote. “Our basic communication had come in 1941 when the Navy sent word that Glenn was ‘missing in action’ and ‘presumed dead.’”

“I later found a Baxter County Bulletin newspaper clipping from Feb. 11, 1944, stating that my father, Bill Tipton, had received the Purple Heart Medal that was awarded posthumously to his son, Glenn — my half-brother.”

But Ken Tipton recalled that questions over what happened to his half-brother haunted his late father, who served as an elder of the Heber Springs Church of Christ in Arkansas in the 1960s. The sailor’s mother, Lilye Maxine Tipton, had died during a premature labor when he was 11.

“I personally recall the painful emotional outpouring as my father talked to me about Glenn,” Ken Tipton wrote in a personal account that he shared with The Christian Chronicle. “First, it was his fault because he should have tried to keep Glenn from joining the Navy.

“Then, what if Glenn jumped into the water and swam to safety, only to be captured later and tortured. What if he was in the death march to Bataan. What if he escaped and would someday come back home.

“No dog tags. No body. No closure. That was the kind of pain that he experienced.”

But in 2014, the Navy invited Ken Tipton to a meeting in Memphis, Tenn., of MIA service personnel. The intent of the meeting was to locate people whose DNA might match a set of remains from the “unknown” caskets in the “punch bowl” cemetery in Hawaii.

Family members of Glenn Tipton sent in DNA samples, and in February of this year, Ken Tipton was notified of the match.

Glenn Tipton’s remains are being returned from overseas. A military funeral service is scheduled for 10 a.m. June 8 at the Wings of Honor Museum in Walnut Ridge, Ark.
Texas church member celebrates a century

Young women from the East Pointe Church of Christ in Fort Worth, Texas, help Addie Lee Henderson celebrate her 100th birthday. Henderson has been a member of the congregation — formerly known as the Stop Six Church of Christ — since moving to Cowtown from the small town of Marshall in East Texas nearly seven decades ago.

LAVA: Big Island’s churches ‘can make a difference’

FROM PAGE 1
since I’ve been here.”

Still, he stressed that only a small part of the island is in danger. He can’t see smoke from his home, about 80 miles west of Kilauea, but he has noticed an increase in “vog,” fog created by sulfur dioxide and other gases from the volcano.

“The gases smell horrible, and some of them are deadly,” Keahy said. “You can out-walk the lava,” he said of the slow-moving disaster, but “you can’t stop it. It rolls kind of like water. It rolls downhill. You can’t put a wall up. You can’t put water on it. You can’t do anything. It’s going to roll downhill until it stops.”

So far, the lava has destroyed 35 structures, including 26 homes, said Gary Roberson, a member of the Big Island Church of Christ, a congregation associated with the International Churches of Christ fellowship. Although none of the church’s members live in the area, “family and friends of the disciples have had to evacuate and have lost their homes,” Roberson said. “This has been such a devastating time for these families. Because of the uncertainty of the eruption, there is no way to determine how long these people will be displaced — even if their home was not destroyed.”

Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort sent assistance to the East Hawaii Church of Christ in Hilo, said workers with the Nashville, Tenn.-based ministry. Disaster Assistance CoC, another nonprofit associated with Churches of Christ, plans to help as needed, said director Mike Baumgartner. The ministry already has been working in Hawaii, purchasing supplies for residents of the island of Kauai after recent, widespread flooding there.

Some Hawaiians say that the damage is the work of Pele, the Hawaiian volcano goddess, coming to reclaim her land, according to news reports. But Lyons sees in the natural disaster a chance for people of faith to show Christ’s love.

“Long-term needs will probably be where the church on the Big Island can make a difference,” Lyons said.

ADDITIONAL REPORTING: Chellie Ison
College of Arts and Sciences
Dr. Gregory Straughn, Dean, ACU Box 29210, Abilene, Texas 79699-9210

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/physics.

The Department of Communication and Sociology invites applications for a tenure-track position at assistant professor level beginning August 2018. Applicants must have a Ph.D. in sociology. Areas of specialization are open, but we particularly seek applicants who can teach undergraduate statistics and research methods. Our faculty is engaged in research with undergraduate students on a broad range of topics. All applicants should demonstrate a record of excellent classroom teaching, the potential for scholarly endeavors, and collegial service. Applicants must have strong communication skills and interest in the development of students. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/sociology.

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 and 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.

Brown Library
Dr. Mark McCallon, Associate Dean for Library Information Systems, ACU Box 29208, Abilene, Texas 79699-9208

ACU’s Brown Library invites applications for the head of research and instructional services, a full-time tenure-track faculty position. Applicants must have an ALA-accredited M.L.S. or equivalent degree and experience with successful college teaching. This position is responsible for leading and managing the instructional and research activities of the Information Services Division and collaboratively oversees the development and maintenance of the library’s print collections and the displays, events and collections in the Reading Commons. Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. Information about the Brown Library is available at acu.edu/library.

See 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.
God doesn’t promise us life will be easy

By Lynn McMillon | The Christian Chronicle

In recent weeks, about 3.6 million American students graduated from high school, the National Center for Education Statistics reports. In a few months, an estimated 11.5 million females and 8.9 million males will head to college and university campuses to continue their education. Among them is Haley Cole McMillon, an active member of the Memorial Road Church of Christ youth group in Oklahoma City and a graduate of Edmond Memorial High School. Passionate about missions, she counts two mission trips to serve children in Honduras as a highlight of her faith journey.

She sang in her school’s choir for several years and has participated in annual “Swine Week” fundraisers that have netted more than $750,000 for local charities. A member of the National Honor Society, she plans to attend Oklahoma Christian University and study nursing.

Editor’s Note: If the last name looks familiar, there’s a reason: Haley McMillon is the granddaughter of Christian Chronicle president and CEO Lynn McMillon and his wife, Joy. Visit christianchronicle.org to find previous Dialogues with Shelby McMillon, who graduated in 2013, and Hannah and Savannah McMillon, who graduated in 2015.

Why do you go on mission trips?
The first few times, I had the mindset that we were going to fix things for these people. It wasn’t until my first trip to Honduras that I learned the purpose of a mission trip. It isn’t just about building things for people or even trying to convert non-believers. Missions is about loving people, showing God’s love to people and, through that, hoping the people will see a difference in us and want to know more about Jesus.

I love these trips because I see how joyful and welcoming the people are — even though they are lacking in the things of this world. They see their lives as good. I have learned a lot about being “content whatever the circumstances” as Paul wrote about his life (Philippians 4:11). The people we meet and work with are easy to love and learn from.

Who are the strongest spiritual influences in your life?
The strongest spiritual influences in my life are my family and youth group. Friends and youth ministers have pushed me to grow. Church camps and mission trips have also had a very big impact on my faith journey. I have seen a life outside of myself and have learned lessons that will shape my faith forever.

My family has also had a huge impact on my life. My family isn’t perfect, and all of us have faced different challenges, but this is how we’ve learned. Life events and changes are what mold us and shape us. I am thankful for a family, friends and church who all share the same goals and values in life. It makes living a life for Christ so much easier with others walking alongside you.

The tragic school shootings in Florida happened during your senior year. What are your thoughts about school safety?
These shootings are completely devastating. Schools have a responsibility for the safety of all of us, and we shouldn’t have to feel nervous or unsafe when at school. School safety must be a priority.

These tragedies can’t be stopped, but schools should have a plan for us — if this happens — to assure peace of mind to parents and students. Hopefully an end will come to these tragedies. My heart goes out to every student that has been subjected to this violence.

My friends and I all think about our safety at school. It is something we talk about. Sometimes, sitting in class, it’s easy to think how insecure our schools are with outside doors unlocked and even some teachers’ classrooms being unlocked. It is on our minds.

How difficult is it to be a Christian in your world?
It is very difficult at times to be a Christian. People tend to think we are fun-killers and judgmental.

Christians as a whole are grouped together, but not all Christians are the same. It can be hard to stand out and be different when it feels like we are being ridiculed and disliked. Having a strong faith and making good decisions is not always smiled upon by our friends.

We are called to stand out even if that means being made fun of or feeling like an outcast. God doesn’t promise us life will be easy. In fact, he warns us that there will be difficult times here on earth. “You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved,” Jesus tells us in Matthew 10:22. God promises us salvation through him if we follow him through the good and bad times.

What are the greatest challenges to your own faith?
Why do bad things have to happen? I really struggled with that question when I lost my mom two years ago to a horrible disease. I know these things happen to all kinds of people, but it can be challenging at times to love God and trust him when these things happen all around us every day.

But I have learned that not everything in this life is going to make sense to us because we don’t have God’s knowledge. I believe that God has an ultimate plan and that things happen for a reason, according to his will.

How do you hope to fulfill your Christian mission in life?
One of the reasons I plan to be a nurse is so that I can show God’s love for people by helping them and taking care of them. I also hope to do medical missions as a way of showing God’s love to people in other places. That is the essence of the Christian life, in my opinion.

What do you have to say to older generations about your generation?
I love the way older people are not so concerned about trying to be perfect. I want them to teach me how to live a simpler life and not always be so caught up in technology. My generation is so hooked on technology that I want to know how to better relate to people in a simple and basic way.

‘Why do bad things have to happen? I really struggled with that question when I lost my mom ... to a horrible disease. ... But I have learned that not everything in life is going to make sense to us because we don’t have God’s knowledge.’

Haley Cole McMillon
THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE
JUNE 2018

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In India, Hindus, Muslims and Christians learn about Jesus at VBS

About 120 children — from religious backgrounds including Hinduism, Islam and various Christian denominations — learned about Jesus together during a Vacation Bible School hosted by the Kilpauk YMCA Church of Christ in Chennai, India. Church members hosted the five-day event, titled “Journey with Jesus, Sower of the Seed.” In addition to Bible classes, the event featured classes in origami paper folding and visual art, said minister David Martin. The children also got plenty of snacks, the minister added, and were sent home with packed lunches. On Sunday the children gathered again to perform skits and show off skills they learned during the Vacation Bible School. “Hindu parents came to see the children take part in the program,” Martin said.

COLOMBIA

PUERTO GAITÁN — A Church of Christ planted about two years ago in this South American town is growing, said Bob Young, a longtime missionary to Spanish-speaking nations. Recently, women from a congregation in Colombia’s capital, Bogota, traveled to Puerto Gaitán to host a Vacation Bible School for children during their school break.

The VBS was funded by a memorial gift in honor of Young’s cousin, Carol Alredge, who died in December.

“Puerto Gaitán has a population of only about 20,000,” Young said, “but will provide a foothold in a department with 750,000 people.”

CROATIA

ZAPREŠIC — Following his 70th birthday, longtime minister Ivan Tesic retired from full-time ministry after more than 37 years of service to his native Croatia. Tesic helped launch the Zagreb Church of Christ in the Central European nation’s capital in the 1980s and, in the next decade, established the Zapresic Church of Christ and the Christian Family Center. The Zapresic church appointed Tesic’s brother, Nikola, as its new preacher and legal representative. The Stillwater Church of Christ in Oklahoma supports the work.

Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE — Yann Opsitch, professor of French at Abilene Christian University in Texas and preacher for the Jim Ned Valley Church of Christ in Tuscola, Texas, and his wife, Rita, have dedicated their lives to evangelism in the French-speaking world.

The couple works with Daniéren Dossous, a minister for a Church of Christ in Port-au-Prince, and his wife, Félix Mariene. The Opsitches recently helped the Haitian couple and other Christians establish a nonprofit to serve orphans in Haiti.

The impoverished nation has as many as 1 million orphans, according to estimates by humanitarian aid groups. The nonprofit’s founders also plan to launch a primary and secondary school.

SWITZERLAND

GENEVA — Although it was written thousands of years ago, the book of Exodus seems almost contemporary for many Christians in Europe, as they witness a flood of refugees from the Middle East across the continent. Many of them, fleeing violence and persecution in their homelands, are hungry for God’s truth.

Philippe Dauner, a minister for the Church of Christ in Marseille, France, recently taught a six-hour seminar on the book to church members in Geneva. Participants in the Marseille church’s internship program also traveled to Albania and Athens, Greece, to work with refugees.
A mission trip to Monkey Mountain

MONKEY MOUNTAIN, Guyana

The church was encouraged, the Gospel was shared and four souls were saved. To God be all the glory always.”

Members of the Amelia’s Ward Church of Christ in Linden, Guyana, posted that short message after a mission team from the congregation traveled to Monkey Mountain, a village in the South American nation’s interior named for the red howler monkeys that populate its trees. The village is just north of the Brazil border.

After landing on the village’s airstrip in a bush plane, the team slept in tents, hosted Bible classes and worshiped with a small Church of Christ planted among Guyana’s indigenous people.

Children and church members gather for a photo outside the church building.
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Demilitarized Zone toward North Korea during an interview in 2013. “I don’t know whether they are still alive or not.” An easing of tensions between North and South could allow long-estranged families to visit each other and perhaps open doors to the Gospel, Korean Christians say, pointing to recent signs of hope including the recent meeting between Kim and South Korean president Moon Jae-in. Both leaders said they would declare an official end to the Korean War, 65 years after it began. Kim also has visited China’s president, Xi Jinping. Meanwhile, people in Singapore have responded to news that their island city-state will host the summit with a mix of encouragement and nonchalance. “Actually, a lot of people are too busy been affected by the Korean peninsula affair,” said Tommy Chia, a member of the Moulmein Church of Christ in Singapore. “I personally would love to see a peace agreement signed so that the Koreans can work toward a coexisting future — or even be united as one.”
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The name of this mountainous Central American village means “sin.” It’s the sin of a particular family, or maybe a reference to a nearby river. No one’s really sure. It’s from the ancient Quiché language, which dates back to the Mayan empire of more than a millennia ago but is still spoken here, along with Spanish.

Members of the Iglesia de Cristo (Church of Christ) float between the two tongues as they unload boxes of medicine, dental tools and exam chairs from the white trucks bearing the words “Talentos de Salud/Health Talents International.” Mission teams from the nonprofit, associated with Churches of Christ, conduct mobile medical clinics here. They perform exams; clean, extract and restore teeth; and prescribe medications. Educators and evangelists do follow-up work, hosting seminars on preventative medicine and conducting Bible studies. Dr. Lisa Dunham and her husband, Kemmel, coordinate the work.

For the visiting missionaries — biology students from Oklahoma Christian University and a team of physicians, pharmacists and dentists from Churches of Christ in Oklahoma City and Tulsa — the clinic feels less like rural medicine and more like a visit to an upscale hotel, thanks to the sparkling white tile floors in the Mactzul Quinto church building.

The congregation funded the work itself, says Sebastian Salvador Yacon, one of eight deacons for the 165-member church, which also has two elders. Six men serve as preachers and two as evangelists. The church has a six-member women’s committee, six children’s teachers and a four-member youth committee.

The medicine that Health Talents provides helps his under-served community, Yacon says, and hosting clinics in the church building brings ministry beyond medicina.

**IN CENTRAL AMERICA, a medical mission encourages children to stay in school — and brush their teeth.**

**Ministry beyond medicina**

**Photos by Erik Tryggstad and Mauricio Chan**

Mauricio Chan, a worker with Health Talents International, checks the teeth of a child in the ministry’s child-sponsorship program during a mobile medical clinic.
In Guatemala, ministry beyond *medicina*

Among the mountains of Guatemala’s Quiché department, a family waits to see physicians at the Mactzul Quinto clinic. Jan Bian, who just graduated from Oklahoma Christian University with a degree in biology and plans to attend medical school, measures the heart rate of a Guatemalan infant. She and fellow students took vitals and assisted physicians.

Health Talents’ Guatemalan workers pray before eating lunch during the Mactzul Quinto clinic. The ministry conducts clinics in the buildings of Churches of Christ, and church members provide the visiting medical workers with meals.

Church deacon Sebastian Salvador Yacon leads a prayer as the clinic begins. “Brother Dave” Mellor of Health Talents takes a video of a girl in the ministry’s ABC child sponsorship program. About 800 “ABC kids” receive food, clothing and school fees. The children must stay in school and worship with a Church of Christ.

Eric Phelps, trip coordinator and former chair of biology at Oklahoma Christian, helps a young Guatemalan read his weight. Health Talents dental assistants take a rest between patients, sporting the ministry’s pun-laden T-shirts that celebrate the 10th anniversary of Clinica Caris, a facility near Chichicastenango that serves Guatemala’s Quiché department.
positive attention. But the real
difference the ministry makes
here is through its child sponsor-
ship program, which encourages
children to not only eat right and
keep their teeth clean, but also to
stay in school.

“Everyone my age ... no one
has finished high school or even
middle school,” says the 48-year-
old. “I’m grateful for the way
Health Talents teaches about the
importance of health and educa-
tion, finishing school and getting
degrees. About 15 to 20 kids here
have graduated from high school.”

He learned about the church
from a friend and was baptized
on June 25, 1989. Before that, his
life reflected the ancient name
of his community — marred by
misdeeds, he says.

He’s shared his story with his
family and has seen 20 of them
give their lives to Christ. God has
blessed him in his work at a local
butcher shop, and two of his boys
have been in Health Talents’ spon-
sorship program.

In a place named for sin, he finds
only blessings.

**WEBSITE:** healthtalents.org

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In addition to medical and dental supplies, Health Talents workers brought a small library of Spanish-language
books to Mactzul Quinto. Missionaries Kemmel and Dr. Lisa Dunham received about 1,000 books from a supporting
congregation, the Eastside Church of Christ in Colorado Springs, Colo. While waiting to see the doctors and dentists,
children read the books out loud to Health Talents volunteers. Few homes among the Mayan people have books,
Lisa Dunham says, and many Mayan women can’t read. The workers encourage children to read to their parents.

A Mayan mother helps her daughter
in the Health Talents sponsorship
program get ready for a photo.

Trevy Rauch, a member of the nursing faculty at Oklahoma Christian University, runs the pharmacy at the Mactzul
Quinto clinic and gets a smile from a young patient. Rauch made the journey in honor of her father, pharmacist
Dave Ellis, a longtime board member and advocate for Health Talents International who died from cancer in 2016.

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**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17**
CASTLE ROCK, Colo. — Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes conventions across the nation typically take place over Easter weekend. However, L2L’s recent first convention in the Denver area was scheduled a little later to increase the chances of avoiding snowstorms. Also, the different date allowed the Montgomery, Ala.-based ministry’s national leaders — including executive director Roy Johnson — to devote more time and attention to the inaugural event serving the Front Range region.

The result was a successful convention that drew 175 people from seven congregations to the Castle Rock Church of Christ, south of Denver, organizers said. Boys and girls of all ages competed in art, speech, song leading, Bible reading, puppets and Bible Bowl events.

“A Rocky Mountain Lads to Leaders

CASTLE ROCK CHURCH hosts the organization’s first convention in the Denver area.

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“The convention marks the culmination of years of vision, prayer and hard work and the beginning of a new era of leadership training and intergenerational ministry that can spread ... across the state, and into surrounding areas,” Castle Rock minister Matthew Morine said.

Don Moore, an elder of the Castle Rock church, had the dream of bringing the youth leadership training opportunity to Colorado.

“It is a dream come true, and I am blessed to be a part of it and part of an amazing congregation,” Moore said. “However, it is not about the convention. It is about building godly leaders for our congregations now and in the future.”

Along with Castle Rock, participating Churches of Christ included the Parker, Columbine, Lamar, Southwest (Pueblo), La Junta and Windsor congregations.

WEBSITE: lads2leaders.com
Women in the mountain village of Akdesé, Haiti, carry buckets full of water on their heads after filling up the containers at a well drilled by Healing Hands.

A Haitian man hugs Cody Kemp, a missions committee member from the North Atlanta Church of Christ, and thanks him for a water well drilled by Healing Hands.

1,000 WELLS: Changing the world with water

FROM PAGE 1
director of Walk4Water, fundraisers by Healing Hands that involve dozens of Churches of Christ.

Roughly 1,800 miles from Haiti, Janice Fuller — a 67-year-old grandmother of four — coordinates the annual Walk4Water sponsored by the Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ in Austin, Texas.

About 350 members of the congregation of 600 participate, said Fuller, who helps lead an outreach effort called Hands & Feet.

“It’s probably the biggest thing we do all year,” she said.

Fuller joined more than 20 Christians from the United States who traveled to this nation of nearly 11 million people to witness the completion of Healing Hands’ 1,000th water well — including 350 in Haiti.

“I just think how incredible this is,” Fuller said as trucks carrying the American mission team rumbled up a mountain road, making repeated stops to inspect pumps emblazoned with Healing Hands’ round, blue-and-white logo.

“These people were drinking dirty water for so long,” she added, “and now they have a place to come get clear, clean water because people cared enough to contribute.”

After “la tranble” — the Creole term for “the shaking,” as Haitians referred to the 2010 earthquake — Healing Hands bought a drilling rig and shipped it to the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

The drilling hasn’t stopped since.

“It’s something that the government is not doing for us in Haiti. But HHI, they think about the need for water for the Haitian people,” said Phenix Port-Louis, a Haitian preacher who works with Healing Hands.

“Back in the day, there were a lot of cases of cholera,” he added, referring to an epidemic that killed 10,000 Haitians and sickened 800,000. “But now we do not have cholera because HHI put a lot of wells in our community, in our country, so that the Haitians can have water to drink.”

Here in Akdesé, Woods recalled the day the faith-based nonprofit’s heavy machinery made it — but just barely — through the woods and across a shallow creek.

The hopeful natives had used machetes to clear a half-mile of brush and trees.

Still, Curt King, Healing Hands’ field director, said his 35,000-pound drilling truck got stuck.

“The road just collapsed on us. We got out and couldn’t figure out what to do, because we couldn’t go forward, and if we went backward, it could collapse even more,” recalled King, a third-generation well driller from Washington state. “Eventually, the Lord and I had another conversation. I said, ‘OK, Lord, this one is on you.’”

King, who is nearing retirement, kept pressing the gas pedal. God, he said, nudged the truck the rest of the way. Near the site where a rotary drill would cut through the earth and — 307 feet underground — finally hit water, a crowd of about 200 greeted the team from Healing Hands.

“This whole entire valley was there,” Woods told the mission group. “It looked like a sea of people cheering and chanting and singing.”

‘JESUS TELLS US WATER IS LIFE’

The 1,000 wells drilled since 2001 include 400 in Ethiopia, 350 in Haiti and 250 in 14 other countries, said Joseph Smith, Healing Hands’ director of operations.

“It warms my heart,” said Patti Simmons, a physician who traveled to Haiti with her husband, Steve, and helps with Walk4Water at the Greenwood Park Church of Christ in Bowling Green, Ky.

The remaining wells are in Botswana, Chad, Ghana, Honduras, India, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, the Philippines, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

La Tremblay, a village east of the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince, welcomed the drilling of the 1,000th well.

Residents came out of shacks with tin roofs to watch as the concrete base was finished and a pump installed.

Growing up, Jean Levelt said he walked miles to retrieve water from a river. He’s thankful children won’t have to do the same in 2018.

“Jesus tells us water is life,” Levelt, who teaches a Sunday school class, said in a report posted by Healing Hands. “This community well will help our church reach out to the community. Kids won’t have to fight for water.”

A plaque placed on the 1,000th well’s pump quotes Matthew 10:42: “And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is
my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.”

Wells inevitably become the focal point of community life, said Smith, who estimates 2 million people have benefited from Healing Hands’ clean water projects. That opens doors for evangelism, he said.

“If you were doing street evangelism or prayer walks or something like that, you wouldn’t get invited to some of these places,” said Matthew Brown, owner of North Carolina-based Yadkin Well Co., who has helped with 50 of Healing Hands’ well projects in Haiti.

A few miles from the 1,000th well, Healing Hands partners with the International School of Theology, which has connections with Bear Valley Bible Institute in Denver and Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn. The school’s students and faculty members have baptized more than 700 people, director Larry Waymire said.

“It’s touching thousands of lives, it really is,” said Waymire, a veteran missionary who has worked on at least 20 Caribbean islands.

“Hundreds are being saved, as well.”

Healing Hands also planted a community garden and offered a seminar on improving agricultural practices.

“It’s just exciting to see,” said Jim Gillespie, a missions committee member at the Mayfair Church of Christ in Huntsville, Ala., who traveled to Haiti with the Healing Hands team. “I wish we could get people back in the States a little more on fire for evangelism.”

**GOD ‘MOVES MOUNTAINS’**

Back in Akdesé, the mission group dedicated the well in memory of a longtime Healing Hands supporter and staff member.

Ronald Kay White worked for Healing Hands for 13 years and spent 45 years in full-time preaching ministry. Much of that time was devoted to the Lincoln Park Church of Christ in the Detroit area. He died last November at age 79.

“I think Ron would be really excited that he’s had a lasting impact on a community that he probably never thought he would,” said Matthew Perry, a 37-year-old father of two who coordinates the Lincoln Park church’s Walk4Water.

At the dedication, Perry prayed and thanked God for bringing water to Akdesé: “God, you’re great. ... You move mountains,” he said as the Americans and the Haitian villagers bowed their heads.

Afterward, Perry trekked 20 minutes through the woods and the shallow creek to where the Healing Hands trucks parked.

As he caught his breath, he expressed awe at what he had witnessed.

“If we dig far enough in the ground, there’s this perfect, clean water right there,” Perry said, reflecting. “It’s free, provided by God, and it’s drinkable. It’s amazing.”
Ten days after Jason and Jennifer Carroll began Christian missionary work in this Caribbean island nation in 2014, they got an unexpected gift: a newborn boy.

The mother of an infant named Edyson — “Edy” for short — had died during childbirth.

In this poor, developing nation, a can of baby formula can cost more than a day’s wage. The family asked the Carrolls to take Edy. They’re now trying to adopt the boy, who will turn 4 in September, along with his 16-year-old sister, Rogeline, who helps care for her brother.

Since November 2016, Jason Carroll has served as water project coordinator for Healing Hands International, which is associated with Churches of Christ. Carroll and his wife, Jennifer, manage Healing Hands’ gated complex in this rural community north of the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince. Just a few miles from the leased Titanyen facility, scores of victims of Haiti’s 2010 earthquake are buried in a mass grave.

The Carrolls, both in their 40s, previously owned a family tire business in Murray, Ky. Their son Chantry, 23, works for a nonprofit in Nashville, Tenn. Son Cole, 15, and daughter Callie, 14, are a part of the work in Haiti.

While shuttling American mission team members to various sites, the couple — who will celebrate their 25th anniversary this month — discussed their Haiti experience with The Christian Chronicle.

Ten days after your family moved here, you had quite a life change. Can you talk about what you remember from that?

Jason: I was out in the community looking for homes to rebuild, and somebody called for me to come to the clinic there at the mission. I was really confused because I’m not a doctor or anything like that. And I went in, and they brought me this little baby that was just a few hours old. They said, “I want you to have him. His mom died.” So I called my wife.

How did you start that conversation?

Jason: I knew how she was going to answer it. I knew she would never say no. But we did work with the family, and we tried to just temporarily keep him. Because of the cost of formula and stuff like that, none of the family wanted him. After the funeral and everything, we had a meeting with the family again. They still did not want him, so we took him.

What do you remember about the experience of suddenly having another child?

Jennifer: He’s just a bundle of joy. He has a lot of energy. He’s very lovely and very protective. If anyone gets hurt, if we raise our voices, Edy starts crying. He runs to us. He’s just a sweet child. And Rogeline is just so helpful. I don’t know what we would do without her.

What has the experience of adding two children to your family been like?

Jennifer: It’s been challenging and hard, a lot of sleepless nights. It’s been difficult on our biological children at times but also enjoyable because they love Edy and Rogeline.

And I went in, and they brought me this little baby that was just a few hours old. They said, “I want you to have him. His mom died.” So I called my wife.

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I understand that Edy speaks English, but he goes to school to learn his native Creole.

Jennifer: We do not speak very good Creole, or we speak it with a very Southern accent. He needs to learn it correctly. I want him to know his heritage. That’s one thing we’ve been really particular about, making sure that he knows who his family is, his biological family. We try to go every Sunday to visit them. We work with him in English, with his colors, his numbers, his ABCs and all of that. But we’ve sent him to Haitian school so that he’ll learn Creole properly. He’s struggling a little bit, but he’s young enough that I think he’ll pick it up just fine.

What about the water wells that Healing Hands drills. Do you see them making a difference?

Jennifer: Oh my goodness. Wherever you go in Haiti, no matter where you go, you will see people walking with jugs on their head, carrying jugs, jugs on their shoulder. I see little, Edy-sized children carrying an oil jug, a small little quart jug of water or even a gallon or more. It’s mostly the women and mostly the girls who do that chore. You don’t see a lot of grown men doing that.

So much of their time is spent hauling water. That’s why I’m so thankful that Healing Hands is here, and I get to be a part of it, because they’re making such a difference. When we go up in the mountains, I’ve talked to people that walk hours to get water. Just to take a bath or cook some food or wash their faces, they have to walk such long distances to get the water.

Jason: It’s still a huge need. The government is not doing anything to help, so it’s left to organizations like Healing Hands. We’re still finding communities that have never had pumps before.

How long does it take, start to finish, to get a well up and running?

Jason: Most of the time, they can drill a well in a day. So if they drill, let’s say Monday, we would go and build the base Tuesday. Wednesday, we would install the pump.

So it’s a three-day process?

Jason: It depends on what’s going on. Sometimes I will wait because we can build two bases in one day. So a lot of times I would wait one day, and we would go out and fix other pumps that are broken. That way we could install two bases instead of one. Because if we have a four-hour drive, I would like to get as much done as we can.

Jason Carroll places a plaque in memory of the late Ronald Kay White, a longtime Healing Hands supporter, on a well pump in the mountain village of Akdesé, Haiti.

People will see our trucks with the blue Healing Hands logo, and they know that is associated with the wells. Every time we are out, they’ll come up to us and say, “We need wells here.” A lot of times, I’ll say, “Show me where it’s at.” And they’ll jump in the truck, and we’ll drive, and they’ll show me places that don’t have water.

It sounds like you’ve found your calling here.

Jason: It feels like home. I don’t think I’ve ever done anything where I got to see so much impact, but I also just love it. Even though it’s hard work, and I come home sunburned or my back’s hurting, it’s very rewarding when you see the Haitian kids.

You know that you’ve impacted hours and hours and hours of them going and fetching water. You’ve impacted their education because now they can work on their homework and get better grades because they’re not spending five hours fetching water.

And you know they’re going to be healthier. They’re not going to be sick all of the time. It’s really good to see the smiles on their faces and how happy they are. That’s what melts my heart. When you really think about it, you’re changing their lives for what could be generations.

How do you even find some of the remote locations where you drill wells?

Jason: People on the side of the road stop us. That was my question with Joseph Smith, Healing Hands’ director of operations, when we started. I said, “How do you pick the sites for the new wells?” He said, “You’ll see.”

We work with him in English, with his colors, his numbers, his ABCs and all of that. But we’ve sent him to Haitian school so that he’ll learn Creole properly. He’s struggling a little bit, but he’s young enough that I think he’ll pick it up just fine.

People will see our trucks with the blue Healing Hands logo, and they know that is associated with the wells. Every time we are out, they’ll come up to us and say, “We need wells here.” A lot of times, I’ll say, “Show me where it’s at.” And they’ll jump in the truck, and we’ll drive, and they’ll show me places that don’t have water.

It sounds like you’ve found your calling here.

Jason: It feels like home. I don’t think I’ve ever done anything where I got to see so much impact, but I also just love it. Even though it’s hard work, and I come home sunburned or my back’s hurting, it’s very rewarding when you see the Haitian kids.

You know that you’ve impacted hours and hours and hours of them going and fetching water. You’ve impacted their education because now they can work on their homework and get better grades because they’re not spending five hours fetching water.

And you know they’re going to be healthier. They’re not going to be sick all of the time. It’s really good to see the smiles on their faces and how happy they are. That’s what melts my heart. When you really think about it, you’re changing their lives for what could be generations.

How do you even find some of the remote locations where you drill wells?

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SOUND BARRIER: Church member is tireless advocate for the deaf

FROM PAGE 3

their safety and literacy is often affected by their isolation,” Steele says. “They rarely will have family or friends around them who communicate in their language.

“So many of our deaf children hardly have language at all. We try to create a community around them who can communicate with them. One of the statistics is that at least 50 percent of deaf children are sexually abused, so if they have a friend who can sign they can say, ‘I don’t want to go home. I’m afraid of mom’s boyfriend or of my uncle.’”

‘THE DEAF WERE MY CHURCH FAMILY’

Steele has been able to communicate with the deaf since the age of 6. She learned by osmosis from her parents, who signed for deaf members of the Hermitage Church of Christ in Nashville.

Although she grew up in a hearing family, her church had 30 to 60 non-hearing members during her teenage years.

“The deaf were my church family, and so I assumed that every deaf person grew up like that because deaf people were all around me,” she says.

She graduated from Ezell-Harding Christian School, an Antioch, Tenn., school associated with Churches of Christ, and earned an English degree from Harding University in Searcy, Ark., in 1994. She married her high school sweetheart, Chris, who is a detective with the Metro Nashville Police Department.

Steele is a pre-certified interpreter, but “I found I was more useful to the children as an advocate,” she says. “I could be a voice for the children in situations where as an interpreter I had to remain neutral. So now I can go into situations and encourage individuals and organizations to call for an interpreter. I stand as a friend and advocate for the child until the interpreter arrives.”

‘I HAD TO DO SOMETHING TO HELP’

Two deaf children in particular inspired Steele to launch the Sign Club Co.

“One was a child who was severely abused,” she recalls. “When trying to get help for the child, I kept having closed doors and unanswered emails and non-returned phone calls. I decided it was hard, and, impossible as it seemed, I had to do something to help.

“The other child is absolutely brilliant, one of the smartest children I’ve ever been in contact with. I think the child might have the cure for cancer in her little head if we create the environment around her for her to reach her full potential.”

The Sign Club brought together a group of volunteers to address the needs of the two children. Now the club is active in eight schools in Sumner and Davidson counties, teaching sign language to deaf and hearing children alike.

“Our immediate focus is kindergarten through fifth grade, but we use the middle school and high school students to teach the elementary kids. We teach before and after school,” Steele says.

One of the highlights since she became an advocate for the deaf was the 2015 passage of a Tennessee bill that Steele refers to as the young deaf child abuse law.

“It outlines for police departments how to use technology for interpreters,” she says. “The law says a deaf person should have a certified interpreter, but in our rural counties there may be none at all.

“So the emergency on-call interpreter may be coming from three or four hours away, and in an emergency situation officers may use family or pen and paper, and that is not a good option for children. The first choice is always an interpreter, but if one is not available this allows the officer to use technology.”

The technology includes a tablet that provides video remote interpreting in the field.

Steele has wrapped up training with the Hendersonville Police Department on the execution of the 2015 bill and presently is training the Portland, Tenn., Police Department about deaf abuse awareness.

SERVING THE DEAF IN TENN., JAMAICA

In addition to her work with the Sign Club, Steele interprets for the deaf when needed at the Hendersonville church.

“She’s a passionate advocate for the deaf,” says Rod Stamps, one of the church’s 11 elders. The congregation regularly has 12 to 20 deaf attendees during Sunday worship, Stamps says, and many of them come because of their friendship with Steele.

Church members go on mission trips to Jamaica, where they work alongside the Spanish Town Church of Christ. They also partner with Deaf Can Coffee, a Jamaican coffee shop that employs and serves the non-hearing.

The deaf are a too-often-ignored mission field, Stamps says, and Steele shows them that Christ’s love is without limits.

‘I’VE GIVEN UP A THOUSAND TIMES’

The Sign Club gets regular inquiries from across the U.S. about its program and has made its curriculum available online.

One of Steele’s pet projects is “Silent Night Dinner,” based on a Tuesday night tradition her parents began.

“Anyone who came had to sign or sit quietly, whether we went out to eat or stayed home,” she recalls.

To prepare for these events, Steele checks in with a local restaurant and teaches a bit of sign language to the staff. She then invites the deaf in the community and some of her sign language pupils so they can engage with one another.

“Once, at a Chick-fil-A where I had taught the staff, one of our deaf Poppy O’Guin Steele interprets for the deaf during the Hendersonville Church of Christ’s Sunday worship. The church has 12 to 20 non-hearing worshipers.
Deaf in a city of music: ‘good and ugly stories’

Poppy O’Guin Steele teaches sign language to a group of children at a school in the Nashville area. The Harding University graduate authored “Deaf in a City of Music” to share “the good and ugly stories” she’s encountered as an advocate for the non-hearing.

“I want people to have an emotional response to the point of taking action,” she says, “making sure the police department has a certified interpreter when they communicate with the deaf, especially deaf children, to make sure hospitals are providing certified interpreters for the deaf and the schools and courts.” Learn more about the book and find additional resources at christianchronicle.org.

Now a full-time worker with the Sign Club, Steele has enrolled in the Nashville School of Law and works with state legislators to launch a deaf mentor program.

“As I study I am finding gaps in the law and reasons our kids are not getting the resources that are available to them,” she says, “and at the end of this journey I hope to be better equipped.

“I’ve given up a thousand times in a day, but in my mind I see the face of a little girl cowering in a corner.

“I just want to know that the next generation will not be in that corner.”

WEBSITE: signclubco.org
Birthdays

100th: Mrs. W. A. “Olena” Sloan, June 5, Austin, Texas.

75th: Dennis Graham, May 31, Edmond, Okla.

Anniversaries

Clifton and Louise Ganus — 75 years

Clifton L. and Louise Ganus celebrated their 75th anniversary on May 27 in Searcy, Ark. Dr. Ganus has worked for Harding University for over 72 years as a professor, vice-president, president, chancellor and currently chancellor emeritus. He has served as an elder of the College Church of Christ in Searcy since 1965. Louise is active in Women for Harding, ladies Bible classes and garden club. Their family includes three children and spouses; 10 grandchildren and spouses of grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

Congratulations, Clifton and Louise!

Al and Mary Jolly — 70 years

Al and Mary Milligan Jolly were married in Memphis, Tenn., on June 6, 1948. Cindy Jolly was born Aug. 11, 1949, Kathy Jolly was born Nov. 16, 1953. Following 10 years as an optician, Al began preaching, serving churches in Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas. After 70 years, they are still active. Al works as seniors’ minister for the Church of Christ in Franklin, Texas, teaching Bible classes and preaching often. Mary is in sorority, Red Hat Society, Ladies Auxiliary, quilting club and loves to sew. They are blessed with three grandchildren and four great-grandsons. They thank God for those of accountable age being Christians.

Congratulations, Al and Mary!

J. C. and Dorothy Newland — 70 years

J. C. and Dorothy Newland of Lakewood Village, Fort Worth, Texas, celebrated 70 years of marriage on May 29, 2018. They were high school sweethearts in Stanton, Texas, and they married two weeks after graduation at the age of 17.

They have been active in Texas churches teaching programs in Andrews, Monahans, Midland and Arlington. During this time J. C. spent 38 years with an electric utility company. They have worshipped with the Woodland West Church of Christ in Arlington since 1979, and J. C. served several years as a shepherd. He is now a volunteer for Lifeline Chaplaincy in Tarrant County. The Newlands’ children are Karen Ann Magnus (deceased), Barbara Kay Burrell and Diane and David Newland. Congratulations, J. C. and Dorothy!

Dr. David E. Perkins

54 years of preaching

For 54 years Dr. David Perkins has fostered the spiritual growth of many individuals as well as Churches of Christ in Indianapolis and throughout the world. At 6 p.m. Saturday, June 2, we, the Church of Christ on College Avenue, will host the 12th Annual Judge Z. Mae Jimison Songfest in Dr. Perkins’ honor. This songfest was originated by our beloved sister in Christ before her passing in 2008, and she is Dr. Perkins’ own sister in the flesh.

On Sunday, June 3, we will host our Annual Appreciation Day to honor him. On both days, we have invited song groups from out of town in addition to local groups. Dr. Perkins looks forward to hearing them present the Gospel in song.

We respectfully request your presence for this very special 54th Anniversary and Appreciation Day celebration that you might assist us as we give heed to Romans 13:6-7 — giving honor to whom honor is greatly due — the senior minister in the Indianapolis area, Dr. David E. Perkins. Congratulations, Dr. Perkins!

Memorial Gifts

The Christian Chronicle appreciates and acknowledges generous gifts received in honor of Dennis Graham and in memory of Juanita Hargrove, Roger Ruhl, Jacqueline Smith and Lee Watkins.

Submit your wedding announcements, birth announcements, memorials or tributes to milestones@christianchronicle.org or call (405) 425-5071. Submissions start at $25.
Rough patches and a spiritual desert: Thoughts from an African river crossing

Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, while he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. “I have had enough, Lord,” he said. “Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.” — 1 Kings 19:3-4, New International Version

ot long ago, I visited some missionaries in an African country. In order to get from the city where our plane landed to the town where they live, we had to cross a lake by ferry.

There were two routes and two different ferries. The first route was a paved road. It was a popular route, which usually meant a long wait at the ferry. Sure enough, we waited in line for about two hours before we were able to cross.

When we returned, we came by the second route. It was shorter and there was no line at the ferry. However, the road to get to the ferry was unpaved. The missionary, in his Toyota Landcruiser, painstakingly negotiated each stretch of the rutted road, carefully traversing the boulders, avoiding the worst of the gaping channels, dodging pedestrians and motorcycles. For him, it was just another day of driving in Africa.

As I thought about the contrast between these two routes it struck me that it is a metaphor for ministry and, perhaps especially, for missions. A good share of the time things are smooth sailing. Sure, we may get delayed by the occasional ferry crossing, but overall life and work move in a predictable and satisfying manner.

But sometimes we encounter rough patches where the going is slow and difficult to negotiate. Those rough patches may take the form of traumatic events that underscore the distance from loved ones and social supports. I recently learned of missionaries who were forced to suddenly leave their adopted countries due to medical emergencies and a death in the family.

But often the rough patches are more subtle. They take the form of discouragement with perceived outcomes to our work or frustration over living conditions. They manifest as a case of the blahs accompanied by a side of procrastination. They create a spiritual desert — where your inner well is dry even as others seek to drink from it.

Sometimes these rough patches are prolonged and indicative of a need for intervention. They may signal depression or anxiety or burnout. But other times they are simply a season to be weathered. They are hard times in our lives that must be negotiated slowly with God’s help.

I love the story of Elijah who, after defeating the prophets of Baal and Asherah on Mount Carmel, finds himself in the wilderness, depleted from the confrontation andcowed by Jezebel’s threat on his life. He has moved from exhilaration to exhaustion. He complains bitterly to God about his plight and is ready to throw in the towel.

God’s response is to provide food and drink and rest. When Elijah is ready, the Lord shows him the next steps he needs to take.

I suspect most of us face rough patches like Elijah. The swing in emotions and circumstances may not be as dramatic as his, but there may be times we question what we are doing and are tempted to give up. Those are times to negotiate the terrain slowly and to wait on the goodness of God.

Who knows what direction he will point? But chances are good it will lead to pavement.

DALE HAWLEY is associate director for missionary care for Missions Resource Network, a nonprofit supported by Churches of Christ. Learn more at www.mmnet.org.

P eople shouldn’t die for a place — even if it is Jerusalem.

That’s the thought that continually ran through our minds as we witnessed images of violence in Gaza. Palestinians and Israeli soldiers clashed as the U.S. moved its embassy in Jerusalem — the city Jesus wept for more than 2,000 years ago, lamenting “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace — but now it is hidden from your eyes” (Luke 19:42).

If you’ve visited Israel, you’ve probably seen engraved plaques and stones bearing the words “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem” quoting Psalm 122. Today, those words sound elusive, even hollow.

Can we acknowledge the right of the Jewish people for a homeland after ages of oppression yet still empathize with the plight of the Palestinians? Can we cry for justice as we decry acts of terror? Are we helping to find solutions? Or is our nation only making things worse?

Meaningless, meaningless, are all human attempts to bring peace to this embattled land, the setting of blessed names many of us have known since we were children. We’ve memorized the names: Bethlehem, Nazareth, Judea. The mere mention of these places evokes in us a sense of joy. But not today.

The pages of this newspaper show us that places don’t define the Lord’s church. We see Jesus working among the poor in places like Haiti, Guatemala, India, Cambodia and Kenya. Christians drill for water, bring physical healing and foster faith communities in places first-century believers couldn’t fathom.

It’s easy for us to sit in air-conditioned comfort and proclaim that it shouldn’t matter where a building is located. We don’t see here what they see in Israel.

But we praise God that, in these pages, we see believers in the humblest of circumstances, in parts of the world known only for hardship and cruelty, demonstrate for us that family, faith and joy can exist anywhere.

People shouldn’t die for a place — even if it is Jerusalem.
Identity crisis calls us to examine our roots


An identity crisis, though initially unpleasant, can ultimately be a good thing as it allows us to question our biases and preconceived ideas. That said, much of our present anxiety might have been avoided had our churches more closely adhered to the defining views and beliefs of Barton W. Stone and Thomas and Alexander Campbell.

The Stone-Campbell fathers were Christ-centered, and the movement was a Christian reform and unity movement, not a restoration movement per se. It’s true that Alexander Campbell in the 1820s advocated restoration, but not as an end in itself, but rather as a means to an end — that end being the union of Christians that, in his thought, would hasten the spread of the Gospel, which in turn would hasten the advent of the millennium and ultimately result in the “new heaven and a new earth” of Revelation 21. An early slogan of the movement was “Christians only, not the only Christians.”

Later, in 1889, Gospel Advocate front-page editor F.D. Srygley wrote in an article titled “We Ought to Agree Among Ourselves”:

It is wrong to make anything a condition of fellowship which is not essential to salvation. We draw the line here. That which will damn a soul and separate us in the next world should divide us in this; nothing else should.

Had Churches of Christ remembered these words, perhaps our current identity crisis might not be so acute. Yet heeding them now may still allow us to emerge with a renewed sense of identity and purpose.

Lee Freeman | Florence, Ala.

A squeaky-voiced, mighty oak falls

When I first met Chamnan Rorn on April 20, 2012, I thought my friend Sokhom Hun had lost his mind.

Sokhom, a Cambodian minister, partners with our Texas congregation to train preachers and reach lost souls across his native country, where he nearly died at the hands of the brutal Khmer Rouge. He and I were conducting a three-day seminar for village house-church leaders along with our Cambodia Bible School students.

As I glanced across the room, it looked like we had some very capable men to equip with God’s Word. Then I noticed Chamnan — a frail, 90-pound guy who was partially hunched over with crippled-up hands. He spoke broken English with the squeakiest voice I’d ever heard.

I asked Sokhom why he would bring this unimpressive house church leader to the seminar when funds and space were so limited.

“He is not a house-church leader, brother,” Sokhom said. “He is a new full-time preaching student.”

Then I really thought he was off his rocker.

From there, God proceeded to teach me a valuable and humbling lesson about judging people by appearance. For the next few days, I visited with Chamnan, and I was blown away by his Bible knowledge, his love for the Lord and his fiery desire to share Jesus with the people in his village.

Before the seminar ended I told Sokhom, “If I moved to Cambodia to do mission work, I would beg Chamnan to be my partner.” Everyone at the Bible school had the utmost respect for Chamnan.

To this day, he has been our best all-around graduate.

Like many young Cambodians, Chamnan worked in a sweatshop clothing factory when he was in his early 20s. On top of the pathetic pay, long hours and poor working conditions, Chamnan touched some exposed electrical wires one day and was electrocuted. He suffered a stroke and blew out his vocal cords.

From that day forward his outer man began decaying, but his inner man kept growing stronger.

With that squeaky little voice, Chamnan reached a large number of poverty-stricken Cambodians with the Gospel. He held Bible classes every day.

He taught his last class Wednesday afternoon, April 18. He didn’t feel well, went to bed and fell asleep in Jesus. Sokhom officiated his funeral the next day with several of our guys joining him.

I miss Chamnan’s regular emails with serious Bible questions. I miss his smiling face — even when it was obvious he was in physical pain. I miss his healthy spiritual disposition that overshadowed his physical disability. I miss his tremendous example of faith, hope and love.

A mighty oak tree for the Lord fell April 19 at the age of 35, but our loss is heaven’s gain. I thank God we videoed Chamnan a couple of times. I hope people will take a few minutes to hear his words and let God use Chamnan to change their lives like he did mine.

Mike Meierhofer

Mike Meierhofer is preaching and evangelism minister for Walnut Hill Church of Christ in Dallas. He is president of Cambodia Christian Ministries, a nonprofit dedicated to “meeting the physical and spiritual needs of the poorest of the poor in Cambodia’s remote villages,” he says. For more information, see cambodiaministries.org.

‘I want to become a good preacher’: In a video interview, Cambodian minister Chamnan Rorn talks about his faith and his desire to spread the Gospel despite his deteriorating health. “If I live, I live for God. If I die, I die for God because my life is not in me, not myself. Everything is God’s.” See the video and learn more about Cambodia at christianchronicle.org.
Job Listings

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**FULL-TIME MINISTER WANTED**
The Chatham Church of Christ is looking for a full-time minister. We are a small congregation in northern New Jersey. Preferred qualifications include: master's degree; strong preaching, teaching, evangelism and inter-personal skills; 5-10 years of experience; and willing to make a long-term commitment. Send resume and other relevant information to:
chathamchurchofchrist@gmail.com
Chatham Church of Christ
382 Fairmount Ave
Chatham, NJ 07928
(973) 635-6810

**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 we will consider a recent graduate. Candidate must be fluent in English.
Church of Christ
PO Box 1332
Pecos, TX 79772
pecoscofcoffice02@windstream.net

**Looking for an Energetic Evangelist**
The Bell Fork Road Church of Christ is searching for an energetic, evangelistic minister to serve full time. Our desire is for a family man with a love of God's word and people and also the ability to work well with a versatile congregation of all races and ages.
Church of Christ
Attn: Chris Kelsey, Chairman
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Jacksonville, NC 28540
sylvialeatherwood@gmail.com
(910) 346-6107

**Involvement/Worship Minister**
The Fredericksburg Church of Christ is seeking an Involvement / Worship Minister to work with our young families, lead worship/singing, occasionally preach, and assist congregational efforts to reach our community for Christ. Please send a resume, a list of references, and your philosophy of ministry to:
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Fredericksburg, TX 78624
disciples@fredericksburgchurchofchrist.com

**Pepperdine Seaver College**
The Religion and Philosophy Division of Pepperdine University’s Seaver College of Letters, Arts and Sciences invites applications for a Visiting Instructor of Religion. Responsibilities of this full-time visiting faculty appointment will be restricted to teaching general education courses in the Old Testament and New Testament and the possibility of one or two courses for undergraduate majors and graduate students in religion. Successful candidates should have at least completed course work for a Ph.D. in Old or New Testament. Preference will be given to those candidates who have a Ph.D. and previous teaching experience. Candidates are expected to demonstrate a commitment to the Christian mission of the university and membership in a Church of Christ.
Pepperdine is a Christian university committed to the highest standards of academic excellence and Christian values, where students are strengthened for lives of purpose, service, and leadership. Seaver College, the undergraduate liberal arts college of Pepperdine University, enrolls approximately 3,400 students at its residential campus in Malibu, California. The Religion and Philosophy Division of Seaver College offers Bachelor of Arts degrees in religion and philosophy, as well as three graduate degrees: the Master of Science in Ministry, the Master of Divinity, and the Master of Arts in Old Testament, New Testament, church history, or theology.
Application review will begin May 1, 2018, and continue until the position is filled. Please submit all application materials to: apply.interfolio.com/50268. A background check will be required as a condition of employment.
Contact: Professor Daniel A. Rodriguez (daniel.rodriguez@pepperdine.edu)
Divisional Dean, Religion and Philosophy Division
Seaver College, Pepperdine University
24255 Pacific Coast Highway
Malibu, CA 90263-4352

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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:
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Gospel preacher needed to work with small rural congregation in Culleoka, Tennessee. House with paid utilities available. Other income above salary probably needed. For more information or to apply, contact:
Earl Campbell at eecampbell50@gmail.com or Harold Crabtree at (931) 987-0290

Visit our online listings at: www.christianchronicle.org/classifieds.
Classifieds start at $325, discounts offered to smaller congregations.
Contact Tonya Patton at: tonya.patton@christianchronicle.org.
Deadline for next two issues: June 8 and July 13.
Book gives eclectic, though not diverse, views of ‘Why We Stayed’ in Churches of Christ

A multitude of ministers in Churches of Christ feel frustrated, disenchanted and discouraged about various issues in our fellowship, so claims Benjamin J. Williams, editor of “Why We Stayed: Honesty and Hope in the Churches of Christ.”

Williams, who preaches for the Glenpool Church of Christ in Oklahoma, asks what he describes as an “eclectic cast of authors, ministers and scholars” to answer the question of why they remain in the fellowship despite these feelings.

The volume, unfortunately, presents essays by 13 white men and does not include the diverse range of voices among Churches of Christ — women, African-Americans, Hispanics and other demographics. Nonetheless, Christian Chronicle readers will recognize and appreciate many of the contributions from well-known names such as Everett Ferguson, John Mark Hicks, Chris Altrock, Ron Highfield and John Wilson.

The book aims to allow those who stayed in the fellowship to communicate both their frustrations in staying and their reasons for not leaving. We often think that people leave Churches of Christ because they disagree with various positions taken by our movement — non-instrumental worship and the role of women, for example. This book reveals that those who stay may disagree with various church practices but still see value in the fellowship’s call to simple, New Testament Christianity.

The book does not follow the pattern of Leroy Brownlow’s well-known 1945 volume “Why I Am a Member of the Church of Christ,” which lists multiple reasons for staying. Instead, this book comes closer to Abilene Christian University psychology professor Richard Beck’s well-visited blog from 2011, “Four Reasons Why I’m Church of Christ.”

This group of writers believes the restoration plea should be debated and does not want to close the door on our core beliefs. I appreciate their honesty and their loyalty. I happily found references to the positives of our fellowship, including our substantive stance on issues such as baptism and the Lord’s Supper. I heard a call for restoration renewal in the opening essay by Ferguson and an affirmation of our local autonomy. Thankfully, nobody says, “It’s just easier to stay than leave,” or “I stay because I like our fixation on tradition,” or “We’re right, and everybody else is wrong.”

I am disappointed that no author takes up the biblical concern for the poor, widows and orphans. Several point out that while we speak where the Bible speaks, we seldom are silent where the Bible is silent. I was surprised to read some of the authors’ statements promoting creeds and sacraments.

Three writers — Altrock, Wilson and Chris Rosser — express their views through autobiography. I expected more of this genre than I received. Some of the pieces had the ring of “I’ll continue to stay if …,” yet the book reveals some new reasons for remaining a cappella and maintaining local autonomy. Readers will encounter some voices from Churches of Christ of long ago (as in 1897) calling for women to take public roles in the assembly.

Those who enjoy what Hicks calls the “wild democracy” in Churches of Christ (by which he means “free and open discussions”) will find more of the same here. Those who wish we could just focus on the dozens of doctrines (or at least the ones in Ephesians 4) on which we tend to agree will find this book fanning the flames of fragmentation.

Whether these men, in Rosser’s words from the last essay, are “prophets or critics” is left up to you to decide.

HAROLD SHANK is a longtime minister for Churches of Christ and former president of Ohio Valley University, a university in Vienna, W.Va., associated with Churches of Christ. He is a former Reviews Editor for The Christian Chronicle.

Author urges believers to fight for Jesus until ‘The Last Arrow’

Life is a battlefield, and you’ve got a quiver of arrows. That’s the central analogy of “The Last Arrow: Save Nothing for the Next Life.”

Will you avoid the battle, believing that you are average and refraining from shooting your arrows? Will you die with a full quiver?

Or will you passionately shoot each arrow, living each moment with urgency? This involves risks, author Erwin Raphael McManus writes, but each unused arrow prevents you from reaching your full, God-given potential.

McManus, a native of El Salvador, grew up in the U.S. and ministers for a church in Los Angeles. He was diagnosed with prostate cancer while writing “The Last Arrow.” That reality adds a sense of urgency to his words.

The book’s title comes from 2 Kings 13, in which the dying prophet Elisha takes King Jehoash’s hand, and together they shoot an arrow through an east window, “the Lord’s arrow of victory” (2 Kings 13:17). The story of Elisha runs throughout the book, so reviewing 2 Kings before reading would be helpful.

McManus addresses prayer many times. In addition to petitioning God for our needs, we must be aware that God can use us as the answer to someone else’s prayer. Our burning light may prevent someone from experiencing darkness and loneliness.

In addition to McManus’ own struggles, his book is filled with examples (perhaps too many) of people who have faced massive hurdles in life. I found it impossible to personalize each one, and some readers may find parts of the book tiresome.

Nonetheless, this volume provides an ideal study for a small group, especially for those wanting to plant a church, launch a business or start a ministry. It will inspire all of us who wish to achieve our dreams, even if doing so means selling all we have and stepping out in faith. This book stimulates, encourages and motivates us to a full life of service — one that ends with an empty quiver.

SHERI KRETZSCHMAR is a registered nurse from Winston-Salem, N.C. She lives in Guatemala and serves with Health Talents International, a medical ministry associated with Churches of Christ. She blogs at sheriinguate.blogspot.com.

What are you reading? Send submissions to erik@christianchronicle.org.
June 3-9 Preacher Training Camp. Oldham Lane Church of Christ, Abilene, Texas. (325) 695-0055, cmcurley@olcoc.com.

July 6-8 PeacePrints Retreat. Strawn, Texas. (469) 955-2407, centerpeace.net.


July 15-20 Theology Summer School. Oklahoma Christian University, Oklahoma City. (405) 425-5396, oc.edu/tsa.


July 23-27 Global Reunion 2018. Oklahoma Christian University, Oklahoma City. nancy.hartman@oc.edu, intermissionministry.org.


Aug. 3-4 Widow / Widower Retreat. LaVergne, Tenn. (731) 656-4233, widowhoodworkshop.com.

Aug. 18 Missions Conference. Chattanooga, Tenn. eastbrainerd church.org/missionconference.


Sept. 11 Eastern European Mission's Franklin Event. Franklin, Tenn. (800) 486-1818, eem.org/events.


FULL CALENDAR: www.christianchronicle.org. To include your event for $25, contact tonya.pattan@christianchronicle.org.

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Full-time Minister - Orlando, Florida

The Church of Christ at Westmoreland Drive in Orlando, Florida, is seeking a full-time minister. Must be a married man according to the Scriptures. Must have a bachelor or higher degree in Bible from an accredited Christian college. Must have a zeal for evangelism, and love for all is a must. Must have a demonstrated ability to inspire and relate God's Word to motivate people to action. Must be sound in doctrine with strong biblical convictions. Must be completely given to the ministries at the local congregation, have a zeal for evangelism, and have a vision for church growth. Salary/compensation package is negotiable.

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Sunset Church of Christ is a dynamic, energetic, established congregation in Taylor, Michigan, looking for a full-time preacher to become part of our growing family. You will work alongside a 200+ membership that consists of many young and middle-aged families and some wonderful seniors. We have a strong children’s and youth program led by an Involvement Minister, as well as, a minister for seniors and visitation. Additionally, we have a very diverse community that strives to be more than Christian in name but a body that desires to live every day for Christ. The ideal candidate will have experience working with a culturally diverse congregation, a firm reliance on the Bible as the authoritative Word of God, and a demonstrated ability to inspire and relate God’s Word to motivate people to action. If this sounds like you, please send your resume, audio/video files, and a one-page description of your purpose in God’s Kingdom to:

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c/o Elders
24800 Ecorse Road
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RWREEVES@COMCAST.NET (Subject: Minister Search)

Full-Time Pulpit Minister

Pleasanton Church of Christ in Texas, is looking for a pulpit minister. We have an average Sunday morning attendance of 215 members/guests, seven elders, nine deacons and an associate minister whose focus is youth and family. Please provide a copy of your resume and one DVD of a sermon you have preached within the last year. For more information, please contact the search committee chairman:

Wayne Johnson at 830-391-2571 or wjohnson4945@sbcglobal.net

Semi-Retired Preacher

The church in Chillicothe, Texas, 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
940-839-5551 (cell)

Chronicle owes a great debt — of thanks

Thank you” never is adequate to express how deeply grateful we are for your faithful and generous financial support of The Christian Chronicle.

I would love to deal only with the wonderful stories of faithful churches and dedicated Christians doing great things and never have to ask for money. Maybe in heaven. As for now, the Chronicle has operational expenses. Our annual budget is about $1.2 million. That produces approximately 1.6 million papers delivered directly to homes and churches and another 1.1 million page views online.

The Chronicle has no debt and has operated within its income for the past 22 years. About 55 percent of our income comes from your donations and the rest from advertising sales.

Each spring we have a challenging appeal funded by generous supporters. I am happy to inform you that again this year you met the goal of that appeal. In June 2017 you also responded to our urgent appeal due to an anticipated end-of-the-year shortage for that fiscal year. We do not plan to make that same appeal regularly.

In January I asked our Board of Trustees and staff to pray daily for the Chronicle and its financial soundness. They did, and God has blessed us. I am not surprised by his miraculous work through you, although I am humbled by the response. Thank you, wonderful Lord, and our thanks also to each of you for your part in that effort.

The church desperately needs peaceful and positive messaging and connections, and you truly help make that possible.

CONTACT: lynn.mcmillon@christianchronicle.org
Thanks and celebration: Christian Chronicle named ‘Best in Class’

Every month we’re happy to share the Good News about what Jesus is doing among churches around the world. And this month, we’ve got some good news of our own to share.

For the fourth year in a row, The Christian Chronicle has earned top honors in the “Best of the Church Press” contest, sponsored by the Associated Church Press.

The Chronicle was awarded the first-place “Award of Excellence” in the prestigious “Best in Class” category for national and international newspapers. The Chronicle also received 13 other awards for content produced in 2017.

“Such a pleasure to read,” one judge commented. “Well-written, well-edited and thoroughly engaging.”

The Mennonite World Review received the second-place Award of Merit. The winners were announced at the ACP’s national convention in Chicago.

Since 2007, the Chronicle has won 101 national ACP awards and been recognized in the Best in Class contest for 12 consecutive years. This is the sixth time the Chronicle has received first-place honors in the category, winning previously in 2009, 2013, 2015, 2016 and 2017.

Our hardworking staff includes: Lynn McMillon, president/CEO; Erik Tryggestad, editor; Bobby Ross Jr., chief correspondent; Chellie Ison, digital news editor; Tonya Patton, advertising manager; Lynda Sheehan, Joy McMillon and Melinda Wilson, administrative assistants; Louise Beyer, staff accountant; and Bailey McBride, editor emeritus.

In addition to our print stories, the ACP recognized several of our online-exclusive features. For the first time, we received an Award of Excellence in the Social Media Event Promotion category for our #GivingTuesday campaign in 2017. Other first-place awards include:

- **Feature Article**: “In Canada, Syrian refugees find love and hope” by Bobby Ross Jr., a firsthand report about two Churches of Christ that became a “second family” for Muslims who fled violence in their homeland.

- **News story**: Coverage of a mass shooting at a Church of Christ in Tennessee, reported by Bob Smetiana and Bobby Ross Jr.

- **In-depth coverage**: Reports on Churches of Christ across the nation that responded to Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, reported by Bobby Ross Jr. and Chellie Ison.

- **Theme issue**: A package of features on Christians’ response to the opioid crisis, written by Bobby Ross Jr., Chellie Ison and Lynn McMillon.

The Chronicle earned the second-place Award of Merit for:

- **News story**: “A rescue mission: Church-planting team in Colombia serves the suffering in nearby Venezuela” by Erik Tryggestad.

- **Photography**: “A pilgrimage of sadness in South Sudan,” photographed by church member and refugee Simon Yope.

- **Visual communication**: The Chronicle’s website redesign by Chellie Ison and Stephen and Cara Bell of Steed Interactive.

- **Marketing and public relations**: The Chronicle’s email newsletter by Chellie Ison and Tonya Patton.

- **Convention or meeting coverage**: “African Christian College’s Golden Jubilee” by Erik Tryggestad.

- **Column**: Three “Inside Story” pieces by Erik Tryggestad.

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