



Allisa Findley, Botham Jean's sister, takes a photo of the memorial at Harding University.



PHOTOS BY AUDREY JACKSON

Allison Jean, right, looks at the newly unveiled Botham Shem Jean memorial honoring her son at Harding University in Searcy, Ark. Allisa Findley, Botham's sister, puts a comforting hand on her mother's shoulder.

Harding unveils Botham Jean memorial

BELOVED ALUMNUS *was shot to death in his own apartment by off-duty Dallas police officer.*

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

SEARCY, Ark.

Future generations of Harding University students will learn to “Be Like Bo.” The university, which is associated with Churches of Christ, made sure of that with the dedication of a memorial honoring the late Botham Shem Jean. On Sept. 29 — the day Jean would have turned 30 years old — Harding unveiled a special bench with a plaque bearing the beloved 2016 graduate’s image.

“Happy birthday, my son!” Allison Jean said as hundreds of relatives, friends and Harding students, faculty and staff members gathered outside the David B. Burks American Heritage Building.

‘We are comforted by the life that he lived and the promise from God that those who obey his word receive eternal life.’

Allison Jean, speaking at the Botham Shem Jean memorial dedication in Searcy, Ark.

“The pain of losing my son never goes away,” Botham’s mother said. “But we are comforted by the life that he lived and the promise from God that those who obey his word receive eternal life. I am also reminded by Apostle Paul that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.” Just three weeks before his 27th

birthday, the faithful Christian was shot to death in his Dallas apartment on Sept. 6, 2018, by an off-duty police officer. The memorial recounts how his slaying and the officer’s ensuing murder trial gained national and international attention. “God, we ask that you help Harding to never forget the impact that Botham had here,” Steve Lake, who sponsored Harding’s Sub T-16 men’s social club when Jean was a member, said in the invocation. At age 19, Jean left his native St. Lucia — a small island in the Caribbean — to attend Harding, a



Lake

5,000-student Christian university about 50 miles northeast of Little Rock. After earning a bachelor’s degree in accounting and management information systems, he worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers in Dallas. At the Dallas West Church of Christ, he served as a song leader and Bible class teacher. The memorial means “Botham’s legacy will continue to live,” said Sammie Berry, a 1979 Harding graduate and longtime minister for the Dallas West church. “All of the students who come on the campus, who eat in the cafeteria, See **BOTHAM**, Page 9



Berry



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Story tip leads to surprising discovery

MONTGOMERY, Ala.

Over and over again, the small world of Churches of Christ amazes me.

Before a recent trip, I asked Facebook friends for story ideas in Alabama's capital city. Russell Epperson,

minister for the Central Montana Church of Christ in Lewistown, proposed a feature on Patrick and Katie Beth McCarthy.

They

"have a cool adoption history that might be good to report on," Epperson said of the Faulkner University baseball coach and his wife.

"All around, they seem like very loving people who love their church home, too," the Montana minister added. He described them as "normal folks living out an extraordinary Christian life."

I did a little digging. I determined that Epperson's assessment of the McCarthys was 100 percent spot on. So I contacted the McCarthys to request an interview. To my delight, they accepted.

After we finished talking on a blue-sky Saturday morning, Patrick gave me a Faulkner baseball cap, and Katie Beth snapped a quick picture of the coach and me on the baseball field. I posted that photo and one of Patrick and Katie Beth on Facebook. I urged readers to look for the couple's incredible story of faith in a future edition of *The*

See **DISCOVERY**, Page 4

Inside Story



Bobby Ross Jr.



CARTER MOLES

The McCarthy family — Miller, Andre, Katie Beth, Patrick and Keenan — at Faulkner's field.

All in the family: baseball and Jesus

FOR FAULKNER COACH and wife, love for 'adoption' extends from their home to team's players.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

MONTGOMERY, Ala.

Patrick and Katie Beth McCarthy's oldest son, Miller, once told a reporter his family lived at the ballpark.

"We just go spend the night at our house sometimes," he quipped.

Baseball is extremely important to the McCarthys. Patrick is the head coach at Faulkner University, leading the Eagles to the 2013 NAIA World Series title and national runner-up finishes in 2016 and 2017. Katie Beth, the coach's wife of 21 years, serves as Faulkner's unofficial "team mother."

But even though Patrick has posted a 552-163 record at Faulkner (a stellar .772 winning percentage), he and Katie Beth don't measure success in wins and losses, fellow Christians say.

Rather, the couple see the baseball diamond

See **FAULKNER**, Page 12



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MCCARTHYS

The extended family poses for a photo after one of Miller's Alabama Christian football games.

'Everybody is serving'

WEEKS AFTER HURRICANE IDA, Churches of Christ help with relief efforts in Louisiana.

BY AUDREY JACKSON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

When we survived Hurricane Katrina, we said, "We can survive anything," Eric Dishongh said. "Hurricane Ida definitely is testing that hypothesis for sure."

Dishongh, minister for the Hickory Knoll Church of Christ in Harahan, La., said he felt blessed when he returned to his home in St. Charles Parish after 17 days. Damage from the Category 4 storm was minimal — a downed fence and a few leaks inside. Just down the street were devastated homes that would have to be rebuilt.

"I just think of that as the grace of God, really," Dishongh said. "I don't have any other explanation."

Dishongh wasted no time in assessing the needs of his community. The Hickory Knoll church, located in Jefferson Parish, became a hub for supply distribution to the surrounding community.

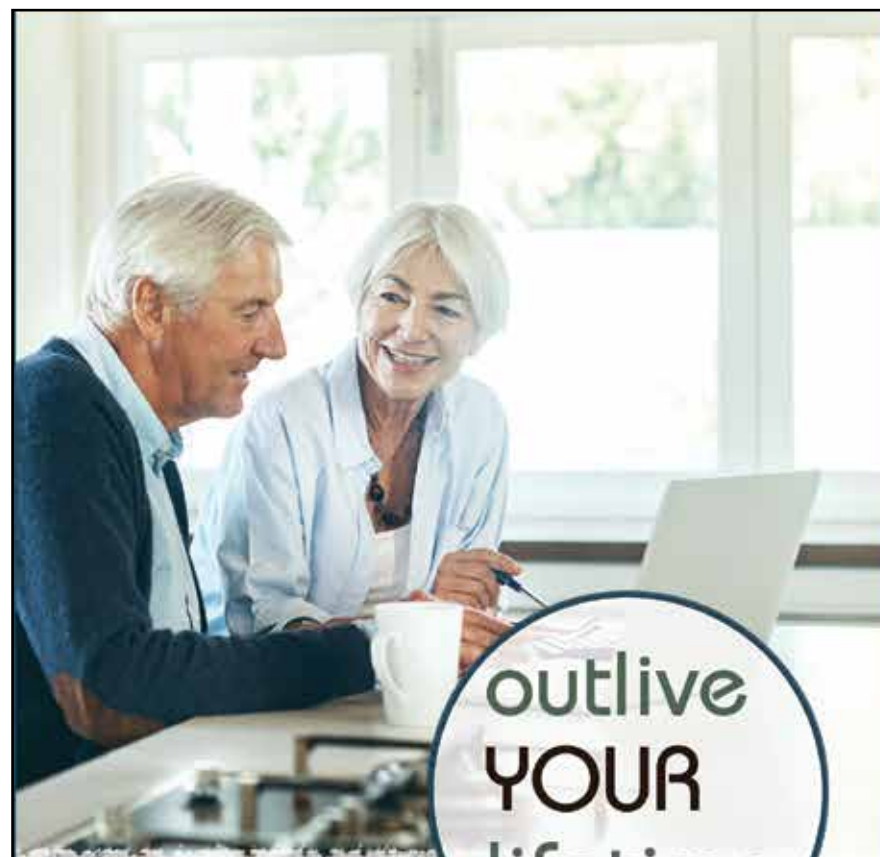
Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort Inc. sent a 53-foot-long truck loaded with essential items that Dishongh and his congregation gave to those in need. It was one of 12 shipments the Nashville, Tenn.-based ministry sent to Louisiana between Aug. 31 and Sept. 13, director Mike Lewis said. Supplies included food packages, essential items and cleaning supplies.

Dishongh fought back tears as he recalled partnering with the Goodwood Church of Christ in Baton Rouge following Katrina's



Dishongh

See **IDA**, Page 10



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KATIE BETH MCCARTHY

Patrick McCarthy with Bobby Ross Jr. at the Faulkner University field in Montgomery, Ala. McCarthy and his wife, Katie Beth, have adopted three children.

DISCOVERY: Grandparents were friends

FROM PAGE 3

Christian Chronicle.

That's when things got interesting. Mutual friends, who I did not realize knew the McCartlys, started commenting.

"Katie Beth McCarthy is one of the kindest souls I've ever known and worked with," said Lane Widick, discipling minister for the Mayfair Church of Christ in Huntsville, Ala. "Put her with a guy like Patrick McCarthy, and you've got a winning team."

"Great couple and servants of God," said Terry Davis, a popular worship leader who teaches Bible at Ouachita Christian School in Monroe, La.

Then things got *really* interesting.

The next person to comment was Judy McKenzie, Katie Beth's mother and a retired accounting professor at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn.

"Bobby's grandparents Lloyd and Margaret Ross lived in Portageville when we did," McKenzie explained to her daughter. "They were best friends of Grandmother and Pop!"

Wait, what!?

I couldn't believe what I was reading. My grandparents and Katie Beth's grandparents not only knew each other, but they were best friends. What are the odds? (Yes, I know, maybe not as low as you might think given the close-knit nature of our fellowship.)

I've written past columns about my Papa and Grandma Ross.

In the 1970s, they were active in leading the JOY bus ministry at the Portageville Church of Christ in southeastern Missouri's Bootheel.

Papa, who survived being shot in World War II, was a farmer and carpenter. He died in 2011 at age 93. Grandma helped support the family by sewing in a garment factory, but her life revolved around church and family. She died in 2009 at age 85.

Jim and Florine Miller were Katie Beth's grandparents. Pop Miller, a welder by trade, died in 2000 at age 79. Grandmother Miller, a teacher's assistant and homemaker, died in 2010 at age 90.

"Momma!!! This is INSANE!!!!"

Katie Beth wrote on Facebook after learning of the connection between our two families. "Bobby, my oldest son (Miller) is named after my Pop!!!"

As it turns out, my father, Bob Ross, and my Uncle Kenneth had picked cotton, gone rabbit and deer hunting and enjoyed other adventures with Katie Beth's family.

My cousin, Patty Ball, had grown up with a crush on one of Katie Beth's uncles. This was, of course, before Patty married her high school sweetheart in that same red-brick church building in 1978. I was 10 at the time and blessed to attend the wedding ceremony. My baby sister, Christy Fichter, then 5, served as a flower girl.

Such precious memories!

I can't thank Epperson enough for urging me to write about the McCartlys. They do have a cool adoption story. And the story behind the story is pretty neat, too, if you ask me.

BOBBY ROSS JR. is editor-in-chief of *The Christian Chronicle*. Contact bobby@christianchronicle.org. Follow him on Twitter at [@bobbyross](https://twitter.com/bobbyross).

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PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE JENKINS INSTITUTE

Brothers Jeff Jenkins, left, and Dale Jenkins, right, speak at Freed-Hardeman University's annual Bible Lectureship.

Brothers end decades of local ministry

BY CALVIN COCKRELL | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Brothers Jeff and Dale Jenkins are ending their decades-long work in local ministry — nearly 80 years between them — to devote themselves fully to the broader work of The Jenkins Institute.

Since 2011, the institute has provided support and encouragement to preachers around the world. The brothers founded it in honor of their father, Jerry Jenkins, a long-time Church of Christ preacher and host of the "The Living Word" TV broadcast, who died in 2010.

In the decade since the institute began with two blogs and a webinar, it has grown to offer more than a dozen programs, including preaching conferences, retreats, mentoring, podcasts, research, church consultations and a minister relief fund.

Still, growth has been limited to a degree as both Jeff and Dale have continued preaching full-time in their local congregations while working with The Jenkins Institute.

Jeff has served as the preaching minister of the Lewisville Church of Christ in Lewisville, Texas, since 2004, and Dale has served as the preaching minister of the Spring Meadows Church of Christ in Spring Hill, Tenn., since 2007.

But on a recent Sunday, Jeff preached his last sermon at the Lewisville congregation. Now, he's focusing his efforts fully on the institute. Meanwhile, Dale is still preaching at Spring Meadows but said he will be joining Jeff soon.

Dale told *The Christian Chronicle* the two are fully on this journey together: "We had made the decision some time back that when one of us decided to make this decision, within that same time frame or shortly after, we would both do this so that we could do it together — so that we could travel together and do the conferences together and plan out our future ... together."

Jeff was the first one to make that decision. Dale said the timing felt right to Jeff after his wife, Laura, died in 2019.

The Jenkins said they'll miss

the congregations they have each served for more than a decade and the everyday interactions with their members, but they are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead.

"Now we'll be able to expand our work with ministers and congregations — as far as freedom to travel and without the responsibilities of the day-to-day ministry of a local congregation," Dale said. "We'll be able to counsel more preachers and be able to interact with more ministers."

And, in a sense, Dale said these preachers they will work with throughout the brotherhood will become their congregation. They will be ministering to the ministers — who often don't get much of that themselves.

Jeff said that the ministry of The Jenkins Institute goes beyond just teaching preachers how to do their job. It's about counseling them and keeping them from becoming discouraged.

Read an expanded story online at christianchronicle.org/jenkins.

ILLINOIS

CHICAGO — A food bank that started as a small project in the Sheldon Heights Church of Christ's basement has kept growing.

Forty years after its humble start, the Sheldon Heights Food Pantry occupies a building next door to the church and serves hundreds of hungry families.

Grant money from the Greater Chicago Food Depository has helped the ministry buy a giant new walk-in freezer, replacing 17 small ones that were racking up big energy bills, WGN-TV reported.

KANSAS

DOUGLASS — Jonathan Roberson, pulpit minister for the Douglass Church of Christ, and his wife, Ashly, suffered numerous injuries in a car wreck in Arkansas City, Kan. Daughter Madison, who was in the family's vehicle, was unharmed.

Jonathan had multiple cracked ribs, broken teeth and contusions. Ashly suffered major trauma to her right arm as well as broken ribs and was hospitalized for 24 days. She faces more procedures on her arm before a year or more of physical therapy. Jeff Roberson has set up a GoFundMe page, with a goal of \$50,000 to help with medical expenses.

OKLAHOMA

OKLAHOMA CITY — Police arrested Michael Eric Coghill, discipleship minister for the Lakehoma Church of Christ in Mustang, on complaints of lewd/indecent acts to a child.

According to police, a witness videoed Coghill, 33, touching a minor waiting for a bus. The witness said he beat up Coghill after the minister tried to run away.

The church fired Coghill and said: "We were heartbroken to learn of the incident involving one of our adult ministers, and our hearts go out to the child and family involved. We were shocked at this news as he had a clean background check, and we have received no reports or claims against him during his tenure. Church leadership has no tolerance for any type of abuse. ... We will cooperate with authorities."



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Montgomery, Ala., names street after Fred Gray

THE CIVIL RIGHTS ATTORNEY and Church of Christ member represented Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr.

BY AUDREY JACKSON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

The Alabama city where Rosa Parks famously refused to give up her bus seat to a White, male passenger in 1955 will rename a street after Fred Gray.

Gray, a 90-year-old civil rights lawyer and longtime Church of Christ elder, represented Parks when he was only 24 years old and serving as an attorney for Martin Luther King Jr.



Gray

"A pebble cast in the segregated water of Montgomery, Ala., created a human rights tidal wave that changed America," Gray told *The Christian Chronicle* after Parks died at age 92 in 2005.

Gray helped change America, too, and on Oct. 5, the Montgomery City Council voted unanimously to rename East and West Jeff Davis Avenue in his honor.

As a child, Gray lived on the street — formerly named for Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy — during a time of racial segregation. He later became a prominent figure in the courtrooms of the civil rights movement.

Gray often set precedent in the courtroom, championing cases like *Browder v. Gayle* in 1956, which integrated Montgomery buses. Two years later, he took the State of Alabama to

the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of the NAACP and won the organization the right to operate in the state.

Decades later, the city of Montgomery has changed to reflect those figures: memorials and a museum dedicated to Parks, whose refusal to give up her seat on a

Montgomery bus led to a boycott and desegregation protests; streets and schools around the city named after E.D. Nixon, one of the lead organizers of the boycott and the founder of the Montgomery Improvement Association; and tributes to King.

Now, the defender of these civil rights leaders joins the ranks of those honored in this city 65 years after the Montgomery bus boycott. After a short speech given by Steven L. Reed, Montgomery's first

Black mayor, the city council passed the ordinance to rename the street Fred D. Gray Avenue after the Tuskegee Church of Christ member.

"When we think about our city, we are becoming a destination for people who want to come and learn more about the history of this country — the good and the bad — and block to block this city is a tangible link to that history," Reed said. "And the good we strive to emulate, the bad drives us to change

... to move closer to a more perfect union."

City officials said 54 residents on the street in question had voted in support of passing the ordinance to rename the avenue before the council's vote.

"There's no better time, and there's no better testimony to our path forward than renaming the street, in

my opinion, after a local hero," Reed said, "someone who was born right here in Montgomery on that street."

"This is a project of the mayor's," Gray told the *Montgomery Advertiser*. "He expressed it to me. I was very happy about it. And I am very happy about it."

'There's no better time, and there's no better testimony to our path forward than renaming the street ... after a local hero.'

Steven L. Reed, mayor of Montgomery, Ala.

BOTHAM: Memorial honors Christian's legacy



The Good News Singers perform at the Botham Jean memorial dedication.



Brandt Jean, brother of Botham, holds the Botham Jean Inspiration Award.



Bruce McLarty, former president of Harding University, listens to Allison Jean.

FROM PAGE 1

will ask the question, 'Who was Botham Shem Jean?'” Berry said after the ceremony. “And they’ll be able to know he was a great human being, a great Christian and a great worship leader.”

While at Harding, Jean performed across the U.S. with the Good News Singers, an a cappella singing group. That group, directed by Chuck Hicks, paid tribute to Jean by singing “Living Hope.”

“Botham’s death was truly a tragedy, and we continue to pray and grieve alongside all those who knew and loved him,” Harding President David B. Burks told the crowd. “I’m grateful ... that his Christ-like influence, his life, will be remembered on our campus for generations to come.”

Besides erecting the memorial, Harding has raised about \$1.3 million for scholarships in Jean’s name. Moreover, the university has established the Botham Jean Inspiration Award to help keep Jean’s memory alive.

Burks’ voice choked with emotion as he announced the inaugural award winner: Botham’s younger brother, Brandt Jean, a current Harding student.

“The first recipient ... made a worldwide impact when he modeled true forgiveness in a Texas courtroom and inspired millions of others,” Burks said.

Brandt Jean was 19 when he offered forgiveness and a hug to fired Dallas police officer Amber Guyger after her 2019 murder conviction. His gesture made international headlines.

“I’m just so grateful,” Brandt Jean, now a 21-year-old Harding sophomore majoring in civil engineering, told *The Christian Chronicle*. He said he didn’t know what else to say about receiving the award named after his brother.

The best way to honor Botham Jean? Follow his example by serving Jesus, urged Todd Gentry, campus minister for the College Church of Christ in Searcy and a close friend of the Jean family.

“There’s no way we can bring (Botham) back. But we can remember him,” Gentry said. “And we can all live in such a way to be like Jesus. That way, we can ‘Be Like Bo’ and influence people and make a difference in this world.”

The slogan “Be Like Bo” was “coined as more than a hashtag,” Botham’s mother emphasized.

“It is symbolic of living an ambi-

tious life that is centered around integrity, empathy and compassion for all mankind,” said Allison Jean, who was joined at the dedication by Botham’s father, Bertrum Jean, and his older sister, Allisa Findley. “In the words of Botham himself, ‘We are not alone as a community of believers, and I am comforted when I know I am not the only one

‘Father, may all who come along behind us — and may all who stop and linger for a moment by this memorial — be blessed and be drawn to you.’

Bruce McLarty, praying at the Botham Jean memorial dedication

doing something.”

Bruce McLarty, who served as Harding’s president during Botham Jean’s time as a student, said the closing prayer.

“We thank you, Father, for Botham,” McLarty said. “We thank you that he lived among us and touched our lives. We thank you for that smile that had a very special way of brightening our day. Thank you for the way he led us in worship and lifted our souls to heaven. We thank you, Father, that your special servant lived among us and changed us.”

McLarty voiced hope that the memorial will bring honor to God.

“Father, may all who come along behind us — and may all who stop and linger for a moment by this memorial — be blessed and be drawn to you.”

PHOTOS BY AUDREY JACKSON

IDA: 'We can't take much more,' mayor says

FROM PAGE 3

devastation in 2005. The Goodwood congregation "kind of served as a spearhead for the relief efforts from a financial side," he said.

"And I'm envisioning and thinking that the Hickory Knoll church is going to be in that position this time," Dishongh added, "just trying to help as many people as possible."

Since his return, Dishongh said he has watched his community make progress every day. Most impactful, he said, is watching churches serve the community.

"Not every congregation is serving the same exact way right now," Dishongh said, "but everybody is serving."

'WE'RE GROUND ZERO NOW'

An hour away, the Hollywood Road Church of Christ in Houma, La., partnered with the Disaster Assistance CoC ministry to feed its community. In one day, the volunteers distributed 1,200 meals.

Brandon Liner, minister for the Hollywood Road church, helped with disaster relief in New Orleans after Katrina.

In Houma, Liner said, Ida's destruction was worse. The hurricane made landfall on Aug. 29.

"Speaking from experience and living here my whole life, I would say — and other people have said — this is probably the worst hurricane we have ever seen," Liner said. "As far as the damage is concerned in this area, I've seen Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Andrew, and some of the older members that I've spoken to experienced even some older hurricanes — significant hurricanes like Hurricane Betsy — but even they will tell you that this is probably the worst they've ever seen."

"We're ground zero now. We're in the middle of it a whole lot more than we were for Hurricane Katrina."

While some communities, including Harahan, are in clean-up



Liner



PHOTO PROVIDED BY LAURA CREMEANS

A car sinks into water and mud left behind by Hurricane Ida floodwaters.

mode, Liner said that the needs in Houma are shelter and food rather than cleaning supplies.

"You can bring the supplies, but if people don't have anywhere to store them because their homes are destroyed, the supplies really don't help a whole lot," Liner said.

The Hollywood Road church building itself was damaged significantly. The storm removed 50 to 60 percent of the roof shingles, allowing water to seep in and damage the floors, Liner said.

The congregation has met in the parking lot for Sunday services since the hurricane, a hot alternative in the Louisiana weather. Despite the unpleasant conditions, people have continued to fill the seats, with attendance doubling in a single week.

"I guess, as a preacher, there's

no shortage of material right now to preach from," Liner said. "So even though I'm working, I'm constantly looking, and sermons are popping up because of everything that's happening."

'There is a saying around here right now that this is our Katrina. It's the worst storm in our history.'

Tim Kerner Jr, mayor of Jean Lafitte.

'THIS IS OUR KATRINA'

While groups are returning to Houma and gathering in worship, other parts of the state remain under mandatory evacuation orders due to unsafe conditions.

In the coastal village of Jean Lafitte, the hurricane significantly damaged about 85 percent of homes. The levees were overtopped during the hurricane, which brought floodwaters of historic levels into the community.

Mayor Tim Kerner Jr. described the outcome as catastrophic.

"There is a saying around here

right now that this is our Katrina," said Kerner, who estimated that a quarter of the village's 2,000 residents became homeless instantly. "It's the worst storm in our history. Thirty years ago, we were an inland community, but with the destruction of the coast we've become a coastal community overnight."

Unable to legally set up shelter without the protections of levees, city officials began sending people to two nearby shelters in Jefferson Parish.

When the Churches of Christ Disaster Response Team arrived in Jean Lafitte on Sept. 7, it had to wait for the floodwaters to recede. The team normally partners with local congregations in need, but it was Kerner and his father, state Rep. Tim Kerner Sr., who asked the team to come serve their community.

Over 1,000 people from the surrounding communities signed up to receive aid. Disaster coordinators busied themselves with organizing meals and doing laundry for first responders out of a mobile trailer, but their focus shifted with the impending threat from another storm, Tropical Depression Nicholas. The hours before that storm's arrival were spent tarping damaged roofs to prevent further damage.

Nevertheless, the tropical depression brought rising waters back into the town.

"It is a muddy mess right now because after (Nicholas) came



Kerner

through, it kind of ended anything that had been done after Hurricane Ida," said Laura Cremeans, director and co-founder of the Churches of Christ Disaster Response Team.

With the drainage system still compromised by mud blockage from Ida, Kerner said public officials were concerned about future flooding.

"We're still getting some rain, and it's showing our vulnerabilities right now," Kerner said. "We can't take much more."

Pulpit Minister - Jeffersonville, Indiana

Northside Church of Christ is a well-established, active congregation located in Jeffersonville, Indiana. Jeffersonville is a growing community, just minutes across either of four bridges from Louisville, Kentucky. Established in 1964, Northside has a long history of being mission focused, being involved in the community and providing benevolent care for children and the disadvantaged. We believe that the primary responsibilities of the church are: evangelism, edification of the church, and benevolence. We are seeking a man who is prepared and committed to serve the Northside congregation as its pulpit minister and work with the elders and other leaders in the congregation to "equip the saints for the work of ministry and for the edifying of the body of Christ." The primary responsibilities of the pulpit minister of Northside Church of Christ are to prepare and present Biblically sound and culturally relevant sermons, to teach Bible classes on a weekly basis, and to plan public worship. Resumes are currently being accepted. To make further inquiry or to express interest in the position, please contact Northside's search committee at:

Office@OurNorthside.com



FACULTY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

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

Initial application should include a letter of interest and curriculum vitae. To complete the application, two spiritual references, two professional references and official transcripts for all degrees earned are required.

Salary and rank are determined based on credentials and experience.

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY. Seeking full-time, nine-month faculty member with a doctorate in the biological sciences. The ideal candidate has teaching experience in anatomy or physiology, but other fields will be considered. Preference will be given to candidates who can mentor undergraduate research students.

Submit application materials to Dr. Rebekah Rampey, chair, at rrampey@harding.edu, or 915 E. Market, Box 12251, Searcy, AR 72149.

EXERCISE AND SPORTS SCIENCE. Seeking a full-time, nine-month faculty member starting August 2022. Qualifications include a doctoral degree in exercise science or closely related field, teaching experience in an exercise science curriculum, with ACSM and/or NSCA certification preferred. In addition to teaching responsibilities, which include providing experiential student learning opportunities and employing effective teaching practices, successful candidates will conduct, publish and present research as well work effectively with both intra and inter-departmental faculty.

Submit application materials to Dr. Ken Turley, chair, at krturley@harding.edu, or 915 E. Market, Box 12281, Searcy, AR 72149.

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

COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH • OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

COLLEGE OF NURSING

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY • PHARMACY PRACTICE

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

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

Full-Time Minister/Evangelist - 2 congregations
Mt. Eagle and Lock Haven, Pennsylvania

The **Mt. Eagle Church of Christ in Mt. Eagle, Pa.**, and the **Walnut Street Church of Christ in Lock Haven, Pa.**, are in search of a full-time energetic and enthusiastic minister/evangelist to work with both congregations to assist with preaching, teaching, and building community involvement. Both congregations are closely located and are seeking assistance in reaching the lost and bringing new souls to Christ. Both are scripturally-based, non-instrumental and strive to worship as the early Christians did at the time of Christ. If interested, please email letters of interest and resumes to: wscoc@aol.com.

Full-time Minister Search - Enterprise, Alabama

Adams Street Church of Christ is seeking a full-time minister that is serious about the position and has an in-depth knowledge of God's Word. The candidate should be willing to minister the needs of the congregation and join our leadership team in glorifying God. We are a congregation of 40-60 members (pre-COVID-19) with an established team of three members on our leadership team. Enterprise is a truly diverse military community, right outside of Fort Rucker, the US Army Aviation Center of Excellence. We will consider applicants who have a college degree in Biblical studies and/or prior ministry experience. He must be scripturally sound, socially engaged, and committed to expanding the borders of the kingdom. Applicants should be experienced, focused, self-directed, and have a passion for evangelism. Duties include community outreach, preaching, teaching, and other traditional ministerial roles as required. Please submit a current resume, references, and three recent multi-media sermon files or streaming links to:

jcoon1949@yahoo.com or ewdvtech58@gmail.com

Adams Street Church of Christ, 701 W Adams St, Enterprise, AL 36330-2303

Full-Time Preacher - Yucaipa, California

We are a conservative, non-instrumental church. Because of Covid and other factors, our attendance has really dropped. We are looking for a motivating preacher who is grounded in the truth and has the desire and enthusiasm to help us grow in numbers and in faith. We are offering a competitive salary, and a house can be included. Please send cover letter, resume, and link to video sermons to our email. Attendance: 60-75, Elders: None at this time.

yucaipachurchofchrist@gmail.com
yucaipachurchofchrist.org

(909) 797-1919

Yucaipa Church of Christ, 33981 Yucaipa Blvd, Yucaipa, CA 92399

Full-Time Spiritual Formation Minister, Lubbock Texas

Green Lawn Church of Christ is actively seeking a Spiritual Formation Minister who will be active in planning and implementing long- and short-range goals for the teaching ministry of the Green Lawn church. He will give special attention to Bible classes and other mid-size adult groups established for the purpose of spiritual formation and spiritual community among members in the body of Christ. The candidate will plan, organize, and coordinate activities; organize and coordinate Bible classes and other mid-size groups; recruit, support and equip workers and ministry teams for life-long learning for Green Lawn's ministry with adults. We are a congregation of 1,000+. Our church website is: greenlawn.org

For more information or to apply, please contact or send resumes to:

Bill Kopf c/o Green Lawn Church of Christ, 5701 19th Street, Lubbock, Texas 79407

Bill Kopf at: (806) 470-8115 or bill.kopf@lcu.edu

FAULKNER: McCarthys devoted to team, family

FROM PAGE 3

as a mission field — a way to introduce players, many recruited from difficult backgrounds, to Jesus.

“The biggest gift they have is just to make you feel like a part of their family,” said Jonathan Villa, 25, a former Faulkner catcher now serving in a team chaplain role. “They were a big influence on me changing to the man I’m striving to be still. I’m still working on it, but it’s been an amazing journey.”

Villa, a Mexican immigrant, has battled addiction issues. He was baptized — like dozens of Patrick’s players — at the Landmark Church of Christ, the couple’s home congregation.

Buddy Bell, the Landmark church’s lead minister, praises Patrick and Katie Beth as “very authentic and real.”

“Patrick has a pretty tough past and things he went through before he came to the Lord. He’s very honest about that,” Bell said of the coach, who serves as a deacon, small-group leader and Bible class teacher.

“Katie Beth is probably just the most loving and nurturing person you could know,” the minister added. “Just obviously, her love for children and adoption have just really been a blessing to watch.”

Ah, adoption.

That’s a big part of the McCarthys’ story, too.

The couple adopted Miller, 18, now a freshman pre-med major at the University of Alabama, from South Korea when he was 15 months old.

They adopted Andre, 17, who was born with fetal alcohol syndrome and special needs, from Guatemala when he was 3 years old.

They adopted Keenan, 12, who is African American, as a newborn from Texas.

In addition, they care for a 1-year-old foster daughter, who was born with amphetamines and opioids in her system.

Patrick and Katie Beth hope to adopt her, too.

“I think from the outside looking in, it seems really, really unique,” Patrick said of the family. “But we’re just very blessed.”

Last year, the Family Guidance



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Patrick McCarthy and his wife, Katie Beth, share a hug in the press box overlooking the baseball field at Faulkner University in Montgomery, Ala.

Center of Alabama recognized the McCarthys with one of its “Families of the Year” awards.

“Every day, my parents wake up and do everything in their power to give our family the best they can,” Miller told *The Christian Chronicle*.

His proud parents note that as a senior at Alabama Christian Academy this past spring, Miller was honored with the Jimmy Hitchcock Award. That regional prize celebrated Miller’s Christian leadership as well as his excellence in the classroom and on the football field. (He chose a different sport than his dad.)

Miller said his father is his best friend and is really good at understanding and listening. His mother, he said, “loves better” than anyone he knows.

“I appreciate all the support and encouragement my parents have given me over the years,” Miller said. “They never left any doubt how

much they love me and care about me. Even though I’m adopted, I’ve never felt anything less than a son.”

FROM DIFFERENT WORLDS

Patrick and Katie Beth grew up in different circumstances — different worlds, you might say.

Her father, Larry F. McKenzie, is a county judge in Henderson, Tenn., and has served as an elder of the Henderson Church of Christ. Her mother, Judy McKenzie, taught accounting at Freed-Hardeman University before retiring.

“I was protected and safe and never wanted for a darn thing,” Katie Beth said. “I was skipping through life with sunshine and roses, and I didn’t know there was anything bad in the world.”

On the other hand, Patrick was reared in a chaotic environment.

At one point, his family subsisted on welfare. At another, they lived

in a mobile home park by a prison where his late father served as a correctional officer.

“I also grew up in a very difficult broken home with child abuse,” he said. “It’s taken a lot of time, a lot of therapy, to work through all that and know God’s my father. God’s going to take care of me. It’s been all God since I turned 15 years old.”

That’s when a family friend gave him a Bible that he started reading.

Patrick and Katie Beth met in 1997 after he was recruited to play baseball at Freed-Hardeman. He transferred to the Christian university as a junior, after two seasons at North Florida Community College.

“He was on campus for all of two hours, and he knew he was going to marry me,” Katie Beth said. “I definitely did not know I was going to marry him.”

In spring 1998, a foul ball broke Patrick’s hand.

The catcher stayed on campus as his teammates left on a road trip. While they were away, Bible professor David Powell baptized Patrick.

“And that started a lifelong journey of Matthew 6:33,” he said, referring to Jesus’ instruction to “*seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*”

STARTING A FAMILY

Patrick, now 45, and Katie Beth, 44, married in 2000.

He began his coaching career that same year as a graduate assistant at Mississippi College.

In 2001, he accepted an assistant coach position at Freed-Hardeman. He earned a promotion to head coach in 2005. In five seasons at Freed-Hardeman, he compiled a 158-108 record.

Even while dating, the couple talked about adopting someday.

But they figured they’d have biological children, too.

Infertility on Patrick’s part made that next to impossible. Three years of trying — and failing — to have a child took its toll.

“The depression that came with infertility lasted several years,” Patrick said. “It was a dark place in

our marriage.

“Someone who believes they’re supposed to be a mother and have a child — and all her friends are having babies,” he said of Katie Beth, “it was very challenging.”

But God answered their prayers, they said, when he gave them the opportunity to adopt Miller.

And then came Andre. And Keenan. And — Lord willing — the foster daughter whose name can’t be printed just yet.

THEIR BASEBALL — ER, MISSION — FIELD

Katie Beth said adoption probably has changed her life more than anything. But baseball ranks second.

After Patrick took the top job at Freed-Hardeman, Katie Beth said, it took her only a few months to realize she needed to serve alongside him.

The team couldn’t just be Patrick’s mission field, she said.

“So I just decided, ‘I’m going to be there every day,’” Katie Beth said. “I’m going to go to practice every day. I’m going to take care of the guys.”

She maintained that vital support role at Faulkner after Patrick began his coaching duties there in 2010.

At Faulkner, she also earned a law degree. Besides caring for her own children and serving as the team mom, she works as a victim services officer for the Montgomery County District Attorney’s office. That job involves her in some of the county’s most severe child abuse cases.

“It’s not about winning games,” Patrick said of the couple’s dedication to the baseball program. “That’s a byproduct of trying to take care of kids and make them understand that when you’re loved, when you’re taken care of, you’re at your best. And some of them haven’t seen that before.”

Katie Beth said she never thought college baseball players would care about a 44-year-old woman’s spiritual journey.

“But they do,” she said. “They do. I talk to them about pornography. I talk to them about alcoholism. ... I try to warn them about who they need to marry and who they need to steer clear of, and I talk to them about relationships.

“I am very bold and vocal,” she added. “I think there are times when they’ve wanted me to be quiet and sit down, but they’ve never told me to. I appreciate that greatly.”



Youth Minister Search

Watters Road Church of Christ is searching for a Youth Minister. Our current youth minister is moving to a new role on our staff.

We are a Bible-loving congregation of 250 members and are prayerfully searching for a married man, preferably with children, to inspire, challenge, and strengthen our young. We have a diverse youth group and active parents who provide support and assistance. Please submit a resume and other supporting information to:

Watters Road Church of Christ, Attn: Elders
3616 Watters Rd, Pasadena, Texas 77504
office@wrcofc.org

Full-Time Involvement Minister

The Beaumont Church of Christ is seeking an Involvement Minister who knows his Bible and its power to create and sustain life-long trust in Jesus. This minister will have a demonstrated passion for the lost as he mentors our families and youth to improve engagement with the body and to practice our faith in the community. He will be able to lead singing and join with our three elders and others in preaching one or two Sundays per month, or more. Send resumes and inquiries to:

churchelders960@gmail.com
Beaumont Church of Christ
PO Box AH, Beaumont, CA 92223

Full-time Campus Minister

wanted to work with students at Montana State University located in Bozeman, Montana. Come work with a dedicated team of Christians, reaching out with the Gospel in one of the fastest growing and most beautiful locations in the U.S.

Inquire at:
mtdisciples@gmail.com

Full-time Youth Minister - Lutz, Florida

The North Tampa Church of Christ is seeking a full-time Youth Minister to develop our current group of students and to grow the youth program. This candidate should be a self-starter, ready to develop a new and exciting program, and able to use diverse methods such as social media to help reach young people and maintain positive relationships with teens and their parents. Some functions would be to work with leadership to develop/grow the youth program, plan and execute a Youth curriculum, conduct recurring social/devotional activities for middle and high school youth, etc. Candidate is a member of the Church of Christ, has a Bachelor's Degree, and is able to demonstrate a knowledge of Biblical doctrine, is an effective public speaker, and has one to three years minimum experience as a Youth Minister or in Family Counseling. Church website: www.ntcofc.org. Please send cover letter and resume to:

North Tampa Church of Christ, Attn: Stacy Myers
3611 County Line Rd E, Lutz, FL 33559
churchoffice@ntcofc.org

Christianity —Why I Believe What I Believe
by Ed Nill

What did **Martin Luther** really say about baptism and faith? Ed Nill, who speaks German, has researched “**Luther’s Works**” and tells us how Luther actually defined baptism and its relationship to faith. The German word for baptism is “Taufe” and means – immersion. Also, did you know that for hundreds of years the idea of inheriting sin did not exist? When and why did infant baptism become popular? And when did the sinner’s prayer concept begin, and what did the prayer supposedly replace in regard to Christian doctrine? The author’s writing style does not accuse or abuse the reader!

When ordering the book, if you want additional information on Luther’s view on baptism, use comment section on the order form. We’ll email a PDF copy at no charge.

See www.bosspublishing.org for table of contents and narrative description of the book. Single copy cost with shipping is \$20.00. *With multiple copies 15% discount is available.*



CHRISTIANITY

— WHY I BELIEVE WHAT I BELIEVE —
WHY DO YOU BELIEVE WHAT YOU BELIEVE?



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Minister Search - Medford, Oregon

The **West Main Church of Christ** is actively seeking a leader who does as Jesus did by talking to the people in their homes and communities. Our church family is seeking a visionary to lead the saved and the lost to the kingdom of God by guiding us and being involved with us.

Our lead minister will appreciate the rich heritage within the Churches of Christ. He will also envision a future not bound by tradition but open to the leadership of the Holy Spirit. With a firm commitment to the Bible and a desire to apply its truth to the 21st century, our new minister will provide leadership, instruction, and be a role model for a church that is looking to glorify Christ. He will be, first and foremost, a man of integrity in all aspects of his life. He will be respected in his home, church, and community.

The ideal candidate will be at the forefront of designing and preparing the Sunday worship while being open to sharing the preaching duties in order to focus on being • A Biblical Teacher • A People Person • A Relationship Builder • A Caring Disciple • An Active Collaborator.

For further information and to apply, visit our website: churchofchristmedford.org

Full-time Minister - Houston, Texas

The Church of Christ in Champions is hiring a full-time minister who will provide a balanced ministry of preaching, teaching, visiting, and assisting the elders in implementing our vision of the church as we grow to full potential in membership and spiritual growth in Christ. We are a congregation of 465 members with new facilities and room to grow. The ideal candidate should be a married, middle-aged man with at least 10 years of experience as a pulpit minister. He should have an evangelistic heart to share the gospel with the lost. Responsibilities include: preaching, teaching, and actively participating in the life of the church family.

Those who are interested in applying should mail a resume to:

Church of Christ in Champions, Search Committee
13902 Cutten Road, Houston, TX 77069
MINISTERSEARCH@CHAMPIONSCHURCH.ORG

Looking for an **All-Purpose Minister** who can relate across the generational spectrum of our congregation. The elders are looking for assistance to reinvigorate the congregation as we come out of the pandemic and are coming back together. The successful candidate will be well grounded in Biblical doctrine and have the ability to share that doctrine in a loving and practical way with the un-churched and also with those who confess Christ but have an understanding that is critically different.

Westside Church of Christ, Attn: Tom Keyes
905 SW 10th St, Seminole, Texas 79360
tomkeyes@sbcglobal.net

Full-time Evangelist

The Cape Girardeau, Mo., Church of Christ is seeking a full-time evangelist. The congregation has 75+ members, four deacons, and two elders. A Bible degree or equivalent from a Church of Christ-related preaching school, college or university is required. Should be doctrinally sound, experienced in evangelism and have good communication and people skills. Married is preferred. Applicants should submit a resume, links to recent videos, references and a philosophy of ministry and doctrine to: profwemeyer@yahoo.com, **William E. Meyer, 2221 Brookwood, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701**

Seeking Full-Time Minister - Cortez, Colorado

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



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

The Cortez area is home to scenic mountains, deserts, mesas, rivers, lakes, farmland and Mesa Verde National Park. Locals enjoy skiing, hiking, fishing, hunting, camping, boating, mountain biking and golfing.

Youth Minister Search Church of Christ at East Side Austin, Texas

APPLY by sending your resume and cover letter to Anthony Brown at:

mr.al.brown@gmail.com

You can also call him at:

512-804-6818

The **Hot Springs Village Church of Christ** is seeking a full-time Youth and Family Minister. We are in the world's largest gated community with lots of amenities and are served by two school districts. We are a very active community and mission-minded congregation of 200+. We are seeking someone with a strong biblical background and a desire to teach and learn. We have an active and involved youth group. Worship/song leading ability is a plus.

For more information or to send resume:

**Chad Knappier, 210 Balboa Rd
Hot Springs Village, Arkansas 71909
(501) 226-9060 or readthischad@gmail.com**

Full-time Pulpit Minister - Brenham, Texas

The **Brenham Church of Christ** is approximately a 200-member church with a modern building located in the small but growing central Texas town of Brenham. We have a great passion for community, outreach, children, youth, families, seniors, missions, and all of God's people!

For more information, you are welcome to visit our website at brenhamchurchofchrist.com and our YouTube channel, which has many of our recent videos, programs, and recorded worship services.

We are seeking a full-time pulpit minister. We pray that God will guide us through this process and lead us toward the candidate who will be the best fit to help us achieve the purposes He has in store for our future!

Any interested ministers or future ministers are welcome to email us or send their resume to:

brenhamchurchtx@gmail.com

We look forward to hearing from you!

Seeking Full-time Minister – Decatur, Illinois

The **North Jasper Street Church of Christ** is seeking a full-time minister who desires to grow with the congregation. Jasper Street is conservative congregation, primarily African-American, seeking an individual dedicated to the cause of Christ. Applicant should possess sound biblical knowledge, have a few years of preaching experience, good interpersonal people skills (with the ability to motivate and inspire), and a loving, supportive wife. All interested persons need to submit a resume, references, and a video of a recent sermon(s) to the attention of the leadership:

North Jasper Street Church of Christ
950 N Jasper St, Decatur, IL 62521
(217) 423-2823 Jaspcoc950@yahoo.com

SPOTLIGHT

A harvest of corn, cassava and souls

OBUDU, Nigeria — A preacher training school in this West African nation started a farm to provide sustenance for students in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic

A year later, the farm is producing bumper crops of cassava yams, corn and rice — and a harvest of souls.

“God is causing growth,” said Prince Ugbe, director of the Darrell Memorial Bible Institute in Obudu. The farm is about 25 miles from the campus, near the village of Bebi. Students and workers with the institute have harvested the staple crops twice and also have planted long-term “cash crops,” Ugbe said, including cocoa, palm trees, plantains and bananas.



PRINCE UGBE

More importantly, Ugbe said, “persistence in teaching the gospel everywhere” has resulted in new converts near the farm — and a donation of a plot of land nearby “so we can build a sanctuary to enable those we teach and baptize there to worship, since it is far from the campus church location for travel by peasant farmers.”

Workers with the institute have cleared the land and prepared it for construction, thanks to a donation by members of the Mt. Hope Church of Christ in Webb City, Mo. Ugbe seeks additional funds to construct the church building.

For more information, contact the Mt. Hope church through their website, mthope.church, or call (417) 624-1795.



PHOTO VIA ONEKINGDOM.ORG

After a long lockdown, Christians plant churches in Nepal

Pramod Dhakal conducts a Bible study with a family in rural Nepal. After more than a year of lessons via Zoom and social media, the minister said he’s thankful to be able to do in-person visits thanks to declining COVID-19 infections. Dhakal hosts a gospel radio program with support from One Kingdom, a nonprofit supported by Churches of Christ. He recently traveled to eastern Nepal and helped plant a church in the hillside town of Dhankuta. The minister then got an invitation to visit far western Nepal, homeland of the indigenous Tharu people. A radio listener there became a Christian and organized a Bible study program. “We spent a week bringing good tidings to the far west, which resulted in planting two churches,” Dhakal said. “May God be exalted in this region.” Read the full report at onekingdom.org.

ECUADOR

QUITO — For the first time in its 24-year history, the Quito School of Biblical Studies has a native Ecuadoran as its director.

Oswaldo Albarracín, from Cuenca, Ecuador, officially took the reins from Joshua Marcum during the school’s recent graduation ceremony. Marcum had directed the school since 2014, taking on the role from his father, founding director Kent Marcum.

Albarracín, a graduate of Baxter Institute in Honduras, has served on the Quito school’s faculty for 18 years. He was one of the first elders of the Colón Church of Christ and helped plant two additional churches in metropolitan Quito. His wife, Lourdes, is involved with the women’s program at the school.

Joshua Marcum will continue to serve as director of development for Operation Ecuador, which includes



OSWALDO ALBARRACÍN

Oswaldo and Lourdes Albarracín

the school, its mission teams, a Christian camp and medical missions.

LITHUANIA

KAUNAS — Minister Vladimir Rancev uses Zoom to host lessons using curriculum from Let’s Start Talking, a ministry that helps non-native speakers improve their English using the Bible. Four students attend regularly, as do three Bible teachers from Texas and Connecticut.

RUSSIA

ALTAI — The camp “Footprints in the Sand” drew 115 participants to the Altai Mountains in southern Siberia. Five campers were baptized.

Alexander Metso, minister for a Church of Christ in Almaty, Kazakhstan, described the experience as an opportunity to build relationships with other believers and prepare ministries for the following year.



Metso

“Children receive Christ in baptism, build relationships with believers, memorize lessons and songs that remain with them after the camp,” Metso wrote in a testimonial. “Unity is built between the churches, and there is an exchange of resources that are used in ... ministry of the churches throughout the year.”

Give a Gift to the Orphans and Widows *for the Holidays*

It doesn't really matter the amount. Even a little is more than they have.



The widows in the new homes need beds, mattresses, blankets, tables, kitchenware, pots and pans, a stove, battery-powered lights and anything else you can think of for a new home with no furnishings. The children in the orphan homes need new clothing, shoes, blankets, school supplies and sports equipment. You name it and we will buy and deliver it for you. Just write in what you want to provide on the *shopping list*.



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A ministry of the Churches of Christ for over 20 years

Children of Abraham

CHRISTIAN RELIEF FUND'S 50th year could be its most crucial as the global pandemic creates new need.



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Milagro Morillo, 15, has been sponsored through Christian Relief Fund for three years. The support has helped her family through the pandemic, her mother said.

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

NEYBA, Dominican Republic

Her name is Milagro, Spanish for “miracle.” “It’s because she is a miracle,” said her mother, Belkis Montero, standing outside their simple hillside home of cement blocks and sheet metal in this Caribbean nation, an hour east of the Haitian border.

Milagro was the sole survivor of stillborn triplets. She weighed less than 2 pounds at birth. Now 15, she copes with developmental delays that require specialized schooling. She’s nonverbal, but she gave a slight, demure smile when she saw a group of her countrymen — clad in bright orange shirts with the letters “CRF” in bold white — approach her family’s chicken wire fence.

Milagro is one of more than 10,000 kids sponsored through Christian Relief Fund, a faith-based nonprofit that provides food, education and spiritual support. The ministry’s hard-to-miss shirts can be found in 17 countries, from the rural, mountain communities near Campamento, Honduras, to the slums of Eldoret, Kenya.

The nonprofit’s 50th year may be its most challenging — and its most important. The COVID-19 pandemic has shut down economies around the world. Montero, Milagro’s mother, worked as a housekeeper before the lockdowns but hasn’t had reliable income in more than a year. Her husband, Lidio Morillo, farms a small plot of mountainside land to help the family survive.

The support they receive through Christian Relief Fund has become a life-sustaining blessing for the whole family, Montero said.

As the pandemic persists, “we pray for God to increase our faith,” she said. “Whatever we receive, whatever God decides, we hold on to it.”

‘JOHN ABRAHAM IS DEAD’

The ministry was born out of a tragic message, sent a half-century ago along a wire from India to the U.S.: “John Abraham is dead.”

The words tore through Baxter Loe, minister for the Forest Hill Church of Christ in Amarillo, Texas. He had traveled to India on a mission trip and met Abraham. The Indian evangelist shared a name with the Old Testament patri-

arch who was promised “descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore” by God in Genesis 22.

John Abraham was struggling to feed a multitude in the midst of a famine, and he asked Loe for help.

Loe told Abraham he would do what he could.

Then Loe returned to the U.S. and fell swiftly back into his daily routine.

Months later, when Loe sent a wire asking how best to send money to Abraham, he received the short, devastating reply.

In 1971, Loe launched an initiative to care for the evangelist’s children, the John Abraham Memorial Christian Relief Fund.

In the five decades since, Abraham’s children have multiplied. The ministry shortened its name and expanded its reach, launching programs across Latin America,

CONTINUED



PHOTO PROVIDED BY CRF

Emmett “Baxter” Loe (1924-2001)

The founder of Christian Relief Fund “had a tender heart, and he just wanted to try to help feed children and help orphans and widows,” said Linda Purdy, who served the ministry for 33 years and worked with Loe.



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Socrates Matos, left, and other workers with Christian Relief Fund lead children sponsored by the nonprofit in a selection of silly songs during a gathering in the building of a Church of Christ in the mountains near Neyba, Dominican Republic.

CONTINUED

Africa and Eastern Europe. Native workers, including ministers for Churches of Christ, coordinate the programs. CRF has helped to plant churches around the globe — more than 100 in the East African nation of Kenya alone, said Andrew Brown, the ministry's vice president for strategic growth.

The nonprofit built dozens of schools that care for orphans and vulnerable children and has worked alongside other nonprofits supported by Churches of Christ, including One Kingdom, New Life Behavior International and Bread for a Hungry World. The latter merged with CRF in 2013 after its then-president, Bobby Moore, saw advertisements for his ministry and CRF in the same issue of *The Christian Chronicle*. He approached CRF and asked, "What's the difference in us?" Moore now serves as CRF's vice president for global operations.

The nonprofit distributes aid after natural disasters, including the recent earthquake in Haiti, and digs water wells. An estimated half-million people have access to clean water through CRF's well-drilling initiatives, Brown said.

Djounio Dorvil, a water program coordinator for CRF in northern Haiti, said that his favorite part of the job is watching the elderly in the villages he

serves stare in disbelief as clean water comes gushing from the ground.

"That's when they get really happy," he said. "That's when there's more joy."

A VIRUS WITH GENERATIONAL IMPACT

The pandemic shut down schools worldwide, including Milagro's in the Dominican Republic. The Dominican government started broadcasting classes on TV and radio. Teachers try to communicate with their students through cellphone messenger tools including WhatsApp.

"It's a little complicated," said Wanda Wilkiris, 15, who lives near Milagro in Neyba. She does her best to keep up with her subjects, especially her favorite, math. She wants to be an architect.

Like most of the families the ministry serves, CRF has been forced to adapt, said Gerson Aquino. His own family has coordinated CRF's program in Neyba for nearly 30 years. His wife, Nairobi Batista, serves as director.

Pre-pandemic, sponsored children gathered at the Aquinos' home to receive food and clean water — plus tutoring and Bible lessons. That's not possible now, so CRF workers stagger times for the families of sponsored children to arrive and receive supplies. The workers stay in touch

with the children through WhatsApp and gather for abbreviated, socially distanced devotionals when possible.

Gerson Aquino said he's concerned about "the new generations that are growing" in the midst of COVID-19.

In the early days of the virus, some Dominicans feared that society itself would collapse and seemed open to discussions about God. But as the pandemic lingers, many have returned to old habits, including alcohol, he said. The economic slowdown and job losses have made the problem worse.

"We need to find new ways to call people to Christ," Aquino said.

Simple things can make a difference. As Aquino and his orange-shirted coworkers visited Wanda's home, her father, Jesús, paused from his work. He's a builder, but jobs have been scarce recently so he's been doing home improvement projects.

As he offered his guests coffee, a chicken roamed among the piles of wood and tile. It was a gift from their daughter's sponsoring family, he said, and they're thankful, especially now, for the eggs it provides.

HEARTBREAK AND SUCCESS STORIES

Despite the challenges of the pandemic — or because of them, actually — CRF president Milton Jones wants to help more children like Milagro and Wanda. The ministry has set a goal of 500 new sponsorships for its 50th anniversary.



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Frailin Rivous dusts the pews before Sunday morning worship at the Vista al Lago Church of Christ in Neyba. Children sponsored through Christian Relief Fund, including Rivous, and their families make up a large portion of the congregation.

His first day on the job as president stressed the need for those sponsorships — and eerily mirrored the experiences of his predecessor, Baxter Loe.

A coworker dropped a stack of folders on Jones' desk — each representing a child in need of a sponsor. He picked one, a girl in East Africa, and asked for more information about her.

"You don't have to get her sponsored," someone told him. She had died.

In addition to meeting their physical and spiritual needs, CRF tries to help children grow into self-supporting adults, Jones said. That's not always easy in developing nations, he added.

But it happens. Mariela Lara Mendoza is one of the success stories.

The child of a teenage mother, Mendoza grew up in a children's home in Piedras Negras, Mexico, and was sponsored through CRF.

Now age 25, she's "walking hand-in-hand with Jesus," she said. She's active in her church and teaches Sunday school. Four years ago, she became a schoolteacher at the CRF school she attended as a child.

"If I hadn't arrived here, I feel like my life would be completely different

he's got a couple of kids he supports," Jones said. "He's active in his church."

WHY ORANGE?

Jones, a former campus minister at Texas Tech University and preacher in the Pacific Northwest, said that his compassion for children orphaned by another pandemic, HIV/AIDS, compelled him to get involved with CRF.

During a visit to Kisumu, Kenya, a group of orphans once surrounded him and asked him to wear orange on their behalf because "orange is the color of hope for AIDS orphans," they told him.

He said he would. Then the orphans asked him to wear orange every day.

"Sure," he said, absentmindedly. "I then realized that I had committed to wear orange every day of my life. I should have remembered that I went to Texas Tech and am a Red Raider."

Nonetheless, he wears orange daily. And his coworkers, from Honduras to Kenya, don orange shirts as they head into the streets and villages, hoping to inspire hope in Abraham's children for the next 50 years.

SPONSOR A CHILD: christianrelieffund.org.



PHOTO VIA BLOG.CHRISTIANRELIEFFUND.ORG

Mariela Lara Mendoza, who grew up in the Christian Relief Fund program, with CRF president Milton Jones.

— probably a single mother, jobless and struggling to make ends meet," Mendoza said. "I know that God's plans are perfect, and I am very grateful that ministries like this one exist."

In the slums of Eldoret, Kenya, Jones ministered to a family who named their son Milton, after him. Jones and his wife, Barbie, sponsored young Milton all the way through high school. They helped him train and buy tools to begin work as an auto mechanic.

"Now he's supporting himself, and



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MILTON JONES

David Marangach of Christian Relief Fund delivers food to a sponsored child and his family by donkey in a rural community near Mount Elgon in Kenya.

'We became Amazon'

BY TRUCK, BIKE OR DONKEY, *Christian Relief Fund delivers much-needed food to its sponsored children and their families.*

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

CAMPAMENTO, Honduras

Colorful paintings of bees and hummingbirds adorn the walls of the Christian Relief Fund facility in this Central American town. So do the signatures of visiting mission teams from the Crosspoint Church of Christ, Preston Road Church of Christ, Southwest Christian School and more.

The building — which housed a daycare, tutoring programs, a computer lab and even a barber shop, all CRF ministries — was empty and quiet when *The Christian Chronicle* visited on a recent Friday. Pandemic restrictions have limited gatherings. At least 15 mission groups scheduled to serve here have had to cancel their visits.

COVID-19 has transformed the way that the ministry serves the children it sponsors in Campamento and its surrounding mountain communities.

"It's disaster relief, really," said coordinator Donnie Anderson. Instead of feeding sponsored children at their schools, CRF workers deliver bags of rice, beans, coffee and sugar to their families. Those staples are needed, especially now, Anderson said. In addition to

COVID-19 deaths and lockdowns, Hondurans are recovering from two hurricanes that hit the Central American nation in 2020.

CRF programs around the globe faced similar logistical challenges, said Milton Jones, the ministry's president.

"So we became Amazon," Jones told the *Chronicle*. "We started delivering food like crazy." In communities near Kenya's Mount Elgon, CRF workers strapped supplies onto motorbikes and used what Jones described as "streams of donkeys" to reach sponsored children and their families.

In Campamento, cellphones have become necessary education tools. Most classes are available only through videoconference or programs like WhatsApp. Some children in the CRF program have received phones through gifts from their sponsors, Anderson said.

It is, at best, a stopgap solution, said Iris Alicia Matute, principal for the Joan Jones Memorial School, a school built by CRF with 280 students, all sponsored by the ministry. She longs for a day when the students can return to class.

Until then, she said, "We are so thankful to this organization, to all of our friends, for all of the help."

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or email Glenn Newton (glenn@heraldoftruth.org).

JOB OPENINGS

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Hi-Desert Church of Christ,
13460 Apple Valley Rd, Apple Valley,
CA 92308, (760) 221-9727,
ramrrodrig@yahoo.com.

Windsong Church of Christ,
3 Windsong Dr, North Little Rock,
AR 72113, (501) 753-7050,
office@windsongchurch.org.

Hugoton Church of Christ,
212 West 1st, Hugoton, KS 67951,
(620) 544-5382, bdh1294@pld.com.

Universities

**Faulkner University, Jones School
of Law,** 5345 Atlanta Highway,
Montgomery, AL 36109,
dchurchwell@faulkner.edu.

See christianchronicle.org/advertise
to place your classified ad.

Minister Search - Rawlins WY

Small congregation in a community of 9,000 seeks a preacher/teacher who would lead us in outreach to our community while ministering to our congregation. Housing, utilities, and a modest salary provided. Outdoor adventures can be enjoyed in nearby Snowy Mountain Range, the Red Desert, and the North Platte River. View the website at:
rawlinschurchofchrist.com
Send resume, references, etc. to:
Rawlins Church of Christ
PO Box 2098, Rawlins, WY 82301
minister@rawlinschurchofchrist.com

Preaching Minister Search

University Park Church of Christ is searching for a Preaching 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.

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Kyle Stephens, D.O., MDiv
Orthopedic Surgeon
Henry County, Tennessee



Amanda Madrid, M.D., PhD
CEO, Predisan
Honduras



David Smith, M.D.
Haiti Christian Development
Project, Little Rock, Arkansas



Luke Smith, M.D.
Director, El Futuro
Durham, North Carolina

‘What God will do ... will blow your mind’

POST-PANDEMIC CHURCH: *Five takeaways from a panel discussion at Harding’s Bible Lectureship.*

BY CALVIN COCKRELL | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Where do Churches of Christ go from here? A panel organized by *The Christian Chronicle* sought to answer that question during the

98th annual Bible Lectureship at Harding University in Searcy, Ark.

Here are five takeaways from the recent discussion on the post-pandemic church, moderated by Bobby Ross Jr. and featuring panelists Glenn Newton, Matt Dabbs, Carl Royster and Andy and Roslyn Miller.

Watch the full conversation at christianchronicle.org/takeaways.

1. We’re living in a post-Christian culture.

The pandemic has certainly brought new obstacles, but churches were in trouble even before anyone heard of COVID-19.

Carl Royster serves as systems administrator at 21st Century Christian in Nashville, Tenn., where he has compiled data for the national directory “Churches of Christ in the United States” since 2003.

Royster said Churches of Christ saw a 10 percent drop in adherents — which includes baptized members as well as children and other adult attendees — from 2010 to 2020.

Andy Miller has been in ministry for over 35 years and started an Orlando church plant with his wife, Roslyn, in 2018. He cited this statistic: “Once every six days, a Church of Christ closes its doors forever.”

The 21st Century Christian directory listed 12,300 U.S. congregations in its 2015 directory. The latest number given online is 11,905, and the actual decrease could be worse, as the pandemic has delayed Royster’s numerical research.

The decline is not unique to Churches of Christ. Some religious groups did better over the past decade, but many did worse,



AUDREY JACKSON

Glenn Newton speaks during the panel discussion at Harding University in Searcy, Ark., as Bobby Ross Jr., Andy Miller and Roslyn Miller listen.

Royster noted. Overall, the trend is clear: Christianity is in decline.

Much of the reason for this is a strong growth in the group of “nones,” who have no specific affiliation or interest in being part of a congregation.

Miller added that there is also a large number of “dones,” who are leaving the church and Christianity altogether.

He said Generation Z, broadly defined as those born after 1997, is the first to grow up in a post-Christian culture. The percentage of Gen Z that identifies as atheist is double that of the U.S. adult population as a whole, according to a 2018 Barna Research study.

2. Some things have changed — permanently. We’ve got to adapt.

Glenn Newton — a Florida church planter and director of organizational advancement for the Herald of Truth, based in Abilene, Texas — likened the church to Sears, once a

retail giant but now on life support in the era of e-commerce.

“They used that same model that they had always used over and over and over again, and then something came along called Amazon, and Sears had to close their doors,” Newton said. “It was because of an unwillingness to change.”

He said the church is behaving similarly — trying to do things the same way they’ve always been done and not trying to replace older generations, which the Pew Research Center estimates make up nearly three-quarters of Church of Christ membership.

But Matt Dabbs — minister and lead equipper for Backyard Church in Auburn, Ala. — said that now, amid the upset caused by the pandemic, is the perfect time to make necessary changes.

“I really hope that God gets our attention with this pandemic, that we can see some of the things that needed to change,” Dabbs said.

3. It’s not good enough to just tend the flock.

Newton said many churches have turned inward during the pandemic, going into a survival mode and trying to keep things as close to normal as possible. But the congregations that are being most successful are those that realize they can’t go back to normal — they have to change.

He said a maintenance-minded leadership was what led him to become a church planter more than two years ago.

“I became a preacher to change the world, to share the Gospel, to preach the Word, to be evangelistic, disciple people,” he said. “And a lot of that is not happening.”

Likewise, Roslyn Miller noted that God has called Christians to be salt and light to the world, and if they do that, they can find people looking for faith — even among Gen Z.

“The Gen Zs we’re talking about, even if they’re not associating with a religion, they still have what God placed in them, which is a need for him,” she said. “They don’t know it yet, but they are looking for something. They know they need something.”

Dabbs said that requires effort and, sometimes, getting out of one’s comfort zone. He describes himself as an introvert. In the past, he’s found it hard to share the Gospel. But with practice and prayer, he’s gotten better at doing so and telling people how God has impacted his life.

But he said something else is necessary to reach the lost, too: love.

“Until we love the lost, we won’t reach the lost,” Dabbs said. “I can give you all kinds of tactics, but if you don’t love the lost, none of this is going to matter.”

4. The church is not just a building, and it’s not just somewhere we go on Sunday.

Roslyn Miller said she and Andy used to — like many Christians —

See **POST-PANDEMIC**, Page 22



Royster



Dabbs



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AUDREY JACKSON

Carl Royster, third from left, makes a point during the Harding panel discussion.

POST-PANDEMIC: Panel offers ideas

FROM PAGE 21

think of faithfulness in terms of going to church. But then they realized there's much more to it.

"We were seeing a lot of discrepancies between what our contemporary experience was and what we were seeing with Scripture," Miller said, "and, again, wanting to teach Christ, to tell the good news, to share the Gospel message with our coming generation. ... Many of them have been disillusioned by church participation."

Similarly, one congregation Newton has helped to grow learned that the church is not designed to be something people just show up to on Sunday morning and go home from. Rather, the church must "make known the manifold wisdom of God," he said. Christians have to understand that the church is who they are — not just something they do. It's not about a building.

"I grew weary of business meetings or elders' meetings where you sit around a table and for two hours, you discuss what time the parking lot lights should go off," Newton said. "And I've been in that meeting, and we wonder why the churches aren't growing."

In fact, the congregation Newton planted in St. Augustine, Fla., never intends to own a building. He said his congregation rents a store front and holds activities at coffee shops, parks and an apartment complex. Finding ways to get together with members and the community

outside of the building is important.

Andy Miller said that's the best way to reach the nones, who are not likely ever to come to a church service — at least not at first.

But Christians can go to them.

"Jesus didn't sit in the synagogue and wait for people to come and learn on the Sabbath," Miller said. "Jesus went out and about and met people in the street and made himself accessible so that they could also come to him. And that is a mindset difference that we need to have in the church."

5. We need God's help.

Royster said that, ultimately, Christians need to look to God for ways to grow the church — the same God who added to the church daily in Acts 2. He's the only one who can fix its problems.

"We have to not get in God's way," he said, "coming up with a plan and then saying, 'God, bless this. This is for you. You bless it. I've got it all worked out. We just need you to make it happen.'"

It is this reliance on God that Dabbs said has been the greatest lesson that Christians can take from the pandemic — to seek him in humility, to pray constantly and see what he will do.

"God is amazing," he said. "Just put him to the test, humble yourself, surrender and submit, and watch what God will do. It will blow your mind, and you will be so convicted about what you're doing."

York College gets new name

YORK, Neb. — York College — which is associated with Churches of Christ — is getting a new name. The York, Neb., college reported that it will become York University within the next year.

Its president, Sam Smith, said in the announcement before a crowd of more than 500 that this transition is the culmination of a process the college began 65 years ago.

“Our institution has grown from being unaccredited to an accredited junior college to a four-year institution that also offers growing graduate programs,” Smith said. “It has taken years, and the time is right to move forward.”

Smith also said the transition will take place gradually over the coming months. Spring 2022 graduates are expected to receive York College degrees, but new students will be enrolling at York University beginning next fall.

The name change — which was decided by the college’s board of trustees in January — is accompanied by a fundraising campaign with a goal of \$15.9 million, 80 percent of which has already been pledged. Read the full story at christianchronicle.org/namechange.

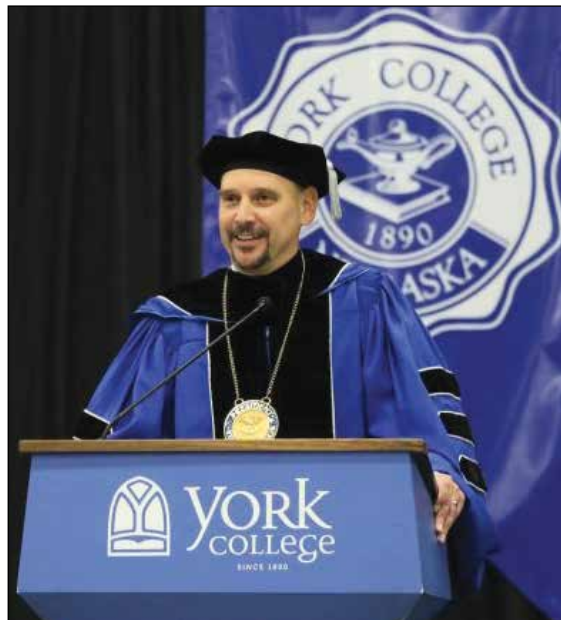


PHOTO PROVIDED BY YORK COLLEGE

York College President Sam Smith gives his inaugural presentation on Sept. 24.

Faulkner, Heritage Christian will cooperate on Bible doctoral education

BY CALVIN COCKRELL | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Two Alabama universities associated with Churches of Christ — Faulkner, in Montgomery, and Heritage Christian, in Florence — have announced a cooperative agreement between their graduate programs.

Officials from each university signed a memorandum of understanding to grant graduates of HCU’s master’s programs the ability to continue their studies in Faulkner’s doctoral program in biblical studies. Those students would also be eligible to apply for scholarships.



Williams

The administrators present included Faulkner President Mike Williams and HCU President W. Kirk Brothers along with Dale Kirkland, chairman of Faulkner’s board of trustees and member of HCU’s board, and Carole Medley, Lauderdale County district judge and member of both boards.

In a joint press release, both presidents said the move was motivated by a mutual desire to benefit the kingdom of God.

“The whole spirit of this goes back to our founders and our forefathers,” Williams said. “Both of our institutions wanted to prepare people to go into ministry and be prepared in the text and to really make a powerful impact on the kingdom, so today — hopefully — is mission attainment of what they wanted from us from the beginning.”

Likewise, Brothers said, “While we might have students that make decisions on whether or not they go to our different schools, at the end of the day we’re all on the same team and the same cause. We want God to be glorified and his cause to be advanced. I think the more bridges we have and the more we work together, the better.”



Brothers

HIGHER EDUCATION

LUBBOCK CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
LUBBOCK, Texas — Lubbock Christian University has received a \$3 million donation from Al and Pat Smith of Amarillo, Texas.

Of that gift, \$2 million will establish the Jesse C. Long Jr. Endowed Chair of Biblical Text — to oversee faculty recruitment, long-term planning and maintenance for LCU’s Smith College of Biblical Studies.



Long

Long, the chair’s namesake, is a professor of Old Testament and biblical archaeology and previously served as the college’s dean. His tenure at LCU has spanned more than 20 years. He will receive the first appointment to the newly endowed chair.

“It encourages me to know that when we are gone, because of this gift and our emphasis on

biblical teaching and ministry at LCU, young men and women will know and have in their hearts the name of Jesus,” Long said.

Meanwhile, the remaining \$1 million of the Smiths’ contribution will be used to create an endowment for the Vocati Institute, an LCU program intended to foster spiritual formation in young people.

“Al and Pat are the definition of joyful givers,” LCU President Scott McDowell said. “They give because of who they are. They are people with deeply held kingdom convictions and an overall sense of gratitude for God’s blessing in their lives.

“Generosity just flows out of their hearts as a result. They are so fun-loving that it’s infectious. You cannot be around them without catching some of their gratitude-fueled joy.”

OKLAHOMA REGENTS

OKLAHOMA CITY — Allison Garrett, president of Emporia State University in Kansas, will serve

as the ninth chancellor of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

Garrett, a 1984 graduate of Oklahoma Christian University, will lead a system of 25 state colleges and universities. She will report to a nine-member board of regents appointed by

the governor and confirmed by the state Senate. She will be the first woman to serve as chancellor.

Garrett was named president of Emporia State in 2016 after

serving as an executive vice president at Abilene Christian University in Texas, senior vice president for academic affairs at Oklahoma Christian and associate professor of law at Faulkner University in Montgomery, Ala.

Read an expanded story at christianchronicle.org/garrett.



Garrett

Full-time Evangelist - El Paso, Texas

Montwood Church of Christ (montwood.org) is looking for a full-time evangelist. Applicants should be a graduate of a Bible college or school of preaching. Duties will include (but are not limited to): evangelizing through community outreach, working with a small group ministry, preaching, teaching Bible classes, visiting members of the congregation, and contacting members of the community. Prior experience in full-time ministry is preferred, and fluency in the Spanish language is a plus. Salary is negotiable based upon experience. Montwood Church of Christ is located on the east side of El Paso, Texas, in one of the most populous zip codes in the nation. Fort Bliss, our country's second largest military installation, is also nearby, so we have vast potential for growth. We are a multicultural, bilingual, financially stable congregation with a typical attendance of around 150 people. We currently have three elders, two deacons, two deacon candidates, a worship minister, paid custodian, and a secretary. Applicants should send inquiries, resumes, and a video (or link to online video) of teaching/preaching to: montwood.churchofchrist@yahoo.com or **Montwood Church of Christ, Attn: Search Committee, 11845 Bob Mitchell Dr, El Paso, TX 79936.**

Lead Evangelist - Tallahassee, Florida

The **Meridian Woods Church of Christ** is seeking a full-time Lead Evangelist. Meridian Woods has two elders who serve a diverse body of around 160 members. We strive to encompass all ages and cultures in our commitment to create an atmosphere where people from all walks can serve God in genuine unity. We are striving to be an outreach-focused church working to spread the Good News in our community. The ideal candidate should be strong in the Word, fervent in prayer, and have a genuine love for the church and the lost. He should have at least 5 years preaching experience and a commitment to fostering unity within the church. Before applying, please visit our website at www.meridianwoods.org to learn more about us. Interested candidates should send a resume to ministersearch@meridianwoods.org.

"We are one people, serving one King, following one purpose."

Full-time Minister - Michigan

The Escanaba, Michigan, church, located in the beautiful Upper Peninsula (UP), is seeking applicants for a full-time minister position.

Responsibilities to our 55-member congregation would include: preaching, teaching, community outreach, and some administrative duties. We produce the television/internet ministry LET THE BIBLE SPEAK (LTBS). Our minister works with other ministers in the UP to host this 30-minute TV Bible study. You can view episodes of LTBS on our web page: <http://www.letthebiblespeak.net>.

The applicant will need to send a cover letter, resume, and video samples of their lessons to:

Escanaba Church of Christ, Attn: Elders
PO Box 751, Escanaba, MI 49829
escanabacoc@gmail.com

Full-time Minister - Everett, Wash.

Silver Lake Church of Christ requests a mature minister in the faith. We have three elders and 70+ members. PowerPoint presentations are required. Submit your resume to:

silverlakechurchofchrist.com

Silver Lake Church of Christ
9907 19th Ave SE
Everett, WA 98208

Two Ministry Positions Children's and Connection/Family

For more information, please contact:

Tim Jacobs (325) 647-7093
Mitch Moore (325) 201-0610

Austin Avenue Church Of Christ
1020 Austin Ave
Brownwood, TX 76801

(325) 646-8055
aaministersearch@gmail.com

Full-time Minister Search

Small congregation looking for a minister to teach the Bible and minister to the needs of the congregation. We are a group of individuals who love God and love to study His Word.

Please send resume:

Church of Christ
Attn: Richard Ecord
1207 W 15th
Ottawa, KS 66067

CALENDAR

Nov. 5-7 24th Annual Cold Harbor Lectureship. David: A Man with the Heart of God. Mechanicsville, Va. See coldharborroadcoc.org or call (804) 746-8224.

Nov. 6 SongFest. Southwest Church of Christ. 1223 E Dana Ave, Mesa, AZ 85204.

Nov. 7 Blackwell Church of Christ, Centennial Plus One. See blackwellcoc.com or call (580) 789-1029.

Nov. 13 Herald of Truth Legacy Dinner. Hillsboro Church of Christ, Nashville, Tenn. See heraldoftruth.org/legacydinner or email glenn@heraldoftruth.org.

Nov. 14 Orphan Sunday. Orphan Sunday free-will offering. See orphanslifeline.org/orphan-sunday.

Jan. 14-15, 2022 40th Annual IHCF Medical Missions Seminar. Prestoncrest Church of Christ, Dallas, Texas. See ihcf.net/seminar.

Jan. 19-20 SIBI Vision Workshop. Sunset Church of Christ, Lubbock, Texas. See workshop.sunset.bible.

March 5 Acappella 40th Anniv. Reunion Concert. Garland, Texas. See acappella.ticketspice.com/acappella-40th-anniversary-reunion-concert.

June 6-10 DATE CHANGE. Global Reunion. Annual Camp for TCKs and families. See oc.edu/globalreunion.

FULL CALENDAR: christianchronicle.org

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Upcoming deadlines are

Nov. 5 and Dec. 3

Contact:

tonya@christianchronicle.org

Full-time Pulpit Minister Search - Puyallup, Washington

The **Puyallup Church of Christ** is announcing an open pulpit minister position. The Puyallup church, located in the south Puget Sound region of western Washington, is a growing, diverse group of believers and children of around 250. It is served by four elders, eight deacons, and an associate minister.

We are seeking a married man with a minimum experience of 5-10 years of full-time ministry, demonstrating excellent interpersonal and communication skills (both verbal and written). He should have a Bible degree from a brotherhood preaching school, college or university – Bachelor's required; Master's preferred. More importantly, his lessons should accurately reflect and convey biblical truths, the gospel of Christ, and the nature of God.

Responsibilities include: weekly preaching; teaching of Bible classes; supporting the Bible class ministry; encouraging the body through counseling opportunities (evangelism, premarital, etc.); reaching out and visiting members (who are shut-in, sick, or discouraged); and actively welcoming and engaging with visitors.

Salary commensurate with experience. Please send resume with references, and CD/DVDs of or links to two sermons to:

Puyallup Church of Christ, Search Committee
402 5th Street SW, Puyallup, WA 98371 or via email: office@puyallupcofc.org

Global Reunion — DATE CHANGE —

Annual Camp for TCKs and families is scheduled for:

JUNE 6-10, 2022

Please register and find other camp details at:

www.oc.edu/globalreunion



On a chart, Kent Brown shows that much of what preachers do fits into only one quadrant of Christian life.



Becky Burroughs, Yesenia Gomez and Leah Redling speak on "What we wish our church leaders knew about being a woman in Churches of Christ." Burroughs and Redling work on church staffs. Gomez is a graduate student.



Lamont Ross talks about Isaiah 7 and the need God's people have for messages of hope in dark times.

Justice and hope beyond the pandemic

AS CHURCHES STRUGGLE to reunite, preaching conference explores Israel's sputtering return from exile.

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

OKLAHOMA CITY

The ancient words of Isaiah, who spoke about God's people returning home after decades of exile, are relevant in 2021 as churches return to in-person worship services — and as the COVID-19 pandemic drags on.

That was a key message at the KERYGMA Preaching Conference, sponsored by Oklahoma Christian University Church Resources and HOPE Network Ministries. More than 60 preachers from six states attended the event, which takes its name from a Greek word used by Christ followers to represent "the core message of God's salvation history being fulfilled in Jesus Christ," organizer Grady King said.

A few snapshots from the event:

- The annual "Fright Fest" at Six Flags amusement parks provided Lamont Ross with an analogy for God's protection. The ghouls and goblins in the parks are allowed to frighten parkgoers but aren't allowed to touch them, said the senior minister for the Marsalis Avenue Church of Christ in Dallas.

Ross talked about lessons from Isaiah 7, including God's message of encouragement to the prophet and

his son in the face of their enemies. Judah's king at the time, Ahaz, also received this message and promised not to test the Lord. But then he attempted an entangling alliance with a foreign power that ended badly.

"Ahaz already has decided what he is going to do," Ross said. "We have times when we want to trust God, but we also try to do something else." Such decisions can lead to ruin.

"You don't have to fight with the weapons of the world," Ross said, "because God is with you."

- "Last year was a tough year to be a preacher," said Kent Brown, minister for the Northwest Church of Christ in Oklahoma City. Many left the ministry, not because they lost faith in God but because they lost faith in God's people, he said.

Brown spoke about the "suffering servant" depicted in Isaiah 52 and how this depiction defied the messianic expectations of the religious leaders when Christ arrived. A more servant-like attitude is needed in the post-pandemic era, he said, as Christians have allowed themselves to be divided over issues of health, politics and race.

A 30-minute sermon alone can't undo the influence of a 24-hour news cycle, Brown said. He stressed the need for churches to think outside

the pulpit and provide opportunities and encouragement for believers to practice their faith by serving their communities. People don't enter a dojo to hear a lecture on karate, he said. They go there to practice.

"If we're not using the tools that God has given us to shape his people," Brown said, "then we're failing them."

- "The way you talk about women matters, but your actions speak way louder," said Leah Redling, director of youth and families for The Springs Church of Christ in Edmond, Okla. Speaking to a predominantly male audience, she was part of a panel discussing the challenges faced by women in ministry.



Case

Pay inequality is one challenge, said Becky Burroughs, outreach minister for the Highland Oaks Church of Christ in Dallas. She has interviewed women on church staffs and found that some make half of what their male counterparts do. Men in ministry roles can advocate for females and people of color when it comes to salary equality, she said. "Advocate for those who can't advocate for themselves."

Redling stressed the need for ministers and church elders to "listen well, listen often, listen to all voices, intentionally inviting the perspectives of those who are not like us. We must assume we have blind spots that others can reveal." And church leaders should be willing to act on what they learn.

- "It may take God emptying the pews to refill the pews," said Dwayne M.L. Case, evangelist for the Northeast Church of Christ in Oklahoma City.

He preached from Isaiah 43, including the Lord's admonition in verse 18 to those returning from exile: "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past."

As churches slowly emerge from quarantine, ministers must find a way to engage in-person and online audiences simultaneously, he said, equating the return to in-person worship with the slow and gradual return of the Israelites to Jerusalem, as told in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. Many brought emotional baggage and bad habits from their time of captivity.

"They came back in waves," Case said, "and they made a mess of things." Centuries later, "Jesus comes to challenge the politics of God's people."

Milestones

Showcase the lives of your loved ones — birth and wedding announcements, anniversaries, memorials, honors for longtime ministers and workers and more. Contact tonya.patton@christianchronicle.org for rates and more information.



Cleveland and Willie Mae Miller



Nathaniel and Cora Green



Joe and Betty Fletcher



Ellis and Verna Lewis

Church honors couples for 65-plus years of marriage

The La Puente Church of Christ located in Southern California has the unique blessing of having four couples that have been married for 65-plus years. We want to take this opportunity to honor them for their commitment to each other and their commitment to our congregation.

• **Cleveland and Willie Mae Miller** met in 1955 while on a beach in Galveston, Texas, and eloped in 1956 to California. They will celebrate 65 years of marital bliss this year. In 1963 they became members of La Puente Church of Christ. As a devoted Christian family, the Millers are extremely proud to have raised two happily married daughters.

As students of the Bible, Cleveland relates to King David and Willie Mae relates to Mary Magdalene. In both cases, they realize that God sees and knows the true heart and soul. Cleveland was a deacon for over 20 years before he retired. Willie Mae continues to be an active participant and volunteer at every church event that she is able to attend.

Several years ago, Willie Mae was diagnosed with a very serious illness, and her faith was tested. However, she prayed about it, and God answered her prayers. With Cleveland by her side, Willie Mae's mantra was, "I have cancer; it does not have me." They both believe the best part of marriage is companionship and the key to a happy marriage is strong communication.

This lovely couple always prays before making decisions because God is the center of their marriage.

• **Nathaniel and Cora Green** have also been married for 65 years. They were married on Jan. 1, 1956, while Nathaniel was stationed in the Navy in San Diego. Upon Nathaniel's honorable discharge in 1962, they purchased a home in La Puente.

Nathaniel and Cora were blessed to have six daughters and one son. Three of their daughters have preceded them in death.

Nathaniel retired from the L.A. City Department of Airports in Ontario, Calif., after 22 years of employment. Cora was a homemaker who dedicated her life to raising their children, and she is a passionate reader.

The Greens are very kindhearted and compassionate Christians that have opened their home to many relatives, friends and neighbors as a way of glorifying God in providing a place to call home.

In 1986 Cora became a member of the La Puente Church of Christ; Nathaniel was added to the body in 1991. Cora assures that there are greeters at the door every Sunday to greet with a smile everyone who enters. Nathaniel Green has been one of the deacons for over 20 years.

• **Joe and Betty Fletcher** will have been married 66 years this September. What a blessing! They met in ninth grade algebra class, became good friends and later sweethearts, even until to this day!

Joe and Betty have two sons and three daughters, 11 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Joe and Betty have been faithful

members at the La Puente Church of Christ for 58 years, Joe has served as a deacon for over 50 years and was actively engaged in oversight of the Social Fellowship Committee, planning great events and fellowships for the congregation that brought many opportunities to share and teach visitors.

Betty, who is a very diligent student of the Bible, also has been a very active and faithful member working by her husband's side in various church activities and ladies' events.

Their advice to newlyweds: Love God, and cast out *all* doubts and fears. One of their keys to staying married so many years is keeping God in the center of their lives and continuing to grow together in love for one another.

• **Ellis and Verna Lewis** met in Texas in 1954, married in 1956, moved to California in 1960 and placed membership with the La Puente church in 1963. Ellis began ministering in 1971 and retired as the senior minister of the congregation in 2013 when his son, Ellis Lewis Jr., became the minister. Ellis Sr. stated, "I feel very fortunate to have been the minister of this congregation for 40 years. And although we have endured many hardships, we have continued to grow stronger as a congregation in love and unity."

Verna worked in many different ministries of the church and led community events that encouraged community participation. Her words of wisdom are, "Keep your heart and hands in the master's hand and your

arms in a chain of love for your sisters and brothers so you can lift those who fall and guide those who have lost their way back to the master."

The couple feels very blessed that their three sons and their families remain faithful to the work of the Lord's church.

We wish these "pioneer" couples many more anniversaries of good health, continued blessings and happiness.

Memorials

Cynthia Ann Coates 1964-2021

Cynthia Ann (Cannon) Coates, a wonderful wife, mother and daughter and a devoted children's minister, volunteer and advocate, died Sept. 14, 2021. She was 57.

She was born Feb. 18, 1964, to Glenn and Carol Cannon at Kincheloe Air Force Base in Michigan. She was active in Wilderness Trek Christian Camp, serving as a crew leader and guide, and through Trek she met the love of her life, Neal, whom she married Dec.

15, 1984, while they were students at Abilene Christian University.

She served three years as the

Continued on Page 27



NEWSMAKERS



OHIO VALLEY UNIVERSITY
STEPPING STONES
THRIFT
SHOP

PHOTO VIA OVU STEPPING STONES THRIFT SHOP

The Parkersburg, W.Va., chapter of the women's group Stepping Stones raised \$40,000 for Ohio Valley University during the 2020-21 academic year. Susan Ryan Cockerham, the chapter's president, said the chapter's thrift shop raised most of the money.

APPOINTED: Six new members to *The Christian Chronicle's* Journalism Advisory Council: **Shelby Coates**, **Timothy Hall**, **BT Irwin**, **Nia Johnson**, **Stewart McKenzie** and **Jim Miller**. The council offers guidance on journalistic and ethical matters and otherwise lends expertise to the *Chronicle's* effort to report real news that honors God. **Dan Macaluso** as the next vice president for advancement at Abilene Christian University in Texas. **Blair Schroeder** as the chief planning officer, a newly created position at ACU.



Coates



Johnson



Harris



Daugherty

HIRED: Keith Harris as the new minister for the Lewisville Church of Christ in Texas. Harris previously served as minister for the WindSong Church of Christ in North Little Rock, Ark. **Dyron B. Daugherty** as the new minister for the Redondo Beach Church of Christ in California. Daugherty is a professor of religion at Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif.

Milestones, continued
elementary English as a Second Language teacher and coordinator for the Lawrence Unified School District in Kansas. After the first of their five children was born, Cynthia was a stay-at-home mother who was active in youth and children's ministry with congregations in Kansas, Texas and Connecticut. Cynthia was a founding member and vice president of the Anencephaly Support Foundation, a board member for the Brazos Valley Crisis Pregnancy Center, and was instrumental in the creation of a Birth Defects Registry in the Texas Department of Health. All of these commitments grew out of her love and appreciation for life and for her son, Samuel. In 1995, she testified in Chicago before the American Medical Association Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs. She and the doctors who spoke were successful in reversing a rule that allowed organs to be harvested from anencephalic infants. She became children's minister for the Hillcrest Church of Christ in Abilene, Texas, in 2011, serving in that role until her passing. In 2021, she earned a Certificate in Children's Ministry from Bethel University. Cynthia was preceded in death by her infant son, Samuel. She is survived by her husband of 37 years, Neal Coates of Abilene, and by their four children and two grandchildren. Those wishing to honor Cynthia may contribute to the Children's Ministry Program at Hillcrest Church of Christ. Condolences may be offered to the family online at www.pbfuneraldirectors.com.

Clydene 'Dene' Judd
1928-2021

Clydene "Dene" Gardner Judd, 93, of Juliette, Ga., passed away Sept. 27, 2021. She was born in Birmingham, Ala., to the late Clyde and Grace Boley Gardner. She was lovingly known to everyone as Mammaw. She was a member of the Thomaston Road Church of Christ in Macon, Ga. She served as a missionary to Africa for over 50 years with her husband, Jimmy Judd, and their family. She was retired as a Licensed Practical Nurse.

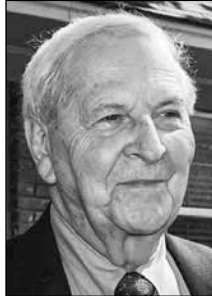
She is survived by sons Randy Judd (Marty), Ed Judd (Sue) and Phillip Judd; daughters Deborah Judd Horne and Beverly Judd Selph; 10 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; one great-great-granddaughter; and several nieces and nephews.



Jimmy Moffett
1930-2021

James G. Moffett (Jim or Jimmy) grew up in east Texas, where he graduated from Carthage High School in 1947. He was baptized into Christ in 1943. At the age of 16 he enrolled in Freed-Hardeman College in Henderson, Tenn., to train for ministry. After graduation, Jim married Peggy Lee Ford of Memphis, Tenn., in 1950. The Moffetts began their work with the Raleigh Church of Christ in Memphis in 1953, serving until 1968. They returned in 1973 to the Raleigh church where Jim served as a co-minister with Robert L. (Bob) Brewer for six years. Jim also served as an elder at Raleigh from 1975 until his retirement in 1999. All together, Jim preached for the Raleigh church 42 years.

Jim was a scholastic evangelist. He received a master's in religious education from Harding Graduate School of Religion (now Harding School of Theology). He was selected as the first recipient of the school's Alumnus of the Year award. Jim's focus was always Jesus first instead of pushing for his own recognition and acclaim. Jim's love was for Jesus, his family and the Raleigh church, which resulted in the growth of a healthy congregation. Jim was preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, Peggy Lee Ford, son-in-law John Andrew Smith and granddaughter Kerri Lynn Castello.



He is survived by daughters Marla Jane Grubbs (Steve) and Lora Lee Castello (Sergio), son James Timothy Moffett (Beth), brother Charles Milton Tucker (Patricia), stepbrother Jesse Bankhead (Betty), six grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Mike Talley
1948-2021

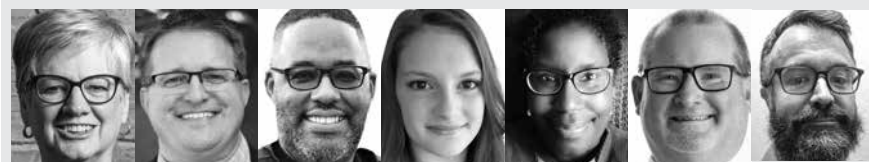
Michael Ford Talley of Plainview, Texas, passed away Aug. 31, 2021. Mike was born Dec. 17, 1948, in Lubbock to Ford and Mary Jane Gipson Talley. He graduated from Mineral Wells High School, Fort Worth Christian College and Oklahoma Christian College. He began his career in ministry in Dodge City, Kan., as a youth minister. He spent two years in Lubbock attending Sunset School of Preaching where he met Clovia Riggan. They married Jan. 29, 1976. Together they went on to serve in Churches of Christ in Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. Mike held positions as youth minister, singles minister, education and involvement minister and pulpit minister. While working, he graduated from Abilene Christian University in Texas with a master's certificate in gerontology, which later led to his work as a Hospice Chaplain for Lakeview Christian Home in Carlsbad, N.M. He retired due to increasing difficulties with Parkinson's disease. The Talleys lived for the past 10 years in Plainview where they enjoyed the supportive fellowship of their Garland Street Church of Christ family. Memorials may be sent to the Children's Home of Lubbock, Sunset international Bible Institute in Lubbock, or Eastern European Mission.



WITH APPRECIATION: *The Christian Chronicle* appreciates gifts received in honor of Gary Gurley, Walt Leaver and Loveta Sartain and in memory of Lawrence and Jeanette Bosworth and Jack Greenwood.

EDITORIAL

Facing the facts about Facebook



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER: The Editorial Board welcomes Cheryl Mann Bacon. Bacon is the retired chair of the journalism department at Abilene Christian University in Texas. Other board members, from left, are Jeremie Beller, John Edmerson, Audrey Jackson, Trindi Mitchell, Bobby Ross Jr. and Erik Tryggstad.

Facebook is not the problem. Facebook *has* problems that have spurred headlines, congressional hearings and expansive public scrutiny. But for Christians, none of that is really the problem.

A recent *MIT Technology Review* article is the perfect case in point. The article revealed that in 2019, 20 of the top 22 Christian-themed Facebook pages were fake, created by troll farms — some Russian, some Eastern European. These groups work in targeted, organized ways, posting provocative content — often propaganda — to social networks.

Be Happy Enjoy Life, the largest Christian American page in 2019, drew 75 million U.S. users monthly and was 20 times larger than the next largest, similarly targeted page called Jesus is Lord. The only legitimate sites on the list were *Guideposts* and *Christianity Today*, both long-established Christian media organizations.

Christians weren't the only targets. Top sites aimed at African Americans

and Native Americans also were the product of these enterprises.

Some pages are politically motivated with ties to foreign adversaries. Others are created just to drive engagement — likes, comments, shares — in order to generate clicks and make money. Anger is easier to arouse than more positive emotions. Recent Senate hearings revealed that Facebook's own algorithms push divisive content in front of our eyes in an effort to keep our attention.

Facebook took down most of the 20 troll sites after completing the 2019 report *MIT Technology Review* obtained and wrote about in the article. But the farms are still out there, harvesting the gullible, victimizing other social media platforms as well.

"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves,"

Jesus told his apostles (Matthew 10:16). *"Therefore, be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves."*

He didn't tell them to avoid wolves. He didn't tell them to argue with wolves. He said, essentially, "That's where I'm sending you — out among

the wolves. So be smart, pay attention. And don't be like them."

Being "shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves" requires prayerful discernment as we wander the digital valley of the shadow of death. Three questions should guide our social media engagement.

1. Why am I here?

Facebook provides us the opportunity to connect and to maintain relationships by sharing a bit about our lives. We share our travels and family pictures and, in the process, reconnect with real-life friends from long ago or far away. Share the conversations you would share in real life, and remember that once it's out there, it's out there. Protect the privacy of others, including your children and other family members. Facebook is not the place to vent about overreaching elders, teen parenting or intrusive in-laws.

2. What can I believe?

Social media gives churches and ministries a platform for sharing information about services, opportunities, and people. These connections can be useful, even rewarding. Social media can be a place to find information, but

doing so requires users to educate themselves. Is the source real? Does it exist in other places, online or on solid ground? Are links provided to verifiable websites, original research or reporting by other sources with which you're familiar? Do news items link to a real news website?

3. How should I respond?

First, be kind.

The written word is powerful, but even professional writers labor to convey tone, temperament and inference in clear, understandable fashion. The average Facebook user dashing off a 25-word post can insult and offend unintentionally, and, too often, does so quite intentionally.

Jesus' description of the serpent and the dove are rendered differently by different translations, providing a good guide for our life on Facebook and our life together.

To be his sheep among wolves, we must be as wise, prudent, smart, clever, cunning, wary, sly and shrewd as snakes. And as harmless, guileless, inoffensive, simple, gentle, faultless and innocent as doves.

Second, be kind. — **Cheryl Mann Bacon, for the Editorial Board**

'Three questions should guide us as we engage social media.'

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FROM OUR READERS

Front-page Afghanistan story draws praise from a reader

I appreciated the very informative article on Afghanistan ("Afghan mission becomes a race to save lives," Page 1, October).

It's such a difficult issue to imagine as an American in the States and something of which we should be made aware. Great job.

SHARON WOOMER | Belpre, Ohio

Paul writes: *"Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple"* (Romans 16:17-18).

John writes: *"Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds"* (2 John 9-11).

In the light of these commands of Almighty God, why do you accept advertising for books that teach false doctrine? And why do you have on your advisory board people who attend congregations that use instrumental music and that have women speaking in the assembly?

ROY DAVISON | Hasselt, Belgium

Your article on Sierra Bible Camp in Northern California brought back many memories ("Dixie Fire burns down California church camp," Page 3, September).

I was fortunate enough to attend the first encampment on the site. I had just graduated from high school, and my family were longtime members of the Redding congregation where George Dickson was the minister. As I remember, the boys slept in the unfinished end of the cafeteria or office building, and the girls slept in a "revival" tent.

During our session at the camp, there was a contest to name the camp. After a discussion with one of the teachers, I submitted the name "Sierra Bible Camp." I won!

I still have the Bible that was given to me as a memory of naming the camp! I am saddened about the fire, but it doesn't take away the memories. My prayers are that the camp can be reconstructed and many more young people will be able to attend and be enriched with the learning and association that comes from being in Bible camp.

DARLENE LOVELADY DAVIS | La Palma, Calif.

No nation can long survive without law and order. Until recently, this has been one of the strongest elements of our government. The vast majority of our law enforcement are good people who serve every day with a conscientious effort to ensure that we have a peaceful society.

This service should be recognized, appreciated and celebrated. Unfortunately, many today do not share this sentiment. *The Christian Chronicle* should be a bold voice in pointing out the positive, essential benefits of law enforcement to society.

RAY FALCONBERRY | Nashville, Tenn.

It saddens me to know that the Churches of Christ are dwindling (Editorial: "How churches of Christ can grow again," Page 30, September).

I am 55, and I have visited various churches throughout the East Coast as we moved around and traveled over the years. Many of those visits, I have to say, made my heart sad. We would come and go without anyone even recognizing we were there.

We do not seem to have the enthusiasm the early church did for what Christ did for us. We forget that we were once lost. So many people are in need of Jesus in their lives, and we have become too complacent.

DOREEN BONHAM | Lancaster, Pa.

'Brenton' by Rick Gibson and W. Keith Brenton

I'M HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS. THEY ONLY LAST A SECOND AND THEN THEY'RE GONE.



See more by following [brenton.daily](#) on Facebook and Instagram.

TO OUR READERS

What are you thankful for?

This is our November edition of *The Christian Chronicle*.

Depending on how quickly the U.S. Postal Service delivers the December issue, though, you should receive it by Thanksgiving.

In the *Chronicle* this year, we've covered a number of heavy topics, from politics to racial reconciliation to the pandemic. We believe such dialogue is important.

But as we move into the holiday season, we don't want to neglect to take time to thank God for all our many blessings. For the *Chronicle*, of course, those blessings include the many readers who contribute generously and sacrificially to help us report real news that honors God.

Meanwhile, I appreciate Trindi Mitchell, a member of the *Chronicle's* editorial board, for suggesting that we emphasize gratitude in an upcoming editorial. Look for that in the next issue.

However, we don't just want you to hear from us.

We want to hear from *you*.

We want to know what you're grateful for.

How has God blessed you over the past year? How has he blessed your family? Your home congregation? Your community?

Before digging into the turkey and dressing (at least that's what will be on the Thanksgiving menu at my mom and dad's house), what specific blessings will you thank God for?

We'd love to hear from you.

Email us at letters@christianchronicle.org. Be sure to include your home city and state in case we decide to publish your response. We won't have space to include every letter, but we'll enjoy receiving them all.

Thank you for reading and supporting the *Chronicle*! — **Bobby Ross Jr., editor-in-chief**

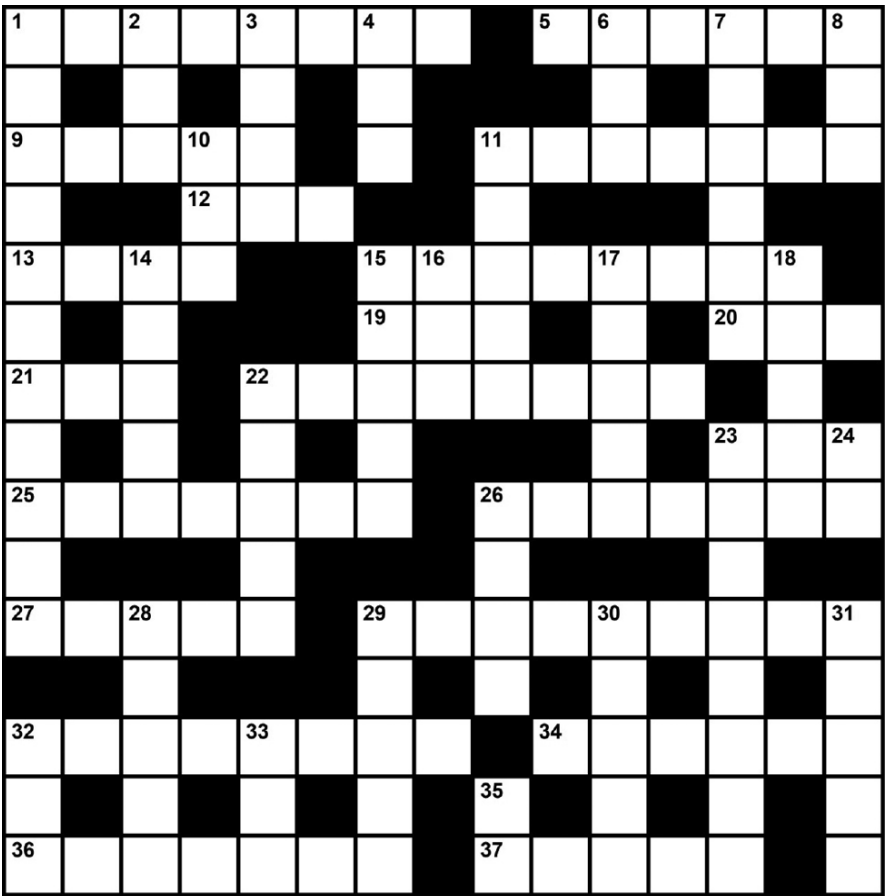


The Christian Chronicle Crossword

By Myles Mellor | www.ilovecrosswords.com

ACROSS

1. *"In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make _____ your paths"* (Proverbs 3:3-6, English Standard Version).
5. *"For I know the plans I have for you, ... to give you a _____"* (Jeremiah 29:11, ESV).
9. *"But they who wait for the Lord shall _____ their strength"* (Isaiah 40:31, ESV).
11. *"Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! _____ is the man who takes refuge in him!"* (Psalms 34:8, ESV).
12. Cleaning cloth.
13. Close to.
15. *"The Lord is my _____, I shall not want"* (Psalm 23:1, ESV).
19. Green vegetable.
20. Corn piece.
21. A couple of.
22. Saving for future use.
23. Farm bird.
25. *"Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love _____ forever!"* (Psalms 107:1, ESV).
26. *"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his _____"* (Romans 8:28, ESV).
27. *"Be watchful, _____ firm in the faith"* (1 Corinthians 16:13, ESV).
29. Our faith can move _____ (Matthew 17:20).
32. *"Be _____, stand firm in the faith"* (1 Corinthians 16:13, ESV).
34. *"Do not be _____ or terrified because of them, for the Lord God goes with you;"* (Deuteronomy 31:6, New International Version).
36. Duration of time.
37. *"And she called his name _____"*



and she said, because I drew him out of the water" (Exodus 2:10, King James Version).

DOWN

1. *"I can do all things through him who _____ me"* (Philippians 4:13, ESV).
2. Fled.
3. Its flag states, "Our liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain."
4. One of Noah's sons.
6. Do something with.
7. Hesitant.
8. Conclude.
10. "To _____ is human ..."
11. *"Give us this day our daily _____"* (Matthew 6:11, KJV).
14. *"Then he took the book of the Covenant, in which the Lord's commands were written and read it _____ to the people"* (Exodus 24:7, Good News Translation).
15. Intervals.
16. Belonging to a lady.
17. *"Now I know that you _____ and obey God, because you have not*

BIBLE BOWLING

The last shall be first

THE LAST LETTER of each answer is the first letter of the next answer, and the last letter of answer No. 10 is the first letter of answer No. 1.

1. Eldest of the children of Israel.
2. Found between Ezra and Esther.
3. Companion of faith and love.
4. Jacob's older brother.
5. Leprous king of Judah.
6. Son of Ahaz, father of Manasseh.
7. Agagite who hated Jews.
8. A minor prophet from Elkosh.
9. Esther's cousin.
10. Brother of answer to No. 1.

Bonus: Name three books in the Bible that mention the prophet Jonah but are *not* the book of Jonah. (Hint: one is Old Testament and two are New Testament.)

Quiz by Steve Whitehead of the British Bible School, britishbibleschool.com.

ANSWERS, crossword solution on Page 34.

- kept back your only son from him"* (Genesis 22:12, GNT).
18. Challenges.
22. King in the Gospels.
23. Christmas and Easter, for example.
24. Vane direction, abbr.
26. A missionary for the early church.
28. Temple feature.
29. *"Out of the _____ of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies"* (Psalms 8:2, KJV).
30. Small clumps.
31. Marsh plant.
32. Existed.
33. Strike.
35. Morning time.

Word Find: The gospel of John

By Betty Hollister | The Christian Chronicle

BETHSAIDARIMATHEAAKEGI
EEVERLASTINGOLGOTHAANY
TTLESISCARIOTAUGHTLSIS
HEHIRTGEXCHANGEITIUANA
ARSOEYIHREASONSELLBNEI
NNSHMVOFTVALIDNETMDHTR
YAEARAINYEAEELDEEIOEES
ELLIEVSNEEONTTDHADTDIB
LDPSHTJEGEMUTSSUSGPRLI
EEISTNIHTUSSSTLAHNEIUT
ARCEOWTIAUESOSNAFICNFN
NESMEELNREIGNHESIKCOTE
AWIRRERARAMAICTSRCAFI
HSDAAEZEBEDEEGOIAEIEUD
TNZRPASSOVERDENRAELFRE
AASALVATIONDDELLIFLUFB
NICODEMUSAMARITANAHPRO

Find the following words from the Gospel of Johb. The unused 35 letters form a statement about the purpose of the book. (Find the answer on Page 34.)

- | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| • ACCEPTED | • EVERYONE | • MESSIAH | • SALVATION |
| • ANDREW | • EXCHANGE | • NATHANAEL | • SAMARITAN |
| • ANSWERED | • FAITH | • NAZARETH | • SANHEDRIN |
| • ARAMAIC | • FRUITFUL | • NICODEMUS | • SERVANT |
| • ARIMATHEA | • FULFILLED | • OBEDIENT | • SIMON |
| • ATTEND | • GALILEE | • OFFICIAL | • TAUGHT |
| • BELIEVING | • GOLGOTHA | • ORPHAN | • TESTIFY |
| • BETHANY | • INSULTED | • OTHER | • THOMAS |
| • BETHSAIDA | • ISCARIOT | • PASSOVER | • TIBERIAS |
| • BREAKFAST | • ISRAELITE | • PLEASES | • VALID |
| • CAPERNAUM | • KINGDOM | • REASONS | • ZEBEDEE |
| • DISCIPLES | • LAZARUS | • REIGN | |
| • ETERNAL | • LEARNED | • RIGHTEOUS | |
| • EVERLASTING | • LISTENING | • RULERS | |

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Father, daughter provide a recipe of rescue for toxic church culture

Sharp divides have split congregants at the 2021 Southern Baptist Convention. The #MeToo movement has shed light on years of sexual predation across churches. *Christianity Today's* podcast, "The Rise and Fall of Mars Hill," has been widely shared and debated on social media.

All of this makes it clear that churches are not always places of healthy, safe fellowship.

In "**A Church Called Tov: Forming a Goodness Culture That Resists**

Abuses of Power and Promotes Healing," Scot McKnight, New Testament professor at Northern Baptist Seminary, and his daughter Laura Barringer, an author and teacher, argue that churches can be places of love and healing.

They call this the Circle of Tov, from the Hebrew word for "good." By fostering a culture of goodness, churches can "resist abuses of power," they write, and "eradicate the toxic fallout that infects so many Christian organizations."

Does the book deliver on the promise to demonstrate a better way? My answer is a resounding yes. It is an easy-to-read, clear guide for churches.

The book is organized into two parts. The first focuses on the formation of church cultures. The authors write that "culture socializes us into what is considered proper behavior," and "the (church) leaders guide the organization toward a particular culture." The authors contend that congregations participate in the creation of culture as well by how they respond to the messages and actions of the leaders.

McKnight and Barringer do not shy away from specific church

scandals involving their own community, such as Willow Creek's botched handling of accusations against its leader, Bill Hybels, for predatory behavior. This section provides helpful tips, allowing both leaders and church members to identify warning signs that their church may be supporting a toxic culture.

Part 2 is focused on developing the Circle of Tov within a church. The authors lay out specific ways to foster a culture of empathy, grace, people-first, truth, justice,

service and Christlikeness. Each chapter offers clues to help identify whether your church's culture is promoting the virtue addressed. If such virtue is lacking, they provide guidance on how to fix it.

When both church leaders and congregants understand a church culture of goodness, it makes it easier to effectively grow toward a culture that resists abuse of power and promotes healing.

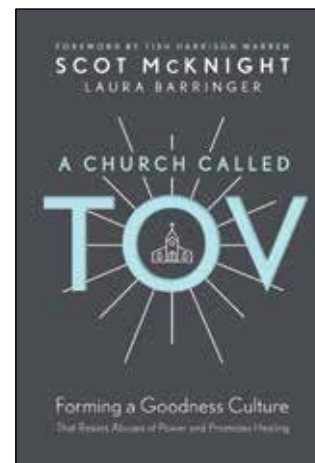
"A Church Called Tov" is, as its authors wished it to be, a book of hope. It can be used as a roadmap equipping churches to guard against attitudes and behaviors that lead to a culture of harm. It can, likewise, help cultivate virtues leading to a culture of goodness.

A commitment to a culture of Tov has never been more important in American churches, and McKnight and Barringer's book can serve as an important tool for all of us.

In Print

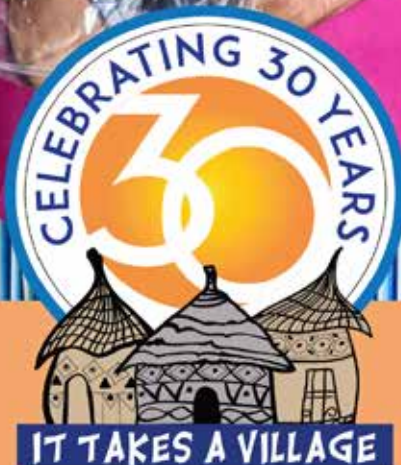


Jennifer Shewmaker



Scot McKnight and Laura Barringer. **A Church Called Tov: Forming a Goodness Culture that Resists Abuses of Power and Promotes Healing.** Tyndale Momentum, 2020. 256 pages. \$20.69.

JENNIFER SHEWMAKER is dean of the College of Education and Human Services and professor of psychology at Abilene Christian University in Texas. Her latest book is "Creating and Consuming Media Messages With Purpose: A Guide for Educators." For more information, see jennifersheemaker.com.



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Crossword | From Page 30



Bible Bowling | From Page 30

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1) Reuben, Genesis 29:32. | 7) Haman, Esther 3. 8) Nahum. |
| 2) Nehemiah. | 9) Mordecai, Esther 2. |
| 3) Hope, 1 Corinthians 13:13. | 10) Issachar, Genesis 30:18. |
| 4) Esau, Genesis 25:25. | Bonus: 2 Kings 14:25; Matthew 12:38-41, 16:4, 16:17; Luke 11:29. |
| 5) Uzziah, 2 Chronicles 26. | |
| 6) Hezekiah, 2 Kings 16:20. | |

Word Search | From Page 31

The unused 35 letters read: "A KEY IS BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD."



A motorbike speeds by one of the murals near the Campamento town square.

Handyman has a heart for Honduras

CAMPAMENTO, Honduras

I met Donnie Anderson at a garbage dump.

Sort of. I was in Honduras in 2012 covering an effort by missionaries to serve people, a lot of them children, who scratched out a living at a massive, mountaintop landfill. I interviewed the poor, beautiful souls as they fished through chicken bones and glass in search of plastic bottles they could sell to a recycling business.

(Eat your heart out, Mike Rowe.)

Donnie, a self-described handyman and builder, was working on a mission project involving aquaponics. He had done about 10 trips to Honduras, and the missionaries had convinced him to "go down for a couple of years," he told me.

Nine years later, he's still in Honduras. Security concerns made the hydroponics project unworkable, but Bobby Moore invited him to move to Campamento, a quiet town in Honduras' Olancho state, to oversee the ministry programs of Bread for a Hungry World. A few years later, that ministry merged with Christian Relief Fund.

When I told Bobby I was going to be in Olancho covering another ministry, Predisan, he suggested I stop by and talk to Donnie for my piece on CRF's 50th anniversary.

I got to meet Donnie's wife, Dana. They met at a coffee bar where she worked. They married in 2013 and have an adorable 8-year-old son, D.J. I also interviewed Cecilia Martinez,

who has worked for the Campamento program for 10 years. These folks

have found ways to serve hundreds of kids — and their families — despite the hardships of COVID-19.

Most inspiring was my visit with Iris Alicia Matute, principal of a school with 280 kids, all sponsored through CRF. She teared up as she talked about all the work that Christian teams from the U.S. have put into the school and the children's lives.

Before we left, we took in some of the beautiful murals painted in Campamento's town square.

It was a blessing seeing God at work. Thanks, Donnie. I'll try to make it back in less than nine years.

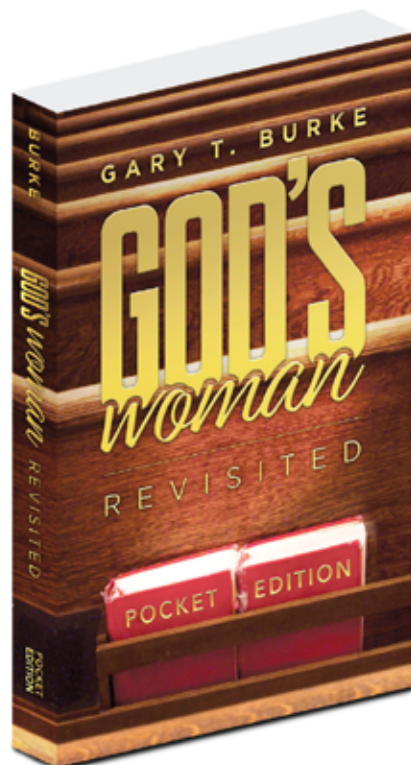
Don't go anywhere.

ERIK TRYGGESTAD is president and CEO of *The Christian Chronicle*. Contact erik@christianchronicle.org, and follow him on Twitter @eriktryggestad.



PHOTOS BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Donnie Anderson with wife Dana (in orange), son D.J., coworker Cecilia Martinez and a young friend in Campamento, Honduras.



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