

PACIFIC CHURCH NEWS

SUMMER 1995

A Missionary Journey
Remembered

See Cover Story on page 10

THE DAILY ALASKA "ALL THE NEWS ALL THE TIME" JUNEAU, ALASKA, THURSDAY, JULY 26, 1945 MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS CALL ON JAPAN TO SURRENDER

POTSDAM, July 26.—President Truman, Premier Chiang Kai-shek and retiring Prime Minister Churchill tonight called upon Japan to surrender unconditionally, declaring: "The alternative is prompt destruction." The Joint proclamation declared there will be no deviation from the demand for unconditional surrender and "we shall not accept delay." Japan will be divested of the leaders who mislead the people and will be stripped down to her four main islands and "such minor islands as we determine." "We do not intend that the Japanese shall be enslaved as a race or destroyed as a nation," the proclamation said, "but stern justice shall be meted out to war criminals." The proclamation was drafted by Truman and Churchill, who submitted to Chiang Kai-shek, Truman's Secretary, Charles Ross, said the warning would be broadcast to the Japanese people in every way possible. Russia is not a party to the proclamation. Also it is the first intimation Chiang Kai-shek is attending the Potsdam conference.

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THE NEW
CHAIN REFERENCE
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THOMPSON

A NEWS JOURNAL FOR CHURCHES OF CHRIST ON THE WEST COAST

AWP Installs Sorrell as President



Sonia Sorrell was installed as the 1995-96 president of the Associated Women for Pepperdine at the June 26 meeting of the national board. "I am honored to be able to serve with the women of AWP," Sorrell said. Patty Atkisson, the Pepperdine liaison with AWP said, "Sonia brings so much enthusiasm and energy which will encourage the AWP women to continue in their dedicated service. With her installation, we are seeing a generation of younger women elected to the board. I think this is a sign of vision and vibrancy among the current board members."

Sonia teaches Art History at Seaver and assists in teaching the Western Heritage course. "I love working with the students," she reported. She received her bachelor's degree in Art History at California State University in Northridge and her M.A. in Art history at California State, Los Angeles. She continued her education with another M.A. in Ancient History at UCLA, and she has done doctoral course work toward a Ph.D. in Art History at UCLA as well. "I registered for an art history course as a freshman because it was offered at a convenient time. After my first class meeting, I was hooked. I've always looked for the beauty in the world," Sonia explained.

Sonia met her husband, John, at Cal State. John, who went on to law school at Loyola, works as Pepperdine's real-estate manager. "We are blessed to be true friends, and we are thankful to both work at Pepperdine for the same mission," Sonia said. They have been married for 12 years, and are active members of the Malibu Church of Christ.

The Baskins Come to Pepperdine from Memphis, Tennessee

Otis Baskin has been appointed the new Dean of the School of Business and Management at Pepperdine. He and his wife Maryan have moved to southern California from Memphis, Tennessee where she completed her doctorate in Instruction and Curriculum Leadership and he was the Director of the Family Business Forum and Professor of Management in the Robert Wang Center for International Business at the University of Memphis. He was also the founding Director of the business school at a new campus of Arizona State University. The Baskins were active in the educational program of the White Station Church of Christ in Memphis.



Maryan is a learning systems specialist who designs workshops that integrate the learner's personal experience with practical application for active learning. She has ten years experience teaching the primary grades in public schools and has taught at both Arizona State University and Paradise Valley Community College in Phoenix. Otis, in his 20 years of administrative and faculty positions, has worked at Texas Lutheran College, the University of Houston-Clear Lake, and the University of Maryland-United Kingdom Directorate. He has written six books and published numerous academic articles in the area of Organizational Communication and Corporate External Relations. Otis and Maryan also serve as consultants to family owned businesses.

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COVER PHOTO

Members of the missionary campaign team to Juneau, Alaska, photographed in 1945: Top row (l. to r.) Bill Hatcher, Yvonne Barton, Bernard Byerley, Freda Field, Boyd Field, J.T. Johnson, Bob Rowland, Neola Magee, Allen Rice. Bottom row (l. to r.) L.D. Webb, Bernice Webb, J.M. McCaleb, Elizabeth McCaleb, Elsie Green, Jewell Risley, Betty Lou Chappell, Annette Tigrett, Audry Hurt, Eugene Gilmore, and Arnold Watson.

Los Angeles Churches of Christ Host City-Wide Campaign

by Billie Silvey

Some 2,300 people attended the recent "No to Violence Campaign 95" held May 28-June 3 at various Los Angeles area Churches of Christ.

The week-long campaign was sponsored by the host churches in cooperation with Mona Blvd. Community Services, Inc.

According to Thamar Williams, campaign coordinator, "It's going to take a collaborative effort to curb violence in America. The campaign goes beyond the issue of violence to the establishment of various community projects as positive alternatives. It also seeks to equip families and empower our communities with tools for conflict management."

The campaign was kicked off Sunday, May 28, at the Mona Blvd. church with a discussion of "Violence in Our Schools." The Inglewood church hosted Monday's session on "Family Violence"; the Torrance church, Tuesday, "Violence and Drugs"; and the Normandie church, Wednesday, "Violence in Our World."

"Conflict Resolution vs. Violence" was the theme of the Culver Palms church's Thursday night session, which was followed by a "Concert in Praise and Prayer" on Friday and a youth trip to Magic Mountain on Saturday.

Featured speaker for all the sessions was psychologist William Washington, a member of President Clinton's Ministerial Advisory Board and minister for the Golden Heights Church of Christ in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, which carries on an extensive program of counseling in the public schools.

Full-color posters featuring a big red stop sign and a flyer, letters, news releases and public service announcements were used to publicize the event.

The first hour of each church's session was designed by the local church to meet the needs of their area. The program at Mona Blvd. church featured the president



On behalf of Supervisor Yvonne Burke and L.A. County, Program Coordinator Thamar Williams (left) presented an award to the Culver Palms Church of Christ for its many community services. Accepting was Culver Palms elder Bernard James.

of the board of directors for the Compton Unified School District. At Inglewood, a young woman gave a dynamic speech on family violence. Torrance had a representative of the Federal Drug Administration and two South Bay area school principals.

Culver Palms's session included skits depicting situations with a potential for violence at school and at home. Following each skit, a panel of experts discussed alternatives to violence.

Panel members included the following: Bernard James, Culver Palms elder and Pepperdine law professor who serves as special counsel to the National School Safety Center and consultant to the U.S. Department of Justice;

Jayne Major, author and founder of the Parent Connection, Inc., a non-profit agency dedicated to parent education and skills training and referral source for the L.A. Department of Child Welfare, the Department of Probation, the City Attorney's Anti-Gang Program and the LAPD;

Peter Robinson, associate director of the Institute for Dispute Resolution, who serves on mediation panels for the Los Angeles and Ventura Counties Superior Courts, has

successfully facilitated the resolution of more than three hundred legal disputes and has provided dispute resolution training workshops to thousands of attorneys, business people and government agencies;

Sylvia Rousseau, principal of Santa Monica High School, fifteen year veteran teacher, instructional advisor and administrator with Los Angeles Unified School District, wife of a minister and mother of five who is working toward a doctorate in Institutional Management; and Akili Carter, Culver City High School junior and member of Culver Palms church youth group.

Sixty different Culver Palms church members were involved in various aspects of "No to Violence," working in twenty-five distinct areas, including poster layout, registration, acting, food preparations, child care, scriptwriting, community relations and electronics.

Arrangements were made with Brotman Hospital and the City of Culver City to use nearby parking lots, with church vans shuttling visitors. Closed-circuit television in two classrooms facilitated translation in Spanish and Korean. Refreshments were served, and a resource table was manned.

Culver Palms elder Tom Bost called the event "a real service to the church and the community." Jayne Major wrote, "Thank you for the opportunity to be on your panel at . . . your beautiful church. I met fascinating people there, and I enjoyed William Washington's address. It is certainly God's will to do all that we can to stop the violence. I'm hopeful that we'll continue to work together in the family life education."

"No to Violence" is an example of community-based evangelism, by which the church helps mobilize resources to deal with community problems. Meanwhile, the church raises its own visibility in urban areas where it is often silent and unknown.

LECTURES

Coming Down from the Upper Room

by Bill Henegar

Christians sometimes speak of a "mountain top experience," by which they mean a time of personal, intense spiritual growth and exultation. In regard to the most recent Pepperdine University Bible Lectures, however, it might be more accurate to call the growth and exultation that resulted from the week's activities an "upper room experience."

For example, reflecting on this year's lectures theme and events, a minister from Virginia wrote, "I recently had let my batteries get pretty low. What I needed was a large dose of Eternal Truth from an Upper Room. Thanks for the much needed rest and recharging. I know that my notes and memories will keep me warmed by and

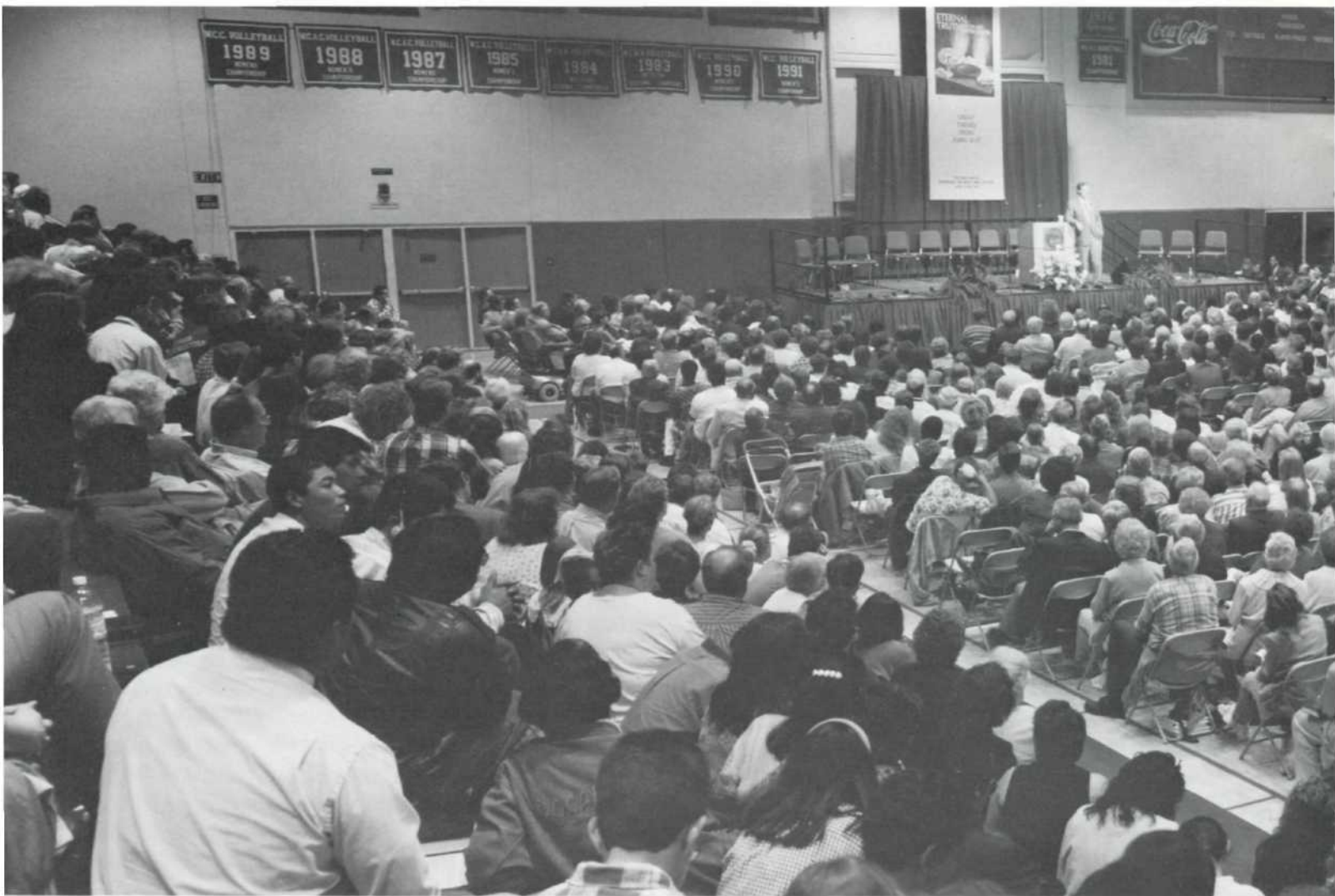
close to His Truth." And a woman from Georgia wrote about her "awesome experience" with these words: "I felt the Spirit of God present all week. I also felt a great spirit of unity with everyone there . . . I came back with an inner peace . . ."

As keynote lecturer, Rubel Shelly had the difficult task of setting the tone for the entire week of lectures, classes, programs, and performances. Opening night on April 25 saw a huge crowd fill Firestone Fieldhouse on the Malibu campus. More than 4000 voices swelled in melodic praise to God, prayers were offered, an introduction was made—then Shelly masterfully laid down the warp and woof upon which the other lecturers would

jointly craft the tapestry of "Eternal Truth from an Upper Room." Shelly was followed by morning and evening lectures by Milton Jones, Harold Hazelip, G.P. Holt, John Allen Chalk, and Gregg Hood.

When the week ended, it was best-selling author Max Lucado's assignment to describe the finished tapestry with his own unique word pictures. He often seemed like a football running back, threading his way downfield, cheered on by a throng of enthusiastic and partisan fans. The evening ended with an almost palpable electricity in the air of the gymnasium that had been transformed into an "upper room."

The entire week was a rewarding one for hundreds of Christians who had come



to be refreshed and edified. From Michigan, a minister related, "The Pepperdine Lectures have equipped our elders to be better shepherds. The classes and lectures have challenged their thinking, opened their eyes to new possibilities, and confronted them with important leadership issues. . . . If one small congregation in Michigan gains so much from Pepperdine, imagine the tremendous impact you are having all across our nation!" The president of a consulting firm said, "It never fails that I grow in my faith and also bring back ideas for the Bible classes I teach." And a middle-school teacher from Florida tried to articulate why, for four years in a row, he has traveled

from one coast of America to the other to attend the Lectures: "It's a chance to bring my empty, depleted 'cup,' and have it filled with great teaching! It's a chance to experience the dynamic of celebration in worship!" Perhaps a woman from Arkansas summed up the feelings of many when she wrote, "Your work brings about the changing of hearts and lives, to the glory of God—I know it certainly has changed mine, to hear and see the things I have witnessed at the Pepperdine Lectures."

Long ago in an upper room in Jerusalem, the Master gathered his followers around him. His time was short—dark things were about to happen. The little band of disciples watched, listened,

learned, worshipped, ate a meal together and experienced his sacrificial touch. Then they came down to a waiting and needy but hostile world. As the years melted away, we can be sure they never forgot the experiences of that upper room.

In somewhat the same way, a large number of the Master's disciples will not forget April 25 through 28—in the year 1995, in a place called Malibu—as transforming days of preparation and praise in an upper place. It was a time to climb up to an experience that embraced and enlivened. But the moment finally came to descend to a waiting and needy world. Now comes the vindication of the upper room experience.



Honoring Christian Heroes at the Pepperdine Lectures

by Emily Y. Lemley

The enthusiastic crowds at the 52nd annual Pepperdine Bible Lectures (April 25-28) enjoyed the California sunshine, the Christian fellowship, and the inspirational teaching, but they were also encouraged by seeing true heroes of the faith being honored with Pepperdine's Christian Service Award. During this dynamic week there were ten awards presented by Pepperdine University, and four additional honors were given by Christian publications.

The first awards were given at the opening night dinners when Earl West and Gordon Teel were honored at the two men's dinners and Daniel and Allison Jolliff were honored at the AWP dinner. Gordon Teel has given his whole life to preaching the gospel, and he still preaches each Sunday. His sweet spirit and faithful service to churches such as the Vermont Avenue Church of Christ in Los Angeles and churches in Idaho and Washington is well-known. Earl West, a Pepperdine graduate come home, was honored as one of the premier historians of the Restoration Movement whose caliber of scholarship and multiple volumes of work has blessed so many students of church history. Daniel and Allison Jolliff, both Pepperdine alumni and AWP scholarship recipients, began working in African missions in 1986. Since they were still working in Kenya during the Lectures, their parents, the Bob Jolliffs and the Wes Woffords, received the award on their behalf.

G.P. and Olivia Holt were honored at the annual Wednesday night appreciation dinner. They have served churches in several states including more than 30 years with the Kingsley Terrace Church of Christ in Indianapolis, Indiana. G.P. has also served for many years on the board of Southwestern Christian College. He continues to serve the kingdom through writing and gospel meetings. Their children and many of their friends gave tribute to their dedicated service, and,



Gordon Teel



Fred Gray



Joan and Ed Biggers



Olivia and G. P. Holt



Earl West



Bob and Virginia Jolliff, Diane and Wes Wofford

along with the Christian Service Award, they received an album full of letters from appreciative brothers and sisters in Christ.

Fred Gray, who achieved fame as the

best known lawyer during the Civil Rights Movement, was honored by Pepperdine for his faithful preaching of the gospel. At the age of 12, Gray traveled and preached with the great evangelist Marshall Keeble. He has preached in several states, and now serves as an elder in his home congregation in Tuskegee, Alabama. Gray continues to support Christian education through his



Grace and Henry Farrar



Glover Shipp and Max Lucado



Sally and Harold Shank



Mel Weldon



John Allen Chalk and Phillip Morrison



Rubel Shelly



Elma Cannon and her children



Betty and Jack Burch

long-time role as chairman of the board of Southwestern Christian College.

Ed and Joan Biggers accepted Pepperdine's honor for their long years of faithful service with California and Arizona Churches of Christ. Ed served as a deacon in the Culver-Palms Church of

Christ, an elder at the Church of Christ in Simi Valley, California and at the Mountain Avenue Church of Christ in Tucson, Arizona. Clearly, the Biggers are also dedicated to Christian education. Ed is on the board of Pepperdine University and Joan is a past president of AWP.

Jack and Betty Burch were surprised by the presence of three of their four children and their spouses and many grandchildren when they were called out for the Christian Service Award at the beginning of the Wednesday evening service. The Burch's influence has been felt in missions, in Christian education through San

Fernando Valley Christian School and Pepperdine University, and in ministry during Jack's 45 years of preaching.

Grace and Henry Farrar's involvement in African Christian Hospital missions spans more than 30 years. They were honored for their sacrificial service in giving medical aid and inspiring many doctors and nurses to help in missions. Dr. Farrar has served as an elder for many years, and they are both long-time supporters of Christian education.

Elma Cannon, and posthumously, her husband Sherman Cannon, were awarded

— continued on page 15



Terry Rush explains God's response to pain and loss



Overflow crowds in Smothers Theatre join the Hallal Singers in praising God



Joe Beam examines the reality of spiritual warfare



Jack P. Lewis talks about the Bible



"Paw-paw" Pinkerton spins a timeless story



A nurturing faith binds generations together



Phyllis Davis calls for a closer walk with Christ

52ND ANNUAL BIBLE LECTURES



Max Lucado paints "a dream worth keeping alive"



Holly Allen describes new life in a new church



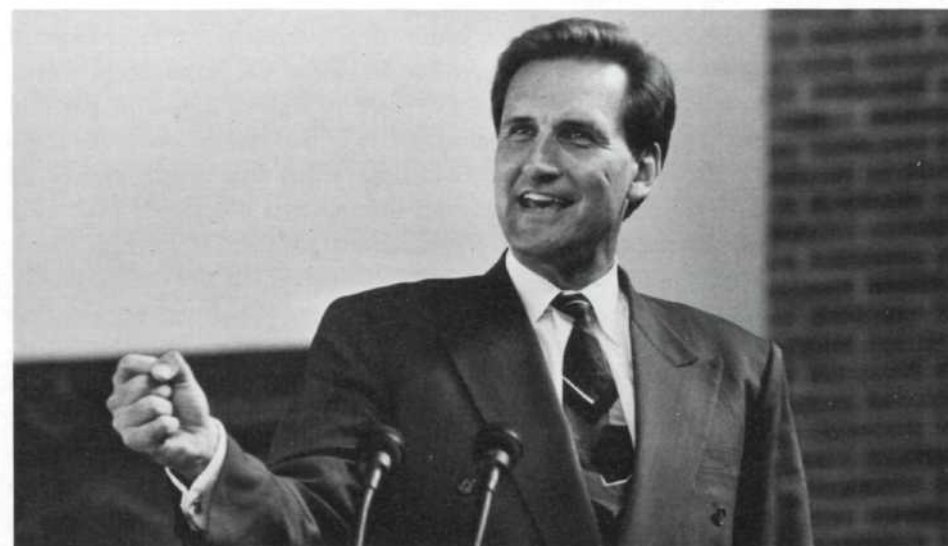
Tom Olbricht remembers Reuel Lemmons



Joyful singing punctuates a memorable week filled with praise to God



Mike Cope confronts the faithfulness of God



Steve Flatt, member of the Board of Regents, affirms the Christian mission of Pepperdine University

Alaskan Gold

by Bill Henegar

Summer 1945—a significant time for America. The Third Reich was vanquished, and triumphant U.S. troops were marching home from the long, terrible war in Europe.

In those euphoric weeks after V.E. Day, L.D. Webb gathered together a team of 20 people associated with Pepperdine College and launched an invasion of his own—to Juneau, Alaska. It would mark the beginning of the Church of Christ in that city. And today, the church looks back over a half century of warm, golden memories.

Among those accompanying L.D. and Bernice Webb and their children, David and Sarah, were Yvonne Barton, Bernard Byerley, Betty Lou Chappell, Boyd and Freda Field, Eugene Gilmore, Elsie Green, Bill Hatcher, Audry Hurt, J.T. Johnson, Neola Magee, Allen Rice, Jewell Risley, Bob Rowland, Annette Tigrett, and L. Arnold Watson. The group of enthusiastic evangelists were joined by the legendary missionary J.M. McCaleb and his wife, Elizabeth. McCaleb had spent 50 faithful years in Japan and was now 84 years old. But the call of Christ from a fresh, new field in the Pacific Basin was a powerful motivation, and he added his vast experience to the young campaigners.

During the six-week mission to Juneau, an advertising blitz was conducted in the daily newspaper, on the local radio station with Arnold Watson preaching every day, and in a plan to personally contact every home. By the end of summer, three converts had been won: Lucille Weir, Evelyn Hamlin, and Cecilia Kunz. As the mission team headed home, they left three of their number behind to work with the new congregation: Boyd and Freda Field and J.T. Johnson. So, the Juneau Church of Christ was born with those six members. They were eventually joined by Allen Rice and Betty Lou Chappell, who had fallen in love while on the campaign, had married, and then decided to return to Alaska.

Initially the little band of disciples met at the CIO Union Hall at First and Gold streets. Later, they assembled at the American Legion Hall. In a bold and courageous move, Maurice and Angie Long decided to pull up stakes and move to Juneau in early 1949. They had no financial support and had no waiting job in Alaska. But, in faith, they arrived to add their help to the church building program. By the end of the year—and after only four years in Juneau—the church moved into its own meeting house. That first building was at 1617 Glacier Avenue, and it seated 60-80 people. It capably served the church for nearly 20 years and eventually was purchased by the city and demolished to make way for a public swimming pool.

Five or six years after the Juneau church was formed, the members launched their first mission effort. Boyd Field, who had preached for the church from the beginning and had been supported by the Van Nuys, California, Church of Christ, went to Sitka to help the church there as they entered a building program for their first meeting house. Bob Rowland, who had been part of that 1945 founding campaign, returned to Juneau to preach in Field's absence. When the Sitka building project was finished in 1951, Rowland went there to preach, and Field returned home to Juneau and preached there until 1957. It is significant, and perhaps indicative of the dynamic era of the 1940s and 1950s, that a little congregation only a half dozen years old would take on a mission work so early.

In the late 1950s, the Juneau church became self-supporting, and Jim Sherman was contracted to be the first fully-supported minister. Sherman served from 1958 to 1963 and was followed by H.W. "Red" McClish. It was during McClish's two years of ministry that the congregation hosted the first ever All-Alaska Lectureship, which became an annual event. Since that time, the lectures, which

rotate to various regions of Alaska, have been held in Juneau about every four years.

Bob Waldron followed McClish as the minister, serving the Juneau church from 1965 to 1970. In 1969, the church sent Waldron and his wife, Gina, on a missionary trip to India for several months. The Waldrons eventually went to preach in Guatemala. The church in Juneau, though never large by some standards, has contributed to missions out of proportion with its size. Ron Roberts, John Chandy, and others have gone out from this Northern body of Christians to serve the Lord in distant places.

The present church building, completed in 1967 during the Waldrons tenure, is at 8755 Trinity Drive. It was the first church located along a loop road that circles the city. Today, more than a dozen other churches are situated along that drive.

Over the years, the church has hosted numerous college-student groups who have traveled to Alaska to work for the summer and earn money for school. In addition to Pepperdine, Abilene Christian University, Harding University, York College, and the former Columbia Christian College all had students who worked with the Juneau church. Many of the Christian schools sponsored student campaigns to strengthen the work in Alaska.

Although the Juneau church has consistently and faithfully inspired and supported mission work, its own preaching for more than a dozen years was characterized by a succession of short-tenured ministers—until the arrive of Jon and Jeannie Paden in 1978. The Padens, now in their seventeenth year with the church, have brought a welcomed stability, as well as a warm and spiritual tone to the congregation. Steady growth has brought the Sunday morning attendance average to about 140, a considerable size in terms of Alaskan churches.

Both Jon and Jeannie are unassuming servants of God and are quick to give



Jon and Jeannie Paden have worked with the Juneau church for the past 17 years.

everyone else the credit for any growth. "The church is very open and loving," Jon says. "If you visit, you will always be greeted and welcomed warmly." He glows with admiration for the elders, knowing that ministers and elders are not always so compatible. "Our elders love each other deeply; they make decisions by consensus, and are not steeped in the traditions of some regions of America," he concludes.

Jeannie summarizes, "I think Jesus really is the heart of this church. There is a oneness that's beautiful—with all ages included, and without cliques." She gives one example of the unity of the congregation: "The whole church has Thanksgiving dinner together. It's become a tradition over many years—something like a family reunion. Since many are a long way from their relatives in other states, 100 to 120 of us will gather for one big Thanksgiving celebration."

Jon and Jeannie Paden are both 1969 graduates of Pepperdine College. In a sense, the Juneau church has come full circle: having begun with a campaign conducted by Pepperdine students and other Pepperdine people, they are now thriving under the ministry of two Pepperdine alumni.



From its modest beginnings, the Juneau Church of Christ now numbers about 140 people.



The first church meeting house was built in 1949 and served the congregation for 18 years.

Mission-mindedness, an often abandoned trait in many modern churches, is still very much alive in Juneau. Today, the congregation sponsors an evangelistic work in Prince Rupert, British Columbia. It is probably significant that minister Jon Paden is himself of "missionary stock"—his parents were missionaries in Italy, and Jon grew up as a Christian with American roots whose home was beyond the borders of the United States.

All of these bits of data (founded in the

halcyon days of victory in Europe, the work of young Pepperdine campaigners, transplanted members far from their roots, a son of missionaries as minister) plus the wild and rugged legacy of Alaska, help one to better understand how individualistic and special is the Juneau Church of Christ. Enterprising people discovered gold in Alaska a few generations ago—but for 50 golden years, the Juneau church has made it possible for seekers to discover Christ in their majestic land.

Yosemite Family Encampment

July 23-28

at the Mariposa County Fairgrounds

"Thank God for Things that Cannot Be Shaken"

Classes for all ages

Speakers include: Randy Becton, David Davenport, Stanley Lockhart, Larry Roberts

For more information, call: Paul Methvin (916) 988-8780 or 989-4885

The Sun Rises on the Fifth Decade for Sunset Haven

by Emily Y. Lemley

It was 1955, during a Lectureship Fellowship Dinner in the Pepperdine cafeteria, when Floyd Lee, an elder at the Painter Avenue Church of Christ in Whittier, challenged the audience to build what would become Sunset Haven: "It's time we started a home for the older ones . . . Who will join me?" Lee took out a five-dollar bill and put it on the head table.

That day, Lee collected \$50 toward building a "retirement home." With that \$50 worth of faith, a board was chosen: E.W. McMillan, then the preacher at the Painter Avenue Church



Floyd Lee

of Christ in Whittier, Paul Harper, the preacher at Glendale Church of Christ, O.J. Warren and Raymond Simpson, elders at the Long Beach Church of Christ, and Floyd Lee. "Sunset Haven," a name invented by O.J. Warren, was incorporated on September 24, 1955. In 1956, they bought almost nine acres in Beaumont which included a historic 19-room stone mansion. Built in the late 1800's by a renowned Italian craftsman, "The Smoot House" was a winter residence for a Chicago attorney and later became a registered historic landmark in Riverside County. The Sunset Haven board bought this property for \$55,000 on May 10, 1956, and the Smoot House, overlooking the beautiful Cherry Valley orchards, became the Sunset Haven Country Home for the first eight residents.

By the early 1960's Sunset Haven was determined to add a convalescent care hospital to expand its services. Los Angeles County supervisor Kenny Hahn guided them through the complex regulatory processes, and a 59 bed facility was opened on June 19, 1966 on the Cherry Valley

campus. The next major milestone for Sunset Haven was the gift by the Upland Church of Christ of three acres for a residential care center. When this opened on November 13, 1977, it provided apartment style, assisted living facilities for 80 residents. In July of 1992, Sunset Haven opened another facility at Upland which provides a 70-bed convalescent hospital including an alzheimers unit, and state of the art rehabilitation facilities.

With four fully licensed facilities, Sunset Haven is home to 230-300 residents. It requires 130 full-time and 50 part-time staff members and has a 6.5 million dollar annual budget. Sunset Haven operates under an independent board made up of members of the Church of Christ. The chief executive officer, Pollyana Franks, has an extensive background in the health care profession, and she said that she is particularly "pleased to be free to follow Christian principles" at Sunset Haven at the same time that they "strive for excellence in quality of care." Recently, a family that was not familiar with the Churches of Christ, used the convalescent hospital for their mother who had suffered a stroke. Knowing that they would need long-term care, they began to investigate all the possibilities available by attending a meeting about senior services in the San Bernadino County. In a conversation with a county official after the meeting, they were surprised when he said, "Keep your mother where she is—Sunset Haven is one



The original facility, "The Smoot House," was purchased in 1956.



The latest Sunset Haven addition is Christian Heritage Care Center in Upland, opened in 1992.

of the finest facilities in the county and in the state."

As Sunset Haven celebrates its 40th year, Orville Young, who has the longest tenure on the board of trustees said, "This work has helped so many Christian saints in their later years to continue the fellowship and the activities they have always enjoyed. We are thankful for the service God has allowed us to be a part of." The big 40th birthday celebration will culminate in a dinner at the Cherry Valley location on September 23, 1995. "Everyone is invited," reported Randy Schackmann, Director of Community Relations at Sunset Haven. Tours of all of the facilities will be available, and the day will be a homecoming of many who have supported this work through the years. For more information, call Randy at (909) 920-4213.

One Voluntary Life

by Terry Giboney

It was Monday morning, December 27, 1993. Little did I know that it would be the last time I would see my mother alive.

My wife, Susan, and I were on our way out of town for a couple of days. As was our custom when we headed east from Malibu, we stopped by Sunset Haven Residential Facility to see my mother. In retrospect, several things stand out about that visit. For Christmas 1982, we had given Mother a large "Memory" book in which to record her life story. She had worked on it off and on for 11 years.

Before we left that day, she handed it to me with an air of conviction and said, "I want you to take this." "Why?" I asked. "Are you finished with it?" "No," she said, "But I am not going to write in it any more!" She said it with such determination that I had no choice but to take it.

As usual before leaving, I asked her if she needed any money or wanted me to cash a check. Again, with absolute certainty and a hint of twinkle in her eyes, she said, "Nope, I have everything I need."

After she had walked us to our car, she turned and with agile grace jumped over a little planter. I was amazed and said to my wife, "Look at that. She is 89 years old and jumped that planter like she had wings." The next day she had a massive stroke—24 hours later she was dead.

When Ruth Giboney died, the world lost one of its best—a servant-volunteer giant! I say this not just because I am her son. It is a sentiment shared by hundreds who knew her and were blessed by her life of simplicity and service. No, she was not great by any of the normal standards. She did not have advanced degrees, career, position, fame or fortune. To my knowledge she never held an office, published an article or made a formal speech. She never learned to ride a bike, swim, drive a car or use a computer.

At the end of her life she was so disfigured by osteoporosis that she was



Ruth Giboney

barely five feet tall. The last 25 years of her life she lived on Social Security and interest from her modest savings. At death, her possessions consisted of an old TV, a small bookcase, a tiny desk, dozens of photo albums and a trunk filled with 89 years of living, which even a junk collector would judge worthless.

However, in the eyes and hearts of those who knew her, Ruth Giboney was extraordinary. Two hundred people of all ages attended her funeral. Most people have few living friends at 89 years of age!

The service lasted an hour and a half as one person after another told what her life meant to them. It was a time of great joy and celebration. Here was someone who had understood how life was meant to be lived and had lived it!

When it was over, the funeral director said, "I have never seen a service like this. She must have been a remarkable person." And she was.

Since her death, I have tried to figure out just what made her great. What distinguishes the ordinary from the extraordinary? In the case of my mother, I have been able to identify ten traits which put Ruth Giboney in a league of her own.

1. She lived with deep faith and

conviction, and she expressed it in a way that was never rude or offensive. Rather, she was so sincere and gentle that people felt a sense of awe and inspiration by simply being in her presence.

2. She gave people priority without regard to their positions or possessions. She made everyone feel special.
3. She gave "things" their rightful priority. Neither her worth nor that of others was increased or diminished in her mind by material things or the lack of them. She used things to more fully enjoy life, but not to add status.
4. In every human transaction, she first gave herself, which others invariably found adequate payment in the exchange.
5. She found joy in service. In a world of great human need and suffering, opportunities to serve gave her joy and fulfillment. While at Sunset Haven, she had been involved in more than 40 different activities and service projects. Over several decades, she had made or helped make over 1,000 quilt comforters—all of which she had given away. She was a "Reading Grandmother" for one of the local elementary schools. She was conducting a survey among the other residents for Sunset Haven when she died.
6. She delighted in simple things—a child's letter, a poem, a Bible study, a purple pansy. In one sense she owned nothing. In a larger sense, she possessed everything.
7. She was a person of extraordinary integrity. The simplicity of her life and the singleness of her focus made it clear what was important to her. We see and admire such single-mindedness in Jesus and Paul.

—Continued on page 15

PEPPERDINE PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

by Tara Morrow

Dan Anders, minister of the Malibu Church of Christ, will teach at the Westchester Church of Christ Vacation Bible School, July 12-14.

Calvin Bowers, professor of communication and equal opportunity officer, will teach a five-day class at the National Youth Conference on the campus of the University of Washington in Seattle, August 7-11.

Randy Chesnutt, professor of religion, will be teaching a three hour class on the book of Acts at the Michigan Christian College Bible Lectureship in Rochester, Michigan, October 3.

Royce Clark, professor of religion, will deliver a paper entitled, "Original Intent Hermeneutic: Legal and Theological Reflections," at the Christian Scholars' Conference at Lubbock Christian University, July 21.

President **David Davenport** will be a keynote speaker at the Yosemite Family Encampment, July 27, in Mariposa, California.

Senior Advancement Officer **Terry Giboney** and professor of education **Susan Giboney** taught a class at the Family Life Conference June 16-17 at the Pepperdine University School of Law. On August 4 they will speak at the Japanese Christian Educators Conference at Seaver College.

LaJuana Gill, campus minister, will be speaking at the National Campus Ministry Seminar at the University of Memphis, July 31-August 3.

Randy Gill, associate director of church relations, was a speaker at the youth conference Encounter in Lubbock, Texas June 7. He will be the choir director/teacher at the Acapella Christian Music Seminar in Paris, Tennessee, July 10-15.

Terry Kite, associate professor of physics, will be the evening speaker at the Wyoming Bible Encampment in Lander, Wyoming, July 23-August 5.

Campus Minister **Scott Lambert** will be teaching two classes at the National

Campus Ministry Seminar in Memphis, Tennessee, July 31-August 3. On September 15-16, Scott will speak to student leaders at the Western Campus Ministry Seminar at Pepperdine.

Emily Y. Lemley, associate director of church relations, was the main speaker for a women's retreat in Mission Viejo, June 9-10.

Steven Lemley, provost, taught the adult class and preached for the Canyon View Church of Christ in San Diego on June 11.

Dennis Lowe, professor of psychology and Family Life chair, and **Emily Scott-Lowe**, coordinator of the counseling center, will conduct three family seminars for churches: "Effective Parenting" will be given at the Ventura Church of Christ, July 14-15, "Enhancing Spiritual Intimacy in Marriage" will be held at the Turnpike Road Church of Christ in Santa Barbara, September 15-16, and "Making Marriages Work" is scheduled for October 13-14 at the Costa Mesa Church of Christ.

Randy Lowry, director of the Institute for Dispute Resolution and associate professor of law, conducted a conflict resolution seminar for the University Avenue Church of Christ in Austin, Texas, June 2-4. He also spoke at an area-wide breakfast meeting of ministers and church leaders on Saturday and taught a class and preached for the University Church on Sunday. He taught a class on dispute resolution at Jubilee in Nashville, Tennessee, July 6-8.

Chair of Religion **Tom Olbricht** will direct and give a paper at the Conference on the Rhetorical Analysis of Scripture in London, England, July 27-30. The paper is entitled "The Flowering of Rhetoric." On September 24 he will speak at the Lake Jackson Church of Christ on his book *He Loves Forever*.

Rick Rowland, associate professor of communication and adjunct professor of religion, will be teaching two courses on "Vision Track" at the National Campus Ministry Seminar, August 1-2 in Memphis,

Tennessee. These classes will involve training in planting new campus ministries.

Jerry Rushford, associate professor of religion, will speak at Jubilee in Nashville, Tennessee, July 5-8 and at the Grand Canyon Family Encampment in Flagstaff, Arizona, July 9-12. He will be the speaker at a luncheon of church leaders at the Metro Church of Christ in Portland, Oregon, July 29, and he will preach for the Northwest Church of Christ in Seattle, Washington, July 30. He will be one of the speakers at the "Day of Praise" in Stockton on September 10.

Dwayne VanRheenen, dean of faculty at Seaver College, spoke at the Sunday worship service at the Penobscott Valley Church of Christ in Bangor, Maine, June 11. He will also be participating in the Christian Scholars' Conference at Lubbock Christian University, July 20-22. VanRheenen has coordinated the Christian College Deans Conference that will be held in October at Pepperdine University.

John Wilson, dean of Seaver College and professor of religion, led a group of 22 Pepperdine students on a six-week archaeological dig to Baniyas (ancient Caesarea Philippi). Wilson was the United States coordinator-director of the dig, which included students from five other universities, including ACU.

Mark Your Calendar!

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Sixteenth Annual William Green Lectures Feature Carl Holladay

Dr. Carl Holladay, professor of New Testament and Dean of the Faculty and Academic Affairs at Emory University's Candler School of Theology will deliver the sixteenth annual William M. Green Lectures at Pepperdine University October 23-24.

Dr. Holladay is a graduate of Abilene Christian University (B.A., M. Div.), Princeton Theological Seminary (Th.M.) and Cambridge University (Ph.D.). He is a



Carl Holladay

very active member of the Decatur Church of Christ in Georgia where he has served in the adult education ministry and as a deacon and an elder.

The Green Lectures honor the memory of William McAllen Green (1897-1979), who was Professor of Classics at the University of California, Berkeley, from 1927 to 1962, and Professor of Ancient Christian Literature at Pepperdine University from 1962 to 1974. The lectures are open to the general public, and the evening lectures are scheduled at 7:30 in Smothers Theatre.

Honoring Christian Heroes at the Pepperdine Lectures

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the Christian Service Award for their partnership in strengthening such works as Yosemite Family Encampment, Sierra Children's Home, and the Southern California School of Evangelism. After Sherman's death, nearly nineteen years ago, Elma has continued as a dedicated church secretary and as the secretary for the School of Evangelism. In receiving the

award, she was surprised by the presence of all three of her children and several grandchildren.

Mel Weldon received warm applause when he was given the Christian Service Award for his 38 years of preaching and encouraging Christians in the San Francisco Bay area. Mel, who has now moved to continue his ministry in Longview, Washington, is known as an encourager of young preachers.

Four publications also gave awards. *Image* magazine spotlighted Rubel Shelly for his writing and editorial contribution to

Christian journalism. *Wineskins* honored John Allen Chalk for his faithful service as a Bible teacher and a supporter of Christian causes. *Twenty First Century Christian* and *Power for Today* magazines honored Harold and Sally Shank for their leadership in serving the needs of the inner city through the ministries of the Highland Church of Christ in Memphis, Tennessee. *The Christian Chronicle* gave its author of the year award to internationally known author, Max Lucado, who preaches for the Oak Hills Church of Christ in San Antonio, Texas.

One Voluntary Life

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8. She never thought herself too poor to give, nor did she confuse the value of a gift with its size. Going through one of her check book registers, I found 13 different individuals and works to which she had contributed from her meager income.
9. She made her eight children a priority. She saw them as a gift from the Lord. When her children were little, a lady once asked her, "Why do you try to bring your children to church? You can't possibly get anything from the service." To which Mother answered, "That may be true, but I want them to know how important it is!"

10. She taught me how to live, but more important, she taught me how to die. She was in perfect health that Monday afternoon, but somehow she sensed that she would shortly be "going home." Most of her children had received letters from her the week before. She didn't want me to cash a check, as she had "everything she needed." Yet, when we went through her purse, we found only 63 cents.

Richard Foster, in *Celebration of Discipline* says we must "move beyond the superficiality of our culture." By that, I think he means the instant gratification, the materialism, the betrayal of our children, the egocentricism which deprives us of the joy of service and hospitality, our belief in self and science and technology

rather than in God, and our pursuit of happiness rather than faith, obedience and holiness.

Mother lived simply, but not superficially. Somewhere along the way, she discovered life's pearl of great price, and she sold all she had to pursue it with abandon.

My mother is gone now, but her life and faith will always be with me as an example of faith, courage, obedience, devotion, service and sacrifice. In her, we saw the pure love of God. From my vantage point, Ruth Giboney was a super-servant, the ultimate volunteer. All of us who knew her are better, more thoughtful people because she taught us how to live, and when she could teach us no more by her life, she taught us how to die.

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