A long, lonely lockdown

AMID RESTRICTIONS, Christian care homes struggle to be the family their residents can’t see.

BY ERIK TRYGGSTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

‘Mom, it’s me.”
The young woman stood outside Tealridge, an independent living facility in Oklahoma City, and talked to her mother through a window.
But Mom didn’t recognize her.
She tried again.
“See, it’s your daughter,” she said, taking off her mask.
Still, no recognition.
Sitting on a bench under the facility’s portico, Marilyn Dobson watched the interaction — a social distance away but close enough to feel the heartbreak.
“I think that, by the time the conversation was over, she had come around,” Dobson said of the mother, “but it just showed me the damage that has been done emotionally by being isolated the way people have.”
Dobson and her husband, Max, have spent almost every hour of the past eight months at Tealridge, which is associated with Churches of Christ.
Tealridge, like assisted living and senior care facilities across the nation, has operated under strict lockdown and quarantine procedures in the wake of COVID-19. The global pandemic has taken a deadly and disproportionate toll on the elderly. Those with Alzheimer’s disease or other dementias are at increased risk of contracting the virus, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
The threat isn’t only physical, said Sabrina Porter, president of Texas-based Christian Care Communities & Services. In many nursing homes, “the people who are dying are not dying of COVID. They’re dying of loneliness.”

A NORTH CAROLINA church wanted to be seeker friendly. But then came internet trolls hurling slurs.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Even as her home congregation worships virtually, Nikki Murphy still likes to dress up for the Sunday service.
On a typical Lord’s Day during the COVID-19 pandemic, her sister Jamie Gadson comes over. The two put on makeup before connecting the church’s Zoom feed to Murphy’s living-room TV.
“I’ve been trying to stay in the habit of getting ready for church,” the 46-year-old nurse said. “Everybody has started showing up for church in their pajamas and not turning on the camera.”
On a recent Sunday, her preacher — Nick Glenn of the Sharpe Road Church of Christ in Greensboro, N.C. — titled his sermon “Everything Is Going to be Alright.”
The lesson, taken from Psalm 37:22-25, was meant to serve as an encouragement for the 350-member congregation.
“Be positive during these difficult times” was the message that Glenn, a 42-year-old former college basketball player, said he wanted to share with the predominantly Black flock.
As Murphy listens to Glenn’s prerecorded sermon each week, she keeps the live discussion window open on her TV screen.
“We do a lot of our ‘Amen-ing’ in the chat boxes,” she said. “If Nick

Knox Watson and his grandmother, Judy Forrester, press their hands against a window at Tealridge, an independent living facility in Oklahoma City, as they say goodbye. Watson’s sister, Nora, and their dog, Mae, also came to see Forrester, 72. “She hasn’t been able to hug them since March,” said Forrester’s daughter, Amanda Watson, events coordinator for Oklahoma Christian University. “She is lonely but doing good.”

See LOCKDOWN, Page 24
See ZOOMBOMBING, Page 8
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Modern-day Lipscombs weigh value of voting

TURNED OFF BY DIVISIVE politics, some Christians see wisdom in the late preacher’s hands-off approach to civil government.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

David Lipscomb, an influential leader in Churches of Christ from the Civil War until World War I, urged Christians to refrain from voting and participation in civil government.

More than a century after the Tennessee preacher’s death, his approach to Caesar — and candidates with last names such as Trump and Biden — is gaining new devotees fed up with America’s political polarization.

“The church harms its influence when it becomes political, and Christians cannot vote without becoming political,” said Sarah Blackstone, 38, a member of the Broad Street Church of Christ in Mineola, Texas.

“This distracts from our purpose — to change hearts and lives for Christ by bringing him to them,” added Blackstone, who along with her husband, David, a Broad Street deacon, has given up voting. “By engaging in politics, our focus is then shifted to legislating lives instead of transforming them.”

Jonathan Storment, preaching minister for the Pleasant Valley Church of Christ in Little Rock, Ark., said he writes in “Jesus of Nazareth” every four years, prompting his mother to quip, “Oh good, we can look forward to four more years of self-righteousness.”

“But I believe that no one political party or candidate ever fully endorses the ethics and politics of the kingdom of God,” said Storment, 39. “The New Testament ethic is not reduced to talking points and single issues but a claim on the entire universe and especially on the people who have bent their knee to Jesus as Messiah.”

Jesus and Wi-Fi: Alaska church helps students during pandemic

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

When public schools in Alaska’s capital of Juneau moved to virtual classes because of the COVID-19 pandemic, some students were put in a dire learning situation.

While the school district and Alaska Native organizations provided tablet computers, poorer children couldn’t access lessons because they lack home internet.

“That (online) model doesn’t work for a very large number of families that attend our school,” said Alex Newton, the counselor at Glacier Valley Elementary, which receives Title 1 federal funding because of its high poverty level.

Enter the Juneau Church of Christ, a 100-member congregation just a block from the school.

The church opened its annex building to provide Wi-Fi and tutoring for Glacier Valley students, who are required to wear masks and maintain 6 feet of social distance.

Multiple congregations across the nation — including the Overland Park Church of Christ in Kansas and the Southside Church of Christ in Fort Worth, Texas — have helped in a similar way since the novel coronavirus disrupted normal instruction.
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CALIFORNIA
FAIRFIELD — The BayNorth Church of Christ has opened its doors to the homeless with the ability to house up to 50 people through December, Fox 40 reported.

The goal is to “provide some solutions to our homeless crisis as well as keep our homeless safe and in an atmosphere where they’re also protected from catching the COVID-19 virus,” minister Sam Morris told the San Francisco television station.

The city council passed a resolution authorizing a pandemic emergency sheltering plan at the church, funded by the city’s coronavirus relief fund.

Morris told Fox 40: “We can make a difference, even when times are difficult. ... And that’s what we’re about.”

CONNECTICUT
MERIDEN — The Meriden Church of Christ hosted a panel discussion on racism. The recent Facebook Live event featured “informative dialogue with ministers from the Black community,” said Meriden minister Arthur “Bud” Fenner.

Panelists were Norman Nuton Jr., minister for the New Haven Church of Christ; Donnie Pierre, minister for the Waterbury Church of Christ; and Wilton Carraway Jr., minister for the Whitney Avenue Church of Christ in North Haven.

“Questions were submitted from members of the church,” Fenner said. “The subject of racism included support for police and denouncing violence and vandalism in protests.”

FLORIDA
PENSACOLA — Even before COVID-19, change had come to the Gateway Church of Christ.

The 200-member church sold its building to a hospital group and began meeting at a school. But after eight weeks at the school, the pandemic prompted the church’s eviction.

Florida congregation distributes free Bibles
Members Connie Halladay and Idelet Dessin share God’s written word at the Pine Castle Church of Christ in Orlando, Fla. Signs declaring “Free Bibles” directed recipients to the church, which hosted the giveaway one morning per week for a month. “COVID and unrest have broken up the ground — it’s time to plant the seed,” evangelist Dan Wheeler said.

“So the congregation is ‘homeless’ until the school is available,” member Jim Miller said. The church’s new building is under construction and will take about a year to complete.

Even while meeting online, attendance and giving have increased, Miller said. “Adversity has led to the opportunity to minister to and reach out to new people in our community,” he said.

NEBRASKA
OMAHA — The Harvest Field Church of Christ, which began in the spring of 2018 with a group meeting in a garage, has moved into a leased building.

The congregation has started a fund-raising campaign to build a permanent meeting place, said Travis Heppner, one of the founding members.

“Heaven was growing west and fast, and we saw a need to locate a congregation in this area,” Heppner said. “We realized the need to get a spiritually strong congregation in the heart of West Omaha where we can connect with the community, share the truth and serve.”

PENNSYLVANIA
KING OF PRUSSIA — John Beck, a member of the King of Prussia Church of Christ, leads a ministry called “Virtual Bible School.”

Beck said he started the program “to help people be in God’s word more often and stay in it longer.”

After launching VirtualBibleStudy.com, he took early retirement from his career as a Ford Motor Co. sales and marketing manager.

“Knowing that souls are at stake, I decided to go all in ... and use my marketing background to help grow people’s faith,” Beck said.
Drive-in fellowship

IN A WORLD of social distancing, Baltimore church hosts an outdoor Movie Night.

BY HAMIL R. HARRIS | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Baltimore

When Eric Lorick bought an old apple-green Plymouth in 1973, he couldn’t wait to take his high school sweetheart, Andrea, to the Carlin Drive-In in northwest Baltimore.

“I remember that box for the sound and how we had to roll down the window in the winter, and the car would be cold,” said Andrea Lorick, whose husband, Eric, now serves as minister for the Inner City Church of Christ in Baltimore. The couple laughed as they reflected on watching movies from their car.

Flash forward 47 years, and a second-generation Lorick also loves drive-in movies, so much that he created his own outdoor movie business. Joseph Lorick, Eric and Andrea’s son, owns Backyard Movie Theater LLC, a home entertainment company.

According to his website, the younger Lorick first dreamed of owning an outdoor movie business when he was managing a Lowe’s Cineplex more than 20 years ago. In the age of COVID-19, his business has also become a way to serve and evangelize in his Baltimore community.

“Because of the coronavirus,” this is a way that we can bring something to the community and spread the word of God,” Joseph Lorick said.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO A SUPERHERO

On a recent Sunday night, Joseph’s parents were among the moviegoers parked on a grassy lot of the Inner City congregation. Instead of those old rusty boxes, the audio for “Black Panther,” played on the FM car radio.

Backyard Movie Theatre provides the screen, projector, portable lounge chairs and popcorn machines in addition to obtaining rights to show a film.

Joseph said the drive-in event “was definitely for outreach and to introduce ourselves to the neighborhood,” adding that about 125 people watched the award-winning Marvel superhero flick on an inflatable 33-foot screen.

The congregation had planned to show a Disney film but shifted to “Black Panther” in recognition of actor Chadwick Boseman, who died Aug. 28 of colon cancer at the age of 43.

“We needed to do something to let the community know who we are,” Eric Lorick said.

The Loricks and the 60 members of the Baltimore congregation have used Community Days and Movie Night to spread the word of God in a community that struggles to win a battle over crime and vice.

Inner City began in January 2014 with about a dozen members as an outgrowth of the East Baltimore Church of Christ. Before coming to Inner City, Eric Lorick served as a deacon, elder and Christian life minister at East Baltimore for 18 years.

Inner City first met in a storefront above a liquor store.

“God has blessed us,” Eric Lorick said. “Two years ago, we were able to purchase a sanctuary and a church house on 1.3 acres of land in the middle of the neighborhood.”

From that square, red brick building, the small church has launched ministries that include a Sister 2 Sister program for women, a young adult network and a Bible education ministry to train future church leaders.

It sponsors community events ranging from symposiums to back-to-school parties and a masks-required Trunk or Treat.

MOVIES AND THE GOSPEL

Joseph Lorick coordinated another recent Movie Night at the Edgewater Church of Christ in Harford County, Md.

Although he had planned to pack up his blow-up screen for the winter, he recently found an indoor location.

“My son has found a room, normally used for painting cars, to show movies,” the elder Lorick said. “Now he can show movies and spread the Gospel day or night.”
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ZOOMBOMBING: Racist attack highlights online security concerns

FROM PAGE 1
makes a good point, I’ll say, ‘Preach, preacher,’ or cheer him on a little bit. … Sometimes I might say, ‘Hallelujah,’ and put a lot of exclamation marks behind it.”

Wanting to be seeker friendly, the church has shared its Zoom connection details widely on social media during the more than six months members have met online.

That openness had never been a problem. Until now.

In the middle of Glenn’s recent sermon, a rapid-fire barrage of messages popped up. When Murphy looked closer, what she saw shocked her.

The statements were littered with racial slurs and hate speech. One comment taunted, “GET OFF CHURCH AND GO PICK YOUR COTTON.” Another proclaimed, “WHITE LIVES MATTER.”

TROLLS TARGET HOUSES OF WORSHIP

Murphy’s congregation had fallen victim to “Zoombombing” — an attack by online trolls whose targets during the coronavirus outbreak have included churches, mosques and synagogues.

Other Churches of Christ have experienced similar internet hijackings.

When the Tintern Church of Christ in Vineland, Ontario, conducted its first midweek Bible study via Zoom, strangers appeared in the gathering.

“They were quiet until things got started,” senior minister Noel Walker said. “Then they would burst out in profanity before logging out. We had two or three people do this before I closed the gathering and opened an alternative meeting.”

Walker said he later learned that certain social media groups post Zoom meeting invitations online with the hashtag #zoombomb.

After the bad experience, the Canadian church created a custom meeting ID and came up with a pass-word known only to members. The password never appears in print, not even in the church’s e-bulletin.

Terry Laudett, a member of the Contact Mission Church of Christ in Tulsa, Okla., said he was participating in a large-group Bible study led by a prominent civil rights leader when loud music and burning crosses filled the screen.

“I was disturbed that someone went out of their way to attack people because of their race, especially people in a Bible study,” said Laudett, a White Christian whose 17-year-old son, Chris, is Black. “I was disappointed to think that my son will likely face this kind of hostility due to his race throughout his life.”

A Zoom spokesman, Matt Nagel, told The Christian Chronicle the company has been “deeply upset at these types of incidents … and strongly condemns such behavior.”

The written statement shared by Nagel noted that the company “recently updated a number of default settings and added features to help hosts more easily access in-outing security controls, including controlling screen sharing, removing and reporting participants, and locking meetings, among other actions.”

We also encourage members to pass along invites to those they know,” Woods said. “We have had visitors join this way. In fact, we now have three new regular participants in our Sunday Bible class who live in Texas and California.”

The North County Church of Christ in Escondido, Calif., makes private, in-house announcements via a closed group, senior minister and elder Kevin Withem said.

“Our service is broadcast in our public group and our YouTube channel, but comments are carefully monitored, and inappropriate ones could be scrubbed quickly,” Withem said.

‘LORD, JUST FIX IT!’

Back in North Carolina, Murphy saw porn playing on one intruder’s screen as she scanned the handful of Zoom trolls who infiltrated her church’s service.

“Oh, Lord, please don’t let anybody see this,” she said she thought to herself, especially worried about the children watching.

Gadson, Murphy’s sister, began praying out loud.

“Lord, just fix it!” she asked, blaming the attack on the devil. “Just fix it!”

Because of playback issues, the Sharpe Road church had split its prerecorded Sunday morning broadcast into separate feeds for Facebook Live and Zoom viewers.

As a result, the entire congregation did not witness the attack, but more than 100 members were watching on Zoom.

The minister did not immediately realize what was happening. But his wife, Nikki Glenn, alerted him.

“Once we saw what was going on, we stopped the playback and went in and removed the individuals making the comments,” Nick Glenn said. “Then we just picked up where the broadcast stopped.”

Glenn reported the attack to Zoom and the Guilford County sheriff’s office, but he said he had no idea if the individuals involved might be traceable.

Experts advise taking security precautions before hosting online services.

‘THERE ARE BAD ACTORS OUT THERE’

The bottom line is that churches should not share videoconferencing details publicly, said Mark Brewer, a former chief information officer for a Fortune 500 high-tech company.

“You can’t just expose the log-in to the universe and hope everything works for good because there are bad actors out there,” said Brewer, a deacon of the Memorial Road Church of Christ in Oklahoma City. “The second thing is, you need to have somebody managing the meeting.”

That person generally needs to be somebody other than the minister, who may have 25 other things going, Brewer said. And that person needs the ability to remove anyone from the meeting — even a member — if a disruption occurs.

In its advertising, the Walled Lake Church of Christ in Michigan invites seekers to email the church office for an invitation to its Zoom sessions, minister and elder Roger Woods said.

That allows the church to screen potential guests.

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That allows the church to screen potential guests.
Brewer said it would be extremely difficult to identify the trolls. “If you post a Zoom meeting ID on a public channel or social media or in your bulletin, you don’t know who it is,” he said. “It could be somebody in another country.”

Meanwhile, Glenn drew praise for his response to the intrusion. On his personal Facebook page, the minister wrote: “We got the memo a long time ago. You hate us. You think you’re better. You don’t want us here. I want you to get our memo. We love you despite your hatred towards us. You’re not better…. You’re equal. The same God that made you and called you good is the same God who created me and called me good. FYI, we aren’t going anywhere.”

Doug Edwards, an elder of the Metro Church of Christ in Sterling Heights, Mich., was among those impressed by Glenn’s words. “I don’t think we will ever make progress on racial strife when we respond to racism with hateful words,” Edwards said. “We must show these people that with God, there is a better way. We must respond to racism with love. We must do all we can to bring these people into a saving relationship with God.”

Taking COVID-19 precautions, a man is baptized at the Sharpe Road Church of Christ in Greensboro, N.C.

More than 50 years ago, Dr. Thomas B. Warren commented that he had “studied books by the dozens in which men have sought to prove the inspiration and authority of the Bible. . . . [But] no basic logical argument was set out to explain why what men did actually showed that the Bible was the inspired word of God. . . . I am convinced that I did develop the basic argument for such proof.”
LIPSCOMB: Political climate has ‘awakened’ interest in nonvoting

From Page 3
Both Blackstone and Storment cited Lipscomb as a major influence.

In a new book, “Resisting Babel: Allegiance to God and the Problem of Government,” Restoration Movement scholar John Mark Hicks suggests that the present political climate has “awakened” interest in Lipscomb’s approach.

“Lipscomb’s understanding of the kingdom of God, rooted in the Sermon on the Mount, subverts the present Evangelical church, which seems deeply committed to nationalism, patriotism, and political power,” writes Hicks, a professor of theology at Lipscomb University, the institution that Lipscomb and James A. Harding cofounded as the Nashville Bible School in 1891.

Beyond Churches of Christ, the past quarter-century has brought a “movement of younger evangelicals who have refrained from voting as a matter of choosing the pursuit of holiness over political power of the ‘world’ — replicating the very move of David Lipscomb” and nonvoting groups such as the Jehovah’s Witnesses and the Amish, said James Hudnut-Beumler, a professor of American religious history at Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

Roots of Lipscomb’s Beliefs
The Civil War played a big role in shaping Lipscomb’s political theology.

At one time, Lipscomb — who edited the Gospel Advocate from 1866 until his death at age 86 in 1917 — owned five slaves.

“In hindsight, Lipscomb saw the Civil War as God’s chastening scourge that was necessary for the liberation of African slaves from their southern masters,” Hicks writes in known as the largest ‘peace church’ at the time of World War I,” Hicks told The Christian Chronicle.

But that legacy of pacifism and nonvoting didn’t last long as the fellowship came to embrace military service and political activism.

“Churches of Christ went mainstream in the mid-20th century as church members became increasingly prosperous,” said Loretta Hunnicutt, a history professor at Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif. “Christianity in general — along with the Stone-Campbell Movement in parts of the country — experienced cultural dominance, especially after World War II.

“Rejecting voting doesn’t make much sense after those experiences,” she added, “as it would have made sense to Lipscomb’s post-Civil War generation who felt scarred by politics in unique ways and were still something of a group of ‘outsiders.’”

Hunnicutt said she has a close friend who follows Lipscomb’s model, but he was reluctant to share his views with her “because he had received so much condemnation from others who believed it a Christian’s duty to vote.”

“There are cross currents at work, really,” the Pepperdine professor said. “Some are turned off by politics because of our current national polarization, and some feel Christians must continue to engage in order to bring good change. And as always, regional and socioeconomic differences abound.”

In the Pew Research Center’s 2014 Religious Landscape Study, 73 percent of respondents who gave their religious affiliation as Church of Christ said they were certain they were registered to vote at their current address.

That compared with 89 percent of Episcopalians, 85 percent of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adherents, 84 percent of United Methodists, 80 percent of Southern Baptists and 67 percent of Catholics.

“One thing to bear in mind about the figures: They don’t take into account that the share of people who are eligible to vote varies across religious groups,” said Gregory A. Smith, Pew’s associate director of research. “For instance, 14 percent of Catholic respondents … told us they are not U.S. citizens. … That’s part of the reason the share of Catholics who are registered voters is slightly lower than for the Churches of Christ.”

Among Church of Christ respondents, just 3 percent said they were not U.S. citizens, Smith noted.

Political scientists with ties to Churches of Christ said they have not seen a major uptick in members aligning with Lipscomb’s approach.

“I know of just a few individuals around here who take the Lipscomb view,” said Stephen H. Morris, a political science professor at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn. “Most aren’t even familiar with it.”

Many young Christians don’t vote, but Lipscomb seems to have little to do with it, said Neal Coates, a political science professor at Abilene Christian University in Texas.

“The reason that young Christians do not vote in high numbers is consistent with the reasons young Americans do not vote much,” Coates said. “They do not want to be a blind follower of a political
Why do some believers choose not to vote?

“I very much agree with Lipscomb’s views, and I find that viewpoint echoed in the Bible frequently. Satan is the ruler of this world, and his kingdoms coerce people with force. Jesus’ kingdom is a kingdom of peace, not a kingdom of coercion. God uses the evil actions of the world’s kingdoms to bring about his will just as he used Judas and Nebuchadnezzar, but that does not mean that he ratifies their evil actions or will not punish them for those actions.” — David Blackstone, deacon, Broad Street Church of Christ in Mineola, Texas

“I believe that your vote is to help the community and fellow man in needs that sometimes the church cannot. … To vote is to stop others’ rights from being stepped on. Our party. They do not yet understand the connection between their lives and public policy. And they do not trust the government.”

WOULD JESUS VOTE FOR HEROD OR PILATE?

For Tim Tripp, choosing to support neither President Donald Trump nor former Vice President Joe Biden in the Nov. 3 election has everything to do with the specific names on the ballot.

“Neither candidate for president is a man I consider to be a person of integrity or character,” said Tripp, senior minister for the West Side Church of Christ in Russellville, Ark. But Tripp, 56, said he disagrees with Lipscomb’s stance on not voting.

“If Herod and Pilate were opposing each other on the ballot, who would Jesus vote for?” asked Barber, 45, who used to be a Republican but no longer votes. “I think he’d opt not to cast his vote in favor of either one.

“I agree that Christians should avoid placing their hope in government rather than God, and I agree that Christians should do everything within their power to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Barber added. “If involvement in secular politics distracts us from the love of God and one another, then maybe we should re-examine our involvement. It’s a gray area, and we should be gracious to those with whom we disagree.”

Even if most 21st century Christians reject Lipscomb’s perspective, a new generation’s discovery of the late preacher’s views is refreshing to Hicks, the “Resisting Babel” author.

“Perhaps the present political climate encourages some to reclaim Lipscomb’s sense of allegiance to the kingdom of God and withdraw from the support of and participation in civil politics and voting,” the Lipscomb professor told the Chronicle. “Lipscomb would be pleased to hear some reject political engagement in order to devote themselves wholly to the kingdom of God.”
ACROSS THE NATION

ALASKA: Church tutors students during COVID-19

FROM PAGE 3

Four mornings per week, six to 10 children connect to classes via Zoom and work on assignments at the Juneau church.

Members of the Alaska congregation help students with homework as well as arts, crafts and puzzles, while the church furnishes bottled water and snacks.

“It’s a really hands-on experience, and a lot of these kids need one-on-one help,” said volunteer Meghan Johnson, a church member whose daughter, Naomi, is a Glacier Valley fourth-grader.

Students arrive at 8 a.m. each weekday except Wednesday, an off day on the district’s online school calendar. When the children head home at 11:30 a.m., the volunteers “thoroughly clean” the tables, chairs and restrooms, deacon Kevin Henderson said.

Henderson, a Juneau member since 1981, worked with Newton, the school counselor, to develop the educational program.

Even if the outreach effort is just temporary, Henderson prays it will foster stronger ties between the church and the school.

“For 50 to 60 years, our church has been located in this neighborhood,” said Henderson, whose wife, Janet, grew up in the congregation. “Vacation Bible School might reach out to the children once a year, but it seems like we just take up space in the neighborhood, and we’re not involved in the neighborhood.”

A retired state employee, the 63-year-old Henderson oversees the church’s worship ministry and serves as its “techno-wizard,” as one fellow Christian describes him.

He’s also a certified bicycle mechanic who has connected with children for years by fixing bikes and helping with various faith-based summer lunch programs.

When regular school is in session, he works as a substitute teacher at Glacier Valley, where his granddaughter, Amaya, is a fourth-grader.

“You just have to walk into the school and spend a little time, and you see a number of kids who are struggling at home,” he said.

In a neighborhood that mixes single-family homes and apartment complexes, Glacier Valley has a diverse student body with sizable numbers of Alaska Natives and Asian-Pacific Islanders.

Two other church members teach full time at the school, and another serves as a paraeducator. Moreover, Meghan Johnson directs an after-school program called JAMM — Juneau Alaska Music Matters.

Given all those connections, Henderson believes the church has an opportunity — and an obligation — to build long-term relationships with students and their families.

Scriptures such as Matthew 19:14 motivate him, he said. In that verse, Jesus says, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

“These kids are God’s creation that have souls and lives and hearts that need to be filled,” Henderson said. “Even in this simple secular thing we are doing, providing the internet and things, we are doing what we can.”

If the conversations turn to faith, that’s an extra blessing, he said. Already, he said, one student asked, “Is there a heaven? Is there a God?”

For the school counselor, who works alongside the church volunteers, the program is about molding young minds, not anything spiritual.

Newton describes himself as a religious “none” who leans toward agnostic. But he said he’s extremely grateful for the Juneau church opening its doors.

“It’s making an incredible difference right now for these kids,” he said.
House Parents

Join the exciting Childhaven ministry team! If you are seeking an avenue for making an eternal difference in the lives of others – consider the ministry of house parenting!

House Parents Are Needed! Seeking couple of great faith and love for teens to serve Childhaven. Childhaven provides excellent salary and benefits and hires both husband and wife full time. Become a part of an outstanding and supportive team! For more information, contact Director of Social Service, Vicki Rhodes, by phone or email. To learn more, visit www.childhaven.com!

Childhaven, Inc.
PO Box 2070, Cullman, Ala. 35056
(256) 734-6720, vrhodes@childhaven.com

Central Texas Children’s Home

Seeking House Parents

Come and be house parents for our children who range in ages from 5-17. Serve the Lord as you serve our children! CTCH has been operating near Austin, Texas, since 1969, caring for children who are lost and hurting. Please help us help the children! We are looking for caring hearts and minds to do mission work. You will earn a competitive salary (based on experience), have ample time off, enjoy supportive staff, and get other strong benefits.

Seeking House Parents
Our children need you!

Ray Crowder
Executive Director
Jon O’Keefe
Residential Svc. Dir.
jon@ctch.org
(512) 243-1386

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

Central Texas
Children’s Home

Churches of Christ 20th Annual
Orphan Sunday Nov 8, 2020
“FEED MY SHEEP.” John 21:17

Please, will you help us continue to feed and share the gospel with hundreds of fatherless widow families and thousands of street orphans? We’ve been feeding them for months during Covid 19 and if we stop now they will surely starve!

Go to orphanslifeline.org/orphan-sunday and watch what your gift will do.

Donate online or mail to the address below. It’s not too late to sign up your congregation. We’ll overnight you a participation packet. Email Tim at timm@orphanslifeline.org or call Tim or Faith in our office at 406-257-0868.

Orphan’s Lifeline Int’l. 135 Kelly Rd. Kalispell, MT 59901 406-257-0868
A ministry of the Churches of Christ for over 20 years
Paul is Misunderstood and Mistranslated: Living Out the Faith of Jesus Christ

After years of researching and reading the Greek! Not written in a condemning way, this book proves that Paul’s salvation “through faith…not by works” (TFNW) argument was not written to fight the works of obedience Jesus was requiring, but rather the Judaizers and the Pharisaism of his day (cf. the Mishnah or Talmud). Paul wanted Christians to view Christ’s obedience approach through the lens of faith as he used the “faith of Jesus” (the faith Jesus exemplified) as the vehicle for the obedience required by God because the Jews had corrupted the Law of Moses with their many extra laws of works. Paul’s TFWN perspective was misunderstood by Luther and the Reformers. It is still being greatly misunderstood today, in large part because our scriptures are being mistranslated to align themselves with the Protestant TFWN perspective. But Jesus was not teaching that salvation is through faith not works. He was requiring our obedience. Order today from Amazon! To contact the author: PO Box 680544, Franklin, TN 37068.

“Jewish Chronicles, How the Jewish Nation Will Turn in Faith to Rabbi Jesus of Nazareth, Well Before the Second Coming.”

How the Jews came to reject their own Messiah, and the paths this has led to. In a time of severe persecution of Christians and Jews, they will finally turn to their own Christ and bring about a golden age of the gospel of Christ. Illustrated. 978-0-978686673-3, 350 pgs, $19.95.

To be released Friday, Nov. 6, 2020.

See your bookseller.

More info at: angleofentry.com
AFTER 25 YEARS of work in East Africa, Jeff and Cheryl Cash are recognized as ‘permanent’ by those they serve.

MISSIONARY Jeff Cash has worked with villagers in Uganda for 25 years.

The blessing of staying put

AFTER 25 YEARS of work in East Africa, Jeff and Cheryl Cash are recognized as ‘permanent’ by those they serve.

FORT PORTAL, Uganda

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Wenty-five years ago, Jeff and Cheryl Cash boarded a bus loaded with people, produce, sheep and chickens in the Ugandan capital, Kampala.

They rode 200 miles west to Fort Portal to begin ministry among the Toro people.

Jeff Cash is the great-grandson of O.H. McGavock, an evangelist who baptized more than 3,000 people in West Texas and Oklahoma.

Growing up in Oregon, he developed a heart for the poor and a desire to serve as a missionary, inspired by people including his cousin, Larry Stephens, a longtime missionary to Kenya.

Those who are recognized as ‘permanent’ are Money, appropriately enough.

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They worked with Stephens in Kenya for a year and then served a church in Odessa, Texas, before moving to Fort Portal.

The country had only recently opened to missionaries after a long recovery from the brutal rule of Idi Amin. Churches including the Metro Church of Christ in Gresham, Ore., and the Glenwood Church in Tyler, Texas, have provided oversight and support.

They developed what they call “Campfire Worship,” gathering with believers around a fire, sharing a meal, singing and telling Bible stories. This style of gathering has served the church well during the COVID-19 pandemic, said Jeff Cash’s father, Glenn. During Uganda’s strict lockdown, families and small groups have gathered around small fires across Fort Portal for worship.

The Cashes have reached out to villages in the bush around them, preaching and teaching, during the COVID-19 pandemic, said Jeff Cash’s father, Glenn. During Uganda’s strict lockdown, families and small groups have gathered around small fires across Fort Portal for worship.

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Egytian minister who endured jail and persecution dies in car wreck

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

D uring his lifetime, Francis Habashy was “arrested, harassed, interrogated, threatened and persecuted” for his Christian faith, said his longtime friend Truitt Adair.

Through it all, he remained a “powerful gospel preacher and missionary,” Adair said, “and a wonderful example of faith under fire.”

Habashy, 82, died Sept. 19 in a car accident in his native Egypt. He was a minister for the Church of Christ in Cairo, capital of the predominantly Muslim nation of 98 million souls.

He became a Christ follower more than five decades ago, said Adair, chancellor of Sunset International Bible Institute in Lubbock, Texas, where Habashy trained for ministry.

The late Jim Ogburn, a longtime advocate for missions among the Arab peoples, helped send Habashy to Sunset. The Brooks Avenue Church of Christ in Raleigh, N.C., where Ogburn served as the missions committee chairman, sponsored Habashy’s work.

Habashy graduated from Sunset in 1994 and also earned a master’s degree in Bible from Lubbock Christian University. Then he and his wife, Evon, returned to Cairo “to continue to strengthen the small, struggling congregation there and to boldly but wisely evangelize all who would listen,” Adair said.

He endured persecution and was jailed in Egypt for activities related to his ministry.

“Most Westerners may never experience the constant pressure and persecution that characterized Francis’ steady and patient walk with God,” said Tim Burow, president of Sunset.

“But I am sure that he would tell us, as he always told me when I asked, that we must not fear such things.”

Since the Arab Spring of 2011, “many Muslims have been more keenly aware of the call of Christ,” Burow said. “Francis has been eager to speak where he can, when he can, of the Savior who loves people from every background.”

Habashy worked closely with Churches of Christ in Greece and other parts of Europe — especially in recent years as they reached out to the continent’s burgeoning population of refugees from the Middle East. In 2018 he attended the European Vision Workshop in Bratislava, Slovakia, before traveling to Bremen, Germany, to assist a congregation as it served refugees.

Doug Reeves, Sunset’s dean of international studies, witnessed Habashy as he ministered to refugees in Bremen and Athens, Greece.

“In both locations, the refugees showed such respect for Francis (that) they invited us into the camps and living quarters, the very places that were forbidden to others,” Reeves said. “It was simply remarkable to see how the refugees responded … and to observe as God opened the doors and the hearts of those who are seeking him.”

Evon Habashy died a few weeks ago from complications due to cancer and COVID-19, Adair said. A few days before the accident, Habashy talked to Dino Roussos, a minister in Athens.

“He was telling me about his wife and how much he is missing her and how much he loves me and the church in Athens,” Roussos said. “He was asking for prayers and now … he is gone. I cannot believe it.”

Burow added, “Today his voice is silent, but his legacy continues on in the church he has led and in the family he has raised up in service to his Lord.”

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Francis Habashy and his wife, Evon.
I remember the pink JOY buses that brought all the little children — “red and yellow, black and white” — to worship.

I remember the campaigns where we passed out gospel flyers during the day and sang verse after verse of “Just As I Am” at night — as the preacher urged sinners to come forward, repent and be baptized.

I remember the drawbridge over the Ouachita River, the pungent odor of the paper mill that permeated the entire town of West Monroe, La., and the alligator we saw in the water one time when we went fishing.

In the summer of 1974, my family packed a U-Haul truck and moved to northeastern Louisiana so my father, Bob, could attend the White’s Ferry Road School of Preaching.

Amid the Watergate scandal, President Richard Nixon resigned that August as I started first grade at Kirol Elementary. On our black-and-white television, we watched the “CBS Evening News with Walter Cronkite” and shows such as “All in the Family” and “The Waltons.”

We ate fried bologna sandwiches, tuna casserole and canned soup as we relied on the GI Bill — educational funding from my dad’s time in the Air Force — to cover our family’s living expenses.

“I remember you as a tiny little dark-haired boy with cute little glasses,” said Deanne Middlebrook, whose late husband, Tommy, attended the tuition-free preaching school with my dad.

I was 6 when we moved into a cramped apartment a few miles from the White’s Ferry Road Church of Christ, which sponsored the school.

My blond-haired brother, Scott, was 5. My firecracker sister, Christy, born the previous Fourth of July at the Blytheville Air Force Base in Arkansas, was 1. My parents — well, they were young. I just didn’t realize it at the time. Dad was 29. My mother, Judy, was 27.

Most importantly, they were on fire for the Lord.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY CHUCK SANDERS

While living in West Monroe, La., in the mid-1970s, the Rosses pose for a photo. Pictured are Bob and Judy with son Scott, daughter Christy and son Bobby.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY LORI ALLISON EASTERLY

Decades ago, the White’s Ferry Road Church of Christ in West Monroe, La., had a vibrant JOY bus ministry. The church opened a preaching school in 1970.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY LORI ALLISON EASTERLY

An eternal difference

FIFTY YEARS AFTER the White’s Ferry Road School of Preaching’s founding, its legacy endures.

CONTINUED
Students attend a class at the White's Ferry Road school in the 1970s.

Another prominent school supporter was the late Alton Howard, a longtime White’s Ferry Road elder. Howard’s company published the popular songbooks best known for 728 — “Our God, He Is Alive!” — and various times called the national anthem of Churches of Christ. Son John Howard remains a White’s Ferry Road elder.

Fresh out of the Marine Corps, David Nestor was one of my dad’s classmates. “WFR taught me how to study the Bible,” said Nestor, 68, a member of the Rio Ranch Church of Christ in New Mexico. He retired earlier this year after 44 years of ministry.

After the military draft ended in 1973, I joined the congregation’s disaster relief team in flying to New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast to assist damages after Hurricane Katrina. In 2014, I profiled the church’s most famous family — the Robertsons of “Duck Dynasty.”

Like his father, Phil, Robertson serves as a White’s Ferry Road elder. As a boy, Robertson rode a pink bus to church when his family moved to West Monroe in 1975. In 1986, at age 23, he enrolled in the preaching school — “My time as a student was two of the best years of my life,” said Alton, 55, who three decades later shares preaching duties with Mike Kellett.

The church’s most famous family — the Robertsons of “Duck Dynasty.”

Still, the White’s Ferry Road school’s legacy was evident as more than 100 people gathered this fall to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the 1970 opening. Concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic kept many, including my dad, from attending.

Students and widows sing at a White’s Ferry Road School of Preaching banquet, using “Song of the Church” songbook published by Howard’s company.

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Hillsboro Street Church of Christ is a congregation of 80+ members with two elders and seven deacons. We are located in a town of over 18,000 dedicated to rebranding into a music/festival tourism town. We have a gorgeous downtown and an excellent school system. We are seeking a full-time preacher that loves people and enjoys what he does. If interested, we desire at least three to five years' experience with BA degree or better in Bible. Please provide a current résumé with a one-page statement that characterizes your efforts, style and objectives; two DVD recordings of sermons (or links); and four references. Email these to:

Search Committee: hscoc71730@gmail.com
1322 W Hillsboro Street, El Dorado, AR 71730
(870) 863-4714

Our hope is to find the right applicant before 10/31/2020.

The Forsyth Church of Christ is seeking a minister who feels his ministry is preaching, teaching and equipping others to serve with heartfelt enthusiasm. We are a congregation of 40+ members who seek to be like Jesus by loving and serving each other and our community. Our spiritual family has many of the most loving and giving saints in the Lord’s church, and we are seeking a man of God to preach, teach, and work beside us. The applicant must be solidly grounded and schooled in the scriptures, show passion and enthusiasm for the Lord’s work, have at least five years of pulpit experience within the Churches of Christ, and have evidence of a successful ministry. If you would like to be considered for this ministry, please submit your resume, current video media of two sermons (a link is acceptable) and a concise one-page statement that characterizes your current ministry efforts, style, and goals. Please include a current photo and three contactable references. Pay is negotiable.

To be considered for this position, email info to: bzlake@mediacombb.net or mail to:
Church of Christ, 137 Spring St, Forsyth, MO 65653

The Hendersonville Church of Christ is seeking a full-time Associate Minister for Family Spiritual Life to help us in our goal of encouraging faith development and spiritual growth in our young families and families with children/teens. We have several young families and would like to attract more. We are a church with an average attendance of 125 members just south of the city of Asheville. A successful candidate will possess a bachelor’s degree, although commensurate experience would also be considered. Please visit our website for job description: hvlcoc.org. Please email resume and references to:
hvlcoc@bellsouth.net

Full-time or Part-time Minister Search - Forsyth, Missouri

Full-time Pulpit Minister - El Dorado, Arkansas

Full-Time Associate Minister

Full-time Minister Search

We are seeking a full-time minister to work with the congregation and elders.

General Requirements: Bachelor’s degree in theology, graduate of a Bible school, training work, or equivalent preaching experience.

Responsibilities: Preaching and other ministerial work in support of the church’s mission.

To apply, mail resume to:
South Fulton Church of Christ
Attention: Elders
1035 S Fulton Street
Denver, CO 80247-1945
or email: sfcc88@comcast.net

Part-time Minister Search

The Bellefontaine Church of Christ, Ohio, has an opening for a part-time minister. Duties are weekly pulpit preaching, teaching and working with a membership of 25 people to help grow the congregation. See our website at: bellefontainechurchofchrist.com

Associate Minister for Family Spiritual Life - N.C.

The Hendersonville Church of Christ is seeking a full-time Associate Minister for Family Spiritual Life to help us in our goal of encouraging faith development and spiritual growth in our young families and families with children/teens. We have several young families and would like to attract more. We are a church with an average attendance of 125 members just south of the city of Asheville. A successful candidate will possess a bachelor’s degree, although commensurate experience would also be considered. Please visit our website for job description: hvlcoc.org. Please email resume and references to:
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Minister-Lake Havasu City, Ariz.

Palo Verde Church of Christ is looking for an experienced member of the Lord’s body who is able to preach sound doctrine, hold classes to help spiritually feed the flock and has the desire to reach into a community that is in need of God’s Word. We are a small congregation with a parsonage available. Would like to have someone semi-retired.

Dennis Grosser
928-486-7370, ddgrosser@yahoo.com
www.lakehavasucitycoc.com

Full-time Youth and Family Minister - Malibu, California

The University Church of Christ seeks a full-time Youth and Family Life Minister to begin in Spring 2021. This individual is an active member of the Churches of Christ, who will coordinate Biblical curriculum and facilitate relationships that shepherd youth and families toward a deep and abiding relationship with Jesus Christ. Responsibilities will include planning and leading Sunday morning Bible study and midweek youth group meetings, semi-annual retreats, service projects and other activities. She or he will work closely with the children’s minister and parent advisory committee. The right candidate possesses strong communication and planning skills, knowledge of adolescent development, and biblically-sound teaching.

Those interested in applying should review the job description at: www.uccmalibu.com and send the following documents to the email below: (1) a resume, (2) references, (3) a statement of faith, and (4) a vision for youth and family life ministry.

Contact: church@pepperdine.edu
Attn: Youth and Family Life Minister Search

Applications and supportive materials must be received by December 31, 2020.

Preaching Minister Search

University Park Church of Christ is searching for a Preaching Minister (Senior Minister) to serve a highly diverse congregation in Hyattsville, Maryland. Please download our vacancy announcement (PDF) from our website: http://www.upcoc.com; or call our church office (301-927-7277) for a copy. Applicants should respond to the requirements stated in the vacancy announcement.

Position Open until filled.

CALENDAR

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, schedules are subject to change. Please contact event organizers for updates.

Nov. 3 Election Day.
Nov. 5 Virtual Lecture: Andre E. Johnson. Lipscomb University. (Participation link TBD) Kim at (615) 966-6494 Ext. 6494. See lipscomb.edu/events/.
Nov. 7 25th Anniversary Celebration. The Children’s Home Foundation. Lubbock, Texas. info@chfinc.org. See chfinc.org.

Nov. 8 Orphan Sunday. Orphan’s Lifeline International. timm@orphans-lifeline.org.


Nov. 20 Rescheduled Spring, Summer, Fall Graduation 2020. Oklahoma Christian University, Oklahoma City. Payne Athletic Center. See oc.edu/events.


FULL CALENDAR: www.christianchronicle.org
**Christians donate school supplies to refugees**

Kiera Sheaffer with Central Phoenix Urban Ministry distributes one of more than 100 backpacks filled with school supplies. The Canyon Church of Christ in Phoenix donated the backpacks for resettled Congolese refugees. Kiera, a graduate of Lubbock Christian University in Texas, and her husband, Noah, a graduate of Sunset International Bible Institute in Lubbock, are interning for a year with Central Phoenix Urban Ministry.

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**COVID-19 blamed for closing of Christian school in Idaho**

**COEUR D’ALENE, Idaho** — After 40 years of operation, Coeur d’Alene Christian School has closed — a victim of COVID-19.

The K-8 school, accredited by the National Christian School Association, was housed at the Dalton Gardens Church of Christ building.

“The Dalton Gardens Church of Christ members were strong supporters of CCS from the beginning,” administrator Dan Dupey said. “They gave the school a site, their prayers and specific individual support throughout the 40 years.”

But after COVID-19 forced classes online this past spring, some parents did not want to keep paying private school tuition, administrator Dan Dupey said. “They gave the school a site, their prayers and specific individual support throughout the 40 years.”

By late June, the number of students registered was in the high teens or low 20s, said Dupey, a Dalton Gardens church member and former elder. “We normally have around 35 or more at that point.”

Even before the pandemic, “we were kind of living year to year,” he said. “We had some great donations, so we were doing OK. But we thought this year might be a little more challenging.”

Enrollment in recent years averaged about 60, down from a high of 110 at one point, he said. The school had eight employees, including Dupey, five teachers, a secretary and a youth minister.

Coeur d’Alene Christian School was started in 1980 by Mike Swaim and his late wife, Shari, who dreamed of an educational setting that followed the teachings of Jesus.

This Idaho community — a tourist hub known for lakes, mountains and ski resorts — had just a few Christian schools when the one at the Dalton Gardens church opened.

It now has a few dozen such schools, including one that hired Dupey’s wife, Teri, a Coeur d’Alene Christian School teacher, when her school closed.

After 33 years in Christian education, Dan Dupey is doing business consulting.

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**Youth Minister Search - Panama City, Florida**

**Jenks Avenue Church of Christ** is a family-oriented, stable, balanced congregation with an active membership. Our ministry staff serves alongside six elders, 24 deacons, and a diverse range of families (age and racial mix).

We are blessed with a healthy family blend. Boasting some of the world’s most beautiful beaches, a state college, lots of outdoor activities and a good southern atmosphere, Panama City, Bay County, Florida, is a wonderful place to do ministry and raise a family. We are looking for a minister who is committed to God’s mission to make and develop disciples. Our youth ministry is primarily focused on encouraging the spiritual formation of our young people and helping them integrate with the body of Christ. We offer a competitive salary and benefits package which includes relocation expenses. If interested, contact:

Todd Thompson (toddtjenks.64@gmail.com) and Chris Donlan (chris@jenkschurchofchrist.com)

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**Full-Time Lead Minister - Denton, Texas**

**Singing Oaks Church of Christ** seeks a lead minister to work closely with its ministry team and eldership in leading a congregation of 600+ Christians in growing as passionately committed disciples of Jesus Christ.

The position calls for Biblical visionary leadership, compelling Biblical preaching/teaching, and strategic planning guiding the congregation away from both legalism and cultural relativism and into a closer, Spirit-filled walk with Christ. An ideal applicant will have one or more degrees related to Biblical studies or Christian ministry and at least five years of preaching experience.

Singing Oaks is a friendly, racially diverse, and energetic church located in the second-fastest growing city in America, part of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. For job description, application, and photographs, contact:

Doug Moody dmoody@singingoaks.org
despite the financial and instructional challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, five universities associated with Churches of Christ celebrated record enrollments this fall.

Headcounts hit all-time highs at York College in Nebraska; Rochester University in Rochester Hills, Mich.; Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn.; Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn.; and Abilene Christian University in Texas. Those numbers encompassed traditional residential students as well as part-time students, online programs and satellite campuses.

Enrollment jumped 26 percent at York, hitting 640, the largest increase of any Christian higher education institution surveyed by The Christian Chronicle. That’s up from 508 a year ago.

Despite daily temperature checks, mask etiquette and new social distance norms, the atmosphere remains upbeat on campus, York officials said, attributing the growth to “multiple partners doing outstanding work — admissions office, coaches, business office, and student development.”

“We can face this year with boldness because the same amazing God who spoke the universe into existence is actively at work in and through us at York College,” York’s first-year president, Sam Smith, said in a news release.

While one-third of York’s students are enrolled in online programs, the Nebraska college also saw a rise in on-campus enrollment — one of four institutions surveyed to do so.

At Rochester University, total headcount including non-traditional programs reached a record 1,230, up 13 percent from 1,087. Traditional on-campus enrollment hit 655, up 10 percent from 595.

“I am pleased to report that RU has apparently bucked a national enrollment trend for decreases in college enrollment,” President Brian Stogner said in a statement. “I am thankful to the entire RU campus community for its hard work in ensuring a quality educational environment in the midst of these uncertain times.”

Freed-Hardeman also posted total headcount and on-campus enrollment increases. The record headcount of 2,188 marked a 3 percent increase over last fall’s 2,117. The on-campus number rose to 1,727, up 5 percent from 1,648.

“Most of all, we are thankful to God who blesses again and again,” Freed-Hardeman President David Shannon said in a statement. “We pray that we will honor him and that those blessings will continue to advance the noble mission of Freed-Hardeman.”

FHU has two satellite campuses, one in Memphis, Tenn., for graduate education and another in Dickson, Tenn., for nursing.

According to a news release, Lipscomb’s enrollment of 4,729 students after the first week of classes this fall exceeded the previous record set in fall 2015 with 4,686 students. Lipscomb did not announce its enrollment for on-campus programs.

“This enrollment record reflects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Headcount fall 2020</th>
<th>Headcount fall 2019</th>
<th>Percent change</th>
<th>Students in main campus degrees programs fall 2020</th>
<th>Students in main campus degrees programs fall 2019</th>
<th>Percent change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abilene Christian University, Texas</td>
<td>5,293</td>
<td>5,292</td>
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<td>3,675</td>
<td>3,913</td>
<td>down 6 %</td>
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<td>Crowley’s Ridge College, Arkansas</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>up 2.6 %</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>up 5 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida College</td>
<td>491</td>
<td>535</td>
<td>down 8.9 %</td>
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<td>535</td>
<td>down 8.9 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freed-Hardeman University, Tenness</td>
<td>2,188</td>
<td>2,117</td>
<td>up 3.2 %</td>
<td>1,727</td>
<td>1,648</td>
<td>up 4.7 %</td>
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<td>Harding University, Arkansas</td>
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<td>down 5.2 %</td>
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<td>1,770</td>
<td>down 5.9 %</td>
<td>1,456</td>
<td>1,534</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oklahoma Christian University</td>
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<td>2,101</td>
<td>down 3.8 %</td>
<td>1,775</td>
<td>1,928</td>
<td>down 7.9 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pepperdine University, California</td>
<td>9,564</td>
<td>8,768</td>
<td>up 9 %</td>
<td>7,189</td>
<td>7,339</td>
<td>down 2 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rochester University, Michigan</td>
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<td>1,087</td>
<td>up 13.1 %</td>
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<td>595</td>
<td>up 10 %</td>
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<td>York College, Nebraska</td>
<td>640</td>
<td>508</td>
<td>up 25.9 %</td>
<td>437</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>up 4.3 %</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Students wear masks at Crowley’s Ridge College, where enrollment is up.

the thriving nature of Lipscomb University even in the unique season we have been in ... in the midst of a pandemic,” Lipscomb President Randy Lowry said in the release.

ACU topped last year’s record headcount of 5,292 with an increase of one student to 5,293. However, ACU’s main campus enrollment was 3,675, down 6 percent from 3,913 last fall.

Abilene Christian’s branch campus, ACU Dallas, is home to the university’s 15 undergraduate and 19 graduate online degree programs. Dallas enrollment increased 17 percent over last year.

“With predictions that 15-20 percent of college-bound students might choose not to enroll due to the pandemic, we’re especially pleased to see our total enrollment continue to climb,” ACU President Phil Schubert said in a statement. “This represents significant effort on the part of faculty and staff who continue to adjust to a rapidly changing environment.”

Crowley’s Ridge College in Paragould, Ark. — the smallest of the institutions responding to the Chronicle survey — also reported an increase. Overall enrollment rose to 192, up from 187 a year ago. On-campus headcount hit 166, up from 158.

“I am very proud of CRC’s enrollment increase this fall, especially given the challenges that COVID-19 has presented since spring break,” President Richard Johnson said.

Total headcount includes all students — full and part-time, graduate and undergraduate, on-campus, online and in satellite campuses. Enrollment in on-campus degree programs dropped at several institutions.

Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif., with four satellite campuses that are home to graduate programs in education, psychology and business, was the only institution to shift entirely to online instruction, as mandated by the state of California.

Pepperdine’s overall headcount increased to 9,564, up 9 percent from 8,768. However, enrollment in on-campus programs decreased to 7,189, down 2 percent from 7,339.

Amid the difficulty of COVID-19, Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City, Lubbock Christian University in Texas and Harding University in Searcy, Ark., all experienced declines in total headcount and on-campus enrollment. Florida College in Temple Terrace, Fla., which has no satellite campuses or online programs, also reported a decrease in enrollment.

Still, those universities’ leaders looked for bright spots — such as the record retention (86.7 percent) and graduation (71.5) rates achieved by Harding.

“As we all work together to mitigate the spread and effects of COVID-19 on our campuses and across the country, Harding is seeking new ways to grow in this difficult environment,” Provost Marty Spears said in a news release.

Faulkner University in Montgomery, Ala., and Lipscomb tabulate official numbers later in the semester. Ohio Valley University in Vienna, W.Va., and Southwestern Christian College in Terrell, Texas, did not respond to the Chronicle’s survey.

Your Talents For His Glory!

- Accounting: assistant professor or associate professor
- Bible: assistant professor or associate professor
- Biology: assistant professor, associate professor, or professor
- Business Analytics: instructor
- School Counseling: assistant professor or associate professor
- Adjunct Faculty: online and on-campus courses in business, education, and nursing

FACULTY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Freed-Hardeman University is an equal opportunity employer.
LOCKDOWN: ‘I don’t know how anyone who doesn’t have faith gets through’ this

FROM PAGE 1
The not-for-profit, founded 73 years ago for retired ministers from Churches of Christ, operates three communities in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Among the hundreds of seniors it serves is Porter’s 91-year-old mother, whom she hasn’t seen in person since March, abiding by the rules she requires others to follow.

For isolated seniors, phone calls and video visits with family members can help, said Jim MacKenzie, chaplain for the Church of Christ Care Center in Clinton Township, a Detroit suburb. But there’s no substitute for presence and physical contact, both denied by the virus.

“I isolation has hurt us all, really, but maybe on a more profound level with the elderly,” MacKenzie said. “They really cherish those contacts with their loved ones.”

FOUR MONTHS ‘I CAN NEVER GET BACK’
The lockdowns also have robbed families of precious, critical time with loved ones suffering from progressive memory loss, said Dick Long, a member of the Three Chopt Church of Christ in Richmond, Va.

His wife, Billie Jo, has Alzheimer’s, and in 2014 the couple moved to Richmond to be close to their youngest daughter. That year Billie Jo, “BJ,” moved into a memory care facility.

For four months, Long was unable to visit his wife due to COVID-19 restrictions. He couldn’t talk to her, sing to her, read her Bible to her, pray with her or hug her.

“As a result, BJ’s Alzheimer’s progression has increased significantly,” he said. “She is now in the end-of-life stage.” After multiple appeals, Long was deemed essential to his wife’s care and allowed to reunite with her in early July.

“At the start of our journey with Alzheimer’s, I promised BJ, my sweetheart, that she could always hold on to me,” Long said.

As for the four months they were apart, he said, “That’s something I can never get back.”

We saw their eating habits change significantly, their speaking habits change. Their physical activity level decreased. Everything was decreasing as we were seeing them disconnect from family, friends, which was a real frustration because there was literally nothing we could do about it.”

Serving the elderly is mandated by God, who calls believers to “look after orphans and widows in their distress” in James 1:27, said David Stewart, chief executive officer for the Church of Christ Center in Michigan, which includes a 90-bed assisted living facility and a 129-bed nursing home.

“The isolation people feel when they’re placed in a facility like this is real — even when there’s not a pandemic,” Stewart said.

As staffers have worked to address residents’ emotional needs during the lockdown, they’ve had to abide by new rules imposed by the federal agencies that regulate the skilled nursing industry, including the CDC. Michigan’s governor also has issued hundreds of executive orders, many affecting the facility’s visitation and dining policies.

“It’s been overwhelming for us to keep up with,” Stewart said of the myriad regulations. It’s like “drinking from the fire hydrant.”

LONG, HOT, JOYFUL SHIFTS IN PPE
The Church of Christ Care Center endured a COVID-19 outbreak in early April.

“We have lost a lot of people,” said Stewart, who described the pandemic as the most challenging experience he’s faced in his 28-year career in the senior living industry. Michigan’s government lists 90 cases of the virus and 23 deaths among residents at the center.

Stewart said he has endured heartbreaking losses and seen acts of true heroism — from staffers and residents alike — in the past eight months.

“I don’t know how anyone who doesn’t have faith gets through something like this,” he said. “If it weren’t for my faith, I probably would have folded up my tent and gone home.”

In Texas, Christian Care Communities has so far been spared from a large outbreak, Mazza said, but about four months into the pandemic the memory care facility in Mesquite had a few COVID-19 cases among residents and staff.

On a hot Sunday afternoon, Mazza, who had been working from home, strapped on multiple layers of personal protective equipment and went to the facility to help. So did Porter, the ministry’s president, and one of its vice presidents.

The building is kept close to 75 degrees for the residents’ comfort, Mazza said. The heavy gown, face mask and gloves made it feel 15 degrees hotter. Mazza helped disinfect window sills, doorknobs, anything that could be touched. Porter visited with the residents and made sure they were eating.

The five-hour experience inspired the staff to launch a “Better Day” initiative, encouraging non-nursing staff to volunteer in the facilities, to “be the son, the daughter, the sister, the brother” that the residents weren’t allowed to see.

Mazza has made return visits,
In the midst of the summer lockdown, the youth group of the Prestoncrest Church of Christ in Dallas decorated the sidewalks and driveways of Christian Care Communities.

Erik Brandt

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

H ad the COVID-19 pandemic arrived a few years earlier, Carl Brandt might have been on the front lines of the battle against the deadly virus.

He was a Harvard-educated infectious disease specialist with a doctorate in bacteriology. He worked in the office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Korean War, studying chemical and biological warfare. He researched viruses and vaccines extensively. In 1994 he retired from Children’s National Medical Center in Washington. He loved photography and chess.

But that all began to fade in his later years, as he showed signs of dementia, said his son, Erik, a former missionary to Russia who now serves as minister for the Church of Christ at Olney in Maryland. Carl “almost died of a broken heart,” his son said, when Elsa, his wife of 44 years, died in 2009.

As the dementia progressed, Erik and his sister, Karen, moved their dad into a memory care facility in 2016. Erik picked him up every Sunday for church.

Then came COVID-19. The facility went into lockdown. Carl was able to communicate with his kids only by FaceTime video. Soon the facility had cases of the virus, and for reasons of infection control, the video visits stopped. Erik could only follow the reports on the Maryland Department of Health website. His dad’s facility was listed, and the numbers kept going up.

Eventually, 43 of the facility’s 47 residents tested positive, including Carl. At first he was asymptomatic. Then his behavior changed. “He essentially stopped eating and started staying in bed,” Erik said.

Erik and his sister were able to transition Carl into hospice care, which made video calls possible.

“He was barely communicative,” Erik said, “but I do remember the hospice worker saying, ‘Hey, this is your son. He’s on the screen. Do you see that?’

“The last words I heard my dad say were, ‘That’s my son.’”

Carl Brandt died June 17, age 92.

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Carl Brandt died June 17, age 92.

He was buried with military honors at a socially distanced funeral attended by members of several Churches of Christ. They sang “Children of the Heavenly Father,” a hymn Carl had sung in his parents’ language, Swedish, as a boy.

Erik said he bears no ill will toward anyone for the loss of his father. Instead, he’s thankful for the years they had.

The minister cited another hymn, “Because He Lives,” which includes the lyric, “I’ll fight life’s final war with pain.”

“I think Dad had to fight that last battle of pain and probably loneliness,” he said, “but now I trust that he has experienced something glorious.”

In the midst of the summer lockdown, the youth group of the Prestoncrest Church of Christ in Dallas decorated the sidewalks and driveways of Christian Care Communities.
Memorials

David Lee Arnold
1935-2020

David was born on the family farm outside of Bowie, Texas. He attended elementary school in “the country” before graduating from Bowie Public Schools as a salutatorian at the age of 16. While in college at Abilene Christian University he married Martha (Scarborough), preached at the Tuscola Church of Christ in Texas, and earned a Bible degree in 1955 at the age of 19.

He began full-time ministry for the Panhandle Church of Christ in Texas, followed by ministries for Texas and Oklahoma congregations. During those years he and Martha welcomed their sons Wes and Mike, and he authored four books while conducting gospel meetings, including lecturerships at five Christian colleges. His last full-time role was at Sunset Church of Christ in Dallas from 1967 to 1973.

Retired from full-time ministry (although he never quit preaching and teaching), David conducted motivational training for business and civic groups, owned businesses including print shops and a construction company, and worked for 15 years as a memorial consultant.

He and Martha moved to Tomball, Texas, in 2010, and he served as an elder at the Church of Christ in Champions, Houston, for seven years. In 2019 he was diagnosed with cancer and fought a brave battle until his death.

and they married on Oct. 22, 1954. They were happily married for over 60 years.

The couple served Churches of Christ in Washington and Kansas before the College Church of Christ in Searcy, Ark., invited them to join a stateside mission work in Iowa. They lived in Des Moines from 1964 until 1988, ministering throughout the state planting churches and developing leaders. While there, Lloyd developed study materials that would later be used throughout the world.

With the move in 1988 to Edmond, Okla., came an emphasis on mission work in East Africa. Over the years, Lloyd made 26 mission trips to Kenya and Uganda. (Barbara also participated in most.) They also headed WBS at their congregation, the Memorial Road Church of Christ.

Lloyd enjoyed traveling, watching and playing a variety of sports and games, and talking about matters of eternal significance. He and Barbara leave a strong legacy of faith to their four children, 15 grandchildren and their families, and the individuals and churches they served throughout the world.

Lloyd Deal
1933-2020

Lloyd Allen Deal went to be with his Lord Sept. 24, 2020. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Barbara Ann (Brown) Deal, and his grandson Connor Lee Deal.

Lloyd completed a bachelor’s and master’s at Abilene Christian College in Texas. There he met Barbara, and the Comprehensive School of Management and Technology. Nigerian and U.S. Christians worked together to make this dream come true. They called Dorris the Lady of Vision.

Dorris worked with Reuben Egwu to buy land, dig wells and start a school in Afikpo, in Ebony state. Reuben is now director of the Dorris-Chad International Christian Academy in Afikpo. Reuben called Dorris, “Mother.” In 2019, he visited the U.S. and stayed in her home while he raised funds for the school and ministry in Nigeria.

Dorris had a heart for missions — for teaching anyone who wanted to learn about God. She said, “If you pray for God to open doors, be ready to serve anywhere.”

Dorris Taylor studies with a group of women in Nigeria in 2009.

Dorris had a dream to work as a missionary in Africa. In 1995, an opportunity came for John to teach at Nigerian Christian Bible College in Akab. This gave Dorris a chance to follow up with her WBS students in that area. She also taught classes for women and studied the Bible with individuals around the school. Her door was open to anyone who wanted to learn about Christ.

Later, when John’s health prevented him from traveling, he encouraged Dorris to continue her work in Nigeria. In 2004, at age 70, Dorris was hugging her teaching materials as she balanced on a motorcycle taxi on her way to teach women’s classes. Dorris had a dream to work as a missionary in Africa. In 1995, an opportunity came for John to teach at Nigerian Christian Bible College in Akab. This gave Dorris a chance to follow up with her WBS students in that area. She also taught classes for women and studied the Bible with individuals around the school. Her door was open to anyone who wanted to learn about Christ.

Chase Randall Patton
1999-2020

Chase Randall Patton passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, Sept. 17, at the young age of 21. Chase was born on April 15, 1999, in Houston to Tammy and Alan Patton and raised along with his two older brothers, Taylor and Zach.

Chase attended Frostwood Elementary, Memorial Middle, Memorial High School, and graduated from Idyllwild Boarding Arts School. He was a current junior at the Parsons School of Design in New York City.

Chase leaves behind his mother and dad, Tammy and Alan Patton, his brother Taylor (Kati) Patton, his brother Zach Patton, and his best friend Brianna Vazquez, his grandparents, Barbara and Chris Baumann and Betty Vazquez, his grandpar-

Cleodoris Taylor
1934-2020

Cleodoris Taylor (Vaughn) of Paragould, Ark., passed away July 21, 2020. She learned to love God at an early age and was baptized into Christ when she was 13. “I, as a child, said I wanted to do missionary work,” she said.

Dorris married John D. Taylor Jr. of Jonesboro, Ark., on Dec. 14, 1952. They were blessed with six children. John was an Air Force man and the family moved frequently. This helped prepare Dorris for later travels as a missionary.

John and Dorris raised their family, fostered six children and welcomed an exchange student from Brazil into their home. The Taylors attended Gainesville Church of Christ in Arkansas. Dorris became involved with World Bible School in 1979. She was able to teach students in Ghana, Nigeria and Brazil.

John and Dorris joined the Sojourners, a group of retired people that travel around the U.S. in RVs helping churches with evangelism, Vacation Bible School and other outreach. They also enjoyed their 14 grandchildren and living on the farm.

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In lieu of customary remembrances, and with gratitude from the family, memorial contributions in Chase’s name may be directed to Hope and Healing Center & Institute, 717 Sage Road, Houston, TX 77056; National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, c/o Vibrant Emotional Health, Attn: Development, 50 Broadway, Floor 19, New York, NY 10004; Chapelwood Foundation, 11140 Greenbay St., Houston, TX 77024; or to the charity of your choice.

Remembering
Nina M. Lane

Nina M. (Temple) Lane was born on April 9, 1918, in Georgia. She was the third oldest of 10 surviving children. To help support her family who were sharecroppers, she dropped out of school at an early age. At the age of 7, it became her job to cook for the whole family. Her cooking, canning and gardening skills were a part of her life until her 90s.

She moved with the family to Florida, and while there she was taught the gospel by such renowned preachers as Ishmael Knight and F.L. Thompson and was baptized. She met and married Jimmie Reeze and they started a family. Two daughters, Gwendolyn and Gail, were born in Florida, and son, Timothy was born in Detroit.

Nina always believed in education and hard work. While in her 60s, she returned to night school to continue her education. She was employed by school districts in Indianapolis and Detroit. Nina was a businesswoman, selling Kirby vacuum cleaners and Stanley Home Products. She ran specials to benefit Southwestern Christian College.

Nina helped to raise all her grandchildren. She always passed out Gospel Minutes publications to spread the gospel in her own quiet way. She is survived by two of her siblings, Mrs. Ada L. Wade, who worships with the North Greece Rd. Church of Christ in Rochester N.Y., and Mr. Julian Temple of Detroit Mich..

Sister Lane continued to faithfully worship and serve the Lord with the saints at Wyoming Avenue Church of Christ in Detroit until Dec. 28, 2019, when she was called home to glory at age 101.

Joye Eternale Worde-Armon

As the two-year mark of “Joye Eternale Worde-Armon Day” approaches, Nov. 10, for those living in or near King County, Wash.: Let the Brotherhood of Christ be encouraged to fondly reflect on the many and varied memorable experiences shared in the presence of Joye Eternale on this side of eternity.

Undoubtedly, R.L. and Lillian Worde possessed the gift of prophecy when naming their child Joye Eternale Worde. Joye honored them and our Father in Heaven by living up to that prophetic reality throughout her life.

Too numerous to share here are the countless expressions describing the impact of Joye’s presence, generosity, singing, and speaking over the years. We recall her flawless tone, incredible range, depth of feeling, and pure undiluted joy! One such expression was that of Bro. Ron Palmer, who regarded her as a descended angel in our midst. Another identified her as the Pacific Northwest’s face of the church, and noted sister friends dubbed her the “Northwest Queen of A Cappella.”

Joye incarnated the vision and mission of her life; she made songs preach, while communicating humility, creativity, faithfulness, and joy through song.

While often engaged in numerous endeavors, Joye was a faithful servant of the Lord first and foremost! Her interest in inter-congregational fellowship was unmatched and led to positive exchanges throughout the brotherhood. Joye considered herself and was accepted as a universal member of the Church of Christ!

She worshipped many years with the Holgate and Southside churches in Seattle, leading a special events ministry, serving as choral director for Cross Connection and Southside Adult Chorus. She directed mass choirs for a period spanning four decades, producing albums for the groups. She mentored many budding young singers, worship leaders and preachers. She spoke at many ladies’ day events.

Joye played a critical role in the transformation of group singing from friendly, competitive performing to group ministries in which music played an important part, while benefiting area-wide congregations and communities across the nation.

During that 42-year span, Joye co-founded, along with her husband T.C. and others, the Tri-State Northwest Regional Songfest, contributing to its success for 28 years. She directed numerous all-conference and national lectureship choruses, sing-a-ramas, and musicals across the U.S., Canada, and Jamaica. Joye’s service-mindedness was displayed openly through a variety of ministries and community outreach efforts including Hymns on Rims, prisons, homeless missions, and missionary trips to Jamaica and Africa.

Topping it off, Joye had a special concern for youth and enjoyed hosting and supporting youth events. She founded and continues the Sweet-16 program at the Southside Church of Christ, which continues in her honor today. She blasted line drives on the softball field, fundraised, and was the youth’s favorite chaperone.

As Joye’s husband of many years, her departure is understood, yet like many others, we feel that Joye left too soon. Even today, a huge chasm is apparent in our fellowship, community, and in an inability to carry on in some respects.

Be encouraged to cherish Joye’s memory and honor her legacy by joining me in supporting the Joye Eternale Worde-Armon Benevolence Fund. For more information, contact: Joye Eternale Worde-Armon Benevolence Fund, Attn: T.C. Armon, III, PO Box 1221, Auburn, WA 98071-1221. Email: JoyeEternaleBenevolenceFund@aol.com or call (206) 409.3619.

With Appreciation

The Christian Chronicle appreciates and acknowledges generous gifts received in memory of Lloyd Deal, Ray Holmes, Thomas Olbricht and Pam Worden.

Contact tonya.patterson@christianchronicle.org for rates and more information.
**EDITORIAL**

**Voting is important, but don’t forget who is King**

Both letters arrived on the same day, each full of indignation.

The first criticized The Christian Chronicle’s October front-page story that offered tips for Christians to engage in respectful dialogue about politics, even when believers disagree strongly on the issues and the candidates.

“No Christian can possibly vote for a party (politician) that supports abortion,” that reader said, contending that a vote for anyone except President Donald Trump would be a sin.

The second reader took the opposite viewpoint, claiming that Vice President Joe Biden is the only choice, and only a racist bigot would vote for the incumbent.

Those angry readers offered flip sides of the same coin — the idea that a true disciple of Christ must pick a specific side in a worldly partisan election or risk the wrath of God.

We disagree.

We disagree strongly.

Our endorsement in the U.S. presidential election remains the same as four years ago when we voiced our strong support for ... our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

What we said then bears repeating: The Kingdom we serve is not of this world! Jesus paid the price and determined the ultimate election outcome 2,000-plus years ago.

That means Christians can focus on what really matters — and that has nothing to do with elephants or donkeys.

That said, pay attention to debates concerning our nation’s future. Seek to support candidates who espouse values and policies that respect our Creator. For Americans, voting is a right and a privilege. Yes, we understand why some Christians choose not to participate (see our story on Page 3), but we intend to join our fellow citizens at the polls.

But we will try hard not to lose sight of this: Our hope is heaven, not Washington, D.C. We’ve read to the end of the Book. Satan loses! That’s true regardless of who wins Nov. 3.

**FROM OUR READERS**

**Staying in touch during COVID-19**

In your October column for The Christian Chronicle (“How are you weathering the COVID-19 storm?” Page 3), you asked for things we can do during these uncertain times. I have made a project of calling what I call Prime Timers in our congregation to see how they are doing during this pandemic. Our congregation has a lot of members 60 years old and older.

I started with the Prime Timers Class. When finished, I took the church’s web directory and searched for other members, most of whom go to other classes. I have done this several times a week since mid-March. These calls help me keep in contact with many members and lets them know they are not forgotten. Everyone seems to enjoy talking about Scriptures, especially the Psalms, that speak encouragement and hope in situations like these. The Spirit of the Lord is actively blessing us to be optimistic in all situations.

Wayne Williamson | Mt. Juliet, Tenn.

This episode was clearly a life-changing, life-impacting one, and nothing is the same or ever will be again (“An emotional return,” Page 17, October). Blessings to these dear brothers and sisters as they make their way forward. They are certainly well positioned to carry on with this “new normal.”

Mike Barker | Wilmington, Del.

Add my name to the list of readers who disagree with your recent decision to capitalize skin color (“About our new style on race,” Page 28, October). Capitalizing differences emphasizes those differences. The broader culture is being polarized and divided over race, and the decision to emphasize skin color as a proxy for racial, ethnic or cultural identification is divisive, not inclusive.

As Christians, we should strive to minimize racial, ethnic and cultural differences in order to emphasize and promote unity in Christ, rather than capitalizing our differences as White Christians, Black Christians or Brown Christians.

David Pennington | McKinney, Texas

I appreciated the October 2020 issue of The Christian Chronicle. I especially gravitated to Dan Williams’ article on worship (Page 29, having experienced something of Communism’s dehumanizing nature during that era.

I read with interest the editorial. The message from Laura Akins was especially arresting for its practicality (“This election, can we tame our digital tongues?” Page 28). Every Facebook addict could gain from it.

The article on Christians in Belarus (Page 3) evokes emotion and prayers in their behalf.

Thank you for your contribution to keeping us connected with what Christ’s body is doing and what she is becoming around the world.

Edward Wharton | Lubbock, Texas
‘Cuties’ uproar stirs broader concerns

CONTROVERSY OVER NETFLIX film leads to panel discussion on how parents can protect their children online.

When the #CancelNetflix trend hit social media a few weeks ago, I was ... curious.

The Netflix film “Cuties” set off a firestorm of criticism as viewers shamed the provider, claiming the film exploits and sexualizes young girls.

I didn’t watch “Cuties.” In fact, my family doesn’t have Netflix. We don’t even have cable. It’s a choice my husband and I made years ago.

However, I care deeply about the issues that many brought up as a result of the film. I was glad to see a friend of The Christian Chronicle, Jimmy Hinton, quickly address the controversy.

“It’s bad. It’s gross,” Hinton wrote. “But if I’m being completely honest, it’s no worse than a host of videos of young girls the same age (and even much younger) doing the same kinds of dances on YouTube. “If your kids have access to YouTube, a web browser, TikTok, Instagram or any social media app, rest assured they have way more access to things far worse than ‘Cuties,’” he added.

I agree. This one show seems to reflect a larger issue. What are we allowing into our homes and minds? How do we keep our children safe?

With those questions in my mind, I invited a panel of experts to help our Chronicle audience sort through the broader issue of protecting our children when they are online (which includes Netflix, video games, social media, YouTube and other streaming services).

The panel included:

• Jennifer Shewmaker, dean of the College of Education and Human Services at Abilene Christian University in Texas.

Views

Chellie Ison

• And Andre’a Davis, owner of the mental health practice Healing Couragously and a member of the Glass City Church of Christ in Toledo, Ohio.

We covered multiple topics, starting with “Cuties.” Watch the video at christianchronicle.org/keep-children-safe.

Shewmaker pointed out that while the film is disturbing, parents could use it to engage older teens in a healthy conversation.

“It may open some parents’ eyes to the realities of what their kids are watching online,” Shewmaker said.

Children and teens with access to the internet have likely seen more than parents realize. The average age of exposure to porn is 11 years old.

Getting kids to open up and talk about these things can be uncomfortable. As the parent of a preteen, I know that. But it doesn’t always have to be that way.

The panelists’ advice: Normalize these types of conversations. Take away the fear your child may have. “Let them know, ‘I want to hear what you have to say,’” Davis urged. When they talk, listen.

Davis encourages parents to ask questions and stress: “There’s no consequence related to this. I just want to know what’s going on, what you’ve seen, how you feel about it.” “Create a space,” she said, “where they can talk openly and ask questions.” A space where they won’t feel shame. And if you have young children, Hinton suggests that you go ahead and start these conversations.

In his family, they’ve worked to keep the lines of communication open with their children. Hinton and his wife don’t shy away from uncomfortable topics. They use anatomically correct names when talking about their children’s bodies.

“Our kids have come to us, and they’re not ashamed. They’re not embarrassed to have those conversations,” Hinton said. “We’ve never made it awkward.”

Shewmaker and Davis agree that talking to your children from an early age can help empower them as they get older. It can help them not feel shame when they encounter something that makes them uncomfortable.

Shewmaker said to remind them, “I’m here to help you, and sometimes I’ll need to step in. I’m not going to be mad at you. I’m here to help you figure this out.”

All parents need to monitor what their children are doing online.

“I know this is going to be so hard to some parents,” Shewmaker said. “If you give your child a smart device, say a phone, that is your phone. Give it to them, clearly communicating that you will monitor it at any time.”

And then don’t be afraid to do just that. There are great apps available to help families monitor their kids. The Bark app and Circle by Disney are two highly rated monitoring options. Davis also recommends findmykids.org.

As parents, we can ultimately decide what’s in our home.

“You can be in charge of this stuff,” Hinton said. “It doesn’t have to drive the car. We can drive the car.”

I fully agree with that idea.

My kids don’t have smart devices of their own (because of COVID-19, they do have school-issued devices, but that’s only temporary).

My oldest often remarks that he’s the only kid without one. I’m OK with that. I want to do everything I can to protect my kids from online dangers. I want to mentor them in how to use social media and the internet in healthy ways.

I don’t always model it well, which is why I believe conversations like the one we had with this panel are helpful.

I hope you find it helpful, too.

CHELLIE ISON is the digital news editor for The Christian Chronicle. Reach her at chellie@christianchronicle.org.
Word Find: The book of Daniel

By Betty Hollister | For The Christian Chronicle

L I T E R A T U R E D A B E L S H A Z Z A R
E A S T R O L O G E R S E R V A N T S E D E
A B N S A T R A P S R U L C I T S E J A M S
R E A G U I L T Y N A I T D C S N O I L I O
N D T B U E N J O Y Z R E E I S E L B O N L
I N I L Y A D O I S Z A S S O E K E L U I V
N E O A L L G D R E D H A U Z O L E S S E
G G N Z I G O E S I N N A E S I R H S E T D
T O A I E D T N L H D A Z C N N B I S I R Y
H N L N S N A U C E A T Z N E G G N I R A C
C R E G A I F A L M H S A E S O R V I O T E
A E N H C H R B E R C R R D S C O R N T O H
H G C I T D U E E G U E V I D E N C E C R P
S N G U A O T E G O B D E S T R O Y D I S O
E A O H R S T A T U E N W E D E L A E V E R
M Y S T E R I E S E N U T R I T I O N L L P

Find the following words from the book of Daniel. They can be forward, backward, up, down and diagonal. The unused 31 letters form a sentence about the book. (See the answer on Page 34.)

- ABEDNEGO
- ADMINISTRATORS
- ANGER
- ASTROLOGERS
- BABYLON
- BELSHAZZAR
- BELTESHAZAR
- BLAZING
- BLESS
- BROKEN
- CARING
- CEASED
- DARIUS
- DESTROY
- ENCHANTERS
- ENJOY
- ESTEEM
- EVIDENCE
- GUILTY
- IRON
- ISSUED
- LANGUAGE
- LEARNING
- LIONS
- LITERATURE
- MAGICIANS
- MAJESTY
- MESHACH
- MYSTERIES
- NATIONAL
- NEBUCHADNEZZAR
- NOBLES
- NUTRITION
- PROPHECY
- RECOGNIZE
- RESIDENCE
- RESOLVED
- REVEALED
- SATRAPS
- SCORN
- SERVANTS
- SHADRACH
- STATUE
- THREE
- TROUBLE
- UNDERSTAND
- VICIOUSNESS
- VICTORIOUS
- YOUTHFUL
- ZEALOUS

There’s a lot of writing on this wall

Yes, this month’s Word Search contains a whopping 50 words to find, including the names Belteshazzar and Belshazzar. And yes, there is a difference — as plain as the writing on a Babylonian wall.

Belteshazzar was the name given to a young Israelite who served in the court of King Nebuchadnezzar. We know him better by his Hebrew name, Daniel. (We tend to know his friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, by their Babylonian names, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego.)

Belshazzar was a king who ruled some time after Nebuchadnezzar. He was the last king of the Neo-Babylonian Empire. Just before his assassination, he saw the words “mene, mene, tekel, upharsin” that foretold the end of his reign.
**The Christian Chronicle Crossword**

*ACROSS*

1. Prayer ending.
3. Repentant (see Isaiah 57:15).
11. Bounce back, as sound.
14. Very long stretch of time.
15. Number of Commandments.
17. Psalm 61:4, “I will abide in thy ____ for ever. I will trust in the covert of thy wings.”
20. Guess, in brief.
21. Shelter from the storm.
22. Mark 4:21, “when the light comes in, do people put it under a vessel or under a bed and not on its ____?”
26. Acts 27:22, “And now I ___ you to keep up your courage, for there will be no loss of life among you but only the ship will be lost.”
27. While.
28. Sea God parted.
30. He went to the Passover festival when he was 12 and listened to Jewish teachers, asking them questions (Luke 2:41-45).
32. “___ ____ O God, to deliver me” (Psalm 70, two words).
34. Jesus’ boyhood town.
35. Last letter.
36. The Roman Empire was one.

*DOWN*

1. Bartholomew, Thaddaeus and James, for example.
2. Bard’s twilight, abbr.
5. One of four harmony parts.
6. Popular.
7. Was of the highest level (see 1 Kings 4:30, reference to Solomon’s wisdom).
8. Daniel was thrown into a ____’s den (Daniel 6).
9. Jesus mixed this with clay to anoint the eyes of a blind man (John 9:6-7).
13. Talk nonsensically (see Matthew 6:7).
16. Proverbs 24:30-31, “I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; and lo, it was all grown over with thorns and ____ (prickly shrubs).”
18. Luke 11:3 “Give us this day our daily ____.”
22. Matthew 26:4 “But Jesus saw their ____ and said, ‘Oh false ones, why are you attempting to put me in the wrong?’” (ruse)
23. Rose into heaven, (see John 3:13).
24. Have being.

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**BIBLE BOWLING**

**Questions from 2 Samuel 13:**

1. How long did Absalom wait to get revenge on his brother, Amnon? [A. two weeks B. two months C. two years D. two days]
2. Which of these did Absalom NOT say to his men? [A. Don't be afraid. B. Amnon will be weak and distracted. C. Be strong and brave. D. Haven’t I given you this order?]
3. What kind of animal were the king’s sons riding when they fled from Absalom? [A. mules B. horses C. camels D. donkeys]
4. What initial report did King David receive about the incident? [A. Absalom has killed Amnon. B. There was no incident. C. The king's sons are at war. D. Absalom has struck down all the king's sons.]
5. Where did Absalom go when he fled? [A. to Judah B. to Talmai son of Ammihud C. to Zedekiah, king of the Philistines D. to Egypt.]

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**CROSSWORD SOLUTION** and Bible Bowling answers on Page 34. Questions by Cindy Smethers. To sponsor this page, contact tonya.patton@christianchronicle.org.

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**BIBLE BOWLING**

A family’s tragedy

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Mother, son share their journey of grief and hope

BY LAURA AKINS | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

I n our culture, we don’t know what to do with the groans of people,” writes Josh Ross in “Scarred Hope: A Mother and Son Learn to Carry Grief and Live with Joy.”

Surely he had me in mind when he wrote those words.

I am uncomfortable when people cry. I will awkwardly pat you on the back, find a reason to walk away or give cheap platitudes. Ouch.

Thankfully, Ross, lead minister for the Sycamore View Church of Christ in Memphis, Tenn., and his mom, Beverly, coauthored this book not just for the wounded but for anyone willing to walk alongside a hurting friend.

The pair share their personal grief over the loss of Jenny Bizaillion, Beverly’s daughter and Josh’s sister, who died 10 years ago from a severe strep infection. The Rosses facilitate an honest conversation, asking, “Does God Cry,” “Does Everything Happen for a Reason?” and “Can Christians Go to God Angry?”

In order for a gaping wound to heal, it requires time, bandages and the right ointment. “Scarred Hope” is the healing balm Christians need in their back pocket.

We plan for emergencies — tornadoes, fires, floods — but do we know what to do in the seconds, minutes and days after the death of a child, an unexpected divorce or a cancer diagnosis?

Beverly’s advice: When your heart first breaks, take care of your physical self. Choose healthy foods, get good rest, drink water, focus on your breath, let yourself cry, seek counseling, don’t numb your pain, memorize Scripture, know who you can call, and be kind to yourself.

That’s an overwhelming list to someone in early grief.

But “time done well heals,” Beverly said in an interview with The Christian Chronicle. “When we just sit with time, without intentionality to it, it makes us bitter.”

Time done with intention, she said, is time well done.

Beverly, founder and executive director of the Wise County Christian Counseling in Decatur, Texas, advises those grieving a loss of a child, an unexpected divorce or a cancer diagnosis? But “time done well heals,”

The world needs more people to hold space with others’ sorrow, said Beverly, whose husband, Rick, preaches for the Decatur Church of Christ.

“There is something courageous and powerful about saying, ‘I am here. I don’t have all the answers. I can’t make the pain go away. But I can keep showing up,’” Beverly said.

And when you show up for a grieving friend, weigh your words. Phrases like, “I know exactly how you feel,” “God needed another angel” and “Everything happens for a reason” feel like asking people to deny their pain, said Josh. Don’t be afraid to speak comforting words, but also don’t be afraid to sit in silence.

CHURCHES PROMOTE FLOURISHING


From the author: American church participation has plummeted in recent decades. Abuse, scandals and hypocrisy hang in the air. Weekly, I talk to friends and neighbors who have left church, even as many still identify as Christians. I get what they’re saying.

When I consider the pain that so many have experienced in church life, the body of Christ sure seems broken. It’s no wonder many don’t find church to be worth it.

But maybe there’s more to the story. As a child, my family experienced deep crisis. I felt alone and vulnerable. Into that void, the church stepped in. I discovered a family, a people that have my back and forever changed my life.

Even now, I see tangible ways the church works for the common good. The church possesses a resilient beauty that continually pushes through the brokenness. If we love Jesus, we have to eventually ask what Jesus loves. Surprising to me at times, Jesus loves the church, despite her brokenness.

If we learn to see what Jesus sees, we’ll discover a powerful, often untapped means towards human flourishing. No other social group offers what the church offers.

Yes, the church is broken, but there’s more. She’s beautiful.

WORD OF FAITH


But the Bible also speaks of divine peace, protection, prosperity and healing benefits we haven’t earned, nor do we deserve, which are available to us now by God’s divine grace, mercy and benevolence.

Faith in God and His Word is an integral part in receiving God’s best for our lives.
**NEW AND NOTEWORTHY**

**CHRISTIAN WOMEN MAKING WISE CHOICES EVERY DAY**


*From the author: Life is made up of choices: choice of schools, choice of spouse, choice of careers, choice of worship.*

There was a time when our choices were much simpler, and there were fewer of them to make. But choices today come quickly and often.

Though many of our choices are inconsequential, some set the direction for the rest of our lives — even into eternity. These choices require godly wisdom, biblical counsel and prayerful reflection.

This book provides the foundation to stand on and knowledge to draw upon to ensure wise and prudent choices are made.

This book is ideal for self-study or women's classes.

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**REVIEWS**

To forgive, we need to connect – and correct – the dots of our story

 Barely cracked the pages of Lysa TerKeurst's new book, “ Forgiving What You Can't Forget: Discover How to Move On, Make Peace with Painful Memories, and Create a Life That's Beautiful Again,” when I was confronted with a deep stirring in my heart.

With each page, words jumped into my heart. I gained hope that forgiveness was not only attainable, but freedom also was possible.

Forgiveness is a subject we often preach about, teach as a command to follow and encourage one another to do. Yet, we don't have a map revealing how to forgive, how to heal the wounds of a broken heart, how to pick up the pieces of shattered dreams. There is no quick fix for pain. You can't just pray it away and your heart is healed.

Forgiveness is work, a choice and a process.

Suffering is all around us and in our lives — abuse, neglect, infidelity, divorce, betrayal, financial hardship. Whatever it is, there is a way forward. Allow God to use this book as a compass for your personal map to healing.

TerKeurst's style of writing is personal. She invites readers to take a seat around her gray table and listen as she shares her story of deep pain and loss. She gently walks the reader through the forgiveness process, leading with the truth she received from professional help combined with God’s healing grace.

She acknowledges that this book won't be an easy read. Don't expect to pick it up and be done in a few days.

“ ‘We all have a story. And then we all have a story we tell ourselves,’ TerKeurst writes. “Revisiting the past can be scary. But if you want to fully heal, we need to dig into our stories to understand what’s behind the curtain.”

Even though it’s hard, TerKeurst urges us to lean in.

When Jesus hung on the cross, some of his last words were, “Father, forgive them, they know not what they do” (Luke 23:24).

We often don't know what we do, but we do it anyway. We wrestle to embrace forgiveness as a spiritual discipline because we often lack the emotional framework to move into a place of peace.

Leaning into your story, and the story you tell yourself, brings understanding and allows you to lay a healthier emotional framework. TerKeurst calls this collecting and connecting the dots. You collect what you know and then connect for deeper understanding. As we heal, we learn to correct the dots. This is hard work.

When we look into our hearts, we can examine the stories we tell ourselves. Are we stumbling into unforgiveness we didn’t know was lurking about? Or tripping on the root of bitterness that’s crept in? This self evaluation helps us correct the dots, so the stories we tell ourselves are the stories we truly live.

This is intimate teaching, risky even. TerKeurst encourages us to become vulnerable and embrace our humanity with humility as we learn to correct the dots and the narrative of our lives with forgiveness.

Humility in our humanity, isn’t that the way of Christ?

If you vow to lean in and sit at her table, you may find your coffee gets cold as your heart begins to soften. Combining “ Forgiving What You Can’t Forget” with your own professional help may be just the help you are looking for.

Shelly Kellis lives in Sanford, Maine, and worships with the Greater Portland Church of Christ in South Portland.

She is a photographer, writer and speaker.
The unused 31 letters read: “IN SERVING GOD WELL.”

The Children’s Home Foundation in Lubbock, Texas, celebrates 25 years on November 6, 2020.

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Finding peace in ‘The Great Alone’: A phone call with Bailey McBride

Don’t worry about Bailey McBride.

“I bought five books yesterday,” he told me, “so I’m good through March.”

I called Bailey, editor emeritus of The Christian Chronicle, at Tealridge, the six-story retirement community on the edge of our campus here at Oklahoma Christian University. That’s where he and his wife, Linda, have spent the past eight months.

Since I began working for the Chronicle in 2001 Bailey has been like a second father. When I got married in 2003 he conducted the ceremony.

When we had our first child in 2008 he and Joyce, his first wife, hosted the baby shower. He’s been a mentor to me and to the countless students he taught during his 50-year career at Oklahoma Christian.

I’ve sought his counsel and drawn from his experiences many times in the past two decades. Of course, there’s no frame of reference for either of us now, no precedent to cite in these most unprecedented times.

“In my whole life, since 1933, I’ve never experienced anything like this,” he said. It reminds him a bit of the early days of World War II when he was a youth in Cheyenne, Wyo. He remembers air raid drills. Later his family moved to the West Coast, where there were more drills, almost every night. You couldn’t leave your house. Blinds had to be closed.

But those lockdowns were only for a few hours. From March 15 through June 30, Bailey and Linda didn’t leave Tealridge. Bailey has traveled all over the world. Just last year he and Linda were in Rome, London and Edinburg, Scotland. Staying at home is, as Bailey put it, “not much fun.”

“I’ve lost energy,” he said. “I’ve lost skills, walking distance. I feel so disconnected.” Linda walks the halls to keep active. She and Bailey also find refuge in the written word.

“Reading has been my coping mechanism,” he said. He’s been part of a book club at Tealridge that went through Kristin Hannah’s novel “The Great Alone.” (Seems like an appropriate title for 2020, doesn’t it?)

The book tells of a Vietnam vet who moves his family to Alaska to live off the grid. At first, in the midst of long, sunlit days, it seems ideal. But in the dark winter months the father’s mental state deteriorates, and the family fractures.

Despite the perils outside, Bailey said, “the danger is within.”

Yeah, there are a lot of parallels I could draw to our current situation.

That’s a whole sermon — at least.

Speaking of which, I asked Bailey about Scriptures that have given him comfort and clarity during this time. He’s been teaching a men’s Bible class at Tealridge on Ephesians, which “is loaded with passages about God’s blessings,” he said. I personally love how Paul reminds us that God is capable of “immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine” (Ephesians 3:20).

I think about that verse with regard to Linda. Back in 2017, when Bailey told me he was getting remarried, I was apprehensive. Joyce, who died in 2015, meant every bit as much to me and my wife as Bailey still does. I almost felt like I was being asked to get used to a new mom.

Now, of course, I see God’s hand in it. This lockdown has been horrible for so many who are alone.

Fortunately, Linda and I have each other to talk to,” Bailey said. “It really makes you value so much the person you’re married to. Linda is a very strong woman. She has patience.”

I’m so thankful for Bailey and Linda McBride. And I pray that God can use all of us during this terrible time to reach out and show love to all those battling The Great Alone.

Erik Tryggestad is president and CEO of The Christian Chronicle. Contact erik@christianchronicle.org, and follow him on Twitter @eriktryggestad.
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**OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**

Oklahoma Christian University is a diverse community of scholars and learners, of seekers and sowers, all committed in service to a common mission to transform lives for Christian faith, scholarship and service. OC is committed to hiring employees who are actively engaged in a life of Christian discipleship as we strive to create an employment culture that encourages faculty and staff to lean into the university’s Christian mission with an emphasis on authenticity and unity, not uniformity.

**Faculty Positions**

- Computer Science
- Gaming and Animation

**Adjunct Online:**

- Bible
- Communication
- History
- Human Development
- Humanities
- Language and Literature
- Natural and Health Sciences
- Political Science
- Psychology

**Adjunct On-Campus:**

- Chemistry

**Staff Positions**

- Student Advocacy Specialist (Financial Aid)
- Testing Coordinator (Part-time)
- Managing Director, Honors Program
- Instructional Designer

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

Oklahoma Christian University is a private liberal arts university affiliated with the Churches of Christ. The University complies with all employment law regarding race, age, sex, national origin, marital status, military service, and disability. As a religious educational institution, the University is permitted by law to consider religious beliefs and practices in making employment decisions, and the University does so to achieve its mission. Such consideration includes preference for qualified candidates who are members of the Church of Christ.

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