

PACIFIC CHURCH NEWS

WINTER 1986

"Let the children
come to me..."

— See Cover Story
on page 8



A NEWS JOURNAL FOR CHURCHES OF CHRIST ON THE WEST COAST

BIBLE LECTURES

1996 Pepperdine Bible Lectures Announced

by Tim Woodroof

Bible Lectures Director Jerry Rushford and the Lectures Committee have announced the theme for the 1996 Pepperdine University Bible Lectures. The major addresses and the daily theme expository class will focus on Job. It is courageous enough for a lectureship to choose an Old Testament book for its theme. But to select this book is a surprise, indeed!

The reason is that Job is an unsettling book. Difficult issues are debated: Is God fair? Does life make sense? Why do good people suffer?

The book contains bold, unbridled, almost impertinent language. It is filled with ambiguities, unanswered questions, unresolved issues. Then there is the question of who the hero of the writing is: Job is not nearly as patient as we seem to think; his friends are not very friendly; even God seems less compassionate than

we want him to be.

In short, Job is a book that cuts too close to the dangerous, unsettling world we live in. Besides, all that poetry is hard to read!

How will the theme lecturers deal with this book and this man? Job is not an easy character to understand. The temptation is to ignore the real Job—to gloss over his abruptness and his confrontational words, to rush past his agonies looking for easy solutions—to save God from Job's pain-filled honesty.

But what if we discover in Job a kindred spirit, someone who struggles as we do, who doesn't always understand, who even questions his God on occasion? Perhaps after a week of living with Job, we will identify with him, and we will learn from him. Perhaps if we are as honest with this book as Job was with God, we too will hear God speak "Out of the Whirlwind."

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Garry Bortz, children's minister for the Campbell, California, Church of Christ, is surrounded by children whose lives have been enriched by a program that specifically focuses on them. See story on page 8.



OUT OF THE WHIRLWIND

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Great Themes from the Book of Job

**The 53rd Annual
Pepperdine University
Bible Lectures
April 23-26, 1996**

PROFILES

Jim and Lorelei Sheen See God's Hand in Growth of the Church in Monroe, Washington

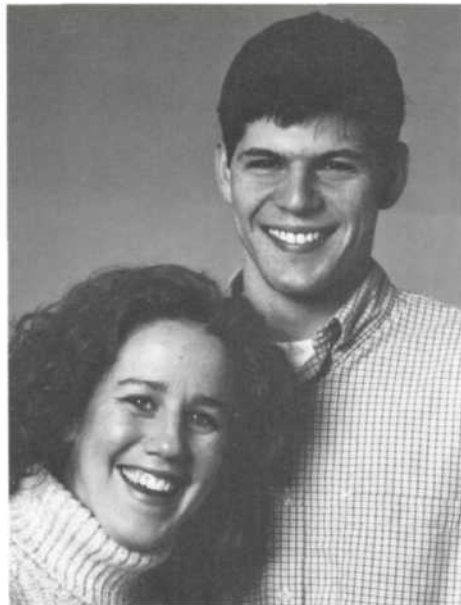
Jim and Lorelei Sheen are working with the growing Church of Christ in Monroe, Washington. The Sheens began at Monroe in 1992 when the congregation of 30-40 older adults had fallen onto hard times. Three years later, the Monroe church has 150 members, many of whom are from young families. When onlookers ask, "What happened?", Sheen tells them about God's leading Jim and Lorelei to Monroe at a time when he thought his days of ministry were over.

Jim and Lorelei met and were both converted to Christ at the Northwest Church in Seattle, Washington, where they were attending the University of Washington. When they both joined a mission team to Hawaii, sponsored by the Northwest Church, they felt they had found their calling. But, after a year there, the Sheens had to return to the States to care for his mother who was seriously ill. Jim worked in a medical laboratory, but a friend encouraged him to continue an internship at the Northwest Church, and soon he began an M.S. in ministry at Pepperdine's extension program in Seattle. This work "restored my spirit," Jim said.

With his mother's health improved, Jim began to consider the possibility of full-

time ministry again. That is when the Monroe Church of Christ called. "We knew that God was leading us to this work," Jim remembered. Jim and Lorelei were determined not to propose any "new" strategies for church growth. "We wanted to know if the gospel and its power through the Holy Spirit would be enough to create a healthy church," Jim said.

Now, the Sheens and the congregation are convinced that the gospel message is powerful; they have seen God grow a church. "We pray a lot—we pray boldly," reports Jim when asked about this phenomenal growth. Monroe's small group



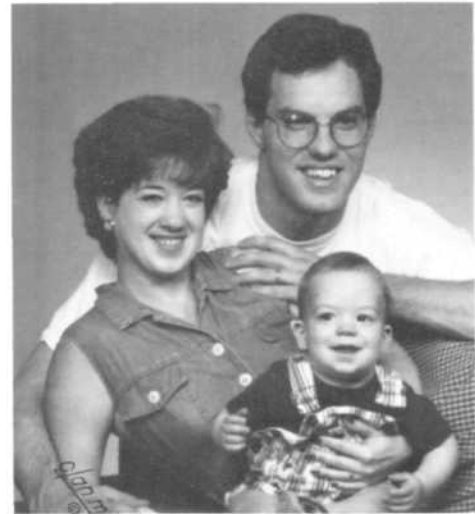
Jonathan and Dani Logue

ministry has grown from three groups to eight which meet once a week.

Sheen said about their ministry, "Lorelei is a true partner. She is very active in organizing the children's program and the women's ministry." He reflected, "I can tell by the vocabulary of the people in our congregation that their faith in God has increased." He and Lorelei are encouraged that there are many people attending Monroe who have no religious background. Sheen explained, "We try to be responsive to their needs as well as the needs of those long-standing members. We focus on unity."



Jim and Lorelei Sheen with their three children, Angelika, Kyle and Tyler



Eric, Gina, and Luke Robinson (see Profiles, p. 11)

Two Pepperdine Graduates, Jonathan and Dani Logue, Begin Ministry at Santa Rosa

Jonathan Logue, a recent graduate of Pepperdine's Religion Division, began his ministry as associate minister for the Sonoma Avenue Church of Christ in Santa Rosa, California. Logue married Dani Clark on January 20 in Santa Monica, California. The Sonoma congregation welcomes this newlywed couple and looks forward to their impact on the young people of the congregation. Logue is the son of Bruce and Beverly Logue who work with the Lodi Church of Christ.

Born in Jackson, Montana, Jonathan grew up in Lubbock, Texas, where his father preached for the Greenlawn Church of Christ. He came to Pepperdine to major in religion and minor in music. Active in the Campus Ministry program of the Malibu Church, Logue was a member of the "Living Water" drama team. He held a summer internship at the North Davis Church of Christ in Arlington, Texas, and was a member of the University Orchestra. He also worked in the residential life office as a resident assistant.

Dani grew up in Saugus, California, and attended the College of the Canyons before transferring to Pepperdine to study

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How To Grow A Church: Oregon Church Uses LIFE Groups To More Than Double Attendance

by Emily Y. Lemley

Stan Freitas' motto as minister for the Southwest Church of Christ in Tigard, Oregon, is "Have the courage to stay out of God's way!"

After 15 months of staying out of God's way, this congregation has baptized 65 people—and more than doubled its attendance, from 200 to 423. Freitas gives God all of the credit for this remarkable turn around. "When I preached my first sermon here on June 12, 1994, I brought a message from Nehemiah because this congregation was in transition," Freitas recalled. "My closing line was Nehemiah's rousing call, 'Let us rise up and build.'" Freitas was amazed when the whole congregation spontaneously rose and repeated the line: "Let us rise up and build!" That moment was a transformation point for the church.

Southwest's first act of "building" was the creation of five LIFE Groups that meet in homes for mid-week Bible study, fellowship, and evangelism. This ministry has now grown to 18 LIFE Groups that are currently giving birth to about 22 one-on-one studies with people who have visited the LIFE Groups and want to know more about Jesus. Recently, the mayor of Tigard was baptized, and he and his family are active in a LIFE Group.

David Hughes, a Tigard dentist and member at Southwest for 20 years, is the deacon who coordinates the groups. He said, "Stan's enthusiasm for evangelism harnessed our deep desire to share the gospel." He explained that Tigard had long used small groups for fellowship, but they were "frustrated with the lack of outreach and growth." Freitas' unique history in ministry prepared him to emphasize small group Bible studies and evangelism. Trained at the Bear Valley School of Preaching in Denver, Freitas subsequently spent time in the Boston Movement in San Francisco, where he became certain that small groups created



The remarkable growth of the Southwest Church can be traced to the strong sense of community created at the Wednesday LIFE groups.

an atmosphere for evangelism. But, over time, he was burned by some of the movement's controversial methods. "I lost my joy in the Lord, and I was ready to give up," he reported. Fortunately, Freitas called on Howard Norton, minister, writer, and teacher in Oklahoma City, who had written so much on the Boston phenomenon. "Howard encouraged me back into ministry," Freitas said gratefully, "and God opened just the right door at Tigard; I have my joy back!"

The favorite part of Freitas' week is Sunday at 5 p.m. when he is the teacher for the LIFE Group leaders. "We have a close group. We pray boldly, and we pray for boldness to ask people to study with us about Christ," Freitas said. During this meeting, Stan teaches the lesson that the group leaders will teach the following Wednesday in their groups. Hughes said, "We try to meet with individuals in our group during the week also, and our group usually eats together on Sunday after worship. The more we are together, the better our love and outreach."

Hughes has a growing family and a busy

dental practice, so when asked how he fits in his LIFE Group commitment, he explained, "My work is energy depleting—I'm tired when I get home. But, my work for the Lord is rejuvenating—it gives me energy. I'd love to get to the place where my wife and I could be in full-time, self-supported ministry." He continued, "It is wonderful when everyone in the fellowship does what they do well—using their gifts toward loving others. That creates a dynamic family of believers, and it continually brings in new baby Christians." Hughes recently baptized one of his office workers and her husband.

Freitas and Hughes focus on the powerful stories in Acts which encourage evangelism. One verse that is central is Acts 5:42: "Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ." "Soulwinning' may be an old-fashioned word," Freitas admitted, "but we believe that there is an eternity and an eternal punishment. . . we want everyone we know to live with God forever!" Freitas often



A warm and accepting atmosphere pervades LIFE group meetings, and close relationships are established. After attending meetings, many non-members want to know more about Christ and the Scriptures. One-on-one Bible studies are the result.



Stan Freitas rejoices after baptizing a woman he had studied with. There have been 65 baptisms in a little more than a year.



encourages his congregation to remember that, "the early church was made up of ordinary people...with extraordinary boldness." He continues, "Our Lord majors in defying the world's odds. He turns skeptics into believers and the timid into martyrs."

David and Linda Hughes told the story of a recent conversion in their LIFE Group. A young mother was invited to come to one of Southwest's biannual "Bring A Friend Day." When she arrived alone with her baby, she sat near David and Linda Hughes. They met her and invited her to stay for the potluck lunch. She declined, saying that she had "a husband to go home

and cook for." David offered to send a large plate of the homecooked food with her after lunch, so she changed her mind and stayed for the meal. Several Christians visited with her, and she was invited to join the Hughes' LIFE Group that Wednesday night. She came. After three Wednesday night group meetings, Linda Hughes asked this woman to study the Bible one-on-one. She studied with Freitas and was baptized after a few lessons. Now, her husband is attending the LIFE group with her.

Freitas trains all who are interested in leading one-on-one studies. He uses basic material on topics such as, "Who is Jesus?", "What is sin?" and "What has God done for me?" Each lesson closes with a question evoking commitment to further study or to faith. Janie, the woman mentioned earlier, responded positively after each study, and soon she was baptized into Christ. Hughes said that he asked her who she wanted to share this with first, and she immediately invited her husband to visit the LIFE Group. He was hesitant, but in a few weeks, he was asking for the group to pray for a trip they were planning. At a

Sunday potluck, he surprised Hughes by saying, "I don't know what you people have. But I want it for my family." He was interested in a one-on-one study, and now he has become a Christian. The first person he wanted to share this with was his sister. She came to a LIFE Group, studied, and was baptized. Hughes said, "Just as we are excited by a new baby in our family, our LIFE Group is so excited at new baby Christians, and we treat them with tender, loving care."

Tigard is not satisfied to be unique in evangelism. They want to encourage other congregations to reach out. They host an annual "Lifestyle Evangelism Workshop," where over 30 other congregations meet to learn practical means of evangelism and to be inspired to let God's power work in their churches through small groups. This last September, Jerry Jones was the main speaker for this three-day event.

Not long ago, Stan Freitas gave a 1995 "State of Southwest" message based on Acts 14:27: "They gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith. . ." In the last 15 months, Tigard has accomplished what would seem impossible even for a congregation three times its size. But they want to continue to go forward. Their goals are to continue giving 15% of their budget to foreign missions, to work on building expansion, to go beyond their 52 baptisms last year, to improve the Buddy Ministry for all new members, and to continue practical training in evangelism, LIFE Groups, and one-on-one studies. Southwest has done what they promised on that summer Sunday in 1994; by "staying out of God's way," they have seen God rise up and build—not buildings but a growing family of believers who are sharing their faith. May their tribe increase.

Evergreen in the Desert

by Bill Henegar

It is a very strange species of plant life. When fully grown, it stands 15 to 30 feet high. It is called the "paloverde" tree, and it is the state tree of Arizona. Most of the year, it has no leaves, just bushy branches that are always green. In the high desert country around Tucson, Arizona, the paloverde is perfectly suited to its environment, a true survivor. And in the process, it provides shade and comfort to the desert sojourner.

In September 1961, as Tucson pushed beyond its limits into new suburbs, a group of about 60 Christians, mostly from the old Catalina Church of Christ, met on the east side of town in Booth Elementary School. For several months, Troy Cummings, minister of the Catalina church, and Thomas Seay, Jr., of the University church, drove over to preach for the newly formed congregation. Moving quickly, the group obtained a preacher eight months after their first meeting. And after only a year, they had purchased property and even built a new church building.

While their building was being constructed, they searched for a name for the new congregation. It was Dwight Patterson who first suggested "Palo Verde," because there were a number of paloverde trees on the property. In addition, the land was near Palo Verde Park and Palo Verde High School. Everyone was enthusiastic, and the group officially became the Palo Verde Church of Christ as they moved into the new green-trimmed building on November 11, 1962. The inaugural sermon was preached by their recently arrived minister, Earl Miller. The church soon became affectionately known by its initials, "PV."

Miller was not only the pulpit minister, he was an aggressive personal evangelist as well, knocking on doors and studying the Bible with all who would open their homes and their hearts. During his six-year ministry, the church grew to nearly 300



Palo Verde's ministerial staff includes (l. to r.) Gordon Gower, pulpit minister, Chuck Stephens, education and outreach minister, Marc Hill, Hispanic minister, and William Don Carlos, campus minister.

members. There was such excitement that the congregation launched a construction program and added another educational wing after only two years in their new building. A minister's home on Princeton Avenue was also built at about the same time. Among his many contributions, Miller spearheaded the efforts of Christians in southern Arizona to create Southern Arizona Bible Camp, believing that a spiritual camping experience was a great advantage for young and old alike.

In 1968, Bill Morrow replaced Miller as the preacher. Personal evangelism, far from declining, actually increased, with many members joining Morrow in the work of sharing the gospel. Like Earl Miller, Morrow taught classes at the Southern Arizona Bible Student Center at the University of Arizona. And under his encouragement, the Christian camping experience was expanded and Vacation Bible School grew to 1,000 children annually. During this time, the church began a "Missionary-in-Residence" program, supporting Charley and Joyce Huffman in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and, later, Peter and Paula Merrick in Rotorua, New Zealand. With the urging of Morrow, a home was purchased for the purpose of caring for foster children, and a bus ministry was started that would impact the city for the next seven or eight years.

Morrow resigned in 1973, and soon



Elder Ken Davidson and secretary Sandra Atkinson work at Palo Verde's "nerve center."

after, Phil Evanson became the preacher. With Evanson leading the way, the congregation baptized more than 100 people in both 1975 and 1976. There was such growth that a new auditorium had to be constructed, along with two new classrooms. These structures were occupied in spring 1976. During this time, Al Goff, who had been baptized by Bill Morrow and had subsequently moved away, returned to become personal work director.

Sam Cox succeeded Evanson at PV in 1979. In that same year, Fred White replaced Al Goff as personal work director. One of Cox's emphases was Bible study. In particular, he encouraged members to read through the Bible in a year. Cox, who was pursuing additional education at the



Much of the credit for the current stability of the Palo Verde Church of Christ goes to its five shepherds. Pictured are (l. to r.) Wayne Burton, Ken Davidson, Brent Green, Jerry Reeves, and Wayne Smith.



The Palo Verde Church supports a strong and growing Spanish-speaking ministry. On a Wednesday evening (left), a surprisingly large number of Hispanic members crowd into a classroom for services.

University of Arizona, and his wife participated in an archeological "dig" in Israel in 1980.

Peter Merrick, whom the congregation had supported in New Zealand, returned to the United States to fill PV's pulpit when Cox resigned at the end of 1982. At about the same time, Fred White had moved to Texas, and Greg Boothe became the new personal work director. In addition to his evangelism work, Boothe worked with the youth group. Native New Zealanders Gerald and Kaye Lange were sent to replace the Merricks in Rotorua, New Zealand.

The present minister, Gordon Gower, moved to Tucson from Texas City, Texas, in mid-1988 after Merrick resigned. He views himself as a teaching minister, not an administrator, and acknowledges that the elders do an excellent job of shepherding and managing the church. An indication of the relationship between staff and elders, is seen in what the elders told Gower, "We

don't hire preachers, we marry them."

Other full-time staff members include Marc Hill, who for 12 years has been the dynamic Spanish-speaking evangelist; Chuck Stephens, the education and outreach minister for a year and a half; and Sandra Atkinson, the church secretary. William Don Carlos is the campus minister to the University of Arizona and the local community college. He and others have a significant ministry to international students from 115 nations, who are studying at U of A. Their program is related to the "Let's Start Talking" ministry.

Over the years, the number of ministries that have been created and sustained for substantial periods of time is amazing. During the 1970s, Ed and Ditha Branch began a benevolence ministry that others have perpetuated. The Branches collected furniture and clothing and distributed them to needy families in times of crisis. As the 1980s began, the

congregation developed a care-unit ministry, dividing the members into four geographical regions. This facilitated better care for members during illnesses or the death of loved ones, and it offered greater fellowship opportunities, as well. In the mid-1980s, Curtis and Norma Edwards began a medical missionary outreach program when they went to work with a Nigerian hospital. Later, they ministered in Haiti and another island in the Caribbean. They returned and trained PV members to minister in Mexico and elsewhere.

Other ministries—senior citizens, singles, the "Young 'n Heart," the library, missionary family support—are too numerous to describe. Perhaps the continuing ministries that have had the greatest impact are the Hispanic ministry and the campus ministry. These, together with the ongoing emphasis on evangelism, have resulted in hundreds of people being brought to the Lord.

At times, PV's attendance for Sunday morning worship has been as high as 900. At the present time, the attendance is about 550. The congregation is very diverse, with a number of Asian-American, African-American, and Mexican-American members, as well as Anglos. In addition, the membership ranges from blue-collar workers to a physicist who was featured on PBS's "Nova" series. The diversity, plus the balance of many different kinds of ministries, makes the Palo Verde Church a dynamic and exciting body of Christians. When asked for a description of PV, minister Gordon Gower says, "I think we can say, 'We belong here. We're not going away. We're not faddish. We are in this for the long haul.'"

The Palo Verde Church of Christ is now in its 35th year—a relatively short time among churches that are two, three, and four times as old. The congregation

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"Let the little children come to me . . ."

The Campbell Church of Christ Builds a Ministry for Kids

by Emily Y. Lemley

"At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' He called a child, whom he put among them..."

The Campbell Church of Christ knows that there are children "among them" because Garry Bortz, Campbell's children's minister since 1990, ties balloons on the children's wrists when they visit, holds them on his lap as they tell him about their parent's divorce, writes them notes and sends them trinkets each week, and hangs their photos around the walls of the auditorium. Bortz enables the Christians at Campbell to act on their love for children.

"I had decided that organized religion was not for me," one of the parents reported, "but then my kids started going with our neighbors to Campbell and met Garry." She continued, "Now, they feel like they have a home. And so do I."

Garry Bortz came to Campbell in 1990, after 18 years of ministry in Texas. With his wife, Virginia, and two sons, Brennon and Ryan, he saw that the Campbell congregation was serious about ministering to children. (Campbell has supported a Christian School on its church campus for K-12 for 20 years.) The seeds for a full-time children's minister were planted by Evelyn West and other members at Campbell who had big dreams for children. "All ten of the elders are 100% for this ministry," Bortz said, "Whenever we plan any service or program for adults where children will be present, they always ask, 'What are we doing for the children?'"

Recently, Campbell has done something unique for children experiencing divorce. Bortz ran a 12-week class for 17 of these kids. He remembered asking them, "What do you think of when you hear the word 'divorce?'" A four-year-old boy answered, "Broke apart." A seven-year-old girl answered, "Suitcases—I hate

suitcases!" Bortz's voice broke when he added, "You see these kids skipping down the hall after Sunday School, and you think they're doing just fine. But inside, they don't know how to handle all of their anguish." Adults don't want children to be sad, so they don't listen to their pain. Bortz listens.



Children's minister Garry Bortz gives eye-to-eye attention to one of Campbell's 150 children.

When a child visits the Campbell congregation, they enter the building where a child's eye-level, larger-than-life woodcut of Jesus welcoming children has been installed. Children are greeted by other children "greeters" who are assigned the job of making kids feel at home. The visitor receives a balloon to take home. Carrying the balloon makes them easy to spot and greet during their time at the building. The day after a child visits in Sunday School, Bortz sends a personal note inviting them to come again to Campbell. He encloses some small toys in the envelope. Each week for the next six weeks, this child receives a different note, with enclosed trinkets, from Bortz.

"Campbell is a great place for kids," one parent said. Every Sunday there is a "Children's Sermon" which Bortz gives to



Children's greeter hands out the "Kid's Bulletin" to children as they come into the building.



Each child receives a helium balloon when they visit Campbell and a special balloon on their birthday.

the children who gather around him on the stage. Recently, he spoke on

Campbell's Recipe for a Children's Ministry

The church is committed to being a place for children . . .
 . . . to belong.
 . . . to experience God.
 . . . to discover the Word.
 . . . to build self-esteem.
 . . . to learn to live.
 . . . to learn to give.
 . . . to develop their own faith.
 . . . to build relationships.
 . . . to grow.
 . . . to gain support.



Campbell's Kids wrap Christmas presents for needy children.

"Promises." "God makes promises to us," Bortz reminded the children, "and he always keeps them." After detailing four of God's promises, Bortz concluded by having the parents in the audience make a promise to the children. Laughter, waving hands and questions were sprinkled throughout this brief worship time. Bortz closed with the children singing a song while watching it sung in sign language by signer, Nancy Persall. Campbell is a place where kids belong.

Three weeks a year, the whole congregation participates in a focus on



children. One year, the children's ministry took photos of each of the 150 children at Campbell. The staff enlarged these to 8 1/2" by 11" size and printed each child's name in "kid font" under the photo. These were hung on the walls of the auditorium, and each member was encouraged to learn as many of the children's names as possible. During these three weeks, Campbell brought in family minister Ron Rose from Dallas, Texas, to speak to both children and adults about a child's value. Bortz said, "Whether people are single or married, have children or not, we want every member to feel that all of these 150 children are their children."

During a recent telephone interview with Bortz, his voice suddenly became



The yearly "Book Fair" in the church library combines the Scholastic Book Fair with children's books from two Christian publishing houses. Adult volunteers emphasize the joys of reading and storytelling.

"Kids Club" is Campbell's Sunday evening children's program. Modeled on scouting, but with a Christian emphasis, "Kid's Club" focuses on adult-child relationships, matching groups of girls with Christian women (left) and groups of boys with Christian men (below). Activities range from service projects to a pinewood derby, but every project fosters belonging.



distant as he said to someone in his office, "Hi Sweetie, do you want to play with the toys? Come in. Are you all right?" Back on the phone, he explained, "I have a children's corner in my office where any child can come and play and read under a canopy that I rigged up; they like it in here." His immediate response to this child, the soft, respectful tone in his voice, his patient silence while he listened and waited on this child to answer his questions expressed volumes about his philosophy of children's ministry. Bortz counts children as God's people too, and he treats them with honor—as Jesus did in Matthew 18.

Bortz sums up his philosophy of children's ministry by saying, "If God told me five things that

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by Rick Rowland



Tim
Woodroof

The Western Campus Ministry Seminar featured Tim Woodroof of Portland, Oregon as guest speaker, January 26-28 at the Arrowhead Springs Conference Center in San Bernardino County, California. The WCMS first began at UC Santa Barbara in January 1967 and is now continuing on a bi-yearly schedule. Sponsorship is by the three Campus Ministries at Fresno State (College Church of Christ), UCSB (Turnpike Road Church of Christ), and Pepperdine University (Malibu Church of Christ).

Cade and Sandi Cristensen, who have been working for three years with the first ever campus ministry at Western Washington University, have indicated that this third year will be their last at WWU. They plan to become part of a team that will be planting a church in the near future in Honolulu, Hawaii, after the conclusion of the '95-'96 school year. The

Sterling Drive Church of Christ in Bellingham, Washington, sponsors this campus ministry.

The Pepperdine campus ministry theme this year is "Ecclesiam Dei." Under this banner they have been looking into what it means to be a community of God's people at Pepperdine University. This fall sixteen different weekly small-group Bible studies are sponsored on campus by the Pepperdine campus ministry.

Over 1,200 missionaries and students gathered at Abilene Christian University in October for the World Mission Workshop. Students representing all of the Christian colleges, including 35 Pepperdine students were also present. The 1996 workshop will be held at Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas, and the 1997 workshop will be hosted by Pepperdine University.

Free tutoring is available in a wide range of subjects (through the sophomore level) at the University of Arizona on Wednesday nights in the Student Union by the students involved in Ambassadors for Christ. The Ambassadors for Christ are sponsored by the Palo Verde Church of Christ in Tucson, and William Don Carlos is the campus minister.

"4 C's 4 A New Millennium" is the emphasis of the New Mexico State University campus ministry according to Hal Blackburn the campus minister. The

first "C" is for Celebration during the worship assembly of the University Church of Christ. The second "C" is Congregation which is an effort by members of the congregation and campus ministry to get the biblical word out into the market place. The third "C" is for Cell which is for a friend to friend program where two to four students meet anywhere on campus during breaks between classes for the purpose of studying God's word together, and the fourth "C" is for Connection, offering information about church programs for the community.

The Denver Metro Church of Christ campus ministry has begun four new Bible studies for the first time at the University of Denver and Arapahoe Community College. They also sponsor ministries at three other colleges in the area including Metro State.

Stanley Shipp of St. Louis, Missouri will be the featured speaker at the Campus Ministry Interest Luncheon during the Pepperdine Bible Lectures on Thursday, April 25, at noon, in the Hahn Fireside Room. Please plan to attend and bring any church leaders who may be interested in starting or restarting a campus ministry program. A reception for campus ministers will be held that evening, April 25, after the evening program at the home of Scott Lambert, Pepperdine campus minister. For more information call (310) 456-4504.

The Campbell Church of Christ Builds a Ministry for Kids

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He wanted me to know about children in His kingdom, I believe they would be:

- 1) Children have faith now, and we need to treat them as people of faith.
- 2) Children can be ministered to. We live in a world where our children hurt deeply—they experience the

abandonment of divorce, and the fear of violence and disease. They need the hope and healing of Christ.

- 3) Children are part of the church now. Later, they will make a deeper and more permanent commitment, but now we need to serve them as part of our fellowship.
- 4) Children learn differently than adults. When they learn, there is laughter, noise, activity, and play. Our Bible classes reflect this.
- 5) All children belong to God, and we

all need Christ's heart for children—he held and blessed and noticed these "second-class citizens" who did nothing to boost his status or his following.

The Campbell Church of Christ believes that God has called them to minister to children. Garry Bortz' mission is not only to love the children who come through Campbell's doors, but also to help the adults in the congregation to hug them with God's arms, to listen to them with God's ears, and to use God's voice to guide and affirm them.

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advertising. She was interested in Pepperdine because of its Christian commitment, and she was baptized by campus minister Scott Lambert in the Pacific Ocean. She worked in the residential life office and was part of the campus ministry program. After graduation, Dani has worked for the Ketchum Advertising Agency in Los Angeles. She is looking forward to becoming part of the fellowship at Sonoma Avenue. "Her love for people will add so much to our work," a Sonoma member said. Jonathan and Dani want their work to, "convey the seriousness of a commitment to Christ." They believe that outreach is primary since, as Jonathan concluded, "Kids on the West Coast seem to feel a deep need for God, but don't know how to find Him."

Eric and Gina Robinson Accept A New Ministry in Shafter, California

Eric and Gina Robinson moved to Shafter, California, in November to begin work with the Church of Christ there. Located five miles from Bakersfield, Shafter is in one of the fastest growing areas in the United States. "This congregation has a spirit which reaches out to people," Robinson reported. He added, "These elders want to target younger couples and families who are looking for some connection with God."

Shafter asked the Robinsons to join them in this mission after a 17 day interview process. "We have felt from the beginning that this was a unique place, and we are definitely here because of answered prayer," Robinson reflected.

Born in Weatherford, Texas, Eric became a Christian after a stint in the Marine Corps. "I watched a longtime friend and saw that his walk with God made a difference—I wanted that," Eric said. After his conversion, he worked with his father in the restaurant business until

he decided that God wanted him to prepare for ministry. He attended the Preston Road School of Christian Education in Dallas, Texas, for two years. While in Dallas, Eric met Gina who, after growing up in Missouri, had moved to the Dallas area. When they married, they decided to continue their preparation together in the ACU Biblical Studies bachelor's program. Both completed the B.A., and Eric continued on through the M.S. program in Bible Related Studies.

At the completion of this degree, Eric remembered, "We were a team looking for a church to serve; we began praying, and through some amazing timing, the Shafter elders called us to come for the extended interview. When we saw their intense desire to follow God, we knew that this was the place planned for us."

The Shafter congregation is a group of over 80 Christians. "They have a spirit of joy, and they want to be an evangelistic fellowship," Eric continued. "We believe that God will use all of us to do His work here." Eric and Gina have a son, Luke, who is 16 months old.



Jim, Gail, and Marsha Hitt

Jim and Gail Hitt Bring Valuable Experience to Livermore

The thriving Livermore Church of Christ recently invited Jim and Gail Hitt to come and work with them. Livermore is a congregation of 250 members, and "is poised to be one of the strongest congregations in the Bay Area," Jim said.

Moving from Texas to California in November, Jim and Gail are coming back into full-time ministry after several years of owning their own business. "We have worked together in many endeavors," Jim reported. For ten years, the Hitts operated a credit bureau in several west Texas cities such as Midland and Lubbock. They sold the business and retired, but found themselves looking for a new challenge "serving in the kingdom."

Answering the call to work with Livermore has provided this opportunity. Jim had preached for 12 years before going into business, so he is returning to the pulpit with "a greater understanding of what the people in the pew are going through," stated Gail. A member at Livermore stated that, "Jim and Gail offer a mature faith that we can draw strength from." Jim was converted during his student days at Oklahoma State University where he majored in computer science. He decided to study for ministry and attended the Sunset School of Preaching in Lubbock, Texas where he met Gail who had grown up in the Sunset congregation where her father still serves as an elder. When they married, Gail continued her education at Lubbock Christian University.

Jim preached for a congregation in Beulah, Texas, during his two years at Sunset, and then the Hitts moved to Alvin. In two years the Alvin Church of Christ saw their attendance double. Then the Hitts moved to Conroe, Texas, where they worked with the church there for three years until they moved to Slaton, Texas, for a five-year ministry. In Slaton, the Hitts suffered the loss of their son, John, to SIDS.

With their breadth of experience, Jim and Gail look forward to this ministry at Livermore. Gail said, "The people here are so loving toward each other—they are quick to get involved in the lives of people outside the church family..." Jim added, "Recently we are having as many as 30 visitors at our services, so the love of God here attracts people." The Hitts have a daughter, Marsha, who is a college student at ACU.

PEPPERDINE PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

by Tara Morrow

Dan Anders, minister for the Malibu Church of Christ, preached for the Ojai Church of Christ on January 28.

Fred Barnes, counseling center psychologist, preached for the Hermosa Beach Church of Christ on January 14.

Otis Baskin, dean of the School of Business and Management, preached for the San Luis Obispo Church of Christ on January 14.

Harold Bigham, professor of law, preached for the Oakhurst Church of Christ on January 14 and the Indio Church of Christ on January 28.

Craig Bowman, instructor of religion and manager of academic project design, preached for the Turnpike Road Church of Christ in Santa Barbara on January 7.

Michael Casey, associate professor of communication, was the speaker at the Friends of Pepperdine Breakfast at the Abilene Christian University Bible Lectureship, February 19, 1996. He preached for the Glendale Church of Christ on January 14 and the Frazier Park Church of Christ on January 21.

Brad Cheeves, special assistant to the president, preached for the Palm Springs Church of Christ on January 14.

Royce Clark, professor of religion, preached for the Buellton Church of Christ on January 21. He will present a paper, "Contract v. Covenant in Post-Holocaust Theology and Society," at the 26th Annual Scholar's Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches," in Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 3-5. He will also read a paper at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Western Region, in San Diego, March 28-30.

David Davenport, president, preached for the Costa Mesa Church of Christ on January 7 and for the Canyon View Church of Christ on February 18.

Rich Dawson, director of International Student Services, preached for the Westside Church of Christ in Las Vegas, Nevada, December 10, 1995 and for the Simi Valley Church of Christ on January 14.

LaJuana Gill, campus minister, will be the speaker for the Southeast Church of Christ Women's Retreat in Houston, Texas, February 23-25.

Randy Gill, associate director of Church Relations, was a speaker for the Chico Youth Rally, January 13-14. He preached for the College Church of Christ in Fresno on January 21 and the Temple City Church of Christ on January 28. He also spoke for the Youth Rally in Porterville, California, February 16-18. On March 30-31 he will speak for a Youth Day in Lexington, Kentucky, at the Southside Church of Christ.

Senior Advancement Officer **Terry Giboney** was a presenter/speaker at a men's leadership retreat for the Santa Rosa Church of Christ, January 19-21. **Susan Giboney**, visiting professor for the Teacher Education Department, joined him as a presenter at a Parenting Workshop for the Costa Mesa Church of Christ, February 10. They will also be presenters at another Parenting Workshop in Littleton, Colorado, for the Lakewood Church of Christ March 1-3.

Bill Henegar, vice-president for creative services, preached for the Church of Christ in Santa Paula on January 21.

Ron Highfield, associate professor of religion, preached for the Shafter Church of Christ on January 14 and the Tehachapi Church of Christ on January 28.

David Holmes, Irvine visiting instructor of humanities, preached for the Avalon Church of Christ on January 14.

Larry Hornbaker, executive vice-chancellor, preached for the Mona Boulevard Church of Christ on January 7.

Ira Jolivet, assistant professor of religion, was the speaker for the Baccalaureate Exercise at Pepperdine, December 15. He preached for the Figueroa Church of Christ on January 21.

Terry Kite, associate professor of physics, was the speaker for all the general meetings for the Los Altos Church of Christ Retreat at Thousand Pines Camp, December 1-3. He preached for the Santa

Maria Church of Christ on January 14, the Sunrise Church of Christ on January 21, and the Santa Clarita Church of Christ on January 28. He plans to speak March 15-17 for the Caspar Church of Christ Youth Rally in Caspar, Wyoming.

Scott Lambert, campus minister, and **Kim Lambert**, regional director for Western Teams of Let's Start Talking, coordinated a retreat for five Let's Start Talking teams from different cities (Santa Barbara, Pasadena, Fresno, Tucson, and Portland), January 19-21. Scott will also be a participant at a "Teachers of Missions" Conference in Dallas, Texas, February 23.

Emily Y. Lemley, associate director of Church Relations, will speak for the Greenlawn Church of Christ women's retreat on March 7-8 in Lubbock, Texas.

Steven Lemley, provost, preached for the Mission Viejo Church of Christ on January 7 and the Camarillo Church of Christ on January 14.

Stuart Love, professor of religion, and **D'Esta Love**, dean of students, were speakers for the **Leaven** breakfast meeting at the Abilene Bible Lectureship, February 19-22. Stuart preached for the Westchester Church of Christ on January 28.

Dennis Lowe, professor of psychology and chair in Family Life, GSEP, and **Emily Scott-Lowe**, coordinator of the Counseling Center, will conduct a weekend seminar of "Creative and Effective Parenting" for the community of Glasgow, Kentucky, through the Columbia Avenue Church of Christ March 1-2. Dennis will also preach that Sunday morning and will teach a class on "Teaching Christian Values in the Home." Dennis preached for the Sunny Hills Church of Christ on January 14.

Randy Lowry, director of the Institute for Dispute Resolution, preached for the Church of Christ in Redlands on January 28, and for the Church of Christ in Redwood City on February 18.

Tara Morrow, administrative assistant for Church Relations, facilitated worship for the youth ski retreat of the Malibu Church of Christ, February 16-19.

Thomas Olbricht, chair of the religion division, preached for the La Mesa Church of Christ on January 7, the Inland Valley Church of Christ on January 14, the Coastline Church of Christ on January 21, and the Lancaster Church of Christ on February 4. He will present a paper at the 26th Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches: "Confronting the Holocaust: A Mandate for the 21st Century," in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on March 3-5, and he will present a paper for the Southeastern AAR/SBL Regional Meeting in Columbia, South Carolina, on March 15. He will read a paper at the Annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Western Region, in San Diego on March 28-30.

Vice Chancellor **Mike O'Neal** preached for the Mona Boulevard Church of Christ on December 10 and the Los Altos Church of Christ on January 28.

Jeff Pippin, treasurer and chief financial officer, preached for the La Habra Church of Christ on January 14.

Kent Rhodes, career and professional development coordinator for the GSEP, preached for the Mona Boulevard Church of Christ on January 14 and the Big Bear Lake Church of Christ on January 21.

Daniel Rodriguez, visiting instructor of missions and Hispanic studies, was the speaker for the Church Leader's Retreat of the North County Church of Christ in San Marcos, California on January 6 and for

the Salinas Church of Christ on January 28. He spoke for the Hispanic Evangelism Seminar, held at the Institute for Christian Studies in Austin, Texas, on January 19-20. He spoke for at the Didaskalia Seminar at the Metro Church of Christ in San Antonio, Texas, on February 23-24.

Larry Sullivan, associate director of the Institute for Dispute Resolution, Pepperdine Law School, preached for the Conejo Valley Church of Christ on January 7, the Buena Park Church of Christ on January 14, the Central Church of Christ in Bakersfield on January 21 and the Mona Boulevard Church of Christ on January 28.

Rick Rowland, associate professor of communication, preached for the Visalia Church of Christ on January 14.

Jerry Rushford, associate professor of religion, preached recently for Churches of Christ in San Leandro January 7, Lompoc January 21 and Exeter January 28. He spoke to church leaders in dinner meetings at Pleasanton January 5, Pismo Beach January 9, Rancho Cordova January 12, San Diego January 16, Visalia January 19, Tucson January 25 and Phoenix January 26. He will teach a class at the Abilene Bible Lectureship on February 19. He will preach for the Central Church of Christ in Portland, Oregon, on March 3, and for the Westside Church of Christ in Beaverton, Oregon, on March 17.

James Taylor, Irvine visiting professor

of social science, preached for the Vaughn Street Church of Christ on January 14.

Dewayne Winrow, Irvine visiting instructor of religion, preached for the Normandie Church of Christ on January 14.

Keith Whitney, associate professor of business administration, preached for the Temecula Church of Christ on January 14.

Tim Willis, assistant professor of religion, preached for the Westside Church of Christ in Bakersfield on January 21.

John Wilson, dean of Seaver College, preached for the El Cajon Boulevard Church of Christ in San Diego on January 21 and for the Whittier Church of Christ on January 28. He will also deliver the Annual W. B. West Jr. Lectures on "Archaeology and the Gospels," February 29, at the Harding Graduate School of Religion in Memphis, Tennessee.

Jere Yates, chair of the business administration division at Seaver College, preached for the Cypress Church of Christ on February 11.

M. Norvel Young, chancellor emeritus, preached for the Long Beach Church of Christ on January 7, and for the Yucaipa Church of Christ on January 14. He will preach for the Broadway Church of Christ in Lubbock, Texas, on February 18.

Helen Young will teach a women's class at the Broadway Church of Christ on February 18.

Evergreen in the Desert

—Continued from page 7

ministers to the city of Tucson, which, several decades back, was an Old West prospectors' town, not far from Tombstone. People ranged the nearby mountains in search of gold and silver—and later, copper. But PV—the Palo Verde Christians—is a group of people in search of God and in search of those who will join them in that expedition.

The paloverde tree is always green,

always young and vital, always productive in its rarefied climate and desert environment. And Palo Verde, as it turns out, is a good name for a group of dynamic Christians that strives for constancy, faith, and balanced spiritual life.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Eight members of the Palo Verde Church, four women and four men, have formed an acapella singing group called, "Celebrate." They have sung for many gatherings in the Tucson area, and they will be singing at the Pepperdine Bible Lectures on Wednesday, April 24.

1996 FAMILY ENCAMPMENTS

RED RIVER	Red River, New Mexico June 22-26
MORRO BAY	Morro Bay, California June 29-July 6
GNEW	Tacoma, Washington July 3-6
GRAND CANYON	Flagstaff, Arizona July 7-10
YOSEMITE	Mariposa, California July 20-26

We're Looking For A Few Good Families!

An interview with Dennis Lowe

Editor's Note: Dr. Dennis Lowe, professor of psychology at Pepperdine University, has been appointed regional coordinator for an exciting project that will examine what can happen when families make a commitment to grow strong together. He recently shared not only information on the project, but his enthusiasm for it, as well.

PCN: What is the name of the project and who originated it?

LOWE: The project, which is called "The Search for Strong American Families," was launched by Faith in Families, a nonprofit family resource provider in Fort Worth, Texas.

PCN: What is the purpose behind the Faith in Families study?

LOWE: The program is a grassroots effort to identify and build strong American families. Ron Rose, founder of Faith in Families, is quite clear that there is no hidden agenda lurking behind the search—it is not a marketing ploy, not a political action activity, and not a religious movement.

PCN: How is the project funded?

LOWE: The major cost for the project is funded by the Faith in Families organization. Costs involved with Pepperdine's distribution of resource materials is covered under the M. Norvel and Helen Young Chair in Family Life at Pepperdine University's Graduate School

of Education and Psychology.

PCN: Who will be taking part in the study?

LOWE: We are looking for 100,000 families from across the nation to take part in the study. And we aren't looking for perfect families that are free of struggles, either. What we are looking for are families that will agree to strive to grow strong in spite of their difficulties.

PCN: What will these families have to do?

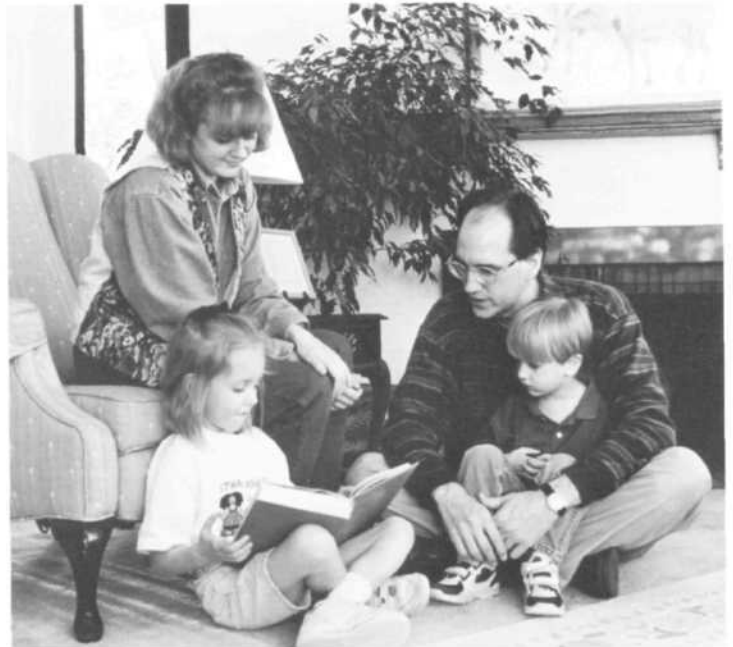
LOWE: We will ask them to make a 7-point "Strong Families Pledge" that will include promises such as "to be a more effective guide for my children," or "to honor my marriage vows, even when I don't feel like it."

PCN: Will the families have a support system as they participate in the program?

LOWE: Yes. They will become a part of the "Strong Families Network." Through this organization we will be able to support and encourage families to pursue strong relationships and share stories of their families' strengths with others.

PCN: What do you hope to accomplish with this program?

LOWE: First and foremost, we believe these families will realize a positive difference in their homes when commitment to each other becomes a daily priority. And we expect they will develop a deeper sense of the importance of having a strong family—especially in these days when there is so much failure in this area of our society. Being part of the "Strong Families Network" will also create the feeling of having an extended family



around the nation.

We also will take the "good news" about the Strong Families Network to the media outlets. Hopefully this will provide a balance to the avalanche of negative, pessimistic portrayals of family life in America.

PCN: How does a family get involved in The Search for Strong American Families program?

LOWE: To introduce the program, a special kit has been put together by Faith in Families. It contains an informative collection of ideas for all families, and you can order one by contacting me; Dr. Dennis Lowe, Pepperdine University, Strong Families Project, Malibu, California 90263; or call our voice mail at (310)456-4771. We also encourage churches to put an announcement of this project in their church bulletin. A sample paragraph is available by calling or writing us. There is no cost for the kit or for membership in the Strong Families Network. So we urge everyone to send for a kit today and join us. We need many families to participate in this very worthwhile and exciting project!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

The Third Annual FAMILY LIFE CONFERENCE

*held on Pepperdine's
Malibu Campus on*

JUNE 13-14, 1996

**For more information, contact
Dr. Dennis Lowe
(310) 456-4771.**

Dennis Lynn Appointed Cascade College President

Dr. Dennis Lynn was named president of Cascade College in an announcement made February 3 following the College's Board meeting.

Dr. Lynn succeeds Dr. Kevin Jacobs, who assumed the presidency of the entire Oklahoma Christian University system in January. Dr. Lynn comes to Cascade with experience in college administration, ministry and counseling. He currently serves as executive director of Christian Family Services of the Midwest in Overland Park, Kansas.

As president of Cascade, Dr. Lynn will work closely with Dr. Jacobs to guide this young institution in implementing the college's strategic long-range plan. Dr. Lynn will be responsible for all administrative aspects of Cascade's day-to-



Dr. Dennis Lynn

day operation and will direct the college fund-raising efforts.

When announcing Dr. Lynn's appointment, Dr. Jacobs said, "I believe the Lord led us to Dennis. He is a remarkable Christian gentleman, and a capable college administrator. Passing the point role for Cascade College to someone else is not easy—Cascade is like a child to me—but I

am thrilled that it's going to be in Dennis Lynn's hands."

"I am pleased and thrilled that Debby and the boys and I have the opportunity to play a part here. It will be a pure joy," Dr. Lynn said, "I'm not sure what is around the corner in this role, but I know Who is. May God fill us with a vision for this college so vast that only He can fill it."

Dr. Lynn holds undergraduate degrees from York College in York, Nebraska, and Lubbock Christian University, in Lubbock, Texas. His master's degree is in counseling from Texas Tech University in Lubbock and his doctorate is in family studies from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska.

For 10 years Dr. Lynn served York College. His roles there included vice president for institutional advancement, dean of students and associate professor in psychology and family studies. He also has worked with churches in Michigan and Texas.

Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Restoration Movement on the Pacific Slope Set for March 16 in Amity, Oregon

Fifty years ago, in March of 1946, the Church of Christ in Amity, Oregon, hosted a joyous gathering to commemorate the centennial of the beginnings of the Restoration Movement in Western America. Now, a half-century later, this same church is inviting all of the heirs of the Restoration Movement (Churches of Christ, Christian Churches, and Disciples of Christ) to once again assemble in Amity and celebrate our common roots.

Amos and Jane Harvey came overland from Illinois to Oregon Territory in 1845, and they were instrumental in establishing the first congregation of the Church of Christ on the Pacific Slope in March of 1846 near the present-day site of Amity. The Amity Church of Christ is the direct descendent of that first congregation.

In an historic letter to Alexander Campbell, which was later published in Campbell's monthly periodical *The Millennial Harbinger*, Amos Harvey said in part:

"Brother Campbell—

"I am happy to be able to say that the "ancient gospel" has been planted in Oregon, and numbers are enlisting under the banners of King Immanuel.

I came to this country late in the fall of 1845, and learned that a few families of disciples lived on Yam Hill River, west of the Willamette River. I settled there in January, and in March we organized a congregation upon the Book alone—and this was the first congregation built upon this foundation in the Territory. We numbered at first but thirteen members. We met, as the disciples anciently did, upon the first day of the week, to break the loaf, to implore the assistance of the heavenly Father, to seek instruction from his Word, and to encourage each other in the heavenly way."

The sesquicentennial celebration of this historic event is set for Saturday, March 16, in Amity. The day will begin with a 1:00 p.m. devotional at the grave

markers of Amos and Jane Harvey in Bethel Cemetery, a short distance from the Amity church building. At 2:00 p.m. the attendees will move to the church building where Jerry Rushford will give a slide presentation on the beginnings of the Restoration Movement in Oregon, California and Washington. Following an early dinner together, the audience will resemble for a period of joyful worship. Three speakers, representing the three branches of the Restoration Movement, will speak briefly on Jesus' prayer for unity in John 17, followed by a panel discussion with audience participation on the implications of this prayer. The three speakers are Mark Reid, representing the Disciples of Christ, Bill Richardson, representing the Independent Christian Churches, and Jerry Rushford representing Churches of Christ. For more information on this event contact the Department of Church Relations at Pepperdine University (310) 456-4270.

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"Scripture, Theology and the Sermon,"
June 17-28

Dr. Thomas Robinson, New York City, New York
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