



After struggling for years, OVU forced to close

UNIVERSITY HAD FAILED for months to meet payroll as bills piled up.

BY CHERYL MANN BACON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Ohio Valley University closed its doors permanently at the end of the fall semester after a Dec. 8 vote by trustees.

Years of financial struggles and millions of dollars in debt had left the Christian university, founded in 1958, unable to pay salaries or issue transcripts.

President Michael Ross informed students, faculty and staff of the decision just two days before the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission voted to revoke the institution's authority to issue degrees.

Ross said OVU also had informed the Higher Learning Commission, one of six regional institutional accreditors in the United States, of its decision. The institution had been on probation with HLC since June 2020 and was awaiting a June 2021 decision regarding its accreditation status. Loss of accreditation, among other things, would have meant students could not receive federal aid.

As a result, the tiny school in Vienna, W.Va., which was associated with Churches of Christ, will not offer classes in the spring semester but

See **OVU**, Page 6



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MISSION LAZARUS AND HEALING HANDS INTERNATIONAL

Gifts of the Magi: 25,000 kids get presents

A child in rural Honduras, served by the Mission Lazarus ministry, receives a MAGI box of clothes, toys, hygiene items and school supplies. Healing Hands International, a nonprofit supported by Churches of Christ, sent more than 25,000 boxes in 2021 to children in Honduras, Zambia, Kenya, Paraguay and the Texas/Mexico border, said Alisa Van Dyke, Healing Hands' creative director. More than 200 churches and schools filled the boxes. MAGI stands for "Make A Godly Impact." Learn more at hhi.org/magi.

'I'll Fly Away': Minister makes a living in the air

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

NEWMAN, Ga. — On a typical Sunday, Alan Henderson shares God's word with 100 to 110 souls at the Newnan Church of Christ, about 35 miles southwest of Atlanta.

The rest of the week, the part-time preacher lives out his faith from a different vantage point: high above the clouds as a flight attendant for Frontier Airlines.

"Even in my announcements, I take some liberties," Henderson, 60, said of

reflecting his love for Jesus in the air.

"I'll do the spiel I'm supposed to," the father of two explained, "but in the end, I'll add something like, 'And until we see you next time, we remind you to be kind, use your words to bless and encourage people around you, laugh frequently, take care of each other, love your neighbor, and don't spend too much time watching the news.'"

As a bivocational minister, Henderson serves his home congregation in a vital way while earning additional income and health insurance benefits through a secular profession.

"I've been bivocational and trivocational," said

See **BIVOCATIONAL**, Page 8



Henderson

ROXANNE WILSON



OVU President Michael Ross prays with students by a campus fountain in 2019.



SIBI VISION WORKSHOP

Each year, SIBI strives to be a source of encouragement to the brotherhood. This coming year will be an opportunity to spread the Gospel. Make plans now to attend the SIBI Vision Workshop in Lubbock. Let us explore together what ***Preach the Word to Every One*** means.

WORKSHOP.SUNSET.BIBLE



On the menu: bivocational ministry talk

NEWNAN, Ga.

I do some of my best journalism with a fork in my hand.

Or maybe I just love eating.

For my front-page story on bivocational ministry, I caught up with Alan Henderson at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

Henderson, who works as a Frontier Airlines flight attendant and preaches for the Newnan Church of Christ, had spent a big portion of the previous 24 hours in the air.

As we

drove south on Interstate 85 toward Newnan, I quizzed Henderson about his dual roles in the sky and behind the pulpit.

Then we kept the conversation going over lunch at Sprayberry's Bar-B-Q.

The popular local eatery features signs urging diners to "Pig Out." Pictures highlight famous residents, such as country singer Alan Jackson and late humor columnist Lewis Grizzard.

I ordered the fried catfish platter (I highly recommend it) and enjoyed a slice of chocolate cream pie for dessert. But enough about my not-so-healthy diet.

Besides Henderson, about 40 bivocational ministers across the nation offered helpful feedback for my story.

I don't have room to mention all of them, but I

See **MINISTRY**, Page 4

For refugees, a halal turkey dinner

OKLAHOMA CONGREGATION hosts Thanksgiving for hundreds of its Afghan neighbors.

BY AUDREY JACKSON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

OKLAHOMA CITY

When Clay Hart, the Memorial Road Church of Christ's international outreach minister, invited Afghan refugees resettled in Oklahoma City to the church's Thanksgiving outreach dinner, he expected about 100 people to sign up — not 325.

Hart learned of the increase two days before the dinner in an email from Mark Chan, an Oklahoma Christian University graduate who serves as Catholic Charities of Oklahoma City's director of refugee resettlement.

The news sent Hart to his knees.

Once he recovered from the shock, Hart contacted fellow Memorial Road ministers, seeking reinforcements.

"I knew that Andy Lashley and Terry Fischer would know what to do and who to call," Hart said. "I mean, not even Ghostbusters was gonna help us."



PHOTO PROVIDED BY CLAY HART

Afghan refugees and members of the Memorial Road Church of Christ eat dinner.

The 2,300-member Oklahoma church unknowingly laid the groundwork for the dinner in September when the congregation partnered with Catholic Charities to adopt 15 Afghan refugee families moving into the area. Memorial Road members furnished apartments, helped with transportation and offered to be

friendly faces to the refugees now living in a foreign country.

When the church's 30th annual international Thanksgiving dinner approached on Nov. 21, Hart didn't hesitate to invite the "new neighbors."

Islamic dietary restrictions weren't entirely unfamiliar to the dinner. The

See **REFUGEES**, Page 10

'The fact that no kids were killed was just amazing'

VICTIMS OF DEADLY bus crash include church elder and band director with ACU ties.

BY CALVIN COCKRELL | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Terry Duzan drove his bus full of Andrews High School band members through the smoke and debris all around him on Interstate 20, desperately hoping to avoid whatever he had glimpsed smash into the lead bus.

Not until he managed to come safely to a stop a little further down the road did he fully take in the carnage that had just taken place in front of him.

"I was just terrified of what I might see," Duzan told *The Christian Chronicle*. "I was just envisioning bodies everywhere."

Duzan, an elder of the Andrews Church of Christ in West Texas, has



FACEBOOK PHOTO VIA WEST TEXAS OIL FIELD TRAFFIC UPDATE

Wreckage burns on the side of the road.

been driving activity buses for Andrews High School for over a decade.

It started when he was a teacher and tennis coach but continued even after

he retired a few years ago. The retirement didn't last long, though — he's back to coaching again.

Duzan was at tennis practice on the Friday afternoon before Thanksgiving when he was called on to drive one of the buses carrying the Andrews High School band to Sweetwater, a two-hour drive east. The school's football team was to face Springtown there in a playoff game.

The 60-year-old hadn't thought he'd be driving this time, but when one of the three drivers couldn't go, Duzan was asked to fill in.

In hindsight, he said, it was providential.

His presence would be needed

See **CRASH**, Page 12

PRESENTS MORE THAN 100 EXAMPLES OF
GOD'S DESIGNS WHICH ATHEISTIC
EVOLUTION CANNOT PROVIDE

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION

IMPOSSIBLE
FOR
EVOLUTION!

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION
THE ARRAY

GET A FREE PDF
COPY BY
REGISTERING AT
[occg.institute/
mailling-list/](http://occg.institute/mailling-list/)

or

ORDER HARD COPY
FOR \$30 AT
[occg.institute/
books/](http://occg.institute/books/)

NT:OA

New Testament: Only and All of it.

www.occg.institute
A COC NT:OA RESOURCE

PROVIDING:

SHORT ANSWERS TO P.E. QUESTIONS
WINGS OF EAGLES P.E. VIDEOS
TOPICAL LESSONS AND PAPERS
WORKSHOPS
BOOKS

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO HELP

For more information,
info@occg.institute

 OC CHURCH
GROWTH
INSTITUTE

MINISTRY: Juggling secular, church work

FROM PAGE 3

thought I'd share some of their insights in this space:

"I decided to pursue a business degree instead of a Bible degree. There were numerous factors. ... For one, I am not a fan of the way preachers are sometimes expected to fill the role of a pastor. Churches should be founded upon the work of common, everyday Christians rather than relying on a few professional clergymen." — Tyler Boyd, banker, deacon of the Olive Branch Church of Christ in Mississippi and frequent fill-in preacher

"The greatest benefit I've seen is in the realm of taxes, retirement and other benefits which most churches do not offer their ministers." — Joshua Dement, funeral director and minister for the Pyburn Street Church of Christ in Pocahontas, Ark.

"I think every congregation needs to evaluate ... what their vision is to bring the good news to their community. ... Sometimes that may require a minister to be fully devoted (in occupation) to just the congregation. Other times it might be even more beneficial to have someone with a skill set that has them currently working a secular job as well. I don't think there is just one formula for success here." — Ghavinn Crutcher, mental health clinician and lead minister for the Elk Grove Church of Christ in California

"It is refreshing to pour myself into the Word, seeking ways to creatively and effectively present biblical truths without the collateral concerns of congregation bureaucracy, which often obscures the mission of the church. Working daily in the 'real world' also seems to provide a sense of relatedness and connection to the members sometimes missed in the disconnect between preachers and the

congregants." — Bruce Dimick, marriage and family therapist and preacher for the Haven Church of Christ in Kansas

"In my conversations with other members, they appreciate the 'real-life perspective' that a vocational minister brings to the pulpit as it adds to the message. Vocational ministers have 'been there, done that,' allowing them to have knowledge and experience that many of the young to very-young graduates of preaching schools do not have." — Kevin Tackett, public school teacher and minister/elder of the Woodhaven Church of Christ in Chatsworth, Ga.



BOBBY ROSS JR.

Bivocational minister Alan Henderson rides an airport shuttle.

"It is rewarding for me to serve as a minister, but the challenges get heavy at times. ... It weighs on me when I can't meet the needs of the flock due to my full-time career. I also know that doing all that I do, my cup is emptied so much quicker than it would be just doing one job, especially being the father of two at home. ... I

have had to make very concentrated efforts at making sure I take time for rest, balance and just learning to set aside some time to be with my family at home or take a trip and just give myself time to refill my cup." — Landon Lewis, public school choir teacher and drumline director and minister for the Ninnekah Church of Christ in Oklahoma

"The growth of the church does not depend on the minister but on the commitment of the congregation to follow the commands of God. As we go into the world, we are to make disciples, baptizing them. We can't pay someone else to do that for us." — Don Brooker, business owner and minister for the Cross City Church of Christ in Florida

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).



PHOTOS VIA ROSEMARY CHURCH OF CHRIST'S FACEBOOK PAGE

Blankets of love: North Carolina group finds way to serve community

Women at the Rosemary Church of Christ in Washington, N.C., show blankets they made to donate to the community. They are part of a group known as Women of Worth that delivered more than 220 handmade blankets to the River Trace Nursing and Rehabilitation Center and the Ridgewood Rehabilitation and Living Center. The project began in October with a goal of creating no-sew blankets as an act of service for the community. Six sessions later, the Christians achieved their goal in time for Christmas. "We thought this was an untapped resource where we can give back to the community while also kind of reconnecting with everyone again now that we're able to be back together," said Mallory Ball, referring to gatherings resuming after COVID-19 lockdowns. Ball, who helped deliver the blankets, spoke to WITN-TV, an NBC affiliate in eastern North Carolina.

KENTUCKY

LOUISVILLE — An armed youth tried to steal a full collection plate from the Portland Avenue Church of Christ in Louisville, Ky., during a recent worship service.

Minister Gary Butts said the boy came into the church about 15 to 20 minutes before the service started.

"We spoke to him a little bit, and he interacted with us," Butts told *The Christian Chronicle*. "He waited until the offering was taken up and watched where the offering was placed.

"And after the offering was taken and placed, before I could start my sermon, he ran up and grabbed the offering plate and shot down one of the aisles of the church," the minister added. "And halfway down the aisle, he pulled out a gun and pointed it at one of our ... congregation and said, 'I got a gun,' because this lady was headed over toward him. And then several members tackled him ... and held him down until the police came."

Butts said the boy bit several people as they disarmed him and

held him, but no one was significantly injured. He also said no one from the congregation knew the boy or had ever seen him before.

NORTH DAKOTA

BISMARCK — The Bismarck Church of Christ hosted a three-day missions workshop recently. About 45 people attended from eight states and one Canadian province.

The annual event, which began in 1967, focused on the theme of "Ministry in the Midst of Uncertainty."



Laird

Scott Laird, an evangelist for the Great Falls Church of Christ in Montana, said the workshop encourages church leaders in the Northern Plains, where most congregations are small.

"The times of worship fill our hearts, the lessons and groups fill our minds, and the fellowship restores our souls," said Laird, who has served the Great Falls church since 1994.

TENNESSEE

NASHVILLE — The Otter Creek Church — a Church of Christ — is partnering with Catholic Charities of Tennessee to help Afghan refugees who are being resettled to the Nashville area.

The Otter Creek congregation's goal is to help meet the acute needs — food, clothing and financial assistance — for about 40 refugee families who recently arrived.

Preaching minister Joshua Graves said the outreach efforts are the essence of loving God and loving people.

"When I see people in our church who just respond with so much generosity, what's most meaningful to me is it reminds me of how beautiful Christianity can be when people serve and actually put their faith into action," Graves said.



Graves

TEXAS

SAN ANTONIO — A fire set by a home-

less man recently damaged the roof and computer room of the building shared by the Church of Christ Student Center and the Alamo City Church of Christ.

Both groups have been displaced as a result of the smoke, soot and fire damage.

However, minister Mark Forster believes that good has come from the fire as the Alamo City congregation gathers in members' homes.

"We have been reminded of what 'church' really is and that it is us and in our hearts where God meets us," Forster wrote to *The Christian Chronicle* in an email. "Our fellowship is richer and deeper than ever."

The church's insurance will cover the majority of the rebuilding costs, the minister said.



Forster

GOT NEWS? Send news briefs and photos for consideration for the Across the Nation page to Audrey Jackson at audrey@christianchronicle.org.

OVU: Financial difficulties lead to closing of university founded in 1958

FROM PAGE 1

has coordinated with other institutions to “teach out” about 30 students who had planned to graduate in May. A teach-out agreement allows a student to maintain academic progress and complete a degree without loss of credit.

Ross told the West Virginia commission that a college fair Dec. 10, the last day of classes, included more than 25 universities from West Virginia and other states. Among them were at least seven sister institutions associated with Churches of Christ: Faulkner, Freed-Hardeman, Harding, Lubbock Christian, Oklahoma Christian, Rochester and York.

Ross said efforts in the final days included a conversation with an unnamed sister institution about acquiring OVU, but that did not work out. However, “lively conversations” were had as long as 18 months ago with Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn., Harding University in Searcy, Ark., and Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City about the possibility of taking over OVU at some point, Mike O’Neal said. He is a former president at Oklahoma Christian and a past consultant to OVU.

“The heart was there in each case,” O’Neal said, pointing to OVU’s millions of dollars of debt as the reason those institutions concluded “that would not make sense for them.”

Ross also told the state commission that “faculty and staff will be made whole.” Just a day after the closing was announced, an anonymous donor committed \$900,000 to pay all employees their full salaries through the end of December. OVU had about 80 employees in fall 2021; about 40 were full-time.

Don Lallathin, the university’s director of philanthropy, told *The Christian Chronicle*, “It feels good that we will be able to make payroll, and as we get into the Christmas season, we will be able to pay our employees.”

At the commission gathering, Ross said, “I’ve had so many different meetings over the past month and especially the past few days. The meeting with students was horrible — just to make the announcement. And the meeting with faculty and staff — some have given 30- or



LISA SHACKLETT

Ohio Valley University in Vienna, W.Va., hosts a college recruiting fair for its remaining students a few days after the Dec. 8 decision to close permanently.

40-plus years to OVU. As an alum, it seems like a time in my life is ending, and I don’t like those endings.”

The commission agenda detailed OVU’s noncompliance with state commission requirements and HLC requirements. It detailed a series of failures to meet financial requirements, problems with reporting and accountability, failure to respond to complaints and provide mandated teach-out agreements to either the West Virginia body, the HLC or both and failure to submit annual dues.

The president did not argue with the findings.

The HLC, after the regularly scheduled but virtual visit in 2020, found the university out of compliance on Criterion Five, Core Component 5.A., which requires that “the institution’s resource base supports its current educational programs and its plans for maintaining and strengthening their quality in the future.”

The report cited an ongoing enrollment decline, repeated years of negative net assets, bond debt of more than \$14 million and other financial issues.

Other concerns included enrollment as related to retention and a continued emphasis on enrolling student athletes with 226 slots available for athletes as of the report date.

Enrollment subsequently declined

even more. Fall 2020 enrollment was 273, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. Fall 2021 enrollment, Ross said in a December interview, was “about 175,” and “between 65 and 70 percent” were athletes competing in 16 sports.

In July 2021, OVU moved from NCAA Division II to the River States Conference of the NAIA, a move Ross said would save \$1.5 million, but he did not know how quickly the savings would be achieved.

The men’s basketball team earned its first and last RSC victory Dec. 2 in a 85-83 victory over Ohio Christian. Michael Schell, conference commissioner, said in an email that all participation in sports was terminated effective Dec. 8, and no further contests will occur.

In a news release, the conference said men’s and women’s basketball team members will not be charged a season of competition, and NAIA recruiting rules have been waived to allow coaches or staff from other schools to contact OVU student-athletes directly.

ACCREDITATION CONCERNS

The actions by OVU trustees and the West Virginia commission decision may render the HLC vote essentially moot. According to HLC

communications director Heather Berg, HLC has informed the institution that, “per HLC policies, it can voluntarily resign its accreditation.”

If it does not, Berg said in an email, “HLC may proceed with withdrawing accreditation following its policies.”

The HLC probation visit took place Nov. 1-2. Its report will not be made public prior to the June meeting. The primary task of the probation visit team was to review evidence of compliance with those concerns cited in the 2020 report.

But on Oct. 26, the HLC president, Barbara Gellman-Danley, informed Ross that “wholly separate from that review,” additional concerns had arisen regarding the institution’s compliance with HLC’s Obligations of Membership.

Specifically, OVU had not responded as required to a student complaint, had not submitted previously required teach-out agreements as part of its provisional plan and was about 120 days past due on annual dues. Failure to resolve these issues would result in administrative probation.

STUDENT, PARENT AND STAFF COMPLAINTS

Also in October the West Virginia commission office began receiving complaints from OVU students, parents and employees about the inability to provide transcripts or meet payroll.

In an Oct. 29 meeting between commission staff and OVU officials, OVU confirmed the reported issues “were accurate and ongoing” and blamed an inoperable server. Donations to help repair the technology were expected but did not arrive when anticipated; subsequent updates to the commission staff were not provided.

The commission said it received “credible information that OVU will have neither English nor math faculty for the spring 2022 semester.”

Ross told the *Chronicle* that lightning took out transformers under the gym during a July storm, shutting down the campus server. The interruption of power corrupted the server’s drives. Staff could not pull the computer systems back up. The drives were sent to California to a data recovery firm recommended by



'To say I am grateful for my time at OVC would be an understatement. But I am even more grateful for what she gave to me while I was there ... what I got to keep within me when I left. That can never be closed.'

Kammi Cole, Parkersburg, W.Va.



'I am the second of three generations to attend OVC/U. ... I have been associated with OVU in some way for, quite literally, my entire life. I am absolutely heartbroken to see it go, and it hardly seems real that it is truly gone.'

Brant Starkey, Mingo Junction, Ohio



'As many who have experienced both the student experience and the employer experience, there are a lot of mixed emotions at play. But I do believe it's significant to understand that while OVU will close, it did not fail.'

Laura Lang, Vienna, W.Va.



'While some were very surprised by these events, we serve a God who ... was not caught off guard. I don't claim to know the 'whys' of all that has happened, but I will trust that God will bring good through this painful time.'

Kathy Carroll, Abilene, Texas

the system manufacturer. Data was recovered but could not be installed because of software that Ross described as "somewhat out of date."

West Virginia Network conducted a site visit Nov. 29 to assess the situation and concluded that staff in the IT, financial aid and bursar's offices lacked "sufficient depth of experience ... to help move OVU out of its current descent."

It also found that the software system had not been updated in seven years, and the company that provides it would not update it for OVU until it was paid for seven years "it has not allowed itself of Ellucians' services."

Ross told the West Virginia commission at its Dec. 10 meeting that the software was being installed on OVU servers that day, and he was cautiously optimistic they would be able to pull transcripts that afternoon to facilitate student transfers and teach-outs.

The server loss also meant data required by the federal government was unavailable — data required before the government would transfer funds for student loans, Pell Grants or work-study funds.

NO CASH FLOW, NO PAYCHECKS

Ross had sought to maintain his trademark optimism even after the HLC probation visit.

He told the 80 or so faculty, staff, students and community members gathered Nov. 18 in Roberts Chapel for his State of the University: "We come together, and this place

flourishes. We become the choice for Christian higher education in the northeastern United States."

He talked about a plan to raise money for scholarships and repair infrastructure, about fundraising targeting people who could give \$1 million and about reaching out to alumni and friends with expertise to offer input: "Give us advice so we aren't making stupid decisions into the future."

But he spoke frankly, in the address and on other occasions, about the debt that burdened OVU for many years.

O'Neal was part of the group that hired Ross as president in 2019 despite his lack of academic experience. (Disclosure: O'Neal serves as chairman of the *Chronicle's* national board of trustees.)

"I saw in him something a few others didn't," O'Neal said of Ross. "I do believe it's been miraculous he's kept it open. It's largely due to his tenacity, his willingness to suffer all kinds of people saying bad things about him and the school. And he's kept it alive."

That said, O'Neal told the *Chronicle* in 2019 that OVU needed to stop the hemorrhaging brought on by longstanding and oppressive debt, originating with bonds sold for purchase of the campus in 2007.

Ross said when he started debt totaled \$30 million. It had been reduced to about \$25 million. In addition to bond debt, OVU owed between \$5 million and \$6 million in patron loans, which he said had

been reduced to about \$4 million. Unspecified debts to vendors and a judgment of \$1.3 million in a suit brought by Aladdin Food Management Services added to the total. In his November address, Ross said some utility bills had balances that had been carried since 2014.

Ross told the *Chronicle* the \$1.3 million circuit court judgment handed down in October 2020 on behalf of Aladdin has been negotiated down to \$750,000. However, OVU has thus far been unable to pay that amount because bond holders restricted how university funds can be used. The bond debt has been in forbearance for two to three years with the university unable to make payments.

Without cash flow, the university couldn't pay the settlement or make payroll. Timely payrolls were an occasional challenge as far back as 2018 and perhaps earlier, according to former employees. But usually only a few days' delay, and only a few times, said Jason Nulton, a former business professor.

Then in July 2021, the payroll issues became constant.

Nulton recalled a speech Ross gave in a faculty meeting just prior to the COVID-19 shutdown.

"A faculty member asked Ross the question, 'Should we expect payroll at the end of the week to occur normally?'" Nulton said. "His answer was something like, 'There will be no change in payroll.' The very next payroll at the end of that week was a delayed payroll."

Yet Nulton said he does not regret his time at OVU, "not even a little."

He said the people at OVU "came to my rescue" during a difficult personal time. "I will never ever forget them. It was a blessing to me at that time. I made lifelong friends. Those people brought me back to the church, and I was baptized there."

Others at OVU declined to talk about the school's demise but eagerly shared stories of its positive impact on their lives.

In separate stints at OVU, Chad Porter spent 11 years as baseball coach, athletic director or both. He left in August 2021 to coach at a local high school.

"People have their reasons for leaving, and we should respect those," Porter said, growing emotional as he talked about the place where he went to school, became a Christian and met his wife. "But I also have a great deal of respect and love for so many people working so hard to turn the place around. People need to know how hard people are working."

Nulton was more pragmatic, "Leadership was so abysmally awful," the retired military officer said. "I wish they would close because they are hurting more than they are helping."

Days after he made that statement came the news that OVU would close.

Alumni shared memories and grief on Facebook pages as details rolled out over OVU's final weeks. One wrote poignantly, "OVU will close, but it did not fail."

BIVOCATIONAL: Many can't afford a full-time preacher

FROM PAGE 1

Henderson, who still mows a handful of yards for a lawn care business he and his son Josiah, 20, began several years ago. Alan and Lanita, the preacher's wife of 38 years, also have an older son, 29-year-old Levi.

Roughly three-quarters of the nation's nearly 12,000 Churches of Christ have fewer than 100 members, according to a national directory published by 21st Century Christian, based in Nashville, Tenn.

The fellowship's median congregational size is 67.

"Many churches are small and can't afford a full-time preacher," said John Hobbs, a retired educator who lives in Wylie, Texas, and mixed teaching public school and preaching for most of his career. "There is a need for tent-making preachers."

In a presentation at the recent Harding University Bible Lectureship in Searcy, Ark., Hobbs pointed to biblical examples: Paul was a tentmaker. Peter and John were fishermen. Elisha was a farmer. Amos was a herdsman.

The future of ministry in America — across all faith groups — is part-time, maintains G. Jeffrey MacDonald, a veteran journalist and author of the 2020 book "Part-Time is Plenty: Thriving Without Full-Time Clergy."

Supporting a full-time minister requires an average of 130 or more in worship, according to MacDonald, who cited research by the Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation, an Indianapolis-based consultancy that's worked with hundreds of churches on sustainability issues.

But 65 percent of American churches count an average of fewer than 100 in worship — up from 49 percent in 2010, according to the 2020 Faith Communities Today study of more than 15,000 U.S. congregations. Ministers will increasingly serve part-time in multiple settings or work outside the church, MacDonald said.

"All signs point to paid ministry becoming something most practitioners will do on a part-time basis, sort of like the Army Reserves,



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ALAN HENDERSON

A bivocational minister, Alan Henderson serves as a flight attendant for Frontier Airlines.

officiating youth athletics or driving a snow plow," MacDonald told *The Christian Chronicle*. "In the case of ministry, it will be a calling but not a standalone livelihood in one local church setting in most cases."

WISDOM AND TIME MANAGEMENT

Anthony Norwood preaches for the Henry Street Church of Christ in Gadsden, Ala., which averages Sunday attendance of about 50.

Norwood balances his work as an insurance claims specialist with preparing and delivering Bible lessons, training church leaders and counseling church members.

"Of course, a minister must be scripturally sound and live as an example for the flock, but he must remember to manage his time well," said Norwood, a bivocational minister for 14 years. "He cannot forget to love his wife and family and juggle properly the demands of the church and family life at the same time. So he must seek wisdom from God at all times and be mindful of time management."

During the week, Rob Sparks manages his father's optometry practice in Crossville, Tenn.

On Sundays, he drives two-plus

hours each way to preach for a small country congregation — the Fernvale Church of Christ in Fairview, Tenn.

"Not depending on the church for our livelihood makes approaching difficult topics and conversations less fraught," said Sparks, who formerly worked in full-time ministry. "I also appreciate the fact that the pressures and constraints of my life as a bivocational minister mirror those of my congregation more closely. ... It's helped me better relate to people."

In Illinois, Stephen R. Bradd serves as a shepherd and preacher for the Clinton Church of Christ while working 40 to 50 hours a week as general manager for a trucking company. The church averages Sunday attendance of about 50.

"For me, it was either embrace bivocational ministry, quit preaching or move to a larger congregation that could support me and my large family fully," said Bradd, whose wife homeschools their eight children. "I love to preach, and God provided a great opportunity for both me and the local body with the bulk of my income through my secular work with the trucking company."

TIME FOR A NEW TRAINING MODEL?

Brian Simmons, a former longtime bivocational minister for the Metro Church of Christ in Gresham,

Ore., teaches communication at Oklahoma Christian University.

As demand for preachers in Churches of Christ exceeds the supply, bivocational ministry likely will be the answer, Simmons said — especially for smaller urban churches and rural churches of any size.

"One implication of this is that churches need to get accustomed to that sort of arrangement," he said. "Another implication is that whoever is training future preachers might want to rethink how that is done."

"The traditional 'go to a four-year Christian college or preaching school and get a Bible/preaching credential' model may need to change," he added, "or at least be supplemented with another means of preparing people for a vocation ... and preparation to preach, too. I know at Oklahoma Christian, where I teach, we are talking about crafting means of doing exactly that."

But the bivocational approach has drawbacks, caution some part-time ministers.

"From my perspective, numerical growth is going to require a full-time commitment," said Bradley Davison, who preaches for the Lakeview Church of Christ in Shawnee, Okla., while working 40-plus hours a week for an energy company.

"Some bivocational ministries are a full-time job on a part-time salary," Davison added. "This can work when the minister has a retirement income and is dedicated to the work of the church and does the outreach. But if ministry is only going on one or two days each week because your bivocational ministers are otherwise engaged, you're not as likely to reach new people."

PART-TIME MINISTRY RUNS IN THE FAMILY

Back in Georgia, Henderson's bivocational path follows in the footsteps of his late father, Clay, who was a salesman and preacher, and his late grandfather, Floyd, who was a farmer, postmaster and preacher.

Henderson earned a bachelor's degree in biblical languages with a minor in accounting from Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn., in 1984. He has worked with churches

— typically on an interim or part-time basis — for 40 years.

After graduating from Lipscomb, he and Lanita served two years as missionaries to Papua New Guinea. They later returned to the U.S., where both completed graduate degrees in theology at Abilene Christian University in Texas.

Henderson has taught Bible at the university and high school levels, including 15 years — in two separate stints — at Greater Atlanta Christian School in Norcross, Ga.

“I really enjoyed all my years of teaching school. I loved the kids and families,” Henderson said in an interview with the *Chronicle* en route from Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport to Newnan, a city of 43,000 known as the hometown of country star Alan Jackson. “But I really love what I’m doing now, too.”

When Henderson first started working as a flight attendant in 2015, a trainer warned new employees not to expect weekends off.

But the Lord has worked it out, Henderson said, allowing him to attend church — and preach — most Sundays. Occasionally, making it to worship has required flying early in the morning or even renting a car at an airport hundreds of miles away and driving all night.

“So as you might imagine, I get a little aggravated when people say, ‘I just couldn’t get up for church. I was too tired or stayed up too late,’” he said. “I don’t want to hear it.”

Often, Henderson’s flight schedule means multiple overnight stays at a hotel hundreds of miles from home.

He always brings his laptop so he can work on sermons and Bible lessons during any free time.

Besides preaching for the Newnan church, Henderson serves as one of its six elders. Fellow elder Steve Cooper said the church has a written arrangement with Henderson outlining expectations for his part-time role.

For example, preaching at least three Sundays per month is the priority. Another expectation is that he will help lead and organize the Bible teaching program.

But pastoral duties such as visiting the sick in the hospital or giving the eulogy at funerals are not required.

“We’re trying to be as good as we can to him because we value his service as a minister,” Cooper said.

“He gives way more of himself than we compensate him for. Alan is a person with that integrity — it’s his desire to overdeliver in any arrangement that he’s in.”

Cooper recalled that when one member’s husband died, Henderson went with her to the funeral home and helped plan the memorial service.

“He was with her every step of the way,” Cooper said. “He could have taken a step back and said, ‘That’s not my responsibility.’ But he stepped in and helped because he said, ‘I love her. I want to do that.’”

Lanita Henderson said she believes her husband’s airline job helps make him a better minister because he meets people who wouldn’t cross his path otherwise.

“I think because he’s out in the culture ... with people that are broken and that are searching and need Jesus, that gives him an outlet,” she said. “Then that helps him to be more fresh when he comes here (to preach). ... It keeps him from getting bogged down in what we think of as traditional church work.”

BRINGING DOWN THE STRESS LEVEL

The COVID-19 pandemic has, in many ways, made flying more stressful, Alan Henderson said.

Many passengers don’t like wearing masks. He said he points out in a friendly way that the flight crew often must wear masks for 15 to 16 hours a day. They don’t like it either, he explains, but they understand why it’s required.

“People get frustrated, aggravated,” Henderson said. “A lot of people aren’t comfortable in airports. It’s nerve-racking. So you help people with their stuff.”

At 38,000 feet above the ground — typically traveling 400 to 500 mph — the preacher enjoys interacting with “congregations” of 186 to 230 passengers. The specific number depends on whether he’s flying an Airbus A320 or A321.

“I love on people, hug on people,” he said of his efforts to bring hope and joy to passengers and fellow crew members.

After one of his in-flight announcements, a lady in the front row proclaimed, “The spirit of God is in you.”

“Well, thank you,” Henderson replied.

Affirming the FAITH SEMINAR

Surviving the TOUGH STUFF



FRIDAY & SATURDAY,
MARCH 4 - 5, 2022

SPONSORED BY:

**Churches of Christ
throughout Oklahoma**

HELD AT:

**North MacArthur Church of Christ
9300 N. MacArthur Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73132
405-621-5962
www.affirmingthefaihtok.com**

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Phillip Johnson
“These Present Sufferings”



Tommy Haynes
“Be Anxious In Nothing”



Jack Evans Jr
“Love Your Neighbor”



Bill Watkins
“I Have Overcome The World”

REFUGEES: 24 turkeys weren't going to be enough

FROM PAGE 3

previous year, the Memorial Road church had accommodated Turkish immigrants with a halal meal, which stipulates a specific way to butcher meat and prohibits the use of certain animal products.

The day before Hart received the email with a new estimate of guests, Marty Karguth had already started cooking food for the dinner. Between the Afghan refugees, Chinese and Turkish immigrants and volunteers, the 24 halal turkeys she had purchased weren't going to be enough.

Turning to Google, Karguth calculated the new proportions she would need to feed the group of about 550 people: 200 pounds of potatoes; 32 turkeys; 16 pounds of spinach, lettuce and cherry tomatoes; gallons of gravy and salad dressing; and 20 bags of cranberries.

It was a feast unlike any other the church had hosted.

Members volunteered to prepare food in shifts, starting Thursday and ending on the day of the dinner (the Sunday before Thanksgiving). Volunteers wheeled the turkeys all over the building to use the church's 10 ovens, some of which were located in children's classrooms for baking crafts.

Busy overseeing and preparing the main meal, Karguth requested that willing members bring dessert. She didn't anticipate receiving 750 slices of pie.

The response from the volunteers overwhelmed her.

"I was just moved to tears numerous times with the number of people who came and what they were willing to do," Karguth said. "And just the way the whole thing came together was just amazing. Only God could do something like that."

Oklahoma Christian University, The Springs Church of Christ and the Edmond Church of Christ loaned vans and drivers to help with the transportation from hotels and apartments to the Memorial Road



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MARTY KARGUTH

Afghan women and children visit in a room separate from the men at the Memorial Road Church of Christ before the outreach dinner in Oklahoma City.

church building.

When refugees gathered at the church two hours before the meal for fellowship, Terry Fischer, the church's outreach minister, described the environment as chaotic — in a good way.

Children who had been cooped up in hotels for weeks descended upon inflatable bouncy houses, games and crafts that volunteers had set up in anticipation of their arrival. A separate room allowed women to drink tea and talk in a quiet space separate from the men. Men wandered between rooms with children and women, visiting together.

With limited translators available for the two languages Pashto and Dari, predominant among the refugees, and illiteracy challenges with written translation apps, the Memorial Road ministers encouraged volunteers to communicate with a universal language — the smile.

'The church needs leaders who lead the way in turning God's houses — which are his people, not the buildings — into houses of prayer for all nations. ... We need to set aside our ethnocentricity and our patriotism and be citizens of the kingdom of God.'

Clay Hart, talking about how congregations can get involved with Afghan refugees in the U.S.

"We hope eventually that we will become such trusted friends that we can have spiritual conversations with them as well," Fischer said. "But even if that never happens, we go back to Matthew 25 where Jesus said, 'I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger, and you welcomed me in.' At the heart, we want to do that."

Memorial Road members attended that Sunday night's service in the church auditorium as the sun set between 5 and 6 p.m. Elsewhere in the building, Afghan men knelt and performed their evening prayers before dinner.

Hart and other ministers had known the Islamic devout might want to pray. The ministers chose not to set aside a space for evening prayers among the spaces they provided for fellowship, but they respected the refugees' expression of faith.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MARTY KARGUTH

Don Karguth mashes potatoes with a power drill for the Thanksgiving meal.

Hart said he believed showing respect and curiosity about their religion encouraged the refugees to be reciprocal about Christianity, a belief that was supported the following Sunday, when one of the men at the Thanksgiving dinner returned to attend worship. He was not the only one to express interest. Another refugee who knows English contacted Hart with questions about a book in his hotel nightstand that he'd been reading — a Gideon Bible.

But none of this would have been possible without prayer, Hart said. It's the first place he recommends congregations start when considering working with refugees.

"The church needs leaders who lead the way in turning God's houses — which are his people, not the buildings — into houses of prayer for all nations," Hart said. "And we need to set aside our ethnocentricity and our patriotism and be citizens of the kingdom of God. First we seek God's kingdom, which includes all the nations of every tongue and tribe and language and people around the throne worshipping the Lamb; then we're doing what God wants us to do."



Karguth



Hart

HE WENT ABOUT DOING GOOD:

the compassion

OF CHRIST IN LUKE

86TH ANNUAL BIBLE LECTURESHIP | FEBRUARY 6-10, 2022



FREED-HARDEMAN
BIBLE LECTURESHIP

While there are many ways to describe Jesus' ministry, Peter simply said, "He went about doing good." Luke's Gospel also reveals the compassion of our Savior. Many are without Christ and in need of compassion; join us in seeking ways we can follow Jesus by doing good to others. Find a complete schedule and registration at fhu.edu/lectureship.

CRASH: 'The fact that only three people perished ... is a miracle'

FROM PAGE 3

when a truck crashed into the lead bus — driven by friend and fellow Andrews church elder Marc Boswell, 69. Boswell died along with the truck's driver and band director Darin Johns. Johns also had ties to Churches of Christ — he was a graduate of Abilene Christian University — though he was later a Baptist church member.

That Friday, Duzan and Boswell got to the buses pretty early, about 45 minutes before they were scheduled to leave — plenty of time to chat. They had been friends a long time, ever since the Duzans moved to Andrews in 1985.

"I normally don't talk to him about elder stuff outside of elder meetings," Duzan said. "But we were just standing around, so I brought some stuff up. ... So that's kind of interesting that that ended up being our last conversation."

Then they set off for Sweetwater, Boswell driving bus No. 1, Duzan driving bus No. 2 and an Andrews middle school teacher driving bus No. 3 — the band members divided among them. About an hour into the drive, they got to Big Spring, where the route took them onto I-20.

Not long after, as they were rounding a downhill curve, Duzan noticed Boswell veering out of the lane ahead of him.

"I didn't know what he was swerving for," Duzan said. "But when he swerved, that big bus, it was really rocking the back — and I was thinking he's about to lose that thing. He's about to lay it over, you know, as fast as it was whipping around."

HE SAW SMOKE AND DEBRIS

As Duzan got closer, it became clear that something was very wrong.

"There was smoke and debris in the road, and as I was getting into that — not knowing where I was driving — I just kind of scooted over a little bit because I could see to the right ... when all of the sudden, Marc hit something."

At first, Duzan couldn't tell exactly what had happened. He just barely saw the impact out of the corner of his eye as he was trying to navigate safely his own bus through the wreckage. When the smoke cleared from in front



SCREENSHOT FROM NEWSWEST9.COM

Members of the Andrews community attend Marc Boswell's funeral on Nov. 26, 2021.

of him a little farther down the road, he pulled over to the side.

Then, after making sure everyone on his bus was OK — they were — Duzan tried to go check on the lead bus.

"It took me a second to get the door open, and when I got outside, I realized why — because I wasn't just running over things," he said. "Something had hit me a little bit, and it started at my door handle and took a big chunk out of the bus right behind my door, and it scraped it down the side."

That something turned out to be the pickup truck that had crashed into Boswell's bus, a Ford F-350 that had been traveling down the wrong side of the interstate. It subsequently spun around backwards and grazed Duzan's bus as he was driving by.

The truck was now sitting in the middle of the road, and Boswell's bus had come to rest in the ditch of the median, up against a cable fence separating the two sides of the highway. As Duzan approached, he didn't know what he might find.

"I'm scared to death of what I'm going to see because I can see the front of Marc's bus, and I see that the front is gone, and I can see what's left of the truck that hit us," he said. "It was not on fire yet, but it was smoldering, and it was about even with the front of the bus."

'GOD KEPT THAT BUS FROM TURNING OVER'

With the help of several bystanders, the children were making their way out of the bus through the emergency exits and gathering outside. By the time Duzan made it over there, all of them had gotten out — albeit with injuries, some severe.

The Texas Department of Public Safety later reported that of the 25 students on the bus, two were airlifted to



Duzan

the University Medical Center in Lubbock, 11 were taken to a local hospital in Big Spring, and the other 12 were uninjured. All survived.

But two of the three adults on the bus — Boswell and Johns — died. The surviving adult was Johns' wife, Karen.

"As I approached the bus, I could see Marc — Marc's body still in the driver's seat, not at all where it was supposed to be, kind of pushed over," Duzan said. "I put my hand on him and tried to wake him up — he was not going to wake up. He was still breathing, but he was bleeding pretty bad, and I could just kind of tell he wasn't going to make it."

That became even more apparent, Duzan said, when the firefighters and paramedics didn't seem to spend much time looking at him.

At that point, there wasn't much Duzan could do but watch. And as he did so, he said, Duzan realized how Marc, with his quick thinking, had managed to park the bus safely without tipping over.

"But as soon as that thought entered my mind, I thought, no, Marc did not put that bus there," Duzan said. "Marc was already gone — God put that there. God kept that bus from turning over. He kept it from crossing into the other lane of traffic. And the fact that only three people perished in that whole accident is a miracle, basically."

Duzan also realized how close he had come to taking his own bus off the steep embankment on the right side of the interstate as he drove through the smoke with hardly any visibility — that probably would have caused it to flip over, he said.

"So as I was standing around watching everything unfold, I began to see a whole lot more good in this situation than there was bad — even though the bad was really bad. The fact that no kids were killed was just amazing, and so I started looking at all the amazing things that happened and just began counting my blessings while standing on the highway."

But that doesn't change the fact that Boswell's death leaves a big hole, not only for the Andrews Church of Christ but also for the entire Andrews community.

A CHURCH ELDER WHO DID IT ALL

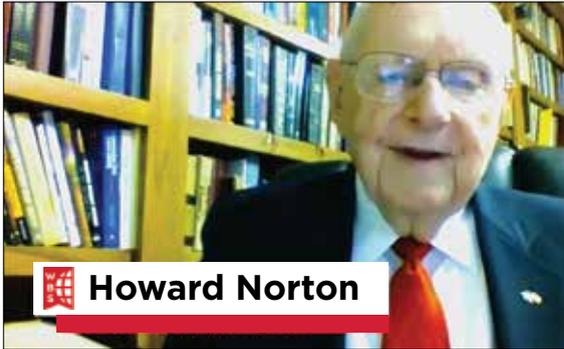
Duzan said Boswell was the elder who did it all — staying at the church building from early morning to afternoon to do whatever needed to be done.

And he was a "big community guy," serving as statistician for football games and baseball games, a timer at swim meets and a member of the Andrews Lions Club, a community service organization — and of course, he was a bus driver. Those were just the obvious roles — Duzan said there was much more behind the scenes.

"He did a whole lot of stuff that nobody knew about, and that's what we're finding out," Duzan said. "Yeah, we're going to miss him — big time."

WBS has Spiritual Vision for the Future

LEADERSHIP transition confirms continuity and growth.



Howard Norton

Dr. Howard Norton, WBS Chairman, makes the public announcement by Zoom at a WBS benefit dinner.

Bible School—blessed to have leaders who lead. John Reese and Brian Davis are excellent examples: visionaries, excellent speakers and tireless workers, known and respected by our brotherhood. They have assembled an outstanding team at WBS, which has enthusiastically embraced the vision for the ministry. Excited about the future of WBS, the WBS Board is happy to announce that Brian, with wife Sondra at his side, is now the next president of WBS. Brian and Sondra are kind and considerate and have outstanding attributes, with extensive missions, ministry and administrative experience. John will serve as President Emeritus and continue to play a significant role in the work of WBS.

DAVIS TAPPED TO LEAD WBS TO NEW GENERATIONS

CEDAR PARK, Texas

WBS has such a legacy of impact around the globe! That impact included my family years ago. When I was a teenager, my father and I taught WBS students whose names were provided by WBS founder Jimmie Lovell. Thus, I came to know the significance of each soul who received a WBS lesson. Reuel Lemmons, the second president of WBS, taught my grandparents the Gospel. Sondra and I spent two decades on the foreign mission field where we were able to plant churches with WBS students. Over the past six years, we have been privileged to work with

John and Beth Reese and the entire WBS team to ensure that the world's lost has the opportunity to hear the Gospel by paper and digital means. We are now poised on an exciting threshold of opportunity—equipping everyday Christians with innovative, cutting-edge tools—to reach many more with the Good News of Jesus. We look forward to honoring and building on how God has blessed WBS as we press forward in, as John often says, “the greatest mission on earth.”



The Lord's Face has Shown...

WBS PRESIDENT assumes new role after 16 years.

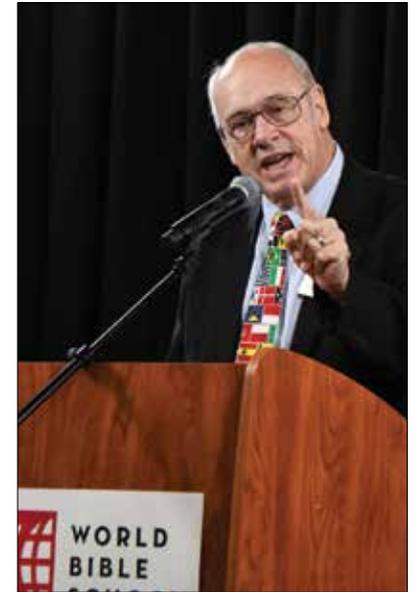
SEARCY, Arkansas

(Comments from John and Brian, below, are excerpted from the January 2022 issue of *Action!* magazine.)

WBS is a huge team effort involving literally thousands of devoted disciples here in the U.S. and across the globe. Supplying and serving this vast team of volunteers is a relatively small group of staff workers, with the main base being in Greater Austin. It is a privilege to be a part of this core working group.

While my role is evolving in 2022 and beyond, my commitment to the Lord, to His mission and to WBS is not changing. Beth and I will continue to devote ourselves to this very effective teamwork. The change will allow us to complete projects—writing, travel and more—that have been on hold while presidential duties absorbed our time.

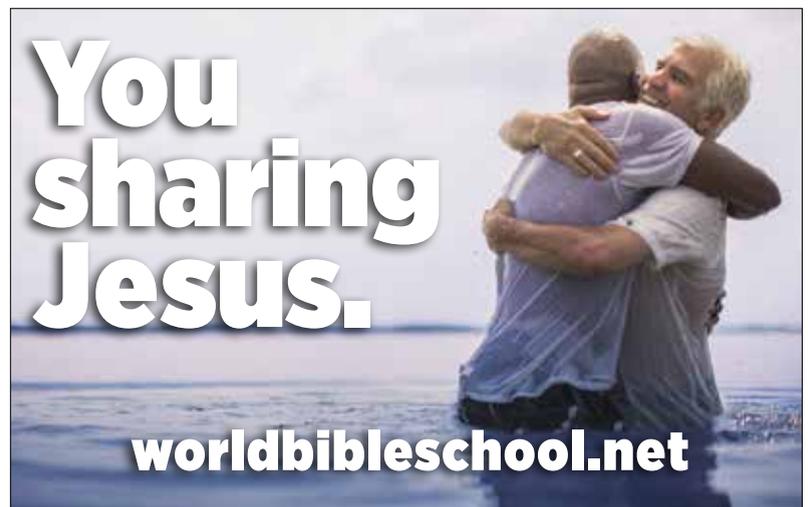
We want to commend to you Brian and Sondra Davis. They are exactly what WBS needs for this transition. With the Lord's



John Reese, WBS President Emeritus

blessing, we will continue to work closely with Brian for WBS to fulfill its potential for local and world evangelism—all of this for the purpose of honoring the Lord who gives us the Great Commission.

The Lord's face has shone on WBS, giving great progress. We faithfully look to Him for spiritual guidance to reach many more millions with the Bible's message of Good News.





Estate Planning Made Easy

Our partners at PhilanthroCorp can ensure that the legacy you leave behind benefits the ones you love with 100% certainty. Starting with a phone interview, they will guide you through a simple process resulting in wills and estate documents that reflect your values and leave a lasting impact on loved ones and charities you hold dear. **Their services are provided to you, by *The Christian Chronicle*, free of charge.** The plan that PhilanthroCorp helps you create can then be implemented by your own personal adviser, or PhilanthroCorp can refer you to an attorney who will draft documents at greatly reduced rates.



Scan the QR code and submit the form or call Susan Wylie at 1-800-876-7958 ext. 2125 to have a PhilanthroCorp representative call you to schedule your first confidential phone appointment.



PHOTOS VIA MADEINTHESTREETS.ORG/BLOG

An art show Made in the Streets

Patrons peruse paintings during an art show at Made in the Streets' Eastleigh Centre in Nairobi, Kenya. The nonprofit, supported by Churches of Christ, provides education, job training and love for children who live on the streets of the East African capital. Kids served by the ministry created the original paintings, drawings and sculptures. Students training in the ministry's catering program prepared food for the event.

At right is a painting done "by a young man who was inspired by his personal story and experience of surviving on the streets to create this piece," ministry leaders said. All of the works sold. For more information, see madeinthestreets.org.



AUSTRALIA

MELBOURNE — About 40 youths attended Revive 2021, an annual camp moved online due to the pandemic.

Participants played games including Pictionary and Kahoot! and "speed friending," said participant Faith Tabalujan. The games provided "an especially uplifting opportunity for spiritual encouragement for those of us stuck in pandemic lockdowns across Australia."

Peter Tickner of the Macquarie Church of Christ in Sydney used Tupperware to demonstrate "The Treasure Within," taken from Paul's letter to the Colossians.

ZAMBIA

MPIKA — The invitation to speak in this southern African village was most encouraging, said minister Kennedy Mukuka.

The road to get there? Not so much. It's a 430-mile trip from

Mukuka's home in Lusaka over a road nicknamed "Hell Run" when he was a kid. He made the journey on public transport with "potholes punctuating what felt like every mile."

But the day-long seminar was worth the trip, said Mukuka, who worked with Zambians who have been studying the World Bible School curriculum. Among topics of discussion

was "the question of God saving only Christians when there are so many good people in other religions like Hinduism and Islam," the minister said. The seminar had 38 participants.

"The following day I was on the morning bus heading back home," Mukuka said, "refreshed and encouraged."



Mukuka

SPOTLIGHT



PHOTO PROVIDED BY RALPH WILLIAMS

Tanzanians learn about their new water system during a Women's Day celebration at the Emairete Dispensary.

Church harvests rain in rural East Africa

MONDULI JUU, Tanzania — This rural East African community has access to clean water, thanks to a Church of Christ.

The Monduli Juu Church of Christ, near Arusha in northern Tanzania, recently installed a rain-water harvesting system at the Emairete Dispensary, a medical facility. Missionary Ralph Williams led the design and implementation of the project. Members of the Monduli Juu congregation led the construction effort, with other volunteers recruited from the community. Funding came from congregations in the U.S. and Rotary International.

"Emairete village has had limited access to water, and the dispensary had to purchase water to operate," Williams said. "Because of this, they have not had a permanent doctor until recently. All this will change as a result of this project, which will allow the dispensary to capture and store 140,000 liters (about 37,000 gallons) of rainwater using appropriate technology and locally available resources."

The church also built a rainwater harvesting system for its meeting place, which also supplies water to the community. The church seeks funding for a similar system for Imorijo elementary school, which has 700 students and no water supply, Williams said.

FIND LINKS to contribute at christianchronicle.org/Tanzaniawater.



HARDING
UNIVERSITY

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.

COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH. Seeking full-time, 12-month principal faculty member for the department of physician assistant studies; rank will be commensurate with applicant experience. Responsibilities include teaching the program's core curriculum, advising and mentoring students, assisting with hands-on training in various clinical practice skills, maintaining clinical competency through appropriate practice, conducting scholarly activity in personal area of expertise, and engaging in service to the college, University and community. Qualified applicants are expected to be familiar with the breadth of primary care and should possess a minimum of a master's degree in physician assistant studies or similar field with a minimum of three years of clinical experience; prior teaching experience is preferred. Applicants should be NCCPA certified and eligible for licensure as a physician assistant in the state of Arkansas.

Submit application materials to Dr. Michael McGalliard, dean, at mmcgalliard@harding.edu, or 915 E. Market, Box 12287, Searcy, AR 72149.

These additional openings are available at harding.edu/facultyjobs:
COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH • EXERCISE & SPORT SCIENCES
& OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
COLLEGE OF NURSING
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY • PHARMACY PRACTICE
COLLEGE OF SCIENCES • BIOLOGY

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.



Houseparent Couple

Lubbock, Texas

Have you considered working where you can combine your professional skills with your ministry interests? If so, the Texas Girls & Boys Ranch has opportunities for you! Visit our website at txgbr.org.

We have immediate openings for Houseparent Couples to work with girls and boys ages 3 and up in a residential setting.

The Texas Girls & Boys Ranch is a professional childcare agency committed to Christ-centered services for children and families. We provide residential group care, therapeutic services, and support services in education, counseling, recreation, and spiritual development.

Address inquiries to: rmahan@txgbr.org or call (806)747-3187.

Come join us in Sharing Jesus, Healing Hearts, and Transforming the Lives of children in foster care.



Potter Children's Home

Bowling Green, Ky.

Single Parent Supervisor

- *Faithful member of the Church of Christ
- *Supervise single parents and other staff who work with them
- *Required to live on campus, which includes house and utilities as part of compensation

On-campus Houseparents

- *Faithful member of the Church of Christ
- *Competitive pay
- *Rewarding work serving "the least of these"

Contact Chris Hagan

270.843.3038

Chris@potterministries.org



A Deeper Level of Care

Work with a Great Team

Guiding Children!

Job Opportunity
in the beautiful Rocky Mountains

House Parents

Benefits Include: Housing, Food, Transportation
100% Health Insurance, Salary, Retirement,
Support of 2 full time counselors, and more ...

Worship in a thriving, dynamic local church of Christ congregation

For Information - Contact:

Randy Schow, Executive Director
rschow@msch.org
(303)776-6841
14780 N. 107th St., Longmont, CO 80504
www.msch.org

BUILD A HOME

For a Widow & Her Children

For **\$3500**, a real home can be built... one with windows, doors, sheeted interior walls, a concrete floor, a real roof to keep out the rain and insulation to protect from the heat and cold. This will also provide a start-up supply of household goods to get the family going. You or your congregation can help fund all or part of one of these projects to get a Widow and her Orphan Family out of the mud huts and slums of Nairobi, Kenya.

How would you or your congregation like to build a New Home for a Widow and her Orphan Family?



This is a ministry of Orphan's Lifeline and the Churches of Christ of Kenya.

And you can...

Keep an Orphan & Widow Family Together

Our orphanage directors have profiled numerous families desperately trying to stay together. Can you imagine having to send your children away to an orphanage, or worse, because you didn't have enough food to feed them, let alone the money to pay for clothes, medicine or school? **How would you like to keep this family and others together? You can!**

A gift of any amount to the **Orphan & Widow Family Support Fund** will change their lives forever. **Or**, for a gift of \$100 monthly, you can sponsor a family as a congregation or individually and receive personal pictures and updates.

Not only tell them, but also show them the love of Jesus (James 1:27).

To learn more...

Email Tim at tim@orphanslifeline.org or call him at 406-257-0868. You can also donate at orphanslifeline.org. Or mail to: Orphan's Lifeline Int'l. 135 Kelly Rd. Kalispell, MT 59901 406-257-0868





PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE CHOSEN

Portrayed by actor Jonathan Roumie, Jesus teaches followers in "The Chosen." Producers emphasize the show is "about the Bible," not a precise retelling of Scripture.

Choosing 'The Chosen'

CHURCHES TURN *to the popular serial narrative as a springboard for deeper Bible study.*

BY KENNETH PYBUS | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Loretta Dale was skeptical at first. Someone in her church life group had suggested watching a new serial depiction of the ministry of Jesus. "The Chosen" was telling Christ's story from the perspective of the apostles and others who interacted with him.

The degree to which the show's creators would fictionalize the gospel story concerned Dale, who has attended the Missouri Street Church of Christ in West Memphis, Ark., for 50 years.

"I thought, 'I'm not sure this is for us,'" said Dale, who teaches educa-

tion at Harding University in Searcy, Ark. "But we showed both of the first two episodes to our life group, and everybody loved it."

Ultimately, Dale decided to watch the show with the Wednesday night women's Bible class she leads at Missouri Street and use it as a tool to encourage deeper study of Scripture. At the same time, she said, the depictions of the disciples' encounters with Jesus have made an emotional connection



Dale

with class members.

"We usually end up in tears," she said. "These women are crying at each episode."

The West Memphis church is just one of many that have latched onto "The Chosen" since it premiered in the spring of 2019.

Churches from Canada to Colorado to Texas have viewed the show in Bible classes, small groups and weekday services. In doing so, they've set aside concerns about fictionalized content and their own experiences with low-quality Christian entertainment to find a refreshing way to approach the inspired Scriptures.

Some congregations, such as the Tintern Church of Christ in Vineland, Ontario, showed episodes on Sunday nights and set aside time the next week for members to discuss the depictions and reflect on the story in smaller groups.

"It was very well received," said Noel Walker, Tintern pastoral minister. "Many people pointed out things they just hadn't thought about before."

"The Chosen" is the brainchild of evangelical filmmaker Dallas Jenkins, son of "Left Behind" series co-author Jerry B. Jenkins. The younger Jenkins produced a short

CONTINUED



PHOTO PROVIDED BY LORETTA DALE

Members of the Missouri Street Church of Christ gather at a West Memphis, Ark., movie theater to see the feature-length “Christmas with The Chosen.”

CONTINUED

Christmas film for his nondenominational church in Illinois in 2017 depicting the Luke account of the annunciation of Jesus’ birth to a group of shepherds. That project became the pilot for what Jenkins and other producers of the show now see as a seven-season series that takes viewers through the gospels.

To finance the show, the creators turned to crowdfunding, raising more than \$10 million from 16,000 investors to produce the first season. To date, supporters have donated more than \$40 million, and funding for the third season, set to begin production in the spring, is nearly complete.

Even more unusual has been the show’s distribution model.

“The Chosen” now is disseminated for free through a “pay it forward” design. Early episodes were posted to YouTube, and all episodes and bonus content are free on iPhone and Google Play apps that can be seamlessly cast to streaming-equipped televisions.

The show also has been translated into 50 languages and is available on Amazon Prime and several similar secular platforms. Producers say their goal is for the show to be watched by 1 billion people.

The first two seasons were filmed in Utah and rural Texas, and now producers have broken ground in Midlothian, Texas, on a \$20 million production complex that will include

a replica of Capernaum, the hub of Jesus’ ministry, and a 30,000-square-foot soundstage.

A key goal for the project, say producers, has been high production quality, something Christian movies and television don’t always have a reputation for.

“It’s definitely done at a high level,” Walker said. “I think that’s why it’s different.”

Zach McCartney, college minister for the Hillcrest Church of Christ in Abilene, Texas, agreed and said

he believes that’s the primary reason the show has been so successful.

“It’s stellar content,” McCartney said. “And that was the key — it had to be well done.”

The youth group at the Newark Church of Christ in Delaware began watching the episodes last year. Meanwhile, Casey Coston, director of Blue Hens for Christ, a campus ministry of the Newark church, began watching it with University of Delaware students, many of whom have unchurched backgrounds.

“It’s a really good balance between creativity and a biblical focus,” he said. “If I can get people to watch the first episode, then they’re hooked.”

‘ADDING TO’ AND ‘TAKING AWAY FROM’

Several church leaders who have watched the show with their congregations acknowledge the challenge of reconciling the high view of



PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE CHOSEN

Jesus, played by actor Jonathan Roumie in “The Chosen” television series, prepares for his “Sermon on the Mount” with his mother, Mary, and Egyptian follower Tamar.

Scripture typically held by members of Churches of Christ with the poetic license taken by the show’s writers.

Indeed, much of the story and dialogue are fictional and extra-biblical.

For example, the show’s first episode depicts Sanhedrin member Nicodemus struggling and failing to heal Mary Magdalene of her seven demons. Another portrays the man Jesus healed at the pool of Bethesda in John 5 as being the brother of Simon the Zealot. Roman soldiers detain Jesus for questioning early in his ministry, essentially out of curiosity. James the son of Alphaeus has a physical disability that forces him to walk with a limp. Matthew is on the autism spectrum.

“We spent some time thinking about that,” said Mike Byron, adult Bible class coordinator for the Northwest Church of Christ in Westminster, Colo. “We met and weighed the pros and the cons. But ultimately we decided the benefits outweigh the negatives. It allows people to visualize how things might have been.

“For example, there’s no evidence Nicodemus tried to heal Mary,” said Byron, who has watched episodes with his Sunday morning Bible class. “But was he motivated by Jesus’ miracles? Absolutely.”

Though Nicodemus the Pharisee appears just three times in the book of John, his role in the first season of “The Chosen” was prominent — he’s even depicted as clandestinely providing funding for Jesus’ early ministry.

“We don’t get much about him, though he obviously was important,” Walker said. “The way they present his character — I think it’s a fair read. He wants to follow Jesus, but he doesn’t — and he’s heartbroken.”

“The Chosen” producers emphasize the show is “about the Bible” rather than a precise retelling of Scripture, several watchers pointed out.

“The show makes it clear there’s a great deal of speculation,” Byron said. “And they say, ‘Read the gospels.’”

Dale said her standard for evaluating the storytelling is that, first, it must not contradict Scripture, and second, the additional narrative must be true to what might have been.

“It’s not the Bible,” she said. “It’s a historical novel about the Bible. But it brings home the fact that these were real people. And we research every episode, so it’s getting people into the Bible.”

Members of Churches of Christ who have watched “The Chosen” in their congregations praise the routine flashbacks to Old Testament accounts



PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE CHOSEN

Several disciples follow Peter and Jesus as they make their way to Samaria early in Jesus’ ministry. Actor Shahar Isaac portrays Peter in “The Chosen.”

that foreshadow Jesus’ ministry or are referenced in his teaching.

In season one, for example, Jacob and his sons are shown beginning to dig the well where Jesus eventually meets the woman in Samaria. And in a later episode, David, on the run from King Saul, is depicted acquiring consecrated bread for his men from Ahimelek in Nob.

“I’ve learned to do more of that in my own preaching — flash back to important things in the Old Testament in the way that they do,” said Coston, the Delaware college minister. “The way they presented Moses preparing to lift up the image of a serpent in the wilderness and then tied it to the book of John was done very well. It built tension and emotional connection. That’s what a good preacher should do.”



Coston

TELLING THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Most recently, “The Chosen” creators have produced a feature-length Christmas special that was released in theaters nationwide on Dec. 1. Initially planned for a two-day run, demand ran so high that movie distributor Fathom Events added another 10 days.

From its opening through the first weekend, “Christmas with the Chosen: The Messengers” was the No. 1 new release and No. 4 overall at the box office, grossing nearly \$9 million. The show included

performances by about a dozen Contemporary Christian musical groups and artists and a bonus narrative episode depicting the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus.

McCartney, at Hillcrest in Abilene, said he was watching a YouTube livestream by “The Chosen” creator Jenkins when he learned about the theatrical release.

“I immediately got online and bought 10 tickets and wanted to buy more,” he said. “I knew it was going to sell out, especially in Abilene.”

In West Memphis, Dale also knew that several members of her Bible study group as well as others at her congregation would be interested in going as a group.

“I wasn’t sure how many tickets to get,” she said. “I bought some, but I had people calling asking for more. We ended up with 27 going.”

Not all of those who have watched “The Chosen” with their congregations have flocked to the Christmas show or say they are certain to continue watching when the third season is released next year. But many have and do plan to watch.

“My wife and I are all in,” McCartney said. “We started showing it last year, and probably 15 of our students came in just because of that event. It’s a great tool we get to use.”

And Dale said she has no hesitation with continuing to use the show as a tool for discussion and Bible study.

“We can hardly wait until the next episode,” she said.



SCOTT DELONY, ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Speaking at Abilene Christian University in Texas, Chris Juen and Chad Gundersen describe their journey as producers of “The Chosen.”

‘Chosen’ producers give God credit for phenomenal success

BY KENNETH PYBUS | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

ABILENE, Texas

Two filmmakers who are producing the streaming television series “The Chosen” visited Abilene

Christian University recently, offering their take on why the show has become a surprise hit and why Christians should be engaged in filmmaking and entertainment.

Chad Gundersen and Chris Juen, owners of Out of Order Studios in Fort Worth, Texas, have worked with “Chosen” creator Dallas Jenkins since 2018, when he first

began shopping his pilot for production. As producers, they’re responsible for all aspects of show planning, preparation and distribution.

Ironically, the filmmakers said they almost opted out of producing the show.

“When we set out, it was not to be a ‘faith company,’” Juen said. “We are Christians who make films. And the reason for that distinction is that we need to engage culture. Five years ago, when we set out to do this, ‘The

Chosen’ would not have been on our to-do list.”

The producers offered several reasons for the success of the show, including an emphasis on quality production values, the unique free-distribution model and even the ongoing pandemic, which has encouraged people to watch multiple shows at a time — or “binge Jesus,” as Jenkins says.

But mostly they credit the phenomenon to the biblical story itself, the gospel message and divine blessing.

“God just created this perfect storm,” Gundersen said. “My greatest prayer right now is, ‘Lord, just don’t let us mess this thing up.’”

‘When we set out, it was not to be a “faith company.” We are Christians who make films. And the reason for that distinction is that we need to engage culture.’

Chris Juen, co-owner/producer, Out of Order Studios

The Perfect Gift

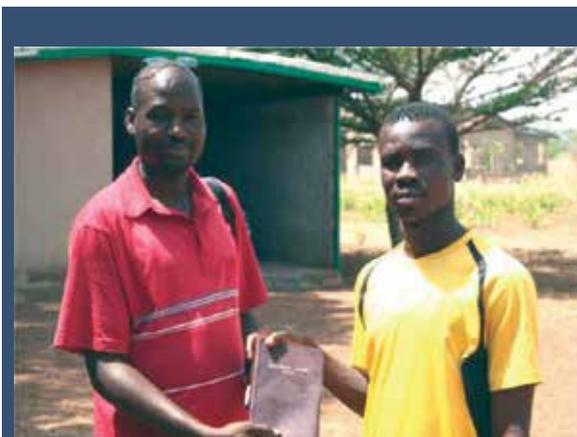
Because of friends like you, patients who our chaplains identify as "seekers" are given a copy of God's Written Word. Many accept the Gospel as they read and study. It is offered to them in English or in their own language, whichever they prefer. We think it's the perfect gift. Please help our chaplains put the Good News into the hands of our patients who are seeking him . . . they will be eternally grateful.

- \$5 (provides one copy of God's Word)
- \$120 (provides a case of 24 Bibles)
- \$500 (provides 100 Bibles)
- \$_____ I can provide this much to help.



Please return the reply slip above with your gift or give a gift online.

102 N. Locust St. :: Searcy, AR 72143 :: www.ihcf.net



Bibles for Patients

Harding University Preachers Conference | Feb. 15, 2022

Courageous Preaching in critical times

McInteer 150 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. or stream live!

The presenter, Dr. Phil Thompson, is a preaching and ministry professor at Harding University.

Breakfast, lunch and resources will be provided. This event will be **livestreamed** for those who wish to participate from home. A link will be sent following registration.

Cost \$25

Register at harding.edu/preaching/events

Registration deadline is Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2022.



HARDING
UNIVERSITY

Christian Chronicle



AN INTERNATIONAL PERIODICAL FOR CHURCHES OF CHRIST SINCE 1943

John W. Beckloff
Editor

CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE
P. O. Box 24124
Oklahoma City, OK 73124

Ph. Ofc. (405) 848-4565, Home 840-4752

THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Writing on the above letterhead (address and phone numbers no longer valid) in 1980, John Beckloff turned over *The Christian Chronicle's* mailing list to OC.

Saving the *Chronicle*, 40 years later

NEWSPAPER FOR CHURCHES OF CHRIST found new life under the ownership of Oklahoma Christian University.

BY ERIK TRYGGESTAD | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

OKLAHOMA CITY

We must keep the *Chronicle* alive!" John Beckloff's message was simple and urgent. *The Christian Chronicle*, the newspaper that he loved dearly, the newspaper that he and his wife had struggled to maintain, was dying.

Beckloff and his wife, Dottie, had long been supporters of the *Chronicle*, a ministry launched in 1943 by Olan Hicks to serve as a news source for Churches of Christ. The newspaper had become part of the connective tissue for the fellowship of autonomous

congregations. Coverage focused heavily on the global mission efforts undertaken by Churches of Christ in the postwar years.

The Beckloffs were particularly taken with the stories of phenomenal church growth in Africa. They added their own stories to the *Chronicle's* pages, serving as missionaries in Nigeria until the Biafran War of 1967 forced them back to the U.S.

In the mid-1970s, as they crisscrossed the U.S. raising funds for Nigeria, they met Hicks' son, Clark, who was publishing and editing the *Chronicle*. The newspaper was hurting for subscribers and funds. The Beckloffs recognized the *Chronicle's* value for missionaries around the world and agreed to purchase the paper to keep it alive. They collected news, wrote stories and, in 1978, moved the ministry from Nashville, Tenn., to Oklahoma.

John Beckloff had studied at Central Christian College, now Oklahoma Christian University. He and his wife met with potential backers, hoping to form an organization to maintain the newspaper.

They hosted fundraising lunches across the state and urged Christians to "keep the *Chronicle* alive!"

The support they generated wasn't enough. In 1980, the Beckloffs ceased printing their beloved newspaper. The *Chronicle's* future was in doubt.

'TAKING IT ON WOULD BE A GOOD THING'

Another former missionary, Howard Norton, also recognized the

value of the *Chronicle*.

In the 1960s Norton and his wife, Jane, served on a pioneering mission team that planted Churches of Christ in São Paulo, Brazil. The team kept in contact with the *Chronicle's* managing editor, Lane Cubstead, and the steady flow of stories from Brazil resulted in tremendous blessings for the missionaries, Norton said.

Two decades later, Norton was chair of the Bible department at Oklahoma Christian, then a college. He heard about the *Chronicle's* financial woes and talked to his cousin and fellow Brazil team member, Don Vinzant, about buying the newspaper. He went to the university's leadership for advice, only to learn that they already had agreed to take ownership of the publication from the Beckloffs.

And they needed an editor. Terry Johnson, then the college's president, recalled long gatherings around the conference table as he and fellow administrators considered the newspaper's needs, the logistics of assuming responsibility for its publication and the possible impacts on the school's mission. Ultimately,

Johnson said, "We thought there was enough common interest for the college and the church that taking it on would be a good thing."

The administrators set three ground rules for the publication. First, they were "insistent that it not be a house organ for OC," Johnson said. "We felt that would kill it if it were perceived to be a tool for the college."

Second, the newspaper was to be a "primarily 'good news' paper, to be uplifting, to be helpful and edifying," he said, "not that we wouldn't report a story that had a negative spin. We weren't going to go

out and try to dig up dirt on people." Third, Johnson said, "We wanted it to be a newspaper, not just an editorial commentary."

A NEW ERA OF NEWSGATHERING

In September 1981, *The Christian Chronicle* returned to publication with Norton as editor and Bailey McBride, an English professor at Oklahoma Christian, as editorial consultant.

The first issue under the college's ownership featured a front-page story about Churches of Christ

See **CHRONICLE**, Page 22



PHOTO PROVIDED

John and Dottie Beckloff brought *The Christian Chronicle* to Oklahoma.



Johnson



Norton

CHRONICLE: Oklahoma Christian provided stability, helped paper grow

FROM PAGE 21

sponsoring a food relief program in Poland in the midst of the country's turbulent solidarity movement. A second piece covered a European missions seminar in Memphis, Tenn.

In a feature recounting the history of the *Chronicle*, McBride wrote that the paper's rebirth "begins a new era in international news-gathering and militant evangelism."

Norton, in his first editorial, called for the church to "awaken again to its responsibility and assume its divine role as the body of Christ."

"The church is not a political party, a civic club nor a country club," Norton wrote. "It is to be the body of Jesus."

The staff box listed four names: Norton, McBride, publisher James O. Baird (the college's chancellor) and news editor Susan Johnston. Norton remembered Johnston making countless trips across the college's mall to prepare the *Chronicle* for publication — using the journalism department's sole computer.

"I can't tell you how sacrificial she was," Norton said of Johnston.

SECURING THE CHRONICLE'S FUTURE

The *Chronicle* had about 3,500 subscribers when Oklahoma Christian restarted the publication. It operated at a significant loss through the mid-1980s, with the university shouldering the burden. In 1983, OC officials launched a National Council for the *Chronicle* to provide support and guidance. Church members Jack Pope, Lynn Packer and Dale Brown served as chairmen. Johnson credited them with helping the *Chronicle* secure its finances as circulation grew.

Johnson credited them with helping the *Chronicle* secure its finances as circulation grew.



FILE PHOTO

The staff of *The Christian Chronicle* meets in November 1989. From left are advertising manager Cynthia Fletcher, production specialist Linda Parker, managing editor Joy McMillon and staff writer R. Scott LaMascus.

The newspaper moved from a subscription-based model to a nonprofit model, asking for donations from readers and generating additional income from advertising by Christian schools, churches and other nonprofits. Abilene, Texas-based Zachry Associates launched direct mail campaigns for the *Chronicle*. Congregations paid a small fee to have their membership rolls added to the mailing list. Soon, subscriptions approached 100,000.

McBride succeeded Norton as editor, and Lynn McMillon, a Bible professor at OC, joined the staff as business manager. McMillon, who later served as editor, president and CEO of the *Chronicle*, helped guide the publication to secure financial footing. The newspaper repaid its deficits to the university and now is a self-sustaining nonprofit with its own endowment and budget.

Many other OC faculty, staff and individuals with ties to the university have worked for the *Chronicle*, including Scott LaMascus, Lindy Adams, Joy McMillon and Glover Shipp. In 2004, the National Council was reorganized into a Board of Trustees, with Dale Brown serving as chairman, followed by Deon Fair and Mike O'Neal.

O'Neal, a president emeritus of Oklahoma Christian, said he's glad to stand on the shoulders of the Christians who sacrificed to keep the *Chronicle* alive.

"I am deeply grateful for the sacrifices, the courage, and the vision of those who brought it to OC and maintained it through the lean years," O'Neal said. "Our current mission reflects the vision of the founders and sustainers — to inform, inspire and unite the fellowship of the Churches of Christ."

Among the latest additions to the *Chronicle's* board is Lana Reynolds, president of Seminole State College in Oklahoma. For a few months in 1981, she worked with Sue Johnston as a news editor for the *Chronicle*.

"I do have good memories of being a part of something I felt was 'big' and very important," Reynolds said. "I am proud of that brief association with the *Chronicle* and so proud of how far it has come."

A PROPHECY FULFILLED?

Four decades after John Beckloff's urgent plea, the *Chronicle* is still alive, with an annual budget of about \$1.3 million. The newspaper has a print circulation of 133,000 in the U.S., a website with some 75,000 monthly readers and a robust presence on social media.

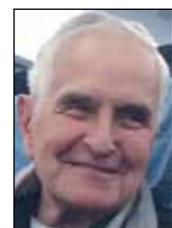
Under the leadership of journalists including editor-in-chief Bobby Ross Jr., the *Chronicle* has received multiple first-place awards from organizations including the Associated Church Press and the Evangelical Press Association. The *Chronicle* competes with the largest daily newspapers in Oklahoma, including *The Oklahoman* and the *Tulsa World*, in the Oklahoma Society of Professional Journalists awards. In October, the *Chronicle* was named best newspaper in the state, and Ross was named best reporter by the organization.

John deSteiguer, current president of Oklahoma Christian, serves on the *Chronicle's* Board of Trustees.

"OC is blessed to be home for the past 40 years to such a worthy publication," deSteiguer said, "that seeks to highlight the great things going on and, at times, the challenges being faced in Churches of Christ around the globe."

Reflecting on the decision to take on the *Chronicle*, Johnson recalled the words of the late Raymond Kelcy, a longtime minister, educator and former chair of Oklahoma Christian's Bible division.

"I remember one time he came up to me and said, 'I think accepting ownership of the *Chronicle* will become one of the most notable achievements of your administration, a legacy that will live on and on,'" Johnson said. "Here we are, 40 years later. I think his prophecy turned out to be pretty true."



McBride

McBride wrote that the paper's rebirth "begins a new era in international news-gathering and militant evangelism."

Norton, in his first editorial, called for the church to

"awaken again to its responsibility and assume its divine role as the body of Christ."

"The church is not a political party, a civic club nor a country club," Norton wrote. "It is to be the body of Jesus."

The staff box listed four names: Norton, McBride, publisher James O. Baird (the college's chancellor) and news editor Susan Johnston. Norton remembered Johnston making countless trips across the college's mall to prepare the *Chronicle* for publication — using the journalism department's sole computer.

"I can't tell you how sacrificial she was," Norton said of Johnston.

SECURING THE CHRONICLE'S FUTURE

The *Chronicle* had about 3,500 subscribers when Oklahoma Christian restarted the publication. It operated at a significant loss through the mid-1980s, with the university shouldering the burden. In 1983, OC officials launched a National Council for the *Chronicle* to provide support and guidance. Church members Jack Pope, Lynn Packer and Dale Brown served as chairmen. Johnson credited them with helping the *Chronicle* secure its finances as circulation grew.

Johnson credited them with helping the *Chronicle* secure its finances as circulation grew.



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

The September 1981 *Christian Chronicle* was the first produced under OC's ownership.

Chronicle staffers reflect on their ministry of information

BY AUDREY JACKSON | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

OKLAHOMA CITY

The old brick building on the edge of Oklahoma Christian University's campus is easy to overlook. The corner houses a Jimmy John's sandwich shop. A small sign above one of the doors lists the offices inside: "Heritage Village: Campus Police, Mail Center, Counseling Center, University Services, *The Christian Chronicle*."

Behind the humble office's door, eight employees produce the *Chronicle*, a monthly, international newspaper for Churches of Christ with a circulation of 133,000. Awards line the office walls. The staff, all employees of Oklahoma Christian and all members of Churches of Christ, describe their work as a mission, ministry and calling.

Yet Erik Tryggestad had reservations when he applied for a reporting position with the newspaper in 2001.

"My initial thought was, 'What if I want to get back into *real* journalism? Will they even let me back in?'"

Tryggestad said. He was covering cops and crime for the *Savannah Morning News* in Georgia and interviewed with the *Chronicle* in hopes of getting an offer he could leverage for a raise. Just after he got off the plane in Oklahoma City, he met the *Chronicle's* then-editor, Bailey McBride.

"I said, 'OK, never mind, new plan. I want this job,'" Tryggestad recalled.

He began traveling the globe, reporting on Churches of Christ in Latin America, Africa and Europe. Working alongside McBride and fellow staffers Lindy Adams and Scott LaMascus, he watched as the daily newspaper industry shrank.

"That's when I started to realize this really is a job that I think God brought me to," said Tryggestad, now the *Chronicle's* president and CEO. "This is a ministry that I can participate in using skills that I have to do something that I love."

Bobby Ross Jr., editor-in-chief, also was drawn to the opportunity of ministry work. He had worked as a religion editor for *The Oklahoman*

and as a reporter for The Associated Press before Lynn McMillon, former president of the *Chronicle*, approached him in 2005 about working for the newspaper. Ross accepted a pay cut to join the nonprofit.



Patton

Previously a stay-at-home mom for 14 years with a background in accounting, Patton said she learned that each staff member brings different skills to the ministry.

"We all fit in a way that I think glorifies God," Patton said. "I am not an editor. I'm not a writer. I am simply someone who can handle a job."

REPORTING THE GOOD AND THE BAD

Launched in 1943, the *Chronicle* was founded to tell the stories of Churches of Christ, to "stir up missionary zeal and activity among members of the church everywhere," founder Olan Hicks wrote in the paper's first issue, "and to give all a broad vision of the opportunities and responsibilities of the church today."

That means reporting the good and the bad, Tryggestad said. And that reporting isn't always appreciated by the *Chronicle's* audience, which now spans print, internet and social media. Coverage of racial tension and its impact on churches, plus news of ministers arrested for indecent acts, sometimes results in angry letters, emails and phone calls.

But hiding or ignoring such incidents isn't the correct way to address such issues, Ross said, adding that he's not worried about negative publicity. "I think Jesus can handle his own PR," Ross said.

Tryggestad added, "The foundation of being a follower of Christ demands the kind of objectivity, the kind of accuracy, that journalists should aspire to."



Meet me
on the

MOUNTAIN

March 28-31, 2022

in Gatlinburg, Tennessee

A retreat for Christian senior adults

More information at abundantlivingseniors.com

Abundant Living is a ministry sponsored by Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas. Since 2006, we have been encouraging, inspiring and equipping older Christians to grow in faith and service to God throughout their retirement years.

Abundant Living
HELPING
CHRISTIAN
SENIORS
THRIVE

915 E. Market Ave., Box 12238 Searcy, AR 72149 • abundantliving@harding.edu • 501-279-4055



Global Reunion 2022

June 6-10

17th Annual Camp for

TCKs and Families in the ReEntry Stage of Cross-Cultural Living



Register before April 1
for Earlybird Discount

No registrations can be accepted after May 1.

For more information and registration:

oc.edu/globalreunion

Nancy.Hartman@oc.edu

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 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

Jan. 1-2 Praise and Harmony. Abilene, Texas. See acappella.org/events-calendar/.

Jan. 14-15 40th Annual IHCF Medical Missions Seminar. LIFE: Its Meaning and Our Calling. Prestoncrest Church of Christ, Dallas, Texas. See ihcf.net/seminar.

Jan. 19-22 SIBI Vision Workshop. Preach The Word to Everyone. Sunset Church of Christ, Lubbock, Texas. See workshop.sunset.bible.

Feb. 6-10 86th Annual Bible Lectureship. He Went About Doing Good: The Compassion of Christ in Luke. Freed-Hardeman University, Henderson, Tenn. See fhu.edu/lectureship.

Feb. 26-27 ReGen Youth Gathering. Chickasha, Okla. See acappella.org/events-calendar/.

March 4-5 Affirming the Faith Seminar. Surviving The Tough Stuff. Oklahoma City, Okla. See affirmingthefaitok.com.

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

March 28-31 Abundant Living. Retreat for senior adults. Gatlinburg, Tenn. See abundantlivingseniors.com.

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

Oct. 4-7 Abundant Living Retreat. Branson, Mo. See abundantlivingseniors.com.

Oct. 14-16 United Sisters Symposium (USS) - The Lion King, Daniel Chapter 6. Torrance, Calif. See empoweredincorporated.com.

FULL CALENDAR: christianchronicle.org

Advertise with us!

Upcoming deadlines are:

Jan. 14 and Feb. 11

Contact:

tonya@christianchronicle.org

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 Lead Minister - Naperville, Illinois

The Naperville Church of Christ is seeking a full-time Lead Minister. The applicant should have a minimum of a bachelor's degree in theology, divinity, Christian learning or related field, and, ideally, have five or more years serving as a pulpit minister. He will serve under the support of our six elders and alongside our Youth Minister and office staff. Responsibilities include weekly sermons, co-leading worship services, and working with the elders and ministry leaders to help meet the spiritual needs of the congregation. The Naperville Church of Christ is located in Naperville, Ill., approximately 30 miles west of downtown Chicago. The area offers a diverse, dynamic community, highly ranked school system and family offerings. Our congregation is culturally diverse with members residing throughout the western suburbs. Average weekly attendance is approximately 200.

For more information about us and this position, visit napervillechurch.org/ministersearch.

All resumes, curriculum vitae, cover letters and inquiries should be submitted to:
ministersearch@napervillechurch.org

Full-time Minister Search

The **Williamsburg Church of Christ, located in Williamsburg, Virginia**, is seeking a full-time minister. We are a diverse, loving congregation with three elders, 14 deacons and about 100 members serving the historic Greater Williamsburg area. You can find information about the congregation on our website, williamsburgcoc.org, and on our Facebook page. Those wanting more information or to find the application can do so at:

wccministersearch.org

FULL-TIME MINISTER HOWELL, MICHIGAN

The church of Christ in Howell, Michigan, is looking for a pulpit minister who will work with the elders to motivate the church both spiritually and numerically. We are a close, loving congregation in a soul-rich environment. Salary and benefits are negotiable. Check us out at our website, howellchurchofchrist.org. If you are interested, please submit a resume, a sermon, and salary/benefits needed to:

Search Committee
PO Box 82, Howell, MI 48844
belcher0804@att.net

FULL-TIME PREACHER - Vista, California

The **Melrose Church of Christ** is seeking an experienced full-time preacher to minister to our small congregation of about 35 members. Under the guidance of our elders, the preacher will be responsible for preaching and teaching the Word of God. The applicant should possess sound biblical knowledge, several years of preaching and teaching experience, and the willingness and desire to help grow the congregation. Interested candidates should contact elder:

Leroy Smith
ljlsmith@sbcglobal.net

Full-time Pulpit Minister

The **Covington Church of Christ** is seeking a full-time pulpit minister. We have two elders, two deacons and approximately 40 members. The ideal candidate must hold fast to Biblical truths, preach and teach from God's Word only. He must also be willing to visit and assist in church growth. Retirement or other source of income may be needed. If you are interested in the position, please send resume with references to:

kblevins42@aol.com (540) 962-1865
Covington Church of Christ
1643 S Carpenter Dr, Covington, VA 24426

Experienced Preacher Search - Camp Verde, Ariz.

The **Verde Valley Church of Christ** is looking for an experienced preacher to preach fulltime to a congregation of 40 to 50 saints. Must be well grounded in scripture and willing to teach. Our congregaton is made up of the most loving and giving saints in the Lord's Church. A four-bedroom home is included in the salary package. **If interested contact Harold Kilby (elder) with bio and resume at:**

harold.kilby@yahoo.com

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



PHOTO PROVIDED BY LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY

David Holmes, Robert and Brenda McClure, Candice McQueen and Kent Gallaher attend the dedication of Lipscomb's new faith and science center.

Center unites faith, science

NASHVILLE, Tenn.

Faith and science often have a complicated relationship — a problem Lipscomb University's new McClure Center for Faith and Science aims to address.

The new center is made possible in large part by Dr. Robert McClure and his wife, Brenda, alumni and regular donors who took a strong interest in the intersection of faith and science.

The McClures have also funded the establishment of the McClure Endowed Professorship in Faith and Science as well as other capital projects at Lipscomb.

"Biblical interpretation is an integral part of our faith," McClure said in a press release. "We interpret

science by observation, thought, experimentation and further observation. When I read passages in the Bible or heard things taught from the pulpit that weren't consistent with modern scientific understanding, it was a problem for me, and I knew there had to be a better way of looking at these Scriptures."

David Holmes, dean of Lipscomb's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, said there is a fundamental connection there.

"The Christian liberal arts are about freedom, ultimately," he said. "The classical liberal arts are about intellectual freedom. The Christian faith is about spiritual freedom."

Read the full story at christianchronicle.org/faithandscience.

Gander Brook camp faces obstacles

RAYMOND, Maine

Linda King describes Gander Brook Christian Camp as a unifier of sorts for Churches of Christ in New England.

People from all over the region — and the U.S. — are part of "Gander Brook nation," with some connection to the Maine camp that has helped mold young Christians since 1956.

But more than 60 years of summers have taken their toll on many of the camp's facilities — particularly the dorm that houses summer staff, which predated the camp by another few decades. Now that dorm — the camp's largest building — needs to be replaced.

Initial quotes for a new dorm last year came in around \$535,000,

which the camp has been able to raise in two phases of fundraising over the past year.

However, King, who serves on the camp's board of directors, told *The Christian Chronicle* that the town later determined the camp would need to hire a structural engineer to make plans that would meet local codes. Those additional requirements — a sprinkler-alarm system, for example — along with rising building costs have meant more recent quotes were substantially higher. And while the camp is still taking bids from contractors, she said it appears the cost will end up around \$680,000. Read the full story online at christianchronicle.org/ganderbrookdorm.

LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

Assistant / Associate Professor of Public Relations/Advertising

The Lipscomb University School of Communication in Nashville, Tennessee, seeks an Assistant/Associate professor to teach undergraduate and graduate courses on a full-time basis in Public Relations and, as needed, Advertising, and to assist in collateral areas to fulfill and advance the goals of the school. We are particularly interested in candidates who will contribute to the school through excellence in teaching and service. Preference will be given to someone who has created and/or led a collegiate publication relations firm. In addition to the academic qualifications, the School of Communication expects this faculty member to have a strategic mindset, expertise with cutting-edge PR and Advertising technology, strong interest in media dynamics in relation to society and to be savvy about smart data.

This is a full-time, tenure-track position. Salary and academic rank are commensurate with academic qualifications and experience.

Lipscomb University School of Communication
1 University Park Drive
Nashville, TN 37204
(615) 966-6072

lipscomb.peopleadmin.com/postings/9625

LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY

Academic Chair, School of Music

The Lipscomb University School of Music in Nashville, Tennessee, seeks an academic chair with a record of excellence in teaching and a demonstrated record of success in the administration of a music school.

The academic chair will work with the Dean of the College of Entertainment and the Arts to envision and develop music programs that are both innovative and academically rigorous, will oversee the daily academic and administrative operation of the School of Music programs, and will teach within their area of expertise. The candidate must be progressive and innovative, ensuring that graduates in both classical and commercial programs are equipped with up-to-date skills for success in today's marketplace.

This is a full-time, tenure-track position with administrative release. Salary and academic rank are commensurate with academic qualifications and experience.

Jeff McPherson
jeff.mcpherson@lipscomb.edu (615) 243-2922

Lipscomb University School of Music
1 University Park Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

<https://lipscomb.peopleadmin.com/postings/10149>



Come work with Christians who are on a mission to show Jesus!

Night Staff: 10:00 PM-6:00 AM, days will vary Sunday-Saturday, full-time or part-time. Duties are to supervise residents during sleep hours.

Teacher Assistant: 8:00 AM-2:30 PM, Monday-Friday. Responsible for assisting the classroom teacher in general supervision and management of students. This is a salaried position.

Teachers: 8:00 AM-2:30 PM. Must be licensed in the State of Tennessee and have experience working with at-risk youth. School is in session through the summer. This is a salaried position.

Residential Counselor (couples). Responsible for day-to-day care, guidance, and training of adolescent males ages 12-18. This is a salaried position. You will work two weeks on and have one week off.

Salaried positions are eligible for benefits including pension, medical/vision/dental, and life insurance.

Dana Lawson, MBA, HR/QI Director
PO Box 10, Spring Hill, Tennessee 37174
(931) 486-2274, ext. 225
dlawson@tennesseehome.org



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Shults-Lewis Child and Family Services is seeking to fill the opening of **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** of the agency. Those wanting to be considered for the position should have the desire to help at-risk youth reach their full potential, strong administrative skills, excellent people and networking skills, and the ability to represent the agency in public and church settings.

Duties will entail overseeing the agency, which includes in-residence homes for at-risk youth, resident counseling services, and an on-site accredited Jr/Sr High School. The Executive Director will also be the "public face" of the agency. They will represent the agency in public and will actively cultivate support for the agency and its programs. Though not a requirement, a license in Clinical Social Work or other Clinical Counseling license or Master's-level Degrees that can become licensed would be highly desirable.

Shults-Lewis Child and Family Services, located in Valparaiso, Ind., is a dynamic treatment program for at-risk youth and their families. At Shults-Lewis we believe that families shouldn't have to struggle alone, and our residential environment, staffed by Christian houseparents and counselors, offers counseling, love, acceptance and, most of all, hope to teens and their families.

Salary will be commensurate with education, experience, licensure, etc.

You may read more about Shults-Lewis Child and Family Services on our website at:

<http://www.shultslewis.org>

You may submit your resume or curriculum vitae on-line at board@shultslewis.org.



MINISTRY JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Contact Robert Kimberly, Executive Director
 864.439.0259 or rkimberly@sech.org
 PO Box 339 Duncan, SC 29334

DIRECTOR OF COUNSELING

SECH has an immediate opening for Director of Counseling. The director's general function is to oversee the daily operation of Southeastern Counseling Center as well as to grow our existing client base. This may include: budgeting, maintaining of files and licenses, training, obtaining contracts and counseling, and helping with on-call of our residential program. This position further involves providing direct mental health services, including but not limited to the following: conducting assessments, individual/group/family therapy, and crisis interventions to clients. Minimum and additional requirements: South Carolina licensure as a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW), Licensed Independent Social Worker (LISW), or Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) preferred.

STAFF THERAPIST

SECH has an immediate opening for a Staff Therapist. This position involves providing direct mental health services, including but not limited to the following: conducting assessments, individual/group/family therapy, and crisis interventions to clients. Minimum and additional requirements: South Carolina licensure as a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW), Licensed Independent Social Worker (LISW), or Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) preferred. Applicants who are candidates for the above licenses will also be considered.



Houseparents

The Albuquerque Christian Children's Home is a 501(c) 3 that is passionately dedicated to providing long term foster care to at-risk children in New Mexico.

We are looking for a faithful married couple who love children, model their faith, and want to serve full time in our ministry as Houseparents.

Our benefit package includes: a relocation allowance, competitive salary, paid time off, medical for you and your children living with you, short and long term insurance, life insurance, a support team on call, weekly staffing with a licensed therapist, and excellent on-going training.

Interested couples can send their cover letter of interest and resume(s) to:

Sharon Roberson, Director Campus Life

Email: sroberson@acch4kids.org

Job description available upon request.

Look us up on our website: acch4kids.org

Over 50 years of "Mending Their Past Building Their Future"

NEWSMAKERS



RILEY FISHER, ACU OPTIMIST

Abilene Christian University in Texas has named Keith Patterson as the Wildcats' next head football coach. Patterson, who previously served as the defensive coordinator at Texas Tech University, has 13 years of experience in leading defense at the NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision level.



Jones

HIRE: Noah Jones as youth minister for the Walnut Street Church of Christ in Greenville, Ala. Paul Wisdom as youth minister for the Lafayette Church of Christ in Lafayette, Tenn. Michael Dale as



Bowman

preaching minister for the South Anchorage Church of Christ in Anchorage, Alaska. Josh Moore as campus minister at the McCarty Student Center in San Marcos, Texas.



Roach

Amy Bowman as children's minister for the Brentwood Hills Church of Christ in Nashville, Tenn. **APPOINTED:** Scott Melton, David O'Neil and Brent Roach as elders of the Robinson Avenue Church of Christ in Springdale, Ark.



Martin

RETIRED: Thomas Martin Jr. from the pulpit of the Madison Park Church of Christ in Seattle. Martin served the church for 17 years from 2004 to 2021.

Milestones

Anniversaries



Chester and Beverly Moore celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in October with their four children, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. They are members of the MacArthur Park Church of Christ in San Antonio.

Charles and Bonnie Sheppard of San Antonio will celebrate their 71st wedding anniversary in January 2022.

Memorials

Davida Hollingsworth 1932-2021

It is with great sadness that the family of Davida Ann Hollingsworth (née Smith) announce her passing on Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021, at the age of 89.

She was born on Aug. 5, 1932, in Nashville, Tenn., to parents Elwin and Sarah Smith. She married John Hollingsworth on Jan. 4, 1949.



Davida graduated from Isaac Litton High School in Nashville and Freed-Hardeman College in Henderson, Tenn. Her career consisted of ministry alongside her husband John and in assisting executives at Freed-Hardeman and Pepperdine universities.

Davida was a nurturing mother and devoted wife. She will be lovingly remembered by husband John, children Davida Lambert

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

(Lew), Scot Hollingsworth (Sara), Philip Hollingsworth; grandchildren Julie, Craig, Lisa, David, Elizabeth, Megan, Evan, and Christopher; eight great-grandchildren; and sister, Peggy Sweeney (Chester).

Davida was predeceased by her parents Elwin and Sarah and her brother Hugh "Bubba" Smith.

Memorial donations can be made to: Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort, Inc., PO Box 111180, Nashville, TN 37222-1180.

Woodie Morrison 1932-2021

Longtime gospel preacher Dr. Woodie W. Morrison died Sept. 28, 2021, at age 89.

He was born in Mexia, Texas, to Frank Morrison Sr. and Rosella Hamilton-Morrison on March 12, 1932. When Woodie was only a few months old, his mother tragically passed away. He and his five siblings lived in different homes until his father met and married Christina, who was affectionately called "Madea."

Woodie graduated from Dunbar High School in 1950 and then lived with his older sister Wille Mae Kelly in Fort Worth, Texas. Through his sister's influence, Woodie obeyed the gospel.

He was surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses in the Fort Worth area — J.S. Winston Sr., G.E. Stewart, Grover C. Washington and S.T.W. Gibbs II. Through their guidance, Woodie became one of the first students to attend Southwestern Christian College in Terrell, Texas. There he was active in the chorus, student government and ministerial studies. He graduated from Southwestern in 1954.

For the next 67 years, Woodie dedicated his life in sacrificial service for the cause of Christ throughout the U.S., Jamaica and Haiti. He humbly and faithfully served congregations in Texas, Ohio and California. His labor was marked by an emphasis on sound biblical teaching, soul-winning, continuing education, encouragement of

younger ministers, civic engagement and civil service.

Woodie was instrumental in breaking racial barriers through his employment and matriculation at Pepperdine University in California in the 1970s. He helped organize the historic Human Relations Summit of 1968 in Dayton, Ohio. A partial transcript of the summit can be found in the only book he authored, "The Shaping of a Brotherhood." Woodie served as a director of personal evangelism for the Los Angeles Campaign for Christ while serving in the



same capacity at the Figueroa Church of Christ under the mentorship of R.N. Hogan.

In Woodie's last 20-plus years of ministry, he sacrificially labored with the Sixth Avenue Church of Christ in Mineral Wells, Texas. He co-founded and led a foundation named after another great influencer, J.S. Winston Sr.

In addition to his gratitude for the privilege of serving in the Kingdom, Woodie took great pride in his family. Out of the bonds of holy matrimony to Dorothy (Ronnie, Kenneth, who preceded him in death, and Vickie) and Anne (Jonathan), Woodie was blessed to raise and love four children whom he cherished. As a beloved father, grandfather, brother and uncle, Woodie also encouraged his family to pursue a faithful life in Christ and a life of excellence in the world.

Woodie leaves to treasure his memory three children: Ronnie, Victoria, and Jonathan (Lataria); nine grandchildren, six great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, loved ones and friends, including his dear friend Rosiland.

WITH APPRECIATION: *The Christian Chronicle* acknowledges gifts received in honor of Elmer Cochran and in memory of Sarah Barton, Al Sharp, Ott Sharp, Bobby L. Spann Sr. and Mike Talley.

EDITORIAL

It's time to resume the Lord's work

We are all tired of this pandemic. The summer of 2021 started with optimism and progress, rising vaccination rates and declining infection rates. Then came August and the delta variant. Now we have omicron. Our knowledge of the Greek alphabet is growing — but for all the wrong reasons. To borrow the language of lament, we are once again asking, “How long?”

The pandemic's early days were filled with uncertainty. Our limited knowledge led us to do what we thought best. Fifteen days of quarantine to flatten the curve turned out to be overly optimistic. Then we canceled VBS, mission trips, potlucks, worship times and other important ministries.

As the pandemic dragged on, we began hoping and planning for the post-pandemic world. Nearly two years later, we continue hoping and planning.

Over those two years, some ministries sat paralyzed with uncertainty, waiting to resume normal life and ministry. With new variants and

restrictions, any signal for all-clear remains uncertain.

The decision about how to minister in this moment has been falsely framed as a battle between fear and faith. The cautious are labeled “fearful” as the full-speed-ahead are labeled “faithful.” Both descriptions make an unfortunate oversimplification.

Faithful people of God have always found ways to minister, even in times of fear and uncertainty. Jeremiah battled the prophet Hananiah, who falsely promised Judah's ordeal would last only two years. It lasted 70.

‘Faithful people of God have always found ways to minister.’

Jeremiah knew God's plans for Judah's prosperity and future. Rather than hunker down and wait for post-exilic life to begin, Judah was told to “seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare” (Jeremiah 29:11). There was work to be done.

The murder of Stephen created fear and uncertainty for believers in Jerusalem. Instead of waiting for



VIDEO SCREENSHOT

The Editorial Board — Bobby Ross Jr., Audrey Jackson, Erik Tryggstad, Cheryl Mann Bacon, Trindi Mitchell, Jeremie Beller and John Edmerson — discusses editorial topics during a recent Facebook Live. Watch the next live panel at 3 p.m. Central/4 p.m. Eastern Jan. 11 at facebook.com/christianchronicle.

a post-persecution era to resume their ministry, the scattered Christians “went from place to place, proclaiming the word” (Acts 8:4).

And Paul did not wait for post-prison life to carry on his work. From prison he sent letters, welcomed guests and shared the Gospel with even the guards who watched over him (Philippians 1:12-14).

Who knows how long this ordeal will last or what further adjustments to life and ministry may come? One thing is certain — it is time for ministry to go on.

We can no longer afford to sit and wait for a post-pandemic world to resume the work to which God calls us. Kingdom work has never

been dependent on its immediate environment for success. The Gospel must still be shared. The hungry must still be fed. The broken must still be bound up.

Our plans and our tactics may change, but countless opportunities stand before us. The pandemic has only increased our opportunities.

The longer we spend idly waiting for a post-pandemic world, the more kingdom opportunities we miss. And the more time we spend fighting over mandates and masks, the less time and credibility we have for kingdom work. It is not unfaithful to be wisely cautious, but it is unfaithful to remain still! — **Jeremie Beller, for the Editorial Board**

 **The Christian Chronicle.**
Real news that honors God.

A subsidiary of Oklahoma Christian University

christianchronicle.org

Phone: (405) 425-5070; Fax (405) 425-5076

Mail: P.O. Box 11000, Oklahoma City, OK 73136-1100
Delivery: 2501 E. Memorial Road, Edmond, OK 73013

 facebook.com/ChristianChronicle  twitter.com/ChristianChron

President and CEO: **Erik Tryggstad**
erik@christianchronicle.org

Editor-in-Chief: **Bobby Ross Jr.**
bobby@christianchronicle.org

Associate Editor: **Audrey Jackson**

audrey@christianchronicle.org

Opinions Editor: **Jeremie Beller**

jeremie@christianchronicle.org

Advertising Manager: **Tonya Patton**

tonya@christianchronicle.org

Lead Administrative Assistant: **Lynda Sheehan**

lynda@christianchronicle.org

Administrative Assistant: **Joy McMillon**

joy.mcmillon@christianchronicle.org

Administrative Assistant: **Melinda Wilson**

melinda.wilson@christianchronicle.org

Administrative Assistant: **Janet Hall**

Staff Accountant: **Louise Beyer**

President Emeritus: **Lynn McMillon**

Correspondents: **Cheryl Mann Bacon,**

Calvin Cockrell, Hamil R. Harris

Stewardship Officer: **Alan Phillips**

alan@christianchronicle.org

(for information about giving and estate planning)

SUBSCRIPTIONS: christianchronicle.org/subscribe-to-the-chronicle/ or (405) 425-5070.

FEEDBACK, LETTERS: letters@christianchronicle.org

The Christian Chronicle® encourages feedback that promotes thoughtful and respectful discussion. Comments to the print or online editions are considered to be letters to the editor and may be published. Please include name, city and state of residence, as well as home congregation. Feedback may be edited for length and clarity.

The Christian Chronicle® is not a teaching or doctrinal publication but a newspaper with news and opinion content in sections clearly labeled. Signed columns and reviews reflect the opinions of the authors.

Advertising contains commercial messages from those who purchase the advertising space. News coverage, opinion columns, reviews, letters to the editor and advertising do not necessarily represent the views of or constitute endorsement by the editors, the staff, the Board of Trustees of *The Christian Chronicle* or

Oklahoma Christian University.

The Christian Chronicle® is published monthly and is served by a national Board of Trustees that is charged with the responsibility for policy and governance. All trustees, editors and staff are active members of Churches of Christ.



TRUSTEES:

Mike O'Neal (chairman) • Andrew Benton • Ed Biggers
Monte Cox • John deSteiguer • Erin Engelke
Scott Laird • James Moore • Barry Packer • Taneise Perry
Joel Reed • Lana Reynolds • Brian Simmons
Milton Sewell • Gary Tabor

'Brenton' by Rick Gibson and W. Keith Brenton



See more by following [brenton.daily](https://www.facebook.com/brenton.daily) on Facebook and Instagram.

FROM OUR READERS

Reader responds to abortion news

The obvious multiple facets of this subject always leave out one premise of Christian beliefs ("Abortion faces uncertain future," Page 1, December).

That is: We are each responsible for our own eternal destiny. I believe that life begins at conception. The politicization of the issue discredits the message we say we want people to live by. I find little wisdom in vocalizing opposition as it only sends the profound message of rejection to those who do choose abortion.

Again, I am *not* defending abortion. But I am defending the message of Christ that we should love and not condemn those who make abortion as a decision in their life. Given the vehemence on abortion, perhaps the Christian community should be as vehement about purity, sanctity of sex and the joy of relationships lived in wholeness.

CAROL RISTER COPELAND | Omaha, Neb.

I would like to thank *The Christian Chronicle* for this article ("Los Angeles church finds damage," Page 7, December).

I am a member of the Southside Church of Christ in Los Angeles and have been for over 50 years.

I just would like to recognize Dr. Carl C. Baccus for 65 years of service as our senior minister. I believe he has the longest tenure of any one minister at one congregation in Churches of Christ across the nation.

BOBBIE LANHAM | Los Angeles

I find this story fascinating ("Harding professor reads Bible stories online — in Hebrew," Page 23, December).

My grandfather, the late G.P. Bowser, a preacher and Bible scholar, learned Hebrew to be able to read the original manuscripts.

CHARLOTTE HOLT-FULLER | Durban, South Africa



Children's Ministry

We are looking for a Bible-loving servant leader to join our Conejo Church family in Southern California

and continue to grow our vibrant children's ministry program following the retirement of our current children's minister. The ideal candidate will have a passion for sharing God's word with children and their families. Excellent communication and organizational skills are a must. Finding and/or developing creative curriculum for use by teams of volunteer teachers will be key to your success.

Please forward resume and inquiries to office@conejochurch.org.

Conejo Valley Church of Christ
2525 E Hillcrest Drive
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

Full-Time Involvement Minister Wanted in the Fastest Growing Area of Southern California

The **Beaumont Church of Christ** is seeking an involvement minister who knows his Bible and the Holy Spirit's 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 practicing our faith in the community. He will join with our three elders and others in preaching one or two Sundays per month or more. In Beaumont there is a true sense of community. Situated in the pass between two beautiful mountains, we are only 1 1/2 hours from snow peaks, the beach, and the desert. Come and see our fervor for the Lord.

Send resumes and inquiries to:

churchelders960@gmail.com

Beaumont Church of Christ

PO Box AH, Beaumont, CA 92223



EXPERIENCE MINISTRY HERE

IN THE CLASS
AND IN THE FIELD



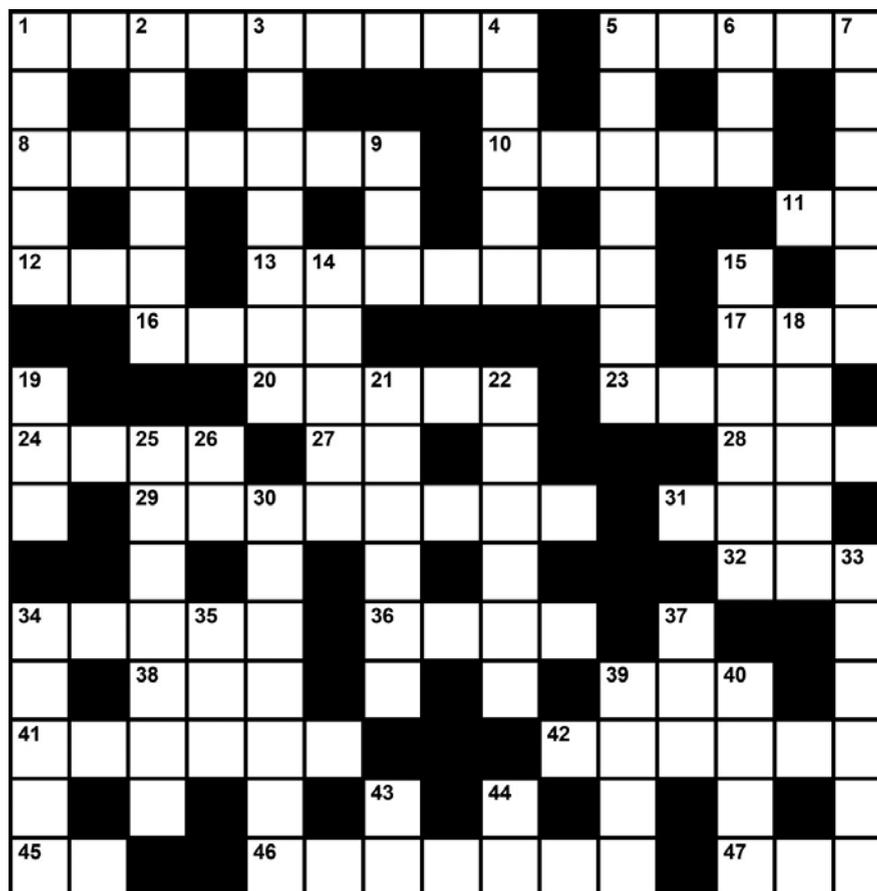
www.hcu.edu
HERITAGE
CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY

The Christian Chronicle Crossword

By Myles Mellor | www.ilovecrosswords.com

ACROSS

1. "Yet Michael the _____, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, ..." (Jude 9, King James Version).
5. "But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said 'Why ____ ye me, ye hypocrites?'" (Matthew 22:18, KJV).
8. "And ____ arose, and her maids, and they rode upon the camels" (Genesis 24:61, KJV).
10. "But again that night ____ did not go home" (2 Samuel 11:13, Good News Translation).
11. Dawn time.
12. Joshua's dad.
13. "And ____ lifted up his eyes and looked and behold him a ram caught in the thicket" (Genesis 22:13, KJV).
16. Move.
17. Samson used a jawbone from this animal to kill his enemies.
20. Old Testament prophet.
23. Stringed instrument played by David.
24. Came to ____ (happen).
27. From, in Italian.
28. ____ lords a leaping in a Christmas song.
29. Sacred agreement: Abraham made one with God.
31. Exclamation of discovery.
32. "And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore ____ thou come?" (Matthew 26:50, KJV).
34. "For people do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they pick grapes from a ____ bush" (Luke 6:44, New American Standard Bible).
36. Prayer ending.
38. Very large.
39. Under.
41. "A person's discretion makes him



- slow to anger, and it is to his ____ that he ignores an offense" (Proverbs 19:11, International Standard Version).
42. "Make an ____ to Yahweh. There has been enough of God's thunder and hail. I will let you go." (Exodus 9:28, Christian Standard Bible).
45. Abbreviation for saint
46. "Spikenard and ____; calamus and cinnamon" (Song of Solomon 4:14, KJV).
47. "and Lot ____ in the gate of Sodom" (Genesis 19:1, KJV).

DOWN

1. "The Lord said to ____, 'Go into the wilderness to meet Moses'" (Exodus 4:27, New International Version).
2. "When Jeremiah was entered into the dungeon, and into the ____, and Jeremiah had remained there many days" (Jeremiah 37:16, KJV).
3. "Blessed are those who have learned to ____ you, who walk in the light of your presence, Lord." (Psalm 89:15, NIV).
4. "And the Lord said to Abraham,

- Wherefore did Sarah ____, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child ..." (Genesis 18:13, KJV).
5. "So I will ____ over my enemies who surround me! I will offer sacrifices in his dwelling place" (Psalm 27:6, GNT).
6. Car speed, for short.
7. Disciple who doubted Jesus.
9. "Behold the fowls of the ____: for they sow not, neither do they reap." (Matthew 6:26, KJV).
14. "On the fourth day they said to Samson's ____, 'Trick your husband into giving the solution to the riddle'" (Judges 14:15, New English Translation).
15. "But ____ was cumbered about much in serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve all alone?" (Luke 10:40, KJV).
18. Long weapon.
19. Choose.
21. "Abram dwelled in the land of ____, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain" (Genesis 13:12, KJV).
22. "Blessed are they which do ____ and thirst after righteousness" (Matthew 5:6, KJV).
25. The ____ and the Pharisees. (Matthew 12:38, KJV)
26. Therefore.
30. The wise and foolish ____ (Matthew 25:1-13, KJV).
33. Stone piece on which the Ten Commandments were inscribed.
34. Supports.
35. Help.
37. Have dinner.
39. "Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they ____ not" (Luke 12:27, KJV).
40. "The sluggard does not plow after the autumn. So he ____ during the harvest and has nothing" (Proverbs 20:4, NASB).
43. From.
44. Medical title.

Word Find: The letter to the Ephesians

By Betty Hollister | The Christian Chronicle

CORNERSTONESNOITARENEG
 RNEIGHBORLYTNEIDEBO
 EEAXELTITNEMETHGILNEO
 AKLTEMPLECHRGNILLEWDL
 TRMOURIGHTEOUSNESSIEIN
 IASGVRTISYTLITSOHSSEE
 ODYETIETTSTURTTIAIDSVS
 NOTTYNNIDEVILENISNOEES
 OOIHLGRGETGAELCEREMLRO
 IHLEOONEANGERRSNMINBSG
 TEIRHITLITNAIDAREAPITN
 ASTTRIAHEAVENLYHERGSEI
 DLUERNCTRANSGRESSNEIAS
 NAFORAHUMILITYHTURTVLI
 UFVEEGDNUORGNIDRAWERA
 OATTITUDECEITFULDESIA
 FELLOWSHIPREDESTINEDGP

Find the following words from Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus. The unused 18 letters form a statement about a theme of the book. (Find the answer on Page 34.)

- ATTITUDE
- FALSEHOOD
- LOVING
- RIGHTEOUSNESS
- ANGER
- FAVORITE
- NATURE
- SHARE
- AUTHORITY
- FELLOWSHIP
- NEIGHBOR
- SHINE
- BELIEVERS
- FOUNDATION
- OBEDIENT
- SPIRIT
- BLESSED
- FUTILITY
- OFFERING
- STEAL
- CORNERSTONE
- GENERATIONS
- ORDERLY
- TEACHING
- CREATION
- GOODNESS
- PARTNERS
- TITLE
- DARKEN
- GROUND
- PRAISING
- TOGETHER
- DECEITFUL
- HEAVENLY
- PREDESTINED
- TEMPLE
- DEVIL
- HOLY
- RADIANT
- TRANSGRESS
- DWELLING
- HOSTILITY
- RAISED
- TRUST
- ENLIGHTENMENT
- HUMILITY
- REALMS
- TRUTH
- ETERNAL
- LIGAMENT
- REVERENCE
- VISIBLE
- EXERTED
- LIGHT
- REWARDING
- WISDOM

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. Quiz by Steve Whitehead of the British Bible School, britishbibleschool.com. Answers, crossword solution on Page 34.

1. Moved from Ur to Harran to Egypt before settling in his promised land.
2. A busy homemaker from Bethany.
3. Home of the largest library in the ancient world.
4. Waited for the Messiah along with Simeon.
5. The hidden books from between the testaments.
6. This nation was centered on Nineveh.
7. Husband of Priscilla.
8. Husband of Jezebel.
9. Uriah's widow.
10. The "shortest" king of Judah.

"The day before yesterday, I was deeply thinking about Jesus' life and his struggle... On that night, I couldn't sleep till midnight because I was feeling that my heart was coming out. Now I can surely say that I want to give my life for Jesus."

A response from a WEI student from Afghanistan



Billions wake up every day in darkness without a relationship with God. Most have never read the Bible. Over 10,000 are registering monthly. 3,500 of them are becoming WEI students. Each student begins his or her wonderful journey through the Bible starting with a study of God's creation and continues to Jesus Christ.

Through this incredible evangelistic tool, you can teach and help lead lost souls to the Lord in 197 countries. 33% of these students live behind the Islamic iron curtain. Do you want to know the best part? You can do this from your kitchen table. Begin your missionary journey from the comfort of your home.

We need you more than ever to become an internet teacher to help students hear about Jesus Christ for the first time. To become a teacher, or simply to learn more, go to our website.



www.worldenglishinstitute.net

HERALD OF TRUTH MINISTRIES INVITES YOU TO



APRIL 25-28, 2022
 PICKWICK LANDING STATE PARK · COUNCE, TENN.

SOAR is a seniors' retreat designed to equip, encourage, engage and energize senior Christians. This retreat will include times of worship, study, fellowship and entertainment. Christians from all over the country are encouraged to come and take part in this exciting event!

Don't miss your chance to SOAR. Go to www.heraldoftruth.org/SOAR to register: \$149 Single (Early Bird \$125 by Jan. 31) or \$275 Couple (Early Bird \$250 by Jan. 31). Group Registration rates available as well. Registration deadline is April 15. Space is limited so make your plans soon!

'The Chosen' is the latest in a long line of innovations the church has embraced

Growing up in church is a great blessing, but it also means we know all the stories of the Bible.

The danger in knowing is that we do not always hear what we need to hear. We may overlook the nuance of a verse or the historical context of a passage because we have heard it before. There are ways to hear Scripture anew. A skilled preacher, Bible meditation or a new translation can be helpful.

We now have a new tool in our arsenal, and it is **"The Chosen."**

There has been a resurgence of faith-based films and TV shows in recent years. They are not all equal in quality, and I was leery when I heard about another one in production.

But "The Chosen" is unique. It is unlike any other movie or TV show based on the life of Jesus. It is a fresh approach that should have Christians excited and talking.

"The Chosen" presents the gospel story on a screen — whether it be a phone, tablet, TV or projector. There is a cultural shift taking place in how people learn. Many receive information via screen rather than print.

The church must remember that new technology has previously been our friend. Early Christians used codices to share New Testament documents. The printing press made the Reformation possible.

Rather than bemoan new technologies, we should seek to use them to our advantage just as our ancestors did. We now have a well-made depiction of the gospel, and we should be asking how we can use it to spread the message of Jesus.

"The Chosen" is different from other film depictions of the Gospels because it does not attempt a straightforward retelling of the story. It does not begin with the birth of Jesus or who Jesus is. Instead, we discover Jesus through the lens of people like Mary Magdalene, Nicodemus, Peter, Matthew and a group of children. This approach is helpful for non-believers who have not made up

their minds about who Jesus is. They get to figure this out along with Mary Magdalene, Nicodemus and others. It is also great for believers because we begin to look at these texts in different ways and learn things we may have missed or forgotten.

Christians are sometimes uncomfortable when a scene or storyline is added to the biblical narrative to make a movie coherent. We may wonder about the motives of those making the show. What was their intent? We are right to be cautious,

and thankfully the makers of "The Chosen" address this before the first episode. They state, "all biblical and historical context and any artistic imagination are designed to support the truth and intention of the Scriptures. Viewers are encouraged to read the gospels." The purpose of "The Chosen" is to point people to the truth and encourage people to read their Bibles.

When I watched "The Chosen," I was amazed, surprised and moved. My faith was strengthened. I was excited to share this story with my friends, family and neighbors. This is how we are supposed to feel when we hear the gospel. We are encountering good news, and we should want to tell as many people as possible.

We are living in a time when congregations are in decline. At the same time, many people in society are asking deep questions and are looking for answers.

I hope we will take this incredible presentation of the Gospel and show it in church buildings. Open your doors and invite everyone in your community to attend. I hope that churches will encourage members to show it in their homes. Invite neighbors, share a meal and learn about Jesus. People will be intrigued. People will ask questions. We should be ready to provide answers.

SCOTT ELLIOTT is minister for the La Grange Church of Christ in Texas.

In Print



Scott Elliott



Angel Studios. **The Chosen.** Online at watch.angelstudios.com or download the free app from the App Store or Google Play.

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

BIBLICAL MEDITATION

J. Jones. **Guided Spiritual Meditation Series.** Free video series, 2021. Find the videos on YouTube at youtube.com/c/AnxietyStressMeditationRelaxation or see the series' page at tinyurl.com/yume8b62.

From the producer: In ancient times, meditation had a different, more active meaning than what most people think of today. From the Hebrew, *Hagah* meditation (pronounced "ha-ga" or "haw-gaw") was the practice of speaking, uttering or making a quiet sound such as sighing. One would contemplate the scripture as one spoke the words of the scripture.

In this series, we practice the speaking meditation of *Hagah*. We focus on anxiety and worry, fear, depression, hope, who you are in Christ, peace, power, victory and more.

Our hope and prayer is that we will be empowered and encouraged, challenged and convicted, and that we will be transformed more into the likeness of Jesus.

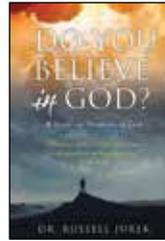


ON BELIEF

Dr. Russ Jurek. **Do You Believe in God?**

Xulon Press, 2021. 108 pages. \$13.49. Paperback and ebook. Order from Xulon Press, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Target.

From the author: "Do You Believe in God?" is about believing the promises of God. It focuses on the huge difference between believing in God and believing God. The problem is that most people who believe in God don't believe God. Even those who say, "I have a relationship with God" or "I'm a Christian" don't really believe God. If they truly believed God, their behavior would reflect that belief. I'm challenging readers to stop just believing in God and start believing God.

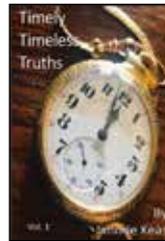


BIBLE STUDY/SERMON SERIES

Jimmie Keas. **Timely Timeless Truths, Vol. 1.**

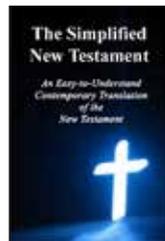
Self-published, 2020. 176 pages. \$10 plus tax and postage. Order from ockeas@att.net or call (405) 949-9551.

Jimmie Keas is a 1963 graduate of Oklahoma Christian University and has preached for Churches of Christ since that time. Most of the 10 chapters are his sermons from gospel meetings in readable form — with condensed outlines and permission to use in teaching and preaching. Chapters include "Wise Birds Don't Roost on Rotten Limbs!" and "The Church That Cares!"



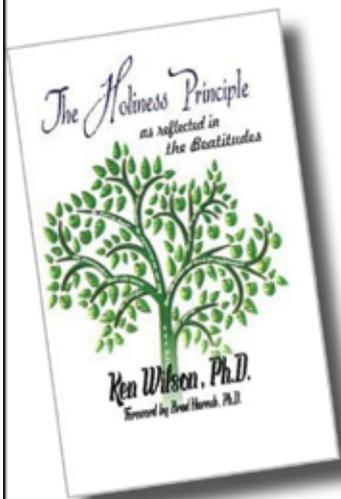
Glenn Rogers. **The Simplified New Testament.** Simpson & Brook Publishers, 2021. \$24.95. Order from Amazon.

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY submissions are paid advertisements.



The Holiness Principle

by Ken Wilson, Ph.D.



SALE!

\$13.95 **\$9.95**

The Holiness Principle is written with the viewpoint that “holiness” is reflected in the Beatitudes, and not only is it reflected in them, but also biblically they reveal the righteousness of our Lord Jesus Christ. When we look at the message of the Beatitudes, it is evident that if a disciple wants to please the Lord, he must embrace these values in his life. (Paperback, 170 pages)

Order your copy today! Agapecounselingcenter.org

COVID-19 Checklist

What is your congregation doing to protect your members?

- Follow mandated restrictions
- Wear masks
- Social distance
- Use prefilled communion sets
- Encourage use of hand sanitizers
- Leadership set examples
- Clean touched surfaces
- Use The Paperless Hymnal

After all the cleaning seems finished, have you cleaned the items touched by most members and even passed between individuals? Cleaning hymnals isn't easy and may even physically harm them. Now is the time to invest in the hymnal that doesn't need to be cleaned every week.

www.PaperlessHymnal.com



Renewal Through Restoration: An Uncommon Call to Christian Discipleship

Perspectives from 4 current and former church elders in Australia and America: Benny Tabalujan, Allan McNicol, Steve Wilson, and Everett Ferguson.

- 230 pages, including discussion questions
- Bulk discounts for 2 or more print copies: Klesis.com.au and Christian-studies.org (Ebook: Amazon.com)
- Allen Black, Harding School of Theology: “Extraordinary book – thoughtful, well-informed, irenic.”
- Harold Shank, Oklahoma church elder: “This call has great personal appeal.”
- Nathan Wilson, youth leader: “Read it if you grew up among Churches of Christ and are seeking to understand why you should stay.”



The Solution to Your Christ-Based Addiction-Recovery Ministry

NextStepChristianRecovery.com

“Our church has great results with your *12 Steps to a Closer Walk with God Workbook* and its accompanying Bible. We use them in our church recovery ministry and at a local women's addiction-recovery center. It allows these women, mostly unchurched, to seek answers from the Bible while putting the steps to work in their lives.”

Ernie Bueno, Saturn Road Church of Christ, Garland, Texas

Endorsed by NewLife Behavior Ministries and Christians Against Substance Abuse.

All books, workbooks and DVDs sell for their wholesale price.

The 40-year-old
AMEN Ministry
connects Christians
in the United States
Military with local churches
of Christ both overseas and in the U.S.



Please send name, email, and other
contact info to:

AMEN Ministry
amen.ministry@comcast.net
P.O. Box 353
Hebron, CT 06248
(860) 372-7051

Want to grow with little cost?

Successful radio evangelist will preach, hold meetings, and help you develop a local radio outreach for a low cost.

Our webmaster can develop and expand your website. Small congregations, too.

Call Today!
(214) 552-3206

Plague Worship @ Home Radio & Net

- 770 AM Radio** (DFW & North Texas)
11 am-noon & 10 pm
- 1340 AM** (Abilene, TX)
Noon-1 pm
- 1300 AM** (Nashville, TN)
11:30 & 4 pm
- 1360 AM** (Nashville, TN)
Noon & 6:30 pm
- 1600 AM** (Memphis, TN)
4 pm
- 1640 AD** (San Francisco - Oakland, CA)
4 pm

churchofchristpreaching.com

Congregations:

Encourage your missionaries at home or overseas by signing them up for a free subscription to *The Christian Chronicle!*

Christians with a special love for our international brothers and sisters have donated for this to happen. We can add them to our email list or send print copies monthly or both.

If you would like to make a donation for our international efforts or add someone to our list, please contact: lynda@christianchronicle.org.

Bless your
missionaries with an international
subscription.

Pulpit Minister - New Mexico

Mayhill Church of Christ, a small (30 member/ no elder) acappella congregation, located in the beautiful Lincoln National Forest in southern N.M., is seeking a pulpit minister who is knowledgeable of the scriptures to preach scripturally sound sermons and teach biblically sound Bible classes. Must be willing to teach the truth on controversial topics with love, compassion, and humbleness.

This is an independent contractor position. Compensation is negotiable. Will reimburse up to \$5,000 for relocation expenses. Contact:

Bobby Moberly (575) 973-8476 or

Larry Dockray (575) 635-5936

Email resumes to mayhillcoc@outlook.com

Full-time Pulpit Preacher/ Evangelist Search

Hermitage Church of Christ is looking for a full-time pulpit preacher/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, preaching, teaching Bible classes, visiting members of the congregation and contacting members of the congregation. We are seeking a married man. The candidate's lessons should accurately reflect and convey Biblical truths, the gospel of Christ, and the nature of God.

Hermitage is located in northwestern Pennsylvania. It is a middle-class community with good schools and is approximately 40,000 people in size. It is located conveniently nearby U.S. Route 80 and is approximately one hour from Pittsburgh and two hours from Cleveland, Ohio. There are several colleges and universities nearby.

Salary will be commensurate with experience. Please send resume with references and CD/DVD's of or links to two sermons to:

Gabriel Illes, Ministerial Committee
4835 Miller South Road
Bristolville, Ohio 44402-9723

JOB OPENINGS

Pulpit Minister Search

Sunshine Church of Christ, 20 Barklow Rd, Portsmouth, OH 45662, (740) 935-9701, samccray@gampops.com.

Family Discipleship Minister Search

Brooks Avenue Church of Christ, 700 Brooks Ave, Raleigh, NC 27607, doughall@pobox.com.

College Minister Search

College Church of Christ, 712 E Race Ave, Searcy, AR 72143, (501) 268-7156, nick.collegechurch@gmail.com.

Small Group Minister Search

Brooks Avenue Church of Christ, 700 Brooks Ave, Raleigh, NC 27607, doughall@pobox.com.

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

Crossword | From Page 30



Bible Bowling | From Page 31

- 1) Abraham (or Abram) (Genesis 11).
- 2) Martha (Luke 10:38-42).
- 3) Alexandria.
- 4) Anna (Luke 2:36).
- 5) Apocrypha.
- 6) Assyria (2 Kings 19:36).
- 7) Aquila (Acts 18:2).
- 8) Ahab (1 Kings 16:31).
- 9) Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11).
- 10) Asa (2 Chronicles 14 — "shortest" king of Judah in terms of letters in his name).

Word Search | From Page 31

The unused 18 letters read: "CHRISTIANS GET ALONG."

A password into God's presence: In Spanish, it's 'acción de gracias'

NASHVILLE, Tenn.

The great — and sometimes terrifying — thing about this job is that I'm constantly running into people I've written about.

But there was only joy as I walked into the auditorium of the Iglesia de Cristo en Grandview and saw Carlos Baltodano setting up the PowerPoint. "Look who it is!" I whispered excitedly to my wife.

For the past 14 years, the Spanish-speaking Grandview church has hosted a bilingual holiday devotional with the English-speaking Brentwood Hills Church of Christ, where my sister serves as children's minister. The devo didn't happen last year, of course, but this year it had probably its best attendance ever, said Brentwood Hills minister Walt Leaver.

Walt spoke about the "password that will get us into the presence of God" — *acción de gracias* (thanksgiving), taking his cue from Psalm 100: "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise."

Carlos, minister for the Grandview church, translated the devo into Spanish. We met Carlos in 2004 on a medical mission trip to Guatemala with Health Talents International.

Jeanie, my wife, was in her fourth year of med school. When she wasn't testing kids' blood-sugar levels — or helping the docs suture a farmer who had accidentally macheteed his big toe — she was setting up interviews for her pediatric residency using the technology available at the rural mission clinic. Fun times.

Carlos, a native of Nicaragua, was serving as a coordinator for Health Talents. He was a behind-the-scenes guy who handled logistics for the clinics and medical mission teams.

I wrote a feature about him for *The Christian Chronicle*. He was so busy that we had to do the interview



ERIK TRYGGESTAD

Doctors Silvia Baltodano and Jeanie Tryggestad at the Grandview church.

at 11 p.m. Clearly, neither of us had kids at the time.

Carlos stayed up late a lot when he was a student at Harding University in Arkansas, sometimes translating his textbooks word by word as he worked to improve his English. He attended Harding on a Walton International Scholarship, an initiative launched by the Walmart founder's family. Carlos recently completed a Master of Divinity degree at Lipscomb.

He met his wife, Silvia, in Guatemala. Silvia, a dentist, worked with Jeanie during our 2004 trip. Rick Harper, U.S. missions director for Health Talents, told me that the diamond Carlos used in Silvia's ring came from our dear friend Dave Ellis, a pharmacist with a real heart for Guatemala. I get a little choked up thinking about that. Dave went to our eternal home in 2016 after battling cancer. (Come to think of it, Dave also advised me on gifts to woo Jeanie with before we got married. That's a story for another time.)

In that interview 17 years ago, Carlos talked about how he saw God at work in the opportunities he'd been given, how he didn't want to disappoint those who put their faith in him.

Most of all, he was thankful.

I love that the Spanish translation of "thanksgiving" uses the word *acción* — action of thanks.

We demonstrate thanksgiving by living it, by using the blessings we've received to serve God's people. Carlos and Silvia are doing that in Nashville. And I pray that all of us will live out our gratitude in 2022.

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



Baltodano

Your gift means the world to us!



If you're reading this newspaper, you know the value of **real news that honors God**. A year-end donation will keep *The Christian Chronicle* strong in 2022. Please consider a one-time or monthly gift, or ask us about our new **Chronicle Associates** program.

All gifts are tax-deductible. Check one:

I'm enclosing my first monthly gift of \$10 or more as a **Keeper of the Chronicle**.

I'm enclosing a **one-time gift** to support the *Chronicle*. Gifts postmarked by Dec. 31 are eligible for deductions on my 2021 taxes.

I'm enclosing a gift of \$1,000 or more to become a founding **Chronicle Associate**.

Go to christianchronicle.org/donate to contribute by credit or debit card or mail this form with your check to **The Christian Chronicle, PO Box 11000, Oklahoma City, OK 73136-1100**. To donate by phone or for more information, call us at **(405) 425-5070**.

Contribute by mobile device at [\\$christianchronicle](https://www.christianchronicle.org) on Cash App.

Know someone who values **real news that honors God**? Send them a gift subscription

Name: _____

Address: _____

How can we bring Christ to a world that seems intent on tearing itself apart? That's a question I'm sure you're wrestling with as we pray for this ceaseless pandemic to end. Everything, everything seems divisive right now, and I'm convinced that there's never been a better time for **real news that honors God**.

In 2022, we anticipate rising costs for our print and online operations. Please consider a tax-deductible gift.

Better yet, why not join the ranks of our **Keepers of the Chronicle** or consider becoming one of our founding **Chronicle Associates**?

Feel free to contact me for more information.

— Erik Tryggestad, president and CEO



HARDING
UNIVERSITY

EARN A MASTER OF EDUCATION IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION LEADERSHIP

The Master of Education in Christian Education Leadership
The MCEL is a fully online, 30-hour program focused on equipping school leaders to identify current trends in Christian education and providing strategies to navigate the future in relevant and sustainable ways. Coursework explores Christian leadership, cultural contexts, generational outcomes, mental health, financial management and diversity.

Participants will have the opportunity to network with Christian and independent school leaders from across the country and will complete a capstone project at the completion of the program.

HARDING.EDU/MCEL

FIND YOUR PLACE AND YOUR MISSION HERE

Classes begin February 14



Now accepting applications for the position of
**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF
CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

The Lubbock Christian University Department of Social Work and Criminal Justice seeks a highly qualified educator/scholar to serve as a full-time Criminal Justice faculty member and teach various criminal justice courses beginning in spring, 2022. The successful candidate will teach lower- and upper-division classes in subjects relating to Texas criminal law, the legal aspects of law enforcement, criminal investigation, criminology, white collar crime, understanding sexual offending, the death penalty, cyber-crimes and to continue the development of a criminal investigation laboratory. An earned doctorate in criminal justice or Juris Doctor (JD) degree is required. Persons with a master's degree in criminal justice who are committed to pursuing a doctorate may be considered. All qualified applicants must be professing Christians and be active, faithful members of a congregation of the Churches of Christ and be willing to support the Christian mission and purpose of the university.

For a complete list of duties, qualifications, and components of the application packet, visit LCU.edu/OpenPositions

For additional information, contact: **Jill Johnson, PhD, LMSW-IPR**, SW/CJ Department Chair • Jill.Johnson@LCU.edu • 806-720-7828

Lubbock Christian University is an equal opportunity employer.

LUBBOCK CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
We're changing lives. Be part of the story.

CALENDAR.....24	INTERNATIONAL14
CROSSWORD.....30	LETTERS29
CURRENTS.....17	NATIONAL.....5
EDITORIAL.....28	PEOPLE.....27
INSIDE STORY3	REVIEWS32
INSIGHT.....34	WORD FIND31

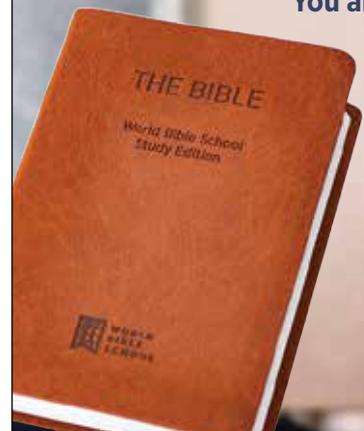
Email Bobby@christianchronicle.org for more information.

Share the Good News with



Bibles for Millions

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



- 1 HOW CAN I GIVE?**
Your gift connects a seeker with a WBS Study Helper for personal study—and helps them get a free Bible. worldbibleschool.net/give
- 2 CAN I BUY?**
Yes. Use Bibles for personal use and pews, as well as for gifts and as presentation Bibles. worldbibleschool.net/bible

\$5

ea

BOX 11000

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

73136-1100

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
OKLAHOMA CITY OK
PERMIT # 276

AN APP FOR EXCELLENT CONGREGATIONAL SINGING



Sign up at Praiseandharmony.tv* with code **CHRONICLE1MO** for **ONE MONTH FREE.**

*Coupon code only valid on the website. The app can be downloaded and logged into after signing up through the website.

