

NEWS IN BRIEF



Evangelistic Meetings

Clewiston, FL—Feb. 23-26 with Larry Gutridge of Lehigh Acres, FL, evangelist. Carl Mast, host minister.

Changes of Ministry

Jeremy Hazelton will begin a youth ministry with First church of Owosso, MI, upon his graduation from Kentucky Christian College in May.

Mike Simpson began a ministry with Clifton Christian Church in Louisville, KY, on Jan. 19.

On Feb. 19, **Larry A. Stocks** began a youth ministry with the Parish Park church in Marion, IL.

Jack and Peggy Howard concluded a 12-year ministry in November with the West Burlington, IA, church and began a new ministry with the Petersburg, IN, church. This is the same church where they ministered 1965-68. This year will mark 40 years of ministry and 44 years of marriage for the couple.

Steve D. Henderson began a ministry with the Glen Este church of Cincinnati, OH, on Jan. 26.

Anniversaries

Bruce Hofmann recently began his 11th year of tent-making ministry with the Lindley Christian Church of rural Buffalo, MO.

Elton Carlson began his 56th year in the Christian ministry March 14. On March 19, he began his fourth year of ministry with the Griffin (IN) Christian Church.

Lee and Linda Delbridge were honored Jan. 19 with a surprise reception celebrating their 20th anniversary with the Smyrna (GA) Christian Church. They received a shower of gifts and cards and a full-size personalized quilt.

Richard D. Hogan began his 11th year of ministry with the Bella Vista (AR) church on March 7.

Scott Chambers began his third year of ministry with the Eagleville church of Bloomdale, OH, in March.

Deaths

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. . . they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them" (Revelation 14:13, New International Version).

Al Young, 82, of Edmond, OK, died of congestive heart failure Dec. 15 at home. He was a charter member of the North

Side Christian Church in Oklahoma City, where he served as elder for many years. After serving the country in World War II, he became a successful stone masonry contractor and owner of Richburg Stone Company. He faithfully greeted worshipers every Sunday, and North Side will remember him for his warm welcome, artful stonework, willingness to use his resources whenever needed, loving arms in the nursery, and his harmonica music. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Juanita; one son, Joseph of Oklahoma City; one daughter, Anita Archer of Mesa, AZ; four grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; two brothers, Lee Roy and Ray Young; and one sister, Mary Rush. He was preceded in death by one brother, Hoyt; one sister, Maxine Gardner; and one granddaughter, Beth Ann Archer. A memorial service was conducted Dec. 21 at North Side Christian Church. Memorial contributions may be made to the church at 2526 NW 122 St., Oklahoma City, OK, 73120.

Kenneth "K.O." Backstrand, 83, died Oct. 29. He was born Oct. 19, 1919, in Spokane, WA. A Christian minister for more than 60 years, Mr. Backstrand served with Central Christian Church in Colorado Springs, CO, for 25 years. He went to the Paradise, CA, church where he served nine years.

He was the pastor with the seniors at Pikes Peak Christian Church in Colorado Springs, CO, for the past 16 years, where he served until a few days before his death. He also held a pastorate in Port Jefferson, OH, as well as many interim pastorates. He loved to sing the old songs of the faith. He also loved to preach to the "lost at any cost," and he held many evangelistic meetings. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Marcia; five children, Jeanette Price, Kenneth L. Backstrand, Wilma Waddle, Jim Backstrand, and Debbie DeVries; seven grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by one son, Daniel.

Dorothy Jeanette Wright Ritchey, 91, died Jan. 27 in Joliet, IL. Born April 8, 1911, in Dwight, IL, to Julius and Edith

Wright, she studied at Eureka (IL) College where she was a classmate of Ronald Reagan. She was a rural schoolteacher until her marriage to William H. Ritchey in July 1935. Since 1941 they made their home in Joliet, where they were active members of First Christian Church. Mrs. Ritchey served as Sunday school and VBS teacher, elder's wife, and forwarding agent for her son, Ron, who served as a missionary in Indonesia for 16 years. For more than 15 years, the couple spent their winters in McAllen, TX, where they also were active in the local church. Her favorite vacation was attending the Lake James School of Missions near Angola, IN. She was a life member of Woodlawn School PTA, E.J.&E. Retirees Club, Rusty Hinges, and Delta Zeta. She is survived by four sons, Gerald, Vinton, Ronald, and Charles; 11 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. A memorial service was conducted Feb. 1 with Chuck Richardson, Ronald Ritchey, and Vinton Ritchey officiating. Memorials may be made to Lincoln (IL) Christian College.

Charles W. Ballard, 75, of Pikeville, KY, died Feb. 9 in the Mingo Manor Nursing Home in Williamson, WV. He was born Feb. 8, 1928, in Huntington, WV, to Henry and Leona Bennett Ballard. He was a World War II Navy veteran. He graduated from Kentucky Christian College in Grayson. He was a retired Church of Christ minister who served 45 years in the ministry in Kentucky, Ohio, Florida, Oklahoma, and West Virginia. At the time of his death, he was a member of the Coal Run church. He is survived by his widow, Nellie Marie Walters Ballard; two sons, Charles Steven of Ocala, FL, and Brian Wilson of Pikeville; one daughter, Susan Marie Phillips of Pikeville; two sisters, Edna Williams of White Sulphur Springs, WV, and Eleanor Watson of Huntington; and six grandchildren. His funeral was Feb. 12 with George Roberts and Jerry Bliffen officiating. Burial was at Johnson Memorial Park in Pikeville. Memorials may be made to the Coal Run Church of Christ Building Fund, 149 Church St., Pikeville, KY 41501.

Personals

Rod Farthing of ARM Prison Outreach International spoke recently at churches in New Hope, Maples, Salem, West Plains, Rolla, and Gladden, MO.



Building Programs

Mount Carmel Christian Church in Cincinnati, OH, broke ground in March for a \$750,000 building addition. The 6,600-square-foot addition will provide additional classroom space, a social area, additions to nursery and toddler areas, eight new offices, a reception area, and a conference room for the staff. John "Didi" Bacon is the senior minister with the church.

Plainfield Christian Church of Comstock Park, MI, is constructing a \$1.5 million addition to the church building. This will include a sanctuary that will seat more than 700, additional classrooms, and renovation of the present auditorium. The church hopes to occupy her new building by this fall. Bruce and Jeanne Wilson and Richard Jones minister with the church.

Missions

An American team of **White Fields** evangelists (Mike Pemberton, Kurt Smith, Blythe Robinson, James White, Larry Stayton, David Burns, Dave Thurman, Ron Hoyer, and Reggie Thomas) spent January preaching in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala in India. These meetings resulted in 2,380 baptisms, including four former Muslims. Brethren in India are going through fiery trials. Recently in the state of Tamil Nadu the Hindu majority government passed an anti-conversion law. According to this law, if anyone converts without government permission he can be put in prison for up to 20 years, and the person who does the baptizing can also be imprisoned for 20 years. Government permission involves getting a permit, filling it out witnessed by three people, and waiting a month or so for the decision. The team was able to present a Bible to each new convert, since Christians there are afraid to buy Bibles.

Since 1975, Walt and Bea Mielke have been using his airline pass privileges to fly supplies to Christian missionaries around the world. Both are now retired, but have travel privileges from the world's largest airline. They now have even more time to deliver shipments to missionaries. Now operating as **International Christian Missionary Courier Service**, the couple might be able to help your congregation save time and money for missions. Working in conjunction with Chancey Road Christian Church and Zephyr Christian Church, both of Zephyrhills, FL, they have recently made trips to San Pedro Sula, Honduras; Merida, Yucatan, Mexico; and Havana,

Cuba. E-mail Walt at ICMCS@juno.com or address him at Chancey Road Christian Church, 34921 Chancey Rd., Zephyrhills, FL 33541. Walt and Bea went to Johnson Bible College (Knoxville, TN), Lincoln (IL) Christian College; and Walt studied at Ontario Christian Seminary in Toronto, Canada, and Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, IN.

Teen Mission, USA & Mission Journeys can provide a free packet of resources for Vacation Bible School programs in need of mission projects. The free packet includes the following resources: (1) Professional videos—each day a five-minute video tells a fun and informative mission story from that day's trading card. (2) Full-color mission trading cards—every child receives a new card each day, with each card telling a story about Teen Mission, USA's ministry to children around the world (there also are bonus cards). Speakers also are available on a limited basis. For information, call Teen Mission, USA, at (859) 278-3202; e-mail, tmusa@teenmission.org; or visit their Web site, www.teenmission.org.

Report From Colleges

Great Lakes Christian College of Lansing, MI, will have her annual Women's Spring Celebration April 25 at the Trinity Church in Lansing. The theme is "Stepping Into His Glory," with speaker Lynn Reece of Southeast Christian Church, Louisville, KY. Contact the school at (517) 321-0242, ext. 248, for more information. March 31–April 4 the school had her annual "Week of Outreach," with a concert choir touring Ohio, New York, Canada, and Michigan, and other students working at mission stations around the world.

Lincoln (IL) Christian College unveiled the Lincoln Room Feb. 25. The Lincoln Room, located on the north end of the cafeteria, is named in honor of Abraham Lincoln, the city's namesake. It will be used for small meetings.

Miscellaneous News

Christian Mission for Mexican Evangelism has made the following new Web page available to readers: <http://mexicanevangelism.homestead.com/RCpage.html>. This page exists to assist Christian churches and churches of Christ understand the true nature of Roman Catholicism and its ecumenical inroads into the evangelical community. Most of the links listed on the site are not of Restoration Movement heritage, and so every tenet presented by authors is not fully endorsed. However these do pro-

vide accurate sources of information concerning present trends in the church. New articles will be posted regularly.

On Jan. 26, the **Markle (IN) Church of Christ** celebrated the birthdays of 11 of her members who are 90 or older this year. A framed picture of all 11 was presented to each person, along with a gift of money to eat out with their families. Scott Geiger, the oldest at 97, and eight of the others are in worship almost every Lord's Day; two attend services at their health-care facilities. Those honored were Geiger, Thelma Thornburgh, Helen Bradburn, Dolores Jennings, Charles Miller, Don Lund, Pearl Miller, Marie Overholt, Frieda Somers, Kathryn Best, and Marjorie Miller. Gerald Moreland, Mark Cleaveland, Troy Mower, and Nathan Palmer minister with the church.

Our Exchange

Churches using this service of the CHRISTIAN STANDARD are urged to investigate and thoroughly examine all applications before calling ministers.

We regret that we cannot carry announcements offering investment opportunities.

Workers Ready for Service

Christian lay minister is seeking to be a fill-in for absent minister. Can travel within 50 miles of Grant County, KY. Contact Jason Brown at (859) 823-0467 or e-mail, rhiannon98@hotmail.com.

Norman Ward of Martinsville, IN, is available for revivals and supply preaching. He has 52 years' experience. Phone, (765) 342-7742; e-mail, mcservices@yahoo.com.

Needs of Churches

A congregation of 100-plus located in a fast-growing area in southwestern Ohio is seeking a full-time senior minister. He must be able to nurture, teach, love, and lead all age groups in spiritual growth and be comfortable in a blended worship atmosphere. Seeking someone with a bachelor's degree from a Bible college, pastoral experience, strong scriptural background, and strong pulpit skills. He needs to be energetic and filled with the Holy Spirit. He needs to be able to work with the elders and youth minister, and be able to equip others for church work. Send references to: Pulpit Committee, Owensville Church of Christ, P.O. Box 580, Owensville, OH 45160; e-mail, thunt@isoc.net.

Maryland church is seeking a youth minister. The individual must be an enthusiastic, goal-oriented individual motivated by

a desire to help youth and young adults find fulfillment in Christ. Loving, growing, family-oriented congregation of 400 is located just outside the Washington, DC, area. Church has two blended worship services, three full-time and two part-time staff, and more than 30 active ministries, including a flourishing youth ministry. Send resume to Dyke McCord, Senior Minister, Church of Christ at Manor Woods, 5300 Norbeck Rd., Rockville, MD, 20853. Further contact can be made through e-mail, dyke@manorwoods.com; phone, (301) 460-3550; or a Web site, www.manorwoods.com.

Thousand Oaks Christian Church, an independent congregation in rapidly growing north-central San Antonio, TX, is seeking an associate minister. Candidate must have a contagious love for God, a personal commitment to Jesus Christ, and a desire to do His work. He should be outgoing, self-motivated, and interact comfortably with all age groups. He will assist the senior pastor with worship services, pastoral duties, visitations, and other activities. He will develop and oversee all youth-related activities, including Sunday school, youth groups, and social events. He will be able to plan and implement an outreach program designed to encourage families to worship and participate in church activities. Competitive compensation commensurate with experience. Send resume or inquiry to Bert Brown, Chairman of the Pulpit Committee, 13007 Jones Maltsberger Rd., San Antonio, TX 78247; phone (210) 490-7729, e-mail, sabj@swbell.net.

Northern Ohio church in a tourist town is seeking a creative, energetic, and conscientious youth minister willing to work with youth of all ages. Sunday morning worship (Junior Church) already in place will be a definite area of work. Youth groups are already equipped with good teams of volunteers, but direction is needed. Also seeking someone who will lead by example, organize short-term mission trips, and love the youth. Good school systems. Church willing to help with youth programs. May need to supplement income. Contact First Christian Church, Bill Grandi, minister, 3410 Hayes Ave., Sandusky, OH 44870, or call (419) 626-1962.

The Church of Christ at Treaty, Wabash, IN (instrumental), is seeking a senior minister. Congregation is poised for growth, with a current attendance of 200-plus. There is a population of more

than 75,000 within a 25-mile radius of the church. Wabash is a lovely, family-oriented community located one hour from Indianapolis and 45 minutes from Fort Wayne, IN. In 1996 the church dedicated her new building, which includes an auditorium and newly remodeled multipurpose/fellowship hall. A full-time associate minister to youth is running a quality program. Seeking a godly man, a graduate of a Restoration Movement college, with a proven track record in church growth. Seeking a man with high energy who possesses good organizational skills. Prefer a man of prayer and daily devotion, who has grace-filled thinking, can communicate effectively and implement plans to achieve his vision, and preaches boldly from the Word of God, addressing the challenges of winning the lost and equipping the saints. A generous package for the right candidate. Direct your correspondence to: Senior Minister Pulpit Committee, P.O. Box 524, Wabash, IN 46992.

The First Christian Church of Hessville, 6733 Alabama Ave., Hammond, IN (within minutes to Chicago, IL) is seeking a full-time, enthusiastic youth minister with some experience. Church has a youth group of about 40-50 junior high and senior high youngsters. Send resume to the church in care of the Search Committee.

Indiana church is seeking a senior minister with a minimum of three years' experience in the ministry, strong pulpit communication skills, who is a graduate of an accredited Christian college. Candidate needs to be able to minister with urban and suburban people, and be willing to reach out to the poor. Send letter of introduction and resume with references to: Garfield Christian Church, Attn:

Senior Minister Search Team, 1751 E. Walker Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46203.

The East 16th Street Christian Church in Indianapolis, IN, is seeking a piano or organ player for the morning worship service. Willing to pay. Phone minister at (317) 375-1156.

Needs of Schools

College Heights Christian School is seeking a proven, energetic, dedicated Christian leader for the position of school superintendent. The successful applicant will be a gifted leader committed to academic excellence and a Christian philosophy of education. Strong relational skills and successful experience in resource development, curriculum development, and instructional supervision are required. The minimum educational and professional qualifications desired include a master's degree in educational administration or a related field and the professional credentials needed to meet ACSI and NCA accreditation and certification requirements. Must be an exemplary Christian leader who is looking for a challenging and rewarding career with a great Christian school. Send resume to: Nelson Horton, College Heights Christian School, 4311 E. Newman Rd., Joplin, MO 64801.

Other Wants

Lifelong, second-generation missionary and family seek to minister with a local bilingual church and establish a beachhead for a nationwide Hispanic radio ministry in the United States—preferably somewhere in the Southwest (Arizona, California, Colorado). Direct any serious offer to the attention of Philip Watkinson, c/o Christian Mission for Mexican Evangelism, P.O. Box 1088, Imperial Beach, CA 91933. E-mail, pjcmme@telnor.net; voice mail, (206) 339 6581; long distance to Mexico, 011 52 (646) 1779989

Miscellaneous

Church has 60 copies of Lexicon's *The New Church Hymnal*, ©1976, with red covers that she is willing to give to another church. Contact the Countryview church at Girard/Virden, IL, at (217) 965-4938, or e-mail, countryview@motion.net.

Vacation cabin in the woods of north-west Montana is available free of charge to preachers and missionaries between June 1 and Sept. 30. Contact Ray Burrier, P.O. Box 1155, Libby, MT 59923; phone, (406) 293-0311.



This week's treatment of the International Sunday School Lesson (for April 27) is written by **Stan J. Percival**, senior minister with Central Christian Church in St. Petersburg, FL. The lesson, entitled "Faith Conquers Fear," is taken from Mark 5:21-43. It is available online at www.christianstandard.com.