Volunteer State

AFTER TENNESSEE’S deadly tornadoes, Christians rally.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

COOKEVILLE, Tenn. — Mike Luke wore a bright orange “Disaster Assistance Church of Christ” T-shirt as he steered a four-wheel vehicle carrying food and supplies for tornado victims toward a ravaged neighborhood.

Near a hill lined with 18 memorial crosses remembering victims of an EF-4 twister that struck March 3, the Christian cattle farmer waved at National Guard troops directing traffic.

On the seat beside him rested a red velvet cake — a favorite treat casually mentioned by a homeowner cleaning up debris the previous day. Luke decided to surprise her with it.

When no one answered the woman’s door, the volunteer allowed only momentary disappointment before moving to the next house.

“We got everything!” he told an extended family working outside a residence with a tarped roof. “We got hot meals! We got hot coffee!”

They accepted a box full of cooked barbecue meat and a half-dozen bottles of Gatorade. They shared that two other relatives — Keith and Cathy Selby — had lived nearby and died in the storm.

“Man, the Church of Christ has been amazing,” said an appreciative Danny Hughes, while another of the group joked that she had gained 5 pounds as a result of the storm.

Across Middle Tennessee, 25 people died as seven tornadoes touched down along an 80-mile path in Cookeville, Tenn., pay tribute to 18 people killed in Putnam County. A 19th Cookeville-area victim later died.

See RELIEF, Page 6
COMMISION

COMPASSION

COMMITMENT
On this Sunday, sadness gives way to gladness

MT. JULIET, Tenn.

I don’t know if God or guilt prompted me to take the Interstate 40 exit to Mt. Juliet. Maybe both? Just after 6 p.m. on the Sunday after tornadoes cut a swath of destruction through Middle Tennessee, I was headed toward my hotel by the Nashville International Airport.

I had spent more than 24 hours in Cookeville — 80 miles east of Nashville — reporting on the faith-based relief effort and the lives lost by eight people with ties to Churches of Christ.

I felt drained, both physically and mentally.

On Saturday afternoon, I had toured the disaster zone and talked to fellow Christians who lost homes.

Then Sunday morning, I had started the Lord’s Day at the Collegeside Church of Christ. That congregation near Tennessee Tech University lost two of its own in the storm: 4-year-old Hattie Jo Collins and 67-year-old Patricia Ann Lane.

Hugs and tears were plentiful before — and even during — the assembly.

“Peace is not found in the absence of tragedy,” teaching minister John Nichols said in his sermon. “Peace is found in the presence of the Lord.”

After leaving Collegeside, I caught the end of the tornadoes, I was headed toward my hotel by the Nashville International Airport.

Inside Story

Bobby Ross Jr.

Members of the Viale Jonio Church of Christ in Rome, Italy, observe a 1-meter-distance rule while gathering for Sunday worship.

Pandemic, pandemonium and peace

AS CORONAVIRUS causes cancellations worldwide, Churches of Christ practice fellowship online.

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Fear and confusion. Members of Churches of Christ in Europe see plenty of both as their continent copes with the pandemic of COVID-19 coronavirus.

For four Christian women living in the Italian capital, there’s also loneliness.

The women worship with the Viale Jonio Church of Christ. They are natives of China. As the number of infections rose, boys began yelling at the women on the subway to leave Italy. Later, they witnessed a Chinese man getting beat up at a supermarket.

“They have been the first to self-isolate in their homes because of this, and they lost their jobs,” said Tonia Vitalone, the wife of one of the church’s four elders.

“Italians didn’t go to the Chinese shops and restaurants.”

“They feel very lonely,” Vitalone told The Christian Chronicle. “They have left their families in China because of the religious persecution and are terrorized because of this unexpected persecution by stupid Italians who consider them the cause of the virus in Italy.”

Using her iPad, Vitalone said, she

Podcast helps women heal after infant loss

BY CHELLIE ISON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

After struggling for three years with infertility, Jenna and Sean Vasquez, members of The Park Church of Christ in Tulsa, Okla., were elated when they were finally able to deliver and bring home their baby boy, Noah. That was in 2009.

Years later, when they decided to add to their family, they had no idea the painful road they were about to travel.

In 2015, Jenna discovered she was pregnant. A test later confirmed the pregnancy didn’t fully implant.

Within weeks, she was pregnant again. Things seemed OK until the end of her first trimester. There were signs something was wrong. She didn’t miscarry, like the doctor thought she would. But, for weeks, things felt uneasy. Then, at 22 weeks pregnant, she was admitted to the hospital for a few days before going home. At 24 weeks, she found herself back at the hospital. This time she was in labor.

“We just never foresaw anything but delivering our baby,” Vasquez said.

Poppy Lynn Vasquez was born July 2015. The precious little girl her husband had prayed for lived just four hours.

Vasquez talks openly about that day and the weeks leading up to it in a podcast she hosts called “1 in 4: You Are Not Alone” — which according to some studies is the ratio of pregnancies that end with a loss.

See PODCAST, Page 12
TORNADOES: Exhaustion gives way to hope

FROM PAGE 3
worship assembly of the Double Springs Church of Christ near some of the worst destruction.

Preacher Eric Collins spoke with a choked voice about the difficult week his congregation and entire community had endured.

“It’s been really emotional,” Collins told me after the service. “Our members losing their homes, losing everything — it’s family. These aren’t just strangers you see on the news.”

Double Springs church elder Stacy Brewington insisted on feeding me lunch. Then I tagged along with volunteers taking hot meals, fresh coffee and emergency supplies to tornado victims.

By 2:30 p.m., I arrived at the Crest Lawn Funeral Home. Cars already were parking on the grass. A long line of mourners stretched down the sidewalk.

The service for Josh and Erin Kimberlin and their 2-year-old son, Sawyer, wasn’t scheduled to begin for half an hour. It would end up starting 40 minutes late. The Kimberlins were devoted members of the Colonial Heights Church of Christ.

I didn’t leave Cookeville until about 5 p.m. While making plans for this trip, I had contemplated visiting the Mt. Juliet Church of Christ, about 65 miles away, because I knew many Christians were working hard on relief work closer to Nashville. But since more lives were lost farther east, I had focused my time and attention there.

I also had checked and determined that the Mt. Juliet congregation’s Sunday evening service started at 5. Now it would be over by the time I got there.

But when I saw the exit sign, I made the split-second decision to push up my turn signal. Even if the assembly was over, maybe somebody would still be there. A few miles down the road, past mounds of tornado debris, I discovered a full parking lot at the Mt. Juliet church. It was 6:15 p.m.

I opened a side door with a “Volunteers Enter Here” sign on it.

I asked a woman in the foyer if the service was still going. She explained that the congregation had delayed worship an hour to give folks more daylight to devote to relief projects.

Inside the auditorium, Brian Oldham, a Mt. Juliet member who had spent the week leading chainsaw crews, was talking about how hard people work when they’re laboring for the Lord.

“One homeowner told me, ‘At a time when I’ve lost everything, I’ve not had to worry about anything,’” Oldham said.

The Mt. Juliet church had invited about 25 households affected by the storm to the assembly that night. The congregation prayed by individual families by name. And members had a special meal prepared.

The 109 Church of Christ, a church plant of the Mt. Juliet congregation, provided the food.

After the meal, the organizers planned to shower each family with gift cards for dinner and a movie, so they could have a night out together.

At the end of the Mt. Juliet service, a teen came forward to be baptized.

While waiting for her immersion, we sang “There’s Not a Friend Like the Lowly Jesus,” “Thank You, Lord,” “Nothing But the Blood” and “Jesus Loves Me.”

The words touched my soul. My exhaustion gave way to hope.

I had seen a lot of ruin these past two days. But the faith and resiliency of Christians working hard to help friends and neighbors had inspired me.

As I drove the rest of the way to my hotel, I found myself rejuvenated — and in awe of the enormity of the God we serve.

BOBBY ROSS JR. is editor-in-chief of The Christian Chronicle. Reach him at bobby.ross@christianchronicle.org. Follow him on Twitter at @bobbyross.
ARIZONA
GOODYEAR — The West Valley Church of Christ likes to “Walk with the Word.” Members come together once a month to walk at area parks. The activity offers a time of reflection and fellowship, minister Patrick Swayne said.

“Spending time in the Word and time with those born of water and the Word are both important for maintaining life in Christ,” Swayne said.

A nonmember participated in a recent walk, and Swayne hopes more seekers will join.

“The outdoors, crafted by the One who inspired the Word, provides an awesome backdrop for this time,” he said, “and tossing in a hike provides for the much less important need of exercise.”

He pointed to 1 Timothy 4:8: “For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.”

COLORADO
LIMON — After a fire destroyed the Limon Church of Christ’s building in 2013, the church held services in a schoolhouse and then a funeral home.

More recently, the congregation moved to a new location — an old bar.

According to minister Charles Prince, the 40-member church considered rebuilding its old facility. Instead, the congregation opted to purchase the former “Rusty Spur Saloon.”

“We had the decision to build a building or a church,” member Rich Metcalf said. “We decided to build a church.”

Prince said this was a good decision, as the location and setup are very different from most churches.

What used to be the dance floor is now the auditorium space. Other provisions were made for classrooms and the nursery.

MISSOURI
MONETT — The ladies of the Monett Church of Christ are using their talents to make dresses for young girls in La Palma, El Salvador. A mission team hopes to deliver the dresses in the next few months.

The women took men’s dress shirts and devised a pattern to cut the shirts to sew dresses. At press time, 18 women had completed 13 dresses.

“Being a Christian comes with joy,” said Orlando Reyes, the church’s Hispanic minister. “Joy in helping. Joy in receiving. Many little girls will have joy with new dresses to wear to services.”

The mission team also is raising money by selling T-shirts and collecting other needed items to take to El Salvador.

OKLAHOMA
CHOCTAW — BibleTalk.tv, an online video ministry of Bible studies, sermons and more, was recently featured in the Wall Street Journal as one of the most prolific users on Amazon Prime Video.

The ministry has “more videos on Prime Video than any major Hollywood studio except Viacom Inc.’s Paramount Pictures,” the Journal said.

“BibleTalk is still going strong,” Mike Mazzalongo, the minister behind the videos, said in an email. “Numbers are growing across all the platforms we are on, so we are encouraged.”

Mazzalongo is a member of the Choctaw Church of Christ, east of Oklahoma City.
RELIEF: Churches play a crucial role after the tornadoes

President Donald Trump walks with Laura Bates, Rick Gilbert and Tennessee First Lady Maria Lee at a supply distribution center at the Jefferson Avenue church.

Gary Flatt stands on the flattened remains of his home near the Double Springs Church of Christ, where he is a member. He voices appreciation for the Christians helping clean up.

FROM PAGE 1
stretch from west of downtown Nashville to Putnam County, where Cookeville is the county seat.

Hundreds of people suffered injuries, while thousands of structures were damaged or destroyed as the twisters struck with little warning in the middle of the night.

Even as Churches of Christ mourned their own — at least eight of the Cookeville victims had ties to area congregations — they sprang into action to help hurting and suddenly homeless neighbors.

Fourteen adults and five children were killed in Putnam County. The 19th Cookeville-area victim died after the hillside crosses were erected.

The fatalities included 2-year-old Sawyer Kimberlin — who died along with his parents, Josh and Erin Kimberlin, devoted members of the Colonial Heights Church of Christ — and 4-year-old Hattie Collins.

Hattie’s parents, Matt and Macy Collins, were hospitalized for several days. But they survived along with Hattie’s sister, Lainey, who turned 1 on March 5. Matt is the youth minister for the Collegeside Church of Christ, across the street from Tennessee Tech University.

At daybreak March 3, the full extent of the widespread devastation became clear. By 8 a.m., deacon Rick Gilbert of the Jefferson Avenue Church of Christ in Cookeville had called Nashville-based Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort.

Several times a year, Gilbert and fellow Christians had gone to the ministry’s warehouse and helped pack emergency food boxes and cleaning supplies. Now, he was asking the disaster relief organization to dispatch a tractor-trailer rig to Cookeville.

“It’ll be on the way as soon as I can get a driver here,” Mike Lewis, the faith-based nonprofit’s executive director, told Gilbert.

When the truck arrived at 1 p.m., 200 volunteers — including a church member with a forklift — were waiting to unload the boxes.

A few miles away at the Willow Avenue Church of Christ, teens and adults organized giant piles of food, clothing and toiletries donated by individuals and congregations.

“Nothing asked,” minister’s wife Amber Tatum said. “If you need something or know somebody who needs something, come and get it.”

Said Willow Avenue youth group member Kiley Smith, 15: “Just seeing the devastation and hearing the stories from people who have lost everything — you just want to help.”

Three days after the storm, President Donald Trump toured the Jefferson Avenue church’s relief operation while visiting Cookeville.

“He and I walked, just the two of us, down the aisle,” said Gilbert, who gave the president a Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort hat and T-shirt. “I just told him, ‘Hey, God is bringing us together. We believe in him, and he wants us to do what we’re doing.’”

After spending 45 minutes at the church, Trump praised the effort.

“Even all of this — Churches of Christ — tremendous amounts of food and goods, and it all came within a matter of hours,” the president said. “So it’s a case study — a case study of what should be done and how it can be done. It’s Tennessee.”

‘FEEDING OF THE 5,000’

At the edge of Cookeville’s disaster zone sits the Double Springs Church of Christ — described by elder Stacy Brewington as a “small country church” with attendance of 175.

Somehow, the Double Springs church building escaped the tornado with no damage at all.

That allowed the congregation to shift quickly into relief mode, serving its own members as well as the community. Six Double Springs church families lost their homes, while 10 other households were displaced. A couple who had attended the church in recent months — Todd and Sue Koehler — were among the dead.

The church became a hub for organizing volunteers such as chainsaw crews as well as feeding victims and helpers.

At first, church leaders wondered how they’d manage to feed all the victims and volunteers who showed up. But each time they thought they might run out of food, more appeared. Putnam County designated the church as the official food distribution point for the tornado impact area, and restaurants started bring-
ing meals, Brewington said. The Salvation Army and the American Red Cross arrived. “It just turned into, literally, the feeding of the 5,000,” said member Tracy Nabors, working in the church’s kitchen. “I just think it’s a miracle that the building wasn’t damaged, that there’s not even a window out. That’s God right there.”

Disaster Assistance CoC, which is overseen by the Lake Jackson Church of Christ in Texas, sent its mobile feeding equipment. At one point, a refrigerated truck arrived at the relief site. Five minutes later came a rig full of ham, turkey, chicken and roast beef.

If not for that exact sequence, the church would have had no place to keep the meat cold, said Mike Baumgartner, president and CEO of Disaster Assistance CoC. “The Lord timed it perfectly,” Baumgartner said.

The congregation’s four elders — two of whom sustained damage to their own homes — put part-time youth minister Dylan Wood in charge of managing the relief work at the church building.

But the 20-year-old, a student at the Southeast Institute of Biblical Studies in Knoxville, said the outpouring of volunteers made his job easy.

“It’s just amazing,” he said, noting that Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort sent two truckloads full of food and supplies. “There’s a lot of good people in the world, and I’ve met about 2,000 of them in the last couple of days.”

In his sermon that Sunday, Double Springs preacher Eric Collins fought back tears as he talked about finding Jesus in the storm.

“I found Jesus in the hugs of other individuals,” Collins said. “I found Jesus in the hands and feet of many of you who went out here and served.”

‘A BUNCH OF LOVING CHRISTIANS’

Treva Lawson was in bed when the tornado ripped off her roof and destroyed neighbors’ homes. Lawson, whose husband, James, has dementia and resides in a nursing home, is a longtime member of the Double Springs church.

She gushed over all the volunteers — many of them from Churches of Christ — who came to help.

“Tennessee is the Volunteer State, and boy, have they volunteered,” she said. “I don’t know how you can thank them. I’ve hugged so many necks.”

A short distance away, the tornado demolished Gary Flatt’s home. The Double Springs church member said his wife yelled at him five seconds before the funnel cloud hit. “We had started down to the basement … and then it slammed us into the basement,” he said, standing amid the flattened remains. “I ended up laying on top of her in the basement. … The wife was moaning and stuff. I yelled and heard my daughter screaming and yelling upstairs.”

But his whole family was OK, so he felt blessed, he said.

He voiced appreciation for his brothers and sisters in Christ who rushed to help with every need. “Someone looked at the house and said, ‘It’s unbelievable what a tornado can do,’” Flatt said. “And I told them, ‘No, it’s unbelievable what a bunch of loving Christians can do.’

“It really is unbelievable,” he added. “Their power is a lot stronger than a tornado.”

Sometimes, that power can be as simple as offering a cup of coffee.

Greeting residents along the tornado’s path, the volunteer in the bright orange T-shirt said he sees the secret as this: “Just do what you can do.”

“We’re working for the Lord today,” Luke said as he shifted into park and approached another damaged home. He knocked on the front door. “You need a hot cup of coffee?” he asked. “What about cream and sugar?”

Hattie Jo Collins
She was the 4-year-old daughter of Collegeside Church of Christ youth minister Matt Collins and his wife, Macy. She was the older sister of Lainey, who turned 1 year old two days after the storm.

The Kimberlins
Josh Kimberlin, 30; Erin Kimberlin, 29; and 2-year-old Sawyer Kimberlin were devoted members of the Colonial Heights Church of Christ.

The Koehlers
Todd and Sue Koehler, both 54, had been attending the Double Springs Church of Christ in recent months.

Patricia Lane
Lane, 67, was a member of the Collegeside Church of Christ. She was known for sending birthday cards to all the children of the congregation.

Bridgett McCormick
The 13-year-old attended the Sycamore Church of Christ and was the foster daughter of Mike and Kim Phillips.
**TEEN: Youth group member volunteers as she mourns her friend**

**FROM PAGE 1**
The two became close during Matt Collins’ time as youth minister for the Jefferson Avenue Church of Christ, Izzy’s home congregation for most of her life. 

“She was never negative and always smiling,” the high school senior said of the spirited child, who loved to sing and recite Scriptures she had memorized. “She loved the kids in the youth group so much. She called us ‘Daddy’s big kids.’ We were her family away from home.”

That Friday night, Izzy’s family and a few others had met the Collinses — including Hattie’s baby sister, Lainey — for pizza in a nearby town.

With the Collins family now serving at a different congregation — the Collegeside Church of Christ near Tennessee Tech University — the dinner offered a chance for everyone to catch up.

“I’ll see you next year!” Hattie called out to Izzy before leaving the restaurant.

Her father had put her up to that as a joke.

“That’s the last thing that she said to me,” Izzy said. “It was funny, and it was cute.”

**‘HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS?’**

When the twister struck about 2 a.m. that Tuesday, it missed Izzy’s house. She checked to make sure a few friends were OK.

She heard that the Collins family’s neighborhood was hit, so she called Matt’s phone. No answer. She texted him three times. No response. She figured the power was out.

Eventually, she fell asleep again.

By the time the sun rose, Izzy’s phone was lighting up — including messages from people who didn’t normally text her — asking, “Have you heard the news?”

“What do you mean?” she responded.

A funnel cloud with winds up to 175 mph had flattened her former youth minister’s home. Matt, Macy and 11-month-old Lainey were in the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. But reports circulated that Hattie was missing.

Only later did Izzy learn that Hattie had remained in her father’s arms during the storm. After Matt blacked out, a rescuer had taken her. Though the little girl didn’t survive, she never really was lost.

“At the time, though, nobody really knew,” Izzy said.

**‘MOMMY, I CAN SEE JESUS’**

When she heard Hattie was believed missing, Izzy didn’t stop to eat. She didn’t shower. She grabbed her car keys.

She picked up her boyfriend, Brooks Burr. They drove around for a while, unsure of their destination. They tried to enter the tornado zone — Izzy thought they might help search for Hattie — but authorities wouldn’t let them in.

They ended up at the Jefferson Avenue church, where hundreds were assembling to unload a tractor-trailer rig of food and emergency supplies from Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort.

“We had people from all over this city,” Izzy said of the crowd of volunteers. “People from out of state had just come here to help. And we immediately had people dropping stuff off.”

She got to work helping organize the donations and collecting information from victims — such as their home address, or at least the address where their home used to be.

By that night, the worst was confirmed: Hattie had died in the storm. However, Izzy took comfort in knowing that her friend never was alone in the rubble.

In a Facebook post, Matt Collins shared some of the family’s last moments together that Monday night during what was their usual, pre-bedtime routine. Macy had read a story with Hattie.

“After they finished reading, Hattie looked up at Macy as she often does after story time,” he wrote. “Hattie would rather talk than sleep. She told her, ‘Mommy, I can see Jesus, and he is wearing all white.’”

The youth minister ended his post with this: “Before we knew Jesus was going to hold her that night, she did. We do not believe the Lord took our girl from us. We believe he is holding our girl for us. And Hattie loves to be held.”

**SERVING AMID THE TEARS**

The day after the tornado, her classes at school canceled, Izzy walked a mile and a half to where the Collinses’ house once stood.

With street signs and other landmarks gone, it took her a long time to find their place.

Amid the debris and scattered objects, she dug through the dirt and the grime in search of some of Hattie’s 30 or so headbands.

She found four.

One was torn apart and would need to be glued back together.

“I didn’t let anybody touch them,” Izzy said.

She took the headbands with her and washed them with soapy water. She put them in a plastic bag for safekeeping. When the time is right, she’ll give them to Hattie’s family.

In the meantime, Izzy is trying her best to stay busy.

For now, that involves working sunup to sundown at the Jefferson Avenue church’s disaster recovery center. Deacon Rick Gilbert, the disaster relief coordinator, praised Izzy and her friends for all their hard work.

“Just being here, it’s obviously to help people,” Izzy said. “It feels like the right thing to do.”

**‘You don’t ever think that’s the last time you’re going to see somebody. I’m glad I got to see her, though.’**

Izzy Stevens, reflecting on her final visit with 4-year-old Hattie Jo Collins

She paused.

“But it’s more keeping me busy. It’s just better. People just want to be doing stuff.”

If she slows down too much, her mind drifts and wanders. Her eyes water up. Her sentences start trailing off.

“You don’t ever think that’s the last time you’re going to see somebody,” Izzy said of her final visit with Hattie. “I’m glad I got to see her, though.”
Churches sing Sawyer’s favorite hymn

TWO-YEAR-OLD had a passion for songleading, while his parents were devoted, faithful Christians.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Two-year-old Sawyer Kimberlin had a podium, a pitch pipe, a microphone and a songbook.

“He was the spontaneous goofy nerd,” Erin said. “These studies were not easy for him. He was so passionate about singing. It just seemed effortless.”

Of Erin, Phillips said: “She was strong in so many ways, but especially in her faith. So many people are ready to believe something, and they believe it because that was how they were raised. Not Erin. Erin knew what she believed. Erin could take you to book, chapter and verse.”

When Sawyer was born on Feb. 27, 2018, he became the couple’s whole world.

Besides singing, the toddler enjoyed looking at the moon and cuddling with his favorite stuffed animal, “Lovie.” He was a Jedi like his father before him, according to his obituary.

“The 2-year-old bundle of joy was the life of every party, the center of everyone’s attention, and he loved every minute of it,” Phillips told mourners.

Both parents died while trying to protect Sawyer from the storm.

Giant bouquets of flowers covered the two closed caskets at the front of the funeral home chapel.

“Lovie provided Sawyer with so much peace and comfort,” Phillips said. “I want each of you to know that while the soul of Sawyer is comforted in the arms of our Savior, the physical body of Sawyer is comforted, too. He’s lying in the arms of his mom. He’s holding his dear, beloved Lovie.”

The Kimberlins “were ready to leave this earth and meet their Creator,” Phillips said.

He urged all grieving their deaths to follow the family’s example.

“While the soul of Sawyer is comforted in the arms of our Savior, the physical body ... is comforted, too. He’s lying in the arms of his mom.’”

Art Mattson, who officiated at the wedding of Josh and Erin Kimberlin.

The Sunday afternoon funeral opened with the singing of “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee”

“Lovie provided Sawyer with so much peace and comfort,” Phillips said. “I want each of you to know that while the soul of Sawyer is comforted in the arms of our Savior, the physical body of Sawyer is comforted, too. He’s lying in the arms of his mom. He’s holding his dear, beloved Lovie.”

The Kimberlins “were ready to leave this earth and meet their Creator,” Phillips said.

He urged all grieving their deaths to follow the family’s example.

“While the soul of Sawyer is comforted in the arms of our Savior, the physical body ... is comforted, too. He’s lying in the arms of his mom.’”

Art Mattson, who officiated at the wedding of Josh and Erin Kimberlin.

The Sunday afternoon funeral opened with the singing of “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee”

“Lovie provided Sawyer with so much peace and comfort,” Phillips said. “I want each of you to know that while the soul of Sawyer is comforted in the arms of our Savior, the physical body of Sawyer is comforted, too. He’s lying in the arms of his mom. He’s holding his dear, beloved Lovie.”

The Kimberlins “were ready to leave this earth and meet their Creator,” Phillips said.

He urged all grieving their deaths to follow the family’s example.

“While the soul of Sawyer is comforted in the arms of our Savior, the physical body ... is comforted, too. He’s lying in the arms of his mom.’”

Art Mattson, who officiated at the wedding of Josh and Erin Kimberlin.

The Sunday afternoon funeral opened with the singing of “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee”

“Lovie provided Sawyer with so much peace and comfort,” Phillips said. “I want each of you to know that while the soul of Sawyer is comforted in the arms of our Savior, the physical body of Sawyer is comforted, too. He’s lying in the arms of his mom. He’s holding his dear, beloved Lovie.”

The Kimberlins “were ready to leave this earth and meet their Creator,” Phillips said.

He urged all grieving their deaths to follow the family’s example.

“While the soul of Sawyer is comforted in the arms of our Savior, the physical body ... is comforted, too. He’s lying in the arms of his mom.’”

Art Mattson, who officiated at the wedding of Josh and Erin Kimberlin.

The Sunday afternoon funeral opened with the singing of “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee”

“Lovie provided Sawyer with so much peace and comfort,” Phillips said. “I want each of you to know that while the soul of Sawyer is comforted in the arms of our Savior, the physical body of Sawyer is comforted, too. He’s lying in the arms of his mom. He’s holding his dear, beloved Lovie.”

The Kimberlins “were ready to leave this earth and meet their Creator,” Phillips said.

He urged all grieving their deaths to follow the family’s example.

“While the soul of Sawyer is comforted in the arms of our Savior, the physical body ... is comforted, too. He’s lying in the arms of his mom.’”

Art Mattson, who officiated at the wedding of Josh and Erin Kimberlin.

The Sunday afternoon funeral opened with the singing of “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee”

“Lovie provided Sawyer with so much peace and comfort,” Phillips said. “I want each of you to know that while the soul of Sawyer is comforted in the arms of our Savior, the physical body of Sawyer is comforted, too. He’s lying in the arms of his mom. He’s holding his dear, beloved Lovie.”

The Kimberlins “were ready to leave this earth and meet their Creator,” Phillips said.

He urged all grieving their deaths to follow the family’s example.

“While the soul of Sawyer is comforted in the arms of our Savior, the physical body ... is comforted, too. He’s lying in the arms of his mom.’”

Art Mattson, who officiated at the wedding of Josh and Erin Kimberlin.

The Sunday afternoon funeral opened with the singing of “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee”

“Lovie provided Sawyer with so much peace and comfort,” Phillips said. “I want each of you to know that while the soul of Sawyer is comforted in the arms of our Savior, the physical body of Sawyer is comforted, too. He’s lying in the arms of his mom. He’s holding his dear, beloved Lovie.”

The Kimberlins “were ready to leave this earth and meet their Creator,” Phillips said.

He urged all grieving their deaths to follow the family’s example.

“While the soul of Sawyer is comforted in the arms of our Savior, the physical body ... is comforted, too. He’s lying in the arms of his mom.’”

Art Mattson, who officiated at the wedding of Josh and Erin Kimberlin.
Thirteen-year-old Bridgett McCormick had just started to come out of her shell and get involved with the other youth group members at the Sycamore Church of Christ in Cookeville, Tenn.

“This kid … she absolutely loved the Lord,” said her foster father, Mike Phillips. “She was at church every time the doors were open.”

Then, early in the morning on March 3, a tornado swept through this Middle Tennessee community, hitting the Phillips’ home where McCormick, her brother Ethan and four other foster children lived.

McCormick and 18 others in Putnam County, where Cookeville is the county seat, were killed.

On the night of the storm, Mike and Kim Phillips, who both work as police officers, awakened around 2 a.m. to alerts going off on their phones, warning them of the EF-4 twister.

As soon as they read the alert, Mike Phillips said he heard the winds from the storm outside and realized what was happening.

“I knew what it was, and I said, ‘Get up — get the kids!’” Phillips said. “‘I jumped up. I headed straight upstairs.’”

Phillips said there was only about 30 seconds between the alert and the time it took for the storm to move through.

“I ran upstairs, and as soon as I turned into our 9-year-old Charles’ room, the windows exploded,” Phillips said. “I could see him laying in the bed, asleep.”

The next moment, Phillips woke up downstairs on the living room floor.

“I saw my wife flying across the floor on her belly, like she was going down a slip-and-slide,” he said. “All I remember is being on the living room floor. I remember the sound was just unimaginable. … That thing came right through our front door — it came right through it. And I remember seeing the house falling, and I just knew we were going to die.”

Once the storm passed, Phillips realized he and his wife were under a “furniture fort” — the couch, chair and table had piled over them, likely saving their lives.

“We were in this little pocket … and it was over as fast as a gun (shot), and it was gone just that quick,” Phillips said.

After realizing they were alive and had no critical injuries, he immediately began praying, thanking God for saving them.

“When I walked out, I turned and looked at the house, and there was no way we should have been alive,” Phillips said.

The house had collapsed around them. Ethan, Bridgett’s brother, also walked away without injury. He was the first to emerge from the rubble. He quickly found Mike and Kim. When he knew they were OK, he started looking for the other kids.

Charles, whose room Phillips had just reached when the storm hit, had been sucked out of the house. He was found in a neighbor’s yard with minor injuries. Destiny, 10, was down the street unscathed, Phillips said. Cale, 16, and Rihanna, who turned 6 a few days after the storm, both crawled out of the rubble, also without injury.

“I could hear Rihanna crying, and I’ve never felt so helpless in my life,” Phillips said.

Ethan kept searching. Phillips remembers the moment he heard Ethan start yelling for help.

“What’s hard being a police officer is nobody has to tell you,” Phillips said, choking up. “You just know.”

He had found Bridgett’s body.

Just days after the storm, the Phillipses adopted four of the other foster children who had been living in their home. Bridgett and her brother were hoping to be adopted by the family soon, as well.

“That’s all Bridgett wanted and talked about was wanting to be adopted,” Phillips said.

Phillips said it was a blessing to have Bridgett in their family while they did. He hopes to share with others how truly special she was. She was remembered at a March 10 funeral at the Sycamore church.

“I want to tell people how real God is and how amazing he is and to share Bridgett’s story of her love for the Lord and her faith,” Phillips said. “Bridgett, for a 13-year-old, she loved the Lord and just how real God is.

“I mean, that’s her story. That’s it. He’s real, and Bridgett believed it.”
A Social Network to Reach the Lost? WBS Launches Mathetis.

World Bible School is announcing the launch of Mathetis, a brand-new social network for spiritual growth.

“The wait is over,” reports John Reese, WBS president. “This is a real breakthrough, a game-changer for sharing Jesus with seekers and Christians alike.”

Mathetis is a modern outreach tool that deliberately addresses a changing world. It seeks to reach those wondering what to believe and in need of a Savior. To do so effectively, it builds on the foundation that never changes: “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8).

Use Mathetis to enrich your spiritual walk with Jesus and to reach those who need Him. Learn more at mathetis.org or in the AppStore and GooglePlay. Find more tools for sharing Jesus at worldbibleschool.net.

Mathetis forms the basis of outstanding Bible teaching curriculum.

Mathetis contains relevant multimedia Bible study courses. The original content is created by WBS and by other trusted Christian authors. It is designed to foster spiritual growth among friends, small groups and individuals on a social platform. Reese explains, “Mathetis reaches today’s learner with high-quality content that takes into account new ways of thinking, interaction and practice.”

“The Reaching Series” is a set of three 13-week Bible class curriculum booklets that inspires Christians to reach out to the lost. It can be used as both stand-alone curriculum or in tandem with the Mathetis courses and videos. (Available March 16)
PODCAST: Acknowledging loss creates a sense of community

From page 3

“From the moment you get pregnant, you start planning the future and everything about that child — your hopes and dreams,” she said. “When you lose your child, those hopes and dreams go away. ... It feels like your world shatters.”

PEOPLE TEND TO ACT LIKE THE PREGNANCY NEVER EXISTED

Vasquez has partnered with the Oklahoma nonprofit Kids Joining Eternity to host the podcast, highlighting those who have been personally affected by infant loss.

“The goal is to give a space for women to talk about their stories and share their experiences and to know that they are not alone in this journey,” she said.

Melanie Edwards, founder of Kids Joining Eternity and a member of the Memorial Road Church of Christ in Oklahoma City, said the podcast is a way to offer support and hope to women who wouldn’t otherwise know where to turn.

“Just knowing that there are other people out there” helps, Edwards said. “It’s helping these women move forward in life.”

Edwards lost her own child, Kendal Janae, in 2005. Years later, she met Jenna Vasquez through a Kids Joining Eternity support group. They quickly became friends. The podcast later grew out of that friendship.

AN ‘EXPLICIT’ TOPIC?

Getting started wasn’t easy. Vasquez has a degree in communications, so she had the skill and knowledge to get started. What she didn’t expect was the struggle to get it approved for release.

At first, her application to get the podcast listed was denied. The content was labeled as explicit.

Vasquez said that was even more reason for her to push forward, to “normalize” the topic.

“There are podcasts about everything, and I thought this would be a cool way to reach out to women who have gone through loss and help them to feel like, ‘People are talking about it, so it’s OK for me to talk about it,’” Vasquez said.

It’s also given her community, connection with families who understand her pain.

And it’s helped her teach others how they can better support those who have experienced a loss.

“When you’re pregnant and you have a loss, people tend to act like that pregnancy never existed,” she said. “I wouldn’t not acknowledge your grandparents that passed away. This is the same.”

While she knows the topic can make people uncomfortable, she said simply ignoring it can cause more pain, feelings of loneliness and even shame to the grieving family.

The conversations are raw, about miscarriage and infant loss. The women, men, siblings and even grandparents or friends of those who have experienced a loss are all included in podcast episodes.

“Doing the podcast gives me a chance to give their lives purpose,” Vasquez told The Christian Chronicle.

Jenna Vasquez and Anna Rhodes stop for a picture before recording an episode of the “1 in 4” podcast. Rhodes’ story was shared in a November 2019 episode.

Jenna Vasquez and Anna Rhodes stop for a picture before recording an episode of the “1 in 4” podcast. Rhodes’ story was shared in a November 2019 episode.

ADVICE FOR THOSE SUFFERING

To those who have friends and loved ones that have gone through a similar loss, Vasquez offers this advice:

• Remember the date of the loss;
• Call their baby by name;
• Acknowledge that it was real and that it did happen.

“Sadness in a loss is normal. Pain in a loss is normal,” Vasquez said. “Women would appreciate the acknowledgment of this loss.”

IT’S OK NOT TO BE OK

The Vasquezes’ story doesn’t end with Poppy Lynn’s death. They had a miscarriage later that same year, 2015.

Then, last fall, just before the anniversary of Poppy Lynn’s birth, they found out they were pregnant.

They were understandably nervous, but things were progressing. Then, in January, Jenna, at just 18 weeks pregnant, delivered another angel baby, Libi Rose.

They had just moved to Tulsa a few months earlier but found their new church family surrounding them. In those painful days to follow, when she found herself asking why, friends surrounded her with love, and one had a special message of encouragement.

“She said, ‘It’s OK for you not to pray. It’s OK to be mad because we’re here. We’re here to pray when you can’t’. It gave me peace to know that they were praying and that when I was ready, I could,” she said.

It also reminded her that sometimes it’s OK not to be OK.

“I think it’s really important to know that the church really does a lot in helping someone heal,” she said.

Vasquez plans to continue the podcast. She’ll keep telling the stories and sharing the heartache, the hope and the healing that come with infant loss.

She says each baby featured on the podcast will never be forgotten. Their families will find a way to move forward without them, but their memory will always follow.

Jenna Vasquez and Melanie Edwards worked together to start the podcast. Their stories are featured in the first episode of “1 in 4: You Are Not Alone.”

Jenna, Sean and Noah Vasquez take time each year to celebrate Poppy Lynn’s birthday. The teddy bear contains a recording of her heartbeat that a nurse saved for them.

The Chronicle’s podcast directory

Find podcasts hosted by members of Churches of Christ at christianchronicle.org/podcasts. You’ll also find links to blogs and YouTube channels associated with Churches of Christ.
Join us in Malibu for four God-focused, soul-lifting, heart-healing days as we study the church and God’s redeeming work through it. Take part in every session, or take a slower Pacific-breeze pace—whatever you’re needing to refresh your spirit and recharge your ministry.

May 4—7, 2021
pepperdine.edu/harbor
2020 Angel Fire Symposium

July 23-26, 2020
Angel Fire, New Mexico
www.angelfiresymposium.com

Angel Fire Bible Symposium - Come to study hard, think creatively and ask difficult questions.

The Challenge of Discipleship

Speakers: David Langford, Terry Singleton and John W. Smith

Topics

The Cost of Discipleship
What Self-Denial Looks Like and
Why It Is Essential To Discipleship
Converting Christians To Disciples
What is the Will of God for Your Life
In The World - But Not Of The World
Discipleship and Sanctification
Why Suffering is Essential To Discipleship
How the Holy Spirit Leads Disciples
The Inside-Out Nature of Discipleship
Discipleship, Caring and Compassion

There is no fee for the Angel Fire Bible Symposium. To receive an event schedule, email john@johnwsmith.com or visit www.angelfiresymposium.com.
For lodging information, contact Stan Samuels - (575)377-6651 or visit www.aboutnorthcountry.com.
For area information, visit www.angelfirefun.com.
**BRAZIL**

**LAURO DE FREITAS** — A Church of Christ was planted in this municipality, near the city of Salvador, in the mid-1970s through the efforts of Glover Shipp, a missionary and former *Christian Chronicle* editor.

Recently, missionary Tim Brumfield visited the congregation and taught a six-hour seminar on church elders.

“That church has also planted multiple other churches and continues to evangelize,” Brumfield said. A former preacher for the church, Idalicio Pereira, is planting churches across the Brazilian state of Bahia. Pereira’s brother, Luiz, has done mission work in the Portuguese-speaking African nation of Mozambique.

**GABON**

**LIBREVILLE** — Missionary George Akpabli and his wife, Joyce, traveled from their home in the West African nation of Benin to this coastal Central African nation of 2 million souls recently. They worked with small Churches of Christ in the capital, Libreville, and Port-Gentil, training members to grow and multiply churches. George Akpabli preached and taught classes on discipleship. Joyce Akpabli hosted discussion groups for women.

**INDIA**

**HYDERABAD** — Church members in this central Indian city recently launched a YouTube channel and Facebook page to spread the Gospel to a larger — and possibly younger — audience.

Members of the Kukatpally Church of Christ, including evangelist David Rouse, produced a series of videos on the book of Psalms. They plan to create instructional videos for every book of the Bible, with the goal of making God’s Word easy to understand.

“Theyir first and most comfortable language is their native Telegu tongue,” wrote minister Bill Adcox in *India Quarterly*, a publication of the India Mission Fund. “Yet by using some of the social media tools, such as YouTube and Facebook, along with doing it in English, they realized they had the potential of reaching and motivating a larger group of believers in India.”

Find the videos on the YouTube channel “Christ Headquarters” or search for KPCOC on Facebook.

**SPOTLIGHT**

**Finding purpose in a time of exile**

**KAKUMA, Kenya** — More than 200,000 people, displaced from conflicts in East Africa, live in the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya’s northwestern corner. They flee violence in their homelands.

In the camp gangs have sprung to life among the refugees. So have churches.

A small group of refugees from Congo and South Sudan took correspondence courses through World Bible School and started meeting together to worship.

Recently Richard Karima of the Eastleigh Church of Christ in Nairobi and Phil Palmer, regional director for WBS, traveled to Kakuma and hosted a three-day seminar, attended by more than 30 people. Seven people were baptized.

“They are all young adults,” wrote Charlotte Hackett, a missionary in Nairobi, in a recent newsletter. “It’s our belief that being Christians will make their lives more meaningful, and they will find a purpose in their exile.”

**KARIMA**

**M. Rushmore**

In the mountain village of Paramakatoi, Guyana, Louis Rushmore plays tag with children before a gospel meeting. Rushmore and his wife, Martha, travel the globe with the World Evangelism ministry, continuing the work of the late J.C. Choate.

In Guyana, a nation of 783,000 souls, the couple joined Guyanese minister Frederic Darrell for a World Evangelism Workshop hosted by Churches of Christ in seven locales across the South American country.

In Paramakatoi, Martha Rushmore presented a Bible lesson to 200 elementary school children. “Teaching the children has been the highlight of our work in Guyana so far this year,” she said. The Amelia’s Ward Church of Christ presented the workshops in Guyana, and the Siwell Road Church of Christ in Jackson, Miss., oversees the work of the Rushmores. Read more from the couple’s travels at louisrushmore.wordpress.com.
COVID-19: ‘Everyone has an underlying nervousness’

FROM PAGE 3

has video chats chats with the
women at least once per week “to
study the Bible and comfort them.”
That’s how the entire church will
be meeting in the weeks to come.

Members of the 52-year-old
congregation spread out across
their small meeting room on a
recent Sunday, observing the Italian
government’s recommendation that
they maintain a 1-meter distance
from each other. Days later, the
government placed the entire
country on lockdown.

“We keep the law,” Vitalone
said. “We’ll get in contact with the
brothers by computer.

“Our prayer is that the Word of
God is known around and through
us — and specifically that we can
endure (the) COVID-19 virus and
keep on working for our Lord.”

IN ITALY, ‘AN APOCALYPTIC SITUATION’

In Italy, COVID-19 deaths had just
reached 1,000 at press time, prompting
the nationwide lockdown. The
Chronicle contacted church mem-
ers for reaction.
- “My Italian
friends and brethren
are in good spir-
its,” said Rebecca
Shanahan, who
serves as a mis-
sionary with her
husband, Scott, in
Florence, about 170
miles north of Rome. “But everyone
has an underlying nervousness.

“All children are out of school,
and many businesses have closed
because they’re not making enough
money. All tourist economic flow has
basically stopped, and that’s what
this region depends on.”
- Church members depend on
the economy as well, said Franco
Verardi, who ministers for a Church
of Christ in Latiano, a southern city
situated in the heel of the Italian
boot. His daughter runs a shop that
had almost no customers for a week.

“Everyone is afraid of everything,”
he said. The country “seems to
be living in an apocalyptic situation.”
- In the northern Italian city of
Milan, an epicenter of the coronavirus
outbreak, a 30-member Church
of Christ hadn’t met for several
weeks, said church member Marina
Tiodar, though a handful of mem-
ers had met in homes.

“I am praying for wisdom for the
people that govern us,” Tiodar said,
“and for health, comfort for the
people that are now sick.”

She also prays “to have the
strength to trust in the Lord, no
matter the calamities in our lives.”

BIDDING ‘ADIEU’ TO CHEEK KISSES

Members of Churches of Christ in
other parts of Europe report a vari-
ety of protocols and restrictions with
regard to the pandemic:
- In Colmar, France, meetings of
50 or more people were forbidden,
said Aaron Palmer. That wasn’t a
problem for the small Church of
Christ that worships in his home.

“We are one of two of the hardest-hit
parts of France,” he said, “but
it is still nowhere near on the level
with Italy.”

The church continued to meet,
and people were going about their
normal routines, Palmer said, though
many were not engaging in “la bise,”
the traditional, two-kiss greeting.

- Church members in several
countries, including Belgium, the
Netherlands and Austria, told the
Chronicle that churches continued to
meet but encouraged members with
cold or flu symptoms to stay home.

In Vienna, Austria, the Pohlgasse
Church of Christ had adopted “no
hugging, shaking hands, kissing and
not getting too close to each other”
rules, member Reggy Hiller said.

- Albania closed schools and
barred public gatherings in
response to its first COVID-19 cases.

“I’m worried for the days to come,”
said Shkelqim Kafexhi, a minister in
Durres. “We pray God may end this
virus in a miraculous way.”

In Albania’s capital, Tirana, the
Church of Christ livestreamed its ser-
vice. “We are a hugging and cheek-kissing
culture.” But “it’s an issue of safety.”

PRAYERS FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA

From Wuhan, China, the first
epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak,
the virus spread across Southeast
Asia. Members of Churches of
Christ sent the following reports:

- “This pandemic thing is causing
pandemonium,” said Gigie Carranza,
just hours after Rodrigo Duterte,
president of the Philippines,
declared a lockdown of the capital
city, Manila, which has a metro area
of more than 12 million people.

The city had 49 confirmed coro-
navirus cases at press time, and
Carranza was headed to a bus ter-
inal at 5 a.m. to make sure she got
back to her home on the outskirts
on the city before a transportation
ban went into effect.

People were “panic-buying” food
and rubbing alcohol, she said.

Danni de Vera, a minister and
ministry director in Manila, advised
church members to conduct worship
services in their homes and sent
them study materials. But multiple
church youth camps, ladies retreats
and gospel meetings would have to
be cancelled, Carranza added.

- In Japan, some Churches of
Christ had limited gatherings to
Sunday morning worship, and
masks and hand sanitizer were in
use, said missionary Joel Osborne.

At a recent meeting, ministers for
Churches of Christ were “prayerfully
trying to discern if we should cancel
nationwide events at the end of April
and beginning of June,” he added.

- In South Korea, online shopping
and videoconferencing had helped
church members weather the coro-
navirus, said longtime missionary
Malcolm Parsley.

“We have obeyed the laws of
the land in not gathering in large
groups,” he said, “and sent instruc-
tions as to how to prepare the bread
for communion and encouraged
them to take communion and not
fail to worship as families until we
let them know otherwise. ...

“This pandemic will strengthen
the faithful strong, but it is the
weaker, newer babes in Christ
that we worry about. We need the
prayers of all.”
‘Forsaking the assembly?’

**AMID CANCELLATIONS due to the COVID-19 pandemic, churches urged to ‘settle down, be calm and have a message of hope.’**

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Ministers around the globe are preaching sermons to empty rooms.

But for once, this has nothing to do with declining church attendance.

Using videoconferencing software and social media, Churches of Christ — especially large congregations — are temporarily moving their worship services online in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“After much prayer, we have decided the best thing for us to do this weekend is settle down, be calm and have a message of hope,” said Jonathan Seamon, executive minister, to members for the Brentwood Hills Church of Christ in Nashville, Tenn., which had 19 cases of COVID-19 at press time. The 1,400-member church cancelled a week of its onsite worship and Bible classes.

A group of ministers and elders planned to livestream a gospel message from the church building, Seamon said in a video message to church members. The church’s staff made communion supplies available for church members to pick up.

In Houston, the 900-member Memorial Church of Christ confined its Sunday a.m. worship to livestream after local authorities asked people not to meet in groups of 250 or more. The church planned to continue its Sunday night assembly.

Church leaders placed hand sanitizer throughout their buildings and urged members to thoroughly wash their hands for 20 seconds.

And most importantly, they said, stay home if you don’t feel well.

“You are ‘not forsaking the assembly’ if you are sick,” said church elders, referencing the King James Version of Hebrews 10:25 in a message to members. “You are protecting the family.”

As the pandemic worsened and more churches contemplated moving their services entirely online, ministers expressed mixed feelings about empty-room sermons.

**FIND UPDATES on event cancelations and other news relating to the impact of COVID-19 on Churches of Christ at christianchronicle.org.**

**RELATED EDITORIAL:** Page 34

---

If you are using PowerPoint Song files and…

… taking too much time putting the slides together… then you should try the

**Song Solution Worship Planner**

Song leaders and worship planners spend hours each week putting an order of worship together. This not only involves choosing the right songs and order of worship, but it also requires opening multiple song files then cutting and pasting them together to create a PowerPoint file. Try a better way!

Visit our website today:

descriptmed.com

YES, this is the correct website!

Visit us today and start getting done earlier and going home sooner!

Works well with Paperless Hymnal files.
The Church of Christ in Hot Springs Village, Arkansas, is supporting a God-centered treatment program for men at SOZO Addiction Recovery Center, where in the last four years, 49 men have chosen to become baptized into Christ as part of their recovery experience. This is particularly significant because the program only treats 10-12 men at a time.

In addition to mental health and addiction counseling in small groups and one-on-one sessions, the men become active members of the congregation and experience first hand the healing power of God's love in a Bible-based congregation.

For more information about this uniquely successful program, visit:

www.sozorecoverycenters.com

Executive Director, Bob O'Dowd
(501) 226-9575  bonhsv@suddenlink.net

---

Preacher Search - Warwick, Rhode Island

We are a small congregation that desires to grow both spiritually and numerically. Currently, our resources are limited, and while we can offer some salary, we also can offer a modest four-bedroom home. For full description, please visit our website:

warwickrichurchofchrist.org

If interested, send your resume and cover letter, including a brief description of the strengths you would bring to our congregation, to:

warwickricoc@gmail.com

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

---

Family and Community Outreach Minister

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

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

---

Minister Wanted - Roanoke, Va.

Roanoke Church of Christ, a congregation of approximately 30, seeks a minister for preaching, teaching, and caring for church family and neighbors. Please send resume and link to recent sermon, lesson, or teaching to:

Steering Committee,
c/o Mike Branch
mmbranch@roanokechurchofchrist.com

---

Seminar

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that 19.7 million children live without a father in the home. Understanding the Fatherless and their Struggles is a seminar addressing the needs of the fatherless. Also, learn how the church can benefit from helping the fatherless. This seminar is designed to be presented at congregations, lectureships, family encampments, or youth camps. For more details, contact:

Tyrone Harris
(469) 408-8518
Blessingfamilies@att.net

---

Global Reunion 2020
July 27-31

15th Annual Camp for TCKs and Families in the ReEntry Stage of Cross-Cultural Living

Register before June 15 for Earlybird Discount
For more information and registration:
oc.edu/globalreunion
Nancy.Hartman@oc.edu

Blue Ridge Family Encampment
June 4 – June 8, 2020

Spiritual Renewal and Fellowship
The Retreat at Center Hill Lake

615-597-4298
Find Your Christian Family

Scan Me
Not so long ago, the McCarthy Hill Church of Christ met under a tent. Now the congregation, planted in a western suburb of Ghana's capital, worships in a three-story building with polished stone floors. Its members sing hymns in Twi, their native language, with lyrics projected on a closed-circuit video system.

The building includes a massive balcony. It has ample room for 700 souls, maybe even 1,000 — far more space than needed for the 258 people who have gathered for worship this Sunday morning. But Ghanaians don’t do anything small.

In McCarthy Hill, they’ve built for growth — all with their own funds. When Douglas Boateng, a longtime elder of the Nsawam Road Church of Christ in central Accra, and his family moved into McCarthy Hill, they befriended an elderly woman who was well known and loved by the community. When she died in September 2011, Boateng conducted her funeral and talked about the eternal hope Jesus offers. Nine people were baptized as a result, and the McCarthy Hill church was born.

For the first six years, the Boatengs’ home was the church building, and their swimming pool was the baptistery. The church grew and moved to a tent. Then the Boatengs provided the funds for construction of the building.

Douglas Boateng made his fortune in the commercial fishing supply business. He’s expanded the business across West Africa, employing church members who also serve as vocational missionaries. As a result, Churches of Christ have sprung to life in nations from Liberia to Guinea-Bissau — even in Senegal, a predominantly Muslim nation.

Four years ago, the elders of Nsawam Road named Boateng himself as a missionary. He now mentors new generations of church planters — while serving as a planter in his own community.

After Sunday worship at McCarthy Hill, church members hosted a small group of American visitors for lunch and shared with them the congregation’s history and spoke about the Boatengs’ role in church growth across the region.

“It’s a great joy and very humbling to hear these things,” Douglas Boateng said in response. “I pray that the Lord uses me as a good steward.”

For an usher wearing a shirt that reads “I’m proud to be a member of the Church of Christ,” the McCarthy Hill church’s three-story meeting place offers a picturesque view.
A teacher takes time in Bible class to battle his nation’s opioid crisis

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

ACCRRA, Ghana

This West African capital is in the grip of an opioid crisis like the one that has destroyed countless lives across the United States. Children are among its victims.

Phanuel Demanya, who teaches youth Bible classes for the McCarthy Hill Church of Christ in Accra, said he has spoken with kids as young as 8 who have tried Tramadol, a painkiller that’s supposed to be available by prescription only.

Demanya’s Bible class has children from the community who are invited to church by their friends. Some come from broken homes and spend much of their days without adult supervision. Some have family members who are struggling with addiction.

The kids “started taking the leftovers,” Demanya said. “It’s a serious thing in Ghana now.”

That’s why the 38-year-old father of three girls — ages 6, 4 and 18 months — takes time in the midst of Bible studies to talk openly and honestly about drugs.

He teaches how they’re made, how they’re intended to be used and how they’re abused. He tries to dispel the myths the children hear in their neighborhoods.

“I teach them how to report it, to see a sign that a friend is misleading you,” he said.

On a recent Sunday morning, he drew a crude oval diagram on the dry erase board in his classroom, an open-air pavilion below the church’s auditorium. The drawing resembled the bright yellow pod of the cocoa plant, the basis of chocolate and the backbone of Ghana’s economy.

But it was actually coca, not cocoa, he explained to the youths, ranging in age from 8 to 14. Although coca is indigenous to South America, not West Africa, there’s plenty of it here in Accra — in the form of cocaine.

Ghana has become a transit hub for the drug as the cartels bring it from the fields of Colombia and Peru to the streets of Europe, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Demanya used the illustration to explain how the children can avoid these things, he said.

Phanuel Demanya talks with his youth Bible class about the dangers of cocaine.

“Create the awareness of it and how they can avoid these things,” he said. But he realizes it takes more than awareness to combat drug abuse.

So Demanya and other members of the McCarthy Hill church have begun hosting regular sports activities at the church building, including basketball, aerobics and soccer “to keep them from being idle,” he said.

He had worshiped with Presbyterian, Pentecostal and Seventh Day Adventist churches, but “I kept searching,” he said. “I didn’t know what it meant to really worship God.”

He met evangelist Douglas Boateng eight years ago when the McCarthy Hill church was planted in his neighborhood. He studied the Bible with Boateng, who baptized him.

“I was baptized,” he said. “He met evangelist Douglas Boateng eight years ago when the McCarthy Hill church was planted in his neighborhood. He studied the Bible with Boateng, who baptized him.

Now he wants to see that same transformation in the next generation.
DO THE DIVORCED AND REMARRIED HAVE A PLACE IN GOD’S KINGDOM? YOUR CHURCH MAY SAY NO, BUT JESUS SAYS YES!

DIVORCED?
Don’t let misinformed preachers burden you with guilt and deprive you of opportunities to serve. Remarriage is possible.

"Hopefully, this book will serve as a guide... hopefully [to] stop teaching the ‘sacred cow’ philosophy that many have adopted out of fear of being branded a liberal or false teacher. Thank you, brother!"

- J. Wiggins

“This is the best book ever written on the issue…”

- Charles Hodge, author, On the Banks of Onion Creek

Available at Christian Bookstores and Amazon.com • 159 pages
Hardcover $20.95 • Paperback $13.50 • Kindle e-book $8.95

Discounts at:
www.weldonlangfield.com

Seventy-Fifth Anniversary

Why I Am
A Member of the Church of Christ
by Leroy Brownlow

For 75 years, Why I Am A Member of the Church of Christ has attempted to explain what we believed and why we believe it.

It is Biblical and as timeless and true as ever. The church has never been perfect and never will be. But may God help us, with grace and humility, to share our Biblical understanding with a new generation.

Softcover $4.99    Hardcover $9.99
Order from: Brownlow Publishing Company
1.800.433.7610

Is Your Calling Biblical Scholarship or Servant Leadership?
Get prepared.

Study for a Higher Purpose

At Austin Grad, gain a rich biblical understanding to teach, lead, and minister within your church and community.

Programs include Master of Arts in Christian Ministry, Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies, with choice of online or on-campus courses, and a wide range of short Biblical Studies Specialization programs.

Contact Us to Take the Next Step
(866) 287-4723
www.AustinGrad.edu

Visit us online to download our curricula today!
WWW.GOODSERVANT.ORG
800.393.1494

Members of Churches of Christ for Scouting provides Servant Leadership Curricula and Awards that can be earned by all youth. MCCS is officially recognized by Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts USA, American Heritage Girls and Trail Life USA.

At Austin Grad, gain a rich biblical understanding to teach, lead, and minister within your church and community.

Programs include Master of Arts in Christian Ministry, Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies, with choice of online or on-campus courses, and a wide range of short Biblical Studies Specialization programs.

Contact Us to Take the Next Step
(866) 287-4723
www.AustinGrad.edu

Members of Churches of Christ for Scouting provides Servant Leadership Curricula and Awards that can be earned by all youth. MCCS is officially recognized by Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts USA, American Heritage Girls and Trail Life USA.

Seventy-Fifth Anniversary

Why I Am
A Member of the Church of Christ
by Leroy Brownlow

For 75 years, Why I Am A Member of the Church of Christ has attempted to explain what we believed and why we believe it.

It is Biblical and as timeless and true as ever. The church has never been perfect and never will be. But may God help us, with grace and humility, to share our Biblical understanding with a new generation.

Softcover $4.99    Hardcover $9.99
Order from: Brownlow Publishing Company
1.800.433.7610

Is Your Calling Biblical Scholarship or Servant Leadership?
Get prepared.

Study for a Higher Purpose

At Austin Grad, gain a rich biblical understanding to teach, lead, and minister within your church and community.

Programs include Master of Arts in Christian Ministry, Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies, with choice of online or on-campus courses, and a wide range of short Biblical Studies Specialization programs.

Contact Us to Take the Next Step
(866) 287-4723
www.AustinGrad.edu

Members of Churches of Christ for Scouting provides Servant Leadership Curricula and Awards that can be earned by all youth. MCCS is officially recognized by Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts USA, American Heritage Girls and Trail Life USA.

Seventy-Fifth Anniversary

Why I Am
A Member of the Church of Christ
by Leroy Brownlow

For 75 years, Why I Am A Member of the Church of Christ has attempted to explain what we believed and why we believe it.

It is Biblical and as timeless and true as ever. The church has never been perfect and never will be. But may God help us, with grace and humility, to share our Biblical understanding with a new generation.

Softcover $4.99    Hardcover $9.99
Order from: Brownlow Publishing Company
1.800.433.7610

Is Your Calling Biblical Scholarship or Servant Leadership?
Get prepared.

Study for a Higher Purpose

At Austin Grad, gain a rich biblical understanding to teach, lead, and minister within your church and community.

Programs include Master of Arts in Christian Ministry, Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies, with choice of online or on-campus courses, and a wide range of short Biblical Studies Specialization programs.

Contact Us to Take the Next Step
(866) 287-4723
www.AustinGrad.edu

Members of Churches of Christ for Scouting provides Servant Leadership Curricula and Awards that can be earned by all youth. MCCS is officially recognized by Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts USA, American Heritage Girls and Trail Life USA.

Seventy-Fifth Anniversary

Why I Am
A Member of the Church of Christ
by Leroy Brownlow

For 75 years, Why I Am A Member of the Church of Christ has attempted to explain what we believed and why we believe it.

It is Biblical and as timeless and true as ever. The church has never been perfect and never will be. But may God help us, with grace and humility, to share our Biblical understanding with a new generation.

Softcover $4.99    Hardcover $9.99
Order from: Brownlow Publishing Company
1.800.433.7610

Is Your Calling Biblical Scholarship or Servant Leadership?
Get prepared.

Study for a Higher Purpose

At Austin Grad, gain a rich biblical understanding to teach, lead, and minister within your church and community.

Programs include Master of Arts in Christian Ministry, Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies, with choice of online or on-campus courses, and a wide range of short Biblical Studies Specialization programs.

Contact Us to Take the Next Step
(866) 287-4723
www.AustinGrad.edu

Members of Churches of Christ for Scouting provides Servant Leadership Curricula and Awards that can be earned by all youth. MCCS is officially recognized by Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts USA, American Heritage Girls and Trail Life USA.

Seventy-Fifth Anniversary

Why I Am
A Member of the Church of Christ
by Leroy Brownlow

For 75 years, Why I Am A Member of the Church of Christ has attempted to explain what we believed and why we believe it.

It is Biblical and as timeless and true as ever. The church has never been perfect and never will be. But may God help us, with grace and humility, to share our Biblical understanding with a new generation.

Softcover $4.99    Hardcover $9.99
Order from: Brownlow Publishing Company
1.800.433.7610

Is Your Calling Biblical Scholarship or Servant Leadership?
Get prepared.

Study for a Higher Purpose

At Austin Grad, gain a rich biblical understanding to teach, lead, and minister within your church and community.

Programs include Master of Arts in Christian Ministry, Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies, with choice of online or on-campus courses, and a wide range of short Biblical Studies Specialization programs.

Contact Us to Take the Next Step
(866) 287-4723
www.AustinGrad.edu

Members of Churches of Christ for Scouting provides Servant Leadership Curricula and Awards that can be earned by all youth. MCCS is officially recognized by Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts USA, American Heritage Girls and Trail Life USA.

Seventy-Fifth Anniversary

Why I Am
A Member of the Church of Christ
by Leroy Brownlow

For 75 years, Why I Am A Member of the Church of Christ has attempted to explain what we believed and why we believe it.

It is Biblical and as timeless and true as ever. The church has never been perfect and never will be. But may God help us, with grace and humility, to share our Biblical understanding with a new generation.

Softcover $4.99    Hardcover $9.99
Order from: Brownlow Publishing Company
1.800.433.7610

Is Your Calling Biblical Scholarship or Servant Leadership?
Get prepared.

Study for a Higher Purpose

At Austin Grad, gain a rich biblical understanding to teach, lead, and minister within your church and community.

Programs include Master of Arts in Christian Ministry, Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies, with choice of online or on-campus courses, and a wide range of short Biblical Studies Specialization programs.

Contact Us to Take the Next Step
(866) 287-4723
www.AustinGrad.edu

Members of Churches of Christ for Scouting provides Servant Leadership Curricula and Awards that can be earned by all youth. MCCS is officially recognized by Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts USA, American Heritage Girls and Trail Life USA.
Elder focuses on improving church safety

BY LYNN Mc MILLON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

‘W’ have practiced what we teach.” That’s Rick Arrington’s motto for preparing churches and businesses for safety against all kinds of preventable threats. Arrington is a professional security consultant, trainer, published author and retired police lieutenant who serves as an elder of the Rocky Mount Church of Christ in Virginia. He has focused his expertise in protection from violence on church safety since 2013. A former Army military policeman who specialized in crowd control, he heads the Crime Prevention Center for Training and Services, based in Hardy, Va.

For 26 years, Arrington served the Roanoke Police Department in Virginia in a variety of roles, culminating in his last position as a lieutenant commanding a zone of the city. He since has worked with the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services as the crime prevention programs manager.

He regularly presents seminars related to safety in churches and faith-based organizations. In 2015, he published “Securing the Faithful” (Sunset Institute Press) for faith-based organizations.

What are the risk factors that make any church vulnerable to a shooter?

The first factor to consider is the probability of a particular type of event, such as a robbery or a shooting event. For example, statistically speaking, robbery is the primary cause in church-related deaths, followed closely by domestic spillover and personal conflict. These three make up 56 percent of the deadly shooting incidents at churches, according to the Faith Based Security Network, a nonprofit that tracks this data.

A church located in a high-violent-crime neighborhood is more vulnerable than one in a low-crime community. One near a downtown location is more vulnerable to certain attacks than a rural church, simply because of the proximity to homeless and substance-abuser populations. Immediate proximity to an interstate represents a quick escape route, and thus this location is also left unprotected and is vulnerable to robbery.

The final factor that one should examine is the impact of a violent shooting event on the church. Impact is not only measured in terms of property damage but also in terms of the shooter’s motivation, the number of persons harmed or killed, the potential for media coverage and notoriety, and the harm to the mission of the church and cause of Christ.

What are the main things a church can do to ensure safety against shooters?

I am adamant that we can protect the assembly through planning, procedures, training and implementation of a safety team. In short, if church leadership is opposed to arming a safety team, much can still be done to protect the congregation. I work with elderships to achieve safety. If I could only implement a few things for safety, they would be:

1. Appoint a safety team leader to oversee and coordinate monitoring, reporting suspicious behaviors and drafting procedures for addressing such behaviors.

The safety team should be trained in identifying suspicious behaviors and in plans to address the behaviors or to locate themselves in close proximity to a possible but not obvious threat to react quickly. The team should be aware that its role is simply to isolate the danger from the church; they are not police.

For example, if a person they are addressing runs out the door, then once they are out, secure the door and call the police.

2. Ensure the parking lot is monitored before services, during services and prior to releasing the congregation to exit. Again, according to FBSN statistics, about 75 percent of shootings at churches occur outside the building. In my years of teaching faith-based security seminars, I found that few churches address the exterior. I found even fewer that addressed the exterior after services.

3. Secure the building. Although this sounds like something that can’t be done, it is one of the best things that can be done. We advocate using greeters trained in identifying concealed weapons and unusual behaviors that may then be closely scrutinized and other measures to be taken to protect the congregation. This measure goes hand in glove with the training of a safety team.

Can you point to biblical principles that can guide a church in its efforts to be safe from gun and other violence?

Absolutely. Some Scriptures give us direction for safety measures that God authorized and in which men took the lead. In Acts 12:13-16, we see the disciples behind locked doors.

In John 20:19, we see doors locked on the first day of the week when the disciples came together, for fear of the Jewish leaders. A week later, Jesus appeared before the disciples, and the Scripture in John 20:26 says, “although the doors were locked.”

As for the need or use for weapons, the Scriptures address this also, but I believe that this is a decision that must be made by the local elders. There are many factors to consider that I am constrained to address due to space limitations. An example for protection in the Old Testament is found in the rebuilding of the wall in Nehemiah chapter 3.

See ARRINGTON, Page 24
4:15-23, where the enemies had attempted to stop the work, and the threat was known and steps taken for protection. God did his part, but the citizens also had a role.

Some states allow carrying concealed weapons. How does that affect church efforts to protect its members?

As of 2018, only Nebraska and Louisiana outright prohibit carrying concealed weapons into a church. Most states’ attorneys have indicated that it is the church that may prohibit carrying firearms into the building.

Another concern many overlook is the issue of friendly fire during a shooting incident. That is to say, a visitor who is legally carrying a concealed weapon intervenes to assist when a criminal shooter is engaged by an armed church safety team, but the team now sees and reacts to what they view as two hostile shooters. The eldership must decide if the safety team will be armed, and if so, what standards they must meet.

To what degree should churches protect activities other than Sunday?

The short answer is that we must protect the minister and staff as well as worshipers. Implementing a means for those seeking benevolence, other than showing up at the building unscheduled, provides some safety. Protecting financial indicators from all except the congregation, and ensuring that the minister and other users of the church other than during the Lord’s Day’s worship and Bible studies, are just as important. Any church event also should be addressed through planned safety measures, and some safety team members should be present, if possible.

About 62 percent of the shooting incidents at faith organizations occur when no churchwide event is occurring. This is directly linked to the fact that the No. 1 triggering event is robbery, followed by domestic spillover.
Christians pack the pews for a faith-affirming experience

Myron Bruce leads nearly 1,100 voices in worship during the opening night of Affirming the Faith, an annual seminar hosted by the North MacArthur Church of Christ in Oklahoma City. Participants from across the U.S. joined visitors from countries including Australia at the seminar, which had as its theme “Reaching Higher: The Sermon on the Mount.”

Read more about the seminar in Insight, Page 38.

In midst of COVID-19 pandemic, Christian universities extend breaks, move classes online

BY CHELLIE ISON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

College students packed their bags for home early this semester as higher learning institutions associated with Churches of Christ moved classes online in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Harding University in Searcy, Ark., announced that it would move all in-class work online until further notice. President Bruce McLarty said that all students were “asked to remain at home or return to their homes instead of reporting back to campus following spring break.”

Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif., earlier made the similar decision to send its students home for the rest of the semester.

Rochester University in Michigan announced that, beginning March 16, all classwork would be moved online. The university’s residence halls would reopen after spring break. However, like Harding, Rochester officials encouraged students to stay home if possible.

“Rochester University remains committed to keeping abreast of the most current and accurate information and acting to protect the safety and health of our entire community,” President Brian Stogner said.

In Texas, administrators at Abilene Christian University said they were continuing to monitor the situation. The university extended its spring break through March 20 and planned to reopen its residence halls and dining operations for students who needed those services. ACU officials said they would continue to monitor the situation and make any other changes as necessary.

Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City and Heritage Christian University in Florence, Ala., also announced that they were moving to online learning. Oklahoma Christian officials said that the change, for now, would go through the beginning of April. Heritage Christian students will finish the spring semester online. Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn., extended spring break an additional week before serving students “primarily online,” said President David Shannon.

UPDATES: christianchronicle.org
FACULTY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

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

Initial application should include a letter of interest and curriculum vitae. To complete the application, three spiritual references, three professional references, and official transcripts for all degrees earned are required. Salary and rank are determined based on credentials and experience.

COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH • PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES. Seeking qualified applicants for a full-time, 12-month principal faculty position. Responsibilities will include teaching the program’s core curriculum, advising and mentoring students, assisting with the hands-on practical training of students in various clinical practice skills, maintaining clinical competency through appropriate practice, conducting scholarly activity in the faculty’s area of expertise, and engaging in service to the college, university and community. Though the emphasis of the program curriculum is preparation for primary care, applicants from a variety of clinical backgrounds will be considered. Qualified applicants should possess a minimum of a master’s degree in physician assistant studies or similar field. Three years of clinical experience and one year of teaching experience preferred. PA applicants should be NCCPA certified and eligible for licensure as a physician assistant in the state of Arkansas.

Submit application materials to Dr. Michael McGalliard, dean, at mmcgalliard@harding.edu, or HU Box 12292, Searcy, AR 72149.

COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH • PHYSICAL THERAPY. Seeking a full-time, 12-month faculty member beginning May 2020. Applicants must have a Doctor of Physical Therapy or lower level physical therapy degree with a terminal degree such as Ph.D., DHS or Ed.D. Additionally, the candidate must hold a current PT license with eligibility for licensure in Arkansas. Preference will be given to those with experience in orthotics and prosthetics, cardiopulmonary and geriatric practice.

Submit application materials to Dr. Kevin Ramey, program director, at kramey1@harding.edu or HU Box 12292, Searcy, AR 72149.

These additional openings are available at harding.edu/facultyjobs:

- COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH • ATHLETIC TRAINING, COMMUNICATION SCIENCES & DISORDERS
- COLLEGE OF ARTS & HUMANITIES • DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
- PAUL R. CARTER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION • INFORMATION SYSTEMS, MARKETING

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

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

Licensed Nursing Facility Administrator

From independent living and short-term rehabilitation to long-term nursing, Alzheimer’s and Dementia care, Texasoma Christian Care Center is conveniently located in Wichita Falls, Texas, to offer a variety of living alternatives for those unable to care for themselves. Our experienced and compassionate personnel make Texasoma Christian Care Center a caring place for all who stay here during a period of recovery or rehabilitation or who live here permanently. We are simply and completely in the business of providing professional rehabilitative and nursing care for our residents and their families. In an effort to continue to meet the goals of our company, Texasoma Christian Care Center is seeking to hire an experienced and motivated Licensed Nursing Facility Administrator to join our facility’s leadership team. Texasoma offers competitive wages, a full benefits package, and opportunities for training and growth. For more information regarding applying for this position, please visit our website tccc.org or contact:

Kelly Hughes, Director of Human Resources
Texasoma Christian Care Center, Inc.
300 Loop 11
Wichita Falls, Texas 76306
(940) 723-8420, ext. 1044
khughes@tccc.org

Seeking Full-Time Minister - Cortez, Colorado

The Cortez church of Christ is located in the beautiful Four Corners area of Colorado. We are a loving congregation of 80+ members who want to grow. We are involved in community service, mission work, Leadership Training for Christ, and a local youth camp. We provide a competitive salary and a nice four-bedroom home.

If interested, send a detailed resume including references and information about yourself and your family to: cortezcofc@live.com.

The Cortez area is home to scenic mountains, deserts, mesas, rivers, lakes, farmland and Mesa Verde National Park. Locals enjoy skiing, hiking, fishing, hunting, camping, boating, mountain biking and golfing.
Oklahoma Christian: ‘We’ve got to do better’ after racially charged incident

BY ERIK TRYGGSTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma Christian University’s president apologized and promised change after an admissions counselor representing the university at an area public school asked students to arrange themselves by skin tone and hair texture.

The since-fired counselor, Cedric Sunray, “led a racist activity that was offensive, harmful and inappropriate,” President John deSteiguer told about 60 students, faculty and community members. The 2,200-student university, which is associated with Churches of Christ, convened the special meeting to address Sunray’s actions.

“I’m embarrassed, and I’m ashamed, and I’m mad about what happened,” deSteiguer told those seated in church pews in Oklahoma Christian’s Scott Chapel. “I’m very, very sorry. … We’ve got to do better.”

In a statement, Sunray said that his actions were well intentioned and that he had done similar presentations in the past. He said that he regretted not taking enough time to explain the purpose of the activity.

“Nothing I spoke at Harding Charter Preparatory during an initial ‘ice-breaker’ session had any intention of promoting a racist agenda,” Sunray said in the statement. “My presentations are the opposite. They are intended to take a hard look at issues such as this. The most dangerous things in education are those we are unwilling to discuss.”

The incident happened at Harding Charter Preparatory High School in northeast Oklahoma City, an ethnically diverse school of about 500 students. Sunray, on a recruiting visit for Oklahoma Christian, began by initiating games with high school juniors that quickly became uncomfortable, TV station KFOR reported.

During the meeting in Scott Chapel, deSteiguer said the university “failed miserably” by allowing Sunray to continue campus visits after the Future Teachers Day’ incident.

Among the attendees was Josh Higginbotham, who teaches Latin, Greek and German at Harding Prep. He was not present during the student activity with Sunray but said he wasn’t surprised by it.

“The students didn’t want to say too much about it,” Higginbotham told The Christian Chronicle after the meeting.

Although white OC employees at the meeting said they were shocked and appalled by the incident, many of the students Higginbotham teaches face similar situations on a regular basis, the teacher said.

SEE AN EXPANDED STORY and read Sunray’s entire statement at christianchronicle.org.
The Christian Chronicle Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the creation of a special endowment to secure operation of the Chronicle until the Lord returns. Named the Lynn and Joy McMillon Endowment, the Board seeks to honor Dr. McMillon for 23 years of distinguished, visionary leadership and service.

To contribute to this special endowment online, look for the “Lynn and Joy McMillon Endowment” form at christianchronicle.org/donate. Or, mail a check to The Christian Chronicle, P.O. Box 11000, Oklahoma City, OK 73136-1100 earmarked for the McMillon Endowment. You may also call Lynda Sheehan in our office at (405) 425-5070.

Thank you,
Trustees of the Christian Chronicle Board
HONOR ROLL OF CHURCHES, 2019-2020

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

ALABAMA: Church of Christ, Abbeville; 16th & Noble St. Church of Christ, Anniston; Bay Minette Church of Christ, Bay Minette; Mars Hill Church of Christ, Florence; Henry St. Church of Christ, Gadsden; Hamilton Church of Christ, Hamilton; Madison Church of Christ, Madison; North Pickens Church of Christ, Reform; Houston Park Church of Christ, Selma; Talladega Church of Christ, Talladega; Troy Church of Christ, Troy. ARIZONA: Anchor Point Church of Christ, Arizona. ARIZONA: Church of Christ, Ashdown; North Heights Church of Christ, Batesville; Beebeville Church of Christ, Beebeville; Westside Church of Christ, Dierks; Mt. Comfort Church of Christ, Fayetteville; Central Church of Christ, Genoa; Greenway Church of Christ, Greenway; Hardy Church of Christ, Hardy; Hiwassee Church of Christ, Hiwassee; Church of Christ, Horatio; Emerson St. Church of Christ, Magnolia; Melbourne Church of Christ, Melbourne; School Ave. Church of Christ, Mountain View; Levy Church of Christ, N. Little Rock; Oak Grove Church of Christ, N. Little Rock; Pine Knoll Church of Christ, Paragould; Prairie Grove Church of Christ, Prairie Grove; White Oak Church of Christ, Quitman; Cloverdale Church of Christ, Searcy; West Pleasure Church of Christ, Searcy; Sheridan Church of Christ, Sheridan; Success Church of Christ, Success; W. Central Church of Christ, Warren. CALIFORNIA: Auberry Church of Christ, Auberry; North Oaks Church of Christ, Canyon Country; Dos Palos Church of Christ, Dos Palos; Imperial Beach Church of Christ, Imperial Beach; La Verne Church of Christ, La Verne; S. Lynwood Church of Christ, Lynwood; Church of Christ, Madera; McKinleyville Church of Christ, McKinleyville; Morro Bay Church of Christ, Morro Bay; Murrieta Church of Christ, Murrieta; Reseda Church of Christ, Reseda; Rialto Church of Christ, Rialto; Riverdale Church of Christ, Riverdale; Alisal Church of Christ, Salinas; Canyon View Church of Christ, San Diego; Temple Church of Christ Korean, San Gabriel; Johnson Ave. Church of Christ, San Luis Obispo; Church of Christ-Solano, Vacaville; Church of Christ, Valley Springs; Victor Valley Church of Christ, Victorville; Woodlake Church of Christ, Woodlake; Yucca Valley Church of Christ, Yucca Valley. COLORADO: Creede Church of Christ, Creede; S. Fulton St. Church of Christ, Denver; Columbine Church of Christ, Greeley; Highlands Ranch Church of Christ, Highlands Ranch; La Junta Church of Christ, La Junta; Columbine Church of Christ, Littleton; Rye Church of Christ, Rye; Northwest Church of Christ, Westminster. CONNECTICUT: South Road Church of Christ, Farmington; Groton Church of Christ, Groton. DELAWARE: Seafood Church of Christ, Seafood. FLORIDA: Bethel Church of Christ, Bell; 53rd Ave. Church of Christ, Bradenton; Callahan Church of Christ, Callahan; Deerfield Beach Church of Christ, Deerfield; Fort Walton Beach Church of Christ, Fort Walton Beach; Holly Hill Church of Christ, Holly Hill; Arlington Church of Christ, Jacksonville; S. 14th St. Church of Christ, Leesburg; Live Oak Church of Christ, Live Oak; Bay Area Church of Christ, Mango; Church of Christ, Oxford; Palo Alto Church of Christ, Panama City; Pembroke Park Church of Christ, Pembroke Park; Fiske Blvd. Church of Christ, Rockledge; S. Hillsboro Church of Christ, Ruskin; Sanford Church of Christ, Sanford; Osprey Church of Christ, Sarasota; Gifford Church of Christ, Vero Beach. GEORGIA: US 19 Church of Christ, Albany; Hentown Church of Christ, Blakely; Habersham Church of Christ, Cornelia; Edison Church of Christ, Edison; Folkston Church of Christ, Folkston; Newsome St. Church of Christ, Hahira; Lake Park Church of Christ, Lake Park; North Macon Church of Christ, Macon; Courtland Ave. Church of Christ, Quitman; Oak Hill Church of Christ, Rome; Mountain View Church of Christ, Rossville. HAWAII: Church of Christ at Pearl Harbor, Honolulu; Kauai Church of Christ, Lihue. IDAHO: Valley County Church of Christ, McCall; Pocatello Church of Christ, Pocatello. ILLINOIS: Northside Church of Christ, Bloomington; Brookfield Church of Christ, Brookfield; Browning Church of Christ, Browning; East Park Church of Christ, Danville; Macomb Church of Christ, Macomb; Park Forest Church of Christ, Matteson; Church of Christ, McHenry. INDIANA: Meadowbrook Church of Christ, Anderson; Southland Church of Christ, Bedford; Northlake Church of Christ, Gary; Huntington Church of Christ, Huntington; Church of Christ, Indianapolis; Kingsley Terrace Church of Christ, Indianapolis; Center Rd. Church of Christ, Kokomo; Main St. Church of Christ, Lynn. IOWA: Sac City Church of Christ, Sac City; West Side Church of Christ, West Union. KANSAS: Cedar Vale Church of Christ, Cedar Vale; Hoxie Church of Christ, Hoxie; Eastwood Church of Christ, Hutchinson; Norwich Church of Christ, Norwich; Oberlin Church of Christ, Oberlin; Russell Church of Christ, Russell; Wellington Church of Christ, Wellington; Chisholm Trail Church of Christ, Wichita; Northside Church of Christ, Wichita. KENTUCKY: Penn's Chapel Church of Christ, Bowling Green; Asphalt Church of Christ, Brownsville; Main St. Church of Christ, Calhoun; Bethel Church of Christ, Franklin; Mt. Vernon Church of Christ, Lewisburg; Westport Rd. Church of Christ, Louisville; Marion Church of Christ, Marion; Van Buren Church of Christ, Mount Eden; Mt. Vernon Church of Christ, Park City; Prestonsburg Church of Christ, Prestonsburg; West Liberty Church of Christ, West Liberty. LOUISIANA: Jackson Church of Christ, Jackson; Grand Ecore Rd. Church of Christ, Natchitoches; Lake St. Church of Christ, Natchitoches; Crowley Blvd. Church of Christ, New Orleans. MARYLAND: Church of Christ of Aberdeen, Aberdeen; Central Church of Christ, Baltimore; Beltway Church of Christ, Camp Springs. MICHIGAN: Atlanta Church of Christ, Atlanta; Brighton Church of Christ, Brighton; M-21 Church of Christ, Corunna; Redford Church of Christ, Detroit; Marquette Church of Christ, Marquette; Mount Morris Church of Christ, Mount Morris; Wayne Rd. Church of Christ, Romulus; Walled Lake Church of Christ, Walled Lake; Waterford Church of Christ, Waterford. MINNESOTA: Richfield Church of Christ, Richfield; Brookside Church of Christ, Winona. MISSISSIPPI: Westside Church of Christ, Houston; Hanging Moss Rd. Church of Christ, Jackson; Skyway Hills Church of Christ, Pearl; Corinth Church of Christ, Woodville. MISSOURI: Bolivar Church of Christ, Bolivar; Church of Christ in California, California; Cameron Church of Christ, Cameron; Cape Church of Christ, Cape Girardeau; Church of Christ, Clinton; Essex Church of Christ, Essex; Florissant Church of Christ, Florissant; Church of Christ, Jefferson City; Kimberling City Church of Christ, Kimberling City; Freedom Church of Christ, Montpelier; Church of Christ, Morley; Rocketdyne Rd. Church of Christ, Neosho; Nevada Church of Christ, Nevada; Church of Christ, Nixa; O'Fallon Church of Christ, O'Fallon; Owensville Church of Christ, Owensville; Flat River Church of Christ, Park Hills; Sparta Church of Christ, Sparta. NEBRASKA: Beatrice Church of Christ, Beatrice; Hastings Church of Christ, Hastings; Church of Christ, Nelson. NEVADA: Victory Rd. Church of Christ, Henderson; N. Las Vegas Church of Christ, N. Las Vegas. NEW JERSEY: Freehold Church of Christ, Freehold. NEW MEXICO: Fox & Lake Church of Christ, Carlsbad; Cimarron Church of Christ, Cimarron; Dora Church of Christ, Dora; Belen Church of Christ, Los Lunas; Mountainair Church of Christ, Mountainair. NEW YORK: Bethpage Church of Christ, Bethpage; Kings Church of Christ, Brooklyn;
HONOR ROLL OF CHURCHES, 2019-2020

Amherst Church of Christ, East Amherst; Church of Christ-Hollis, Jamaica; Roosevelt-Freeport Church of Christ, Roosevelt; Sardinia Church of Christ, Sar- dinia; Westchester Church of Christ, White Plains. NORTH CAROLINA: Providence Rd. Church of Christ, Charlotte; Linville Forest Church of Christ, Kernes- sville; Murphy Church of Christ, Murphy; New Bern Church of Christ, New Bern; Church of Christ, Sanford; Scotland Neck Church of Christ, Scotland Neck; Pine Valley Church of Christ, Pine Valley. OHIO: North Hill Church of Christ, Akron; Perry Church of Christ, Bellville; Greasy Ridge Church of Christ, Chesapeake; Jerusalem Church of Christ, Jerusalem; Middletown Church of Christ, Middletown; West Jefferson Church of Christ, West Jefferson. OKLAHOMA: Elm & Hudson Church of Christ, Altus; Tamarack Rd. Church of Christ, Altus; College Hill Church of Christ, Alva; Oak St. Church of Christ, Apache; Church of Christ on Merrick Drive, Ardmore; Bethany Church of Christ, Bethany; Downtown Church of Christ, Bixby; Boswell Church of Christ, Boswell; Choctaw Church of Christ, Choctaw; Clayton Church of Christ, Clayton; Cromwell Church of Christ, Cromwell; Cornerstone Church of Christ, Davis; Carter Park Church of Christ, Del City; Memorial Rd. Church of Christ, Edmond; Forgan Church of Christ, Forgan; Gould Church of Christ, Gould; Messer Church of Christ, Hugo; Kiowa Church of Christ, Kiowa; Church of Christ, Meeker; Chandler Rd. Church of Christ, Muskogee; Church of Christ, Okemah; 7th & Jackson Church of Christ, Perry; Reydon Church of Christ, Reydon; Church of Christ, Seiling; Cincinnati Ave. Church of Christ, Sperry; Church of Christ, Sterling; Vehnall Church of Christ, Vehnall; Weatherford Church of Christ, Weatherford. OREGON: Astoria Church of Christ, Astoria; Circle Church of Christ, Corvallis; Eugene Church of Christ, Eugene; Church of Christ, Gold Beach; Westside Church of Christ, Hermiston; Keene Way Church of Christ, Medford; Ontario Church of Christ, Ontario; Oregon Trail Church of Christ, Pendleton; Eastside Church of Christ, Portland; Church of Christ, Scappoose; Nevada St. Church of Christ, Shady Cove; Church of Christ, Toledo; Church of Christ, Veneta. PENNSYLVANIA: Blairsville Church of Christ, Blacklick; Uniontown Church of Christ, Cherry Tree; Erie Church of Christ, Erie; Harding Church of Christ, Falls; Huntingdon Mills Church of Christ, Huntingdon Mills; Jim Thorpe Church of Christ, Jim Thorpe South; S. Williamspor Church of Christ, Williamsport. RHODE ISLAND: Kent County Church of Christ, Coventry. SOUTH CAROLINA: Andrews Church of Christ, Andrews; Summerville Church of Christ, Summerville. SOUTH DAKOTA: Twin Cities Church of Christ, Lead; Yankton Church of Christ, Yankton. TENNESSEE: Burnette Chapel Church of Christ, Antioch; Bartlett Woods Church of Christ, Arlington; Oliver Creek Church of Christ, Arlington; Locust Grove Church of Christ, Baxter; Jefferson St. Church of Christ, Brownsville; Lake Hills Church of Christ, Chattanooga; Pickwick Church of Christ, Counce; Smyrna Church of Christ, Culleoka; Dover Church of Christ, Dover; Washington Church of Christ, Fayetteville; Fowlkes St. Church of Christ, Franklin; Vesta Church of Christ, Gladeville; Goodlettsville Church of Christ, Goodlettsville; Estes Church of Christ, Henderson; Hendersonsville Church of Christ, Hendersonville; Middle Valley Church of Christ, Hixson; South Knoxville Church of Christ, Knoxville; Lascassas Church of Christ, Lascassas; Fall River Church of Christ, Leoma; Linden Church of Christ, Linden; Madison Church of Christ, Madison; Chelsea Church of Christ, Memphis; East End Church of Christ, Memphis; East Memphis Church of Christ, Memphis; Ross Rd. Church of Christ, Memphis; Corinth Church of Christ, Mount Juliet; Vine Church of Christ, Mount Juliet; Charlotte Heights Church of Christ, Nashville; Old Hickory Blvd. Church of Christ, Nashville; Union Hill Church of Christ, Portland; Tri-City Church of Christ, Rutherford; Sale Creek Church of Christ, Sale Creek; Eastside Church of Christ, Selmer; Green Meadows Church of Christ, Shelbyville; Sherwood Church of Christ, Sherwood; Silver Point Church of Christ, Silver Point; Oak Grove Church of Christ, Sparta; Oakland St. Church of Christ, Sparta; Spring City Church of Christ, Waynesboro; Mt. Pleasant Church of Christ, Westmoreland; Westport Church of Christ, Westport. TEXAS: Adrian Church of Christ, Adrian; Woodward West Church of Christ, Arlington; Moore Ave. Church of Christ, Bay City; Bertram Church of Christ, Bertram; 14th & Main Church of Christ, Big Spring; Brownfield Church of Christ, Brownfield; Vanderveer St. Church of Christ, Burnet; Callisburg Church of Christ, Callisburg; Clyde Church of Christ, Clyde; 22nd & Austin Church of Christ, Colorado City; Columbus Church of Christ, Columbus; Grace St. Church of Christ, Crockett; Flamingo Rd. Church of Christ, Crowley; Walnut Hill Church of Christ, Dallas; Decatur Church of Christ, Decatur; Greenwood Church of Christ, Decatur; Denton Church of Christ, Denton; Rose Hill Church of Christ, Devine; Eliasville Church of Christ, Eliasville; Fairfield Church of Christ, Fairfield; Gail Church of Christ, Gail; Broadway Church of Christ, Galveston; Buckingham Rd. Church of Christ, Garland; E. Main St. Church of Christ, Gatesville; Parker Church of Christ, Granbury; Cross Roads Church of Christ, Grand Saline; Pecan Grove Church of Christ, Greenvile; Henderson Church of Christ, Henderson; Church of Christ in Highland, Houston; Memorial Church of Christ, Houston; Westbury Church of Christ, Houston; Church of Christ in Deerbrook, Humble; Church of Christ, Iraan; Kerens Church of Christ, Kerens; Kingsville Church of Christ, Kingsville; Lefors Church of Christ, Lefors; Lewisville Church of Christ, Lewisville; Liberty Hill Church of Christ, Liberty Hill; Oak Grove Church of Christ, Livingston; Llano Church of Christ, Llano; Manhattan Heights Church of Christ, Lubbock; Bard Hill Church of Christ, Lufkin; Malakoff Church of Christ, Malakoff; Travis Peak Church of Christ, Marble Falls; Maud Church of Christ, Maud; Harvey Dr. Church of Christ, McAllen; Fairmont Park Church of Christ, Midland; Swift Church of Christ, Nacogdoches; Church of Christ, O’Donnell; Lamar Ave. Church of Christ, Panis; Ash & Carver Church of Christ, Plainview; Ninth & Columbia Church of Christ, Plainview; North Bay Church of Christ, Portland; Wieland Church of Christ, Quinlan; Church of Christ, Quitman; Baker Blvd. Church of Christ, Richland Hills; Runge Church of Christ, Runge; Sabinal Church of Christ, Sabinal; Eagle Mountain Church of Christ, Saginaw; Church of Christ, San Antonio; Savoy Church of Christ, Savoy; Sheridan Church of Christ, Sheridan; Western Heights Church of Christ, Sherman; Northside Church of Christ, Temple; West End Church of Christ, Terrell; Tow Church of Christ, Tow; N. Tenneha Church of Christ, Tyler; Van Church of Christ, Van; Hood St. Church of Christ, Waco; Graham St. Church of Christ, Waxahachie; Welch Church of Christ, Welch; Church of Christ, Westminster; Whitney Church of Christ, Whitney; Shep Church of Christ, Wingate. UTAH: Church of Christ, Monticello. VERMONT: Green Mountain Church of Christ, Castleton. VIRGINIA: Church of Christ, Charlottesville; Glen Allen Church of Christ, Glen Allen; Lexington Church of Christ, Lexington; Luray Church of Christ, Luray; Newport News Church of Christ, Newport News; Dale Ridge Church of Christ, Roanoke; Tazewell Church of Christ, Tazewell; Wise County Church of Christ, Wise. WASHINGTON: Twin Cities Church of Christ, Centralia; Ephrata Church of Christ, Ephrata; Olympia Church of Christ, Olympia; Church of Christ of Clallam Bay, Sekiu; Summit View Church of Christ, Yakima. WEST VIRGINIA: Alum Creek Church of Christ, Alum Creek; Bloomingrose Church of Christ, Bloomingrose; Brushfork Church of Christ, Bluefield; Charles Town Church of Christ, Charles Town; Ferrellsburg Church of Christ, Harts; Lewisburg Church of Christ, Lewisburg; Camden Ave. Church of Christ, Parkersburg; Ravenswood Church of Christ, Ravenswood; George St. Church of Christ, Saint Marys; Oxford St. Church of Christ, Sistersville; 36th St. Church of Christ, Vienna. WISCONSIN: Crandon Church of Christ, Crandon; Southside Church of Christ, Milwaukee; Church of Christ at Chain O'Lakes, Waupaca. WYOMING: Rawlins Church of Christ, Rawlins; Church of Christ, Thermopolis.

To learn more about being part of the Honor Roll, please contact Lynda Sheehan at: lynda.sheehan@christianchronicle.org.
ACROSS

1. “Through many ________, toils and snares. I have already come ...”
(Colossians 3:17)

6. “And whatever you do, whether in word ___ deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus ...”
(Colossians 3:17)

7. Acronym related to barcodes.

8. The Tree ___ Life, in the Garden.

9. We receive __ ______ for our sins, bought with Jesus’ blood (two words).

11. Romans built good ones (abbreviated).

13. “Do not ____ to what I command you and do not subtract from it ...”
(Deuteronomy 4:2)

16. “Am I a ____, that you come at me with sticks?”
(1 Samuel 17:43).

17. Leviticus warns that an offender will be cut ___ from his people.

20. In the days before light bulbs, people lit up rooms with _____.

21. “Behold, He comes riding on the clouds, ______ like the sun at the trumpet call ...”

DOWN

1. A female physician, in Spanish (abbreviated).

2. “The Lord is ____ to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth ...”(Psalm 145:18)

3. Humanity’s first home (three words).

4. “From the_____ of the earth, from the depth of the sea, from the height of the heaven, Your name we praise.”

5. Cain, to Adam and Eve.

10. If the first woman were called Mrs. Eve, the first man could be called ________ (two words).

12. “Savior, He can move the mountains, My God is ______ to save ...”

14. “Let us ___ with our might”

16. “what our hands find to ___.”

18. “You will be protected from the ____ of the tongue, and need not fear when destruction comes.”
(Job 5:21)

19. “In the future when your descendants ask their parents, ‘What do these stones ____?’ tell them, ‘Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.’”
(Joshua 4: 21-22)

ANSWERS: Page 38

SPONSOR THIS PAGE: Help The Christian Chronicle serve our readers with Bible-themed crosswords. Contact tonya.patton@christianchronicle.org.
NEWSMAKERS

CELEBRATED: Cecil May Jr., retired dean of the V. P. Black College of Biblical Studies at Faulkner University in Montgomery, Ala. Herald of Truth Ministries hosted a luncheon during Faulkner’s annual Bible Lectureship recognizing May for “his life of service to the Kingdom of God.” Herald of Truth has established the Dr. Cecil May Ministry Endowment with a goal of $50,000. For more information, see heraldoftruth.org/ceclimay. Rick Odell, youth minister for the West Ark Church of Christ in Fort Smith, Ark. He received the Wally Wilkerson Award.

NEW MINISTER: Jonathan Villaman, bilingual ministry intern for the South Walker Church of Christ in Oklahoma City.

NEW ELDERS: Bill Clary, Art Cornell and David Smith, Lakeside Church of Christ in Springfield, Ill.

HONORED: Patricia Wood, seventh-grade math teacher at Lipscomb Academy in Nashville, Tenn. She received the Teacher of the Year Award from the National Christian School Association.

PHOTO PROVIDED

PHOTO PROVIDED

PHOTO PROVIDED

Milestones

Memorials

Darci Thompson 1977 – 2020

Darci Noel Grisso Thompson passed from this life into heaven Friday, Feb. 14, 2020. The youngest of five children born to Wayne and Judy Grisso, Darci began melting hearts on Sept. 8, 1977, in Shawnee, Okla. Those who encountered Darci fell in love with her beautiful spirit, relentless energy, passion for life, and her love and kindness for every soul.

Darci graduated from Shawnee High School in 1996 and Oklahoma Christian University (OC) in 2000. She fell in love with OC and served the University for 20 years. She attracted thousands of students to OC and dedicated herself to their academic, social, and spiritual growth. As she started her own family, she became a champion for health and wellness, leading the OC community toward faithful stewardship of God’s gifts of life and wellness. Darci married Mark Thompson in 2006 and became a mother to Tinley in 2011 and Tallulah in 2013. She was diagnosed with breast cancer while pregnant with Tallulah and spent her last seven years this side of heaven researching and battling for her life and others, while loving her husband and daughters immensely through difficult circumstances. Her journey was shared and supported by countless friends and family, brothers and sisters in faith, who will be forever impacted by her beautiful spirit. Darci loved deeply. Her love will live on in countless lives for many generations.

Betty Sager Bender 1927 – 2020

Born August 22, 1927, in Benton County, Ark., Betty was the daughter of the late Albert E. Sager and the late Pearl Martin Sager. On Dec. 8, 1945, she married Duane Dean Bender who preceded her in death July 2, 1995. She was a graduate of Bentonville High School in Bentonville, Ark., and obtained a bachelor’s degree from Anderson College in Anderson, S.C. at the age of 70. Before moving to Columbia, she and her husband did mission work for over 30 years in the northeast United States. Mrs. Bender was a member of West Seventh Street Church of Christ, where she was very active in mission work with Let’s Start Talking. She went on several mission trips around the world.

Survivors include her daughters: Gary Dean Clark, and Gaye Lynn Franks and husband Daren; four grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

W.B. Clark 1927 – 2020

W.B. Clark was born May 26, 1927, to his parents John Taylor and Gladys May Clark in Lufkin, Texas. He passed from this life on Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020, at his home in Channelview, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife of 65 years, Charlene Clark; and his daughter, Judy Gail Spinks. He is survived by his children: Gary Dean Clark, and Gaye Lynn Franks and husband Daren; four grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

W.B. attended Harding College where he studied mathematics and Bible and graduated with his degree in 1948.

W.B. began preaching and teaching Bible classes at an early age and preached full-time for 25 years in the Church of Christ in Georgetown, Livingston, Mineral Wells, and Justin, all in Texas.

You could get a glimpse into his heart by his favorite hymns that he loved to sing, such as: “I Need Thee Every Hour,” “Stand by Me,” and “He Gave Me a Song.” W.B. was dedicated to God, the church, and his family. He loved reading the Bible and took his last breath while the book of John was being read to him. It was recently stated, “W.B.’s life was a sermon.”

With Appreciation

The Christian Chronicle appreciates and acknowledges a generous gift received in memory of Merlene Simmons.

Submit tributes to milestones@christianchronicle.org. Submissions start at $25.
EDITORIAL

Blessings in the pandemic

Don’t panic. And don’t scoff. We can’t stress that enough. The only thing more virulent than COVID-19 is misinformation about the virus. No, this is not a political plot. No, “the media” is not trying to shut down society. Yes, politics and personal bias have seeped into this pandemic as they seep into everything else. But those of us who know the saving love of Christ are above all that. We are at peace.

While we occasionally roll our eyes at the precautions and the cancelations, we must remember the vulnerable among us, the immunocompromised. Their needs must, on occasion, supersede our convenience and comfort. Let’s use this opportunity to reconnect — even if only by phone or computer — with those we’ve neglected, those we love, those who are alone in the midst of this public health crisis.

The biggest question on our minds right now is, “How long will this last?” We don’t know, but we’re committed to doing everything we can to keep our fellowship informed, connected and united during these uncertain times. This is one reason we believe in the importance of delivering The Christian Chronicle directly to your mailbox. If you know someone who could benefit from this publication, please see the “TO SUBSCRIBE” information in the info box below.

While covering this global pandemic, we were particularly inspired by these words from Franco Verardi, who ministers for a Church of Christ in Italy, a nation hard hit by the virus:

“How much I miss a hug, a pat on the back, a kiss from a friend or brother.
“How much I miss a handshake, the noise of a crowd, the children running in the supermarkets aisles.
“How much I would like to sneeze and not be seen as an ‘unclean’ person, to dine out with friends and even the embrace of my parents.
“How much I miss normal life!
“I am sure that when all this will end, I will appreciate much more what I took for granted before. Today I already see it as a great blessing!”

Amen, brother! May we all see God’s simple blessings.

FROM OUR READERS

Women’s roles spark discussion

I want to commend The Christian Chronicle for the excellent issue on women’s roles in the church (March 2020). I thought it was remarkably balanced and demonstrated respect toward all the views represented. Very, very well done!

DENNIS CONNER | Raleigh, N.C.

These articles in the latest issue seem to just try and sugarcoat God’s word to fit modern culture. Let me just make a few points for us to remember.

We are talking about an earthly problem because there will be neither male or female in heaven (Galatians 3:28), nor is God a respecter of persons (Acts 10:34). But God did establish order on earth.

I write in love, but brothers and sisters, we are messing with disaster here. Eternity is really a long time, and to miss it would be a tragedy.

JOE MATHIS | Albany, Ind.

I’ve heard and seen the progression of accepting woman to serve in the public worship and be elected into an office of elder/deacon. We need to reconsider this issue very carefully as to whether it’s Scriptural or not. I went to two-year biblical study at Sunset International Bible Institute in Lubbock, Texas, and have never been taught such things similar to current events.

I don’t see any examples in the Bible that women are elected as elders or preachers. I’m not in a position to judge such cases, but God will see to it on the last day.

PRAKTIK TRAKULWATANACHAI | Amarillo, Texas

I just read the article in the March edition regarding women elders in the Culver Palms Church of Christ.

While I am a believer that there are many roles that women can hold within the body of Christ, I cannot read anywhere in Scripture where women can be appointed as elders.

It saddens me to see Christ’s body pulling so far away from his teachings.

DOREAN BLACKKETTER | Billings, Mont.

It was truly disappointing and disheartening to read the March 2020 issue. It is so disappointing that your paper would present plain and simple false doctrine without correction or reproof.

Yes, you also published articles that presented sisters who explained their conviction for maintaining the Scriptural pattern. This does not alleviate the fact that you allowed others to promote that which is in direct defiance of Scriptural teaching.

SANDY JONES | Montgomery, Texas

Women’s roles spark discussion

I am an avid reader of The Christian Chronicle. There is no publication, delivered to my address, that is more important to me.

I am so proud of your courage in publishing articles about our mistakes and prejudice in handling racial issues in the church. I am also very impressed with your courage in sharing differing views about delicate issues, within our brotherhood, such as women’s role in the church.

SANDY JONES | Montgomery, Texas

It was truly disappointing and disheartening to read the March 2020 issue. It is so disappointing that your paper would present plain and simple false doctrine without correction or reproof.

Yes, you also published articles that presented sisters who explained their conviction for maintaining the Scriptural pattern. This does not alleviate the fact that you allowed others to promote that which is in direct defiance of Scriptural teaching.

SANDY JONES | Montgomery, Texas

It was truly disappointing and disheartening to read the March 2020 issue. It is so disappointing that your paper would present plain and simple false doctrine without correction or reproof.

Yes, you also published articles that presented sisters who explained their conviction for maintaining the Scriptural pattern. This does not alleviate the fact that you allowed others to promote that which is in direct defiance of Scriptural teaching.

SANDY JONES | Montgomery, Texas
When a community of faith becomes a community in grief

WHITE SETTLEMENT, Texas

On Dec. 29, we watched in terror as the news unfolded about the horrific events at the West Freeway Church of Christ. Six seconds changed the lives of so many as gunshots interrupted the quiet clanking of communion trays being passed, leaving three people dead.

I am the founder and executive director of Wise County Christian Counseling, a non-profit counseling center in Decatur, Texas. We are less than 45 minutes from this church and knew we wanted to be with them. Our staff is trained in grief work, having opened our own grief center, Jenny’s Hope, in September 2018. Our counselors are trauma-informed and were ready to offer help.

After some discussion with Britt Farmer and Brandon Kaag, two of the ministers at West Freeway, we decided I would bring a team of seven counselors to join their life groups on three consecutive Sunday afternoons.

Our theme became: No one has to walk the grief road alone, but everyone has to walk their own grief road. Every person has to show up with their own stories, traumas and perspectives. But we walk arm in arm, shoulder to shoulder.

When someone has a “grief event,” we frequently tell them how brave and how strong they are.

Let’s be clear: It is not brave, and it is not strong to get ushered onto a road you don’t want to walk. It is not brave, and it is not strong to have a shooting at your church.

But it is so brave and extremely strong to show up to discuss it and see how we can walk together, helping each other figure it out. It is brave and strong to hear another person’s viewpoint with curiosity and empathy. The West Freeway church is filled with brave and strong people!

Our team of counselors listened intently as our brave new friends shared what it was like for them individually to be near the gunfire that Sunday. Some shared remorse that they weren’t there that day to help others whom they love.

Some expressed remorse that they hadn’t been able to do more to assist the dying. Nobody was unchanged by the events of the shooting, including our counselors.

I do not believe that “time heals all wounds.” I believe that time done well helps us develop the emotional and spiritual muscle to carry the pain. Learning to carry pain is never an accident. It is done with great intention.

Our counselors facilitated discussions centered on the intentional hard work of grief. We shared in open and vulnerable conversations about how to manage the overwhelming anxiety produced by this trauma. We taught physical calming techniques.

We championed getting curious about emotion, giving yourself permission to experience it so you don’t get stuck. We shared ways to step in close to emotionally safe people. And we shared ways to stay focused spiritually.

From the moment our team walked through the doors of the West Freeway church, we knew we were in the midst of an inspiring group of people. Not because they had endured a nightmare, but because they held their wounded arms open to us, inviting us into the sacred space of connection with them.

It was truly our blessing and our honor to sit with this community and walk with this community and pray with this community. Their honesty about the pain is rare. Their commitment to walking this road together is beautiful. Their faith in the Lord is inspiring.

Thank you, West Freeway Church of Christ, for modeling for the rest of us what it looks like to walk a painful journey, keeping your face toward the light of heaven.

BEVERLY ROSS and her husband, Rick, serve the Decatur Church of Christ in Texas. (She is not related, as far as we know, to Bobby Ross Jr., The Christian Chronicle’s editor-in-chief.)
Tough, current-day issues facing our families require ‘Beautiful Interference’

When one of their sons told them of his same-sex attraction, minister Tim Hall and his wife, Robin, learned to love in spite of tension and discomfort.

In “Beautiful Interference: Learning to Love God with all Your Heart, Soul, Mind and Strength,” Hall discusses how he and his wife have chosen to walk with their son. They also describe how they have used their story to open their home to helping other parents discover how to navigate when their children come out to them.

That’s just one example of the personal stories — both heartwarming and real — that Hall shares. For those who have discovered that life is filled with twists and turns — and that our hoped-for lives don’t always come to fruition — this is a must-read book.

Hall, lead minister for the Crosspoint Church of Christ in Grand Prairie, Texas, uses Jesus’ words in Mark 12:30-31 to unpack what it could look like to love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and in doing so, love those around you. This is a text that Jesus says is most important, so better understanding it will help any Christian with their everyday walk.

Hall connects biblical truths to present-day challenges and social situations in which families find themselves. He reminds us that there are no easy answers to all of life’s dilemmas, but with God’s Word and a heart for him, you can overcome.

Hall uses his personal story, wrapped in Scripture, to refocus us on a daily walk toward Jesus. This incredibly insightful book is easy to read and easy to reread and discuss in a Bible study — although it is not always easy to carry out in everyday life what’s stated in the book.

“Beautiful Interference” is a reminder that we cannot do the faith walk alone. We need help and support from other believers. Hall reminds us that we are built to live in community. Following that idea, we can help each other bear burdens, celebrate joy and help others come to know the risen Savior.

This is a book about a family that is trying to do the right thing. The minister and his wife love God and each other, although they have faced some challenges that no doubt you have as well.

Hall describes his early life, including his walk away from church culture and Jesus to make selfish decisions. But then he found his way back to Jesus. He felt the grace and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. He recommitted his life to God and has been doing Kingdom work for over a quarter of a century. By allowing Jesus to use him, he writes, others have learned how to make better decisions.

His stories offer direction when life throws us a curve ball. This book can bring Christian families together to have open discussions on current-day issues. It also provides support for parents who are working to meet the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of their children while trying to hold their marriage together.

When we truly love, all things are possible.

Becoming a parent and rearing a family are challenging. Making the best choices in life can be an incredible experience. Discovering God’s plan for you is so good. And not having all the answers is scary, but with God’s guidance, one can navigate whatever life throws your way.

Hall’s book will give you courage to face the challenges of learning how to give unconditional love, following Jesus’ example.

“Beautiful Interference” will make you laugh, cry and discover that following Jesus is the decision you can make. Hall’s challenge is to love God and people, no matter the circumstance, with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.

JOHN SCROGGINS is an educational consultant who holds an Education Doctorate Degree. He is an elder of the CrossPoint Church of Christ in Grand Prairie, Texas.

We all interpret the Bible. Is our interpretation valid?

How do we Christians understand the Scriptures? Is it simply a matter of reading them and doing what they say? Or does it involve the more complicated matter of interpretation? Is the Bible a simple book that can be plainly understood without the need to interpret? Or does it require rigorous thought to discover its deep truths?

Many of us take a middle view — that the Bible can be separated into what does and does not need interpretation. So once we have read and come to an elementary understanding of what we conceive to be essential, we often neglect what is more complex. We, therefore, end up not reading what we think we already know — and not reading what we know we don’t.

It is for the purpose of getting people to read the Scriptures again that Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart wrote “How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth.” It’s the authors’ conviction (one to which I subscribe) that everybody interprets the Bible. Interpretation is simply unavoidable.

Reading the Bible and understanding what it says comes as a result of viewing it through the lens of our own lives and our own experiences, or interpretation. Hence, the issue is not whether or not we need to interpret the Scriptures, but whether our interpretation is valid.

The book is designed to give us the tools necessary for developing a better interpretation of the Scriptures, one that is grounded in their original intent, audience and context. The authors call us to take into account the different literary styles at play and how those subtle differences should influence our understanding. They also challenge us to develop an interpretation that has, at its core, the belief in the Scriptures’ inspiration, but also an honesty that suggests that inspiration can result in different implications for each book of the Bible.

CHRISTIAN BARGHOlz is a member of the Eastside Church of Christ in Sydney, Australia. He is associate editor of InterSections Magazine, a publication for Churches of Christ in Australia, from which this review was excerpted. Find links to the complete review at christianchronicle.org, and see additional features and reviews at intersections.com.au.
SURVIVING WITH FORGIVENESS

The book’s theme is that discrimination has occurred throughout world history, but forgiveness and tolerance are how we should be with others. It is a tale of a family dealing with intolerance. The family in the book represents all of us in many ways, and it makes you feel and envision yourself right into the narrative. The story uses a unique concept of walking back in time while weaving characters in different times and countries. Actual facts are intertwined to verify the novel’s theme. Although this book is fiction, it has many references to history and the writer’s true-life experiences that add feeling to the story. It’s a tale that entertains yet takes on the difficult subject of discrimination.

FEMALE LEADERSHIP
John A. Fewkes. As in All the Churches. Global Seedowers, 2018. $17.95, 216 pages. Paperback or Kindle. See Amazon.

Churches are being challenged by new interpretations and applications of scripture leading to troubling ramifications. From the 1st century, the church has been challenged to choose between conflict and cultural compromise. It will continue to be that way. Jesus refused cultural compromise. Paul confronted Peter regarding doctrine. To think that we are immune to doctrinal deviation and deception is a great desire of Satan. Confrontation with culture, and unfortunately even with other Christians at times, is central to the church’s existence. Doctrine stands alongside evangelism and love; doctrine is not a minor epistle among the Gospels. Rather than “speaking the truth in love,” many churches now proclaim love and grace without a concurrent call to the central truths of the gospel message.

Churches are often fueled by good-hearted Christians who have not understood the value of doctrine. The church then no longer has a doctrinal anchor from which to resist the demands of cultural accommodation. Sound doctrine matters when one has a love for truth and the infinite difference between truth and error. Turning away from doctrine is a poor decision. Here, each controverted Biblical passage is examined in detail—from Genesis to Revelation. Study until convinced; then stand on that truth. Paul writes about those who are “always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.” We can understand Biblical truth, written for all cultures of all times. Church practices must be rooted in doctrine. Freedom in Christ is not freedom from Christ. Freedom from condemnation is not freedom from covenant. Being set free from the body of death is not being set free from doctrine.

If the church is not strong enough to stand on doctrine, it is not strong enough to stand against Satan. Reading this discussion you will rightly conclude that I am firmly against unrestricted female participation in Apostolically recognized leadership positions in the assembled church (such as elders, deacons and preachers). You will gain a clear, Biblical understanding of this doctrine. Those who promote such leadership proclaim a different gospel than that found in the Biblical record; it is a distortion of Biblical authority and teaching.

Endorsed by Everett Ferguson (Distinguished Scholar in Residence at Abilene Christian University); Jack Cottrell (Professor of Theology, Cincinnati Christian University, retired); F. LaGard Smith (Compiler and Narrator of the Daily Bible), and Brian Davis (World Bible School, Executive Vice President).

PRAYER

“Gifts from Glory” is the true account of some of the prayers God has answered during Fern’s lifetime. They begin back in her childhood and continue through the present day. The book is entertaining and inspiring. It tells of the growth and expansion of God’s work in transforming many young lives through prayer.

One reader commented, “You’ve done it again. You brought me to tears. This is a clear testament to the power of God alive...in and through you.”

This book will help readers understand the blessings of trusting God in all of life’s challenges.

Fern Hill currently is the hospital -ity coordinator for the Timothy Hill Children’s Ranch, in Riverhead, New York, a residential home for children and troubled youth, and a transitional program for older young people. She is the author of “Graduation to Glory,” the story of her son, Timothy, who dreamed and worked to develop a home for homeless children before his untimely death at the age of thirteen. The income from “Graduation to Glory” was the seed money to bring the ranch into existence. Income from her book continues to help sustain the ranch.

Fern and her husband, Jerry, attended Freed Hardeman College and Harding College (now universities). They are founders of Timothy Hill Children’s Ranch with programs and retreats in three states. They are parents to four other sons—Titus, Thomas, Thaddaeus, and James Theophilus.

BIBLE CLASS STUDY

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY submissions are paid advertisements. Contact tonya.patton@christianchronicle.org for more information.
When our children fall away, do we wear our sackcloth on the inside?

OKLAHOMA CITY

I

my children don’t live up to their raising, I can identify with God, the one person who’s had more ‘failure’ at raising children than anyone.”

I was taken aback when I heard Dale Hartman say that at Affirming the Faith, an annual seminar hosted by the North MacArthur Church of Christ, where Hartman serves as a minister.

Moments earlier, nearly 1,100 of us had gathered in the church’s auditorium to sing soul-stirring hymns, from “Our God, He is Alive” to Chris Tomlin’s “All to Us.” (“Let the glory of Your name be the passion of the church …”)

The worship was a taste of heaven, and the preaching was powerful. But the late-night class that Hartman introduced was something more.

As many of the participants left for the evening or stayed in the auditorium for more singing, about 50 of us gathered for “Finding Hope When Faith Fails,” moderated by my good friend Jeremie Beller, a minister for the Wilshire Church of Christ.

“What happens when our children walk away from the faith and leave the church?” Beller asked.

One participant was Ralph Gilmore, a longtime preacher for Churches of Christ. He and his wife, Joyce, are the parents of four daughters, one of whom battled alcohol addiction for seven long years — two of those years incarcerated. The distinguished professor of philosophy and Bible at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn., talked about the nights he spent searching the parking lots of bars in nearby Jackson, looking for his daughter’s car.

“I knew every place where anyone could drink at 3 in the morning,” he said. “I thought if I could just drag her back into church she’d be OK.”

During one confrontation, Gilmore became so angry that he punched a hole through the drywall in his house. His wife hung a picture over the hole — an illustration of 1 Corinthians 13: “Love is patient, love is kind … it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.” They never stopped loving their daughter.

“I can’t tell this story,” Gilmore said at one point, overcome with emotion. Then he said, softly, “She just got her 20-year pin for sobriety.”

We all cheered.

We talked about how the words of Proverbs 22:6 (“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it”) can leave parents feeling absolutely beat up.

Gilmore quoted from another Bible verse, Proverbs 15:1: “A gentle answer turns away wrath.” Sometimes, that’s just not the case, he said.

(After 18 years with The Christian Chronicle, all I can say is, “Amen!”)

“The proverbs are generally true,” he said, “but they’re not universally true. They’re not intended to be.”

Gilmore suggested that those of us struggling with these issues find “the right people” to talk to — people with similar experiences, people who have been there.

For me, the most powerful illustration came from a participant in the class who cited the terrible, heart-wrenching story of King Jehoram from 2 Kings 6.

In the midst of famine and the siege of Samaria, Jehoram heard a dispute between two women that involved eating their babies.

“The king, as wicked as he was, he ripped his clothes and you know what was underneath? Sackcloth,” the participant said. “He was carrying his sackcloth underneath so that nobody could see.”

When we grieve in secret, nothing changes. We’ve got to stop wearing our sackcloth underneath and reach out to people who can grieve with us, pray with us and help us heal.

For me, that lesson was as faith-affirming as any sermon and every hymn. “Let the saving love of Christ be the measure of our lives”

“We believe You’re all to us.”

ERIK TRYGGESTAD is president and CEO of The Christian Chronicle. Contact erik@christianchronicle.org and follow him on Twitter @eriktryggestad.
Pulpit Minister Search - Las Vegas, Nevada

The Bright Angel Church of Christ is in need of a pulpit minister due to the retirement of our current preacher. The church has five elders and five deacons and an attendance of about 220 on Sunday morning. We are located in the northwest part of the city about 20 miles from the Las Vegas strip.

The ideal candidate will be an experienced preacher and teacher of God’s Word. He should be able to present and defend biblical Christianity and know how to interpret Scripture. Experience and training in counseling will be helpful. If you would like to apply for this position, email an electronic copy of all relevant information about yourself to: BA@BrightAngelChurch.org with a subject heading of “Attention Elders.” Information should include: a link to a sermon archive where you currently preach, and a file containing a work history, education, and references. Also include a list of any published articles and books. Electronic copies of any written material would be helpful.

Bright Angel Church of Christ
8570 W Bright Angel Way, Las Vegas, NV 89149
brightangelchurch.org

Full-Time Pulpit Minister/Preacher - Sierra Vista, Ariz.

The Sierra Vista Church of Christ (also known as the Village Meadows Church of Christ) is seeking a full-time pulpit minister/preacher to serve a conservative, non-instrumental congregation of 50-60 with great potential for growth (currently without elders). We are located in southeast Arizona with a surrounding community of about 50,000, a community college, nursing school, university campus, and recently built medical center located near Fort Huachuca. Our family is accustomed to serving the needs of the military populations as well as the local community since 1958. Sierra Vista is approximately 75 miles southeast of Tucson, Arizona (an hour to an hour and 15 minutes driving time).

An ideal candidate has extensive knowledge of the Bible, the Word of God, and practices sound doctrine; is a graduate of a Church of Christ associated university/school of preaching in a related field of study, i.e., Biblical studies (experience may count towards education); is an evangelist; and has a minimum of 10+ years pulpit experience. A candidate with training and experience in counseling would be a plus to their qualifications.

Duties include (but are not limited to) teaching a Sunday morning class, the Sunday morning pulpit sermon, and Wednesday evening pulpit sermon. On Wednesday evening pulpit sermon, church members are invited to attend. Applicants shall maintain structured office hours.

The compensation package includes an annual salary range between $40K-$50K (negotiable); use of a 2-car garage, fenced yard, close to a grade school and less than 2 miles from the church; paid vacation, paid federal holidays off; and church paid tax benefits.

Applicants must provide verifiable references and must submit a recent audio/video of sermon(s) (or supply a URL link). Applicants are also subject to a formal interview and an in-depth questionnaire, an invitation to a personal tryout before the congregation to include teaching a Sunday morning class, the Sunday morning pulpit sermon, and following up that experience with a personal message to the congregation on a topic of their choice.

The ideal candidate will be an experienced preacher and teacher of God's Word. He should be able to present and defend biblical Christianity and know how to interpret Scripture. Experience and training in counseling will be helpful. If you would like to apply for this position, email an electronic copy of all relevant information about yourself to: BA@BrightAngelChurch.org with a subject heading of “Attention Elders.” Information should include: a link to a sermon archive where you currently preach, and a file containing a work history, education, and references. Also include a list of any published articles and books. Electronic copies of any written material would be helpful.

Bright Angel Church of Christ
8570 W Bright Angel Way, Las Vegas, NV 89149
brightangelchurch.org

Full-Time Children’s Minister

The Walnut Church of Christ in Texarkana, Texas, is seeking to hire a full-time Children’s Minister. This person will work with our elders, staff, and families to direct our children’s program and provide ministry to our children from birth through the 6th grade. We are seeking both male and female applicants who have a heart for working with young children and a desire to help nurture and develop their faith. If interested, please email a resume and cover letter to: wcoc.ministrysearch@yahoo.com or mail to this address:

Children’s Ministry Search Committee
Walnut Church of Christ
2720 Moores Lane
Texarkana, TX 75503
walnutchofchrist.org

Bilingual Minister
Keizer, Oregon

The Keizer Church of Christ is searching for a bilingual minister to help us reach out effectively to the large Hispanic population in our community. Come help us become an evangelistic and fully integrated church body. If you have a servant’s heart for this type of ministry, please visit: keizercoc.org for more information.

Reaching Up Reaching In
All to the Glory of God
KEIZER CHURCH OF CHRIST

Walk to Harding University!
Excellent Financing Options
Tremendous Opportunity

Text/Call 501-281-2000
parkavehomes@gmail.com
Share the Good News with

Bibles for Millions

...an effort to put one million WBS Study Bibles into the hands of seekers. You and your congregation can be part of it.

HOW CAN I GIVE?
Your gift connects a seeker with a WBS Study Helper for personal study—and helps them get a free Bible. worldbibleschool.net/give

1

CAN I BUY?
Yes. Use Bibles for personal use and pews, as well as for gifts and as presentation Bibles. worldbibleschool.net/bible

$5

each up to 99
PLUS SHIPPING
$4.25 for 100 to 499
$3.50 for 500 or more
(For special orders, call 877-393-0211.)