

# PACIFIC CHURCH NEWS

SPRING 1996

John Wilson and His  
Students Unearth the Past  
at Caesarea Philippi

— See Cover Story on page 8



A NEWS JOURNAL FOR CHURCHES OF CHRIST ON THE WEST COAST



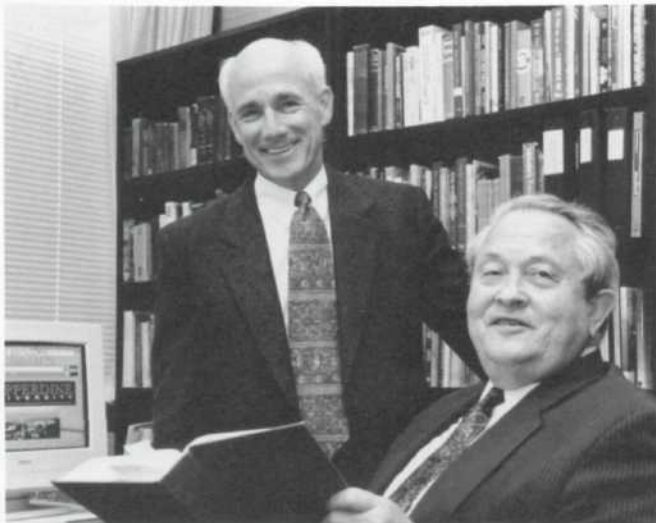
## Marrs Named New Chair of Seaver Religion Division As Olbricht Retires

**D**r. Rick Marrs has been named the new Chairman of the Religion Division at Seaver College, Pepperdine University. He will assume this position on August 1, 1996, following the July 31 retirement of Dr. Thomas H. Olbricht, who has chaired the division for the past ten years. Dr. Olbricht came to Pepperdine after 19 years on the faculty of Abilene Christian University. While at Abilene, he served as the dean of the college of Liberal and Fine Arts from 1981 to 1985 and then the Chair of the Graduate Studies in Religion from 1985 to 1986. Olbricht is remembered as a favorite professor by hundreds of religion students. More than 1500 of his former students are currently preaching and approximately 100 of them are serving as college professors. His own

university lectures. In 1951, he received his B.S. from northern Illinois University, then his M.A. and Ph.D. followed from the University of Iowa. In 1962, Olbricht completed the S.T.B. from Harvard Divinity School. Olbricht has served as a minister for Churches of Christ in Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and as an elder for the Minter Lane Church of Christ in Abilene and for the Malibu Church of Christ. He and his wife Dorothy are known for their hospitality and warmth. They have 5 grown children and 14 grandchildren. As Tom Olbricht reflects on his time as Chair of the Religion Division at Pepperdine, he expresses his satisfaction about the division's deepening scholarship and the formation of the graduate programs including the off-campus programs in the northwestern and southwestern states. He is optimistic about the leadership of Dr. Marrs. "Rick Marrs is a capable scholar and an outstanding teacher," he says. "His doctorate is from one of the premier American universities in respect to Old Testament studies, that is, The Johns Hopkins University. He is also well-known in university circles among the Churches of Christ, and he is often invited to give major addresses for lectureships and other programs."

Interestingly, Marrs was a student of Olbricht's during his work on a B.A. and M.Div. at Abilene Christian University. Marrs continued his education at Johns Hopkins University where he specialized in Old Testament language and literatures and received his Ph.D. in 1982. Before coming

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New Religion Chairman Rick Marrs meets with retiring Chairman Tom Olbricht.

published scholarly work is extensive, and ACU Press has published his most recent book: *Hearing the Voice of God: My Life With Scripture in the Churches of Christ*. Olbricht has presented over one hundred scholarly papers at local, regional, state, national, and international conferences in Speech, Biblical Studies, Church History, Theology, and Communications. He has spoken on many Christian college and

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At lower left, a Herodian lamp from the time of Christ; above, center, a measuring jar from King David's time; coins and arrowhead on hat brim are from the time of Constantine. Photo upper left, Pepperdine student Darin Campbell on the dig; lower center, Dr. John Willis, ACU professor and group leader on the 1995 dig, baptizes student Sheena Leatham; other photos are views of the Banias site.

Photo by Ron Hall.



## Tribute To Judy

by Emily Y. Lemley

On February 9, 1996, in Fairfield, California, Judy Muehring died after a year-long bout with brain cancer. She was 53. Judy was a dedicated member of the Fairfield Church of Christ and an active member of Associated Women for Pepperdine. Her daughter Deanna will return to Pepperdine as a Junior this year after taking a year out of school to care for her mother. In addition to Deanna, Judy Muehring leaves behind a son Jeffrey and his wife Treena, and her beloved husband Gene. Jeffrey, a graduate of Lubbock Christian University, speaks six languages and has done mission work in Russia and other Eastern Bloc countries, particularly Romania. He is now working on a master's degree in computer technology at Texas Tech, and he and his wife Treena, daughter of missionaries Ted and Dot Stewart, hope to do mission work. Retired from the Air Force, Muehring's husband Gene is deeply involved in the work of the Fairfield congregation. As a deacon, Gene puts much of his energy into the congregation's SHARE program which provides food for the homeless and is the fourth largest SHARE program in the state of California.

Being part of the Fairfield congregation was also a high priority with Judy who was active in the education program as well as many other good works. She was a teacher of English and Journalism at Fairfield High School and was praised by her hometown newspaper, *The Daily Republic*, for her "happy spirit" in an article entitled, "Friends, Students Mourn Teacher." Their commendation of her teaching was only exceeded by their recognition of her faith in God. "Muehring was a strong and courageous woman who had the utmost belief in God and Jesus," the article reported. Her colleagues at Fairfield High were quoted as envying her faith. One said, "As one who doesn't have that, I was in awe." Another remembered, "She had a great deal of faith...She didn't push it on others but it was a strength of hers."



Judy Muehring is remembered for her optimism and caring.

Several years earlier, Muehring had taught for ten years at the school sponsored by the Fairfield congregation, Sonoma Christian School. She was known in state and city educational organizations for her leadership in teaching teachers to use newspapers as an educational tool in their classroom. She also wrote weekly columns for *The Daily Republic* and *The Travis Times* on educational issues.

*The Daily Republic* article quoted a letter received by the Fairfield High School office on the day of Muehring's death. It came from a former student, now in college in Pennsylvania, who did not know of her illness. The student wrote, "I wanted to thank you for introducing me to Shakespeare—who has become one of my great loves, and always encouraging me in theatre—my first love." The student continued, "Your encouragement always meant a lot to me, and I know I wouldn't be where I am today if it hadn't been for teachers like you."

The entire Muehring family expressed their faith even in the midst of her illness. One of the Fairfield ministers, Stan Sanderson, remembers that whenever anyone went to take food or to visit Judy,



Six weeks before her diagnosis, the Muehrings took their family on a "trip of a lifetime" to Greece. From l to r: son Jeff, daughter Deanna, husband Gene surround a happy Judy. (Daughter-in-law Treena was the photographer).

the whole Muehring family ministered to the visitor rather than the visitor ministering to them. Any guest was so uplifted by being in the Muehring home.

The Wednesday night after Judy's death, the Fairfield congregation met for a prayer service and some personal memories of Judy's life. One member, a doctor, said, "You couldn't have a bad day when Judy was around. She wouldn't let you! Her joy overflowed to everyone around her." Others remembered her teaching in the congregation's education program: "Being around Judy was like opening a window to let the sun in." Another said, "She was what Jesus wants us all to be like in this world."

Her husband Gene wrote a letter to AWP executive coordinator, Patty Atkisson, advising her of Judy's death and including a memorial donation to AWP in Judy's memory. He enclosed the newspaper article about her, and he concluded his letter with these words: "She was all of the things the newspaper said and more." This worthy woman will be greatly missed.



# CONGREGATION

## A Church With a Plan

by Bill Henegar

Redwood City, California, is in the thick of things. Literally. It is situated midway between cultured, cosmopolitan San Francisco and the high-tech Silicon Valley city of San Jose. It is surrounded by towns that have coalesced into a continuous sprawl—from the Golden Gate south along the peninsula, to beyond the lower end of the Bay. Its neighbors are towns like San Mateo and San Carlos and Palo Alto, the home of Stanford University.

The Church of Christ in Redwood City also is in the thick of things—by its own choice. It is located in an average residential area of town and is composed of a cross-section of the town's citizens. Such is its reputation that it also draws many, perhaps a third, of its people from other towns beyond Redwood City—from as far away as San Francisco, 25 miles to the north, and San Jose, 25 miles to the south, and even Hayward across the Bay.

The first efforts by members of the Churches of Christ in Redwood City date to 1925 when a small group met together on Sunday afternoons for a short time. The present church, however, was established during the Great Depression, the same year George Pepperdine founded his college in Los Angeles. It is nearly 60 years old. But unlike some of today's churches that seem to live on memories of past decades, the church has seriously embraced a contemporary mission of reaching its neighbors, people living within just a few minutes of the rather ordinary-looking building the church occupies. To say that the church has been successful in its recent endeavors would be an understatement. A little more than a year ago, the average Sunday attendance stood at about 180. Today's attendance averages 420—an increase of more than 130 percent.

The Redwood City Church of Christ was established in 1937 when Christians began worshiping in the home



(Upper left)  
The Redwood City church draws many people from the community.

(Upper right)  
Kevin McFarland preaches to a full house. (Right)  
An outdoor information center helps visitors and members alike.



of Charles Polley. They continued meeting in temporary places until 1949, when they moved to their present, permanent location at 901 Madison Avenue. Among the preachers who followed Polley were Elmore Evans, Roy Hyde, Rex Johnston, John Evans, W.H. Trice, Glen Walker, Mort and Homer Utley, Douglas Qualls, Roy Steele, and others. Early elders were John Evans, Lester Green, Austin Ellmore, S.L. McLean, and Merton Swift.

By the early 1960's, the congregation had grown with such vitality that it decided to plant another church in neighboring Palo Alto, some 10 or 15 minutes away. Then a few years later in 1970, a key event in the church's recent history occurred when Charles Coulston was selected to be the preacher. Charles



A "Jungle Jim" play area is a popular stop for children after Bible class.





(Upper left) Elders (l. to r.) Bill Stevens, Ray Stahl, and Claude Dunn. (Upper right) Teens make use of the basketball goal in the parking lot. (Left) Staff includes (l. to r.) youth ministers Joel and Kim Quile, children's minister Amy Kendall, secretary Jean DeTar, and minister of the Word Kevin McFarland. (Bottom) Sixth-grader Amanda Luben (left) assists Lee and Amy Kendall in teaching a class of preschoolers.



and his wife, Darlene, served the congregation for the next 21 years—a remarkable record of ministry by any standard. Coulston turned out to be a gentle and pastoral preacher who was greatly loved by the people. “Those were

the great years of our lives,” he says today. “We have friends there who will be our friends forever.” When he and Darlene left to labor in the mission field of Africa, they had been with the Redwood City church for more than a third of its lifetime. They

left an indelible mark of goodness on the people and the history of the church. In addition, they set the stage for the next great burst of growth.

Kevin and Betty McFarland came to the Redwood City church in 1982 to work with the teenagers. Almost immediately, Kevin and his youth group—only about a dozen at that time—worked together on a program to raise funds for food for the starving people of Ethiopia. From that modest beginning, Kevin and his kids and the Redwood City church created MANNA International in 1983, a ministry that now raises millions of dollars and feeds and helps the poor in at least nine different countries around the world. Kevin served as president of MANNA for 10 years, after which his brother, Ken, was handed the reins.

Charles Coulston resigned the pulpit in 1991 to go to Kenya and rescue young people from the cruel streets of Nairobi. After such a long and successful ministerial tenure, the leadership of the church believed it would be prudent to spend some time planning for the future, rather than rushing out to immediately find a new preacher. Associate minister Fred Spain, Kevin McFarland, and others filled in for a two-year period while the church determined its long-term direction. Then in 1993, the leaders asked McFarland to serve as the minister of the Word. Now, after three years, it is apparent that the planning period was a wise decision. The present elders, Claude Dunn, Ray Stahl, and Bill Stevens, waited until a mission emerged, then they agreed that McFarland was the right person to rally the Redwood City church to that new venture.

What accounts for the recent numerical growth in the church? Certainly a large part of the answer lies in a dedicated and energetic outreach to the local community. McFarland says, “The

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## "A Workman That Needeth Not To Be Ashamed"

by Jerry Rushford

In the fading sunlight of Saturday afternoon, March 2, 1996, I walked around a lovely wooded bend on Hattan Road in Clackamas County, Oregon. "It stood right here," my walking companion said with obvious assurance, "but it was torn down about sixty years ago." Marian Charriere knows what she is taking about. She is not only a well-informed local historian who fondly remembers the former village of Stone, but as a small girl she walked past the white frame meetinghouse of the Stone Church of Christ every day on her way to school.

Now as I stared at the historic site, I tried to picture in my mind how it must have looked exactly ninety years before — to the day, to the hour. On Saturday evening, March 2, 1906, the 55-day "Bible Reading" that had begun on New Year's Day came to a close. The exciting 30 year-old teacher from Wenatchee, Washington, Samuel Orange Pool, had successfully led his dedicated class of 25 to 30 students through a vigorous study of the entire Bible from the first verse in Genesis to last verse in Revelation. The strict regimen of six hours of Bible study every day followed by evening church services had only been altered on the Lord's Day when morning and evening church services bracketed a day of rest.

The final Lord's Day of the event, March 3, 1906, was not as restful as the others. Following a powerful sermon by George P. Rich, the local preacher at Stone, four persons were baptized into Christ in the beautiful Clackamas River at the bottom of the hill. Then, in the midst of rejoicing, tears, and fond farewells, the students began their journeys homeward to the little churches in Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and California from whence they had set out with such eager anticipation nine weeks earlier.

For George P. Rich, the success of the Bible Reading was a resounding answer to an oft-repeated prayer for more trained

"workers" for the Churches of Christ in the Great Northwest. Now nearing the age of 60, and with less than four years to live, his life's work was nearly over. But Rich had laid a solid foundation that would insure the future growth of the movement to restore New Testament Christianity.

Never again would the Churches of Christ be as frail or as isolated as they had been in the years between 1885 and 1905. The disastrous division that had left in its wake two separate church families known as Disciples of Christ and Churches of Christ was now over. And although the conservative Churches of Christ were a small minority, there were sounds of renewal emanating from a self-effacing preacher in Clackamas county.

George P. Rich was born in Illinois on August 16, 1847. He enlisted in the Union Army for the final months of the Civil War, then he married Nancy Hickey on



Northwest pioneer preacher George P. Rich (1847-1908)

Part of Rich's legacy, members of the Stone Church of Christ in Oregon paused for a photo in 1915.



March 29, 1868. The young couple became interested in the Christian faith early in their marriage. They were baptized into Christ in March 1871, while they were living in Nemaha County, Kansas, close to the Nebraska state line. George began preaching that same year.

In 1875, George and Nancy decided to move their growing family (they would

eventually have 13 children) to far-away Oregon. They arrived in May of that year and settled in the northern reaches of Clackamas County between Kelso and Pleasant Home.

George was not well-educated, and he was personally embarrassed at his poor grasp of English grammar. Nevertheless, soon after his arrival in Oregon, the 27



year-old preacher found that his humble gifts were in demand. He began preaching on a regular basis for Churches of Christ in Clackamas County—most often at Damascus and Rock Creek. An anonymous correspondent from Damascus, writing to the *Pacific Christian Messenger* reported: "Brother Rich preaches for us on the second and fourth Lord's days. He is a young man, but he uses the Word of God

gone with the progressive movement.

Yet we do not feel discouraged. When we remember the battle is not ours but His whose right it is to rule both in heaven and earth, there are several things to encourage the faithful . . . Even I get more calls than I can possibly fill.

A gospel meeting at Damascus in November 1889, conducted by Rich and

led to see their duty to God, and many are led to obey their Savior.

Another elder, W.E. Mumpower at Stone, offered this estimation of Rich: "I want to say in behalf of Brother Rich that he is one of those loyal men who dares to declare the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Any congregation that can will do well to engage his help and spread the gospel. You will never regret it."

After hearing Rich preach at the London Church of Christ in Lane County, John Sutherland reported, "Brother Rich is a fine reasoner, a good speaker and a humble disciple of Christ, and true to the old Jerusalem gospel."

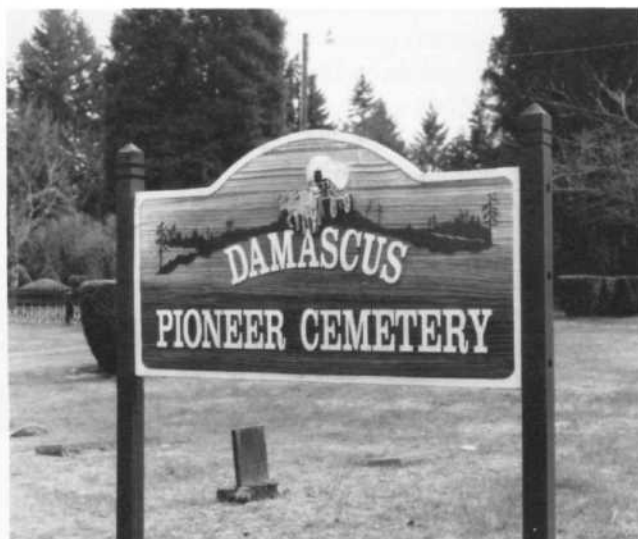
Despite the frail condition of Churches of Christ in the 1880s and 1890s, Rich refused to be disheartened. After preaching for a zealous five-member congregation in Chitwood, Oregon, in 1894, Rich enthused: "I predict a glorious success for the cause of truth. If all the scattered brethren would do as these are doing what a change there would be." Later he wrote: "There are more young men in Oregon now studying the Word of God than at any other time in the last twelve years."

Like a voice crying in the wilderness, Rich continued to criss-cross the state and rally the scattered forces. "The loyal brethren are scarce," he lamented, "and what there are seem to be discouraged." Still, he carried on. "Brethren of Oregon," he pleaded, "there is too much inactivity among the disciples of our Lord. Let us arise from the dead and Christ will give us life." In his meeting at Farmington there were 11 additions, and at Pleasant Home he baptized 8 more. Crossing into Jackson, Washington, he preached for 17 days and had 14 additions. In a four-week meeting in LaGrande in the summer of 1900, he had 19 additions. Following a brief meeting in Garfield, Rich wrote: "Five more recently obeyed their Lord in baptism."

Slowly, the flickering embers began to flame again. After the conclusion of the



G.P. Rich's large grave marker stands in the Damascus Pioneer Cemetery in the heart of the territory throughout which he preached so faithfully.



with power."

The Churches of Christ in Oregon and Washington appeared unified when Rich first arrived in 1875, but by the early 1880s these churches were in the throes of a tragic division between "progressives" and "conservatives." Increasingly, the conservatives looked to Rich and the churches at Damascus and Rock Creek for leadership.

In a letter to Daniel Sommer's *Octographic Review* in Indianapolis, Indiana, G.P. Rich wrote:

I have lived in this country since 1875, came without money, with very little education, but with a zeal that knew no bounds. I was soon pushed forward as an evangelist. I have baptized a goodly number into Christ. I have set in order quite a number of churches, but alas! All but three have

L.B. Trullinger, resulted in 24 baptisms. In the following year, Trullinger wrote: "We now have five churches of Christ in this county, with good prospects for another." The five congregations that Rich had been able to nurture through the years of division were: Damascus, Rock Creek (south of Molalla), Holcomb Schoolhouse (this became the Stone congregation in April 1892), Kelso, and Cherryville. There were prospects for a sixth church in the Estacada-Garfield area.

After G.P. Rich preached in a meeting for Cherryville in December 1890, one of the elders, D.W. Parker, wrote:

Brother Rich is indeed a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth, and has such an earnest, sympathetic way of presenting the plain, unvarnished truths of the Bible, that his hearers are

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## John Wilson: Putting Together Pieces of the Past

by Bill Henegar and Emily Y. Lemley

The click of the slide projector's remote is the only sound in the darkened auditorium. Light from the screen reflects on the snowy-haired John Wilson as he enthusiastically explains the next slide: "Jesus and the disciples visited here. In scripture, this city was called Caesarea-Philippi. . ." On the screen is a photo from last summer's archaeological dig at Banias, an ancient city on the Golan Heights, formerly Caesarea-Philippi. A single stone column stands on an expanse of stone-block floor. Six feet behind, another column rests diagonally, as though it had just toppled over, across a huge carved square stone. Walls and ceilings caved in long ago, but a perfectly beveled archway stands sixty feet behind these columns against the postcard-blue Israeli sky. Wilson easily holds the audience's attention as he tells them that these may be ruins of a first-century Roman building the size of two football fields. "We want to find out how big this building really is and what it was used for. It could have been built by Herod Agrippa the Second," Wilson continues.

Former campus minister, active archaeologist, professor of religion, and dean of Seaver College at Pepperdine University, Dr. John Wilson is doing what he has done for almost twenty years—telling an interested congregation gathered on a Sunday night about his latest archeological dig in Israel. Wilson believes that these bright photographs of ancient ruins bring to life the biblical stories that sometimes seem so far away. "As a child," he remembers, "I watched the arches and columns stuck on flannel graphs representing Bible houses and temples. Archaeology gives these places a third dimension—a step beyond flannel graph."

Since 1982, Wilson has collaborated with Vassilios Tzaferis, a Greek archaeologist who is second in command of the Israel Antiquities Authority, on summer digs in Israel. They have

uncovered treasures in Capernaum and now in the historically rich area of the Golan Heights. Their most spectacular find at Capernaum was a cache of 300 Arab gold coins dating from about 700 A.D. But more significant historically was their discovery of a Roman bath house which proved that this Jewish town had been influenced by Roman culture.

When asked how archaeology typically affects one's faith, Wilson replies that we shouldn't "use archaeology to try to prove the Bible," but, digging "on the site where Jesus lived as an adult," knowing "what the town looked like when he was there . . . takes the New Testament out of the 'Once Upon a Time' realm. It's reality."

Many of the students Wilson has taken with him to Israel each summer confirm that this experience increased the reality of their faith. Three of the group last summer were baptized in the Banias' pool which is one of three tributaries to the Jordan River. Under Tzaferis and Wilson, Pepperdine



(Above)  
Dean John  
Wilson describes  
plans for the  
1996 summer  
excavation  
in Israel.

(Right)  
Students take an  
afternoon break  
to investigate  
another section  
of the Banias dig.



students join with other universities such as Hardin-Simons, Freed Hardeman, and Abilene Christian. It is an unusual opportunity for undergraduate students, who are not majoring in archaeology, to work side by side with experts in such important historical field research—and

receive college credit as a bonus.

Along with digging from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day, the students attend lectures given primarily by Wilson on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They have opportunities for sight-seeing in Israel. One participant said, "I had been on a professional tour of



(Below) Sheena Leatham hands a bucket of Banias soil to fellow Pepperdine student Darin Campbell. The soil will be carefully sifted for bits of history. (Bottom) Pepperdine students, Jason Morris and Darin Campbell stand under a recently excavated Roman archway.



Jerusalem, but when Dr. Wilson led our group on a tour of the city, I learned so much more than I had ever known before—he is the expert.”

Eloise Drake, 72 and a member of the Culver-Palms Church of Christ in Los Angeles, joined last summer’s dig. “If I

were younger, I would go back,” she said recently. She remembers the hard work. “We worked from 6 to 9 in the morning, then we ate breakfast and went back to work until 1 p.m. At that time the summer heat becomes terrific. I saw boys and girls become men and women through the hard physical labor required on the dig. It was an exciting day when I found a small Roman coin,” says Eloise. “When one of us found something—a tile, a pot, or a pitcher—all of us worked harder. It was exciting.”

John Wilson earned his bachelor’s degree in religion from Harding University in Arkansas. He continued on at Harding’s Graduate School of Religion, where he earned a master’s degree. In 1967, he completed a Ph.D. in New Testament and Ancient History at the University of Iowa.

Dr. Wilson taught at Abilene Christian University, Drury College, and for 22 years was professor of religious studies at Southwest Missouri State University in his hometown of Springfield. While at SMSU, he also was director of the Christian Student Center there for 14 years.

In the early ’70’s Wilson became concerned about the direction of New Testament scholarship, which was dominated by literary criticism—a speculative approach that often amounted to rehashing previous analyses of the biblical text and theories of its origin and authenticity. He went as a volunteer on his first archaeological field trip in the mid-’70’s, then he returned with students on study tours in subsequent years. On sabbatical in 1981 at England’s Cambridge University, he studied original notes from 19th century discoveries in the Holy Land. His research there convinced him that the only way to get truly new data was to literally dig it up.

When Wilson came to Pepperdine in 1983, Pepperdine became heir to his archeological work. His list of scholarly papers, lectures, and awards is voluminous.

He recently returned from a week of lectures for archeological societies on the east coast such as Penn State and William and Mary, sponsored by The Archaeological Institute of America. Dr. Wilson has also written radio and television scripts and directed television productions for religious programs as well as appearing on several television shows, including an A&E series about archaeology and the Bible.

John Wilson has been equally active in his home congregation, the Malibu Church of Christ. He has served as an elder for the last six years. He reflects, “When we moved here, we did not live on campus, and it was a decision to drive back to campus to worship. But we believe that having Christian families closely involved with our students gives them the opportunity to experience significant fellowship. Our decision has proved a blessing to us because of the students we have had in our home, but we also hope they can model Christian families in the congregations that they move on to when they are in the adult world.” The Malibu Church has as many as 500 attend Sunday worship. The church has a strong youth group with a full-time youth minister, an active children’s program and two full-time campus ministers. “With so many students in our congregation, our family units carry most of the responsibility for supporting this work. It is a challenge.” But Wilson is excited about the fact that the Malibu Church touches approximately 25 percent of the Pepperdine student body through its campus ministry, and the dream of building a church building is close to his heart.

Dr. Claudette Wilson, John’s wife, is an assistant professor of education and serves as coordinator of secondary education at Seaver College. They have three daughters in their twenties: Laura, Amy, and Emily.

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## "Ministering to Families in Crisis" Conference Set for June 13-14 —An interview with Dennis Lowe

*Editor's note: Dr. Dennis Lowe, professor of psychology at Pepperdine University, is leading the Center for the Family—an outreach to help churches in their ministry to families. The Center's upcoming conference is an opportunity for congregations to learn how to help families in crisis. Dr. Lowe recently talked about the conference and the Center's goals for helping churches.*

**PCN:** Why did you choose to focus on "families in crisis" for this conference?

**LOWE:** When Emily and I travel to Churches of Christ to present our marriage seminars, we find caring Christians who are overwhelmed by the needs of a recently divorced couple, or a mother who has been hospitalized for depression. We see that no congregation is immune to personal tragedies of addiction, cancer, or family bankruptcy. The church wants to help, but often it doesn't know how to respond.

**PCN:** Is this only for counselors or ministerial staff? What good would it do the "average" church member?

**LOWE:** The conference has appeal to church members as well as professionals and ministerial staff. Responding to family crises and conflicts is not an issue limited to church leaders and professionals. Everyone faces them in their own lives and in the lives of their families and friends. This conference will address how the entire "church family" can more effectively respond to family difficulties.

**PCN:** What do you intend for the participants in the conference to come away with?

**LOWE:** We have a very practical focus. We intend to help participants develop guidelines, programs, and skills that will better equip them and their congregations for addressing these conflicts and crises.

On our conference feedback sheets, prior participants have complimented the practical, down-to-earth nature of the



Dennis Lowe and Emily Scott-Lowe



Rhonda and Randy Lowry



Terry and Susan Giboney



M. Norvel and Helen Young

conference. Several commented on the real-life, personal, and genuine atmosphere created. The goal of this conference is not to design theories about families in need. Instead, we attempt to encourage churches to develop effective strategies for responding to the real-life problems families face. We want this conference to give them answers and ideas.

**PCN:** Are there particular "credentials" that your speakers have that would make their lessons particularly practical?

**LOWE:** All of our presenters have first-hand experience counseling families in crisis. Their expertise and their own personal family life will be of great benefit to the participants.



Sheila and Tom Bost

**PCN:** How can an interested person find out about attending the conference?

**LOWE:** Contact Sara Jackson, conference coordinator, at (310) 456-4771 for conference information and registration forms.



## The Center For the Family at Pepperdine University

Presents

### The Third Annual Family Ministry Conference

June 13-14, 1996

#### Ministering to Families in Crisis

to be held at the Pepperdine University School of Law

(Continental breakfast served at both morning sessions;  
lunch served on Thursday)

#### Major Speakers:

Tom and Sheila Bost and Norvel and Helen Young—  
"A Family in Crisis: Our Personal Story"

Randy and Rhonda Lowry—"Successfully Managing Conflict in Families"

Terry and Susan Giboney and Dennis Lowe and Emily Scott-Lowe—  
"Offering Hope and Healing for Families in Crisis"

*Pacific Church News* encourages all Churches of Christ in the western states to take part in Manna International's:

## Day of Prayer and Fasting June 4, 1996

Skip at least one meal that day and contribute to Manna the money saved. All contributions given will be used for development and relief for third-world countries. For more information contact: Manna International, P.O. Box 3507, Redwood City, CA 94064, (415) 365-3663.

## Marrs Named New Chair of Seaver Religion

*continued from page 2*

to Pepperdine in 1987, Marrs taught for three years at the Institute for Christian Studies in Austin, Texas. Dr. Marrs has made many scholarly presentations and has published articles in the *Restoration Quarterly*, *Biblica*, and other journals, as well as *Leaven*, *Christian Bible Teacher*, *21st Century Christian*, *Wineskins*, and *Image*.

Recently, Marrs contributed six articles to the *Dictionary of Biblical Interpretation* published by Abingdon Press, and he contributed a chapter called, "In the Beginning: Male and Female," in *Essays on Women in Earliest Christianity*, edited by Carroll Osburn (College Press). Marrs has also consulted on Bible translation work for the World Bible Translation center, as well as for the *New Century Version* published by Sweet Publishing.

Marrs has preached for congregations in Baltimore and in Texas. He now serves as

an elder at the Conejo Valley Church of Christ in Thousand Oaks. Rick and his wife Paula, who teaches kindergarten, have two children, Staci, a student at ACU and Jeremy, a high school junior.

Dr. Marrs looks forward to his new role. He said, "I want to concentrate on building our graduate program, emphasizing student recruitment and building on the base of scholarship begun by Dr. Olbricht. I am also interested in maintaining our strong ties to the Churches of Christ."

## "A Workman That Needeth Not To Be Ashamed"

*continued from page 7*

Bible Reading at Stone in 1906, Rich intensified his efforts. He traveled constantly in the years 1906 to 1908, advancing the flame of spiritual life.

On Sunday evening, November 6, 1908, Rich was on his way to a preaching appointment at Russellville Schoolhouse south of Molalla when he suffered a paralyzing stroke. The courageous voice was stilled forever. He died three days later and

was laid to rest in Damascus Pioneer Cemetery.

For a crucial quarter-century, from the early 1880's until his death in 1908, G.P. Rich had fanned the dying fires of faith in small and isolated Churches of Christ and kept them burning. Churches brought from near extinction in the concluding years of the 19th century to a promising future in the inaugural decade of the 20th century—this was the legacy that Rich bequeathed to his people. In the religious census conducted by the United States Government in 1916, eight years after his death, it was discovered that there were 23

Churches of Christ in Oregon with a combined membership of 1,133 and 34 Churches of Christ in Washington with a combined membership of 1,195. The churches of the Northwest had not only survived, but they were on the verge of a great revival in the mid-twentieth century.

Although he often referred to himself as "common" and "uneducated," George P. Rich never wavered when it came to doing his duty. God seemed to use this humble vessel to his glory, and a century later Rich's work is not forgotten. He was indeed "a workman that needeth not to be ashamed."



# PEPPERDINE PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

by Tara Morrow

**Patty Atkisson**, executive coordinator of AWP, will speak at the annual conference for Associated Women for Christian Education which is held this year at Michigan Christian College on June 14-15.

**Susan Giboney**, professor of humanities and teacher education, and **Terry Giboney**, senior advancement officer, conducted a "Parenting on Purpose" workshop for the Lakewood, Colorado Church of Christ on March 1-3. Terry spoke on Sunday, March 3 for the same congregation. They both spoke for the Turnpike Road Church of Christ in Santa Barbara, California at a Friday night "Home Improvement Workshop" March 15. Terry and Susan will both speak at the "Family Life Conference" June 13-14 on the Pepperdine campus.

**Randy Gill**, associate director of church relations, was a speaker at a youth day for the Southside Church of Christ in Lexington Kentucky, March 30. May 11 he will speak at the 25th Annual Partnership Dinner at Michigan Christian College in Detroit, Michigan. He will preach for the Church of Christ in Temecula, California, May 19. June 17-21, he will be a song leader at the Blue Ridge Family Encampment in Ashville, North Carolina. He will also be a speaker at the Mission Viejo Youth Rally in Mission Viejo, California, June 28-29.

**Scott Lambert**, campus minister, and **Kim Lambert**, Let's Start Talking regional coordinator, will be based in Antwerp, Belgium, May 1 to June 20 to help the five Pepperdine Let's Start Talking teams in Western Europe.

**Emily Y. Lemley**, associate director of Church Relations, spoke for the Campbell Church of Christ's women's retreat, April 12-14. She taught a class at the Pepperdine Lectures, April 23-26, and she will speak for the Cascade College's Women for Cascade and Columbia conference on May 18 in Portland, Oregon. On June 8, she



Students from "Let's Start Talking," the summer missions program, celebrate the end of their six-week training. From upper left: Deidre Baxter, Scott Lambert, Amber Turner, Brooke Becker and Kendra Pinkston; first row from left: Ruth Dowdey, Tiffany Vaughn, Greg Gillham, and Elise Napier. Kim Lambert, director, reports that 23 Pepperdine students and their sponsors have traveled to five mission areas: Montevideo, Uruguay, Bangkok, Thailand, Hildesheim, Germany, Moscow, Russia, and Antwerp, Belgium. These students will teach English by using the Bible as their textbook.

will be one of the speakers for the Oceanside Ladies' Day sponsored by the Oceanside Church of Christ, and on June 14 she will be one of the facilitators for the Family Life Conference at Pepperdine.

**Steven Lemley**, provost, preached for the Church of Christ on El Cajon Blvd. in San Diego on April 21.

**D'Esta Love**, dean of students, will be a featured speaker at a Women's Seminar at the Clifton Park Church of Christ in Hoosick Falls, New York, May 3-4. She will also be a featured speaker May 17-19 for the Livermore Church of Christ at the Calvin Crest Conference Center in Oakhurst, California.

**Dennis Lowe**, director of the center for family and professor of psychology, and **Emily Scott-Lowe**, coordinator of the counseling center, will be conducting a weekend marriage enrichment seminar on "Making Marriages Work", May 17-18 at the Fremont Church of Christ in Fremont, California. They will be speaking at a "Home Improvement Workshop" at the Turnpike Road Church of Christ in Santa

Barbara, California, May 31. June 13-14, they will hold the 3rd Annual Family Ministry Conference at the Pepperdine Campus. They will also hold a general session for the Family Ministry Conference June 14 on the Pepperdine campus.

**Rick Marrs**, professor of religion, preached at the Lubbock Coliseum for Churches of Christ in the area, March 31. April 1-2, he delivered the lectures on preaching at Lubbock Christian University. May 20-23, he will speak at the Ministers Sermon Seminar in Austin, Texas.

**Daniel Rodriguez**, Irvine visiting instructor of religion, visited the Puebla, Mexico, Church of Christ March 1-4 for the fourth time to strengthen and encourage the church there where he was a missionary for nine years ('85-'94).

**Jerry Rushford**, associate professor of religion, preached for the Palm Springs Church of Christ on March 31. He will speak at the 50th Anniversary of the Sonora Church of Christ on June 9.

**Keith Whitney**, associate professor of business law and finance, spoke to the ministry leaders at the Ventura Church of Christ in Ventura, California, April 2.

**Tim Willis**, associate professor of religion, preached for the Sierra Madre Church of Christ on March 31, and he will preach for the El Cajon Boulevard Church of Christ in San Diego on April 28.

**John Wilson**, dean of Seaver College, spoke for the Simi Valley Church of Christ on April 14.

**Morris Womack**, professor of communication, spoke for the Church of Christ in Bellflower, California, March 31.

**Helen Young** will speak for the Michigan Christian meeting of the annual conference of the Associated Women for Christian Education which will be held at Michigan Christian College on June 14-15.

**M. Norvel Young** spoke at the Manhattan Church of Christ in New York City on March 13.



## Pepperdine Profs Author Recently Published Books

Five Pepperdine professors have authored books published this spring. Two of these are from the Religion Division.

Dr. Richard Hughes, who is professor of Religion at Seaver College, has written the recent volume, *Reviving the Ancient Faith: The Story of Churches of Christ in America* published by William Eerdmans. This volume traces the history of the Churches of Christ in America from their inception in the early nineteenth century to the 1990s, taking full account of the complexity of the origins and heritage for almost two hundred years. This will be of interest to all students of the Stone-Campbell tradition and includes some wonderful stories and photographs of our more recent history as well.

*Hearing the Voice of God: My Life With Scripture in the Churches of Christ*, by Dr. Thomas Olbricht, is published by Abilene Christian University Press. Olbricht, chair



Three books, which offer a historical perspective on Churches of Christ are among the five recently published books by Pepperdine professors.

of Pepperdine's Religion Division, takes an autobiographical stance on understanding scripture and through this defines our movement's varied means of using and believing scripture.

*Saddlebags, City Streets & Cyberspace: A History of Preaching in the Churches of Christ* published by Abilene Christian University Press is written by Dr. Michael Casey, associate professor of Communication at Pepperdine. Casey explores the early preaching of the Stone-Campbell

movement and compares that to the twentieth century adaptations. He examines the preaching of T.B. Larimore and K.C. Moser, comparing them with the debaters and revivalists of their day. Analyzing the powerful stream of black preaching, Casey comes forward into the current era and makes predictions for the future of preaching in our movement.

*The ACLU: Champion of Civil Liberties or Destroyer of America's Virtue?* published by Marcon is the latest work of F. LaGard Smith, professor in the Pepperdine School of Law. Smith looks at the past 75 years of the American Civil Liberties Union and explores the moral context in which battles over issues such as free speech, religious liberty, and sexual expression are being fought.

Dr. Jon Johnston, professor of social science, has written *Stuck in a Sticky World: Learning to See God's Best in Life's Worst* published by College Press. With a preface by Art Linkletter, Johnston offers fresh ways to cope with difficult people and to keep your spiritual vitality.



Approximately 65 teens from Southern California Churches of Christ not only attended but actually led the "So-Cal Retreat" on March 7-9 at The Oaks Camp in Lake Hughes, California. Students spoke, facilitated groups and led worship. Directors Walter Surdacki, youth minister for the Malibu Church of Christ, and Jack Williamson, youth minister for the Conejo Valley Church of Christ, trained their student leaders in a six-hour session before the retreat. The theme was "Heart Attack," and the teens focused on prioritizing their lives so that God comes first in their hearts.

## John Wilson: Putting Together Pieces of the Past

*continued from page 9*

About a dozen Seaver students plan to join Wilson this summer to continue the Baniyas excavation. But there are fears that this may be their last opportunity to dig in this area. "Peace is breaking out," says

Wilson. That may mean that this area of the Golan Heights will be turned over to Syria, and the cooperation and trust that archaeology requires may not be available. In spite of the uncertain future of this dig, three benefits will continue: Wilson is writing a book about the discoveries in Baniyas, his students carry the education and inspiration of their summer in Israel, as one student summed up the experience, "It

was the greatest summer of my life," and those people in pews who watch Wilson's slides of these ancient places also catch a sense of reality and excitement. Though they might not have the dirt under their fingernails, they see the terrain, the columns, and the kitchen utensils that might have been part of Jesus' life on earth. It all becomes more real because John Wilson wanted to dig in Israel.



## A Church With a Plan

*continued from page 5*

call was to make room on the property, make room in our homes, and make room in our hearts for those who needed to know God's love."

In the past two years, members of the congregation have made contact with more than 1,500 families in areas adjacent to the church building. How did they do that? Primarily through service. One Saturday each month, members gather at the building, then fan out in all directions to the neighborhood. They explain to people that God has blessed them with His love this week, and they need to find ways to express that love. They wash windows, rake leaves, wash cars, and perform various simple services for their neighbors. And the neighbors come to investigate this "strange church of servants." McFarland says, "Since the beginning of 1994, we haven't had a single Sunday without first-time visitors." As an added incentive, special programs are designed to encourage visitors: programs for Easter, Christmas, Fall Harvest Festival, and others. Through service, the Redwood City church touches

its community.

Knowing that neighbor families desire programs that will teach values to their children, the church asked Amy Wilson Kendall to serve as children's minister this past January. Amy and her husband, Lee, who are both Pepperdine alumni, just returned from mission work in Moscow, Russia. The church also continues to provide preschool Bible classes to 90 community children at no cost. This outreach, brought to life 25 years ago by Virda Stevens, is still bearing dividends. Many of the present ministry workers first became acquainted with the church through the preschool.

Perhaps at the heart of the church is the small group ministry, called Life Groups. "Life" is an appropriate adjective in this case, because the groups of families study and pray together and share their lives with one another. It results in personal support and involvement for all who participate, and no one is excluded. In many ways, the groups are the building blocks of the church.

After more than 12 years, MANNA International continues to mobilize Churches of Christ to supply emergency assistance and long-term development

assistance to people in some of the poorest nations on earth. The ministry helps with water supply and agricultural development, small enterprise credit, health, and education, as well as urgently needed food and other supplies. Through MANNA, the Redwood City church continues to touch the world.

Kevin and Betty McFarland have now been in Redwood City for 14 years. Their children have grown up there. Michelle, barely more than a toddler when they arrived, is now 18 and attending Abilene Christian University. Michael, 13, and Melinda, 11, were both born in the city. Working with youth minister Joel Quile, secretary Jean DeTar, Amy Kendall, and the ministry leaders, the McFarlands are happily settling into the "thick of things" in their new roles.

"This congregation has always been characterized by a great love for people and a desire to serve," says Kevin. "It was on that foundation, laid by the Coulstons and others, that the growth of the past two years was built."

Of course, there is still so much to do. So many people to reach for Christ. But the Redwood City church has a plan.

## Summer Religion Courses Offered at Pepperdine

The Religion Division of Pepperdine University announces four two-week summer courses for 1996. These courses are of the same nature and quality as those offered in the regular school year, and they fulfill undergraduate or graduate degree requirements. Each two-week course meets for five hours each day. These courses are open to auditors, special students, as well as ministers and church members seeking continuing education. There are some scholarships available. For more information, call Judy Anders or Ron Cox at the Pepperdine Religion Division (310) 456-4352. The four courses are:

**Dr. Jim Howard**

Memphis, Tennessee

*Ministry: Mission, Malfeasance, or Madness*

**June 3-14.**

**Dr. Ron Highfield**

Agoura Hills, California

*Scripture, Theology and the Sermon*

**June 17-28**

**Dr. Thomas Robinson**

New York City, New York

*New Testament Seminar:*

*The Gospel of Luke*

**July 8-19**

**Dr. Timothy Willis**

Newbury Park, California

*Old Testament History*

**July 22-August 2**

## 50th Anniversary

Lemoore Church of Christ  
Kings County, California

Date: **May 19, 1996**

Speaker: Paul Methvin  
Orangevale, California

For more information, call:  
(209) 924-2373

## 50th Anniversary

Sonora Church of Christ  
Tuolumne County, California

Date: **June 9, 1996**

Speaker: Jerry Rushford,  
Agoura Hills, California

For more information, call:  
(209) 532-9449



## Amity Church of Christ's 150th Anniversary Draws Diverse Crowd

Approximately 300 people, representing Disciples of Christ, Independent Christian Churches, and Churches of Christ, assembled at the Amity Church of Christ in Amity, Oregon, on March 16, 1996, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Amity church. This congregation was the first one established by the Restoration Movement in Western America. It was organized by Amos and Jane Harvey, natives of Illinois, in March of 1846, and it started with 13 charter members. The day of celebration began with a devotional at the grave markers of the Harveys in nearby Bethel Cemetery.

The program at the church building included a slide lecture by Jerry Rushford, associate professor of religion at Pepperdine University, on the beginnings of the Restoration Movement in Oregon, California, and Washington. Other speakers for the day included Mark Reid, Regional Minister for the Disciples of



Christ, and William J. Richardson, Emeritus Professor of Church History at Emmanuel School of Religion. Larry Hake, local preacher for the Amity Church of Christ, served as master of ceremonies.

The three-part theme for the day's activities was : 1) Restore the Simplicity; 2) Maintain the Unity; and 3) Evangelize

the World.

Congregational worship, both at the cemetery and at the church building, was led by Jeff Martin, music director for the Crossroads Church of Christ in Portland.

Guests on this occasion came from as far away as California, Washington, and Alaska.

### Red River Family Encampment

Date: June 22-26, 1996

Location: Red River, New Mexico

Theme: "Behold Your God . . . And This Is Eternal Life, That They Know You, The Only True God . . ."

Speakers include: Jerry Jones, Stanley Shipp, Ronnie Norman, Harold Hazelip, Jim Bill McInteer, and Willard Tate.

Contact: Jerry Lawlis (719) 564-3873

### Morro Bay Family Encampment

Date June 29-July 6, 1996

Location: Morro Bay State Park

Theme: "The Wonderful Grace of Jesus" Speakers include: Pat Curo, Jim Michelle, and Rob Redden

Contact: Morro Bay Church of Christ (805) 772-7248

### Grand Canyon Family Encampment

Date: July 7-10, 1996

Location: Coconino County

Fairgrounds, Flagstaff, Arizona

Theme: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee:

Messages of Joy from Philippians

Speakers include: Glen Owen, Jay

Lockhart, Larry Roberts, Truit

Adair, and Christopher Green

Contact: Pat White (602) 956-3430

### GNEW

Date: July 3-6, 1996

Location: PLC Campus, Tacoma, WA

Theme: "Life Through the Spirit: More Than Conquerors"

Speakers include: Richard Rogers, Mike Armour, and Dick Marcear.

Contact: North Witcher  
(206) 537-5181

### Yosemite Family Encampment

Date: July 20-26, 1996

Location: Mariposa County

Fairgrounds

Theme: "Tell Me Again the Sweet, Old Story of Jesus"

Speakers include: Ron Rose, Chris Goldman, Larry West, and Mike Tackett

Contact: Paul Methvin  
(916) 989-4885.

### Pepperdine University's 6th Annual Christian Leadership Conference For High School Students

Date: June 7-9, 1996

Location: Seaver Campus, Malibu

Contact: Admissions (310) 456-4392

Church Relations (310) 456-4270



Pepperdine University's exciting new acappella group is on the move!  
Look for them at a church in your area soon!

## 1996 Summer Tour!

*Won by One*

June 10	San Francisco, CA	June 20	Billings, MT
June 11	Eureka, CA	June 21	Idaho Falls, ID
June 12	Newport, OR	June 22	Boise, ID
June 13	Portland, OR	June 23	Eugene, OR
June 14	Seattle, WA	June 24	Redding, CA
June 15	Vancouver, BC	June 25	Sacramento, CA
June 16	Spokane, WA	June 26	Bakersfield, CA
June 17	Missoula, MT	June 27	Los Angeles, CA
June 18	Calgary, AB		

July 1-10, Traveling eastward on the northern  
route (have some open dates)

July 10-13 Paris, TN, "Acafest"

July 14-August 3 Traveling home to CA on the  
southern route (have some open dates)

For bookings or more information, please contact  
Dr. Randy Gill at the Pepperdine Office of Church Relations  
(310) 456-4270, or e-mail, [rgil@pepvax.pepperdine.edu](mailto:rgil@pepvax.pepperdine.edu)



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