



Church has 'forgiving attitude' for shooter who took elder's life

CHRISTIANS IN CANADA grapple with loss as they pray for a suspect who once worshiped alongside them.

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

When Gordon Parmenter saw someone begging outside a Tim Hortons for just enough money to buy a cup of coffee, he'd take the person inside and treat him to breakfast — no limits on price.

That's how Cole Wintringham described the 78-year-old elder of the Salmon Arm Church of Christ in western Canada.

Wintringham was one of many special-needs children in Canada's foster system served by Parmenter and his wife, Peggy.

"With Gord, it was refreshing that he was a man who actually lived according to what he believed," said Wintringham, adding that he was devastated when he learned that his former foster dad had died — at the hands of another young man he was trying to help.

During Sunday worship on April 14, a man entered the church building and shot Parmenter with what church members described as an "assault-style rifle."

As the shooter fled, Paul Derkach rushed to Parmenter's side and tried to treat his wounds.

But, moments later, the shooter returned, firing again at Parmenter and striking Derkach, shattering the bone in his lower right leg. Church members tackled the shooter and held him until police arrived.

Arrested was Matrix Gathergood, 25, a former neighbor of Parmenter who had befriended the church elder and accompanied him to worship in the past.

"He sat up in the front row with Gordon," said Doug Kendig, another elder of the

See **SHOOTING**, Page 11



BOBBY ROSS JR.

A white bird flutters over a woman being immersed at Yardenit, a popular Jordan River baptismal site.

Is the Holy Land the Promised Land?

LEADING EVANGELICAL SUPPORTERS of President Trump tout the modern state of Israel as a fulfillment of biblical prophecy. Scholars in Churches of Christ take a different view.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

JERUSALEM

To prominent evangelical allies of President Donald Trump, "the Lord is at work" in the administration's high-profile backing of Israel.

From moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem to recognizing Israel's sovereignty over the disputed Golan Heights, Trump has delighted evangelicals who view the modern Jewish state as a fulfillment of biblical prophecy.

"The fact is, I think President Trump has been raised up by God to help protect the Jewish people,"



EMILY MCFARLAN MILLER

Israeli Brig. Gen. (Res.) Nitzan Nuriel, a counterterrorism expert, briefs journalists in the Golan Heights.

said Robert Jeffress, senior pastor for the First Baptist Church of Dallas and a Trump adviser who

gave the opening prayer at the embassy dedication last year.

Eighty percent of Americans with evangelical beliefs say God promised the land of Israel to Abraham and his descendants for all time, according to a survey by Nashville, Tenn.-based LifeWay Research.

But Churches of Christ — with an estimated 1.4 million adherents in 12,000 autonomous congregations in the United States — generally don't share that theology, according to scholars interviewed by *The Christian Chronicle*.

See **HOLY LAND**, Page 14



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For 50 hours each Sunday, we remember

A few years ago, I was visiting the islands of Samoa as I reported on Churches of Christ in the South Pacific.

I preached for our brothers and sisters of the Vaimoso Church of Christ in Apia, Samoa, on a Sunday (and

of course there was a potluck afterward). Then I went to a little airport and boarded a plane for the short flight to American Samoa,

which is a U.S. territory. In between the islands of Samoa and American Samoa is the International Date Line, so my flight took off at 3 p.m. Sunday and landed at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, the previous day. So I stayed at the preacher's house and told everyone "I'm gonna go ahead and turn in because I've been up since 6 a.m. ... tomorrow."

Think about it.

When I woke up it was Sunday again, so I went to church again and preached ... again.

This is confusing, I know, but Sunday actually lasts quite a long time, if I'm doing the math right. I believe that it's Sunday somewhere on the planet for 49 or 50 consecutive hours.

(It seems like it should be a number that corresponds to the length of a day — maybe 48 hours — but the Republic of Kiribati has stretched the International

See **SUNDAY**, Page 4

Inside Story



Erik Tryggestad



ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

ACU's men, women take the Southland

Abilene Christian University's men's basketball team celebrates their 77-60 win over New Orleans for the Southland Conference Tournament Championship. A day after the men's team punched its first ticket to the NCAA Division I tournament, the Texas university's women's team did too, defeating Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 69-68 in their championship game.

Another university associated with Churches of Christ, Lipscomb in Nashville, Tenn., advanced to the final round of the men's National Invitation Tournament, while Lubbock Christian University's women's team won the NCAA Division II title. (See **Page 22**.)

From your Brazilian brethren: Bibles, money and a missionary

AFTER A DEVASTATING CYCLONE, a newly planted church in southern Africa gets gifts of love from fellow Portuguese-speaking believers.

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Churches of Christ in the South American nation of Brazil and the southern African nation of Mozambique share a language and a love for the lost.

Now Christians in the Portuguese-speaking nations, separated by more than 4,800 miles, are responding to one of the worst weather disasters ever recorded in the Southern Hemisphere.

Cyclone Idai killed as many as 1,000 people, devastated farmland and drowned livestock as it cut a swath of destruction across southeastern Africa in mid-March.

Only weeks earlier, a Church of Christ in the seaside city of Salvador, Brazil, had sent one of their own, Luis Pereira Santos, to nurture a newly



Pereira

planted congregation in the seaside city of Beira, Mozambique.

Then the Indian Ocean itself, where church members were baptizing souls into Christ, seemed to rise up and attack.

The storm made landfall just north of Beira with winds near 160 miles per hour. Torrential rains flooded the city of 530,000 souls and damaged nearly 90 percent of its buildings, aid agencies reported.

Pereira and his fellow church members survived the storm and began making plans to help their neighbors recover.

Across the ocean, Brazilian Christians did the same.

"As soon as we heard about the cyclone, we began to think of a way to help them," said Nilton Contreiras Barretto Jr., a minister in Recife, Brazil.

See **GIFTS**, Page 12



Contreiras

Stunning reversal

JUDGE VACATES former youth minister's sex convictions due to statute of limitations.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

A highly publicized Pennsylvania grand jury report last year identified more than 300 predator Catholic priests who had sexually abused more than 1,000 children going back decades.

But because the crimes were hidden by the church hierarchy, "almost every instance of abuse we found is too old to be prosecuted," the statewide investigating body reported.

Now, the same statute of limitations that prevented prosecutions in those cases has prompted a state judge to vacate the convictions of a former longtime Church of Christ youth minister.

In a stunning reversal, Judge Steve Leskinen of the Fayette County Court of Common

Pleas in Uniontown, Pa., recently overturned Clyde E. Brothers Jr.'s convictions on corruption of minors and indecent exposure charges.

"I'm sick to my stomach," one alleged victim's mother told *The Christian Chronicle* upon learning that Brothers, 68, won't be going to prison after all. Her name is being withheld to protect the identity of her son.

Brothers served for many years as the volunteer youth minister for the 100-member Uniontown Church of Christ, about 50 miles south of Pittsburgh. Since at least the 1980s, he also interacted with hundreds of children as a founding board member for Camp Concern — a Bible camp directed and sponsored by members of Churches of Christ.

Earlier this year, Leskinen ordered

See **REVERSAL**, Page 8



Leskinen

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ROSA LAUFILI

Mika Laufili, minister for the Vaimoso Church of Christ, treats Erik Tryggestad to a traditional Samoan lunch in his home in Apia, Samoa. After preaching for the church, Tryggestad crossed the International Date Line and arrived in the U.S. territory of American Samoa — 23 and a half hours before he left Apia.

SUNDAY: 'Did you take communion again?'

FROM PAGE 3

Date Line pretty far east. It juts out and makes a border that kind of looks the profile of a goat. I think they wanted all of their islands on the same time. But that means they're a day ahead of locales to their immediate north and south.

Those "locales" are mostly water, though. I doubt the fish care.

So, when Sunday begins on Christmas Island in eastern Kiribati, it's only 5 a.m. Saturday here in Oklahoma.

(I tried to explain this to my daughters, ages 11 and 5, and they didn't make it past "Christmas Island." No, girls, that is *not* what you think it is. If we go there you'll be in for a huge disappointment.)

Anyway, when Sunday ends in American Samoa, it's 6 a.m. Monday in Oklahoma.

I took pictures with my phone during worship services in Samoa and American Samoa. This thoroughly confused the time-stamping mechanism. As I looked back through the images, I noticed that they "jumped" from island to island. They were shot 24 hours apart, but on the same day.

The No. 1 thing people have asked me about this experience is, "Did you take the Lord's Supper again?"

Yes, I did.

The preacher in American Samoa, David Willis, talked about this, and he mentioned that in those hours between when Samoa and American Samoa take communion, Christians in all the rest of the world do the same.

Some of them do this in secret in places like China. Some are refugees from the Middle East who share communion with their new church families in Vienna and other parts of Europe.

Regardless of where we are — or when we are — we gather around the table as a global family to remember the life, death and resurrection of our Savior.

Father, we thank you for these emblems, once used to celebrate the Passover, that your son asked us to take as representations of his body and blood.

We pray that we will never forget the sacrifice that tore the veil separating us from your glory and brought us into your family.

We eat and drink in remembrance of Jesus' great sacrifice and in awareness that we're part of a global family of believers.

We do this in your son's name.

CONTACT: erik@christianchronicle.org

MAY 2019

HAWAII

HONOLULU — About 15 volunteers from the Pearl Harbor Church of Christ and a few from the Wahiawa Church of Christ spent a recent Saturday handing out care packages to the homeless at Kakaako Park.

Children at the Pearl Harbor church helped bag and prepare toiletries for delivery to homeless shelters. The goal was “to show God’s love and spread the Gospel while meeting some of their physical needs,” benevolence ministry leader Perry Molden Jr. said.

“The recipients were thankful that someone cared enough to help in a practical way,” Molden said.

In all, 165 individuals were served.



RUTH BYRNE

Children at the Pearl Harbor church organize items to share with the homeless.

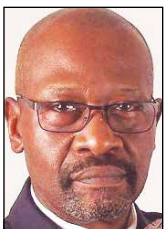
MARYLAND

DISTRICT HEIGHTS — Mid-Atlantic-area congregations helped the District Heights Church of Christ celebrate its 30th anniversary.

Willie Hubbard Jr., who planted the church, remains its minister and was recognized at the recent assembly, which had the theme “We Have Come This Far By Faith.”

Guest speakers were Willie Rupert Jr. of the Central Church of Christ in Baltimore; Douglas A. Goodman of the Capitol Church of Christ in Annapolis, Md.; Markus Martin of the Beltway Church of Christ in Camp Springs, Md.

“We came together to celebrate the blessings of ministry and serving the Lord’s church,” Hubbard said.



Hubbard



BARBARA PERRY

Illinois preacher’s daughter wins state swimming championships

Kira Perry, 7, celebrates her success with the Decatur Gators, a YMCA of the USA swim team in Illinois. She is the daughter of Douglas and Barbara Perry. Her father preaches for the Jasper Street Church of Christ in Decatur. Kira won state championships in the 25 freestyle and the 50 freestyle. At the district level, she won the 25 freestyle, the 50 freestyle, the 25 butterfly and the 25 backstroke.

MONTANA

GREAT FALLS — The Great Falls Church of Christ has moved into a new facility after meeting at its previous location since 1951.

Swapping buildings with a local Baptist church gave the Great Falls congregation a larger building with the potential for growth. The first Sunday drew a crowd of more than 300, minister Scott Laird said.

“We have been blessed with growth throughout the years but have consistently been limited by the size of our facility,” Laird said. “Our move after 68 years represents a boundary event in the life of the church. We believe God has provided this new facility so that we may bless our community and see the gospel of Christ spread.”

NEW HAMPSHIRE

MANCHESTER — Churches of Christ in New England are small, typically numbering between 30 and 50.

That makes areawide events such as youth rallies all the more important, said Park Linscomb, minister for the Manchester Church of Christ.

The Manchester church’s recent youth rally drew 52 teens and 17 chaperones, plus 30 local volunteers.

“It’s hard to be a teen in a mission area,” Linscomb said. “Youth rallies like this are critically important for New England teens to be uplifted, enjoy encouraging fellowship and be reminded that they aren’t all by themselves in following Jesus.”

Sam Boyd, a student at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn., spoke on “Dare to Prepare.”

TEXAS

NORTH RICHLAND HILLS — The Legacy Church of Christ has reached a milestone in its missions program.

Last year, members contributed more than \$500,000 to missions.

It’s the first time in the congregation’s 59-year history that Legacy has reached the half-a-million dollar mark in one year, church leaders said.

In 2019, the congregation is supporting 20 foreign missionaries and four domestic missions programs.

For more than a decade, Legacy has made missions a focus during February. This year, students in the church’s children’s program raised more than \$2,500. And overall, it appears that the congregation is on its way to a second straight year of reaching its \$500,000 goal.

Nebraska churches serve flooding victims

'THAT'S THE PART *that makes this brotherhood so special,' leader says of disaster assistance.*

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Jeff Weaver was tired and inspired at the same time. Since historic flooding struck the Midwest in March, the minister for the Bellevue Church of Christ, south of Omaha, Neb., hadn't stopped working and serving.

"I've been putting in 80-hour weeks since this started," Weaver said. "There's so much in me and so many stories and so much sadness. But really, it's been an amazing story."

The story, as Weaver explained, involves the church — and really, the entire community of Bellevue, he said — working to show love and support to those devastated by the flooding.

"One thing that I can say about our small congregation of 150 is that it would be tough to outlove the church at Bellevue," Weaver said. "Our goal is just to saturate the city of Bellevue with the love of God."

After levees breached along the Missouri River, the church received a tractor-trailer load full of



Volunteers at the Bellevue Church of Christ in Nebraska organize emergency supplies delivered by Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort.

emergency food and supplies from Nashville, Tenn.-based Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort.

Also, the church donated money to allow victims to wash clothes for free at an area laundromat. Patti Estaniqui directs the relief effort, while Weaver focuses on counseling.



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY JEFF WEAVER

Elsewhere, the Fremont Church of Christ, 40 miles west of Omaha, serves a town that was cut off from the rest of Nebraska by the widening of the Elkhorn and Platte rivers.

The Fremont congregation also received goods from the Nashville ministry and became a staging

ground for volunteers organized by the Churches of Christ Disaster Response Team, overseen by the elders of the Cassel Hills Church of Christ in Vandalia, Ohio.

"That's the part that makes this brotherhood so special," Fremont church leader Dondi Eckert said of the out-of-town Christians who rushed to help. "People bend over backwards, and the response has been great."

Away from the flooding, the Southwest Church of Christ in Omaha — one of the state's larger congregations with 300 members — worked closely with charities such as the Heartland Food Pantry and the Salvation Army to help victims.

The Southwest church collected bottled water for flood-ravaged Pacific Junction, Iowa, 25 miles southeast of Omaha. Martha White, wife of minister Jim White, is a dental hygienist whose colleague lives there.

"Their water treatment was impacted," church member Cole Franson said. "So as a church, we've just been funneling as much bottled water to them as we can."

Kids with tacos join church's effort to help Texas tornado victims

BY CHELLIE ISON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

After a tornado touched down in the East Texas town of Franklin, members of the local Church of Christ jumped into action to serve their neighbors.

That response didn't surprise Blan Chrane, minister for the 150-member congregation.

What did surprise him was the age of some of the helpers.

"We're over here trying to collect stuff and help — and these little kids, whose parents dragged them up here, they just started helping, picking up limbs," Chrane told *The Christian Chronicle*.



Chrane

"Little kids aren't afraid to jump out of a bus with a bottle of water and a taco and help people," he said.

The April 13 twister "was wrapped in a wall of rain that really muffled the sound," Chrane said. At least 55 homes, four businesses and two church buildings were destroyed by the EF-3 tornado.

It was on the ground for nearly an hour, tracking across more than 30 miles before dissipating, according to emergency management officials.

None of the church's members lost homes, though a few sustained minor damage.

Nonetheless, "any natural disaster is heartbreaking," Chrane said.

In the days following the tornado, the congregation in Franklin — about 100 miles northeast of Austin — worked with Churches of Christ

Disaster Relief Effort to provide for the community's needs.

The building of the Franklin Church of Christ was not damaged, so members almost immediately gathered to cook meals for area residents. The church is accepting donations and collecting supplies to help with ongoing needs.

Power was out to the entire community of about 1,600 people. Generators allowed the church to keep its refrigerators running. Chrane said the congregation provided hot dogs, hamburgers and anything that could be cooked quickly to those who needed a meal.

That included tacos.

FIND LINKS to disaster relief groups and churches collecting funds to help victims of recent tornadoes and floods at christianchronicle.org.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY BLAN CHRANE

Joe Braden Squiers, a member of the Franklin Church of Christ, unloads supplies for tornado victims.



Phyllis Renner, Amy McCumsey and Jenny Lafferty of the North Hills Church of Christ work with Becky Krivak of the Zelienople Church of Christ to make weighted blankets.

Pennsylvania church turns plastic pellets into a ministry of comfort

BY CHELLIE ISON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Members of the Zelienople Church of Christ in Harmony, Pa., are using their talents — and some leftover plastic beads — to help those with special needs.

The church members produce weighted blankets, filled with the beads, which gently apply pressure that is believed to have a calming effect. Clinical studies show that weighted blankets can make a person feel a sensation similar to being held or hugged, *Autism Parents Magazine* reports.

“Compassion for those members of society who have some physical or emotional need is the true spirit of Christianity,” Brian Dowler told *The Christian Chronicle*.

Dowler, a member of the Zelienople church, works for Conair — a global supplier of auxiliary equipment and solutions for plastics processors. The company had a surplus of plastic pellets — 1,200 pounds — that were going to be discarded. Dowler asked the company to donate them to the church’s efforts.

“It’s a great thing that this leftover material can be put to a great use,” Dowler told *Plastics News*. “Our ‘junk pellets’ will save this team of women about \$1,800.”

The biggest benefit, he added, is the help the blankets will bring to families of people with special needs.

The pellets were separated into 25- to 30-pound bags before they were



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY BRIAN DOWLER

In addition to blankets, church members used the beads in turtle toys.

brought to the Zelienople church building. There, ladies from the congregation and a few from nearby North Hills Church of Christ in Pittsburgh sewed the blankets. They were able to make about a dozen — plus some weighted turtle toys. The blankets were donated to the Parents in Toto Autism Resource Center.

“It is especially meaningful to see this coming from a small congregation,” Dowler said. “It shows that our members have good hearts. They love those around them. They want to make a positive impact. And they are serious about fulfilling the Great Commission of our Lord and Savior.”

The Zelienople church has about 35 people who gather to worship each week. The congregation recently hired a full-time minister, with the assistance of an outside, supporting congregation. The blanket-making is one new effort by the congregation to establish a culture of evangelism, members said.



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REVERSAL: Churches must show victims 'true love and encouragement'

FROM PAGE 3

Brothers to serve up to five years in state prison. The January sentencing followed an October 2018 trial in which a 38-year-old man testified that he was 13 or 14 when Brothers when began showing pornographic movies to church boys in the early 1990s. Eventually, Brothers performed lewd acts in front of him and encouraged him to do likewise, the man said, reporting that this happened "at least 50" times.

Leskinen allowed Brothers to remain free on house arrest pending an appeal. In a post-sentence motion, the former youth minister's attorney, Jack R. Heneks Jr., argued that Pennsylvania's statute of limitations precluded the charges that were filed against the former youth minister in March 2017.

In response to the motion, Leskinen issued a new order agreeing with Heneks and "reluctantly" granting the defense's motion to vacate the convictions. The judge said Brothers could report to the adult probation office "at his earliest convenience to have the electronic monitor removed."

"Unfortunately, for the victim of this case, and for the community at large, upon a more thorough review of the statutory history ... the relevant Statute of Limitations for these crimes expired in July of 2000 when the victim turned 20, and could not thereafter be revived," Leskinen wrote.



PHOTO BY MARK HOFMANN, HERALD-STANDARD

Clyde E. Brothers Jr. leaves a courtroom after being convicted in October 2018.



BOBBY ROSS JR.

A sign outside the Fayette County Courthouse in Uniontown, Pa., where Clyde Brothers' convictions were overturned because of the statute of limitations.

'DEFENDANT ... REVEALED HIS CRIMES'

The judge stressed that his decision did not change the facts of the case.

"The charges were filed only after the Defendant himself revealed his crimes, as well as others; and after a thorough police investigation resulted in only this single courageous victim confirming the facts confessed to by the Defendant," said Leskinen, noting that Brothers couldn't be charged or convicted "based on an uncorroborated confession."

Three of Brothers' fellow board members at Camp Concern — conducted each summer at Raccoon Creek State Park, about 25 miles west of Pittsburgh — confronted Brothers at his home more than two years ago.

Brothers broke down and confessed to inappropriate behavior with "many, many, so many boys," said Terry Lafferty, one of the board members and minister for the North Hills Church of Christ in Pittsburgh.

"He said, 'I'm evil, just evil,'" Lafferty said of the December 2016 meeting. "And I thought that he was really going to open up and confess to

all this stuff because there were a lot of names that started coming out."

Brothers agreed to go with Lafferty, Richard Walton and Keith Wolfgong to make a statement at the Pennsylvania State Police station in Uniontown. By the time Brothers got to the station, though, he had become much less forthcoming, Lafferty said. Brothers identified four victims by name to the investigating officer.

Leskinen noted that testimony at the trial suggested that Brothers "committed similar acts in other states upon this or other victims from the same church." The victim said, for example, that Brothers took him to a church event in Arkansas and inappropriately touched him.

That testimony was limited because it did not involve charges arising in Pennsylvania, but it's possible that Brothers could be prosecuted in other states with different or longer statutes of limitations, the judge said.



Lafferty

STATES DEBATE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

Time limits on filing such charges have become a major issue nationally.

At least 35 states are considering statute of limitations reform, said Marci Hamilton, a University of Pennsylvania law professor and child sex abuse expert.

"I think it's important for the public to know that one in four girls and one in six boys are sexually abused, so that's a very high number," said Hamilton, who is CEO and academic director for the advocacy organization Child USA.

"But we also have many backward states that have protected the predators. And so, there are many operating child predators in the United States right now, and we don't know about them because of the statute of limitations."



Hamilton

After the grand jury report last year, the Pennsylvania House passed a bill that would remove the statute of limitations in future child sex abuse cases and provide a temporary, two-year window for past victims to file civil suits.

Under pressure from church and insurance industry lobbyists, the state's Senate failed to vote on the measure. Senate President Pro Tempore Joseph Scarnati argued that the proposed window would violate the state's constitution. The issue is expected to generate debate again this legislative session.

Such a window would allow victims — such as those who allege Brothers violated them — to seek monetary damages and depose the suspect and others who might have known about the abuse and failed to report it, Hamilton said.

"We're talking about both psychological and medical problems that come as a result of the trauma," she said of possible civil liability. "Child sex abuse victims have much higher rates of post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, suicide, ongoing problems with substance abuse."

"What happens when the statute of limitations is closed, the full cost is borne by the victim and their family

‘Abuse is only one aspect of it. Knowing as an adult that grownups helped cover this situation up and helped write laws to protect the church instead of protecting the children that were molested, that is a pain that is indescribable.’

Shaun Dougherty, a former Catholic altar boy who, as an adult, reported that a priest abused him from age 10 to 13. The priest escaped criminal charges because of the statute of limitations. Now Dougherty seeks statute of limitations reform.

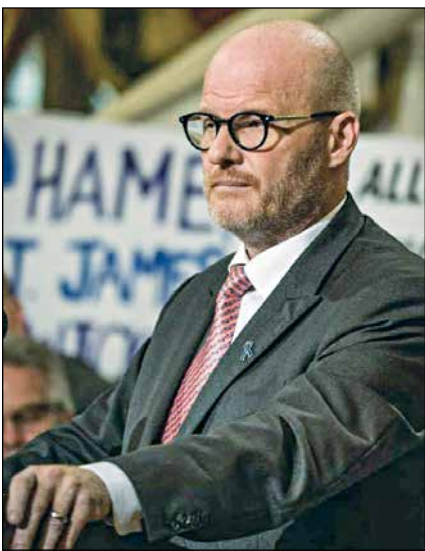


PHOTO PROVIDED BY SHAUN DOUGHERTY

or the state. When you open up the window, that cost gets shifted to the ones who’ve made it happen.”

FIGHTING TO STRENGTHEN ABUSE LAWS

Among those fighting for reform in Pennsylvania is Shaun Dougherty, 49. The former Catholic altar boy reported as an adult that a priest named George Koharchik abused him from age 10 to 13.

Koharchik, now 70, was Dougherty’s basketball coach and religion teacher at his Catholic grade school in the early 1980s. However, the defrocked priest escaped criminal charges because of the statute of limitations.

“Abuse is only one aspect of it,” Dougherty said. “Knowing as an adult that grownups helped cover this situation up and helped write laws to protect the church instead of protecting the children that were molested, that is a pain that is indescribable.”

Jimmy Hinton, minister for the Somerset Church of Christ in Pennsylvania, is a victims advocate who has supported Brothers’ alleged victims and joined Dougherty in lobbying state lawmakers to strengthen Pennsylvania’s child sex abuse laws.

Hinton said many churches “are working hard to fight statute of limitations reforms.”

“As long as they keep doing this,

serial child predators like Clyde E. Brothers will use these loopholes to remain free and will gravitate back to churches, where they are free to produce more victims,” said Hinton, the son of an imprisoned pedophile preacher. “The church needs to repent of this and make it illegal to (abuse) children, no matter how long ago it happened.”

WAITING ON GOD’S JUSTICE

Bud Wilson is an elder of the Crossroads Church of Christ in McMurray, Pa., a congregation south of Pittsburgh that includes one of Brothers’ alleged victims.

Wilson, who attended Brothers’ sentencing in January, voiced disappointment in the judge vacating the convictions.

“This process makes me realize that we cannot put our faith in man to do the right thing. While we want to see justice in our time, we need to truly turn it over to the Lord,” Wilson said, pointing to Romans 12:19: “Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord.”

“I believe we should direct our focus on all the victims,” the church elder added. “These young men are so bitter and angry, and this news will add insult to injury. We need to reach out to all the victims right now and demonstrate true love and encouragement.”

EXPANDED COVERAGE: christianchronicle.org



Hinton

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AUSTRIA

VIENNA — Churches of Christ in this European capital, including the one that meets on Pohlasse Street, continually report baptisms among refugees from the Middle East.



Hiller

Reggy Hiller, who works with the church, and evangelist Gerhard Krassnig recently accompanied Amir, a convert who has brought many Farsi-speakers to Christ, to his asylum hearing. “The judge was belittling him for choosing to become a follower of Christ,” Hiller said, “but Amir stood his ground and also gave wonderful testimony as to why he became a Christian.”

GHANA

BAWKU — A motorbike accident in northern Ghana claimed the life of Kofi Tawiah, minister for the Osu Church of Christ in the West African nation’s capital, Accra.

The minister, who is survived by his wife and three young children, was working with the Gospel Chariot ministry, evangelizing in Ghana’s predominantly Muslim north.



Tawiah

Tawiah and a crew member were traveling to a village for a “night street preaching” program when the motorbike skidded off the road, said minister Evans Lartey. “Shadrach (the crew member) got wounded, but brother Tawiah died on the spot,” Lartey said. “They had to be transported on a three-hour rugged road to the hospital. “We are all devastated. The rest of the crew are doing well. We need your prayers.”

INDIA

NAKREKAL — The Faith Vila Church of Christ in this central Indian city recently celebrated the 25th anniversary of the inauguration of its meeting place. The church, however, traces its roots back more than a century, to the pioneering evangelist Kothapally Venkaiah (1851-1934). Edward Rouse, a minister in



PHOTO PROVIDED BY PAUL REGANATHAN

Through hail and mud, new life in Nepal

Church members from Nepal and India share a prayer of thanksgiving as they dedicate a new church building in the eastern Nepalese town of Ilum. It’s the fifth church building in the region of Nepal near the Siliguri Corridor (or “Chicken’s Neck”) of India that connects the country to its northeastern states. Paul Renganathan, a preacher and ministry trainer in Chennai, India, works with churches in the region and in northeast India. During a recent visit, he reported that local Christians have planted 16 congregations in the Indian state of West Bengal, which includes the corridor. Renganathan traveled through a hailstorm and rivers of mud to reach Ilum for the building dedication. Five other churches in the region need church buildings, he said.

Hyderabad, India, was the keynote speaker. Nakrekal evangelist K. John Philips and members of the Faith Vila church hosted the event.

PHILIPPINES

GARCIA-HERNANDEZ — Church members on the island of Bohol in the Philippines Central Visayas region treated more than 400 patients with free medical, dental and vision care, said missionaries Michael Stock and Dr. Deborah Stock. The church members also provided spiritual counseling and received multiple requests for Bible studies.



Deborah Stock

The Garcia-Hernandez Church of Christ Medical and Dental Mission was “a great example of what the local congregations can do when they unite together for the Lord’s

service,” Michael Stock said. “With the exception of the doctors and a few volunteers, the local church was able to provide the majority of the volunteers. Never let the excuse that your congregation is too small stand in your way of fulfilling God’s plan to seek and save the lost.”

For more information, see TakeTheWord.org.

UGANDA

KIRYANDONGO — The Sudan Project recently published a list of congregations and ministers working in refugee camps in Uganda as South Sudanese people wait for peace to return to their homeland after years of ethnically-charged conflict. The report lists 31 congregations spread across five camps with a total membership of 2,200. Nearly 400 baptisms were reported last year. The Foote Street Church of Christ in Corinth, Miss., supports the work. See www.sudan-project.org.

SPOTLIGHT

Wanted in Mexico: leaders with heart

CANCÚN, Mexico — This city on the Yucatan Peninsula — known for its sandy beaches, expansive resorts and raucous nightlife — needs Christian servant leaders, said Bayron Alonzo.

“The Church of Christ in the city of Cancún has had a great need for serious, formal and effective leaders to serve God in front of the church,” Alonzo said, “but at the same time (they) must be spiritual and genuine, attached to God’s will.”

That’s why the *Iglesia de Cristo Cancún* eagerly welcomed Javier León, a minister in Dallas and director of the International Center for Christian Leadership, who conducted a three-day leadership equipping seminar.

The seminar was part of a whirlwind trip for León, who also visited and spoke to congregations in Mérida, Oaxaca and the Mexico City suburbs of Santa Úrsula and Valle de Chalco.

The trip revealed “many emergent leaders with good hearts,” León said, adding that he felt blessed to “(help) our churches to create better leadership processes.”



Alonzo



León



PHOTO PROVIDED

Javier León speaks to the *Iglesia de Cristo en Oaxaca de Juárez*.



PHOTO VIA GOFUNDME

The Parmenters pose with a family photo tree. The couple had the designation of Level 3 foster parents and cared for youths with physical and mental disabilities.



PHOTO VIA GOOGLE MAPS

The shooting happened about 10:35 a.m. April 14, during the Salmon Arm Church of Christ's Sunday worship. Members later gathered in a home for the Lord's Supper.

SHOOTING: 'If people withdraw into themselves ... evil wins'

FROM PAGE 1
Salmon Arm church, remembering Gathergood's visits. During sermons "he always seemed to be listening."

A TROUBLED YOUNG MAN

Kendig described Gathergood as a large, athletic man who had participated in wrestling and rugby during his high school years. Although he wasn't one of the Parmenters' foster children, the couple reached out to him and showed him their characteristic kindness, his fellow elder said.

Routinely, "Gordon had people in his home who found it (to be) a welcoming and safe place," Kendig said. "Gordon was a real friend."

Gathergood suffered from mental disorders, Kendig said, and had once talked about his suspicion of "people who were controlling things." When the young man returned to Salmon Arm after a stint in the neighboring province of Alberta, "the things he was saying were psychotic. He wasn't in his right mind. Gordon knew it and tried to help in any way he could."

The Parmenters tried to refer the young man to mental health services, but to no avail, Kendig said.

Then, on March 14, a fire severely damaged the Parmenters' trailer home. Investigators said the fire likely was arson, though police have not yet named suspects in the case.



Gathergood

One month later, about 10:35 Sunday morning, Gathergood entered the church building and opened fire.

A BIG HOLE IN A SMALL CHURCH

Kendig, who also is 78, was in Calgary, Alberta, when the shooting happened. He learned about the tragedy from his wife, Linda.

"It's not something she wants to talk about," Doug Kendig told *The Christian Chronicle*. Most of the church members still are in shock.

The 63-year-old Church of Christ meets in a town named for the Salmon arm of Shuswap Lake in British Columbia's interior. Lynn Anderson, a well-known preacher among Churches of Christ and director of HOPE Network, helped launch the congregation and served as one of its first ministers. The church once operated a Christian school for grades kindergarten through seven.

Now about 20 to 30 souls meet for worship most Sundays, Kendig said. The two elders did most of the teaching and preaching.

"We were elders together, but he was one of my best friends, too," Kendig said of Parmenter.

"What a hole this has left."

SEEING GOD IN A 'SENSELESS EVENT'

Born in California, Gordon Parmenter and his wife (a native of Texas) were active members of congregations in the U.S. and Canada, Kendig said. Gordon Parmenter had worked as a logger, sailor, firefighter and manager of a Coca-Cola plant. He



PHOTO PROVIDED

Church elder Doug Kendig with his wife, Linda, and two grandchildren.

also was a hog farmer, cabinet maker and auto repairman who continually "used his talents to help those in the congregation and others, too."

But their true love was parenting, according to the church's website.

"Gordon and Peggy have four children, numerous grandchildren and a host of foster kids who have benefited from their godly home and teachings," the website reads.

A GoFundMe page, initially set up to help the Parmenters recover from the house fire, is now a memorial fund for the family.

"This was a senseless event," the page reads, "though the only thing that makes sense is to honor Gord by loving others just as his Jesus did. We regard his attacker and his family with love, not hostility, as Jesus loved those who nailed him to the cross."

Derkach, who was shot in the leg during the encounter, was airlifted to a hospital in Kamloops, British Columbia. Surgeons inserted a rod

into his leg, family members said. A long recovery — and likely more surgeries — are ahead. Friends launched a GoFundMe page for his expenses.

DON'T LET THIS KEEP YOU FROM CARING

The shooting happened before church members had taken the Lord's Supper, so the small congregation gathered at a member's house Sunday evening for communion. They planned to continue to meet in members' home while the as police continued the investigation.

Toward the shooter, "there's a forgiving attitude, not a revenge attitude," the church elder added.

He and his wife, who have two adopted grandchildren of their own, pray that the tragedy won't deter Christians from reaching out to troubled youths and all those who suffer.

"All I can say to that is, 'You can't,'" Kendig said. "If people withdraw into themselves, it seems like the world of evil wins."

And that's not what Parmenter would have wanted, according to Wintringham, the former foster child.

In a message to Canada's *Global News*, Wintringham said, "Gordon was driven by his faith, and helping people was his way of serving God.

"He would never give up on any one of us. He often told me to the effect there were no 'bad kids' — just kids who fell through society's cracks."

FIND LINKS to contribute to the GoFundMe accounts for Gordon Parmenter and Paul Derkach at christianchronicle.org.

GIFTS: Brazilians' mission efforts span the Southern Hemisphere

FROM PAGE 3

Working with the Bonocô Church of Christ in Salvador, Brazilian Christians raised 7,000 *real* (about \$1,800) in five days.

In the weeks that followed, churches across Brazil had special contributions to help Christians in Mozambique purchase aid for storm victims.

BRAZILIAN CHRISTIANS SEND BIBLES — AND A MISSIONARY

In Brazil, Churches of Christ date back to 1929, when missionaries from the U.S. planted the first congregations in the state of Pernambuco in the northeast. Now congregations meet across South America's most populous nation.

Brazilian Christians see plenty of need at their doorsteps. About one-fourth of their country's population of 209 million souls lives below the poverty line — on about \$5.50 per day, according to data from the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics. Many Brazilian churches support benevolence works.

But it was the spiritual poverty they saw in Mozambique — particularly, the lack of Bibles — that led them to help.

Contreiras, an instructor at EBNESR (a Portuguese acronym meaning “National Bible School to Equip Servants of the King”) traveled to Mozambique in 2012 with Tim Brumfield of Lubbock, Texas-based Sunset International Bible Institute. Brumfield works with Churches of Christ across the Portuguese-speaking world.

Contreiras was distressed to see so many of his brethren without Bibles, “and the few they had were old, with pages missing,” he said.

When he returned to Brazil, he helped launch a campaign to send boxes of Portuguese-language Bibles to Mozambican churches.

(Baretto currently is working with



Luis Pereira visits a congregation in the Mozambican village of Inhangoma. The cyclone destroyed the village's crops.

Sunset to develop Portuguese material for the institute's solar players, self-contained speakers connected to a hard drive that contains a complete, spoken-word Bible and hundreds of hours of Bible lessons.)

In addition to Bibles, Brazilian Christians sent support to Mozambican evangelists. Then, late last year, Brumfield participated in a campaign to plant a congregation in Beira. Six people participated in a course titled “Let the Bible Speak” and were baptized in the Indian Ocean. Mozambican preachers

Bartumeio Banqueiro Biasse and Samuel Jacob Waitala elected to stay and work with the young church.

Christians in Salvador sent Pereira to join them. A graduate of EBNESR, he previously served as a missionary in Aracaju, Brazil, supported by the church.

Securing a visa for Pereira was difficult, Brumfield said, but the evangelist got right to work, teaching Bible courses and training the two Mozambican evangelists.

Pereira's wife, Edilza, and children



In September 2018, students in Beira study a “Let the Bible Speak” course, which resulted in six baptisms and a new Church of Christ. By early April, the new church had 49 souls in attendance for Sunday worship.

plan to join him. Three of their children have done ministry training and internships.

Brumfield said he prays that the effort will “demonstrate to our Brazilian brothers that they can send their own as missionaries to highly receptive mission fields where they speak Portuguese. What a beautiful Christian family this is.”



Brumfield

MODERN-DAY MACEDONIANS

Plans to move the rest of the Pereira family to Mozambique are on hold as the church members respond to the storm.

In a recent message to his

Brazilian brethren, Pereira detailed plans to distribute food, medicine, cooking charcoal and mattresses to those in need.

Meanwhile, Christians in his home country continue to collect funds to assist in Mozambique's long recovery.

“We are grateful for the generosity of the Brazilian brothers and their concern for the brothers and the Mozambican people,” Contreiras said.

“Let's remember the Macedonians who helped the brothers in Judea in a time of famine,” he added, referencing the apostle Paul's account from 2 Corinthians 8. “They did it by their own initiative.”

RETURNING WELL: A minister for a Church of Christ in Tennessee discusses his congregation's efforts to help missionaries returning from Mozambique adjust to life back 'home.' See Views, Page 29.



Samuel Jacob Waitala, left, and Bartumeio Banqueiro Biasse serve as evangelists for the Beira church.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY TIM BRUMFIELD



VOICE OF AMERICA

In southern Africa, a family searches for their missing loved one after Cyclone Idai.

Africa’s ‘double tragedy’

A KILLER CYCLONE, coupled with crippling drought, could mean starvation in the southeastern part of the continent.

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Cyclone Idai claimed hundreds of lives as it cut a path of destruction across the nations of Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi.

But casualties from the storm could rise dramatically in the months to come, as southern Africa copes with cholera and food shortages, said Christians serving in areas hit hardest by the storm.

At least one member of a Church of Christ in Zimbabwe is among the missing. Brighton Madhuba, who worshiped with a congregation in the town of Chimanimani, was swept away by rapid floodwaters.

“We have been looking for him for a week and half now, but to no avail,” said minister Edgar Mushati. “Hopefully, we are going to recover his remains and give him a decent burial.

“Keep on praying for us,” the minister told *The Christian Chronicle*. “We are still traumatized by the situation.”

More trauma is ahead, said another Zimbabwean Christian, John Dube. As a result of the storm, “the crops were swept away, and the animals drowned,” said Dube, an agricultural trainer for Healing

Hands International, a relief and development ministry associated with Churches of Christ. “In less than 24 hours, the areas within Chimanimani recorded 600mm (23.6 inches) of rainfall.

“This is just a double tragedy. I foresee the worst drought ever.”

Healing Hands is collecting donations and preparing a container of food relief to send to Zimbabwe in partnership with Feed My Starving Children, said Alisa Van Dyke, director of marketing.

Another ministry associated with Churches of Christ, Christian Relief Fund, is collecting funds for southern Africa relief.

“CRF is funding the immediate need for emergency food, clean

water and temporary shelter through our partners in the region,” the ministry reported. “As the situation continues to develop, we will be helping families rebuild as well as working to mitigate the serious concerns about cholera outbreaks which are common in the impacted areas.”

One Kingdom, a ministry of the White’s Ferry Road Church of Christ in West Monroe, La., is collecting funds for Mozambique flood relief.

FIND LINKS to contribute to relief efforts at christianchronicle.org.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Brighton Madhuba, left, was lost in the flooding in eastern Zimbabwe.

The Beaumont Church of Christ is seeking a **Family and Youth Minister** who knows the Bible and its power to create and sustain life-long trust in Jesus. This minister will have a demonstrated passion for the lost as he mentors our families and youth in practicing our faith in the community and with one another. He will join with our three elders and others in preaching one or two Sundays per month or more. Send resumes and inquiries to:
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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
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GRAPHIC BY AIPAC, INFO VIA AIPAC AND PEW RESEARCH CENTER.

The State of Israel

INDEPENDENCE: Declared May 14, 1948.
CAPITAL: Jerusalem. **POPULATION:** 8.7 million.
LANGUAGES: Hebrew and Arabic are the official languages. More than 30 languages, including English, Russian and Amharic, are spoken.
RELIGION: 81 percent Jewish, 14 percent Muslim, 2 percent Christian, 2 percent Druze and 1 percent other. **CULTURE:** Celebrates Shabbat (day of rest) from sundown Friday until sundown Saturday. **CURRENCY:** New Israel Shekel.



A mosque can be seen in an Arabic community in Israel, as viewed from a helicopter flying from Tel Aviv to the Golan Heights, an Israeli-occupied territory captured from Syria in 1967.

HOLY LAND: Politics, prophecy debated

FROM PAGE 1

“The political question you’re asking really requires one to make a distinction between the modern state of Israel and Israel in the Bible,” said Evertt Huffard, professor of leadership and missions at Harding School of Theology in Memphis, Tenn. “There’s absolutely no connection, and to make that connection is really a mistake.”

“The secular state of Israel — it is a name only. It has no relationship to ancient Israel,” said Huffard, who attended high school in Ramallah, West Bank, before the Six-Day War of 1967 and later served as a Christian missionary in Nazareth, Israel, for five years. “At least from our perspective in the Churches of Christ, the new Israel is the church, in the people of God. It’s not limited to one ethnic group or geography.”

Neal Coates, a political science professor at Abilene Christian University in Texas, expressed similar sentiments. “Christians living in the United States should not confuse their religion with their country’s foreign policy,” said Coates, urging fellow believers to strive for unity and peace with all people.

Still, a majority of members of Churches of Christ live in Republican-dominated states such as Texas, Tennessee, Alabama and Oklahoma. Those Christians often support candidates with

conservative positions on issues such as abortion and same-sex marriage.

“I would think they do not see Israel as the fulfillment of prophecy,” said Bobby Valentine, minister for the Eastside Church of Christ in Antioch, Calif., and author of books on Restoration Movement history.

“However, at the same time, they are also deeply conservative and Republican, so they are likely to still be pro-Israel.”

“A faithful church member I know is pro-Israel but thinks premillennialism is false doctrine,” Valentine added.

In his interview with the *Chronicle*, Jeffress rejected the notion of Israel’s restoration accelerating Christ’s return: “Now, contrary to what some people believe, premillennialists like myself do not believe there’s anything we can do to hasten the coming of God by causing conflict in the Middle East. That’s absurd thinking, and no serious student of Scripture believes that. But we do believe God has a plan for the world, and part of that plan is the fulfillment of his plan for Israel.”

WALKING WHERE JESUS WALKED

It’s the history of the Holy Land — not a belief in a contemporary Promised Land — that inspires thousands of members of Churches of Christ to make spiritual pilgrimages to Israel.



PHOTOS BY BOBBY ROSS JR.

Signs in Hebrew, Arabic and English point to major Israeli cities.



A man walks by a mural in Jaffa, part of Tel Aviv. Known in the Bible as Joppa, the community is about two-thirds Jewish and one-third Muslim.

“Riding on a boat on the Sea of Galilee, sitting on a hillside listening to the Beatitudes being read, sharing communion in the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives, walking on the temple steps where Jesus walked — it still touches your heart and brings tears to your eyes each and every time,” said Sheryl Peters, whose husband, Doug, preaches for the Grace Crossing Community Church of Christ in Conroe, Texas, north of Houston.

Sarah Fantinel, a junior at Lubbock Christian University in Texas, traveled to Israel over spring break.

“The Land of the Holy One is incredibly important because it helps us to better understand our own faith,” said the 20-year-old student, who was baptized in the Jordan River. “The water was a little cold, the sun was just setting behind the trees, and that memory will always be special to me as we recommitted our lives to the Lord.”



Fantinel

As for politics and prophecy, Fantinel said, “The nation of Israel as it stands today has always existed in my lifetime, and so personally, I have not given it much thought.”

Doug Peters, who has visited Israel five times in the last 20 years, said he focuses on discipleship, not the politics of Zionism or the Jewish state.

“Because that small area of land

has been conquered and claimed by so many people groups over the years, simple solutions will never be easily found,” the Texas minister said. “We’ve chosen to focus on walking where Jesus walked and experiencing the Lord and Scripture in new and meaningful ways.”

TRUMP AS 21ST CENTURY ESTHER?

Yet American politics and evangelical theology often intertwine in headlines about U.S.-Israel relations.

In an appearance on the Christian Broadcasting Network, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo agreed with an interviewer who likened Trump to the biblical Queen Esther.

“Could it be that President Trump right now has been sort of raised for such a time as this, just like Queen Esther, to help save the Jewish people from the Iranian menace?” CBN’s Chris Mitchell asked Pompeo, a former deacon and Sunday school teacher for an Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Kansas.

“As a Christian, I certainly believe that’s possible,” replied Pompeo, discussing his recent visit to Jerusalem, where he placed a prayer note between stones at the Western Wall, the last remaining part of the second temple of the biblical period.

“To see the remarkable history of the faith in this place and the work that our administration’s done to make sure that this democracy in the Middle East, that this Jewish state remains, I am confident that



Children ride bicycles outside the Hurva Synagogue, also known as Hurvat Rabbi Yehudah he-Hasid, in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem.

the Lord is at work here,” the secretary of state added.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — a Trump favorite — won a fifth term April 9. Now that the election is over, the Trump administration is expected soon to present its “Deal of the Century” plan for Israeli-Palestinian peace that has been in the making for two years.

Pompeo’s remarks came a few days before Trump signed a proclamation recognizing Israel’s sovereignty over the disputed Golan Heights, captured from Syria in the 1967 Mideast war.

“There’s a very biblical as well as historical reason for that,” Jeffress, the Baptist pastor, said of supporting

Israel’s right to control the Golan Heights. “When you’re talking about the Golan Heights or the West Bank, all of these were named in Scripture as a part of Israel originally.

“Israel did not begin in 1948,” he added, referring to the independent state’s creation after World War II and the deaths of 6 million Jews in the Holocaust. “It’s been in existence for thousands of years.”

Ed Stetzer, director of the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College in Illinois, said evangelicals can believe that modern Israel is “prophetically significant” without endorsing the Jewish state’s every action.

“I think that’s part of what people

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BOBBY ROSS JR.

Both Jews and Muslims consider Jerusalem holy as it contains the Temple Mount, which includes Judaism's Western Wall and Islam's al-Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock.

ISRAEL: Twitter war 'not leading to a better life'

FROM PAGE 15
are thinking about today," Stetzer said. "How can evangelical belief — which values the image of God in all people, including Jews, Palestinians and many others — hold to a view that values the restoration of Israel and cares about justice for all peoples?"

DEMOCRACY VS. JEWISH LAW
Ironically, many religious Jews took issue with Zionism, the political movement that emerged in the late 19th century and advocated reestablishing a Jewish homeland in Palestine. "Many Orthodox Jews were opposed to Zionism because (they believed) it hastened what should have been God's work," said rabbi Noam Marans, the American Jewish Committee's director of interreligious and intergroup relations. "The return of the Jewish people to the land of Israel usurped God's domain and empowered human beings to achieve that."

Today, deep religious divisions characterize Israel — a nation of 8.7 million people that occupies a geographic area the size of New Jersey. The overall population is about 81 percent Jewish, 14 percent Muslim, 2 percent Christian, 2 percent Druze and 1 percent other. But often, the conflict is among Jews themselves, as secular and Orthodox Jews clash over what should happen when democratic values collide with Jewish law (*halakha*), according to a Pew Research Center study. Marcie Lenk, a research fellow

at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, grapples with how to deal with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. "For me as a Jewish Israeli, I cannot view my arrival simply as a fulfillment of the destiny of the Jewish people or God's will," Lenk said. "I feel an enormous responsibility to deal with the reality that is Israel. We must find a way for Jews to live in safety and security without neglecting the legitimate needs and claims of the Palestinian people. "For too many people in the world, there is a perception of a zero-sum game," she added. "If we acknowledge or even speak of the other side, they win, and we lose. This is the argument taking place on American college campuses and now even in Congress — the pro-Israel advocates have their talking points, and the anti-Israel group has theirs." Unfortunately, Lenk said, "Nobody crosses from one side to the other, and nobody gains a better understanding of the other. In my opinion, the Twitter war is not leading to a better life for anyone." Huffard's advice for fellow Christians? Visit the Middle East, and gain a firsthand understanding. "There's value in just going there and experiencing it," said the Harding School of Theology professor, who has taken groups to the Holy Land for 25 years. "I would not want anyone to leave Israel hating the Jews. Nor would I want them go away not understanding or empathetic toward the plight of the Palestinians."

Churches of Christ in the Holy Land

TWO MILLENNIA after the church's birth in Jerusalem, a handful of congregations worship in modern-day Israel.

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

NAZARETH, Israel

Here in the hometown of Jesus, busloads of tourists walk the halls of the Basilica of the Annunciation.

The ornate structure — built in the 400s, then torn down and rebuilt repeatedly as Muslims and Christian Crusaders occupied the city — is believed by many to be the site where the angel Gabriel told Mary she would give birth to the Messiah.

A few blocks away, about 50 Christians gather on Sundays to fellowship and remember the sacrifice made by their native Son.

The Nazareth Church of Christ, a group of predominantly Arab believers, is one of a handful of congregations associated with the fellowship that meets across the Holy Land.

The church serves a city of 76,500 souls, many of them from the Greek Orthodox or Coptic Christian faiths. The city also has a growing Muslim population. Evangelism is a challenge.

FROM PENTECOST TO THE 21ST CENTURY

Churches of Christ trace their roots 90 miles to the south of Nazareth and some 2,000 years in the past — to Jerusalem and the Day of Pentecost, as recorded in Acts 2.

Much more recently, in 1960, missionaries Ralph Henley and Ernest Stewart worked among Jews and Arabs of the modern state of Israel to win souls for Christ. Stewart's work led to the baptism of Victor Joseph, an Arab, who worked with a small Church of Christ in Jerusalem. Raji Stephan now ministers for the church. In Galilee, Stewart helped launch a Christian high school that is now self-supporting, though government restrictions prevent missionaries from working with the school.



In the city of Nazareth, a billboard bearing a verse from the Quran stands near the steeple of the Basilica of the Annunciation.

BRIDGES BETWEEN JEWS AND CHRISTIANS

Downtown Jerusalem is home to Netivyah, a Bible instruction ministry with ties to Churches of Christ.

The ministry's founder, Joseph Shulam, is from a Bulgarian Sephardic Jewish family that immigrated to Israel in 1948. In high school Shulam was introduced to the New Testament and became fascinated with the teachings of Yeshua (Jesus).



Shulam

He became a Christ-follower and was rejected by his family. He traveled to the U.S. and finished high school in Dasher, Ga., and studied at two schools associated with Churches of Christ — Michigan Christian College (now Rochester College) near Detroit and Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn. He also studied at Hebrew University and Orthodox Jewish Yeshiva (Rabbinical College) in Jerusalem.

He founded Netivyah (Hebrew for "the way of the Lord") to build "bridges of understanding between Israel and the nations, between Jews and Christians, through the restoration of the first century disciples of Yeshua," according to the ministry's



PHOTO VIA WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/NAZARETHCOC

Members of the Nazareth Church of Christ take the Lord's Supper during worship.

website. Netivyah offers courses on Judaism and teaches the New Testament "in light of (its) Jewish context and roots," the website says. Netivyah also helps Jewish Christians around the world and the poor in Jerusalem with humanitarian aid and food distribution.

Netivyah's facility also serves as the meeting place for a Messianic Jewish congregation. This year the ministry celebrates its 40th anniversary.

THE CHURCH IN JESUS' HOMETOWN

The church in Nazareth began in 1960 through the efforts of Stewart and Henley. At least nine families have served as missionaries in Nazareth in the years since, said Evertt Huffard, a professor at

Harding School of Theology who provides church equipping for missions through Mission Resource Network. Huffard and his wife, Ileene, served as missionaries in Nazareth for five years and return regularly to encourage the church, which is supported by the Broadway Church of Christ in Lubbock, Texas. Maurice Jadon serves as minister.

Two millennia after Jesus walked the streets of Nazareth, Jadon said, "Our goal and dream is that the Church of Christ in Nazareth will be a center of preaching." The church also hosts hundreds of Christian tourists each year.

WEBSITES: facebook.com/nazarethcoc and netivyah.org



Yossi Shain, chairman of Tel Aviv University's political science department, lectures on Israel's history.



The Smiling Whale in Jaffa — known in the Bible as Joppa — was sculpted in 1983 by Ilana Goor. When Jonah fled from God, he went to Joppa and boarded a ship. After a storm, he was thrown overboard and swallowed by a huge fish.



U.S. religion journalists enjoy a traditional lunch at a Bedouin tent while on a tour of Israel.



Blessed are those who don't bring guns to the Mount of Beatitudes. A sign outlining proper behavior greets tourists at the place where, according to tradition, Jesus delivered his famous Sermon on the Mount.



A headline in an Israeli newspaper reports no injuries or damages after a rocket attack from the Gaza Strip.



Brother Olivier, a Benedictine monk, serves in a Catholic monastery in a Muslim village in the Jewish state.

Israel trip prompts reflection on tough questions, but answers remain elusive

JERUSALEM

After a busy day that included a tour of a high-tech company in Ramallah, West Bank, and a visit to the Western Wall in Jerusalem's Old City, I was wrapping up dinner when my phone pinged. "Your mom just called super worried," my wife texted from 7,000 miles away. About the same time, a friend emailed to make sure I was OK. What in the world? As I soon learned, rockets fired from the Gaza Strip had set off air raid sirens

Road Notes



Bobby Ross Jr.

in Tel Aviv, where I had been earlier in the week. No damages or injuries were reported, but the attack quickly made international news. "There is really no need to panic, no need to be concerned," said Lt. Col. (Res.) Avital Leibovich, who served 22 years with the Israel Defense Forces. In a nation with more than a million bomb shelters, this strike — which quickly drew an Israeli military response — was no big deal. Really, Mom. That was just one of many lessons I

learned during my recent trip to Israel. Through the American Jewish Committee's Project Interchange, I was one of a dozen U.S. religion journalists invited to spend a week exploring political, social and religious issues in the Middle East. One day, helicopters took our group from Tel Aviv — Israel's commercial capital on the Mediterranean coast — to Mount Bental, a peak in the Golan Heights overlooking Syria and Lebanon. There, a military official made a case for the occupied territory's strategic significance to Israel's security. That same day, we flew to the Sea

of Galilee, where I could not help but envision Jesus and the apostles. A feeling of peace overcame me. This was probably my favorite place that we experienced in the Holy Land. Yardenit, a Jordan River baptismal site that draws thousands of Christian tourists, seemed more commercialized to me. However, minister friends who take groups there speak highly of its spiritual appeal. After a temporary grounding of our helicopters blamed on a national security alert, we headed to Jerusalem. On the bus to our hotel, we spotted a police-escorted motorcade that

appeared to include Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. "Are they taking him to jail?" one of my fellow journalists quipped, referring to a corruption investigation against the long-serving Israeli leader, who was re-elected April 9. The next morning, we drove over to Bethlehem, the city where Jesus was born that is now 90 percent Muslim and 10 percent Christian — and losing Christian residents quickly, according to our Palestinian Catholic tour guide. "It is so sad for us," the guide said. The Defense Wall or Defense Fence is what the Israelis call the wall separating Jerusalem from Bethlehem. To the Palestinians, it's the Apartheid Wall or Separation Fence. International media describe it as the Israeli West Bank Barrier. To the Israelis, the wall is a matter of security that has curtailed suicide bombings that once plagued the Jewish state. To the Palestinians, the barrier is a symbol of oppression and decreased economic opportunities. Our hosts said they hoped the Project Interchange experience gave us an enhanced understanding of issues in the Middle East and made us think about tough questions. It certainly did

that, even if the answers remain elusive. Originally, a day in Gaza was on our itinerary. But the missile fire put an end to those plans. Instead, we visited a Benedictine monastery west of Jerusalem. There, a French Catholic monk named Brother Olivier talked about the positive bonds he has formed with his Muslim neighbors in the Jewish state. "I love Israel. We are very happy," he said, suggesting that — just perhaps — peace is possible, even among those of different ethnicities and religions.

CONTACT: bobby.ross@christianchronicle.org



PHOTO BY MADDALENA MALTESE, PHOTOS ABOVE BY BOBBY ROSS JR. Bobby Ross Jr. at the Sea of Galilee



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JESSE LONG

LCU professors tout 'spiritual journey'

Jesse C. Long Jr.'s expertise in the Old Testament and archaeology comes in handy as he and JoAnn, his wife of 44 years, lead groups to the Middle East. He is the dean of the Bible college at Lubbock Christian University in Texas, while she is a nursing professor at LCU. Most recently, they organized a 13-day spring break trip to Israel and Jordan. "We are intentional about not just learning about, but experiencing, the

Land of the Holy One," Jesse Long said. "We'll have a devotional each evening," he said. "My wife and I frame it as a spiritual journey." He wishes every Bible major could experience the Holy Land. "It's really a shame that it costs so much," he said. "I think it changes the way that people read Scripture. It's something that can be really formative. "Especially a young person can really be formed spiritually. So that's needed for all our Christian universities and schools, if we could make this available to students."



PHOTO PROVIDED BY CLINT BURNETT

Following, kind of, in the footsteps of Jesus

For Clint Burnett, frequent trips to Israel make the Bible seem more concrete. Burnett, who leads the Churches of Christ campus ministry at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, earned a Ph.D. in biblical studies with a New Testament focus from Boston College. "I don't think I've had a religious experience as I've traveled," Burnett said. "I can tell you that I've had a more profound appreciation for the Bible.

"As a historian and also someone who excavates, I know that as I'm walking, I'm not walking where Jesus walked — because he probably walked 4 or 5 feet below where I'm treading," he added. "But it's really, really cool. It makes it real that these are actual places that we read about." One memorable experience: He woke up to air raid sirens after missiles were fired from the Gaza Strip. But since his bedroom was that residence's bomb shelter, he stayed put. "It was a surreal kind of moment to think about how different life is there," Burnett said.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY DALE MANOR

A gift that proved to be 'worth every penny'

Since 2000, Dale W. Manor has served as the field director for the Tel Beth-Shemesh Excavation Project in Israel. Manor, professor of archaeology and Bible at Harding University in Searcy, Ark., first traveled to the Holy Land in the mid-1970s. "It was a gift to me from my parents after I graduated from Pepperdine with my bachelor's in Bible," Manor said. "My dad said, 'This trip will be worth every penny, over any class you ever took at the

university, as far as enhancing your Bible understanding and so forth." His father was right, Manor said. Over the years, he has traveled to Israel more than 30 times. Since beginning work with the Tel Beth-Shemesh Excavation Project, he has made the trip almost every year, sometimes more than once, he said. "I'm always learning something that I can use in a meaningful way to help illustrate and explain what's going on in the Bible," Manor said. "I really do believe it enriches the communication of the message to the congregation and the class."

BIBLE CAMPS

LARIAT CREEK CHRISTIAN CAMP

GEARY, Okla. — For 40 years, Lariat Creek Christian Camp has helped point lives to Christ. In 2013, the camp's board of directors launched a fund-raising campaign to improve the existing structures.

Now the board is working to complete the final phase of fund-raising — about \$130,000 is needed to hit the goal of \$380,000 — to complete the projects, including a welcome center, a water storage facility and a bath house, President Clay Bryant said.

Kitchen and cabin renovations as well as a new worship area are on a list of future improvements. For more information, see www.lariatcreek.org.



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY BAXTER INSTITUTE

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

COLUMBIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

PORTLAND, Ore. — Ami Vensel has been named president of Columbia Christian School and will assume the new role Sept. 1. Vensel taught second grade at Columbia Christian,



Vensel

which is associated with Churches of Christ, for 10 years before becoming principal in 2013. Previously, she taught at Crossroads Christian School for nine years. She also coached volleyball and basketball at both schools. Vensel and her husband, Dan, have four sons, all of whom graduated from or attend Columbia Christian. They are members of the Metro Church of Christ, where Dan serves as a deacon.

HIGHER EDUCATION

HERITAGE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

FLORENCE, Ala. — The Association of Biblical Higher Education has reaffirmed the accreditation of Heritage Christian University for 10 years.

The ABHE reviews and accredits 145 Bible colleges and universities throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Accreditation enables access to

'unChristian' author Kinnaman speaks in Central America



Church researcher and author David Kinnaman speaks to students at Baxter Institute, a ministry training school in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, associated with Churches of Christ. Kinnaman, president of faith-based research group Barna and author of books including "unChristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks about Christianity ... and Why It Matters," spoke on "Screen Disciples: How to Reach a Digital World," said Baxter president Steve Teel. Kinnaman stayed on campus and visited with the institute's students. Two of his children participated in a medical brigade with doctors from Baxter's clinic and built a wood slat for a family that works with Breaking Chains, a church-supported ministry.

federal funding and helps to ensure high academic standards. It also assists with the transfer of credits to other institutions of higher learning.

"Partnering with ABHE to prepare our students for ministry has been invaluable," President Kirk Brothers said.

"In addition to accreditation, they offer numerous workshops which help us to stay up-to-date on best practices in Christian education."

For 50 years, Heritage Christian has provided a biblically based education to students who desire to become proficient communicators of the gospel of Christ. The university offers associate's, bachelor's and master's degrees.



Brothers

MAGNOLIA BIBLE INSITUTE

KOSCIUSKO, Miss. — Out of the ashes of Magnolia Bible College, a new school of preaching has been established.

Eighteen students are enrolled in for-credit studies through the Magnolia Bible Insitute, overseen by the elders of the Kosciusko Church of Christ.

"Back in the days of Magnolia Bible College, we often used 2 Timothy 2:2 as our reason for existing," Les Ferguson Jr., the institute's director, said in the *Magnolia Messenger*. "That passage is also the reason for MBI's existence."

Citing flat enrollment and funding woes, the 33-year-old Magnolia Bible College closed a decade ago.

YORK COLLEGE

YORK, Neb. — The Clayton Museum of Ancient History at York College

will be a 2019 Nebraska Passport Program site.

In an effort to make ancient history available to the people of the Midwest, the museum collects, researches, preserves, exhibits and



Houston

interprets objects relating to the ancient world. Many of the artifacts on display have a biblical or church history tie-in. "The selection as a passport site means that an estimated extra 1,000 people will visit the important collection this summer," York spokeswoman Chrystal Houston said. "This is a great opportunity for a general audience to be exposed to the ministry offered by this collection."

CALENDAR

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

May 24-25 SERVE Ministries Workshop. Athens Church of Christ, Athens, Tenn. (423) 745-0554. See churchinvolvement.com.

June 26-28 Summer Celebration 2019. Lipscomb University, Nashville, Tenn. (800) 333-4358. See lipscomb.edu.

July 21-26 The Texas Normal Singing School. Abilene, Texas. (806) 777-8417. See singingschool.org.

July 21-26 Theology Academy. Oklahoma Christian University. (405) 425-5370. See oc.edu/calendar.

July 25-28 Angel Fire Bible Symposium. Angel Fire, N.M. Contact John Smith: john@johnwsmith.com. See angelfirebiblesymposium.com.

July 29-Aug. 2 Global Reunion 2019. Oklahoma Christian University, Edmond, Okla. Nancy.Hartman@oc.edu. See intermissionministry.org.

Sept. 5 Eastern European Mission Tyler Event. Bushman's Celebration Center, Bullard, Texas. (800) 486-1818. See eem.org/events.

Sept. 10 Eastern European Mission Nashville Event. The Factory at Franklin, Franklin, Tenn. (800) 486-1818. See eem.org/events.

Sept. 15-18 Abilene Christian University Summit. Abilene, Texas. (325) 674-3783. See acu.edu/summit.

Sept. 29-Oct. 2 Harding University Bible Lectureship. Searcy, Ark. (501) 279-4449. See www.harding.edu/events/lectureship.

Oct. 10-12 Global Mission Conference. World Bible School. Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ and Brentwood Christian School, Austin, Texas. (512) 345-8190. See gmc2019.org.

Oct. 14-17 Abundant Living Branson Retreat. (501) 279-4005. See abundantlivingseniors.com.

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

Family and Community Outreach Minister

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

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National champions ... again

IN DOUBLE-OVERTIME THRILLER, *Lubbock Christian's women's basketball team claims NCAA Division II crown.*

BY MURRAY EVANS | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

For the second time in four seasons, Lubbock Christian University is the NCAA Division II champion in women's basketball.

Maddi Chitsey hit a clutch 3-pointer to force a second overtime, and the fifth-seeded Chaparrals ran away from second-seeded Southwestern Oklahoma State in the second extra period, winning 95-85 on Friday night in the national championship game played at Ohio Dominican University in Columbus, Ohio.

By winning the longest championship game in Division II history and ending their opponent's 35-game winning streak, Lubbock Christian, which is associated with Churches of Christ, became the ninth team in Division II history to win multiple national titles.

LCU senior Olivia Robertson, who scored a game-high 24 points, was named as the Elite Eight's most outstanding player while Chitsey joined her on the all-tournament team.



Robertson

"What a crazy game," LCU coach Steve Gomez said. "It's so sad to have someone lose that game. They were awesome. They made clutch plays. We made clutch plays. I appreciate



LUBBOCK CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

The LCU Chaparrals forced the first-ever double-overtime contest in the history of women's NCAA national title games.

our girls, our assistant coaches and their families and their high school coaches that made them good players. They made it easy for us.

"I just didn't know what was going to happen. The game is crazy. Basketball is crazy. Luckily, that doesn't define us or them as people. It was an awesome experience, and I appreciate our girls."

Unlike in 2016, when Lubbock Christian finished 35-0 en route to winning the national title in its first season in Division II, the Chaparrals entered this season's tournament as underdogs. LCU was seeded only third in Division

II's South Central Region but swept Tarleton State (Texas), Colorado Mesa (on the road) and Angelo State (Texas) to win the region and advance to the Elite Eight.

In Columbus, Lubbock Christian routed North Georgia 99-54 on Tuesday before taking down a pair of 35-win teams ranked in the top five nationally. First, the Chaparrals led most of the way while beating No. 1-ranked, previously undefeated Drury (Mo.) 69-60 on Wednesday.

Lubbock Christian (32-5) had lost by two points at Southwestern Oklahoma State (35-2) in December in Weatherford, Okla., and the

rematch was every bit as close. Both teams held double-digit leads before the other rallied. Southwestern Oklahoma State missed two shots in the final seconds of regulation that would have won the game.

With the clock winding down in the first overtime, Robertson missed a 3-point attempt but Allie Schulte rebounded and passed to Chitsey, who hit a game-tying shot from the right wing to forge a 75-75 tie with 2.5 seconds left.

The Chaparrals scored the first 10 points of the second overtime and Southwestern Oklahoma State never recovered.

LCU president Tim Perrin stepping down, returning to Pepperdine

LUBBOCK, Texas — Tim Perrin, president of Lubbock Christian University for seven years, is stepping down and returning to Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif., where he spent 20 years in faculty and administrative roles.

Starting in August, Perrin will serve as a senior vice president at Pepperdine, working closely with the incoming president, Jim Gash. Perrin had been one of four other finalists to succeed longtime Pepperdine

President Andrew Benton.

During Perrin's tenure, Lubbock Christian launched the 2020 Vision Campaign, the largest in its history. To date, the university has raised \$70 million in gifts and pledges, exceeding the victory goal of \$60 million.

"We have been so very blessed to have Tim and Lucy Perrin as our president and first lady for these past seven years," said Terry Creech, chair of the LCU Board of


Trustees. "We are experiencing great momentum at the university, and Tim Perrin has a talented, seasoned team in place that is very capable of keeping the momentum going as we search for the next individual God has in mind to lead LCU."

Perrin said: "It has been the thrill of a lifetime to serve my alma mater as president for the last seven years. Lucy and I have been privileged to have a front-row seat to see God at work here."




LUBBOCK CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Tim Perrin has served as president of Lubbock Christian for seven years.



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A BOSTON MARATHONER says a key to running in the race of her life was ‘running a good race’ at home

26.2 miles of grit and gratitude

BY LYNN McMILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

I thanked God so many times today,” said Katie Clark, a member of the Memorial Road Church of Christ in Oklahoma City, after she completed her first Boston Marathon.

There was plenty to *not* be thankful for as she ran the 26.22-mile course from the rural New England town of Hopkinton to John Hancock Tower in Copley Square. After training through an unusually cold Oklahoma winter, she faced a hot and humid Monday morning — and the dreaded Newton Hills.

“I could’ve sworn there were at least seven of them,” she said. (There are four.)

At mile 24.5, when she was struggling, she caught sight of her husband, Michael and their 11-year-old daughter, Macy, along with friends Meredith and Jeremy Edwards. “They gave me the boost I needed to finish,” she said.

The Clarks, also the parents of Max (7), Mallory (4) and Maddox (1), are partners in ministry, serving in their church’s Celebrate Recovery program and children’s ministry. Michael Clark coaches drama for Leadership Training for Christ.

“Running a good race” for Christ, as Paul writes in Galatians 5 and 2 Timothy 4, is a vital part of marathon training, said Katie Clark, who ran cross country and track for Oklahoma Christian University from 2000 to 2003 and broke multiple school running records. After graduation she coached runners at the high school and college levels.

In Boston, she stayed focused — and thankful — as she crossed the finish line at 3 hours, 24 minutes and 4 seconds — a personal record by more than five minutes. Her time qualifies her for a return trip to Boston in 2020.

Why did you want to run in the Boston Marathon?

When I was a kid, I used to sleep in my dad’s shirt that said, “In Training for the Boston Marathon.” My dad is a runner and got me running when I was about 9 years old, but he never ran the Boston Marathon. Hearing him talking about Boston planted a seed when I was very young. I knew



MEREDITH EDWARDS

Katie Clark gets a wave of encouragement from her husband, Michael, in Boston.

I wanted to run the race one day.

Also, Boston has qualification standards by gender and age, so I wanted to challenge myself to qualify for Boston.

How does running relate to your Christian life?

Running gives me an outlet to connect with God. It’s a time for me to stop all the outside distractions that can consume my day-to-day life. I like to think, pray and listen to sermons and scripture while I’m running.

I used to use running more as an escape from the world. I would shut down and try not to think. I would just ignore my problems instead of addressing them.

Now I use my running time to work through different issues. I come back home feeling refreshed. I feel like running makes me a better wife, mom and friend. It is one way to connect with God, and it means a lot to me.

What does your family think about your training and participation in these races?

My family has been very supportive. Marathon training

is hard on everyone involved! I train many hours each week, so it requires some flexibility and understanding from everyone.

I love being a stay-at-home mom to four wonderful children, but it’s also nice to have something that’s mine. I used to feel guilty about spending so much time on myself, but I now know I also know the importance of doing what I love.

My kids have watched me work really hard to achieve this dream, and they are my biggest cheerleaders! I hope I’ve been a good example to them of setting a goal and putting in the work to achieve it.

What was on your mind as you prepared for the Boston Marathon?

That I am overwhelmed with gratitude! I absolutely love running, and it’s such a gift. I tried to qualify

for Boston four times before I reached my goal at the BQ.2 Marathon in Chicago last September. I will never forget how I felt in that moment!

I think my previous failed attempts made my qualification that much sweeter. It makes me so happy to use the gift God has given me. I have received so much love and support from family and friends, and it’s been a big encouragement for me.

Describe your training routine.

I have used my coach, Enoch Nadler, for my last two marathon training cycles, and it’s been so helpful. My husband and I met Enoch and his wife, Angela, while on vacation last year. Enoch and Angela are the owners and coaches of Team Florida Track Club in Gainesville, Fla. Enoch plans all my runs and strengthening/stretching routines and loads them on an app that I check and complete each day. I run 50-65 miles each week.

I also focus on injury prevention with the strengthening and stretching routines to keep me healthy and injury-free. I usually wake up between 4 and 5 a.m. six days a week so I can get my run in before the day gets crazy.

‘I used to use running more as an escape from the world. ... Now I use my running time to work through different issues. I come back home feeling refreshed. ... It is one way to connect with God.’

Katie Clark, on faith and marathons

Is there a scripture that you live by, a favorite?

I love 2 Corinthians 12:9: “But he said to

me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.”

I am so incredibly thankful for God’s love and grace. I make mistakes and have imperfections, but God can still use me for his glory.

I try to be open and honest about



MARATHONFOTO

Katie Clark crosses the 2019 Boston Marathon finish line with a time of 3:24:04.

my struggles because I know many others have struggles, too. I sometimes have the tendency to hide my weaknesses, but I know I'm where I am today because of God.

It's difficult to be vulnerable. But I also know that is how we connect with others. I love seeing how God uses our struggles to help others who are going through something similar.

Now that you have run the race, what takeaways do you have from the experience?

Even though it was a tough run, I *loved* being out there running the race! As I tell my kids all the time, "We do hard things in this family!" And accomplishing something when it's so challenging makes it that much sweeter. I tried to soak up every moment. I wanted to run a PR (personal record), but I didn't want to be so focused on my time that I didn't enjoy the experience.

I felt so overwhelmed with gratitude. I thanked God so many times — especially as I struggled through the last several miles. I tried really hard to focus on feeling grateful for the amazing opportunity to accomplish a lifelong dream instead of how much my body was hurting.

So many times what we choose to focus on can completely change our outlook. For me, during the race, it was gratitude. Also, I loved sharing this experience with so many others.

When I decided to try to qualify for Boston, it was scary to be vulnerable and share such a big goal with my family and friends, especially when I kept missing that goal. But it gave others an opportunity to encourage me. I would've missed out on that love and support if I had kept it to myself.

MINISTER NEEDED

Small congregation looking for a minister to work in south-central Pa. Some salary provided, but other income or support is needed.

Chambersburg Church of Christ
PO Box 221
Chambersburg, PA 17201
(717) 261-0835 (lv msg)
cofc@innernet.net

Full-Time Minister

Congregation of 80, in Licking, Mo., is seeking a full-time minister. Growth potential is above average. Starting salary is \$36,400. For more information, please contact us at:

lickingchurchofchrist@yahoo.com

(417) 967-6484
(573) 674-3340

Full-Time Pulpit Minister - Pleasanton, Texas

The **Pleasanton Church of Christ** is seeking a full-time pulpit minister. Our current minister will be retiring in September 2019; this position will need to be filled on 1 Sept 2019. We seek a man with at least five years of experience preaching with Church of Christ congregations. He should be deeply dedicated to the inerrancy of the scriptures and able to show the relevance of its message in today's diverse and ever-changing culture. We prefer a family man who can lovingly connect with our membership, spanning from the youngest to our most seasoned saints. We offer a competitive salary based on experience and education.

There is the expectation that the prospective minister will at a minimum teach a Bible class on either Sunday or Wednesday, will preach both Sunday morning and evening services and be recognized as the office staff manager.

We believe in elder-centered leadership, believe in a literal interpretation of the Scriptures, hold that baptism is essential to salvation, utilize males exclusively in leading the public worship assemblies, and conduct traditional congregational-style a cappella worship services.

Pleasanton is a town 30 minutes south of San Antonio, Texas, with a growing population of more than 10,000 people. We have an average Sunday morning attendance of 200, seven shepherds, nine deacons and an associate minister whose focus is youth and family. For more information on our congregation, visit:

pleasantonchurchofchrist.com

Our Mission Statement: We are a body of believers who have met in this community since 1910 with the goal of not only establishing the Lord's Church in this place but also of maintaining its viability throughout the ages until Christ's return.

Our Vision Statement: We were created in Christ Jesus for good works and see the Lord's family in this place reaching a dying and lost world with the good news of Jesus Christ.

If you feel you satisfy the above requirements and would like the opportunity to serve with us, please provide a copy of your resume, including personal and professional references (three each), and at least one DVD/file/link of a sermon you have preached within the last year. All packages with the requested information need to be sent by May 31, 2019 to:

PO Box 104, Pleasanton, TX 78064

The search committee chairman is **Wayne Johnson** and can be contacted at: (830) 391-2571, or email him at wjohnson4945@sbcglobal.net.

SEEKING FULL-TIME MINISTER - Cleveland Heights, Ohio

"To Love like Jesus, To Serve like Jesus and To Teach others to do the same"

Forest Hill Church of Christ in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, is actively searching for an energetic and visionary pastor whom God has chosen to lead our 55-member congregation into the future. We are a mature, multicultural group of believers, most of whom have been members for 20-plus years, who are ready to transition from what they have always been to what they can potentially become! We meet in a church building that is mortgage-free and located in a multicultural suburb of Cleveland. The location is situated on a major thoroughfare and is in close proximity to four major universities, a cultural arts center, and two major hospital systems, making it a prime location for outreach.

The ideal candidate should have a clear, personal love for Jesus and his teachings. He should also possess a deep love and compassion for people, their societal struggles, and the well-being of their souls, whether they are members or not. Also, he must have proven pastoral skills, be ready to establish and support new and innovative outreach efforts, and be willing to work in cooperation with the congregation's elders and deacons.

A minimum of a bachelor's degree is preferred but will consider a candidate with at least three years of established pastoral experience.

Primary responsibilities will include practical and relevant preaching and teaching, hospital and home-bound visitation, office hours for member consults will also be required.

Please submit your resume and sample audio or video sermons to:

Forest Hill Church of Christ
Attn: Search Team
3425 Mayfield Rd., Cleveland Heights, OH. 44118-1307
or email: mail@cocfh.org

Worship Minister

North Oaks Church of Christ is searching for a worship minister to organize our Sunday morning assembly and lead our worship team.

North Oaks Church of Christ
Canyon Country, California
Northoakscoc.org
tophand@joeherrington.com

Full-Time Minister

The **Northside Church of Christ** in Spokane, Wash., is seeking a full-time minister. This is an exciting opportunity for a minister that has a talent for discipling and is an open-minded visionary not tied to traditions. Spokane is nestled between the Cascade and Rocky mountains. The community is home to 4 universities, a diversifying economy, and significant sports and cultural events year-round (Bloomsday and Hoopfest). Visit our website for a complete job description and the application requirements.

www.nsidechurch.org

Milestones

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

Birthday

Lucille Coppinger
100 years

Lucille celebrated with her family and friends at a potluck party sponsored by the Church of Christ in



Hamilton, Mont., on April 14, 2019. She was born in Iowa and moved to California in 1942, where she met and married Terrell (Terry) Coppinger. They attended the Tulare Church of Christ where she was baptized. They moved to Hamilton, Mont., in 2000 to be closer to their daughter. They became active members of the Hamilton Church of Christ where they both sent greeting cards to visitors as well as birthday, anniversary, and get-well cards to the members.

Terry died in 2015. Lucille continues with her church activities including her favorite pastime of reading and visiting the sick. She is a marvelous lady and a wonderful example to all of us.

Together Lucille and Terry had one daughter, two grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Happy birthday, Lucille!

Grace Dempsey
100 years

Grace Dempsey will celebrate her 100th birthday on May 18, 2019.



Mrs. Dempsey was crowned the "Valentine Queen 2019" at Tamarack Assisted Living Center in Altus, Okla. She is a Charter Member of Tamarack Road Church of Christ in Altus. She shared her love for learning by

teaching school for 39 years. She is active in the Jackson County Retired Teachers Association. She was the AARP treasurer and a nominee for the "2013 Oklahoma Andrus Award for Community Service."

Grace was the American Legion secretary/treasurer and compiled information for this area at the "Oklahoma Girls State" program. She was the secretary/treasurer for the Good Sams, for whom she produced a creative monthly newsletter. She currently volunteers with the Great Plains Literacy Council, and she received the "Above and Beyond Tutoring Award." She "exercises" by participating in the Oklahoma Silver Belles Line Dancing Group. They perform at Veterans Day programs, area assisted living and nursing centers.

Mrs. Dempsey is a loyal Oklahoma City Thunder Fan! On game nights you will find her watching the game at Tamarack with her 94-year-old sister-in-law, Bernice Duncan, or her grandsons Kyle and Todd Eshleman. She has been to the Thunder Chesapeake Energy Arena with her daughters and sons-in-law, Elaine and Dave Hill and Carla and Bobby Taylor.

Happy Birthday, Grace!

Anniversaries

Bob and Carolyn Gregg
65 years

Bob and Carolyn Gregg celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on March 13, 2019.

Bob served in the Air Force at Okinawa, Japan, and helped establish the church in Okinawa in 1952.

During their 67 years of preaching, the Greggs have served churches in Arkansas, Illinois, Oklahoma, and Texas. Bob retired from full-time preaching in



2007. He has been a popular teacher at Oklahoma Christian College of Bible for the past 28 years. The Greggs currently live in Mustang, Okla. They have four children, ten grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Congratulations, Bob and Carolyn!

Kenneth and
Connie Tipton
50 years

Dr. Kenneth Tipton and Connie Taylor Tipton were married 50 years ago on June 2, 1969.

Congratulations, Ken and Connie!



Memorials

Boyd Taylor
1922-2019

Boyd Taylor, 96, left this earth for his heavenly home on March 19, 2019. He knew at an early age that he wanted to preach, and he did that for over 80 years.



He graduated from Abilene Christian College

in 1944. Boyd married Geneva Campbell from Ranger, Texas, in 1946.

The churches he served included: Iowa Park, Texas (1944-1951 and 1963-1967); Lincoln Street in Wichita Falls, Texas (1951-1957); Eastside in Irving, Texas (1957-1963); Petrolia, Texas (1967-1973); Austin Street in Garland, Texas (1973-1975); and Heath, Texas (1980-2006).

Boyd was a member of the Saturn Road Church of Christ in Garland, Texas.

He is survived by his children, Sheryl Curlee and Derl Taylor.

NEWSMAKERS



MARK LITTLETON

A bulletin board at the Athens Church of Christ in Tennessee expresses love for the congregation's elders.

HONORED: Ross Harrod, Stuart McKinney and James Summers, elders of the Athens Church of Christ in Tennessee, with an appreciation dinner organized by the Ladies Sunshine Ministry.

Patti Simmons, member of the Greenwood Park Church of Christ in Bowling Green, Ky., with the Legendary Partner Award for 20 years of service with the Barren River Area



Simmons

Child Advocacy Center. **Jerry Mitchell**, investigative reporter and member of the Skyway Hills Church of Christ in Pearl, Miss., with the Our Mississippi Honors Lifetime Achievement Award. **Oklahoma Christian Academy**, a K-12 Christian school in Edmond, Okla., as one of the United States "Best Communities for Music Education" by the NAMM Foundation.

APPOINTED: Trent Wheeler, as director of church relations for Mount Dora Christian Academy and Children's Home in Florida. **Zane Gastineau**, as dean of the College of Sciences at Harding University in Searcy, Ark.

PLACED: Josiah Schmitt, high school senior who placed third in the National Chess Tournament's unrated division. He is the son of David and Glenda Schmitt. His father preaches for the 16th Avenue Church of Christ in Sterling, Ill.

NEW ELDERS: Joseph Gannon, Joe Howe, David Smith and Norbert Vazquez, Lockhart Church of Christ in Texas.



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Southwestern Christian College Chorus sings during the “homegoing celebration” for Patricia Evans, who coordinated “countless musical performances” for the school.

Patricia Evans, ‘Queen Mother’ of Southwestern Christian, dies at 77

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Patricia Officer Evans, longtime matriarch of Southwestern Christian College, died Sunday morning, March 30.

She was 77. “Sister Evans has been and forever will be an integral part of the Southwestern story, having served as our First Lady and Queen Mother for over 50 years,” said Ervin D. Seamster Jr., president of the Terrell, Texas, College, the only HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) associated with Churches of Christ.

“She worked alongside her beloved husband, Jack, to make Southwestern a home to every student that entered,” Seamster said.

A native of Nashville, Tenn., she was the wife of Jack Evans Sr., a longtime minister who served as Southwestern’s president from 1967 to 2017. She taught literature and French for the college and helped coordinate “countless solos and musical performances,” Seamster said.

Eugene Lawton, longtime friend

of the Evanses and minister for the Newark Church of Christ in New Jersey, said of Patricia Evans, “She was a phenomenal woman whose price is far above rubies.”

One of Patricia Evans’ former students was Aaron Sayles, a 1970 graduate of Southwestern who continued his studies at Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City. Sayles retired after a long and distinguished career with RCA and Intel. In 2015 he presented Patricia Evans with a plaque thanking her for her commitment to education.

“Sister Evans, you have touched the hearts and lives of so many students who attended Southwestern Christian College, including mine,” Sayles wrote in a letter to his former teacher. “Sometimes we forget to say thank you to the people who played such an important part in our lives. I want to tell you, thank you for touching my life in such a positive Christian way.”

Patricia Evans and her husband “spent their life helping to build Southwestern Christian College into a college where African-American young people could attend and receive a valuable Christian education,” Sayles said. “She was such an inspiration to those of us who knew her, especially those of us who knew her as students at Southwestern.”



Evans

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dr.robert_mahaffey@oxy.com

Milestones

continued from page 26

Glen Imlay 1953-2019

Glen Alan Imlay, 65, of Macon, Ga., passed away Monday, April 8, 2019.

Born in Chicago, he was the son of the late Chad Imlay and Laverne McDillon Imlay. He was a retired school teacher with the Bibb County School System and a very active member of the Thomaston Road Church of Christ. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Catherine Laverne Imlay.

Mr. Imlay was a proud Vietnam veteran serving in the U.S. Navy.

He is survived by his wife, Lisa Zahnd Imlay, and children: Chad (Angie) Imlay, Allison (Jim) Roberts, Amanda (Kevin) Belcher. Grandchildren include: Hannah (Jesse) Poole, Jacob and Dylan Belcher, Daniel and Garrett Roberts.



Herman L. Jackson 1956-2018

Herman L. Jackson was a member of the Stony Island Church of Christ in Chicago, Ill., where he served as an elder until his sudden death in September 2018.

Along with his wife, Brenda, and their two children, Terria and Pierre,

the Jacksons placed their membership at Stony Island in 1999. Prior to that, Herman labored as minister at the 39th Street Church of Christ and Vincennes Avenue Church of Christ in Chicago, respectively.

Herman was a member of the Church of Christ since the age of 11. Both his parents were life-long members, and his father, Herman Jackson Sr., was minister and later an elder of the congregation where he served.

After graduating from high school at the age of 16, Herman attended the University of Illinois; he then served four years in the United States Navy as a medic. Six months after his discharge in 1980, he married Brenda, and they began life together as one. They have been blessed with a daughter and a son.

Herman’s family, the Stony Island church family, and brothers and sisters throughout the brotherhood mourn his loss, celebrate his life, and cherish his memory.



With Appreciation

The Christian Chronicle appreciates and acknowledges very generous gifts received in honor of Gary and Barbara Lyons and Lynn and Joy McMillon and in memory of Dr. Bill Billingsly, Nicholas Esene, Gordon Parmenter, and Frances Phillips.

EDITORIAL

Yes, the Bible tells the stories of real people and places

Admit it: Sometimes, it's easy to read the Bible or hear it preached and become complacent. It's helpful to be reminded that the Scriptures are the living, breathing word of God. Amen!

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us," John 1:14 tells us. *"We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

In this issue, we've devoted several pages of coverage to the Holy Land. In researching this topic, we enjoyed talking to a number of Christians who travel to Bible sites.

Dan Cooper, minister for the Pitman Church of Christ in Sewell, N.J., and his wife, Katherine, are among those who make faith-affirming journeys to the Middle East. Since 1976, they've led eight tours to Israel and neighboring countries.



Dan and Katherine Cooper at Mars Hill

"It is not possible for me to ever sail on the Sea of Galilee too many times," Katherine Cooper said. "It's just not possible to meditate in the Garden of Gethsemane too many times. Each trip to Israel is profoundly spiritual for us. That's one reason Dan and I continue to visit."

Said Dan Cooper: "My groups are usually composed of both believers and nonbelievers, those who are very devout in their Christian faith and those who travel with us merely to learn and experience history."

As a result of what they see, some of those nonbelievers turn to Jesus and ask to be baptized in the Jordan River.

Praise God!

FROM OUR READERS

Thanks for tackling tough subjects

Thank you for your in-depth reporting of issues that are of a sensitive nature. It is short-sighted and hypocritical to pretend that Churches of Christ are above reproach. The issue dated April 2019 contained the kind of honest and truthful reporting that makes *The Christian Chronicle* an outstanding publication. Your voice is essential to the well-being of Churches of Christ in the spiritual warfare we all must face.

HAROLD CARPENTER | Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio

This makes me cry. ("After 50 years, an apology," Page 17, April.) We arrived in Oklahoma City in August 1969. My husband graduated from Oklahoma Christian in December 1970. I have never heard of this.

Praying for healing at such a late date. I am glad that so many remained faithful. The deepest hurts happen at the hands of our brethren. It is so shocking when they fall short of Jesus' example.

JONNIE B MOULDER | via Facebook

Thanks for addressing these issues in a positive manner. (Editorial, "Expose the boils of injustice," Page 28, April.)

Too many think these issues are past — and some are — but they have lasting effects. I hold no grudges, but my mind remembers being turned away with my family as a kid (from white churches), not being able to worship without driving 28 miles away. The ones who turned us away gave Dad money to build a building.

We have to forgive and love each other. To say injustice is over is to bury it. Most of the time, when injustice is addressed the opposing side says things like: "People need to move on; they're holding grudges." I have heard all of this where I worship, but praise be to God, I love all my brethren and hold no bitterness.

GRACE BROOKS JACKSON | via Facebook

Thanks for standing up to what you knew was wrong. (Dialogue: "Tell somebody. Don't keep quiet." Page 9, April.)

I pray you return to your faith and find a way to help others who have gone through what you did. God bless you!

BRITT FARMER | via Facebook

The April 2019 issue of *The Christian Chronicle* was one of the most important and timely issues I have read.

The articles were written with such insight and transparency, reporting about issues that affect Christians in everyday life. I appreciate the courage that it took each of the contributors to speak truth to negativity in the church. In the past, negative experiences have been hidden, yet this issue spoke about them honestly. Just because we are Christians does not make us immune to making mistakes.

Thank you and the entire *Chronicle* team for revealing flaws in our membership, and now we can admit them, humbly turn them over to our God and work to not repeat our mistakes.

JAN TOTTEN | Fort Collins, Colo.

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THE CHURCH’S MISSION DOESN’T END *when victorious warriors move back ‘home’*

Helping missionaries return well

NASHVILLE, Tenn.
The year was 2003, and a young couple was heading to Mozambique to share the good news of Jesus with the Makua-Metto people.

Alan and Rachel Howell were expecting their first child. What adventures would await as they met

with the rest of the mission team for ministry in Africa?

In the years that followed, hundreds were baptized. Dozens of congregations were established. Lives were changed. The Kingdom grew.

The Howells are deeply loved, gifted, and very effective. The shepherds and mission committee of our congregation, the Donelson Church of Christ, had clearly done an excellent job partnering with the Howells. The church has also done an outstanding job supporting this wonderful family throughout their ministry. In addition to periodic visits by various members, provision was made not only for their salary, but a working fund, health insurance, retirement and periodic sabbaticals.

Fifteen years passed. Alan and Rachel were blessed with two more precious girls.

The Howells recently returned from a decade and a half of ministry in the name of Jesus. Before leaving Mozambique, the brothers and sisters there had the Howells dress in traditional clothing and recognized them as “victorious warriors.”

How appropriate. Yes, indeed, the Howells are victorious warriors — as are a lot of missionaries.

Our missions committee and shepherds made decisions that I wish more congregations would consider. They committed to continuing support of the Howells by providing a resettlement fund upon their return to the U.S. What a blessing! That means the Howells



Rachel and Alan Howell stand with a few of the souls they and their three daughters served in the southern African nation of Mozambique.

have time and space to visit family, friends, congregations and to adjust to American culture without the pressure of immediately having to decide where to live, get a job, where to send kids to school.

“I bet you’re glad to be back home,” a few people said to the Howells’ girls. But the United States is not their home; Mozambique is.

And the U.S. is not the same country that Alan and Rachel left in 2003. Culture shock is challenging even for adults — let alone for kids.

As a part of their return, our congregation saw the importance of sending the Howells to reentry debriefing and counseling. It has been a blessing for them to have some time to adjust.

Reflecting on the reentry process, Alan Howell said that the retreat,

the resettlement fund and time off after arrival were all so important to his family.

Elders, mission committees, brothers and sisters, please consider how to support missionaries in tangible ways — not only when they are in the mission field, but also as they return.

Missions Resource Network, a nonprofit associated with Churches of Christ, has a host of materials for helping churches do missionary care and reentry well. Learn more at www.mrnet.org/caring.

May we celebrate our missionaries and honor them for the great service they give in the name of the Lord.

RUSS KING is minister of community outreach and church life for the Donelson Church of Christ in Nashville. See donelsonchurch.org.

A transmission of trust to God

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

— Psalm 139:23-24, New Living Translation

I sat in the dealership and listed five things I was thankful for in that moment.

One of those things was having enough income to meet our obligations, be generous with others and prepare for our future.

And then they told me we need a new transmission.

Lord, in about every aspect of my life, I hear you asking me, “Do you trust me to guide you? Do you know I have my best in mind for you, daughter? This is getting really good!”

So today I’m laughing, throwing up my hands and saying, “I don’t feel like I’ve got much of a choice! Because there’s no way I’m ever doing it all with my own strength.”

But I don’t have to. I have asked God to put me in over my head, so I see him and trust him.

I feel in over my head in parenting. In work. In figuring out our tricky automotive warranty.

But I’m rooted in now. I’m breathing. I’m practicing gratitude. And I’m praying big!

If you haven’t seen God lately, maybe you need to put yourself in places where your dreams are beyond your reach.

That’s when God can extend his arm to reach you.

NICOLE BOEHRIG, a graduate of Harding University in Searcy, Ark., and her husband Sean served as missionaries in the southern African nation of Eswatini. They now live in North Carolina with their two children. A few hours after writing this piece, Nicole Boehrig learned that the transmission replacement was covered by their extended warranty.



Russ King



Nicole Boehrig

Our impoverished view of the Holy Spirit makes ‘Poured Out’ a must-read for Churches of Christ

Leonard Allen has done a tremendous service to the church by writing **“Poured Out: The Spirit of God Empowering the Mission of God.”**

Allen, dean of the College of Bible and Ministry at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn., begins by discussing why the Holy Spirit has been neglected throughout history. It makes no sense, he argues, considering just how prominent the Spirit is in the Bible.

Part of the problem is that the interpretation of the Holy Spirit has been a divisive issue in the church. Due to St. Augustine, Catholics believe the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father “and the Son.” The ancient Orthodox Christians, however, say the Holy Spirit proceeds only from the Father. They argue that Catholics have demoted the Holy Spirit’s role in the Godhead. This issue split the church in the year 1054, a division that persists.

Allen grew up in the Churches of Christ. At an early age, he was exposed to the “Word only” perspective, which effectively collapsed the Holy Spirit into the Bible — or into words. Alexander Campbell was an enthusiast of this interpretation, reasoning that God’s power to affect people is “all contained in words,” Allen writes. Many of us have inherited Campbell’s view.

The other extreme is not much better: when Christians universalize the Spirit, taking it way beyond the biblical witness.

Allen’s familiarity with the Spirit’s presence in the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, is impressive and obvious in this book. While the word “Trinity” is not in the Bible, the concept of the Trinity certainly is. Perhaps “the most remarkable Trinitarian passage in the New Testament,” Allen writes, is Romans 8:11: *“And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.”*

Other important texts are 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, Ephesians 4:4-6, Galatians 4:4-6, 2 Corinthians 13:14 and Ephesians 2:21-22. Monotheism is not compromised in these passages, since “the actions of the Trinity on behalf of the world are indivisible,” Allen writes. Some of the Old Testament passages he deals with include Isaiah 44, Joel 2, Ezekiel 37 and Jeremiah 31.

The sixth chapter of “Poured Out” has much to say to church leaders. In it, Allen discusses the concept that the Spirit forms us into the image of Christ through several practices that can be referred to as

our liturgies. Citing Jamey K. Smith, Allen describes liturgies as “formative, embodied practices” — singing, confessing, preaching, hearing, gathering, praying, suffering, baptizing, communing and sending.

Chapter eight is innovative in its discussion of the spirit’s “groaning.” We long for something else and are often frustrated in the here and now. We live between suffering and glory. Jesus suffered and groaned, but glory was awaiting him. God used suffering and lament to accomplish Jesus’s victory over those stifling powers.

The goal of the entire book is unveiled in chapter seven, titled “Soaring.” Allen discusses redemption and the possibility of real intimacy with God. We have been adopted by God, as children, and God is glorifying us through the Spirit. He is raising us up for glory, making us soar.

This book will be read by many, but it is important that people in Churches of Christ read it because of our comparatively undeveloped pneumatology (study of the Spirit). I think Allen is right to cite Don Miller, who points out that we in the West are impoverished by not understanding the Christians of the Global South very well, and they are famous for their emphasis on the Holy Spirit. Many of them have had their robes washed in blood, such as the Egyptian Christians beheaded by Islamic State militants in 2017. These modern-day martyrs shouted “Jesus!” during their execution.

Allen writes for us, mainly in the West, who need a more robust theology of the Spirit. He rightly points out that Pentecostal Christians have given the Holy Spirit a central place in their theology, although he has little to say about their sometimes startling claims about what the Spirit still does on earth: healing, prophecy, tongues and even occasional claims of resurrection.

Allen does not delve much into these Pentecostal groups — which thrive in the Global South — but that is not his purpose here. His task is to help us in the West, especially those of us in Churches of Christ, to understand the Holy Spirit better and to encourage us to explore it in more creative yet biblical ways.

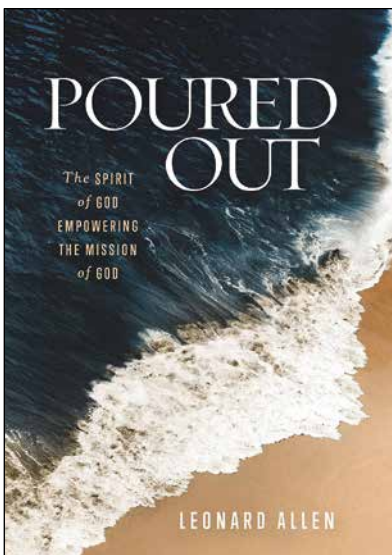
And in this task he succeeds.

DYRON B. DAUGHRITY is a professor of religion at Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif., and the author of books including “Roots: Uncovering Why We Do What We Do In Church,” “Rising: The Amazing Story of Christianity’s Resurrection in the Global South,” “Martin Luther: A Biography for the People” and “To Whom Does Christianity Belong? Critical Issues in World Christianity.”

In Print



Dyron B. Daugherty



Leonard Allen. **Poured Out: The Spirit of God Empowering the Mission of God.** Abilene Texas: Abilene Christian University Press, 2018. 208 pages. \$16.99.

Stroop’s 1949 classic is still relevant today

Seventy years have passed since J. Ridley Stroop wrote **“Why Do People Not See the Bible Alike?”** But this book remains a must-read for all of today’s Christians.

Written in 1949 by Stroop, who taught psychology at David Lipscomb College (now Lipscomb University), it’s an easy read. It’s also excellent for answering important questions.

We are to learn God’s Word, apply God’s Word and teach God’s Word, Stroop writes. Our teaching should cause people to become a certain kind of people. This is possible because God’s word has never changed, and human nature has not changed.

One reason why people do not see the Bible alike is a lack of knowledge. Stroop cites several examples of ignorance in the New Testament — among the Jews, the Gentiles and the religious leaders of the day, the Sadducees and the Pharisees.

Another reason people do not see the Bible alike is deception, a human weakness. Eve was deceived, and Paul feared deception among the Corinthians. Deception was pointed out to the Ephesians as the cause of their former corruption.

Another human weakness is conceit, an excessive opinion of one’s ability or importance (Romans 1:21-22 and 1 Corinthians 3:18). We must measure ourselves by God’s word.

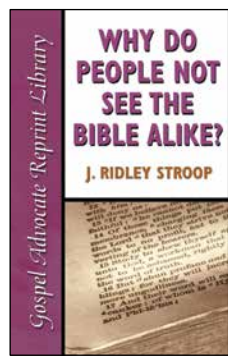
Stroop does not attempt to condemn or justify any religious group. We all stand or fall before God as individuals.

JERRY BAILEY is an elder of the Southside Church of Christ in Portland, Ind.

What we’re reading



Jerry Bailey



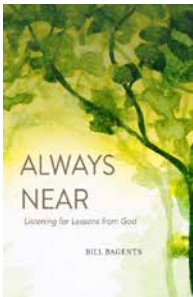
J. Ridley Stroop. **Why Do People Not See the Bible Alike?** Nashville, Tenn.: Gospel Advocate Reprint Library, 2001. 228 pages. \$14.99.

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

ALWAYS NEAR

Bill Bagents. **Listening for Lessons from God.** Heritage Christian University, May 2019. 264 pages. \$19.99. <http://www.hcu.edu/publications/shop/> or from Amazon.

“Always Near” shares one self-confessed odd Christian’s ongoing efforts to hear and honor God in the events of daily life.



It offers a series of devotional reflections that process events and observations through the wisdom of Scripture. It invites the reader to join the adventure of listening for subtle spiritual messages that both bless and challenge. It promotes contemplation and spiritual formation. Occasionally, it even finds a bit of humor.

“Always Near” is a compilation of 120 articles from a decidedly spiritual perspective. It treats the Bible with respect. It flows from conviction that God is all wise and all loving; the better we hear Him, the better we’ll live.

“Always Near” portrays God as the most persistent teacher. He has more ways of gaining our attention than we have of ignoring Him. He is more skilled at reaching out than we are at resisting. He is better at teaching than we are at being dense. Even when we’re seeking Him, God can surprise us with precious lessons that we never saw coming.

Bill Bagents, Vice-President of Academic Affairs at Heritage Christian University, invites us to improve how we hear God and to draw even closer to His heart in “Always Near: Listening for Lessons from God” (Publish Date: May 15, 2019). Books may be purchased at <http://www.hcu.edu/publications/shop/>

or from Amazon.

Excerpt: Thrift stores aren’t the worst places to gain philosophical insights. A recent visit yielded a slightly worn coaster bearing these words: “Always remember that you are unique, just like everyone else.” That’s hard to beat for 75 cents.

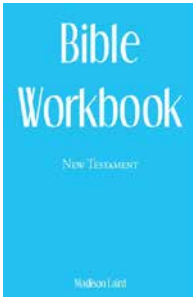
It’s easy to see ourselves as special. In the sense of Psalm 139:14 and John 3:16, that’s great.... Praise God for making each of us one of a kind! Our uniqueness flows from God.

NEW BIBLE WORKBOOK SERIES

Madison Laird. **Bible Workbook.** Zondervan Publishing, Summer 2019. 200 pages each. Inquire at: madison@madisonlaird.com.

A complete workbook series, including outlines and questions covering the entire Bible, will be available soon. Coming from lessons taught over several years, these workbooks are theologically sound and include references to a broad range of key Bible topics such as the importance of baptism by immersion, the centrality of communion in worship, and even the key role that acapella singing plays. These workbooks will be published by a division of Zondervan.™

There are three workbooks in the series, covering the New Testament and the Old Testament in two volumes. Each workbook contains about fifty lessons in about 200 pages. The lessons cover the Bible passage by passage and often study key passages together in chronological arrangement. The lessons also frequently cite other relevant Bible passages in order to help make key points.



Each lesson is structured into a set of bullets which cover the Bible passage by passage, followed by a set of ten to twenty questions. Each bullet is followed by the reference to the Bible passage covered by that bullet. Each question is answered within the bullets themselves.

The material is advanced and is appropriate for adults, college students, and even mature high school audiences. The lesson material is geared toward in-depth Bible study and is intended for the serious student of God’s word.

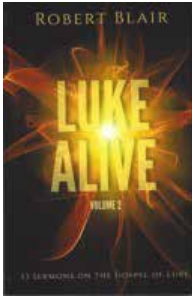
In crediting those responsible for his spiritual development, the author notes several Churches of Christ around the world and several leaders in our Church of Christ educational institutions. He also acknowledges two of our leading songbook editors and even an annual acapella singing event held in Diana, Tenn.

These workbooks will be released early this summer. Questions and requests for samples can be directed to the author at madison@madisonlaird.com.

LUKE ALIVE

Robert Blair. **Luke Alive, Volumes 1 & 2.** CSS Publishing Co., Lima, Ohio. Paperback & e-book, csspub.com, 21stcc.com, Amazon, Barnes & Noble.

Author of the “Funeral & Wedding Handbook” and “The Great Omission,” Robert Blair preached for the Church of Christ in Hollywood from 1963-1991. Blair now lives in Iowa where he and



his wife continue to share Jesus’ Word with many non-church members and unbelievers. “Luke Alive” lessons address such questions as:

- Do you feel as though God favors you?*
- He is always on your side?*
- Does Sunday equal the Sabbath?*
- Why are there sometimes variations in the gospels?*
- Is there life in outer space?*

All lessons are scripturally based. These books make perfect gifts for friends and loved ones with whom you are attempting to share the Gospel. Church members and non-church members comment on the easy-to-read sermons.

What others say:
“Thought-provoking and Christ-centered sermons based on the Gospel of Luke. Each is informed by insights from biblical scholarship on the Gospels.”
Dan Rodriguez, Ph.D.,
Pepperdine University

“Some years ago I was privileged to read The Great Omission with author Bob Blair’s reflections on Christians’ struggles in relation to governments and cultures, with the result that often the fundamental mission of the church is neglected. Bob amplifies this theme in Luke Alive; focusing on Jesus’ pointed and masterful challenges to the culture of his own day. Many of these lessons are puzzling to our modern world, and the passages are often neglected in today’s preaching and teaching. These books take a fresh look at these texts and bring them home with illustrations from Bob’s life, work, and wisdom in the Lord. They will enlighten your mind and lift your heart.”

Larry Walker
Oxford, Miss.

Bless those who mourn; don't preach to them

FROM OBITO TO FUNERALS, new book offers sound advice for sharing Christ's love in the midst of goodbyes.

The brokenhearted need shoulders, not sermons." That jewel of a thesis is at the heart of "**Comfort When the Shadow Falls: Encouraging the Dying and Those Affected by Grief.**"

Author Eddie Sharp, who has ministered at more than 500 funerals, shares from a deep well of ministerial experiences in walking with the dying and griever. A senior consultant with the Siburt Institute for Church Ministry at Abilene Christian University in Texas, he writes in collaboration with Cheryl Mann Bacon, who served for 20 years as chair of ACU's journalism and mass communication department.

Practical and personal, Sharp begins with a rich, biblical basis for death's reality and role in our humanity.

Then he calls us to be God's faithful sojourners with each other in our shared mortality.

Sharp effectively addresses being fully present with a dying person and with the family and survivors during and after death. These can be uncomfortable times for ministers.

But these times also can open opportunities for our most profound representation of a loving God. Learning to walk with (rather than preach to) griever, a minister can enhance the vital place funeral services provide as a place of community mourning and goodbyes.

The book is replete with special, unexpected circumstances a minister may encounter such as sudden death, miscarriage or other sources of grief — divorce, health crises, bankruptcy.

The book includes a template for an obituary and the traditional

components of a memorial service. The author acknowledges, sometimes briefly, some of the more difficult types of funerals ministers must conduct. Veterans and infants are particularly mentioned, as is the occasional instance of responding to a news-covered death. An entire chapter faces the challenging but spiritually helpful "Serving the Unchurched with the Love of Jesus."

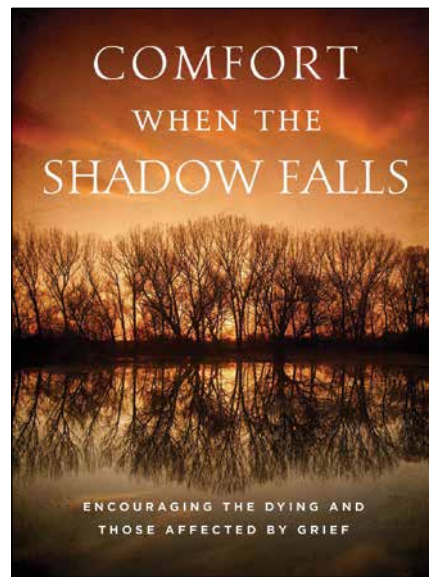
"The church that ministers well to those in grief, loss and dying has a sound foundational theology and a rich vocabulary of worship," Sharp writes. Any minister or congregational care-team member will be richly served by this book.

VIRGIL FRY is executive director of Lifeline Chaplaincy in Houston, a nonprofit dedicated to providing compassionate support to the seriously ill, their families and caregivers, and to being an educational resource for crisis ministry. Churches of Christ partner with Lifeline Chaplaincy. See lifelinechaplaincy.org.

In Print



Virgil Fry



Eddie Sharp (in collaboration with Cheryl Mann Bacon). **Comfort When the Shadow Falls: Encouraging the Dying and Those Affected by Grief.** Abilene, Texas: Abilene Christian University Press, 2019. 144 pages. \$19.99.

Does our focus on purity hinder us from showing mercy?

The concept of purity in relation to sexual integrity is under scrutiny.

While most of us, especially people of faith, understand purity as a positive quality, the messages of the purity culture, according to critics, can be quite harmful, particularly to teenage girls. (See a review of "PURE: Inside the Evangelical Movement That Shamed a Generation of Young Women and How I Broke Free" at christianchronicle.org.)

In the midst of this debate, Richard Beck's "**Unclean: Meditations on Purity, Hospitality, and Mortality**" is a valuable resource. Beck, professor of psychology at Abilene Christian University, delves into the human psyche, the psychology of concepts such as purity and disgust and the ways we are wired to respond to things we find unclean.

Beck connects his findings to the way these responses negatively affect

the life of the church.

He acknowledges that he is an experimental psychologist — not a theologian or biblical scholar — but he writes this book for the church. His intent is to make a case for the way psychological factors affect the way we reflect on God.

Centering his argument on the tension between mercy and sacrifice illustrated in the Pharisees' criticism of Jesus in Matthew 9, Beck digs into what lies at the heart of this

tension. In the case of the Pharisees' judgment against Jesus for associating with sinners, *purity* (a sacrificial impulse) replaces *morality* (a mercy impulse).

In short, purity winds up on the wrong side of what Jesus desires.

Beck points out that words such as "impure" and "impurity" today are typically only used to describe sexual sin. (If a friend confesses to you that he has been having impure

thoughts, you probably don't assume he's been thinking about robbing a bank.) Because sexual sin receives this special treatment in churches, a much stronger sense of shame is attached to these sins — regardless of how much we believe that all sins are equal in the eyes of God.

All sins might be equal, Beck writes, but all metaphors are not.

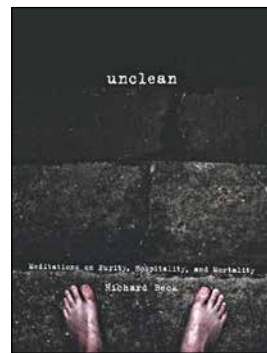
Readers should be prepared for a crash course in the psychology of the key concepts of Beck's argument. He pulls in a significant amount of academic research on disgust and the way humans respond to things we label "unclean."

But stay with him because he clearly connects these ideas to the church in order to illustrate the way

these metaphors can distort the experiences of sin and salvation — and ultimately override mercy in our churches.

We like to think our responses to certain sins are rooted in our allegiance to scripture. But could it be that we are also reacting in accordance to the ways our brains are wired to respond to disgust?

It's worth examining our innate responses to things that we consider impure and the harm those responses can cause to others, ourselves and the church as a whole. After all, we are only human.



Richard Beck. **Unclean: Meditations on Purity, Hospitality, and Mortality.** Portland, Ore.: Wipf and Stock, 2011. 212 pages. \$23.

DEANA NALL works in corporate advertising in Little Rock, Ark. She studied journalism at Abilene Christian University. She and her family worship with the Little Rock Church.

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Deana Nall



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THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE SAYS *thank you for 23 years of service and dedication to Christian journalism.*

Honoring Lynn and Joy McMillon

OKLAHOMA CITY

If you don't know, Lynn and Joy McMillon don't enjoy being in the spotlight.

In fact, Lynn (as he's told me to call him) tried to convince us it was OK to cancel a special ceremony that *The Christian Chronicle's* board had planned for him as he retires as president and CEO. The good news is, he'll keep on teaching Bible at Oklahoma Christian University.

Insight



Chellie Ison

When I told him I would be interviewing him and his wife as part of the ceremony, he made

sure I knew I had his full permission to cut the talk short to keep guests from getting bored.

They didn't, I assure you.

It was a big night, full of emotion, as the *Chronicle's* current and former staffers gathered with our trustees and numerous friends and family members to honor Lynn for 23 years of service to Christian journalism. He steps down May 31.

There were plenty of laughs as Lynn and Joy joined me on stage for the interview, recalling the ups and downs of getting the paper to press each month. Joy has served this publication for many years in a variety of roles, including managing editor.

Lynn, a longtime professor and former Bible college dean at Oklahoma Christian, began his official involvement with the newspaper back in 1996.

As he recalled, the times were much different. The *Chronicle* was deeply in debt. It took a lot of hard work, but he turned the publication around, paying off more than \$880,000 and building an endowment fund to help ensure the *Chronicle's* future.

The evening was full of surprises for the McMillons.

Following the interview, presentations of plaques were made by our board chairman, Deon Fair,



Lynn and Joy McMillon are joined by their children and grandchildren after an evening of celebrations.

and Oklahoma Christian's board chairman, Mark Brewer.

It was an exciting moment when Oklahoma Christian President John deSteiguer asked the McMillons to remove the cloth from an easel placed at center stage. Underneath was a large plaque dedicating a conference room on the campus, near the *Chronicle* offices, to the McMillons. They graciously accepted the honor, and Lynn took the microphone to say thanks.

But there was more to come.

Mike O'Neal, a member of the *Chronicle* board, announced the formation of the Lynn and Joy McMillon Endowment, a campaign designed to make sure the *Chronicle* continues serving as a newspaper for Churches of Christ for years to come.

"The trustees are determined that *The Christian Chronicle* continue to faithfully serve the Churches of Christ until the Lord comes again," O'Neal said.

It was a great night. While Lynn and Joy were pretty speechless by the end, their son Jeff came up to me and said that while he knows his parents



PHOTOS BY CHELLIE ISON

Oklahoma Christian President John deSteiguer hugs Joy McMillon after announcing that a conference room on campus will bear the McMillon name.

hate the spotlight, he was grateful we all pushed ahead and took the time to do something so special for them both — despite their resistance.

If you'd like to contribute to the Lynn and Joy McMillon Endowment in honor of Lynn's retirement, you can do so online. Look for our "Lynn and Joy McMillon Endowment" form

at christianchronicle.org/donate. Or call Lynda Sheehan in our office at (405) 425-5070. You also can mail a check to *The Christian Chronicle*, P.O. Box 11000, Oklahoma City, OK 73136-1100, earmarked for the McMillon Endowment.

CONTACT: chellie@christianchronicle.org.

**NEW Chronicle
Endowment**



To ensure the permanence of *The Christian Chronicle*, the trustees have created a **Lynn and Joy McMillon Endowment**. Your gifts will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Lynda Sheehan in our office:

(405) 425-5070

lynda.sheehan@christianchronicle.org or go to:
christianchronicle.org/donations/honoring-lynn-mcmillon/

Full-Time Minister

The Church of Christ in Cortez, Colo., is accepting resumes for a full-time minister. If interested, send your resume to:


cortezcofc@live.com

Church of Christ
Attn: Minister Search
PO Box 145
Cortez, CO 81321

YOUTH MINISTER

Norfolk (Va.) Church of Christ is seeking a youth minister to take over an established program. Church of 150 is full of young families. Program includes Life Groups, Winterfest, Director of regional camp for several weeks, and the opportunity to preach monthly. Great coastal community.

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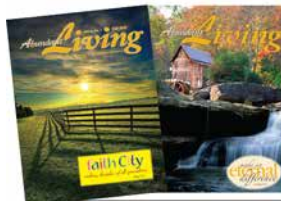
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