

## Once segregated, ACU opens center on race studies

**FOUNDING DIRECTOR URGES** *the faithful to speak out against 'situations that carry the foul scent of racial injustice.'*

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

**ABILENE, Texas** — In 1960, a professor named Carl Spain delivered an explosive Bible Lectureship sermon that reverberated far beyond what was known then as Abilene Christian College.

In stark terms, Spain called out the racism of Abilene Christian and other colleges associated with Churches of Christ nationally that maintained whites-only admissions policies.

“God forbid that Churches of Christ and schools operated by Christians shall be the last stronghold of refuge for socially sick

people who have Nazi illusions about the master race,” said Spain, who taught Bible at Abilene Christian as well as serving as the minister for the Hillcrest Church of Christ in this West Texas city.

“Our moral attitudes are so mixed up that we use the story of Philemon and Onesimus

to justify refusing a Negro admission to study Bible in our graduate school of Bible,” the professor complained, later asking, “Why are we afraid? ... Are we moral cowards on this issue?”

Nearly six decades after Spain’s stinging rebuke hastened the integration of what is now Abilene Christian University, another Bible professor — this one an African-American named Jerry Taylor — stepped to the same wooden podium.

See **ABILENE**, Page 8



**Dominic dos Santos**, director of the Trinidad School of Preaching in the Caribbean, leads Christians from Europe, America, Asia and the Middle East in the song “Amen” during the European Vision Workshop in Bratislava.

## Fear and hope in Europe

**ON A ‘POST-PRETTY-WELL-EVERYTHING’** *continent, Christians gather in once-communist Slovakia to discuss the challenges and opportunities in their diversifying countries.*

BY **ERIK TRYGGESTAD** | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

**BRATISLAVA, Slovakia**

**I**’m worried about our continent,” Robert Limb said of Europe. “The light might have departed. It might be too late.”

The British-born minister for the Moulin-Vert Church of Christ in Paris describes himself as “English by chance, French by choice” and “Christian by conviction.” He has labored tirelessly for decades in a Europe increasingly described as “post-pretty-well-everything,” he said. “Postmodern. Post-Christian. Past the post.”

“It’s almost as if we live in a civilization which knows it’s dying,” he said. “And at the same time, there are reasons to hope. And God has placed us here.”

Limb spoke to a room full of



PHOTOS BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD

**Robert Limb and his wife, Evelynne,** sing along with worship leader **Keith Lancaster** in Bratislava.

ministers, ministry leaders and church members during the second European Vision Workshop.

About 125 Christians, representing 59 Churches of Christ in 19 nations, met for the four-day event in the capital of Slovakia, about 45 minutes east of Vienna,

Austria. Such a gathering likely would have been impossible 30 years ago, when Slovakia was part of communist Czechoslovakia.

Much has changed in Europe in those three decades. As the Soviet Union fell, missionaries rapidly planted Churches of Christ in Slovakia, Romania, Albania, Ukraine and Russia, to name a few. That work has slowed in recent years.

Meanwhile, many European nations report declining birth rates — below the replenishment level needed to avoid population decline without migration — and plummeting church attendance. Add to the mix a massive wave of refugees from the troubled, predominantly Muslim nations in the Middle East.

But amidst the continent’s consternation, Christians here see divine opportunity.

See **EUROPE**, Page 14

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## Has God given us more than we can handle?

Sometimes it really is more than we can handle. Life. Somewhere, over the years, it's become common for Christians to say to our brother and sisters dealing with hard times, "Don't worry, God won't give you more than you can handle."

### Inside Story



Chellie Ison

That, my friends, is a big, fat lie. I say this as I watch a dear friend and mother mourn the loss of

her husband to cancer. No longer having the man she vowed to spend a lifetime with by her side is more than she can handle.

I say this as a dear friend from college mourns the death of her newborn baby. Moving forward each day without her beautiful daughter in her arms is more than she can handle.

I say this as another friend battles addiction and waits, weeks after reaching out for help, to get that help. Doing it on her own is more than she can handle (and medically unsafe).

Our burdens, our pains in this life can be heavy and hard to carry.

In Matthew 11:28 Jesus says, "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Our rest, our comfort is in him because we cannot do it alone.

It seems there's a need, an urge when someone is

See **HANDLE**, Page 4



Willie Williams Jr., father of minister Willie Williams III, leads singing at a #Justice4Botham event in Dallas. The fatal shooting of Botham Jean, 26, has "brought young and old together, black and white together, rich and poor together," Williams Jr. told the crowd.

# Singing and seeking justice

*ACROSS THE NATION, members of Churches of Christ raise voices to heaven and 'stand in solidarity' with Botham Jean's family. The devoted Christian was killed 23 days before his 27th birthday.*

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

### DALLAS

"Praise as protest," declared the bold letters on the T-shirt that Ashley Hawthorne sported at the Dallas County courts building on a recent weekend.

On a gloomy Saturday, clouds covered the tops of nearby skyscrapers and Dallas' landmark Reunion Tower. Rain drenched Hawthorne as she stood without an umbrella on the steps outside the Frank Crowley Courts Building.

But Hawthorne and roughly 150 other Christians had come — on the day that Botham Jean would have celebrated his 27th birthday — to remember their fallen brother and call for justice in his fatal shooting by an off-duty, uniformed Dallas police officer.

See **BOTHAM**, Page 10



PHOTOS BY BOBBY ROSS JR.

Ashley Hawthorne wants justice in the death of Botham Jean: "Everybody should be able to close their doors at night and feel safe in their home."

## 'Love Wins' at same-sex conference

**PARENTS OF LGBTQ children and leaders of Churches of Christ tackle faith and sexuality.**

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

**DALLAS** — Carrie Underwood's "Love Wins" video played on the big screens as the E3 Conference opened at the Highland Oaks Church of Christ.

"I believe you and me are sisters and brothers. And I believe we're made to be here for each other," Underwood sings in the country hit. "And we'll never fall if we walk hand in hand, put a world that seems broken together again. Yeah, I believe, in the end love wins."

Helping parents of LGBTQ children and leaders of Churches of Christ "better understand and love unconditionally" was the goal of the recent conference organized by CenterPeace. The Dallas-based ministry provides support for people who experience same-sex attraction.

E3 aims to "equip, empower and encourage" Christians to engage in more thoughtful dialogue about faith and sexuality.

"Nobody's asking you to change what you believe," Sally Gary, CenterPeace's founder and executive director, told the 350 attendees who came from across the United States and Canada. "Nobody's asking you to change what you think about the morality of sexuality."

"But what we are going to have to change," she added, "is how we provide community for the entire body of Christ."

At a time when national polling

See **E3 CONFERENCE**, Page 26



Gary

## RECOVERY CENTER DIRECTOR

SOZO Recovery Center is a faith-based long-term residential program for adult males suffering from addiction to alcohol and other drugs. We are a non-profit ministry of the Church of Christ in Hot Springs Village, Ark. Applicants must have mental health and/or substance use disorder experience as Clinical Director or CEO in a nationally accredited program. For information contact:

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Bob O'Dowd  
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**NOV. 4, 2018 - The Church of Christ in Cisco, Texas, is celebrating their 100th year.** Celebration is for all *current and former* members to worship together and reunite. Several former and current ministers will be a part of the morning worship. After the morning services there will be a luncheon to keep this time of fellowship going. If you have ever been a part of this congregation (including the association with Lake Cisco Christian Camp), you are especially invited to join us. If you need a place to stay, there is limited space (RV's and cabins) at the campground. For more information:

(254) 442-1450, [sdjrazh@gmail.com](mailto:sdjrazh@gmail.com)

## Attention SNOWBIRDS

If you regularly relocate during the year, please e-mail us with *both* your new address and dates so your issues can arrive on time. Send your changes to:

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VIDEO STILL VIA FACEBOOK

## 'My fears were drowned in perfect love'

Voices of Lee, a 13-member ensemble from Lee University in Cleveland, Tenn., sings an a cappella rendition of Bethel Music's "No Longer Slaves." See a video for the song and many more in our weekly "Voices only" feature at [christianchronicle.org](http://christianchronicle.org). While you're there, tell us your favorite a cappella songs for future installments.

## HANDLE: Trials teach us to rely on God

FROM PAGE 3

hurting to say something, anything.

So I challenge you to find better words. Praying for someone, taking them a meal, sending a card on dates that were or are significant — those are things that could help. Ask them what they need. Don't just say something to say something (or comment to comment).

I recently saw a post on Facebook with those words, "God won't give you more than you can handle," scratched out. In their place was 2 Corinthians 1:8-9:

*"We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead"* (emphasis added).

"Far beyond our ability to endure." In other words, it was more than they could handle.

As I write this, a hurricane is causing devastation across the South. For some of those families it will likely be more than they can handle on their own.

In those moments, we see disaster recovery groups rush in, being the hands and feet of Jesus and helping

people pick up the pieces.

We can do the same for our friends who are hurting. It may look different, but being there to support and love them matters and can help to lift the burden of pain they carry.

I am amazed by the faith of my friends. They are each honest about the struggles their losses have caused when it comes to their faith, but ultimately, they are all doing the same — leaning on God and asking him to walk beside them on this painful path.

They're navigating a "wilderness" as one put it — one most of us would hope to never find ourselves walking through. They each acknowledge it's more than they can handle alone, but they praise God for his presence and the presence of others who have helped them to carry the searing pain of their loss and struggle.

I know I've been guilty of using those empty words in the past, but as I've grown and learned from pain and loss in my own life. I've come to believe that there is a better way to love each other when we're hurting.

Let's refuse to pour empty words, masked as scripture, on those we love.

Instead, let's do better.

Let's love better.

CONTACT: [chellie@christianchronicle.org](mailto:chellie@christianchronicle.org).

## SPOTLIGHT

## Hawaii helpers

**WAILUKU, Hawaii** — During the school year, Sam and Macy Elander work as educators in Arizona.

But over the summer, the young couple headed to Hawaii — not to vacation but to help various Churches of Christ and Aloha Christian Camp.

“They cleared pathways and beaches, helped restore a preacher’s home,

repainted church signs, served food to the homeless, played soccer

with the kids, helped with Vacation Bible School, worked at the camp — you name it,” said Julie Elander, Sam’s proud mother.

Sam and Macy Elander, who attend the Bullhead City Church of Christ in Arizona, are graduates of Harding University in Searcy, Ark.



STAN FRANK

Macy Elander cleans and puts protective enamel on the sign at the Maui Church of Christ.



PHOTOS BY MARY BROWN

## Connecticut children accept a big challenge — to be kind

Children at the Manchester Church of Christ in Connecticut celebrate the completion of a “kindness challenge.” Thirty-three boys and girls agreed to do at least 15 acts of kindness over a three-month period and record them on a chart, church member Mary Brown said. “Many of them exceeded the 15!” Brown said.

On a recent Sunday, the children marked the end of the project by painting rocks that will be used for a “Kindness Rock Garden.” After lunch, the boys and girls made cards to be delivered to someone who might need encouragement.

All of the children, including those unable to attend the celebration, were given a certificate of completion. Church member Lynn Stewart had the idea for this event and organized it with a group of helpers.



## CALIFORNIA

**TULARE** — “It looks like the Lord built a fire under us,” one church member quipped.

After a fire made meeting at the Tulare Church of Christ impossible, a nearby congregation — the Mid Valley Church of Christ — opened its building and hearts.

Now the two churches have decided to unite and become one, said Joel Coppinger, one of the elders for the combined congregation.

“Everyone is joyously anticipating being together in the beautifully restored and remodeled church facilities on Blackstone (where the fire occurred) by the end of the year,” said Jerry Sisemore, minister for the combined church.

## GEORGIA

**HENTOWN** — Just off U.S. Highway 27, the Hentown Church of Christ averages Sunday attendance of 45.

“Attendance has been higher, but just like most small country churches, we are losing our young people because of college, jobs and generally wanting to leave a rural community,” church member June Winkler said. But recently, the congregation celebrated “75 years of service to the Lord,” Winkler noted.

The church still meets in a building constructed on land donated by the husband of Chloe Effie Harper, who moved to the community in 1943 and had no church to attend.

“If the Lord wills, we will be here still in 75 more years,” Winkler said.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY BEN BREWSTER

Matt Hollis and Ben Brewster visit with U.S. Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-La.

## LOUISIANA

**BOSSIER CITY** — The Airline Drive Church of Christ’s work in foster care — through an agency called Bossier KIDS — was honored recently with an Angels in Adoption pin from the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. Ben Brewster and Matt Hollis from the Airline

Drive church traveled to the nation’s capital to accept the honor.

## MASSACHUSETTS

**EDGEWOOD** — The Edgewood Church of Christ is finding a calling in disaster relief. A team recently traveled to a coastal North Carolina area devastated by Hurricane Florence to help, deacon Anthony Linden said.

This follows a relief trip to Houston after Hurricane Harvey last year.

“A little bit from a lot of people makes a big difference,” Linden said.

**CORRECTION:** An Across the Nation item on Page 5 of the October issue contained an error. The Spring Road Church of Christ in Westerville, Ohio, is raising funds to help a missionary buy 10,000 Bibles (not bicycles) for distribution in India. The *Chronicle* regrets the error.

# Christians thankful for near-misses after Michael

BY HAMIL R. HARRIS | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Neither his home nor his church had electricity, but Jim Beasley was keeping the faith.

“Colossians 3 tells us to set our minds on things above and not on earthly things, and we are going

to be all right,” said Beasley, minister for the Meridian Woods Church of Christ in Tallahassee, Fla., after Hurricane Michael swept into Florida from the Gulf of Mexico. It was the most intense storm on record to hit the Florida Panhandle.



Beasley

The day after the Category 4 storm passed, Beasley was at the store, buying an electric generator for \$400.

“We have a phone tree, and we were able to call all of our members. Everyone is okay,” Beasley told *The Christian Chronicle*. “We have a lot of trees down, and people have lost

power, but we are going to be OK.”

Beasley said he didn’t know when power would be restored to the church’s building.

But the loss of electricity is only an inconvenience, the minister said. Things could have been much worse. And in other parts of the Panhandle, they were.

In Panama City, patients at the Bay Medical Sacred Heart Hospital had to ride out the storm, but about 100 were transferred 100 miles west to a hospital in Pensacola.

The hurricane bypassed Pensacola. That’s a blessing for people including Gene McCorvey, a member of the Olive Manor Church of Christ.

“I feel blessed, but I want everybody to be safe,” McCorvey said. “People have lost their homes, and they don’t have phone service.

My heart goes out to the people because, as Pensacola residents, we have been through hurricanes, and during Hurricane Ivan, we didn’t have electricity for two weeks.”

Melvin Whitehurst, minister for



NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

See [christianchronicle.org](http://christianchronicle.org) for updates on Hurricane Michael.

the Olive Manor church, lives near the Gulf Coast in Lillian, Ala. He said he planned to contribute to a food and supply drive for hurricane victims organized by the nearby Bay Minette Church of Christ.

“We are supposed to be the church,” Whitehurst said, so “we ought to act like the church and help our brothers and sisters.”

Lena Morgan, a registered nurse at the state mental hospital in

Chattahoochee Fla., had to spend two nights at work before she could get back to her home in Marianna.

“To God be the glory,” Morgan said after she finally was able to survey her home. “The trees fell all around my house, but they didn’t fall on my house.”

Jesse Jackson, a member of the Meridian Woods church, felt the same way. He works as superintendent of Lake Wales Charter Schools in central Florida and drives about five hours every weekend to Tallahassee to see his wife, Sandy, who is a city attorney.

After the storm, he got home as soon as he could and found his wife and his home safe. The storm pulled a large tree in his yard up by its roots, but it fell away from the house.

As he began clearing away debris, “one of the kids came up from the neighborhood and started to clear branches,” he said, “and my neighbor came with his chainsaw and his truck and started cutting logs and hauling branches away.”

## Floods from Hurricane Florence devastate North Carolina church ... again

BY CHELLIE ISON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Two floods in two years — it’s something the South Lumberton Church of Christ in North Carolina never could have expected.

“We’ve had hurricanes before ..., but none like these last two that hit the area,” said Billy Campbell, minister for the South Lumberton Church of Christ. He has lived in the area since 1966.

First, Hurricane Matthew dealt the region a blow in 2016. Then came Hurricane Florence.

Weeks after Florence began its devastating path across the Carolinas, many there are dealing with the aftermath.

“We’ve lost flooring and the pews, and in one area, we’ve got a lot of sheetrock and insulation that has to be torn out,” Campbell said.

The South Lumberton church’s building was flooded by Florence. The water line is two feet off the ground. It’s the second time in two years the congregation has dealt

with flooding from a hurricane.

In 2016, Hurricane Matthew brought flooding up to 32 inches inside the church’s building. It took months, but in June 2017, the congregation was able to move back in. And now, they’ve been hit again.

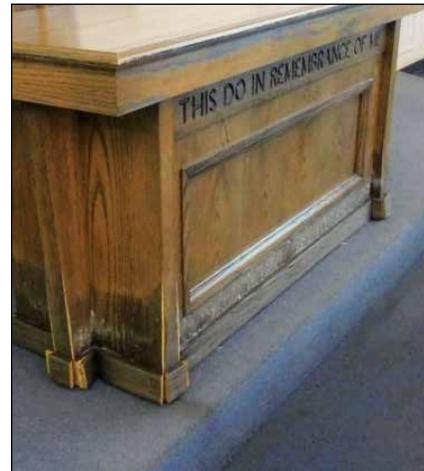
It took Campbell nine days to get back into the area after evacuating.

“When I got there, there was still water in the building,” he said. “You had to have boots to get in the building.”

Now that the water has receded, the congregation is once again tearing out flooring, throwing out doors and drying out walls and pews, in the hope that mold won’t begin to grow. Fortunately, Campbell’s home was spared flooding. He said water came up pretty high in the yard, threatening the home, but never getting inside.

“They don’t have a place to meet right now,” Brad Rowley, an elder at the East Main Church of Christ in Murfreesboro, Tenn., told *The Christian Chronicle*.

Rowley and groups with Disaster



JONATHAN McCRAE

Stains on the communion table of the South Lumberton Church of Christ show the level of flooding from Florence.

Assistance CoC have been working to help the South Lumberton congregation.

“We’re trying to cover a 50- to 60-mile radius of Fayetteville (N.C.),” said Mike Baumgartner with Disaster Assistance CoC. “We’re getting where

the big disaster groups don’t go.”

The organization set up a relief center at the building of the Helen Street Church of Christ in Fayetteville, sending trucks full of supplies to surrounding areas to help feed and provide for other needs of residents.

Churches of Christ Disaster Response Team is also working in North Carolina. Volunteers are cutting up downed trees and clearing debris from homes and roadways in the Wilmington area.

As for the South Lumberton congregation, they don’t have flood insurance. The congregation of about 65 members isn’t sure how they’ll pay for the repairs from this latest disaster.

“It’s just devastating, you know, but God will provide,” Campbell said.

Several churches are figuring out how they may be able to provide financial assistance to the South Lumberton church.

**FIND LINKS** to contribute to hurricane relief at [christianchronicle.org](http://christianchronicle.org).



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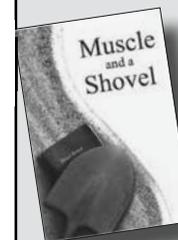
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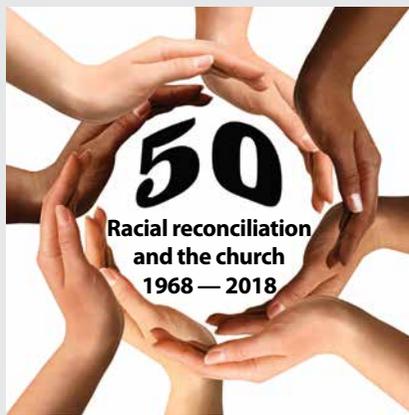
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## Abilene Christian in the 1960s

**1960:** Floyd Rose is denied admission because he is black.

**1960:** Carl Spain delivers Bible Lectureship sermon on racial discrimination.

**1961:** College admits black students to graduate school.

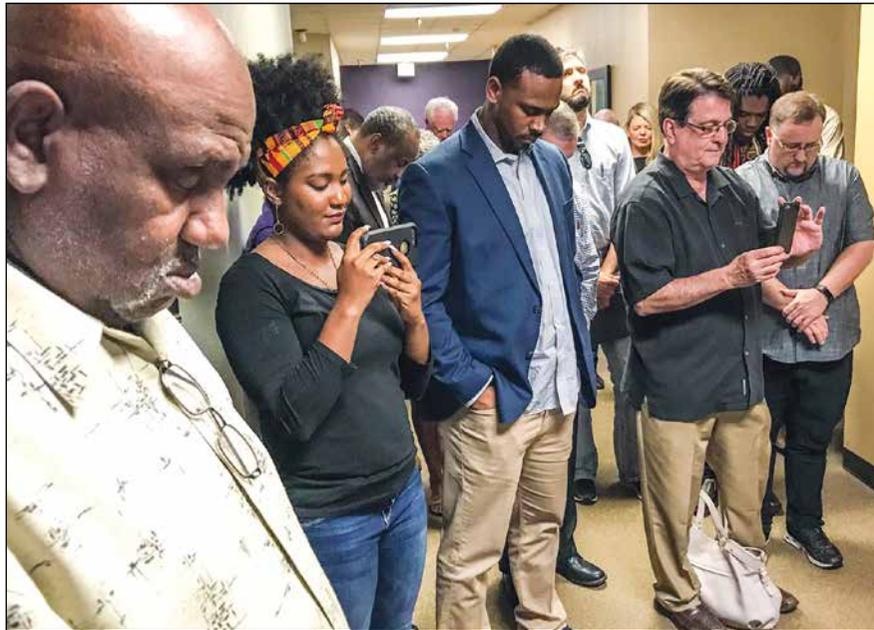
**1962:** Black junior and senior students are allowed admission. Billy Curl and Larry Bonner enroll after two years at Southwestern Christian College.

**1963:** Freshman and sophomore black students are admitted to comply with Title VI to borrow money for a science building expansion.

**1964:** Royce Money graduates with a Bible degree. Money would later serve as Abilene Christian University's president and issue a formal apology in 1999 for the school's history of racism. He is now ACU's chancellor.

**1968:** U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity recognizes Clyde Austin, director of admissions and placement, for Abilene Christian's efforts to recruit, place and educate minority students.

**SOURCE:** Abilene Christian University



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Alisha Taylor, second from left, joins other attendees at a ribbon cutting for the Carl Spain Center on Race Studies and Spiritual Action at Abilene Christian University in Texas. Taylor is an ACU graduate and the daughter of Jerry Taylor, the center's founding director.



PAUL WHITE

Praying at the center's opening are, from left, Jerry Taylor, Gavin Rogers, Claudette Rogers, Royce Money and Tryce Prince.

# ABILENE: Center on race studies opens

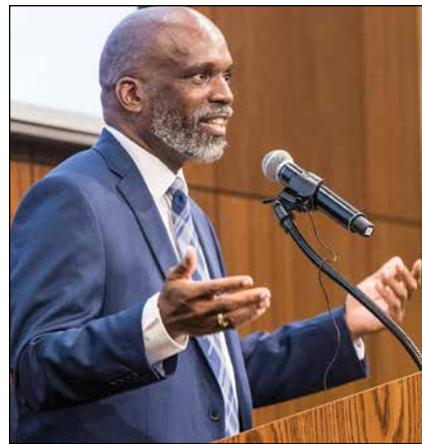
FROM PAGE 1

Taylor spoke during ACU's recent 112th annual Bible lecture series — now called Summit — as the university marked the opening of the Carl Spain Center on Race Studies and Spiritual Action, which will conduct academic research on historical and contemporary racism in the church and Christian institutions.

The center's name honors the legacy of Spain, who faced "social rejection, religious ostracism, tribal rage and racial retribution" as a result of his Feb. 24, 1960, address. Taylor told thousands of students and guests who filled ACU's Moody Coliseum.

Spain, who died in 1990 at age 73, called white supremacy the most credible threat to Christian morals, noted Taylor, the center's founding director.

"While white American Christianity vehemently condemned Soviet communism as anti-democratic, Spain rightly pointed out that these same Christians were hypocritically excluding, denying and obstructing African-Americans from having full participation in the highly esteemed system of American democracy," Taylor said to an audience that included the late namesake's daughter Claudette Rogers



PAUL WHITE

Curtis King, associate director of ACU's Siburt Institute for Church Ministry, speaks at the Spain Center's opening.

and grandson Gavin Rogers.

"I, therefore, stand today behind the same pulpit 58 years later," he added, "to declare that the doctrine of white supremacy still continues to remain a credible threat in America to Christian morals."

### EQUAL IN THE SIGHT OF GOD

Taylor, 57, wasn't born until a year after Spain's historic sermon.

However, he experienced racism firsthand growing up in a rural area

north of Memphis, Tenn.

At times, Taylor's family lacked transportation, so they'd walk to a nearby town. Sometimes, carloads full of white people would drive by and holler at them.

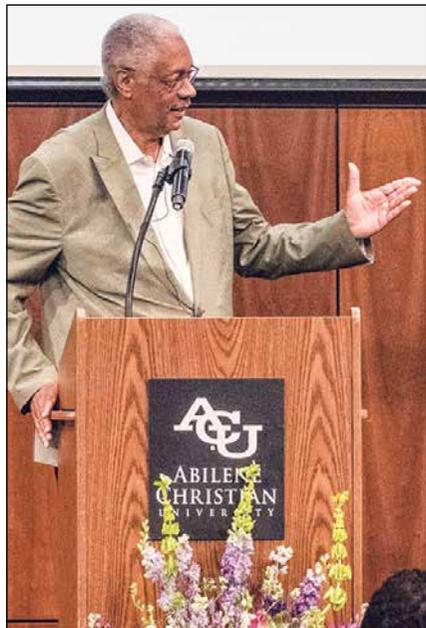
"They would shout at us, and we would have to jump out of the road and get in the ditch to keep from being hit," Taylor said.

In second grade, Taylor had a white friend named Mike. But one day, the boy said he couldn't play with Taylor anymore because he was black. Especially hurtful: The boy's father had used the N-word in telling his son to stay away from Taylor.

Taylor was 7 years old when he heard his mother, Alma Hines, scream loudly in a nearby room.

"I knew they were going to kill him," Hines kept saying as she watched news of the April 4, 1968, assassination of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. outside the Lorraine Motel in nearby Memphis.

Taylor was baptized at age 12 at the Hatchie Church of Christ in Covington, Tenn., which his grandfather helped build. He started leading singing at age 13. He gave his first sermon at age 14, and when his ninth-grade English teacher, Merill



PAUL WHITE

Billy Curl, one of the first black undergraduates admitted to Abilene Christian, reflects on professor Carl Spain's legacy.

Durham, heard about it, she invited him to preach in class.

His topic?

"The need for people to be racially sensitive," Taylor said.

No race is more special than another, he told his classmates.

"We are all equal in the sight of God," he stressed.

#### DRIVEN TO SEEK RECONCILIATION

After high school, Taylor earned a bachelor's degree from Southwestern Christian College in Terrell, Texas, the only historically black college associated with Churches of Christ.

Later, he completed M.Div. and D.Min. degrees at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. He preached for congregations in Texas, North Carolina and Georgia before joining the faculty at ACU, where for years he has focused on racial unity projects.

All these years later, his childhood experiences with racism still drive him.

They compel him to seek reconciliation and work to bring healing to a society so often torn apart by racial division, he told *The Christian Chronicle*.

"We are in a period where fear and anger have been turned up to the top notch volume-wise, where people are afraid, uncertain," Taylor said of



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Celebrating the ribbon cutting for the Carl Spain Center on Race Studies and Spiritual Action are, from left, Abilene Christian University President Phil Schubert, Spain's grandson Gavin Rogers, Spain's daughter Claudette Rogers, founding director Jerry Taylor, ACU management sciences professor Orneita Burton and ACU Provost Robert Rhodes.

the racial climate in America. "The trust level is very low, and those are the dynamics that go into creating an environment of hostility to where people stop exerting any energy to even talk to each other, to try to resolve problems in peaceful ways."

#### 'HISTORY WAS MADE'

Weeks before Spain spoke in 1960, a black student named Floyd Rose was denied admission to Abilene Christian on racial grounds.

Even before Spain's address, the college had appointed an integration committee to study the race issue and make recommendations to its board.

But the process might have taken years if not for the impetus fueled by Spain's "theological attack on racial segregation," according to research by Doug Foster, director of ACU's Center for Restoration Studies.

"I know that history was made when he made that speech," said Billy Curl, an ACU graduate who was one of the first black students admitted as a full-time undergraduate in 1962.

Curl, an elder and retired minister of the Crenshaw Church of Christ in Los Angeles, serves on ACU's board of trustees. He reflected on Spain's legacy at an opening luncheon for the new center.

"I don't know whether Carl Spain got on his knees or not, but I do know he prayed," said Curl, who

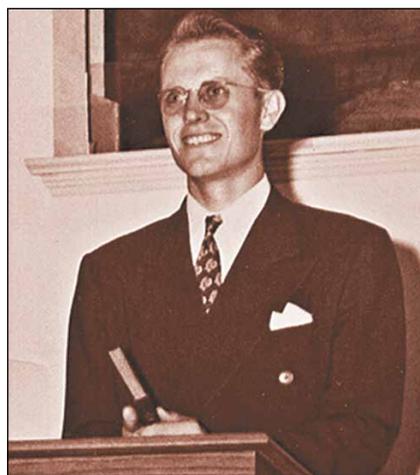


PHOTO PROVIDED BY ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Carl Spain, shown in his younger days, was a Bible professor who delivered an explosive sermon on racial discrimination at Abilene Christian's 1960 Bible Lectureship.

recalled learning the value of prayer while growing up as the son of an East Texas sharecropper. "And when you get on your knees and pray, something is going to happen."

On the same day as the center's ribbon cutting, Alisha Taylor — a 2017 ACU graduate and Jerry Taylor's daughter — performed a two-person play called "The Mountaintop" with fellow alumnus Vincson Green.

The drama depicts the last night of Martin Luther King Jr.'s life, which is more vivid to Alisha Taylor because of visits she and her father have

made to historic sites in Memphis.

Asked about her father's passion for racial unity, the 23-year-old Taylor said: "I think it just goes back to Jesus Christ and his mission of wanting to create a space where love is the most important thing. Everything that my dad does is based out of love for others and for God and Jesus."

#### SPEAKING 'REDEEMING WORDS'

ACU's enrollment this semester tops 5,200 students — 36 percent of them non-white.

Despite progress on racial matters, much work remains to be done, Jerry Taylor said at the center's opening.

"When senseless shootings happen, like the recent one in Dallas that took the life of our dearly departed brother Botham Jean, we as Christians must not remain silent and confuse good for evil and evil for good," Taylor said.

He cited other examples that he said demand a response from Christians, such as contaminated drinking water in majority-black Flint, Mich., and white nationalist rallies in places such as Charlottesville, Va.

"We may not always know what to do immediately when these terrible events happen," Taylor said. "But as the church of Jesus Christ, we can ask God to give us the courage to speak redeeming words into situations that carry the foul scent of racial injustice."



JUSTIN ARDREY

Christians share hugs and fellowship at a #Justice4Botham assembly hosted by the Sycamore View Church of Christ in Memphis, Tenn., in memory of Botham Jean.



WHITNEY KASINGER

Minister Frank Melton III speaks at a #Justice4Botham event that drew more than 100 members of Churches of Christ to the steps outside City Hall in downtown Houston.

# BOTHAM: 'Let It Rise' sung across U.S. and beyond

## FROM PAGE 1

The nasty weather failed to deter these members of Churches of Christ from their appointed mission: singing and praising God.

"The walls of Jericho didn't come down because they fought," minister Willie Williams III told the crowd, citing the Old Testament account of the Israelites marching around the city and blowing their trumpets. "The walls of Jericho came down because the people of God got together, and they shouted, and they praised God."

Lamont Ross, senior minister for the Marsalis Avenue Church of Christ in Dallas, prayed to God, "We can't make sense of the senseless, but we come to you because we recognize the therapeutic value of praise."

From Houston to Honolulu, members of Churches of Christ across the U.S. — and even beyond — came together on Jean's Sept. 29 birthday to raise their voices to heaven.

"We just want to make sure that we bring awareness to this situation and show the family love," minister



BOBBY ROSS JR.

"We want to stand with our brothers and sisters," says Cody Chumbley, with sons Keaton and Caden at the Dallas event.

Frank Melton III said at Houston City Hall, surrounded by more than 100 Christians.

At the Pearl Harbor Church of Christ in Hawaii, minister's wife Ruth Byrne said, "We stand in solidarity with his family."

In Memphis, Tenn., the Sycamore View Church of Christ described its service remembering Jean as "a powerful display of unity, communal lament for injustice and a celebration of our dear brother in Christ."

At the Ina Road Church of Christ in Tucson, Ariz., black Christians shared with a mostly white audience their experiences of growing up in America.

"I truly hope this becomes a catalyst for bringing racial unity or at least racial collaboration in our divided brotherhood," said Jessica Knapp, who is white and attended the Tucson discussion.

As part of a #Justice4Botham social media campaign organized by Williams, numerous Christians from coast to coast recorded videos of themselves singing "Let It Rise," the last song led by Jean at the Dallas West Church of Christ, his home congregation.

"Today is the opportunity for the Church of Christ and all those Botham impacted to say, 'Hey, we love you, and we care about you,'"

said Williams, a former Abilene Christian University football player who preaches for the North Colony Church of Christ, north of Dallas.

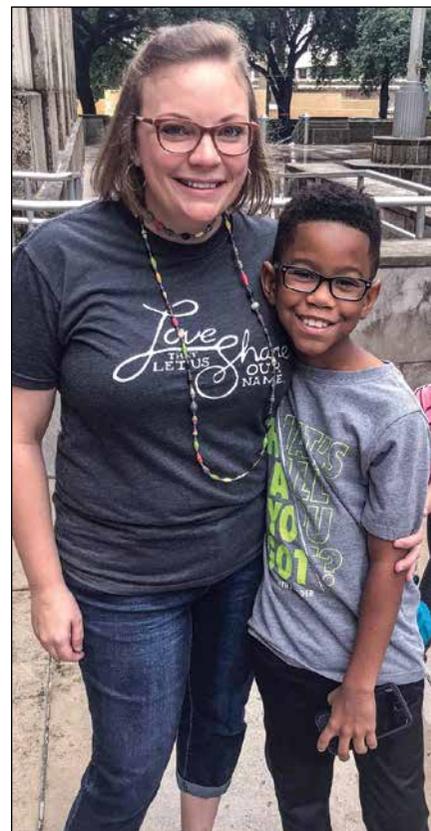
"We're asking God for justice in this situation," he added. "We are Christians, so we're not seeking vengeance or revenge or destruction on anybody. But if I bump into your car, I've got to pay for that, right?"

## CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY?

Officer Amber Guyger told investigators she mistakenly entered the victim's apartment the night of Sept. 6, thinking it was her own. She then confused Jean with a burglar and opened fire, she reported.

Guyger has been charged with manslaughter and fired from her job with the Dallas Police Department. The victim's parents have expressed skepticism at the official narrative of what happened. The family plans to file a lawsuit against Guyger and the city of Dallas.

"We do want justice for Botham because we feel it's unfair," said



JOSH KASINGER

Whitney Kasinger and Tellis Rivers greet each other at the Houston gathering.

Hawthorne, a North Colony church member who brought her 7-year-old daughter, Yaniya, with her to the Dallas event. "Everybody should be able to close their doors at night and feel safe in their home."

Another Dallas participant, Lydia Graves-Berkley, wore a shirt with the message "I am my brother's keeper" above #BothamJean.

"I have a 23-year-old son myself, so this hit close to home," said Graves-Berkley, a member of the Mountain View Church of Christ in Dallas. "My son is like Botham — innocent, young, kind, gentle. So we just have to start being more accountable for our brothers.

"God knows all and sees all," she added. "So when it's all said and done, I'm just praying that justice will be served, especially for his mother."

Remona Hynson, a member of the Martin Luther King Jr. Drive Church of Christ in Sulphur Springs, Texas, about 80 miles east of Dallas, also identified with Jean's family.

When Hynson's son was in his late teens, police stopped him for no reason, she said. "And when they questioned him, he was actually drug where his knees were all bloodied,"



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Willie Williams III, left, minister for the North Colony Church of Christ, north of Dallas, sings at a #Justice4Botham event outside the Dallas County courts building. Williams, a former Abilene Christian University football player, organized the social media campaign.

his mother said.

"We believe in justice, and for me, what happened to Botham was a terrible injustice," said Hynson, whose shirt described Jean as a "faithful follower" of Christ.

Cody Chumbley, youth minister for the South Main Church of Christ in Weatherford, Texas, about 60 miles west of Dallas, brought his sons, Caden, 11, and Keaton, 8, to the Dallas event. "Botham's is a life worth celebrating," Chumbley said. "We want to stand with our brothers and sisters around the world and fight for justice."

#### 'STAND UP FOR BOTHAM'

Sammie L. Berry, minister for the Dallas West church, said he had just returned from Jean's funeral in the Caribbean nation of St. Lucia. Jean grew up there before leaving at age 19 to attend Harding University in Searcy, Ark.

A standing-room only crowd filled a 2,000-seat Catholic church — the largest venue available — to pay their final respects to Jean, and others lined the streets, Berry said. An earlier memorial service for Jean in Texas drew 1,500.



JUSTIN ANDREY

Christians gather in a circle to pray at a #Justice4Botham event at the Sycamore View Church of Christ in Memphis, Tenn.

"What happened to Botham has had a worldwide impact," Berry told the Dallas crowd.

Even though no one would ever expect to be shot to death by a police officer in his own home, Berry said, "I know that where Botham is today, he has a big smile on his face, and he's singing right along with us."

Berry urged the Christians to honor Jean's memory by helping other people.

"When you see the homeless man on the side of the road ... reach out and give him a helping hand,"

Berry said. "And as you do here's what I want you to say: 'Stand up for Botham.'"

"And tomorrow, after you've had your Sunday afternoon meal, I want you to go to somebody and visit them in their hospital room," he added. "And I want you to tell them to 'Stand up for Botham.'"

"Next week, I want you to see a young boy who's cutting up in school, not obeying his mother, and I want you to talk to him and tell him to 'Stand up for Botham.'"

"Stand up for Botham!" the crowd said in unison. "Stand up for Botham!"

In death, Jean has "brought young and old together, black and white together, rich and poor together," said Willie Williams Jr., the Dallas organizer's father.

The #Justice4Botham praise event began in the rain — but it ended an hour later with sunlight poking through the clouds, as Williams Jr. noted.

"Thank you, Jesus!" a woman in the crowd shouted.

**SEE VIDEOS** of Churches of Christ and individual Christians from across the U.S. and beyond singing 'Let It Rise' at [christianchronicle.org](http://christianchronicle.org).



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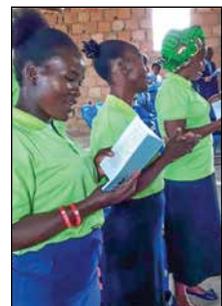
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## ANGOLA

**HUAMBO** — Christians in this southern African nation are singing praises to God for their new hymnals, featuring songs in Portuguese and their native language, Umbundu.

Danny Reese, a member of the Angola Mission Team, worked with members of the Kapango Church of Christ to transcribe the songs and produce the hymnals. The church used the first copies during a recent gospel meeting.



ANGOLATEAM.ORG

**Angolan Christians sing from their brand new hymnals.**

“Danny is sending a copy to other provinces as an incentive for each church to collect songs in their local languages,” said Reese’s wife, Katie. “Please pray that the churches in the Umbundu-speaking region will be blessed by this hymnal.”

## BULGARIA

**YAMBOL** — This southeastern Bulgarian town in the historical region of Thrace is the home of Petar Petrov, a graduate of the Athens International Bible Institute who served in the Bulgarian-language service of the Omonia Church of Christ.



Petrov

Now Petrov hopes to plant a new church in his hometown, said Hristo Arnaudov, a minister in the Bulgarian capital, Sofia. He visited Petrov recently to supply him with Bulgarian-language material from Eastern European Mission.

“Brother Petar is currently making initial attempts to start a home group in Yambol,” Arnaudov said. “We are praying for this initiative and are encouraging him.”

## PERU

**TRUJILLO** — Even a birthday party can provide a chance to spread the Gospel in this South American nation. Bob Young, a longtime missionary



WWW.JOCHEBEDSHOPE.ORG

## Walking hand in hand toward new life

Four women on the Indonesian island of Nias walk into the waters of the Indian Ocean, following minister Linga Aro Halawa. The women are students in a sewing class sponsored by Jochebed’s Hope, a nonprofit associated with Churches of Christ, formerly known as Kids of Indonesia. Halawa, who baptized the women, serves as a dormitory supervisor for the ministry, which cares for orphaned and impoverished children.

“We identify with Jochebed, Moses’ mother, who made the heart-wrenching decision to give up her son in hopes that he would have a better future,” said Scott Cate, U.S. coordinator. “Parents in Indonesia do the same thing. Desiring a better future for their children, they turn them over to our care.”

Jochebed’s Hope also provides vocational training for the people of Nias and works with congregations on the island. Recently, the ministry partnered with the Botohilitano Church of Christ to construct a new roof for the church’s meeting place.

to Spanish-speaking nations, recently visited the coastal city of Trujillo and worked with a church-sponsored leadership school there. He also taught about Jesus at a youth gathering and birthday party in Porvenir.

“The party was attended by numerous guests from the community,” Young said. “For many of them, they were hearing the Good

News for the first time.

Young also preached for the Viru Church of Christ, which recently planted a new congregation.

“I am honored to work with growing churches that are planting more churches,” he said.

## TANZANIA

**ZANZIBAR CITY** — Ninety-three missionaries and ministry trainers from 11

## SPOTLIGHT

### Bikes for evangelizing grandmas in Africa

**KALOMO, Zambia** — Bicycling evangelists have planted 20 Churches of Christ in the rural communities of this southern African country in the past four years. That was the report given by 70-plus preachers at a recent training conference hosted by the Namwianga Evangelism and Spiritual Growth team.

Among the attendees were the conference’s first-ever female participants — grandmothers Vainess Moonga and Elinah Mazala. They heard about the workshop from bicycle evangelists in their area.

The two women walk more than 20 miles to teach and encourage women in the communities near their homes.

“The book of Titus tells the older women to go and teach younger women to respect their husbands and love their children,” Moonga said, “and that’s what we do.”

The women said that the male evangelists welcomed them to the workshop. Rodgers Namuswa, the leader of Namwianga’s evangelism team, assured the women that they would soon receive bicycles of their own to help in their ministry.

“The lessons are very powerful,” Moonga said of the conference.



WWW.ZAMBIAMISSION.ORG/BICYCLEEVANGELIST

**The grandmothers at the conference.**

nations gathered on the East African island of Zanzibar for the biennial All Africa Missionary retreat.

“We spent four days swapping stories and fellowshiping with colleagues and mentors,” said Robert and Teague Meyer, members of a mission team in the southern African nation of Angola. Members of a mission team in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, organized the event.

# Slovak Republic

**POPULATION:** 5.4 million. **LANGUAGES:** Slovak, Hungarian, Romani, Ruthenian, English, German. **RELIGION:** 62 percent Roman Catholic, 8.2 percent Protestant, 3.8 percent Greek Catholic, 12.5 percent other or unspecified, 13.5 percent claim no religion.



**HISTORY:** Slovakia traces its roots to the ninth century state of Great Moravia. After the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire at the end of World



War I, the Slovaks and Czechs formed Czechoslovakia. Following World War II, they came under communist rule

in Soviet-dominated Eastern Europe. In 1993 the country separated into Slovakia and the Czech Republic. Slovakia joined NATO and the European Union in 2004.

**CHURCHES OF CHRIST:** Truitt Adair of Sunset International Bible Institute traveled to Bratislava in



**Halamiccek**

1990 and placed a newspaper ad for Bible studies. About 13,500 people responded. A mission team including Bob Stump arrived in 1992. A year later, Mark and Dana Blackwelder became the first missionaries from Churches of Christ to the new nation of Slovakia. Now native Europeans, including Roman Halamiccek in Bratislava and Peter Halustok in Kosice, minister for Slovakian churches.

**A SPECIAL BIBLE:** Susan Edmonds and her late husband, Jim, served on the Bratislava team in 1992. One of the first believers they baptized was Zdenka Hamerlikova. After attending the European Vision Workshop this year, Susan Edmonds visited Hamerlikova. "Moments after I arrived there, she showed me the Thompson Chain Reference Bible that the team presented to her just weeks after she was saved," Susan Edmonds said. "It was wonderful to see that she is still as faithful as she was then."

**SOURCES:** CIA World Factbook, "Churches of Christ Around the World" by Mac Lynn, interviews. Maps via Wikimeida Commons.

# EUROPE: God's politics are 'neither left nor right'

FROM PAGE 1

The workshop had its genesis in Athens, Greece, near the epicenter of the refugee crisis. In 2016, four ministries associated with Churches of Christ — Partners in Progress, Sunset International Bible Institute, World Bible School and World English Institute — hosted a gathering of European church leaders to equip them to minister to asylum seekers in their countries. Many of the refugees are spiritual seekers and were members of secret house churches in the Middle East, forced to flee because of their newfound faith in Jesus.

After the Athens event, Bill McDonough of Partners in Progress approached Doug Reeves of Sunset about partnering in a similar workshop with an expanded focus. The four ministries launched the first European Vision Workshop in Mainz, Germany, in 2017 to help Christians reach all Europeans — including those who claim they have lost their faith, be it Islam or Christianity.

In fact, Limb said, "what they have lost was not a true relationship" with God.

During the Bratislava conference, Limb and fellow ministers spoke on the theme, "Lift up your eyes and see God's purpose in Europe."

Limb quoted from one of his favorite hymns, "Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken," written by John Newton in 1779, a decade before the French Revolution.

"*La Marseillaise*' is a good tune, but *that's* my national anthem," he said of the hymn, focusing on the lyric, "*With salvation's walls surrounded, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.*"

"Thou may'st smile' ... not in derision, not in derision," he said.

It's up to God to judge the righteous and the unrighteous, he added. Meanwhile, "we look at our neighbors and say, 'Come in. Don't be an enemy anymore. We're not going to fight you. We're going to love you to death.'"

## 'WE NEED TO PREPARE THE FIELDS'

As the workshop began, representatives of Churches of Christ in Austria and Germany gave updates on their work with refugees from



Workshop participants take a quick tour of Bratislava's old town. Their tour guide, Zdenka Hamerlikova, worships with the Church of Christ in Slovakia's capital.

the Middle East. Many seek asylum in these countries after entering Europe through Greece or the Balkan nations.

"We've seen God working in ways we would not have imagined," said Will Kooi, who worships with the Danube Church of Christ in Vienna.



**Kooi**

"Sometimes we're the planters, sometimes we're the waterers." Christians in Vienna feed and serve as many refugees as they can while they can, Kooi said, but often that's not long. The European Union's policies and other factors can take the refugees away quickly, leaving church members asking, "Did we do enough? Did we say the right thing?"

Refugee ministry requires "trust that God will take care of it."

It also requires preparation, said Rudiger Renken, a member of the Bremen Church of Christ in Germany. The congregation of about 35 souls has served hundreds of refugees with food, shelter and Bible studies.

"God is working, but we need to prepare the fields," said Renken, a graduate of Sunset International Bible Institute. "We need to prepare ourselves for having a Bible study. ... Why should God send us people if we're not prepared?"

## 'MUSLIMS IN YOUR GROCERY STORE'

Later in the workshop, ministry leaders highlighted programs that can help Christians reach their new Middle Eastern neighbors. John Reese, president of World Bible School, presented correspondence



**Al-Aethawi**

lessons aimed at people from Islamic backgrounds. So did Barry Baggott, director of French World Outreach. Tom Langley, president of World English Institute, talked about the

ministry's work of teaching English using the Bible, which has resulted in baptisms across Europe.

While many Middle Eastern refugees claim Christianity as their faith, many more are Muslims who "have

## Paul Brazle

Antwerp, Belgium

"We spend a lot of time trying to straighten out folks," said Brazle, a longtime missionary, during a devotional. He quoted Mark 9:38, in which Christ's disciples tried to stop a man from driving out demons because "he was not one of us." "Don't make a church that looks like me," Brazle said. "Make a church that looks like Jesus."



never been as disenchanted with Islam" as they are now, said Wissam Al-Aethawi during a session titled "Islam in Christ's Eyes."

A native of Iraq, Al-Aethawi was a refugee himself after he studied the Bible and was baptized in a hotel bathtub near the birthplace of Saddam Hussein. Now he serves as a missionary to the heavily Arab population of Dearborn, Mich., and as assistant dean of Arabic studies for the Sunset institute.

"If you cannot stand to see Muslims in your grocery store, don't share the Gospel with them," said Al-Aethawi, who also stressed the need for Europeans to learn about their Muslim neighbors' faith and their holy book, the Quran, as they reach out with Christ.

"To learn about Islam, you have to go to the Quran," he said, "and not your favorite politician."

#### A EURO-BACKLASH AGAINST REFUGEES?

Increasingly, Europe's politicians voice opposition to the wave of refugees from the Middle East, which has slowed substantially in the past year, the International Organization for Migration reports.

Several countries, including Hungary, have fortified their borders and heavily restricted access by refugees. Political parties that advocate a crackdown on refugees have made substantial gains in parliaments, including Sweden's, as anxieties grow over national identity and the effects of globalization and immigration, Reuters reported in September.

In the east German city of Chemnitz,

anti-immigrant protests erupted after an August brawl that resulted in the stabbing death of a German man. Police named immigrants from Syria and Iraq as suspects.

Media pundits pointed to the protests as evidence of backlash against the refugees, but failed to acknowledge the larger counter-protests by those who support the asylum seekers, said Sven Schneider, a member of the Chemnitz Church of Christ who attended the workshop.

Members of his church have worked with relief organizations that help refugees and play sports with their children, Schneider said. At least one baptism has resulted from the outreach.

The refugees, like most Europeans, are in search of a better life, said Teresa Rothe, a member of the Chemnitz church who was baptized last year. They quickly learn that "Germany is not heaven" and that prosperity is "not just given to you." Many asylum seekers become frustrated. Some also bring their old conflicts to their new homeland. That makes some Germans feel uncomfortable and insecure.

Rothe prays that the refugees will find the peace that she found as she studied the Bible with the Chemnitz church.

"When it's about truth and about God, all of that background doesn't matter," she said. "The truth is for everyone."

Alexander Bartsch, an evangelist for the church, said that Christians should endeavor to cut through the noise and distractions of politics as they minister to everyone — Iranians, Afghans,



PHOTOS BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD

**Americans Jason and Patrice Williams see ministry opportunities in Paris.**

Syrians, Africans and Germans.

"In a way, the church does politics," he said, "but from a different realm. We are trying to change people from the inside. We proclaim a kingdom that is neither left nor right. It is simply from another world."

#### 'I SENSE GOD AMONG THESE PEOPLE'

As a new believer from a small church, Rothe said, "I'm encouraged by seeing so many people trying to spread the Good News." The offerings at the workshop were "a little overwhelming," she added.

In addition to refugee ministry, speakers discussed challenges facing an increasingly secular Europe. One way to reach souls across a multitude of cultural and religious barriers is through the universal language of song, said Keith Lancaster of Acappella Ministries. He and his son, Anthony, taught the attendees new songs used in their Praise and Harmony workshops.

"We don't want to do singing as just a checklist item," Keith Lancaster said, noting that many church hymns are actual words of Scripture and hold biblical truths. "Although the primary mission of worship isn't evangelism, if we worship with passion, people who hear us will say 'I sense God among these people.'"

Jason and Patrice Williams sense God working in France, where they are working with a Church of Christ in Paris. Both native Texans, the couple is training with the Sunset institute. They are considering full-time mission work in the City of Light — despite the sticker shock when it comes to raising funds from churches in the U.S.

"To send us to Paris, they could send 10 people to Honduras," Patrice Williams said. For that reason, plus the reputation of Europe as post-Christian, it's hard to find potential teammates for the work, she said.

But the city of 2.2 million souls has spiritual seekers, she added.

"It's surprisingly easy to meet people who are open," she said. "We make contacts in Starbucks. More workers are needed."

As the workshop closed, Trevor Williams stressed the need for steadfast patience among Europe's Christians.

"God moves in mysterious ways," said Williams, a longtime minister in England, "and sometimes in our anxiety for church growth we forget that trees that take the longest to bloom have the most fruit."

"It takes time, but a fruit tree, grounded well, *can* produce here."



**Rothe**



**Bartsch**



**Williams**

**Bill McDonough**  
Siem Reap, Cambodia



"Living a pure, Christian life is not the Gospel. You've got to talk to people," said McDonough, director of Partners in Progress. He urged workshop participants to have intentional, daily conversations about Christ and to work together. "You're not a lone ranger," he said. "You don't have a diocese you're trying to control."

**Claudiu Murtaza**  
Sibiu, Romania



"God's people can feel under pressure. We feel that way in Romania," said Murtaza, a minister in Sibiu. His nation is in the midst of a same-sex marriage debate, and it's easy for Christians to be labeled as closed-minded, he said. He preached from the book of Daniel, stressing the need to stand for God — even when commanded to bow to idols.

**Michaela Renken**  
Bremen, Germany



Many Germans keep a distance from the Middle Eastern refugees among them, but the Bremen Church of Christ sees their presence as "an open door to the Muslim world," says Renken, a workshop participant. She said she is amazed by the kindness and hospitality of the refugees she has met. "It's a special time. We're trying to use it."

**Peter Halustok**  
Kosice, Slovakia



"We're in the wild east of Slovakia," said Halustok, a workshop participant who ministers for a church 45 minutes from the EU's border with Ukraine. Smuggling and gang violence are common. Poverty is high. He tells the church that, despite their circumstances, they "are still somebody living somewhere" — and Jesus knows them.

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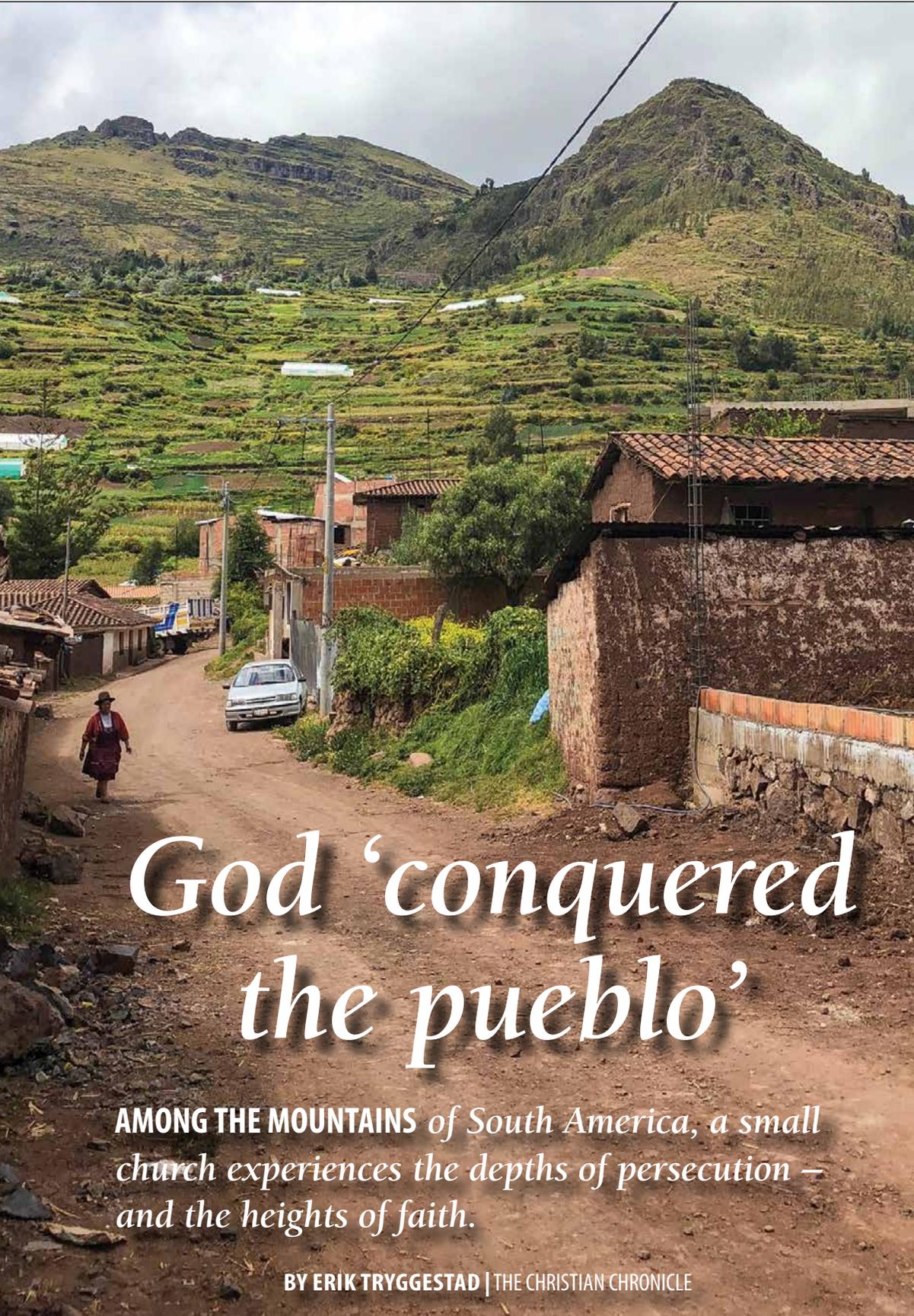
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# God ‘conquered the pueblo’

AMONG THE MOUNTAINS of South America, a small church experiences the depths of persecution — and the heights of faith.

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

## TARAY, Peru

A haunting melody, sung through smiles and tears in a language few outsiders understand, floats through this quiet mountain village.

“This song is sad. It’s about the suffering of Christ,” says Narciso Roya. “Sometimes I cry when I sing this song because it’s so sad.”

There are white flecks of cement in his jet-black hair and on his soccer jersey. He’s been hard at work building a new meeting place for the 25-member Huancalle Church of Christ, which worships among the mountains surrounding Cuzco. Here, they’re close to God — 11,276 feet above sea level.

Roya and three of his fellow Christians have taken a break so that a pair of visitors can hear selections from “*Tñiq Taqa Espiritual Kaq Takikuna*,” a hymnal in their indigenous language, Quechua.

Roya closes his eyes as he sings about the cross, the nails, the blood. His voice quivers with each staccato word.

*Jesuslláy, Jesuslláy, (My Jesus, my Jesus)  
reqsikuykikum rantiqniykupaq (we know you  
as the one who purchased us with your blood).*

*Qespiqláy, Qespiqláy, (Savior, Savior,  
chaskikuykikum Señorniykupaq (we welcome  
you as our Lord).*

Roya knows what it means to suffer for his beliefs. His community is a traditional Peruvian pueblo, or village, populated by descendants of the Incas, who built a mighty empire and the ancient city of Macchu Picchu, not far from here.

Since the days of the conquistadors, Catholicism

had been the only acceptable faith here. Roya grew up never thinking much of it.

“For me, God wasn’t God of Heaven; he was god of the images, god of the idols,” Roya says in his second language, Spanish, as one of the visitors, missionary Barton Kizer, translates.

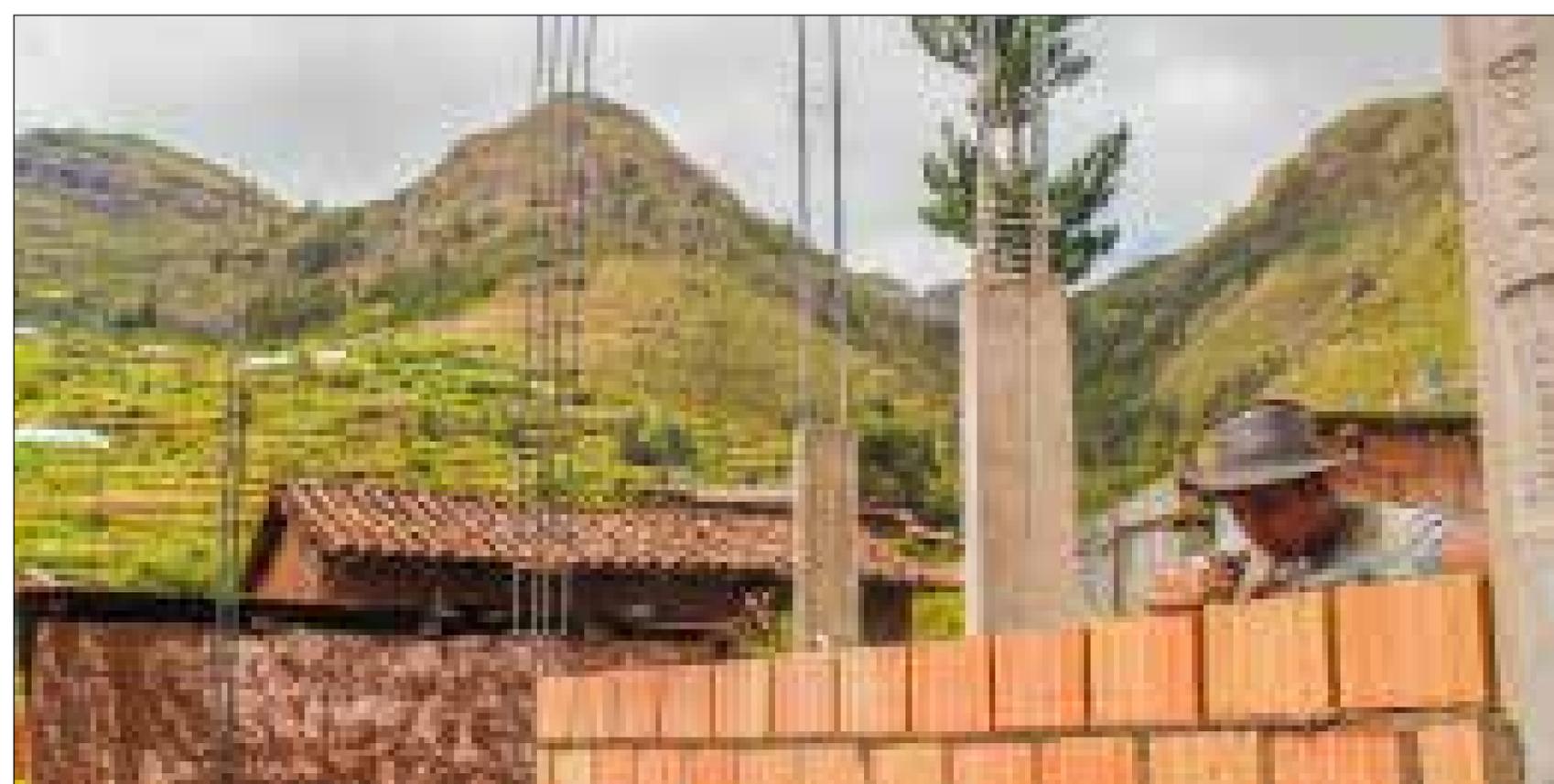
“He had read the Bible,” Kizer says, “but hadn’t understood.”

Then he joined a construction crew working



PHOTOS BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD

**Narciso Roya points heavenward as he talks about the suffering he endured for his faith in Jesus.**



In the mountains near Cuzco, Peru, a worker lays bricks for a new, multi-story meeting place of the Huancalle Church of Christ. Church members contributed funds for the construction.

# God ‘conquered the pueblo’

## Republic of Peru

**POPULATION:** 31 million. **LANGUAGES:** Spanish, Quechua, Aymara, Ashaninka and other indigenous languages. **RELIGION:** 81.3 percent Roman Catholic, 12.5 percent evangelical Christian groups, 3.3 percent other, 2.9 percent none.



**CHURCHES OF CHRIST:** Evert Pickartz, a missionary in Chile, distributed tracts in Peru in 1958 and in 1961 sent Oscar Aquilar to establish a congregation in the capital, Lima. Glenn Kramar was the first full-time missionary from the U.S., arriving in 1962. He baptized Francisca Feliz de Triveños who, along with her husband, Hipólito, planted churches across the country, including the Wanchaq Church of Christ in Cuzco. Hipólito Triveños estimates that the country now is home to 38 to 42 Churches of Christ — more than 20 of them in the Lima metropolitan area.

**SOURCES:** CIA World Factbook, “Churches of Christ Around the World” by Mac Lynn, interviews. Maps via Wikimedia Commons.



PHOTOS BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD

The Huancalle Church of Christ produced a hymnal with songs in Quechua.

CONTINUED

in the Peruvian jungle about five hours from the pueblo. In the village where he stayed, he saw a curious group of people bowing down and praying. They were holding Bibles and looked to be reading them — something he thought only priests did.

And they were singing. It sounded heavenly.

“Who are these people?” he asked a coworker, who put his hand to his mouth and whispered, “They’re evangelicals.”

It was the 1970s. Non-Catholic churches in Peru’s rural, indigenous communities were treated with suspicion — and talked about in hushed tones. But Roya liked what he heard.

When he returned home, he found an evangelical church in a nearby village and started worshipping with them. Then he began hosting church services in his own pueblo.

That’s when the problems started.

“People wanted to shoot me with guns,” he says. “It was very difficult. My parents hated me, kicked me out of the house.” But he kept worshipping, studying and inviting — despite those in his family who called the new church a bunch of devils. They would “blame the evangelicals for lack of rain, for hail, for all the bad things that happened.”

But a few neighbors believed that the young church was just trying to follow the Bible. Attendance started to grow. Some angry villagers tried to douse their meeting place with kerosene and burn it down, so they moved from house to house.

The new believers listened to gospel radio programs, including one from Cuzco hosted by Hipólito Triveños, a minister for the Wanchaq Church of Christ.

Members contacted the minister, who came to the pueblo in 1982 to hand out gospel tracts. He met Roya and helped him study the Bible, even though a villager once tossed hot ashes on his head, Triveños recalls.

But Triveños and another preacher in



Near the church building, a sheep nibbles on a rare, flat piece of land used for soccer.

Cuzco kept coming back to the village and became a great source of encouragement, Roya says. The congregation’s members were baptized.

As years passed, things slowly began to change in the pueblo. Neighbors who had once scoffed at the church noticed that its members were kind. They didn’t abuse alcohol.

The church members got involved in their local government. They helped remove corrupt leaders and took positions as community treasurers and secretaries, promising to be fair and just, as commanded by Scripture.

“That’s how we conquered the pueblo,” Roya says. “It was the Word of God.”

After decades of meeting in homes, the church members received a plot of land for a church building. They’ve since outgrown it, so they tore the building down and are building it again, bigger than before. Each family has contributed their own funds for construction.

“The people here, they sew, they cultivate, they do whatever they can” to earn money, says Triveños, who has since planted another Church

of Christ in Cuzco’s San Sebastián district. He visits the mountain congregation regularly. Its members travel to Cuzco on Saturdays to sell their wares in the open-air markets.

But they’re always back home on Sundays, he adds, ready to sing hymns in their native tongue — some of which they composed themselves.

When asked if he ever envisioned, during the years of persecution, that the church would one day have its own building, Roya replies, “I never thought about that. We didn’t think we’d grow like this.”

“So now we’re tearing down what we had and building something more permanent.”

Soon, the church members will fill this new space with beautiful, haunting Quechua hymns about the suffering Christ endured — and the salvation his blood brings.

*Jesuslláy, Jesuslláy, we know you as the one who purchased us with your blood. Savior, Savior, we welcome you as our Lord.*

**SEE A VIDEO** of the Quechua-language hymn and additional features at [christianchronicle.org](http://christianchronicle.org).



Hipólito Triveños and his wife, Francisca, left, sing a Quechua-language hymn with members of the Huancalle Church of Christ. At right are Narciso Roya (blue and black stripes), Victor Sisaya and their wives, Felicitas Perez Huaman and Teofila Huaman Garcia. The song depicts the suffering of Christ, Roya says, and proclaims him “purchaser” of our souls.

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**CHURCHES THAT CHANGE** *due to shifting cultural norms risk losing the truth – and losing members, ministers say.*

# Is progressive Christianity dangerous?

**MURFREESBORO, Tenn.**

**W**e don't want to be known for the things we're against," said David Young. "We want to be known for what we're for."

That's why Young, senior minister for the North Boulevard Church of Christ in Murfreesboro, was reluctant to participate in a recent webinar titled "What is Progressive Christianity and Why is it Appealing?" with David Hunzicker, a minister for the multi-site church's west campus.

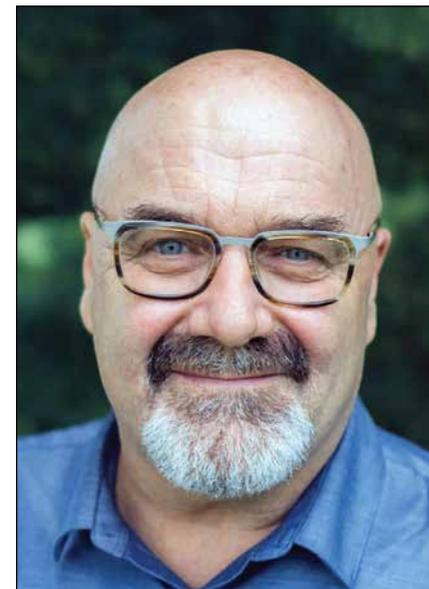
"But sometimes you have to draw the line and say, 'This is how far we can go,'" Young said during the webinar, in which he and Hunzicker detailed the characteristics of progressive Christianity, sometimes called theological liberalism, and argued that many of its tenets are in conflict with Scripture. Churches and faith groups that adopt this ideology risk not only departing from the truth of the Gospel, but also declining membership, the ministers said.

Moderating the discussion was Bobby Harrington, an author, a minister for Harpeth Christian Church in Franklin, Tenn., and executive director of Renew Network, a multinational, multi-ethnic group of faith leaders, many from churches associated with the Restoration Movement, focused on renewing the teaching of Jesus for disciple-making.

Young, a graduate of Freed-Hardeman University and Harding School of Theology, earned a doctorate in New Testament from Vanderbilt University. He has served the North Boulevard church for 21 years and is the author of "NEW DAY: Restoring the Revolutionary Mission of Christ's Church."

Hunzicker, a graduate of Harding University, is a church planter in training, working alongside west campus minister Glenn Robb.

This Dialogue is adapted from a transcript of the webinar with additional input from Young, Hunzicker and Harrington. Find links to this and other webinars, plus podcasts and other resources, at [renew.org](http://renew.org). Renew will host a launch gathering for the network with the theme, "The Elements of Renewal" on Oct. 24 in Franklin.



PHOTOS PROVIDED

David Young, David Hunzicker and Bobby Harrington are part of the newly formed Renew Network, online at [renew.org](http://renew.org).

**Bobby Harrington:** On her website, Christian blogger Alisa Childers lists "Five Signs Your Church Might be Heading Toward Progressive Christianity." David Young, let's run through these. The first is "a lowered view of the Bible."

**David Young:** You sometimes hear progressive Christians say things like, "The Bible is not from God, but is only a human book expressing people's experience of God." Or you'll hear, "This is what the apostle Paul says, but what did Jesus say?" The assumption behind both is that we get to judge which parts of the Bible are true and authoritative based upon our 21st century, Western sensibilities.

**Harrington:** The next sign is "feelings are emphasized over facts."

**Young:** Progressives sometimes say things like, "This verse just doesn't resonate with me." When they say this, they affirm that no verse can be true unless they *feel* like it is true.

Take hell for example. When progressives define love to mean mere acceptance or even indul-

gence, they leave themselves unable to accept the many things Jesus says about hell. By doing this, they have misunderstood the true nature of Christian love and undermined the justice of God.

Whenever you hear people playing interpretive games with Scripture, arguing about "trajectories" and the like, you can be pretty sure that someone is trying to make the Christian faith align with their self-inspired sentimentalism.

**Harrington:** Third is "essential Christian doctrines are open for reinterpretation."

**Young:** Progressivism challenges core doctrines of Christian orthodoxy. The Scriptures teach that Jesus was crucified to atone for our sins, but progressives tend to argue that Jesus' death was merely

a martyrdom. The Scriptures claim that Jesus is divine, but often progressives only emphasize the humanity of Jesus — unitarianism grown up with Western liberalism. The sinfulness of humanity is generally downplayed by progressives, who tend to think that all people are basically good and not really in need of salvation.

**Harrington:** Fourth is "historic terms are redefined."

**Young:** Progressives often are beholden to the ideology of science and to the most recent

sentiments of the age, so they constantly reinterpret the Scriptures to keep up with Western sensibilities.

Often progressives use biblical language, but they shift its meaning: the resurrection becomes a metaphor instead of a historic fact, holiness becomes liturgy instead of sexual

See **PROGRESSIVE**, Page 22

# BIG questions for Churches of Christ

See additional coverage at [christianchronicle.org](http://christianchronicle.org).

# PROGRESSIVE: A dangerous time may also be 'our finest hour'

FROM PAGE 21

purity, and the like. Same language, but new meanings.

A big one is "love." If we allow a 21st century definition of love to be imported back into historic, biblical

Christianity, we may end up with something quite different from what the Scriptures mean. "Love" in the Bible means putting the needs of others first, but "love" in 21st century thought means accepting or embracing whatever a person wants you to accept and embrace.

That's not biblical love.

**Harrington:** Finally, "the heart of the Gospel message shifts from sin and redemption to social justice."

**Young:** Justice is a central concern of the Scriptures, and it should be a central concern for disciples of Jesus. But "social justice" is a relatively new term — one not found in the Bible. It's a fine term if it means treating people fairly, fighting racism, standing for life, and the like.

But often the term "social justice" means little more than political ideology that is largely disconnected from biblical justice. Progressives tend to focus on social justice to the exclusion of the Gospel. The Gospel is not about God making paradise of this world, but God raising us into a new heaven and earth. When social justice replaces the Gospel, you won't get the Gospel, but you also won't get justice.

**Harrington:** David Hunzicker, help us understand why progressive Christianity is attractive.

**David Hunzicker:** Feelings often trump fact. Really, a feeling that comes up time and time again is fear. "I don't want to oppress somebody. I don't want to exclude. I don't want to push somebody down." That's the fear that often surfaces, and then

facts are questioned in light of it.

We don't want our grandchildren looking back and asking, "Why was grandpa on the wrong side of that argument?" I recently talked to a man who said he's confident that the

next generation will say, "Wow, how were you so wrong on the issue of homosexuality? You were on the wrong side of history with the transgender debate."

He looked me in the eye and said, "You don't

understand. I was in the churches when you weren't to date inter-racially. Scripture was being used to justify it. I don't want to be that."

Using Scripture to justify racism is clearly wrong, but now fear drives us to go too far the other way when we're dealing with issues such as homosexuality. We fear that we'll say something that's considered offensive and oppressive by today's standards because that's what the culture (and social media) jump at the quickest.

**Harrington:** How do you respond to this fear?

**Hunzicker:** I decided I was going to have to challenge it head-on. But how was I going to be able to proclaim a message that this culture is even able to accept and understand?

I read about the deaths of the apostles, about Stephen's stoning in Acts 7. I looked at Voice of the Martyrs and "I am N" and gathered books like "Beyond the Gates of Splendor." I read Paul's words in Philippians 1:14: *Because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.*

I waded through the stories of people who have given it all up for Christ, asking myself, "What is it that they knew? What confidence was it that they had to willingly stand on the 'wrong side of history?'"

David Young exudes confidence

about the Scriptures. I've heard him say, "If I'm the last one standing, I'm going to preach this book. If there's somebody at the back door that comes in to try to convince me otherwise, I'm going to preach this book. If they drag me away, I'll be preaching it as they drag me away."

That's honestly what millennials and young ministers are looking for. We let fear redirect the way we read Scripture. Confidence is needed.

We need people whose conviction and courage will trickle down to us, allowing us to understand and to be able to proclaim a bold message, to be filled with grace and love as it's truly defined. We're looking for voices that say we can be confident in what the Bible says, and we can take someone through study of the Scriptures and let them discover God's truth.

The Bible shows us that there is radical transformation in people's lives under the authority of King Jesus.

**Harrington:** In the Renew network, we have an increasing number of spiritual leaders who are saying, "I want to stand by the truth of Scripture. I want to honor King Jesus." David Young, talk to us about why this is our time and why we've got to take these stands now.

**Young:** Even 20 years ago, progressivism wasn't a great temptation for Bible-believing Christians.

Now that cultural forms of Christianity are in deep decline, people have to make clear decisions about following Jesus. The pressure to compromise in order to fit into the dominant culture is great.

Progressivism is attractive to formerly biblical Christians because it offers a sort of "halfway house" that allows them to remain largely religious and socially responsible but relieves them from the responsibility of holding to what they consider to be antiquated biblical teachings such as miracles, the

authority of Scripture, sexual holiness or the sinfulness of humanity.

But progressivism is a dead-end street. Every single progressive denomination in America is in deep decline. So, when our preachers, our Christian schools and our authors and bloggers begin to lean toward progressivism, you don't have to guess where they will end up.

We know where progressivism ends. It ends in disaster. We have entire denominations, scores of formerly Christian schools and countless formerly Christian organizations that started out progressive and ended up leaving the faith entirely. Progressivism leads to unbelief.

**Harrington:** As we've mentioned before, progressives think they're building an on-ramp to the faith, watering it down so that more liberal-minded people will join. Instead, they're building an exit ramp by which people leave the faith. In light of that, it is so important that we commit to what Jesus teaches us about discipling relationships.

**Young:** I do think that this is our time. We face a sort of "rendezvous with destiny" moment. If we fail in this moment, North American Christianity will soon be no different from that of Europe.

This is a very dangerous time for the people of God in North America, but it may also become a fantastic time. This may be the time when we see real heroes, real champions, real legends — maybe even real martyrs — rise up and

lead in biblical faith. Every time the Christian faith gets bullied, it becomes stronger.

We are in a position right now to become stronger than we've been in North America in more than 200 years. This may prove to be our finest hour.

**'Every single progressive denomination in America is in deep decline. So, when our preachers, our Christian schools and our authors and bloggers begin to lean toward progressivism, you don't have to guess where that ends up.'**

David Young, senior minister for North Boulevard.



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*Dr. Jennifer Shewmaker, Dean, ACU Box 28276, Abilene, Texas 79699-8276*

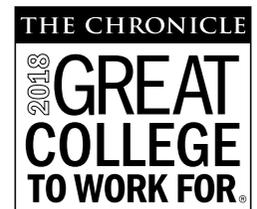
The **Department of Teacher Education** invites applications for a tenure track faculty position as assistant or associate professor. An earned doctorate in the field of education with an emphasis in one or more of the following areas is required: special education, reading and/or ESL. Must provide evidence of exemplary practice in K-12 settings. Applicants should demonstrate a strong background in effective teaching strategies for diverse populations; ability to create and enhance collaborative partnerships with public school personnel; and strong potential for continued professional service and scholarship. Commitment to the mission of preparing Christian teachers to serve in diverse settings is fundamental. Information about the department can be found at [acu.edu/education](http://acu.edu/education).

## School of Information Technology and Computing

*Dr. John Homer, Director, ACU Box 29304, Abilene, Texas 79699-9304*

The **School of Information Technology and Computing (SITC)** invites applications for an open-rank position in any of the following fields: computer science, information technology and information systems. Start date is Spring 2019, or when the best candidate is available. Preferred applicants will have a Ph.D. and ability to teach in one of the foregoing fields, or a master's degree with significant industry and teaching experience. Primary responsibilities will include teaching undergraduate students in the SITC, mentoring students, service assignments, and research. Rank, tenure eligibility and salary will be determined based upon qualifications and experience. Information about the SITC can be found at [blogs.acu.edu/sitc](http://blogs.acu.edu/sitc).

Apply online at [acucareers.acu.edu/cw/en-us/listing](http://acucareers.acu.edu/cw/en-us/listing). Application requirements include a statement of how faith informs your teaching; a discussion of your spiritual journey; a curriculum vitae; transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work; and names, addresses and phone numbers of references. Review of applicants will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. ACU is committed to building a culturally diverse faculty and strongly encourages applications from women and minority candidates. The university 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.



# Job Listings

Classifieds start at \$325, discounts offered to smaller congregations.

Contact Tonya Patton at: [tonya.patton@christianchronicle.org](mailto:tonya.patton@christianchronicle.org).

Deadline for next two issues: Nov. 2 and Dec. 7.

## Minister Needed

Is there a congregation ready to send a minister to work in south-central Pennsylvania?

Small church needs a sponsored worker for a growing community. See online ad for more info.

Chambersburg Church of Christ  
PO Box 221  
Chambersburg, PA 17201  
(717) 261-0835 (leave msg)  
[cofc@innernet.net](mailto:cofc@innernet.net)  
[www.christianchronicle.org/classifieds](http://www.christianchronicle.org/classifieds)

## Full-Time Pulpit Preacher

The Annapolis Church of Christ in Maryland is looking for a well-rounded preacher who is capable of inspiring members of the church and the community around them. The church has elders and deacons. Interested men should mail or email a letter of introduction, resume, recent sermons, and examples of recent classes taught. Go to [annapolischurch.org/preacher](http://annapolischurch.org/preacher) for full job description.

John Lewis, (443) 977-6124  
[jlewis@annapolischurch.org](mailto:jlewis@annapolischurch.org)

## Pulpit Minister/Evangelist

Valley Church of Christ in Spokane Valley, Wash., is seeking a pulpit minister/evangelist for a congregation of approximately 100. We have three elders and four deacons. We are looking for a seasoned minister who can preach, edify, and work in harmony with us to reach lost souls in our region. If you have the qualities, experience and desire to be a part of our congregation, please forward your resume with character references to:

Valley Church of Christ  
[preachersearch@valleycofc.org](mailto:preachersearch@valleycofc.org)  
[valleycofc.org](http://valleycofc.org)

## Bible Chair Director - Wilburton, Okla.

Eastern Oklahoma State College Church of Christ Bible Chair is seeking a director starting with the 2018-19 school year. Monthly compensation includes salary, housing and some bills.

Contact us today!

(918) 448-8933 [Michael.williams@bpx.com](mailto:Michael.williams@bpx.com)



# HARDING

UNIVERSITY

## STAFF POSITIONS AVAILABLE

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

### OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS AND ENROLLMENT.

Seeking a graduate programs marketing coordinator. The role is responsible for working with graduate programs leadership to develop marketing plans, campaigns and tactics to support program recruitment and growth. Applicants must have a minimum of five years experience in marketing, including expertise in campaign design, digital advertising strategies and content development, along with the ability to work independently and manage multiple deadlines and priorities simultaneously. Virtual office position, relocation not required.

**OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS.** Seeking a senior director. Creates and implements a strategic enrollment management plan to grow enrollment of highly qualified and diverse students for the undergraduate student population of the University. Works with academic leadership to set admission policies and develop recruitment and yield strategies to meet the University's enrollment goals. Responsible for leadership, oversight and management of the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Successful candidate will have a minimum of five years progressive leadership and supervision experience in admissions or enrollment management along with a commitment to diversity and staff development.

We are expanding our undergraduate admissions team. Additional positions are available including admissions counselor (underclassmen), admissions counselor (territory), admissions counselor (multicultural and transfer students), and financial aid counselor.

For more information or to apply, visit [harding.edu/jobs](http://harding.edu/jobs).

Harding University is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not unlawfully discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, age, sex, disability or prior military service.

## MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY

Tiny congregation looking for sound Christian leadership. Retirement or other support needed.

Church of Christ  
Attn: Billy McCarty  
PO Box 487, Reserve, NM 87830  
(575) 533-6574

## Oregon Youth Minister

The Southwest Church of Christ in Tigard, Ore., is seeking a man with ministry experience. We are a congregation of 500 in a suburb of Portland. We have an active youth group of around 50 teens (grades 7-12). Deep faith in the Lord and ability to communicate the Savior's love for all is a must, as well as proven skills in organization of classes, camps, activities, and mission travel. Beautiful Pacific Northwest, 90 minutes from the ocean and 90 minutes from the mountains! Salary will be commensurate with experience. Please email a resume to:

[office@swest.org](mailto:office@swest.org)  
Attention: Youth Minister Search

## Minister Search

The Bellevue Church of Christ in Bellevue, Ohio, is looking for a minister. Current minister is returning to the Mid-Western Children's Home in Cincinnati to continue God's work. We are a small congregation of 40 to 45 members located in north-central Ohio. We can provide an excellent opportunity for a young man wanting to get started in the ministry for Christ or for someone that wants to continue to preach and spread God's word.

Phil Mundy (419) 635-5757  
[stillphil01@hotmail.com](mailto:stillphil01@hotmail.com)  
Dennis Rogers (419) 554-9879  
[dennis.rogers@nidec-motor.com](mailto:dennis.rogers@nidec-motor.com)

Visit our online listings at [christianchronicle.org/classifieds](http://christianchronicle.org/classifieds)

## CAMPUS MINISTRY

### AMBASSADORS 4 CHRIST

**TUCSON, Ariz.** — Ambassadors 4 Christ, the campus ministry at the University of Arizona, organized a recent Vacation Bible School and barbecue for refugee families.

Students and ministry supporters played games with children and made “many-colored” bracelets and crafts as a reminder of how God took care of Joseph, associate campus minister Jessica Knapp said.

Thirty-four volunteers helped, and about 150 refugees attended.

“If we love others, we should serve them — in particular people who are strangers to the place we call home,” campus minister Jesse Warren said. “Putting on a barbecue for refugees fits perfectly both with our mission to reach the campus and the biblical teaching to care for our neighbors.”

## HIGHER EDUCATION

### SUNSET INTERNATIONAL BIBLE

**LUBBOCK, Texas** — Tim Burow has been named to succeed Truitt Adair as president of Sunset.

Burow, a U.S. Army veteran and Sunset graduate, has served for eight years as the institute’s dean of international studies.

“We are thrilled that the Lord has guided our search for the right man to lead the next chapter of this global ministry,” said Bob Crockett, chairman of Sunset’s board.

Burow will be the third president in Sunset’s 56-year history, after founder Cline Paden and Truitt Adair, who has served in that role for 25 years. Adair will continue as



SAM THRASHER

## FHU students offer prayer, sweat after Hurricane Florence

Students from Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn., pray during a mission trip to help after Hurricane Florence. Two dozen students and an adult chaperone traveled to Myrtle Beach, S.C., to clear debris and hand out supplies. “We came to shine our lights, so that others may see our good words and glorify God,” said Andrew Lopez, who joined the trip organized by the social club Chi Beta Chi.

president through the current school year, working to equip Burow to take over in August 2019.

“It’s been my honor to witness and serve under Truitt’s godly leadership,” Burow said, “and I am humbled to take the mantle of leadership at this time in our world and in the church today.”

## K-12 CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

**GREATER ATLANTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**  
**NORCROSS, Ga.** — Interstate 85 at Indian Trail Road has been named the Jesse Long Interchange in honor of Greater Atlanta Christian’s late founder.

In the early 1960s, Long broke ground in a rural part of southern Gwinnett County and worked to build his dream — the school.

A half-mile from the interchange, Greater Atlanta Christian now serves 1,600 students on an 88-acre campus.

## SPOTLIGHT

### Bluegrass festival benefits camp

**MOCKVILLE, N.C.** — The recent seventh annual Carolina Bible Camp Bluegrass Festival featured Grammy winners, television personalities, servant-hearted volunteers and delicious food for nearly 700 guests, organizers said.

The fundraiser included headliner and Grammy winner Alison Brown. Multiple Grammy winner Bobby Hicks received the festival’s first Legend of Bluegrass award. His daughter, Melissa Holland, the festival’s general volun-

teer director and a member of the North Raleigh Church of Christ, joined him on stage.

Tim White, host of the long-running “Song of the Mountains” program on PBS, received the festival’s first Friend of the Festival award.

“We’re raising money so we can send another kid to camp, and we do so through the festival

so we can share Christ in yet another setting,” said Greg Brewer, festival chairman and Wilkesboro Church of Christ deacon.



DAVID JOHNSON

Alison Brown performs at the festival.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY SUNSET INTERNATIONAL BIBLE INSTITUTE

Tim Burow will be the next president of Sunset International Bible Institute.

# E3 CONFERENCE: 'I am not an argument to be won'



BETSY STRATTON

Some of the 350 attendees gather for a presentation at the E3 Conference hosted by the Highland Oaks Church of Christ in Dallas. The three-day event was sponsored by CenterPeace, a ministry that provides for people who experience same-sex attraction.

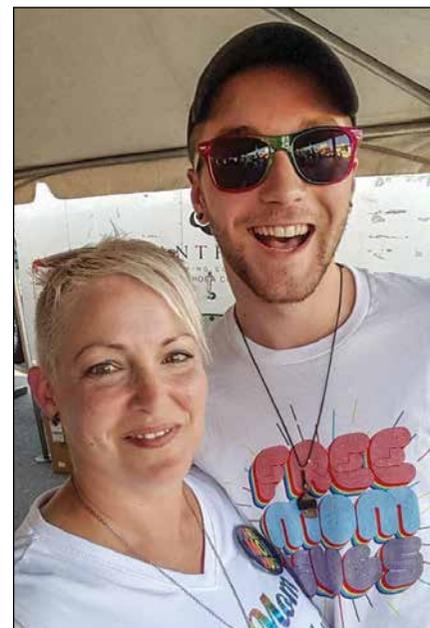


PHOTO PROVIDED BY DENA EDWARDS

Dena Edwards, president of the group Free Mom Hugs, with her son, Easton, 20.

## FROM PAGE 3

shows younger Christians increasingly open to gay marriage (47 percent of evangelicals born after 1964 favored it in a Pew Research Center survey, compared with 26 percent of older evangelicals), the conference brought together people of faith with differing beliefs.

Justin Lee grew up in a Southern Baptist home and titled his first book "Torn: Rescuing the Gospel from the Gays-vs.-Christians Debate." He told attendees that friends can challenge his view that God blesses same-sex marriages.

"But if that's all we ever talk about ... that doesn't make me feel like your friend. It doesn't feel like you love me. It feels like you want to win an argument," said Lee, whose latest book is called "Talking Across the Divide: How to Communicate with People You Disagree With — and Maybe Even Change the World."

"I am not an argument to be won. I am not a project," he added. "I am a person."

Don McLaughlin, senior minister for the North Atlanta Church of Christ in Georgia, delved into Scriptures, recalling the "mercy seat" referenced in the Old Testament as

he urged Christians to show genuine love and welcome to LGBTQ people.

"Do you understand that some of the people who've done the most work on this believe that celibacy is the only option?" said McLaughlin, author of the book "Love First: Ending Hate Before It's Too Late."

"But there's a different question other than what you believe ... and that question is: Do we want to turn our gay brothers and sisters into spiritual orphans?" he added. "Because that's what's happening."

Too many LGBTQ people, he said, get the message from Christians that "this family must no longer be for me, and that makes them orphans."

## 'FEAR OF SHAME AND REJECTION'

Describing the E3 Conference as a "safe place," organizers distributed red lanyards with name tags to participants willing to be photographed and appear in social media posts.

Others, including some who feared discovery of their attendance at the three-day event, received white lanyards.

"We live in a time when there is a lot more heat than light," emcee John Alan Turner told the crowd. "And the church is not called to be the heat.

We are called to be the light."

Dena Edwards, a member of the Memorial Road Church of Christ in Oklahoma City, is a part of a group called Free Mom Hugs, which offers love to LGBTQ children who don't receive it from their parents, she said.

Edwards grew up believing that homosexuality was a sin. Her world was rocked, however, when her son Easton, now 20, informed his parents he was gay.

"Mom, being gay is as much a part of me as the color of my eyes, so I know it can't be a sin or God wouldn't have made me that way," he said.

Their son's words prompted Edwards and her husband, Aaron, to re-examine the Scriptures. Answers on sexuality that once seemed easy no longer do, both said.

Edwards said she was "blown away" by the E3 Conference.

"When you are raised in and attend Churches of Christ or other traditionalist churches, when something scary or traumatic happens in your life, that church family is where you go for support," Edwards said. "When your child comes out as gay or LGBT, that is the last place you feel you can go.

"The fear of shame and rejection

is so overwhelming," she added. "And that isn't what church should look like. No one has been talking about same-sex attractions within the church, so when you face that with your precious child, or as an individual, you feel incredibly isolated and alone. So to have Church of Christ leaders from all over the country come together to have these conversations is so powerful."

Melody Halfenger, a member of the Campbell Church of Christ in California, echoed Edwards' sentiments.

Halfenger said her 22-year-old daughter, who identifies as lesbian, left the church. "She just doesn't feel comfortable coming on Sunday and facing people who are judging her," the mother said.

## LOVE, MERCY AND GRACE

Joshua Bills, son of Highland Oaks lead minister Pat Bills, said he "has had a lot of kids that have come out to me."

"I'm very affirming of the person and very affirming of the fact that



*“You can embrace people in a way that allows them to use the gifts which God has given them and further the kingdom without approving everything in their lives.”*

**Sally Gary**, founder and executive director, CenterPeace



BETSY STRATTON

Programs are shown for the E3 Conference in Dallas. This was the fourth such conference after previous CenterPeace events in Abilene, Texas, San Antonio and Dallas.

Jesus calls us to love everybody and very affirming in the sense that we shouldn't be casting out people who identify as LGBTQ," said the 17-year-old, who describes himself as straight. "We should be more inclusive than exclusive."

Wes McAdams, preaching minister for the McDermott Road Church of Christ in Plano, Texas, praised E3's emphasis on love, mercy and grace.

McAdams, author of the blog *Radically Christian*, said he appreciated "the dialogue on creating communities of faith in which followers of Jesus can be open and honest about their struggles and burdens." However, he voiced concern about the messages sent by many of the teachers and presenters.

"Many seem to have accepted the narrative espoused by our culture that it is unloving to hold the position that sexual relationships are only appropriate between a married man and his wife," McAdams said. "New ways of interpreting and understanding Scripture are being presented that make it seem as if

same-sex relationships should be accepted and even celebrated."

The father of two said he can't go along with such an approach.

"Every follower of Jesus experiences desires that are inconsistent with the teachings of Scripture," he said. "That doesn't make us bad people. It just makes us human. We must all choose whether or not we will follow Jesus or desires of our flesh."

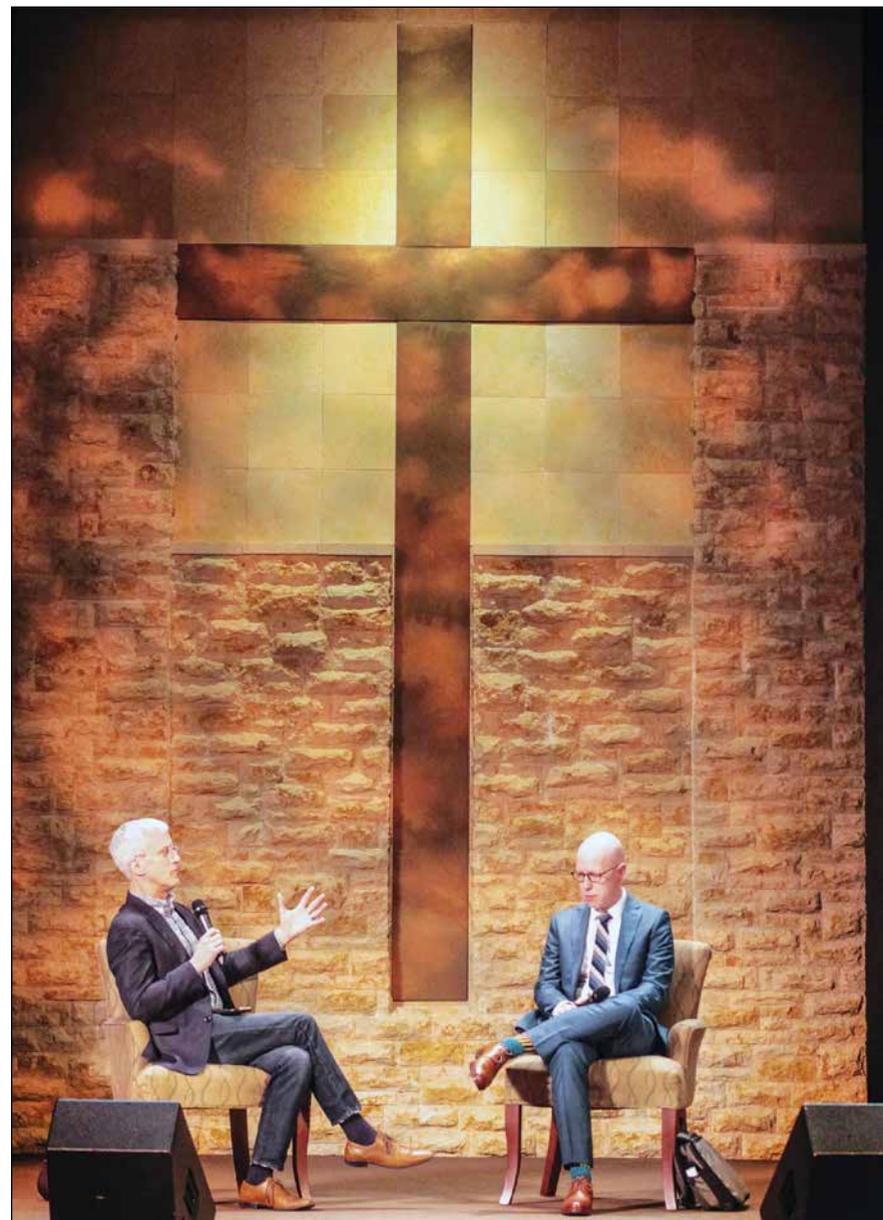
Adams Mearse, former youth minister for the Naperville Church of Christ in Illinois, wrote his doctoral dissertation on teaching sexuality in biblical and healthy ways. Mearse said he came to E3 "just to be a part of the community and think a little more about what it means for the church to reach out to the LGBTQ world."

"I'm still working through it. I really am," he said of his study on sexuality. "I wish I would come to a more definite conclusion because it would take a lot of stress off my life and brain. But I'm still working through it, and it's a real and legitimate challenge."

CenterPeace's Gary is the author



**McAdams**



BETSY STRATTON

**Don McLaughlin**, left, senior minister for the North Atlanta Church of Christ in Georgia, interviews author and gay activist **Justin Lee** during the E3 Conference.

of the memoir *Loves God, Likes Girls*. She often tells audiences about the shame and humiliation she felt as a girl experiencing same-sex attraction while growing up in the Tenth and Broad Church of Christ in Wichita Falls, Texas.

Gary said Christians must learn to love people and invite them to the table, regardless of whether they are divorced and remarried or involved in a same-sex relationship.

"You can hold to those traditional sexual ethics," said Gary, who completed her final chemotherapy treatment in May after a year-long battle with breast cancer. "You don't have to change those to love people well and include those people in fellowship."

"You can embrace people in a way that allows them to use the gifts which God has given them and further the kingdom without approving everything in their lives."

# Milestones

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

## Birthday

97th: **Billie Brister**, Nov. 14, Phoenix.

## Retirements

### Brother Eddie L. Brinkley Sr. (72 years)



A celebration was held on Saturday, Oct. 6, 2018, at the Wharton Civic Center in honor of the recently retired minister for the Church of Christ at MLK Boulevard in Wharton, Texas.

Brother Eddie L. Brinkley Sr. was the Gospel preacher for 72 years. Brother Brinkley was one of the boy preachers of the late brother Marshall Keeble.

Congratulations, brother Brinkley!

### Burl and Y'vonne Butler (51 years)

On Oct. 14, 2018, Burl Butler retired after 51 years of service to Westview Boys' Home in Hollis, Oklahoma.

In August 1967, Burl and Y'vonne Butler started their work with Westview. Burl had been working at the GM plant in Arlington, Texas, when friends of theirs, Ray and Nancy Stowe, stopped to visit the Butlers on their way back to Hollis. They invited Burl and Y'vonne to follow them to Hollis and spend that weekend with them at Westview. During that visit, Westview's superintendent asked the Butlers to come work as house-

parents. They accepted the offer and started caring for boys at Sweetwater House on Westview's campus on August 10, 1967, their tenth wedding anniversary.

Burl and Y'vonne worked as houseparents for ten years. When they arrived at Westview, they had two children of their own, Burl Ray and Kim. Their youngest son, Rhett, was born while they were houseparents at the Sweetwater House.

Eventually, their roles changed. Y'vonne became the secretary for Hollis High School and Burl held several positions at Westview. Through the years Burl was the Farm Manager, Campus Manager, and Director of Church Relations. Following her retirement from Hollis Public Schools, Y'vonne joined Burl on many of his trips representing the Home. Over the years, Burl has driven over a million miles visiting congregations and donors. During one year, Burl and Y'vonne went to every town in Oklahoma where there was a Church of Christ and either visited someone there or left material about the Home.

Burl's fondest memories of Westview include trips with the boys to Yellowstone Bible Camp in Montana and a fundraising trip he took with another Westview team member. On the latter of those two trips, Burl visited congregations throughout eastern Kansas, southern Nebraska, and western Iowa. During that week-long trip, Burl was invited to speak at three congregations about Westview and its work with at-risk youth.



On Saturday, Oct. 13, 2018, Westview hosted a come-and-go reception at their offices and invited friends and family of the Butlers to come and honor them and their years of service to thousands of boys who have found a home at Westview.

### Greg Woods (34 years)

Greg Woods is retiring after 34 years in ministry with Metro Church of Christ in Gresham, Oregon. During his time there he served as Youth Minister, Family Minister, and Intergenerational Minister. Woods also founded, and for 24 years co-directed, the Pacific Northwest's largest youth event, Faithquest.

## Memorial

### Ellen Gay Young 1940-2018

Ellen Gay Bownds was born on May 17, 1940, in Dallas, Texas, to Jimmie and Ellen Bownds. She was little sister to Mary Nelle, and they were great friends who kept in close touch their entire lives. Mary Nelle and her husband, Walter Kreidel, currently live in Franklin, Tenn. Gay graduated from high school in Big Spring, Texas, in 1958 and from Abilene Christian College in 1962. On December 28, 1961, she married Doug Young, and he still resides in their home in Boerne, Texas.



Gay and Doug have 3 children and 9 grandchildren: Kevin (Cindy) Young—their children, Whitney Young Groves, Delaney Young, Nathan Young, and Jackson Young (all of Boerne, Texas); Eliot (Julie) Young—their children, Conner Young, Macy Young, and Spencer Young (all of San Antonio, Texas); Juli Young (Steve) Haught—their children, MaKinzie Haught and Morgan Haught (all of Liberty Hill, Texas).

## With Appreciation

The Christian Chronicle appreciates and acknowledges generous gifts received in memory of Vernell Craig, JoAnn Jamison, and Shelton Tom "Cap" Stewart.



DAVID JOHNSON

A presentation recognizes the late James Ruffin Jackson.

**REMEMBERED:** James Ruffin Jackson, beloved Carolina Bible Camp board member, Week 6 camp week canteen director and North Raleigh Church of Christ member. The camp's canteen porch has been named in honor of Jackson, who died earlier this year, and a photograph of him will hang there. The picture was presented by board Chairman David Allgood of the Fuquay-Varina Church of Christ to Jackson's son, Carey; his widow, Tammy; and daughter, Billie Burdis.

**NEW MINISTERS:** Thomas Pruett, Circle Church of Christ in Corvallis, Ore. Pruett previously served the Northern Hills Church of Christ between Spearfish and Belle Fourche, S.D. **Craig Evans**, Mt. Juliet Church of Christ in Tennessee. Evans previously served the Spring Hill Church of Christ in Tennessee.



Pruett



Engelke

**HONORED:** Erin Engelke, member of the Memorial Road Church of Christ in Oklahoma City, as PR Professional of the Year by the Public Relations Society of America's Oklahoma City chapter. **Eddie Lee**, chancellor of Midland Christian School in Texas. He was honored for 40 years of service by the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission.

Submit your wedding announcements, birth announcements, memorials or tributes to [milestones@christianchronicle.org](mailto:milestones@christianchronicle.org) or call (405) 425-5071. Submissions start at \$25.



PIXABAY.COM

# A \$900 tip for pizza

**ALABAMA CHURCH** blesses a driver who delivers 'daily bread'

BY CHELLIE ISON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

**M**embers of an Alabama church said they just wanted to bless a member of their community.

They weren't expecting the attention they've gained in return.

As a recent Sunday worship concluded, the CrossBridge Church of Christ in Birmingham gave a local delivery driver a gift he won't soon forget — a \$900 tip.

Charlie Vifquain, an associate minister for the church, told *The Christian Chronicle* that the congregation has been in a year-long study of



**Vifquain**

the Sermon on the Mount. Recently, they've been focusing on the Lord's Prayer and the phrase, "Give us this day our daily bread."

"I had an idea to take up a collection at the beginning of the sermon to bless a total stranger," Vifquain said. "I feel like pizza delivery people actually bring people daily bread."

In recent years, several churches across the country have blessed the lives of delivery drivers, ordering pizzas and taking up collections to give the drivers as tips.

After spending time in prayer, Vifquain felt pulled to reach out to a local Domino's Pizza. He went to a nearby location and met with the manager, telling him they wanted to find someone who could use a little help. A district manager happened to be there and said he knew "the perfect person."

They arranged for several pizzas to be delivered at the end of the Sunday service.

The driver, who asked to remain anonymous, came in expecting to

simply drop off the pizzas, but he was instead greeted by a member of the congregation who handed him a large pile of cash.

Birmingham's ABC 33/40 reported that Camron Donahoo, the manager at Dominos, said, "(We haven't seen anything) like that. I mean there's good tips, but nothing like that where there's life-changing money. The driver is working a couple of jobs, and he's got a family, and he's just trying to provide."

The delivery driver was grateful for the gift, telling them it would help him to provide for his family and pay their rent.

"I'm thankful to be a part of a church that responds with such abundant generosity," Vifquain said. "We aren't interested in bragging or arrogance."

"My heart is also for the local church to have a reputation for putting on the power and provision of God rather than being known for hating or protesting."

Garry Brantley, the church's senior minister, told the TV station that the act of kindness also illustrated that anyone in any profession can bless their community.

That's what Dominos drivers do, Brantley said, "as they deliver their slices and are blessing people, doing kingdom work."

The congregation hopes to challenge other churches to bless someone in their communities in the same way.



**Donahoo**



**Brantley**



OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

## FACULTY/STAFF POSITIONS

Oklahoma Christian University is seeking highly qualified and mission-driven Christian faculty and staff members for potential tenure track and/or visiting positions in the following disciplines:

### Staff Positions:

Controller

Police Officer

Early Contact Admissions Counselor

Administrative Assistant to the Chief Operations Officer and Admissions & Marketing Officer

Administrative Assistant to Legal Counsel and Human Resources

Head Women's Volleyball Coach

Program Director, Master of Healthcare Administration

### Faculty Positions:

Tenure-Track or Visiting Faculty in the Department of Psychology and Family Science

Tenure-Track or Visiting Faculty in the Department of Art and Design

Clinical Instructor or Assistant Professor in Natural Sciences

Tenure-Track Faculty in the Department of Engineering

**Application instructions and detailed descriptions of each position are available at:**  
**oc.edu/hr.**

Oklahoma Christian University complies with all laws regarding nondiscrimination in employment, including those with respect to race, color, age, sex, national origin, marital status, military service, and disability. As a religious educational institution, the University is permitted by law to consider religious beliefs and practices in making employment decisions and the University does so to achieve its mission.

**RELATED VIDEO:** christianchronicle.org

# Unsure of yourself? Don't be deceived by your heart

**The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?**

— Jeremiah 17:9, New International Version

A big part of the time I feel like I don't belong, like I'm out of place. At my job. At school. In meetings. At church. I feel especially out of place at school as I pursue a degree in criminal justice. I look around at other students who are young and fresh, straight out of (or still in) their parents' homes.

And here I am, 40 years old, a homeowner, a convicted felon.

I'm barely tame, and I'm vocal. These kids are quiet and not sure of themselves — most of them, anyway, not all.

I look around and I'm like, "How did I get here?" I feel unsure of myself.

But that doesn't stop me.

I feel like I talk too much.

But I don't shut up.

I feel like I try too hard.

But I keep trying.

Why? Because I will not let my own heart deceive me. I will choose to use my mind. I will overcome. I will battle. I will win.

At 40 years old, I refuse to be a victim. I will not be imprisoned by my own emotions. I will say. I will speak. I will sing my song. I will overcome, and I will succeed.

I will not stand in the way of God's plan for me. I refuse.

If you are struggling, find comfort in these words. Read them twice.

You are an overcomer. You can achieve. Get out of your own way. Finish the race, and finish strong. Give it all you've got.

There is a prize that waits.

**CATRINA CABE** is a survivor of survival sex, strip clubs, pornography, trafficking and prostitution. She is the founder of **Cry for the Broken**, which reaches out to addicted prostitutes in the Chattanooga, Tenn., area with hygiene products, food, water and love with the goal of helping them transition to sobriety-based living. The Clear Creek Church of Christ in Hixon, Tenn., sponsors the ministry. Learn more about the ministry and Cabe's story at [christianchronicle.org](http://christianchronicle.org).

## PREJUDICE AND THE CHURCH: VOICES FROM THE CARIBBEAN

# Botham Jean's death shows how implicit bias stains our society and our churches

ATLANTA

I was devastated to learn of the tragic death of Botham Jean. Many of us from Churches of Christ in the Caribbean knew him from the annual Caribbean Lectures. The news of this senseless loss shook me. I was very saddened and also felt searing anger.

I understand why this tragedy has ignited racial tensions in this country. I grew up in Jamaica but spent my college years at Abilene Christian University and now live in the U.S.

In the past 10 years, working as a psychiatrist, I have been called the "N" word, "half-breed" and worse by my own clients. The truth is that the black experience in America is very different from the white one.

I believe that part of the problem is implicit bias — the hidden fears and prejudices we have about others, stemming from how we grew up and the messages we get from society and media. We are usually unaware of our implicit biases, and I don't believe that they make us hateful people. We all are sinful beings in need of God's grace.

When those who work in law enforcement grapple with these biases in the heat of the moment, there can be tragic consequences.

Churches grapple with implicit bias, too. As a body of believers, we have long-standing problems bridging the racial divide within. Do not be mistaken to think that, because you attend a church where people of different races attend, the problem has been dealt with. Even in diverse congregations, too many of us are living separate lives.

This is unacceptable and contradictory to the unity of the faith. The divide within our churches has prevented us from coming together to challenge societal evils and is emblematic of the racial discord we see in society.

Here in the U.S., despite significant effort, I have found it challenging to make deep connections with my white brothers and sisters in Christ, despite their friendliness. Just as disconcerting to me is that we, the church, have seemingly decided to pick and choose what sins we

will take umbrage at and which ones we will use our powerful voices and votes to deal with.

Despite a mountain of evidence showing the racial inequity in America, we have not leveraged our prayers and political power to help address these issues.

Though the church's primary responsibility is to seek and save the lost, we are also commanded to seek justice and provide mercy. Out of true spiritual transformation broader changes can happen. But it must begin with our taking accountability for where we have failed, within our body and in the larger community.

To address these problems in our midst, I humbly offer these suggestions:

- Pray to God for guidance about this topic and for an open mind and heart.
- Re-read scriptures that address discrimination and subtle prejudice. A wonderful example is Jesus navigating powerful gender and ethnic obstacles to engage the woman at the well in John 4.
- Push your local, state and federal representatives to address the issue of racial inequity by your phone calls, letters and your vote.

- Intentionally spend time with someone different from yourself outside of worship.

- Ask your congregations to do intensive Bible studies on racial reconciliation (not to be confused with racial diversity training). Having an expert on racial reconciliation to help facilitate discussion on this issue is essential. An excellent book on this topic is **"Reconciliation Reconsidered"** by Tanya Brice, and an in-depth social media resource is the "Be The

Bridge" Facebook group.

By doing these things, we can make a powerful impact for the Lord in the world. Let us use this tragic loss of our dear brother as an opportunity to truly apply the Gospel in the revolutionary way Christ intended.

**DR. JARED KIDDOE** grew up in the Mona Church of Christ in Kingston, Jamaica, before moving to the U.S. in 1999 to attend Abilene Christian University and Duke University School of Medicine. He and his family recently moved to Atlanta, where he works as an outpatient psychiatrist.

### Views



Dr. Jared Kiddoe

**'Do not be mistaken to think that, because you attend a church where people of different races attend, the problem has been dealt with. Even in diverse congregations, too many of us are living separate lives. This is unacceptable and contradictory to the unity of faith.'**

## PREJUDICE AND THE CHURCH: VOICES FROM THE CARIBBEAN

# Preconceptions about race, nationality and income erode our foundation of faith

PORTMORE, Jamaica

Paul writes in Galatians 2 about his confrontation with Peter after Peter and fellow Jewish Christians pulled away from their Gentile brethren.

Peter had the privilege of preaching the message of Jesus to the Gentiles, and he did so with boldness. In an instant, however, his actions threatened to destroy the very foundation he had labored so hard to build. Paul had to address the situation head-on because of the potential damage it would have done to the church if there were even a semblance of prejudice.

Two thousand years later, some would hasten to say that there is not a problem with prejudice in the Lord's church. Being a member of the church since 1998, I have had 20 years to glimpse what prejudice looks like. I have had the unwelcome opportunity to observe it destroying congregations.

In 2018, why is it that black and white Christians do not feel comfortable in congregations that are predominantly different from their own race? Why are some missionaries comfortable working with different races in foreign countries but apprehensive about brethren from their home countries, yet of a different

race, visiting them? Why is a young black man celebrated for being a good Christian by his church's white elders until he becomes interested in an elder's daughter?

No matter how much we deny it, discrimination exists in the Lord's church. I know of a brother who left the Caribbean some time ago to study in the U.S. He was one of only four black persons who worshiped with a 200-member Church of Christ there, yet he felt invisible. He was ignored and treated with disdain. He left the church and never returned.

Today he still bears the scars. How many hundreds of fellow Christians have had similar experiences?

Prejudice in our churches isn't always about race. We allow our nationalities to separate us. Once, at a lectureship here in Jamaica, we hosted some dynamic black ministers and church members from the U.S., but they didn't seem interested in hearing from their Jamaican brethren. When their sermons were over, they left. This damaged the spirit of the lectureship.

Then there is prejudice based on the ever-growing divisions between rich and poor.

One of the things that pulled me to the Church of Christ was the camaraderie, fellowship and inclu-

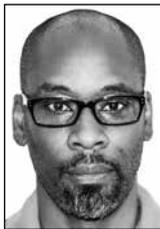
siveness I observed. It was hard to distinguish who was a member, who was a leader and who was a preacher. Everybody operated with a sense of togetherness and equality that I had never witnessed in denominational churches. Those words about the early church having "everything in common" in Acts 2 seemed real to me.

Now I sense more division in our fellowship. From a Caribbean perspective, the majority of Christians in congregations here are people of meager means, just surviving above the poverty line, especially in rural areas. Unfortunately, there is a noticeable difference in the way they are treated versus those who are well-off. This is contrary to the teachings we read in passages such as James 2. Any distinction among brethren based on social and economic status is sinful.

We cannot hope to win the world for Jesus Christ while holding on to our prejudices, be they racial, national or economic. The Church of Christ is greater when we are united. Let us dialogue on these matters and commit to finding solutions and make Jesus Christ proud to claim us as his bride.

**PAUL BLAKE** is a minister for the Independence City Church of Christ in St. Catherine in Jamaica's Saint Catherine Parish. He is a graduate of the Jamaica School of Preaching and Biblical Studies.

## Views



Paul Blake

## EDITORIAL

## Be generous again ... and again, and again

"Compassion fatigue" is a phrase we're likely to hear this hurricane season.

As of this writing, two massive storms, Florence and Michael, have attacked from the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico, claiming more than 40 lives so far and millions, possibly billions, in damage. And we're only halfway through the alphabet.

Once again, we ask our fellow believers to step forward and donate to relief efforts and consider being part of a mission team to the affected areas. As always, you'll find links to relief ministries associated with our fellowship on our website, **christianchronicle.org**.

Now, more than ever, we need God's power and inexhaustible energy to carry on. We find inspiration in the words of Paul from Galatians 6: "*Whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*"

May we be people who give ... again and again and again.

May those around us see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven.

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Comments to the print or online editions are considered to be letters to the editor and may be published. Please include name, city and state of residence, as well as home congregation.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:  
[letters@christianchronicle.org](mailto:letters@christianchronicle.org)

## ‘Welcoming the Stranger’ brings facts, not flash, to America’s immigration debate

The first question asked by a human, as recorded in Genesis, is simple:  
*“Am I my brother’s keeper?”*

We know the answer, but the question plagues us because it reveals our nature. We have struggled with the question ever since Cain asked it, so God commanded people to love their neighbor as themselves.

Jesus proclaimed that this was the second-greatest command. He stretched the minds of people by defining “neighbor” as anybody with whom we come into contact.

The heartbreaking deaths of two young women — Kate Steinle in 2015 and Mollie Tibbetts this year — at the hands of undocumented immigrants stretch us to the breaking point.

Are we obligated to the undocumented? Are we their keepers? Are they our neighbors?

It is not overreaching to say that **“Welcoming the Stranger: Justice, Compassion & Truth in the Immigration Debate”** is one of the most important books we should read now.

With a driving desire to present the facts and not the flash that often drives news about undocumented immigrants, co-authors Matthew Soerens, U.S. director of church mobilization for World Relief, and Jenny Yang, the organization’s senior vice president of advocacy and policy, present a one-volume source of knowledge that covers every aspect of undocumented immigration you could think about — and probably wouldn’t think about.

The authors provide surprising details about the history of the immigration debate in the U.S. For example, did you know Benjamin Franklin and George Washington were on opposite sides of the debate? (Franklin was concerned about German speakers not adapting, while Washington argued for more open borders.) Did you know that it wasn’t until 1924 when visas were required for some

foreigners to enter this country? Did you know that 98 percent of the immigrants who entered this country through Ellis Island did so with only a few hours of questioning?

As the authors point out, it was almost impossible to be an illegal immigrant then.

Now it is difficult, even impossible for many, to be legal immigrants.

The book’s first eight chapters provide a wealth of knowledge that may overwhelm the reader’s mind, but this is not material that need be memorized. The book opens the door for us to learn and refer back to it.

A great benefit of this book for readers is the insight drawn from Scripture that should be our guide, not politics and news that shift with the winds. The authors, however, highlight a 2015 Lifeway Research poll where most evangelicals in their poll acknowledged that their views of immigration were shaped by the media, not the Bible.

This book can be a beginning corrective to that failing. The strength of this book is the writers’ consistent call for Christians to look to God’s Word for direction on immigration.

The final two chapters address how churches and individual believers have responded biblically to the immigration debate and how they can. These chapters can spark readers with ideas of how they can respond.

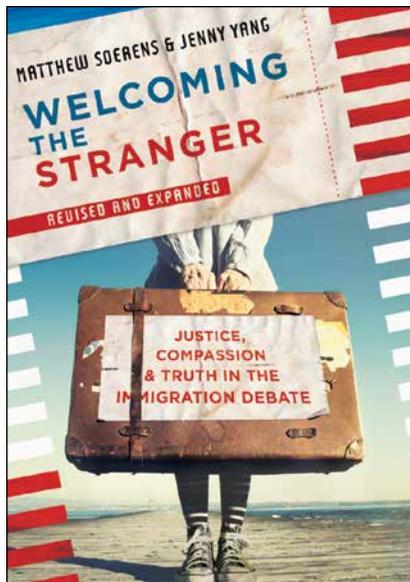
Who needs to read this book? Preachers who intend to fully instruct, shepherds who desire to faithfully guide and Christians who voice their opinions about undocumented immigrants — all can benefit. We must echo the voice of our God and King regarding the immigrants among us.

**BOBBY LAWSON** has served as preaching minister for the Church of Christ in Matteson, Ill., for more than 13 years. He has served immigrants and families caught up in detention and deportation for nearly seven years and published two books under the pen name Kerusso: “When God Speaks... Will You Hear?” and “Leviticus Alive! Your God May be Too Small.”

### In Print



Bobby Lawson



Matthew Soerens, Jenny Yang and Leith Anderson. **Welcoming the Stranger: Justice, Compassion & Truth in the Immigration Debate (Revised edition)**. Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP Books, 2018. 240 pages. \$17.

## Feeling less than perfect? ‘Girl, Wash Your Face’

Through the honest telling of her own story — the really hard, traumatic parts and the good parts — Rachel Hollis provides practical advice in **“Girl, Wash Your Face: Stop Believing the Lies About Who You Are so You Can Become Who You Were Meant to Be.”** I am walking away from this book inspired to start some things and encouraged to stop some things that are getting in the way of the healthy person I want to be.

One of my favorite parts of the book is Hollis’ encouragement to moms who feel like they’re not good enough.

“Can we stop being so hard on ourselves,” she writes, “and instead focus on the good work we are doing, the results of which are evident in the awesome little people we’re raising?” And this truth: “Can we agree that imperfection is OK?” Yes, we can. Every mother I know is hard on herself and her mothering. The encouragement to not beat ourselves up is refreshing and needed.

Each chapter highlights a lie we tell ourselves, and Hollis concludes each chapter by listing a few things that helped her to stop believing that particular lie. These practical nuggets help take her words from theory to practice.

One part I didn’t love was early in the book in a chapter titled “I’ll Start Tomorrow.” Hollis writes about people who constantly start something new and don’t finish. Her treatment of this kind of situation was a little harsh, in my opinion. I’m in a place where I can handle some tough love, but if your head space isn’t quite there, I would pass on by for now.

While Hollis claims Christianity as her faith, this book is not a Christian self-help book. You won’t find any Scripture references or Bible study notes. What you will find is one woman offering encouragement to other women to stop breaking promises to ourselves and to stop quitting the things that we really want to accomplish when it gets difficult to find the motivation.

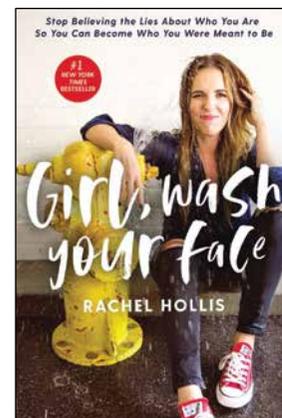
If you’ve been trying to reach goals and have been unsuccessful or need a little kick in the pants, this book is for you. Hollis is relatable and engaging, offering encouragement to women who are beating themselves up, letting themselves down, and believing the lie that it’s too late to do any different.

**JENNIFER WILLERTON** serves in women’s ministry for the West Houston Church of Christ. She and her husband, Justin, have been married for 16 years and have three sons.

### What we’re reading



Jennifer Willerton



Rachel Hollis. **Girl, Wash Your Face**. Nashville, Tenn. Thomas Nelson, 2018. 240 pages. \$22.99.

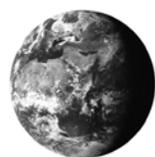
**Minster Search**

Duarte Church of Christ is looking for a faithful minister with knowledge experience. We prefer married to an involved wife. Interested persons should submit resume or recorded sermon to:

**Duarte Church of Christ**  
**1330 S Highland Ave**  
**Duarte, CA 91792**  
**S J Brown (626) 482-1097**  
**Progress91792@yahoo.com**

**Youth and College Campus Minister**

Meadows Church of Christ in Beaumont, Texas, a congregation of about 200, is looking for a Youth and College Campus Minister. For detailed information or to submit a resume, please email:  
**meadowsymcommittee@gmail.com**

**The Christian Chronicle®****The Christian Chronicle is searching for a new Chief Executive Officer.**

After 22 years of exceptional service, Dr. Lynn McMillon has announced that he will be stepping down as the President and CEO of *The Christian Chronicle* by May 31, 2019.

The Board of Trustees seeks a highly qualified candidate for the role of President and CEO to oversee and manage the day-to-day operations of the newspaper and work in harmony with its award-winning staff.

For full details of the role and job description, visit:

**[www.christianchronicle.org](http://www.christianchronicle.org)**

If you know of someone qualified for and potentially interested in this important role, please forward this information to him or her and send your nomination to us at the address below.

Individuals interested in the role are strongly encouraged to submit a resume and cover letter by **Dec. 15, 2018**, to:

**[info@christianchronicle.org](mailto:info@christianchronicle.org)**

or

**The Christian Chronicle**  
**c/o CEO Search Committee**  
**PO Box 11000**  
**Oklahoma City, OK 73136-1100**

*The Trustees and staff appreciate your prayers for this search process and for the mission of the Chronicle to inform, inspire and unite.*

**Minister**

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

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

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

**How to Apply:**

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

**West Olive Church of Christ**  
**Attn: Elders**  
**10935 W Olive Ave**  
**Peoria, AZ 85345**

**Full-Time Pulpit Minister**

The **Brighton Church of Christ** is seeking a full-time pulpit minister to assist the congregation in continuing God's work in Brighton, Michigan, and the surrounding area. We are looking for an enthusiastic man that can relate to all age groups and loves to bring others to Christ through preaching, teaching, and visitation. Additionally, it is a priority that he be outreach-focused and be willing and able to conduct personal Bible studies to help lead the lost to Christ and grow the congregation. Our preferred candidate will be married and have at least two years of post-secondary education with a degree or certificate and multiple years of pulpit and evangelistic experience in the Churches of Christ. He must love the Lord and His Word, be committed to restoration principles, and be motivated to serve.

The minister is expected to prepare and preach sermons each Sunday and teach a Bible class on Sunday or Wednesday as directed by the elders. Duties will also include performing weddings, funerals, and ministering to the sick, shut-ins and others in need. He must be available to the congregation by keeping regular office hours, by e-mails and/or phone, and in managing the church office and assisting the secretary in producing the church bulletin.

We are an a capella congregation of 90+, with a stable eldership and a history of more than 50 years serving the Lord. Brighton is located about 45 minutes west of Detroit and 20 minutes north of Ann Arbor, and boasts excellent health facilities, schools, shopping, and easy access to higher education.

Total compensation will include use of a three-bedroom parsonage adjacent to the church building, an insurance allowance, and salary negotiable based on experience, education, and qualifications. If you are interested in this position, please submit a cover letter, resume, your experience and education, and two recent sermons either in audio or, preferably, video format, along with personal and professional references to:

**Preacher Search Committee, c/o Brighton Church of Christ**  
**6026 Rickett Rd, Brighton, Michigan 48116 (810) 229-7051**  
**[brighton-coc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:brighton-coc@sbcglobal.net)**

# Grilling for souls

**NO MATTER THE SCORE,** a D.C.-area church shows love for its football team — one bun at a time.

HYATTSVILLE, Md.

Normally the Northwestern High School Wildcats would be out under the Friday night lights somewhere in the outskirts of our nation's capital, playing another 4A football team.

But on this particular Friday night their opponents had to forfeit. They didn't have enough players for a varsity team. (That's just a reality of high school football around here. Resources and manpower are limited.)

Nonetheless, the Wildcats gather in the parking lot of the University Park Church of Christ for a Friday night ritual. The linebackers, tackles and wide receivers are huddled around a grill.

"Thanks for picking up the cheese," Ken Roberts tells me as I arrive. The 56-year-old Army veteran and church deacon is working the grill like a soldier. He had 125 slices of cheese ready for the evening but left them at home, so I ran by his house on the way.

As soon as a hot dog or burger is ready, Roberts tosses it onto a paper plate and hands it to a hungry varsity or junior varsity player — even though most have already received their one hot dog and one hamburger quota.

"I love doing this because it's fun," Roberts says, "and we are reaching young people and helping them to get a spiritual nugget."

For nearly two decades, the University Park church has been

feeding the players spiritual food — through the annual Friday night cookout and a Saturday breakfast and Bible study. It has been a mutually beneficial relationship, said church member Faye Spradlin.

## Insight



Hamil R. Harris

"We have planted seeds for almost 20 years, and I have been rewarded by the good conduct of these young men for 20 years, and we've never had anything negative," said Spradlin, whose husband, David, is one of the church's three elders.

"They are so mannerable," he says of the teens.

During football season, the players start arriving at the church shortly after 8 a.m. on game days. There is a Bible study at 8:30 and breakfast is served at 9. The meals range from chicken and waffles to sausage, gravy, biscuits, grits and eggs.

Multiply all that by the number of games and number of players and you get some pretty impressive stats.

"Each football season we use about 1,100 eggs, 15 gallons of grits, 30 gallons of Tang, plus dozens of pancakes, waffles, sausages, 300 biscuits, etc.," sister Spradlin says.

I ask her why the church was so willing to use its limited resources in this way.

"For most of the boys, it's their first time in a church," she says, "and

later in life they remember it. In our experience talking to past players years later, what they remember is not just the breakfasts, but who prepared the breakfasts."



PHOTOS BY HAMIL R. HARRIS

The Northwestern High School Wildcats line up during a team practice.



Ken Roberts feeds a hungry crowd of varsity and junior varsity football players in the parking lot of the University Park Church of Christ in Hyattsville, Md.

The idea of a pregame chapel comes from the school where I played football — Florida State University. Most of the volunteers who make it happen are dedicated federal workers, from an inspector general for the Department of Agriculture to David Dillard, a senior manager for Voice of America.

After all, "that's why they call them civil servants," says Sylvia Shanks, another member of the church.

In addition to helping at the breakfasts, Dillard, who is also a church elder and a veteran photographer, takes game photos from the sidelines.

The Wildcats aren't having their best season. (They're 0-5 so far). But the church's commitment remains strong, and head coach Bryan Pierre is very happy about that.

"It's an awesome program," he says. Later this year, the team will host its annual banquet at the church building. They've had some high-powered speakers in the past, including Jake Gonas, former strength and conditioning coach for FSU, and Angela Alsobrooks, State's Attorney for Prince George's County.

Why use the church building?

"It's a tradition," Pierre says.

In the past two decades, the church has hosted some future football talent. Before he was a starting safety for the Los Angeles Rams,

John Johnson was a regular at the church's meals. During the first game of the season, Johnson's father came back to Northwestern High with one question: "Do they still have the breakfast at the church?"

They do. And they still do the Friday night cookouts — no matter the turmoil going on inside the Beltway and no matter the score.

As he flips burgers for the players, Roberts tells me how much he enjoys grilling. On Thanksgiving he and his wife, a federal worker, invite about 40 people to their home for food and fellowship. His father taught him about service, Roberts says, adding, "this is my gift from God."

Tom Leibrand, a University Park deacon who also works for the government, is a frequent griller who provided the hot dogs for the meal.

"It seems to be a universal pattern where drawing people to one another is centered around a meal," Leibrand says. "Jesus wanted to bare his heart around that last meal. We are unified in Jesus, and it's clear that our cookouts enrich that unity."

"Flipping burgers may seem mundane, but nothing is ordinary when done in the name of the Lord."

**HAMIL R. HARRIS** preaches for the Glenarden Church of Christ in Maryland. He was a longtime writer for *The Washington Post* and now freelances and teaches at Morgan State University in Baltimore.

## CALENDAR

**Nov. 4 100th Anniversary Celebration.** Cisco, Texas, Church of Christ. (254) 442-1450. [sdjrazh@gmail.com](mailto:sdjrazh@gmail.com). See [ciscochurchofchrist.com](http://ciscochurchofchrist.com).

**Nov. 5-11 Pan American Lectureship.** Majesty of the Seas Cruise, Havana, Cuba. (800) 533-7660. See [lectureship.org](http://lectureship.org).

**Nov. 9-11 PeacePrints Parent Retreat.** CenterPeace. Watchtower Ranch, Strawn, Texas. (469) 955-2407. [centerpeaceinc@gmail.com](mailto:centerpeaceinc@gmail.com). See [centerpeace.net/parents](http://centerpeace.net/parents).

**Nov. 12 Festival of Trees Gala.** Christian Care Senior Living Communities. Dallas, Texas. Contact Holly Titsworth. (972) 686-2400. [HTitsworth@cccinc.net](mailto:HTitsworth@cccinc.net). See [christiancarecenters.org](http://christiancarecenters.org).

**Jan. 17 Training Involvement Ministers.** Athens Church of Christ. Athens, Tenn. Contact Travis Irwin. (423) 920-3060. [travisirwin@att.net](mailto:travisirwin@att.net). See [churchinvolvement.com](http://churchinvolvement.com).

**Jan. 18-19 Third Annual Church Involvement Conference.** Athens Church of Christ. Athens, Tenn. Contact Travis Irwin. (423) 920-3060. [travisirwin@att.net](mailto:travisirwin@att.net). See [churchinvolvement.com](http://churchinvolvement.com).

**Jan. 18-19 Medical Missions Seminar.** International Healthcare Foundation. Springdale, Ark. (501) 268-9511. See [ihcf.net](http://ihcf.net).

**Jan. 18-20 Tapestry Spiritual Formation Retreat.** CenterPeace. Watchtower Ranch, Strawn, Texas. (469) 955-2407. [centerpeaceinc@gmail.com](mailto:centerpeaceinc@gmail.com). See [centerpeace.net/tapestry](http://centerpeace.net/tapestry).

**Jan. 20-25 Gospel Meeting.** Quartzsite Church of Christ. Quartzsite, Ariz. Contact Gerald Molzahn at [GeraldM67@gmail.com](mailto:GeraldM67@gmail.com). See [quartzsitechurchofchrist.com](http://quartzsitechurchofchrist.com).

**FULL CALENDAR:** [www.christianchronicle.org](http://www.christianchronicle.org). To include your event for \$25, contact [tonya.patton@christianchronicle.org](mailto:tonya.patton@christianchronicle.org).

## Our search for a new vice president begins with you.

Lipscomb University is looking for a **Vice President of Student Life** to lead and encourage best practices, innovation and engagement of the team leaders managing the major units in the Student Life division: Campus Life, Student Services, Residence Life Education and Housing, Campus Ministry, Intercultural Development, Student Development, and Campus Recreation. Someone who has...

- The ability to project a strong positive image of the university through public speaking and personal interaction with Lipscomb community members.
- Evidence of progressively responsible administrative experience in higher education, preferably in student affairs/student development or a related area.
- The ability to solve problems commonly found within the higher education environment.
- An active, faithful membership of a congregation of the Churches of Christ.
- A master's degree; doctoral degree preferred.

The vice president will be vital in organizing and managing complex functions and in gaining the trust and confidence of Lipscomb students, parents, faculty, staff, Board of Trustees, and the broader community. To learn more or to apply for this position, visit [lipscomb.edu/hr](http://lipscomb.edu/hr).



[lipscomb.edu/hr](http://lipscomb.edu/hr)

### Assistant Minister - Johns Island, S.C.

The Church of Christ on Johns Island, S.C., is currently taking applications for an assistant minister to work with the elders and senior minister of a growing congregation. Ideal candidate must be spiritually knowledgeable and willing to perform the duties of a minister to include preaching, teaching, evangelizing and ministering to the flock. Candidates must also have a degree in theology or be a graduate of a Bible school/training. Resumes can be mailed to:

Johns Island Church of Christ, Attn: Elders  
2850 Murraywood Rd, Johns Island, SC 29455  
[Jichurchofchrist@comcast.net](mailto:Jichurchofchrist@comcast.net)

### Associate Minister - Bellevue, Neb.

Bellevue Church of Christ ([bccoc.church](http://bccoc.church)), is searching for an associate minister. We are looking for a married, male candidate who has a degree in Bible, Family Life or Youth Ministry. Must be motivated, have a strong personal faith and be doctrinally sound in the Scriptures. Will work with the elders, deacons, and minister to strengthen and grow the families of our congregation. Please email resume, references, online links or DVDs of current sermons or lessons to the elders at: [elders@bccoc.church](mailto:elders@bccoc.church).

Bellevue Church of Christ, Attn: Elders  
2311 Madison St, Bellevue, NE 68005

### Family and Community Outreach Minister

The Dewey church located in NE Oklahoma, 50 miles north of Tulsa, is seeking a part-time family and community outreach minister. The role involves working with our families to plan youth and intergenerational activities. Additionally, the position involves planning community outreach activities. Please respond via email to:

[office@deweycoc.org](mailto:office@deweycoc.org)  
(918) 534-2782  
PO Box 340 Dewey, OK 74029

### Full-Time Senior Minister

Hillside Christian Church ([hillsidepa.org](http://hillsidepa.org)) is located between Reading and Lancaster, Pa. The church has four elders, is debt free and financially healthy, and has a membership of just over 100. Hillside's members are very active, partner with local, regional, and worldwide ministries and missionaries. Duties include: preaching, teaching, visiting members, being highly active in community outreach and personal evangelism and supporting our youth and young families.

Hillside Christian Church  
3322 E Galen Hall Rd, Reinholds, PA 17569

To submit your resume, email:  
[info@hillsidepa.org](mailto:info@hillsidepa.org)

### FULL-TIME MINISTER - Guyton, Ga.

The Highway 30 Church of Christ is looking for a well-rounded, full-time minister with a strong faith, who is doctrinally sound and capable of inspiring members of the church and community. We are a socially and ethnically diverse congregation of about 40 faithful members led by a Christ-centered group of men. We prefer an energetic family man experienced in the ministry, sound in the Scriptures, able to teach and who is zealous about personal evangelism. A home is provided with salary. Email resume, references and a digital copy of a recent sermon to Charles W. Mancil at: [cwmancil@hotmail.com](mailto:cwmancil@hotmail.com).

### Experienced Minister/Evangelist

#### READY TO RELOCATE?

The Church of Christ in Lander, Wyo., has begun a search for a full-time experienced minister or evangelist. The church is stable and self-supporting with approximately 75-80 members, active in many areas of ministry and mission work, and has an established eldership with deacons in place.

Contact the Search Committee:  
[landerchurchofchristsearch2018@gmail.com](mailto:landerchurchofchristsearch2018@gmail.com)

[landerchurchofchrist.com](http://landerchurchofchrist.com)  
Dennis Oman (307) 349-7364



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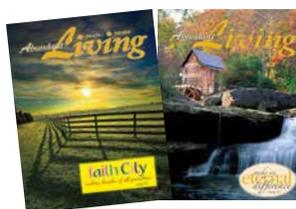
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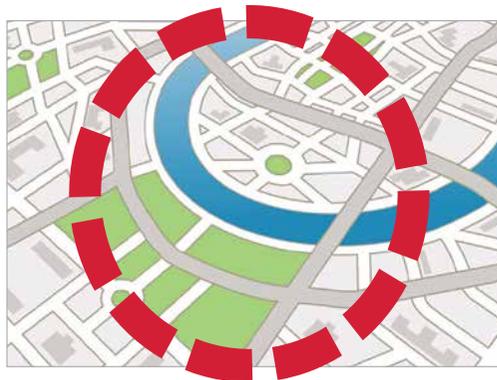
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