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BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

NEW ORLEANS

On the front row, happy children flashed toothy grins as they sang praises to God. All around them were colorful balloons marking the 10th anniversary of the Hollygrove Church of Christ — a congregation just a little younger than many of them, born after the horrible destruction of Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

In a neighborhood plagued with gunfire, drugs and prostitution, a transformation has taken place at the corner of Fig and Cambronne streets. Over the last decade, this budding congregation has progressed from a front-porch Bible study to a body of believers that

outgrew its original auditorium.

Shining the light of Jesus here are dedicated Christians from near and far — those who returned to their beloved city post-Katrina to help coordinate rebuilding efforts and others who travel to offer their support and encouragement.

On this weekend, many who love this church gathered in Hollygrove’s recently expanded building to celebrate its first decade and ask God to bring more souls to the Lord in the next.

That remodeling, necessitated by growth, doubled the seating capacity from roughly 80 to 160.

Belting out hymns such as “How Great Is Our God” and “Here I Am to Worship” was Willie Marsalis — an aspiring minister who was just 13 years old when the Category 5 storm struck his hometown.

“When you’re going through the storm, you don’t really get to see the vision of what God has in store,” said Marsalis, now 27 and

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Alzheimer’s can’t steal this couple’s rock-solid faith

A FORMER PREACHER who has lived with the disease for 15 years rarely misses a Sunday, thanks to his wife.

BY KEN BECK | FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

LEBANON, Tenn.

Jean Reynolds and her husband, Bob, have shared a lifetime of ups and downs — but mostly ups, she says — since the day they swapped wedding vows on Aug. 11, 1951.

Over the past 15 years, Jean has witnessed a slow-burning fade in Bob’s personality as Alzheimer’s disease has snatched away a treasure store of precious memories and snuffed out his vitality. His physician says that Bob’s decade and a half with Alzheimer’s is the longest case he has treated.

Diagnosed with the illness in December 2003, Bob Reynolds was once a superb singer, avid photographer, handyman and mechanic. Over nearly 30 years, he served as a dedicated preacher in seven Churches of Christ.

Bob, 87, is one of 5.7 million Americans who have been ambushed by Alzheimer’s. That number is predicted to rise to nearly 14 million by 2050. His wife, 88, is one of 16.1 million Americans providing unpaid care for those with Alzheimer’s or other dementias.

Despite the obstacles presented by the disease, the Reynolds are faithful members of the College Hills Church of Christ in Middle Tennessee.

“They are virtually there every single
The vision of this Solar Mission is to reach the most people possible who speak the 5th most spoken language in the world with the Gospel and to reach those in need of the Good News who live in one of our closest neighboring countries.

The purpose of this Portuguese/Creole Solar Mission is to deliver a combined total of 3,000 solar players in Portuguese to all of the Portuguese speaking nations in the world including Brazil, Mozambique, and Angola and in Creole to Haiti. This will be a two year project beginning in 2019 and continuing through 2020.

YOU CAN REACH THE HEART OF THE AMAZON & THE HEARTS IN HAITI

Sunset International Bible Institute • 800.658.9553 • www.sunset.bible
Saying merci for the life of Doyle Kee

SEARCY, Ark.

It is impossible to know the number of souls in heaven because of Doyle Kee. It is astounding to consider the amount of good that one life can do. Those were among the sentiments I heard during a memorial service for brother Kee, 80, who died Jan. 25 after a sudden, severe bout of pneumonia. I am among the countless souls touched by the life work and precious example of Kee and his wife, Barbara, who served as missionaries in Geneva, Switzerland, for 47 years. There they planted a French-speaking Église du Christ (Church of Christ) and participated in campaigns to former French colonies around the globe. They served as mentors for those of us who have participated in long- and short-term missions in the “francophone” world.

Hundreds of believers — from all over the U.S., from France, Switzerland, and many more through live streaming — joined his dear family to say merci for Kee’s life of service. The College Church of Christ in Searcy, where he and his wife moved in 2017, hosted the memorial. Everybody deserves the right to hear the Gospel. That was the motto Kee lived by. Born and raised in Oklahoma for a bit, then Texas, and then for a bit, then Texas, and then Born and raised in Oklahoma was the motto Kee lived by.

Lynda Sheehan

Inside Story

Becoming one body

TWO CONGREGATIONS merge in Delaware, and leaders say it’s impossible not to see God’s leading in the circumstances that brought them together.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

WILMINGTON, Del.

n its heyday, the 75-year-old Cedars Church of Christ sometimes topped 350 in Sunday attendance.

Many Christians came from the Bible Belt to work for DuPont, the chemical company once headquartered in this Mid-Atlantic city.

Those workers and their families formed the core of the congregation, which was active in mission works, from the Blue Hens for Christ campus ministry at the University of Delaware to a Bible college built in Ghana.

“When DuPont was moving people in and out of here, the congregation was quite large,” said Boyd Reed, 53, a data analytics architect with the company. “But there were a lot of layoffs with DuPont, and a lot of people left. As other people have retired, they’ve moved to their homes” — back to places such as Texas and Tennessee. That left an older, graying, mostly white church of 80 to 100 people with an uncertain future. When minister Brad Carman stepped aside because of a serious health issue, the congregation wasn’t sure it could afford to hire a new minister.

Doug Mattis, one of the Cedars church’s three elders, put it this way: “We were a dying church.”

A SEED PLANTED

Enter the First State Church of Christ, a predominantly black congregation in this same Delaware city.

That body of believers started with a group meeting in a home’s basement about 14 years ago.

Services later moved to an Elks Lodge. Finally, the church equipped a leased warehouse for worship.

Yvette Curcio prays at the Greenbank Church of Christ.

Pepperdine names James A. Gash president

LAW PROFESSOR known for his advocacy of global justice will succeed Andrew K. Benton.

MALIBU, Calif. — James A. Gash has been named the eighth president and CEO of Pepperdine University, succeeding Andrew K. Benton after 19 years of service to the university associated with Churches of Christ.

Gash currently serves the 7,700-student university as associate dean for strategic planning and external relations and professor of law at the Pepperdine School of Law. He directs the Sudreau Global Justice Program at Pepperdine Law, is a Special Advisor to the High Court of Uganda, and was recently named chancellor of LivingStone International University in Mbale, Uganda.

“Jim follows in the footsteps of Pepperdine presidents before him who have demonstrated the kind of inspiration, integrity, strength and measured leadership that have made this university into the elite academy it is today,” said Ed Biggers, chair of Pepperdine’s Board of Regents.

Since 2010 Gash has visited Uganda more than 25 times with Pepperdine students to support the Ugandan judiciary and assist the country in its justice reform efforts. In 2016 he published his first book, “Divine Collision,” which chronicles how his life and the Ugandan criminal justice system were dramatically changed as a result of meeting a Ugandan teenage prisoner during Gash’s first visit to Uganda.

Biggers praised the work of the presidential search committee, led by regent Dale Brown and committee vice chair Harold Smethills.
**MERCi: Missionary to French world was a baobab tree of blessings**

From Page 3

Arkansas, Kee met his future wife, Barbara Ethridge, at Harding College (now University) in Searcy, and after their graduations and his master’s degree he preached in Clarendon, Ark., and then Syracuse, N.Y., where they began their family. After working in campaigns in French-speaking Canada, they decided in 1970 to move their family to Geneva.

Two of their sons, Mark and David, described Doyle Kee as an intense preacher, teacher, missionary and shepherding elder — an evangelist with plenty of content in his sermons and plenty of content in his life to illustrate those sermons.

Winfred Wright and Robert McCready also spoke. Both are former missionaries to the French world who took Harding students (including me) on campaigns to French-speaking Europe. I remember many times of spiritual growth and training from my campaigns in the 1970s with the Wrights.

Working with the Kees in Geneva was always a highlight of those trips. Doyle Kee was very active, energetic, humble, productive and disciplined (“more than the Swiss!” McCready said) in what he asked of himself first and then of others.

Reaching out to the lost was serious business for Doyle Kee. Campaigners distributed flyers for meetings in all the mailboxes in Geneva. It was all mapped out, and whatever the students didn’t get done, Doyle did himself.

His French always had a definite American accent, which Doyle called a blessing, because when a person came to the Lord, he knew it was God who got all the glory.

Bill McDonough, another longtime missionary to Europe and now Asia, said that in 35 years he never made a major missions decision without consulting Doyle Kee.

Arlin Hendrix, a missionary in Lyon, France, worked closely with Kee and described him as a friend who really believed that Jesus lives — and that we live in him.

Doyle lived it, and he taught it.

When the Geneva church outgrew the need for a missionary presence in 1990, the Kees retooled their work. Doyle Kee wrote and translated 36 books, printed and distributed French Bible courses and for more than 20 years created a newsletter connecting the French works. He put together and led retreats and camps. He taught online classes and seminars through a college-level leadership training program.

Angel Panzano, a former elder of the Geneva church, spoke of an unforgettable experience he had in the Democratic Republic of the Congo when accompanying Doyle Kee for mission work. They were detained by government officials wanting a bribe. Somehow, Doyle Kee grabbed back their passports, and they made their escape. No doubt the Lord was with them, Panzano said, and they departed in one piece.

Barry Baggott, another longtime missionary and director of French World Outreach, worked closely with Doyle Kee in locales including Africa. Baggott said he received many messages of condolence referring to Doyle as a baobab — a giant, distinctive tree that stands out in a landscape and blesses those around it. Baggott read a message from George Akpabli, a preacher and ministry school director in Benin, saying that “Da-lee” Kee (that’s how many Africans pronounce his name) had done for France what others could only dream of accomplishing and will be forever missed.

I loved hearing the stories — not only of the amazing work done in faraway lands, but also the personal stories of Doyle Kee — his love for hiking, basketball, silly jokes and his almost daily routine of eating vanilla ice cream. He also loved to share tidbits of knowledge at the beginning of his Bible lessons.

Here’s one: What are the two expressions used most in the Bible? Answer: “Do not fear” and “Fear the Lord.” Brother Kee would say to all of us, “Do not fear, even through tough times, because God is here, and we fear him and give him all the glory.”

In keeping with Doyle Kee’s wishes, Blue Bell Homemade Vanilla ice cream was served at gatherings before and after the service.

It was probably the most memorable and comforting ice cream cone I’ve ever had.

LYNDA SHEEHAN has taught foreign language at Harding and Oklahoma Christian universities. She is lead administrative assistant for The Christian Chronicle. Contact lynda.sheehan@christianchronicle.org.
**FLORIDA**

KISSIMMEE — “Disney Church” is changing locations.

The Maingate Church of Christ — a ministry of the Concord Street Church of Christ in Orlando — offers a Sunday morning assembly for out-of-town travelers visiting Epcot, Magic Kingdom, SeaWorld or Universal Studios.

Starting March 3, the services will have a new home: the Red Lion Hotel, just down U.S. Highway 192 from the Baymont Inn & Suites, the previous site.

A guest preacher delivers the sermon each week. In exchange, the minister and his family receive a free week’s stay in the hotel.

For more information, see the Concord Street church website at www.myconcordstreet.org.

**OREGON**

YAMHILL — About 60 people attended the recent Expositor’s Seminar, held at Camp Yamhill.

The speakers were Dave Bland of Harding School of Theology in Memphis, Tenn., and David Fleer of Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn.

“Bland and Fleer led us into God’s concern for justice, inviting us and our churches to pay attention to justice in the Bible and let it transform our lives,” said Jay Hawkins, minister for the Caldwell Church of Christ in Idaho.

Directed by Hawkins and Mark Johnson, evangelist for the Columbine Church of Christ in Littleton, Colo., the annual seminar serves leaders of Churches of Christ in the Pacific Northwest.

**TEXAS**

PLANO — “Designed: Made for More” was the theme of a recent areawide conference on families organized by the McDermott Road Church of Christ, north of Dallas.

More than 400 people from 25 Churches of Christ heard “encouraging, uplifting and thought-provoking” biblical messages on day-to-day family life, said Hollee McAdams, whose husband, Wes, preaches for the McDermott Road church.

The speakers included Ross Cochran, Wes McAdams, Joey Cope, Seth McDowell, Steve Cloer and Jeff McMillon.

The next conference is planned for Jan. 25, 2020. For more information, see the McDermott Road church website at www.ccmcdermott.org.

**FOR ALABAMA TEENS, AREAWIDE DEVOTIONAL TOUTS VALUE OF CHRISTIAN UNITY**

About 360 Christians — many of them young people — worship during the recent Huntsville Areawide Devotional hosted by the Owens Cross Roads Church of Christ in Alabama.

Noah Vann, the Owens Cross Roads church’s youth minister, said the event is designed to emphasize “unity with the church within our community and to impact the lives of our youth.” Vann added, “Unity is very important to the Christian faith. Our areawide devotions give the youth ministers the opportunity to teach our youth the significance of a unified church.”

Owens Cross Roads members helped by bringing food, decorating and cleaning up afterward.

**VERO BEACH**

The Vero Beach Church of Christ’s recent youth fundraiser banquet featured a Disney theme.

The event generated $3,000 for the youth ministry, associate minister Payton Minzenmayer said.

**GREAT FALLS, Mont.** — The “Shepherds’ Network: Northwest Connection” brings together current and future church shepherds and their wives for networking and equipping.

The third such event, recently hosted by the Great Falls Church of Christ, involved 129 participants from 36 congregations.

Attendees came from Churches of Christ in Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Washington and Wyoming as well as the Canadian provinces of Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

The network lets shepherds “find strength, wisdom and encouragement to faithfully fulfill their work of service,” Great Falls minister Scott Laird said.

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NEW ORLEANS: ‘We’ve fallen in love with the people’

FROM PAGE 1
preparing to attend seminary. “But, of course, Katrina brought this amazing work in the community.”

AN ANSWER TO PRAYER
Hollygrove is a satellite church of the Carrollton Avenue Church of Christ, a middle-class congregation — 10 minutes and a world away from Hollygrove — that delayed its own hurricane repairs to invest in the church plant.

“This nucleus needed to be nurtured and developed,” Carrollton elder Robert Carpenter said, explaining the 83-year-old congregation’s desire to help not only with physical needs but also with spiritual renewal in Katrina’s wake.

Still lacking needed funds for its own recovery, Carrollton Avenue spent $160,000 to buy the Hollygrove property, minister Kirk Garrison recalled.

That meant when temperatures soared, Carrollton Avenue made do with window air-conditioning units that blew hot air and dripped water into five-gallon buckets in its unfinished education wing.

“But instead of asking the question, ‘What about our building?’ I can still remember one of the ladies saying, ‘Well, what can we do to help Hollygrove?’” Garrison said. “That’s the heart of the congregation.”

In the dark days after the hurricane, a van full of church leaders — some from the New Orleans area, others representing out-of-town disaster relief ministries — drove around the beleaguered city and surveyed the mountains of debris in every direction.

“At different points, we stopped and prayed about what God was going to do,” said Mike Kellett, lead minister and an elder of the White’s Ferry Road Church of Christ in West Monroe, La., roughly 300 miles northwest of New Orleans. “One of those places was Hollygrove.

“Now, to see a church here is exciting,” added Kellett, whose congregation provides financial support to the Hollygrove congregation. “It’s been a great partnership here with a lot of people.”

For years, Jerry Freed, his wife, Carmen, and their children, Vail, 18, and Vann, 15, have made an annual mission trip to New Orleans with their home congregation, The Park Church of Christ in Tulsa, Okla.

THE EARLY DAYS
It all started on a porch.

After Katrina, Charles and Angela Marsalis — Willie’s parents — offered Bible studies for boys and girls on the front porch of a relative’s flood-damaged home, serving snacks and soft drinks in return for the young people’s attention.

Eventually, those studies led to the 2009 launch of the Hollygrove congregation, which meets in a refurbished church building that sat rotting and abandoned after Katrina.

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“When floodwaters propelled by broken levees kept rising inside the stout brick building, the family escaped to the church’s balcony.

“It was supposed to be a one-night camping day at the Carrollton building,” Willie Marsalis recalled. “It turned out to be a week of calamity.”

WAR AGAINST SATAN
From that calamity, though, the Marsalises emerged with a strong-willed determination to share Jesus in their devastated community.

Through it all, they’ve experienced highs (such as Academy Award-winning actor Morgan Freeman filming a segment on the Marsalises’ experience for the 2016 television series “The Story of God”) and lows (including the 2017 neighborhood shooting death of 19-year-old Gregory Hawkins just minutes after he served communion at Hollygrove).

“There’s so much darkness out here,” Angela Marsalis said. “So whatever light we can bring, that’s my goal, … Satan is just — sometimes, I just think that he’s too busy. Sometimes, I feel like he’s...
winning, and I've just got to pray that much harder and serve that much harder.

“So it's a war,” she added. “But we're going to stay on the Lord's side and let him use us.”

In 2005, leaving the Carrollton Avenue church in a rescue boat, the Marsalises witnessed the full extent of Katrina for the first time: Houses torn apart. Oily lakes where streets used to be. Worst of all, bodies floating in the water.

Hundreds of evacuees — hot, hungry and angry over their treatment — stretched across a bridge. Some had been there for days.

When the Marsalises didn’t know how the story would end, when they feared they just might melt away on a crowded overpass, a frustrated Charles Marsalis prayed that God would save him — or not.

“You're going to bless me now or you're going to bless me later — make up your mind,” he reasoned with his heavenly father. “If we're going to die, we're doing to die doing your work. If we're going to stay here, we're still going to witness. So, make up your mind and do what you want to do.”

Eventually, a helicopter plucked the Marsalises from the bridge. With New Orleans in chaos, they relocated temporarily to Nashville, Tenn.

But the need for spiritual renewal in Hollygrove beckoned them home.

Over the last decade, the church has brought hope — not to mention crawfish boils and fish-fry fellowships — to a neighborhood that desperately needs it.

Charles Marsalis witnessed a murder in Hollygrove when he was 12. He recalled how one longtime resident responded when he knocked on her door to tell her about the new church.

“Son, I wouldn't plant no church over there,” she told him. “You know they've got drug dealing and prostitution and crime going on?”

“You just gave me the reason I should be here,” he responded.

Ten years later, Charles Marsalis said he remains committed to fulfilling God's will in his life: “Every morning when I get up, I say, 'Lord, what are we doing now? What do you got for me today?'”

His two younger sons — who were just teens when Katrina hit — have become integral to the ministry.

August Marsalis, 29, works secular jobs in software development and photography. Still, he finds time to mentor the Hollygrove youth group and lead worship with Willie.

August, who was 15 at the time of the hurricane, said he tries not to focus on the negatives of Katrina, even though many of his friends fled New Orleans and never returned.

“A lot of times when we see the kids, we see ourselves — our former selves,” he said of the children served by the Hollygrove church. “I don't ever see it as a struggle, even after losing Greg.

“If anything, it just invigorates me more to make sure that throughout their lives, they know that we're here and that we love them.”

Robert Ables, right, from West Monroe, La., prays during the anniversary event. At left is Mike Kellett.

The Marsalis' commitment to Hollygrove hasn't gone unnoticed in the community, said Tom Walden, missions committee chairman for The Park church.

“We needed someone from this area who wasn't afraid to stay,” Walden said. “They stuck it out, and they're here, and everyone knows it. So just their presence in the area makes a big difference in how people perceive the church.”

Willie Marsalis finished his bachelor's degree in hotel, restaurant and tourism administration at the University of New Orleans only to determine that God has a different plan for him: full-time ministry.

“I was like, 'I could go into my career, but I would have to abandon the kids,'” Willie said of the Hollygrove youth group. “There's about 15-plus youth, and it's still growing, so it's a blessing. I just need to get as many kids as I can into the house of the Lord.”

Every step of Hollygrove’s journey, God has made his grace and mercy evident, Willie said.

“His hand is over Hollygrove,” he said. “He's using us however he wants, and we're willing.”
And now you know … the rest of the Hollygrove church story

NEW ORLEANS

J ournalists don’t always get to do “Whatever happened to?” stories.

I’ve been blessed, though, to return time after time to New Orleans to update readers on the progress of this city after Hurricane Katrina.

I’ll never forget that in the first few days after that devastating 2005 storm, I caught up with a disaster relief team from the White’s Ferry Road Church of Christ in West Monroe, La.

A private plane took our small group — which included White’s Ferry Road ministers Mike Kellett and Alan Robertson — to relief meetings in Baton Rouge, La.; Gulfport, Miss.; and Mandeville, La., just across Lake Pontchartrain from New Orleans.

At that point, we couldn’t make it all the way into hard-hit New Orleans. But later, I returned and witnessed the miles and miles of debris on the ground — minute mountains of tree limbs, mattresses, broken chairs, smashed toy robots and mildewed stuffed animals piled high outside thousands of homes.

I first met Charles and Angela Marsalis as I worked on a 2006 story about the first anniversary of Katrina. I interviewed them in the balcony of the Carrollton Avenue Church of Christ, where they and their sons had sought shelter as floodwaters kept rising when New Orleans’ levees broke.

In the balcony, I snapped a photo of the couple to go with my feature.

We have reprinted that picture multiple times in reports on the Marsalis. Each time the photo appears, Carrollton Avenue minister Kirk Garrison teases Charles about his shorts. I’m not sure what’s so funny about them, but Garrison laughs and laughs.

A few years later, I visited with the Marsalis in the Hollygrove neighborhood, writing about their work with young people in what I described as “a high-crime area where dealers build relationships with second-graders by treating them to a piece of candy or a dollar bill.”

Since then, I have had at least three opportunities to worship with the Hollygrove Church of Christ, the congregation that grew out of the Marsalis’ front-porch Bible studies with boys and girls after Katrina.

I enjoyed seeing the Marsalis again — and exchanging hugs — while covering the congregation’s recent 10th anniversary celebration. They still don’t much like submitting to interviews. They’d much rather focus on sharing Jesus.

But after all these years, I think they’ve grown a little more comfortable talking to me.

Now, about those shorts …

[Contact information]

AGAPE

AGAPE & its new program Morning Star Sanctuary, a Christian nonprofit serving 3,000+ individuals per year through counseling & social services in Middle Tennessee is now hiring for

Director of Development

Ideal candidate has:
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Interested candidates should send a cover letter and resume to info@agapenashville.org.

Visit www.agapenashville.org

[Contact information]
College of Arts and Sciences
Dr. Gregory Straughn, Dean, ACU Box 29210, Abilene, Texas 79699-9210

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

The Department of Language and Literature invites applications for a full-time, French professor to join our lively department beginning in Fall 2019. Our large and collegial department includes majors in English and Spanish as well as minors in English, French, German, Spanish and film. The ideal candidate will have a Ph.D. in French and be prepared to teach French language, literature and culture courses. The candidate also will be credentialed to teach first-year Spanish language courses. While a terminal degree in French is strongly preferred, applicants who are ABD or who have a master’s degree also will be considered. This is a non-tenure-track, College Faculty position and provides opportunity for promotion and multi-year contracts. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/english.

The Department of Psychology invites applications and nominations for a tenure-track professor or instructor position, beginning in Fall 2019. Depending upon degree and credentials, the candidate will be expected to teach undergraduate and graduate classes; mentor students; and accept departmental, college and university committee assignments. To support ACU’s mission as a teaching institution, the candidate should exhibit excellence as a classroom teacher. Candidates must also meet research expectations to support the university’s status as a premier comprehensive university. An earned doctorate in any field of psychology preferred; a master’s degree combined with significant professional experience in the form of peer-reviewed academic presentations and publications. A terminal degree in information systems or a related field is preferred; a master’s degree combined with significant professional experience and a commitment to ongoing professional development is acceptable. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/psychology.

College of Business Administration
Dr. Brad Crisp, Dean, ACU Box 29300, Abilene, Texas 79699-9300

The Department of Accounting and Finance invites applications and nominations for an instructor or full-time, tenure-track faculty member to join the College of Business Administration, beginning in Fall 2019. The candidate will be expected to teach upper-level finance courses, mentor students, and accept departmental, college and university committee assignments. To support ACU’s mission as a teaching institution, the candidate should exhibit excellence as a classroom teacher. COBA is accredited by AACSB International and faculty members are expected to maintain a program of intellectual contributions in the form of peer-reviewed academic presentations and publications. A terminal degree in finance and commitment to ongoing professional development is acceptable. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/coba.

College of Education and Human Services
Dr. Jennifer Shewmaker, Dean, ACU Box 28276, Abilene, Texas 79699-8276

The Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition invites applications for a full-time college assistant professor who will have responsibilities as the director of the didactic program in dietetics and as a professor for nutrition courses. The didactic program in dietetics is an accredited program through the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics. The B.S. in nutrition contains four concentrations: didactic program in dietetics, community, exercise science, and food service. The ideal candidate will be a Registered Dietitian and have a master’s degree in nutrition or a closely related field, and experience in various areas of nutrition. About 40 students are enrolled in the nutrition degree, and the new faculty member will function as a mentor to nutrition students and as a sponsor of the ACU Student Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. The position will begin Aug. 1, 2019. Information about the department is available at acu.edu/kina.

School of Information Technology and Computing (SITC)
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 Fall 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.

Apply online at 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.
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Reyes wondered if the Cedars church might be open to a building-sharing program whereby the First State church would pay rent and meet at a different time than the host congregation.
When Reyes stopped by the Cedars church to discuss the possibility, he met Ed Maynard, 77, whose wife, Sue Maynard, 83, organizes the congregation’s thriving food pantry ministry.
The pantry serves hundreds of hungry families every Thursday night. It’s the largest such program in Delaware.
“If you meet Ed — from day one, he’s your best friend,” recalled Reyes, 45. “He’s a very social person and pretty much said, ‘We should all just get together.’”
While that didn’t happen immediately, a seed was planted.
At Ed Maynard’s invitation, Reyes and his wife, Crystal, volunteered with the pantry that night.
“We were blessed by it,” Reyes said. “We met with the elders and had a brief conversation, nothing too heavy. We decided to meet and have another conversation at a later time.”

GOD ‘LEADING THE STEPS’
A series of conversations resulted in a decision that — when the First State church’s lease expired this past June — the smaller body would begin meeting at 9 a.m. Sundays at the Cedars building.
The Cedars church would assemble at 11 a.m.
In between — at 10 a.m. — the bodies would join together for Bible study and get to know each other.
Reyes occasionally would preach for both groups.
“It just really felt right, like God was leading the steps to make it possible,” said Lisa Reed, Boyd’s wife and the Cedars church’s secretary.
Quickly, many church members — inspired by the love and zeal for Christ shared by both groups — pushed to worship together.
But the leaders felt a need to take their time.
“We wanted to make sure we were doing it right,” Cedars elder Jim Friederichsen said. “I think we had our first meeting in April, and we didn’t consummate (the merger) until the first of December. By and large, we moved steadily ahead.”
One point of discussion: What to call the new congregation?
Eventually, the groups chose “Greenbank Church of Christ” — a reference to the street on which the former Cedars building is located.
The Cedars and First State churches became one body as 2019 began.
The three elders from the former Cedars church — Mattis, Friederichsen and Ed Greenwood — joined Paul King from the former First State church as the Greenbank church’s shepherds.
Reyes was hired as the preacher.
“It couldn’t have been more obvious that we were supposed to come together,” Mattis said. “We needed a preacher, and they had a preacher. We needed someone to speak Spanish. Domingo speaks Spanish. They needed a building. Our building was feeling empty.
“It’s just beautiful now to see the children’s classes are populated with children,” he added. “We didn’t have any children at Cedars. We’re all old people with white hair. Our children were grown and gone.”
Meanwhile, the wisdom and experience of the former Cedars members is a blessing to those who had attended First State, said Darrin Anderson, a 45-year-old father of two.
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Delaware: Black, white congregations merge

FROM PAGE 3
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‘IT FEELS MORE LIKE FAMILY’

A bonus of the merger: For years, Spanish speakers — many of them immigrants from the Central American nation of Honduras — had made up roughly 20 percent of the Cedars church’s membership.

However, the congregation lacked a Spanish-speaking minister.

Reyes, the bilingual son of a Dominican Republic-born father and a Puerto Rican mother, has started an adult Bible class for Spanish speakers.

During the class, he goes over his planned sermon for that Sunday. He prepares PowerPoint slides in English and Spanish for the worship assembly. He preaches in English but frequently offers the invitation in both languages.

The adult class has inspired the Hispanic members — who previously only came to worship — to bring their children to Sunday school. The children understand Spanish and English.

“It seems like everyone is so warm and friendly and getting to know each other, so it felt like a great time to jump in,” said Angela Mitchell, 35, whose family had been driving 45 minutes to worship with a different congregation.

“There are so many talents and so much knowledge in the congregation,” she added. “We’re really excited about the merger.”

For me, it’s a joy to be here with the two groups of the church,” said Maria Aguilar, speaking in Spanish.

“It feels more family. God made all sorts of people, not just black or white, and I’m happy because we’re all together.”

Already, the combined body has grown to Sunday attendance of more than 150.

The energy they felt in the Greenbank church drew new members Jonathan and Angela Mitchell and their three children.

Yvette Curcio, who serves as the church photographer for the newly formed Greenbank congregation, snaps a directory photo of Ed and Brenda Jones.

Position: President

Mount Dora Christian Academy and Children’s Home (MDCA&CH) seeks a strategic, innovative and passionate leader to serve as President.

The President is the Chief Executive Officer of MDCA&CH who is responsible for advancing the organization’s spiritual and educational leadership. This leadership will enable the organization to fulfill its mission to provide exemplary education and enduring Christian values rooted in the Bible.

Mount Dora Christian Academy is a college preparatory Christian school for students in preschool through 12th grade. Approximately 616 students are enrolled. MDCA has received multiple awards for outstanding academics, athletics and fine arts while staying focused on faith-filled learning. Mount Dora Children’s Home has established residential group homes and a Single Parent Program. More than 40 children in need and single parents live on campus.

MDCA&CH has been affiliated with the Churches of Christ since it was established in 1945. Applicants should be an active, faithful member of a congregation within the Churches of Christ.

Located in the heart of Mount Dora, Florida, the school serves a tri-county area, students come from approximately 35 zip codes. The student body reflects remarkable diversity in heritage, ethnicity, and socio-economics.

Applicants should submit a current resume to the Search Committee at search@MDCAcademy.org.

Foster’s Home for Children

Foster’s Home for Children in Stephenville, Texas, is looking for a Christian couple to be full-time caregivers. Foster’s Home employs both husband and wife to minister to hurting children using the Sanctuary Model of Trauma Informed Care. Salary based on experience; competitive benefits package; excellent support team. For more information please contact:

Harriet Frazier, Vice President of Children’s Services
(254) 968-2143, ext. 284 and/or
complete application at fosterhome.org
Finally. An evangelistic Bible specifically for churches of Christ.

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2. **GIVE** to connect a seeker with a WBS study helper for personal study—with a relationship—and to help them get a free Bible of their own.

   [worldbibleschool.net/give](http://worldbibleschool.net/give)

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**A NEW DAY**

A new day will dawn on us from above because our God is loving and merciful. Luke 1:78

Be inspired by God's restorative, irresistible movement in Eastern Europe & beyond. The old has passed away, & the new has come!

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**EEM**

YOU’RE INVITED TO ONE OF OUR BENEFIT EVENTS

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SIGN UP at eem.org/events or CALL 800-486-1818
FRANCE
LYON — “Hard feelings and division” have taken a toll on Churches of Christ in France — as they do in congregations around the world, said missionary Arlin Hendrix.

So coordinators of an annual gathering for European French-speaking church leaders “designed a thought-provoking program on the necessity of unity,” Hendrix said. Forty-one church members participated in the program, hosted by the Lyon Church of Christ.

“We prayed a lot,” Hendrix said, “and we thank God that everyone went away encouraged and desirous to work harder for greater unity and understanding.”

PERU
AREQUIPA — Members of Team Arequipa recently hosted an annual cookout for children at an orphanage.

“We started by gathering together for singing and a time of worship,” said team member Jaclyn Blair. “Then the kids were set free to play... While the kids played, several of us prepared lunch.

“At one point I stepped back just to watch as they laughed and served together. ... In those moments where joy and service meet is when I feel like I am where I am supposed to be.”

The team continues the work of previous team members who launched two house churches in Arequipa, a city in southern Peru, and founded CUDA, the Christian Urban Development Association. Learn more at www.teamarequipa.net.

PHILIPPINES
CAINTA — The Cainta Church of Christ celebrated its 20th anniversary. About 40 people gathered for the celebration, including Filipino missionaries Raj and Dea Buo. The couple launched the ministry effort in Cainta, a growing city east of Manila, with U.S. missionaries Don and Deanne Williams and Filipino evangelist Jhun Ma.

The church serves its community “in a way that honors God and encourages hearts to continue being faithful until the Lord’s return,” Dea Buo said. “Looking back, we are so amazed and grateful for what God has done. It makes us thrilled for what he can do more in the future.”

ROMANIA
PITEȘTI — Churches of Christ in this central European nation place a high value on the next generation.

About 20 women, spread across seven congregations, teach Bible classes for children and receive regular training for the task, said missionaries Harvey and Pat Starling in a recent newsletter.

“Certainly parents are responsible for teaching their children,” the couple wrote, “but the Lord’s church is charged with teaching the young as well as adults. These ladies are dependable and steadfast in preparing Bible lessons adapted to children.”

The Midway Church of Christ in Jasper, Ala., supports the work.

TOGO
KPALIME — “Should Christians fellowship with denominations?” That was one topic discussed at an annual Bible camp in this west African nation. Other topics included church discipline and “Improving relationships among brethren.”

About 275 believers from 15 Churches of Christ in Togo’s western Grand Kloto region attended, said Willie Gley, a missionary and evangelist from neighboring Ghana.

“Serving God Successfully” was the theme, and the camp included times of worship, prayer and short drama skits by children.

A seed-sowing movie night in Africa
Jesus (portrayed by British actor Brian Deacon) talks about the seed that fell on good soil in a scene from 1979’s “The Jesus Film.” About 100 people in the west African town of Kwame Danso, Ghana, watched the film as it was projected onto a white sheet tied to a Gospel Chariot truck. The driver, Ernest Odei, talked about Jesus in the Akan language. Another minister, Job Tilabi, translated Odei’s message into the local language, Konkomba. The screening was part of a campaign by Gospel Chariot, a ministry associated with Churches of Christ that sends its signature red trucks across rural Africa, enrolling students in World Bible School and NationsUniversity courses. Each truck has a stage, sound system, generator and baptistery.

SPOTLIGHT
Bringing joy to Happyboy
EAST LONDON, South Africa — In just a few months, a man named Happyboy has gone from Bible school student to teacher and from new convert to church planter.

Happyboy Mlungwana, a self-employed, university-educated professional driver, lives in a remote area of South Africa’s Eastern Cape province. After studying World Bible School correspondence lessons, he asked to be baptized.

Missionary Chris du Preez, of East London, “traveled to the distant area ... and baptized Happyboy in a lake nearby,” said fellow missionary Chester Woodhall.

“Happyboy indeed became very happy when he went through the waters of baptism,” Woodhall said, but there are no Churches of Christ in or close to his home community.

So Woodhall invited Mlungwana to a recent Eastern Cape Evangelism Seminar. Participants came from nine congregations and preaching points across Eastern Cape. Mlungwana was one of 25 Christians to receive a solar-powered audio player from Sunset International Bible Institute. In addition to a full audio version of the Bible, each player has 325 hours of Bible curriculum taught by Sunset instructors and partners from ministries including World Bible School and NewLife Behavior Ministries.

Mlungwana plans to use the player to teach others and spread the Gospel to his community. Woodhall said, adding that “Happyboy has gone from World Bible School student to teacher.”
We are Hiring a Preacher!

Our present preacher is headed to Ukraine to help start a new congregation there! We are a congregation of about 50 members in a town of about 8,000 population in a major agricultural area located near the center of the state. The congregation was formed here in the late 40’s and we have four elders. For more information feel free to write us at:

Church of Christ
PO Box 597, Ephrata, WA 98823
ewcocf@gmail.com
Allen Smith (509) 398-1784 or Rusty Hunt (509) 681-0218

Faithful Gospel Minister Search

The Jasper Church of Christ is seeking a full-time minister. The position has pulpit, teaching and community outreach responsibilities as well as ministering to the saints with the eldership. Candidates must have a zeal and enthusiastic desire to preach the gospel with challenging biblical doctrines. Ideal candidates will have a college degree or school of preaching certification with several years of experience.

If interested send resume to:
Jasper Church of Christ
PO Box 831
Jasper, Texas 75951

Qualifications:
- Must be a member in good standing with the fellowship of the Churches of Christ.
- College degree or school of preaching certification.
- Experience in teaching, counseling, and community outreach.
- Experience in administration and leadership.
- A love for the gospel and a commitment to Christian education.

ACU is accepting applications for dean of its School of Nursing.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the baccalaureate, Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) and Certified Nursing Aide programs. The dean is the chief nursing officer and reports directly to the provost, works collaboratively with faculty and staff to advance the school’s mission, represents the school within the university and among its various external audiences, and provides visionary direction to advance its reputation. The dean’s primary objectives are to exercise and achieve innovative leadership, strategic vision, continued enrollment growth, strong budget management, and entrepreneurial curricular and academic development. The dean serves as director for the baccalaureate degree on ACU’s residential campus in Abilene, Texas, and co-administers with ACU’s College of Graduate and Professional Studies an online D.N.P. program based in Addison, Texas. Applicants must hold a current license or privilege to practice as an RN in Texas, a doctoral degree (if the doctorate is not in nursing, the applicant must have a master’s degree in nursing), and have a minimum of three years teaching experience in a professional nursing educational program and experience in its administration. Information about the school is available at acu.edu/nursing.

Apply online at 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 applications 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.

Office of the Provost
Dr. Robert Rhodes, Provost, ACU Box 29103, Abilene, Texas 79699-9103

ACU is accepting applications for dean of its School of Nursing. The successful candidate will have a doctorate in an area of education or a closely related area and should have teaching experience in a K-12 school setting. Experience teaching in higher education with leadership responsibilities and research and statistics is preferred. Experience working with accrediting agencies such as CAEP would be helpful. Candidates should hold a current teaching license. This position includes teaching responsibilities, advising, serving on committees, and other assigned tasks. This is a nine- or ten-month contract position located at the main campus in Searcy, Arkansas. Summer hours also will be required under a separate arrangement. Questions regarding this position may be directed to Dr. Clara Carroll at 501-279-4501 or ccarroll@harding.edu.

Submit application materials to Dr. Clara Carroll, associate dean, Cannon-Clary College of Education, at ccarroll@harding.edu or HU Box 12254, Searcy, AR 72149.

Paul R. Carter College of Business Administration.

Seeking a full-time faculty member for the Paul R. Carter College of Business Administration with appointment beginning fall 2019. Preference will be given to a Ph.D. in a business field with at least 18 graduate hours in marketing and/or management.

The Paul R. Carter College of Business Administration is committed to the promotion of free markets and economic freedom.

Submit application materials to Dr. Allen Frazier, dean, Paul R. Carter College of Business Administration, at afrazier@harding.edu or HU Box 10774, Searcy, AR 72149.

Department of Finance.

Seeking a full-time faculty member for the Paul R. Carter College of Business Administration. Preference will be given to a Ph.D. in a business field with at least 18 graduate hours of finance.

Submit application materials to Dan Summers, finance department chair, at dsummers@harding.edu or HU Box 10774, Searcy, AR 72149.

Additional openings are available in the following areas:

Department of Biology

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCES & DISORDERS

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Please visit harding.edu/jobs for further information on these positions and to learn more about open staff positions.

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.
‘The almighty God saved my son’s life’

FIVE MONTHS AFTER NEAR-FATAL heat exhaustion, Freed-Hardeman baseball player returns for first pitch.

CORINTH, Miss.

“I’ve had a lot of doctors tell me they don’t know how I survived what I went through,” said Slater Springman, who collapsed during baseball practice at Freed-Hardeman University on Aug. 27 and didn’t wake up until mid-September.

“But I and my parents know. It’s the power of prayer and our faith in God that got us through.”

Five months after he left the campus of the 1,900-student university associated with Churches of Christ, the 22-year-old senior returned to throw the opening pitch at his team’s home opener, played in Corinth, about 40 miles south of the university’s Henderson, Tenn., campus, due to wet field conditions there.

Before they left for the game, the team and Freed-Hardeman students gathered near the university’s Bucy Tower for a brief devotional.

Bill Springman, Slater’s father, tearfully thanked the crowd.

At one point doctors said they had “exhausted their resources,” Bill Springman said, and they encouraged the family to pray.

“Through your prayers and petitions, the almighty God saved my son’s life,” Springman said. “We will always be grateful.”

Slater Springman, a graduate of Holland Hall School in Tulsa, Okla., and his family worship with The Park Church of Christ in Tulsa. He played catcher for Oklahoma Christian University before transferring to FHU on a baseball scholarship.

He had just started classes when he suffered heat exhaustion while running laps with the team. Rushed to the hospital in nearby Jackson, Tenn., his Creatine phosphokinase (CPK) levels, normally about 200, were measured near the million-number mark, confusing doctors across the country who saw his case, the Jackson Sun reported.

“I remember collapsing and being on the floor at Freed,” Springman told the Sun. “And then the next thing I knew was when I woke up in the hospital, and I first assumed it was maybe a couple hours later.

“I looked on the board and saw what day it was on a sign, and they had to explain to me how long I’d been out.”

After more than two months in the ICU, he was moved to a hospital in Tulsa and allowed to go home Dec. 14 to continue his rehab.

“Right now, it’s mainly about rebuilding my strength,” he told the Sun, “because I lost 50 or 60 pounds of muscle during this whole thing that I’m trying to get back.”

His father sent a letter to FHU coach Jonathan Estes, thanking him for the opportunity to spend time with the team.

“He will be back better than new and wearing a uniform this fall,” Bill Springman said of his son, “because that is in his heart’s desire.”
Kevin Hervey drives for a basket.

Hervey and minister Phil Brookman talk about faith and pro sports.

Hervey drives for a basket.


down 14 points early in the first quarter, the Oklahoma City Blue's Kevin Hervey drained a quick three-pointer from the left wing, just outside the paint. "There's Hervey!" yelled Ed Murray, the Blue's play-by-play announcer, as a large section of the crowd came to life, calling, "Kevin!"

"And there's the church group!" Murray said of the noise. "They're sittin' right behind us."

Members of the Memorial Road Church of Christ were in the stands — sitting on chairs turned toward Hervey's parents, Brookman talked about the rigorous lifestyle and inspirational videos. And since I've been here in OKC, I've been trying to implement that.

A supportive congregational helps, said Hervey, who grew up in the New York Avenue Church of Christ in Arlington, Texas. "Our God, He is Alive.""There is, beyond the azure blue; a

"He's a guy that I look up to and respect," Kevin Hervey told his mother, Denise. "I try to attend church every time, and ask for prayers as he returned from injury to play with the Blue."

"After the hymns, sitting on chairs just inches away from where Hervey hit the three-point shot, he and Brookman talked about the rigorous pairing of professional basketball and a life of faith.

"Because of my injury, they want to see me go through a whole season healthy, evolve as a player," he said. "I'm here with the Blue."

"I am grateful and truly blessed," Hervey later sent a thank-you note to his church family. "I appreciate the relationships that have been built here — and the prayers and well wishes on my career — but, more importantly, my walk with Christ."

"Game was one of the more amazing moments that I've ever felt and I will remember it for the rest of my life! It's always reassuring to know that, no matter what happens in this life, you have a forever family that will love and support you and is willing and ready to help."

As the devotional concludes, members of the Memorial Road church surround Kevin Hervey during a time of prayer.

NBA’s Kevin Hervey talks about faith beyond the azure Blue

Brookman added, "That's the point you're supposed to say, 'Amen!'" After the devotional, "Kevin stayed for a long time to sign autographs and take pictures with fans, especially the younger ones," Brookman said. "One mom said, 'It's such a gift to have outstanding Christian role models like Kevin for my children.'"

Kevin Hervey was a standout player for the University of Texas at Arlington despite nagging knee injuries. He led the UTA Mavericks to a 27-7 season, the most wins in school history. He signed a one-year deal to play in the NBA’s G League. He has since played in Israel and now is on a EuroLeague team in the nation of Montenegro.

"That game was one of the more

NBA’s Kevin Hervey talks about faith beyond the azure Blue

Kevin Hervey drives for a basket.

Hervey and minister Phil Brookman talk about faith and pro sports.

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Hervey drives for a basket.
**Full-Time Pulpit Minister**

Lincoln Park Church of Christ in Lincoln Park, Mich., (suburb of Detroit), a congregation of approximately 150 members, is seeking a pulpits minister. Interested candidates should send their resume and an audio/visual link to a recent sermon to:

**Ed Stewart**
estewar8@comcast.net

Salary commensurate with education and experience.

**Pulpit Minister**

The Pearsall Church of Christ in Pearsall, Texas, is seeking a pulpit minister. Parsonage is available, and salary is negotiable. If interested, please contact:

**Derrick Byrd**
(830) 267-1022
derrick.byrd@devineisd.org

To learn more about our congregation: www.pearsallchurchofchrist.org

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**CALENDAR**

**March 1-2**  **Arise Mid-South.** Germantown Church of Christ, Germantown, Tenn. (901) 754-1668. See arisemidsouth.com.

**March 2**  **50th Anniversary Gala.** Park Row Christian Academy, Arlington, Texas. (817) 277-1021. See parkrowchristian.net.

**March 10-14**  **National Churches of Christ Lectureship.** Tinley Park, Ill. Contact H. Clay Williams (214) 605-2325 or Eddie Taylor (708) 334-0937. See nocl.net.

**March 22-23**  **Youth Lectures.** Highland County Church of Christ, Hillsboro, Ohio. Contact Karl Flem (513) 630-5299.

**March 23-24**  **Seminar Worship in Song.** Highland County Church of Christ and Southern State Community College. Hillsboro, Ohio. Contact Nate Stice (937) 509-2758 or Dale Schraw (937) 763-8311.


**April 6-7**  **50th Anniversary Celebration.** Fairfax Church of Christ. Fairfax, Va. (703) 631-2100. Fxcc50@fxcc.org. See fxcc.org.

**April 13**  **Children’s Teacher Workshop.** Memorial Road Church of Christ, Edmond, Okla. See mrcc.org/workshop.

**April 21-25**  **Church of Christ National Lectureship.** St. Louis, Mo. (314) 272-0282. Contact@nationallectureship.net. See nationallectureship.net.

**April 30-May 3**  **Pepperdine Bible Lectures.** Malibu, Calif. (310) 506-4270. See pepperdine.edu/biblelectures.


**FULL CALENDAR:** www.christianchronicle.org.

To include your event for $25, contact tonya.patton@christianchronicle.org.
A long-term love for European souls

BY LYNN McMILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Paul and Carol Brazle love telling the story of Jesus — in Flemish, English or even Spanish.

For three decades, the couple has lived and labored in Antwerp, Belgium, where Flemish (or Dutch) is the predominant tongue, although the metro area of 1 million souls in increasingly international.

Paul Brazle’s father, Clinton, was a well-known preacher and church planter in the Pacific Northwest. His family lived in Montana and Saskatchewan, Canada.

Clinton Brazle made certain his six children were aware of mission efforts. Missionaries stayed in their home, ate at their table and were included in their prayers. Clinton Brazle helped his children pursue mission opportunities in Belgium, India and Italy.

Not surprisingly, Paul and his three brothers became preachers and missionaries.

Carol Brazle grew up in the 8th and Lee Church of Christ in Lawton, Okla., and attended Oklahoma Christian University. She was inspired to be a missionary by Jennifer Jackson, an OC graduate who participated in a foreign field some day.” She did.

In spite of the appeal of Italy — coastline and ski resorts, all within 30 minutes — we quickly settled on Belgium, cloudy and grey Belgium, far removed from the blue skies and sunshine of Oklahoma and Saskatchewan. The reason: There was a family already working there.

¿Why did you decide to work there full time instead of doing short-term mission trips?¿

“We knew that in a culture like Flemish Belgium, to do something meaningful would mean a longer-term commitment, including language learning and cultural adaptation. This has changed a lot in 30 years. There is a lot more one can do here now speaking English.”

Paul Brazle on the three-decade mission to Belgium he shares with his wife, Carol.

What motivated you to become foreign evangelists?

Carol was on a visit to a World Mission Workshop during her sophomore year in college. The speaker asked the students to write on a paper: “I will serve the Lord in a foreign field some day.” She did. And — ever true to her word — she has, and still does.

My father, Clinton, encouraged me with information on missions and his own example of doing mission work in Montana and later in Canada. The time I had in Italy and Belgium was blessed enough by God that I said, “I can do this some more.”

Helena,

How did you come to choose Belgium as your mission field?

Along with an internship year in Italy, I also had a connection with Flemish Belgium via interns that came there from Saskatchewan.

My brother, Mark, was the first of these. Three times I was part of summer projects there, two of which Mark coordinated with teams from Oklahoma Christian.

Then, Carol and I went together on a Belgium project and added a survey visit to northeast Italy. We actually went home, waited six weeks, then sat down with a steno pad and made a line down the middle. We wrote “Pros” and “Cons” over the columns.

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Paul Brazle on the three-decade mission to Belgium he shares with his wife, Carol.

How has European receptivity to the Gospel changed since you arrived?¿

It’s a different world, for sure. When we first came, our demographic was mostly native Flemish folks. If we distributed 10,000 little flyers about a free Bible course in mailboxes, we could count on a 0.4 percent response rate (that’s four interested people per 100 flyers).

Today, that response rate is even lower. So most of our contact with people now comes through expanding friendships and personal relationships. And church growth comes as much via immigrant populations as European.

¿How has immigration impacted your work?¿

The wave of immigration here has been going on since before the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, starting with immigrant contacts from Poland. Next, contacts came from previously Eastern bloc nations.

Then we had a wave of immigrants from Africa, specifically Ghana, many of whom were already members of the Church of Christ. This was a blessing but also a challenge. Some of the Ghanaians were seeking to adapt to Belgian culture; others were...
not. We were here to work among native Europeans, so sometimes we struggled to be on the same track. The most recent immigration “crisis” was not so clear in Belgium. Belgium was not initially one of their primary destinations, such as Germany or the U.K.

We have been blessed with a group of both immigrants and refugees from Venezuela. For nearly two years, we have hosted a Spanish-language outreach and assembly in our meeting hall.

What do you see as the greatest challenges in your work? To be candid, when challenges come, they most often involve people. Sometimes we’ve had people come our way who thought they knew how to lead the church better than us. Sometimes we’ve had people make judgments about us that we felt were unfair. And sometimes we have struggled in the face of a legalistic mindset regarding the practice of faith.

Our biggest head-on struggle that didn’t involve “friendly fire” came when, again and again, people would see the value of our message (simple New Testament Christianity, practiced with the Bible as the guide) and would agree it was “right,” but they would turn again to their old ways due to the pressures and demands of family and culture.

What advice do you give aspiring missionaries? Don’t let anyone (who doesn’t know) tell you it’s impossible to prepare, to go, to raise support, to actually teach and reach someone. Take the time and ask advice from someone who does know how to prepare. Spend enough time in your target location to make an informed decision and to raise solid financial support. Spend enough time with potential supporters to develop relationships that will weather storms.

• Work things out before you make the move. If your family at home is behind your choice, great. If they aren’t, figure out if you can manage without their support.

It will be tough all around if you have to choose between the mission field and your family’s preferences. We’ve been blessed in this regard and are thankful.

What guidance do you have for churches that support missionaries? Please, sponsoring churches, accept your responsibility to your missionaries. And work to find balance. Encourage them with visits and advice. Keep them involved in the development of your church’s missions policy and protocol for responding to various situations.

At the same time, trust their insights about the culture into which you have sent them. Seek hands-on encouragement and partnership. Avoid micro-managing (or even just plain managing) from your location, be it the U.S. Bible Belt or elsewhere.

Also, talk to those who know. Hold your missionary accountable, but only for that for which they are, in fact, accountable.

Again, we have been very blessed with encouraging and trusting “home churches,” but we hear stories where that’s not the case.

WEBSITE: churchofchristdeurne.com
on our students for generations to come,” Lowry said.

**PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY**

**MALIBU, Calif.** — A new eBook published by the Boone Center for the Family at Pepperdine University seeks to empower faith-community leaders to discuss salient contemporary issues with their congregations.

Authored by experts in theology and psychology, “Vital Tools for Relevant Church Leaders” tackles challenging and demanding topics, including marriage, singleness, parenting, sexual intimacy, pornography, anxiety, depression and addiction.

“In addition to spiritual guidance, people turn to the church for emotional and psychological support,” said Sharon Hargrave, the Boone Center’s executive director. “Church leaders need to be on the cutting edge of guiding their communities through complex individual and relational issues.”

The e-book is available for free at boonecenter.pepperdine.edu/ebook.

**MINISTRY TRAINING**

**HARDING SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

**MEMPHIS, Tenn.** — Harding School of Theology has received a $1 million gift from the estate of Jack P. Lewis. Lewis, a member of the seminary’s founding faculty in 1958, died July 24, 2018. He was 99.

The gift will be added to the Pearl and Anna E. Lewis Endowment that Lewis established in 1981 to honor his late parents. Income from the endowment will increase funding for books and electronic media available for students and academic research. “Dr. Jack Lewis served generations of students at Harding School of Theology,” said Jim Martin, the school’s vice president. “He lived frugally, choosing to use much of his income to invest in the school that he loved. “We are deeply thankful for this generous gift that will bless generations of students, who in turn will bless congregations throughout the world,” Martin added.
**Milestones**

**Birthday**

**Gussie Turnbough**

**100 years**

Gussie will celebrate with family and friends at the Balmorhea Community Center on March 24. She was born in Denmark and moved to Canada when she was six. The family later moved to Chicago. Gussie married R.V. (Rip) Turnbough in 1945, and they made Balmorhea, Texas, their home. He died in 2001. She has six children, 20 grandchildren, and 35 great-grand-children. She taught swimming lessons for over 18 years and continues to be an avid reader and crocheter. She and Rip were active in the Balmorhea Church of Christ. Happy Birthday, Gussie!

**Memorials**

**Solomon Morgan Outlaw**

**1943-2019**

Morgan Outlaw was born in High Springs, Fla., where he played baseball and football. In 1961, he received a full football scholarship to Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas. While he spent a lot of time at the house of a local girl named Judith Elliott. On May 30, 1963, Morgan and Judith were married. After he graduated in 1965, they moved to Memphis, Tenn., where he started his career in education at Harding Academy. They were blessed there with two of their three cherished daughters, Malia and Anna. Morgan’s career allowed him to touch lives in nine schools and four states. After Harding Academy, he worked at three public schools in Tennessee and then in Arkansas, where Lezlie, daughter number three, was born. At each location, Morgan served the congregations where they worshipped in any needed capacity including, teaching, preaching, and as a deacon or elder.

His love for teaching and desire to touch more lives led him to school administration. After finishing his master’s at the University of Arkansas, he became an administrator at Columbia Christian Schools in Portland, Ore. He was thankful to work at five different Christian schools over his career: Harding Academy (Tenn.); Madison Academy (Ala.); Columbia Christian College, Cascade College, and Columbia Christian Schools (Ore.).

As an only child with parents who died young, the joy Morgan had with his wife, and family was never taken for granted; he knew he was richly blessed. He lived twenty years in a home he built twice (due to fires), worshipped with people he loved, grew a garden that provided for his family and others, and knew that he was surrounded by people who loved him and were with him until his race was finished.

Morgan is survived by his wife, Judith; his daughters Malia (Masami) Hasegawa, Anna (Thomas) Carter, Lezlie (Wade) Wright; ten grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

**Elmo O. Snelling**

**1914-2018**

Elmo was born on July 27, 1914, in Frederick, Okla. He passed away on Dec. 12, 2018.

After graduating from high school, he went on to receive his bachelor’s degree from Oklahoma State University. Elmo married the love of his life, Mae Curry, on July 14, 1940, in Hollis, Okla., and they spent over 58 happy years together. Mae passed away on March 4, 1999. Elmo was then blessed with another life companion, Jennie Marshall. They were united in marriage on April 11, 2000, in Plainview, Texas. She preceded him in death on July 15, 2006.

Elmo was a farmer all his life and enjoyed restoring John Deere tractors and trains. He also loved to plant a garden every year. He was a Farm Bureau founding member and president of Edmonson Wheat Growers. Elmo was a member of the Church of Christ in Kress and was recently leading his congregation at the Lord’s Supper. See “Can Churches of Christ be Saved?” on The Chronicle website for the story and video.

**W. F. “Bill” Weger**

**1919-2019**

W. F. “Bill” Weger passed from this life on Feb. 4, 2019, in Oklahoma City. He was born Nov. 5, 1919, in Sterling, Okla., to Thurman J. and Cora (Perry) Weger. He attended school in Denton and Sterling and served in the Civilian Conservation Corps (1938-1940). During WWII Bill worked for Douglas Aircraft at Tinker Air Field. There he was recognized for innovations in building aircraft. He retired in 1986 as a service technician from Sears in Lawton, Okla.

Bill married Frances Hair on Aug. 3, 1940, in Walters, Oklahoma. They were residents of Lawton for 73 years before moving to Luther in 2013. He was a dedicated Christian and member of the Church of Christ, serving as an elder in two congregations, and he regularly taught Bible classes over a span of 50 years. After retirement, he traveled with We Care Ministries to teach the Gospel and volunteered for 20 years at Memorial Hospital in Lawton.

**Lavonne Welch**

**1934-2019**

Lavonne Welch went home to be with the Lord on Jan. 11, 2019, at the age of 84 in Alvin, Texas. Lavonne was a graceful woman of God, faithful wife of 63 years to husband Glenn, and precious mother to Bruce, Rayford and Ruth. She raised her children in the Lord by herself, with help from loving Christian friends. Lavonne was, in every way, a Eunice to her children; her Aunt Ruth and Grandmother Lottie were their Loises. Her middle son Rayford has served as a gospel minister for 37 years. Lavonne was beautiful inside and out and in every way a true servant of God to her last breath. In so many ways she was a Tabitha to everyone she met — full of good works and acts of charity.

**Paul Roach**

88, Jan. 25, Edmond, Okla.

**With Appreciation**

The Christian Chronicle appreciates and acknowledges generous gifts received in honor of Lynn and Joy McMillon for their many years of service and dedication to the Chronicle.
Al Sturgeon will serve as the vice president of student life at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn.

APPOINTED: Al Sturgeon, as vice president of student life at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn. Sturgeon is former dean of students and dean of graduate programs at the Pepperdine University School of Law in Malibu, Calif. He preached for the University Church of Christ in Malibu. Dennis R. Stephen, to the board of directors of Heritage Christian University in Florence, Ala. Stephens serves as an elder of the Graymere Church of Christ in Columbia, Tenn. Myron Bruce, as head of East Texas Christian Academy in Tyler, Texas. Bruce spent the past four years as regional development director for Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn.

ELECTED: Jim Carr, as chairman of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education Coordinating Board. Carr serves as senior vice president and professor of business at Harding University in Searcy, Ark.

ACCREDITED: Lubbock Christian University in Texas. LCU's accreditation has been reaffirmed by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges without any further action by the university required. LCU's next reaffirmation review will take place in 2028.

Evangelist/Outreach Minister
Southern Oaks Church of Christ, located in Chickasha, Okla., is looking for an Evangelism/Outreach minister.

Please send resume to:
soakselders@att.net

Applications to be accepted until the position is filled.

Minister Wanted - Ypsilanti, Mich.
The Ypsilanti Church of Christ is seeking to fill our vacant minister position; this includes pulpit, class and evangelistic duties. We are a diverse congregation with a current average attendance of 120.

If you desire to be considered for this position, please submit your resume with three sermons (audio and/or video) to:
ypsicofc@gmail.com
For more information, contact:
Bob Bowen at (734) 482-6213.

Church of Christ
Bakersfield, Calif.

Wanted: Preaching/Family Minister
Bakersfield, Calif.

General Responsibilities: We are seeking a preaching/family minister with an emphasis on adult spiritual growth. This would include preaching, and developing small group discussion questions based on the week’s lesson. Additional duties would include teaching an adult Bible class weekly, acting as worship director and pastoral visitation as needed.

Qualifications: Candidate should have a minimum of five years’ experience in a preaching ministry capacity in a 150+-member church and have a positive record of accomplishment in working in a collaborative environment on a ministry team with multiple staff members. The candidate must have strong writing and communication skills as well as the ability to communicate using modern communications techniques and devices - i.e. social media, blogs or websites, screen-based presentations, etc.

For submitting your application, please email Merv Rash at: mrash@westsidelife.org for instructions.

Westside Church of Christ
7300 Stockdale Hwy
Bakersfield, CA 93309
www.westsidelife.org

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 10 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

Send emails to:
WOElders@westolive.com
Alzheimer’s: Faith, diet and exercise are vital, wife says

Bob and Jean Reynolds have made Lebanon, Tenn., their home since 1976. Bob Reynolds was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease in December 2003.

N.C.; Bristol, Tenn.; and Irvine, Ky. Returning to Middle Tennessee, he served as minister at the Watertown Church of Christ in Wilson County, Tenn.

N.C.; Bristol, Tenn.; and Irvine, Ky. Returning to Middle Tennessee, he served as minister at the Watertown Church of Christ from 1964 to 1970 and the Philadelphia Church of Christ from 1976 to 1982.

Preaching wasn’t his only gift, his wife said.

“He led singing in church and competed with the likes of Pat Boone and Ray Walker,” she said, comparing him to the acclaimed gospel singers.

“Four years he kept up reading the New Testament in Greek.

“And now all of that is just gone.”

THE DIAGNOSIS

There were few, if any, warning signs, Jean Reynolds said.

One day she and her husband were on their way to a bank in the Nashville suburb of Brentwood to claim a certificate of deposit that had matured.

“Bob was driving, and he passed his exit,” Jean recalled. “I said, ‘You passed your exit,’ and he said, ‘No, I didn’t. I know how to get to Brentwood.’”

She allowed him to continue driving Interstate 40 until they reached the Waverly exit, some 60 miles beyond Nashville. At that point, Bob admitted his miscue.

After turning back and visiting the bank, the couple moved the money to another bank closer to home. In the process, Bob lost his billfold.

His wife took him to see Dr. Hardie Sorrels, a physician who lost his own father to Alzheimer’s.

Sorrels diagnosed Bill with the disease and prescribed the drug Aricept to help.

“He didn’t believe it,” Jean Reynolds said of her husband’s reaction to the diagnosis. “He said there wasn’t anything wrong with him.”

STAYING ACTIVE

Jean Reynolds wasn’t even sure how to spell Alzheimer’s, she recalled, yet soon she found herself having to restrict her husband’s driving and serve as his caretaker.

She found “The Alzheimer’s Answer Book” by Dr. Charles Atkins, which answers 250 questions about the disease. It was a huge help, she said. Three key points she took away from the book were to be sure that her husband exercised, kept his mind involved and ate healthy meals.

“We get up every morning, six

Understanding Alzheimer’s

Alzheimer’s is a degenerative brain disease and the most common form of dementia. It is named after Dr. Alois Alzheimer who, in 1906, noticed changes in the brain tissue of a woman who had died of an unusual mental illness. Early warning signs include:

- Memory loss that disrupts daily life
- Challenges in planning or solving problems
- Difficulty completing familiar tasks at home, at work or at leisure
- Confusion with time or place
- Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships
- New problems with words in speaking or writing
- Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps
- Decreased or poor judgment
- Withdrawal from work or social activities
- Changes in mood and personality

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact Alzheimer’s Association at alz.org or 800.272.3900.
Most weekday mornings, Bob and Jean Reynolds kick off their day at 6 a.m. by riding stationary bikes side by side at the Jimmy Floyd Center in Lebanon, Tenn.

days a week, and go exercise ... at 6 a.m., and he goes out every evening after supper and walks up and down the driveway,” she said. “I have music playing or the TV on, and he does listen or watch TV some. I watch what he eats. He has quit reading because he does not remember what he has read.”

Recently, Bob began to forget people he has known for years. One Sunday, a minister spoke with him for several minutes. After he walked away, Bob asked, “Who was that man?”

While he can still handle most of his personal hygiene, he no longer can perform tasks that once came easily.

“Bob used to overhaul car engines,” his wife said. “He enlarged the bathroom in our house and did the plumbing and electrical work all himself. He was in the kitchen the other day, and I was putting a trimmer together, and I asked him to look in the drawer and bring me a screwdriver. He said, ‘What does a screwdriver look like?’”

Bob rarely converses with friends, and his hearing has diminished.

“If it’s quiet, he might converse with you,” Jean said. “The strange thing is, after you walk away he might not remember it or your name. He certainly would not remember what you discussed.”

Yet “the average person talking to him would not pick up that anything was wrong.”

MEMORIES AND MINISTRY
The Reynolds’ daughter, Lisa, is a school teacher in Indiana. Their son, David, lives in Lebanon and does all he can to assist his parents.

The greatest challenge of caring for her soul mate is “being more or less confined,” Jean Reynolds said. “We traveled a lot and have been to Alaska and every state in the U.S.,” she said. “Sometimes we’d be gone a month at a time. I miss all that — and going shopping and being able to spend all the time I want to, looking.” (Her husband tires easily and sleeps about 16 hours per day.)

Despite the challenges, Jean stays active in ministry. A gifted seamstress, she leads a crocheting class at church on Wednesday nights.

“We are knitting caps for the cancer unit at Vanderbilt Hospital for people of all ages,” she said. “We just shipped 100 caps to an orphanage in Ukraine, and we made hundreds that were shipped to Afghanistan.”

Reflecting on the 15 years she’s spent caring for her husband, she added, “It could be a lot worse. We’re doing right well.”

Central Texas Children’s Home

Seeking House Parents

Come and be house parents for our children who range in ages from 5-17.

Serve the Lord as you serve our children!

CTCH has been operating near Austin, Texas, since 1969, caring for children who are lost and hurting.

Please help us help the children!

We are looking for caring hearts and minds to do mission work. You will earn a competitive salary (based on experience), have ample time off, enjoy supportive staff, and get other strong benefits.

To find out more about the mission work at the Central Texas Children’s Home or to send your resume, contact:

Ray Crowder
Executive Director

Jon O’Keefe
Residential Svc. Dir.

jon@ctch.org

(512) 243-1386
Praise the Lord for the scattering of his church

Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.
— Acts 8:4, New King James Version

 diaspora. That’s a term we use to describe the dispersion of people from their original homeland — often against their will.

Taken from a Greek verb that roughly means “to spread about,” it appears in the Septuagint Greek translation of the Old Testament:

The Lord will cause you to be defeated before your enemies; you shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them; and you shall become troublesome to all the kingdoms of the earth.
(Deuteronomy 28:25)

In the book of Acts, we see how persecution of the first-century church resulted in the spread of the Gospel. The church, displaced and homeless, formed new communities and reached new souls because of the very forces working against it. What the Enemy intended for evil, God used for good.

It’s happening again today — in stories we have yet to tell in these pages.

Recent news of the turmoil in Venezuela doesn’t begin to describe the diaspora effect that the South American country’s economic collapse is having on other countries in the region.

Years of evangelism and God’s providence have made Venezuela one of the strongest nations for Iglesias de Cristo (Churches of Christ) on the continent. Now our friends at Great Cities Missions, which supports church planting and evangelism across Latin America, tell us that Venezuelan church members forced to leave their homeland to find food and jobs are revitalizing congregations in Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

Beyond that, we’re hearing stories of Iglesias de Cristo in South American nations that are taking in and serving economic refugees from Venezuela — most of whom have never before encountered our fellowship.

This has happened before. The armed conflict in eastern Ukraine — a region that likely had more church members than most of the rest of Europe — forced Christians to flee westward. As they pray for the conflict to end, many of the refugees have revitalized Churches of Christ in the western part of their country.

One displaced minister from Ukraine now lives in Athens, Greece, and shares the Gospel with refugees from the Middle East.

We praise God for his protection and provision. May we be inspired to do what we can whenever we can, wherever we are, whatever our circumstances.

One final note of encouragement: When we read the beginning of Acts 8, we see that the reason the early church was scattering was because of a man “who made havoc of the church.” His name was Saul, and we know what happened to him.

May the sources of our persecution today become the stalwarts of our fellowship tomorrow.

Speaking out on church’s ‘Eerie Silence’

This Dialogue is extremely frustrating. (“The church must break its ‘Eerie Silence,’” Dialogue with Ammar Saheli, Page 27, February) It is filled with unspecific criticism and universal judgments, basically on whites.

If you know someone, or some church, that is being racially unjust, go talk to them instead of making it sound like this is the skeleton in the closet of every “white” church in America.

It’s so easy to just keep stirring the racial pot. To have a true dialogue, all people need to understand that racism is not just a white people issue. It is, in fact, a human being issue involving all races. Jesus and his Gospel is the answer to all social injustices — not just focusing blame on any particular people group.

TOM HAWKINS JR. | via Facebook

I hear what you are saying in this interview, Ammar. I’m sorry for my complicity in being part of the problem for many years, but thankful that I have learned from reading, watching and listening to the many black, brown and indigenous people willing to share our national history of white supremacy — and how that history still influences us as individuals and systems today.

As I read, I’m learning to be more self-aware so I can challenge these wrong thoughts and beliefs. I still have my blind spots and biases, but I’m working to be honest about them because that’s the only way I can address them.

Thinking about it from a gospel justice perspective, I’m greatly concerned that we are minimizing and ignoring the issue rather than working hard to recognize and repair those breaches that have led to the devaluing of people based on race/ethnicity.

MICAH SMITH | Henderson, Tenn.

Stories of faith — old and young — inspire

What a great story of a great Christian man! (“Child of God’ goes home at 112,” Page 1, February)

You’re never too old to obey the Gospel — no matter how many decades you’ve already lived.

Saluting a fellow serviceman and Christian, thank you brother Richard!

MIKE SOLOMONS | Savannah, Ga.

It is good to see this opportunity move to other nations. (“Lads to Leaders goes to India,” Page 17, February)

The subhead (“The youth training program, popular in the U.S. Bible Belt, launches in a country where Christians are rare”) remarked about the few members of the church in India, and percentage-wise that is true. But I have been led to believe there are more New Testament Christians in India than the U.S.

May the Lord help all of us to be more evangelistic wherever we live.

KEN THOMAS | Mt. Juliet, Tenn.
CHRISTIANS CAN IGNORE Wisdom’s call to pursue knowledge, but doing so is folly.

Science as an act of faith

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? ... “The LORD created me at the beginning of his work ... When he established the heavens, I was there ... I was beside him, like a master worker ... And now, my children, listen to me.”

— Proverbs 8:1, 22, 27, 30, 32 New Revised Standard Version

Proverbs 8:1-36 presents us with Lady Wisdom’s call. Faith leads readers to respond.

She cries out to us. She has things to teach us. She can shepherd us to have life, and have it abundantly.

She doesn’t force herself upon us. She allows us to ignore her. She will give us up to the presumptions we make about knowing how our lives should be lived. But she doesn’t stop calling.

Other than the benefits she promises, though, why should we listen? On what authority does she beckon us? In reply, she claims that God created her: She is a reflection of God’s glory, a creation before other creations. She is a witness, watching God’s every move as he created the world.

She knows what happened, and how. She knows how the world is put together, how it runs and how it is meant to run — all the more so since she is not a passive observer, but a hands-on co-creator, “like a master worker” at God’s side (Proverbs 8:30).

Her hands helped shape our world. She has left her mark. Thus, our study of the world can be an effort to decipher her message to us.

But she doesn’t force herself upon us. She allows us to ignore her.

Faith is, among other considerations, a basic posture toward two things: the future and the uncertainty that necessarily characterizes the future. Faith in God is faithfulness to God despite the uncertainties of moving into the future in that kind of relationship.

Faith in God responds to Wisdom’s call, despite our uncertainties about what all she may wish to teach us.

Faith in God can positively lead to the scientific study of the world, even though that quest is also marked by uncertainties about what one will find in the future.

For Christians, science can be an act of faith, a way of answering Wisdom’s call.

But she doesn’t force herself upon Christians. She allows Christians to ignore her. By this, I mean to say a few things:

• First, Christians can outright ignore the scientific study of the world. If they do, then they may be ignoring the wisdom that is on offer by learning how God’s world works. As a result, the body of Christ may be setting herself up to look and sound foolish to an onlooking world. (This is not the good kind of foolishness that we find in 1 Corinthians 1-2, the foolishness of the cross.)

• Second, Christians can engage in science but try to protect themselves from uncertainties that come with this way of studying the world. If they do, then instead of ignoring Wisdom’s call, they may be filtering her message so as to avoid her saying things that we might not want to hear. The end result, again, is not a wise church.

Moreover, is such filtering really an act of faith? Maybe, but faith in what? Is it possible that we sometimes put faith in ourselves and our doctrines, instead of putting our faith in a God who is living, moving, and active? Yes, “the revealed things belong to us,” but there are still “secret things” that “belong to the LORD” (Deut 29:29).

• Third, Christians who are not engaged in science can ignore, disregard, and marginalize Christians who are involved in science. The body of Christ has actually inflicted a lot of personal pain on this front. The very Christians who could most help the body of Christ discern Wisdom’s messages often feel like “aliens” and “strangers”—a new kind of Gentile, a new kind of “uncircumcision” (Ephesians 2:11-12).

• Fourth and finally, Christians can ignore non-Christians who are involved in science. Not only does this undercut evangelism, but it also constitutes a disregard for the people Lady Wisdom may have selected to speak for her.

It’s not that any person doing science can speak God’s wisdom; it’s that if we have made up our minds ahead of time who can and cannot speak God’s wisdom, then chances are quite good that we will miss her message even while the sounds of her message strike our eardrums.

Oh God, whose word accomplishes your purpose (Isaiah 55:10-11), give us the eyes to see and the ears to hear the wisdom you wish to offer us and the people through whom you wish to bring us that wisdom. Amen.

Daniel Gordon has a Doctor of Ministry in Science and Theology and holds the new McClure Professorship of Faith and Science at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn. He blogs at danielgordonblog.com.

Michael E. Flowers is a deacon of the Genesee Avenue Church of Christ in Columbus, Ohio.
Hughes presents a heartbreakingly clear picture of America’s struggles with race

One great joy I find in reading is the connections I discover in seemingly unrelated books.

Last year I read “The Gospel Comes with a House Key: Practicing Radically Ordinary Hospitality in Our Post-Christian World” by Rosaria Butterfield and “Letters to the Church” by Francis Chan. These books expose the failure of many mainstream American Christians to understand the full implications of living as Christ in the world.

We fail to grasp what hospitality really is — and what it looks like, functionally, to love and serve those around us. Instead, what I see is fear and a deep desire to erect walls between us (especially if we’re parents) and the world with its various dangers, influences, bad habits and behaviors.

This is an understandable flaw, given that the Bible reveals a sort of tension — being in the world but not of it. It’s easy for us to fall off the horse on either side.

I found more connections to these concepts in “Myths America Lives By; White Supremacy and the Stories That Give Us Meaning” by Richard T. Hughes. This isn’t a title I would normally pick up, but I cannot overstate the importance of this book.

Hughes, a renowned historian among Churches of Christ and professor emeritus at Pepperdine University, surveys not only our contemporary racial conflicts in America but also the various religious, philosophical and political movements — dating back to Henry VIII — that have shaped Protestantism. He follows these movements through the founding of the United States, through the evolution of our troubled race relations and through the development of Christian groups in America.

For those of us who struggle to understand the racially charged polarities of today as well as the highs and lows of our American past, this book paints a heartbreaking, damning and ultimately clear picture for today’s Christians.

In this second edition of Hughes’ work, first published in 2004, he highlights six “myths” that he claims exist at the heart of the American experience — including “The Myth of the Chosen Nation,” “Nature’s Nation,” the “Christian Nation,” “Millennial Nation” and the “Innocent Nation.”

Tackling hundreds of years of philosophy, history and theology is a daunting task, yet Hughes’ work is extensive and illuminating. He gives primacy to the oft-neglected or forgotten voices of prominent people of color — Yolanda Pierce, Charles Blow and Toni Morrison to name a few.

Hughes writes, “As a Christian, I understand that the one I seek to follow has asked us to see the world through the eyes of people who suffer oppression at the hands of the world’s elites.

“Oppressed people will tell us the truth, I believe, in ways that the world’s elites, the wealthy, and the power brokers typically will not. The elites will not because they have too much to lose. But oppressed people have nothing to lose, and that is why we need to hear them clearly.”

The topic of race is undoubtedly, emotionally and politically charged at this moment. (When is it not?) It may be with gritted teeth that some of us approach this book.

But Hughes is correct in his conviction that listening to the oppressed is a timeless charge from the word of God. For those of us struggling to understand the divisions in our society, this book provides an opportunity to consider the lessons history has for us.

This book, combined with those I’ve read recently, shows me that the attitudes that prevent us from showing hospitality and serving those different from us have been present from the very beginning of our country. When we don’t trust anyone but our “own” — however we define it — we misunderstand our mission.

**In Print**

**Myths America Lives By**


Hughes, a renowned historian among Churches of Christ and professor emeritus at Pepperdine University, surveys not only our contemporary racial conflicts in America but also the various religious, philosophical and political movements — dating back to Henry VIII — that have shaped Protestantism. He follows these movements through the founding of the United States, through the evolution of our troubled race relations and through the development of Christian groups in America.

**What we’re reading**

Josh Ketchum


Feldhahn is noted for her analytical and statistical approach to the study of marriage and family. She brings a unique perspective to the subject since her background is financial analysis.

To produce this book, she spent three years interviewing and surveying 1,000 couples to uncover the most important habits of the most happily married couples. The book consists of 12 habits — and they’re not the typical points in most marriage books. She writes, “It’s usually not the biggies — in-laws, money, sex — that determine the level of day-to-day mutual happiness in a marriage. Much more often, it’s daily unspoken beliefs, assumptions, and practices that make the difference regardless of the big issues.”

While written from a Christian perspective, she uses couples from various faith backgrounds in her research. One chapter that would make a great sermon or Bible class is titled “How Highly Happy Couples Look Higher.”

The book contains lots of variety and is practical and easy to understand. It is not a basic, foundational book like “His Needs, Her Needs,” “The 5 Love Languages” or even Feldhahn’s other works. This book focuses on core attitudes and actions that make a marriage from simply existing together to being highly happy together. It deals with the fine-tuning issues that make a marriage happy.

**Josh Ketchum** preaches for the Seven Oaks Church of Christ in Mayfield, Ky. See www.sevenoakchurchofchrist.com.
WHEN JESUS SPEAKS

Jesus wanted the world to listen to His life-changing message. He was the greatest storyteller who ever lived, yet many did not take Him seriously. Today we have His teachings, His stories, at our fingertips. Many read His word and believe, while others choose to ignore Him.

In her book, *When Jesus Speaks, Will You Listen?*, author Ellen Shields explores 12 lessons Jesus taught, calling His listeners to step out in faith. Her ability to bring out Biblical history, mixed with humor and encouragement is unique and refreshing. The stories of Jesus come alive as Ellen inspires her readers to apply the Word personally, without excuses, but rather with heart wrenching honesty, leaving no wiggle room for self-deception. Readers will take an honest look at their devotion, trust and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. You’ll be faced with the decision to either listen to Jesus’ words and apply them— or to simply ignore Him.

Ellen served as a missionary in Kenya, speaks at women’s retreats, and teaches ladies’ Bible classes.

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JOURNEY TO JOY

This unique workbook is written for women who are struggling with the question: Why did God appoint the husband head and tell his wife to submit? Patti searched for years before finding her answer in the joyful relationships within the Trinity. She never thought of submission the same again. Neither will you.

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Don’t type on Facebook what you wouldn’t say face to face

Social media have become our modern-day sticks and stones—and they hurt. Maybe we should ask, ‘What would Jesus tweet?’

’S ticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me.”

I remember as a child running around the playground and using that as a comeback when people would say mean things. However, as I got older I realized how completely wrong that old saying is when it comes to the words we use.

Looking back, there are a lot of words that did hurt.

I can only imagine, had the Internet been as popular then as it is now, how much more those words would have stuck with me—appearing in my “memories” feed each day. It’s a thought that makes me worry for my own kids as they grow up in the digital age, increasingly confronted with social media and all of its pitfalls.

The truth is that words can and often do hurt. And those words, those hurtful words, are not easily forgotten. They break our spirit. They break our heart. And in some cases, they break our faith.

As digital editor for The Christian Chronicle, I often have to remind myself how glad I am that my faith is not in people, but in God.

It seems we’ve lost our ability to think before we speak. Believe it or not, the Bible has plenty to say about social media. I think particularly about this passage from the book of James: “With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God’s likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.” (James 3:8-10)

When you type a comment on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat or any other online forum, would you stand in a room with your Christian brothers and sisters and use those same words? Or would you find a way to lovingly address whatever point of contention there might be? Or would you realize that the best course of action is to keep your mouth shut?

In short, what would Jesus tweet? Or would he tweet at all?

You see, when we stand face to face, rather than keyboard to keyboard, we can see the humanity of the other person. We can have an actual dialogue, ask questions and come away with an understanding of each other’s position.

When we see each other only as profile pictures or avatars instead of human beings, we stop connecting. We stop loving. We give people a reason to run away with an under-going their position.

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Regardless of what you have on this earth, everyone can leave a legacy

Because of you — and thousands of your fellow believers across the country and around the world — The Christian Chronicle reaches a global audience. Each month we mail about 135,000 copies of our print edition to addresses in the U.S. Many of those issues are read by at least two people per household — and sometimes many more. We also have a growing, multinational online readership. Our website gets more than 72,000 page views per month.

Over the years we have experienced rising but manageable production and mailing costs. We’ve been doubly blessed by you, our dedicated readers and donors, who provide the essential funds to keep this ministry going. We simply could not do what we do without your support.

As you read in these pages, many of us are concerned about the future of our fellowship — even after our days on earth are ended. We believe that a well-informed fellowship — armed with facts, not bias, and aware of the varying viewpoints among us — is vital to the future of Churches of Christ.

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