

# Christianity undergoes massive global shift

## Believers outshine secularists on charity, even giving blood

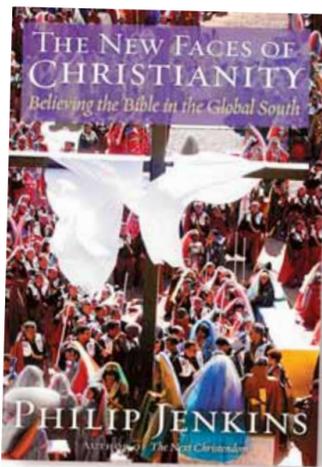
By RICHARD N. OSTLING  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What were the key religious developments around the turn of the third millennium?

Beyond daily headlines, the most important one is probably the ongoing, inexorable shift of Christianity's population and dynamism away from the West and toward a markedly different style in developing nations of the so-called Global South.

Gordon-Conwell seminary's Center for the Study of Global Christianity says 62 percent of the world's 2 billion Christians live in Africa, Asia and Latin America, a percentage that's destined to rise.

Africa's Christian boom since 1900 may be the largest shift in religious affiliation that has ever occurred, anywhere, Penn State historian Philip Jenkins says.



"The New Faces of Christianity: Believing the Bible in the Global South" by Philip Jenkins (Oxford University Press)

He first examined such trends in "The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity."

Oxford University Press, which continues a distinguished record in reli-

gious publishing, plans an update of that 2002 title plus a Jenkins tome pondering Christianity's plight in Europe.

Meanwhile, Jenkins pursues the scenario in "The New Faces of Christianity: Believing the Bible in the Global South" (also Oxford), which skirts Latin America to focus on Africa and Asia.

He starts from the Anglican Communion's severe split, pitting biblical conservatives across the Global South against America's Episcopal Church, which allows same-sex blessing ceremonies and openly gay clergy.

Compared with Westerners, Jenkins observes, "younger churches demonstrate greater respect for the authority of Scripture, especially in matters of morality; ... a special interest in supernatural elements of Scripture, such as miracles, visions and healings; a belief in the continuing power of prophecy; and a veneration of the Old Testament."

He calls their strict adherence to biblical teachings traditionalism, not fundamentalism, and says it underlies both spiritual deliverance and political liberation, which in the Global South are fused.

Exorcisms, belief in the devil and spiritual warfare against demonic pow-

ers thrive in situations where paganism, witchcraft, omens and even allegations of human sacrifice persist.

Christian alternatives help overcome people's fearfulness.

Scripture's rural culture of herding, farming and fishing seems more familiar in the Global South than in the West.

More important, Jenkins says, the Bible speaks to everyday, real-world issues of poverty and debt, famine and urban crisis, racial and gender oppression, state brutality and persecution and situations where pestilence and extreme poverty promote awareness of the transience of life.

Meanwhile, Western Christians must address an age of doubt and secularism, where many are lured by ancient spiritual writings the early church deemed spurious and barred from the Bible.

While Westerners face pressure to interpret the Bible in terms of secular trends, in the Global South secular ideologies appear false and destructive, representing corruption, sin and death.

Churches' moral conservatism also is influenced by Islam and other non-Christian faiths.

Westerners decry church promises of

health and wealth. But Jenkins regards this as an inevitable byproduct when money and doctors are absent, and surviving without miracles seems impossible.

Another eye-opening book about broad trends is "Who Really Cares" (Basic Books) by Arthur C. Brooks, a Syracuse University professor of public administration.

He crunched available data on U.S. charity and found, to his surprise, that conservatives are far more generous than liberals in donating money, time and even blood.

Politics aside, he discovered that on average, Americans who spurn religion are dramatically less likely to donate than religiously active citizens, whether conservative or liberal.

Nor do the devout aid only religious causes.

"Religious people are more charitable in every measurable nonreligious way, including secular donations, informal giving and even acts of kindness and honesty than secularists," Brooks said.

That disputes claims that religious faith lacks moral impact in best-sellers by atheists Richard Dawkins, Daniel Dennett and Sam Harris.

## ON THE HORIZON

**Fellowship Baptist Church**, 4743 S. County Road 600W, Trafalgar, will present Reformers Unanimous, a Bible-based addictions program, at 7 p.m. Fridays.

Information: (812) 597-4367 or fbctrafalgar.com

**Mount Pleasant Christian Church**, 381 N. Bluff Road, Greenwood, offers the following programs:

- 16-week training series for the 500 Festival mini-marathon May 5. Advanced registration of \$50 includes weekly training clinics, scheduled group runs/walks, a race-day running shirt and a pasta dinner May 4. Training begins Jan. 16.

Information: 881-6727 Ext. 238, or mount.org

- Local Christian recording artists

John Walker and Eli Skinner and the band The Arriving will perform a benefit for Michael Archer, a junior at Greenwood Community High School, from 7 to 9 p.m. Jan. 19 at the church.

Archer has been selected to represent Johnson County in the first World Cup Power Soccer (wheelchair) Tournament in Japan in October. About \$20,000 is needed to finance his training and trip.

Tickets are \$5 per person or \$15 per family and are available at the church and at the door.

Information: 881-6727 or 888-5166

- Dads and daughters of all ages are invited to the annual father/daughter dance, Pajama Jam, at 7 p.m. Jan. 16 at the church. Tickets: \$6 per person or

\$15 maximum per family. Refreshments, games with prizes, along with a pajama-themed evening of dancing.

Information: 881-6727

### Meetings

**Johnson County Ministerial Association** will conduct a meeting at 9 a.m. Tuesday at InterChurch Food Pantry, Latheta Noonan, director, will present an update on the pantry.

Send information on church events in the form of news releases, not newsletters or bulletins, to the Daily Journal by e-mail at ajones@thejournalnet.com, by mail at P.O. Box 699, Franklin, IN 46131, or by fax at 736-2766.

## COLLEGE NOTES

### Dean's list

**Indiana Business College**  
Edinburgh: Faith Bailey, Lana Lewis, Deborah Pierce

Franklin: Ashley Davis  
Taylorsville: Tillye Mettura

**Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology**  
Greenwood: Jonathan Bergdoll, David Bauman, Alex Greeve, Jordan McClain, Robert Greve, Kristopher Williams

### Scholarship

University of Kansas  
Edinburgh: Kyle D. Bauman

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## PET OF THE WEEK

**Storm**  
Storm came to the Humane Society of Johnson County pregnant and gave birth to puppies Licorice and Faith. About 1 year old, the Labrador mix is calm, mature and smart.

Her puppies have been adopted. Storm and other animals in need of homes will be at Tractor Supply

Call the humane society at 346-7001 for an adoption application.

## • Time

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE C1)

monthly calendar with all his handwritten notes. That's what he calls his daytimer.

It is rather humorous to see a grown man bustling about asking his family, "Has anyone seen my life?"

Our youngest, Phoebe, likes to hide it in the freezer.

That article was just the incentive I needed to tackle the clutter. So Tuesday, the second day of 2007, the year of great expectations, I began the life to its fullest with my new 2007 motto: All clutter left behind.

Here are the two steps I took to de-clutter my home:

**First, preparation** — I did my research and verified through the experts at answers.com that clutter was indeed my problem.

Clutter, noun: A lack of order or regular arrangement: chaos, confusedness, confusion, derangement, disarrangement, disarray, disorder, disordered-ness, disorderliness, disorganization, jumble, mess, mix-up, muddle, muss, scramble, topsy-turviness, tumble.

This research also encouraged me (as it should all readers) to know that there are 34 million sites for clutter, and that we are not alone.

Even oceans are cluttered.

In my research I found some interesting studies on sonar clutter and reverberation from the Applied Research Laboratory at State College in Philadelphia.

After reading the six-page research results, I noted the impact statement: "A better understanding of sonar clutter is key to improving sonar usability in shallow water."

That then led me to question why do they need to use sonar in shallow water.

Duh. Just stick you head under and look around.

I did not want to be side-tracked, so I jotted down a note on my growing-to-do list to e-mail John Preston, who led the study.

I realized from checking some sites like Clutter-free Forever, Household Clutter Blues and

Conquering Clutter that five hours of research was probably enough and that some undisciplined-types might think I was procrastinating.

Therefore, I began the actual de-cluttering process.

**Second, prioritize and start on one area at a time** — I chose my antique children's library-size bookshelf, where a growing stack of school papers and photos has been multiplying like rabbits since last spring.

This would be easy and instant gratification since I knew I only needed to sort through these and place them in the color-coded school files I already have for each daughter. I just hadn't made time to do this since last spring.

What the clutter experts do not tell you is how to de-clutter your mind and emotions when de-cluttering stuff.

Here are my random thoughts while beginning to de-clutter:

"Wow, my girls sure are growing up. Look how much Phoebe has matured since fourth grade."

"Oh, look her cross country ribbon and spelling bee ribbon. That goes in the school scrapbook and sports scrapbook folder."

"Wow, Chloe was beautiful in her eighth-grade graduation dress. I can't believe she's in high school."

That goes in the school scrapbook folder.

"Oooh, I forgot about this father-daughter dance photo. I know I have over 10 years of these pictures, because Steve started taking the girls before Phoebe was even born. I should do a father-daughter dance memory book."

"Oh, my goodness, Aly has only two and a half more years of high school. I wonder if I taught her everything she needs to know before college."

That's when my daughters walked in, hugged me and sighed, "Mom, why are you crying?"

I could only respond, "I'm going to miss this clutter."

## Adult and Continuing Education

### Central Nine Career Center

#### Spring 2007

1999 U.S. 31 South, Greenwood • 317-882-2088

### Meeting the Needs of the Community

## Spring 2007 Course Schedule

CRSNUM	COURSE TITLE	DAY	TIME	DATES	TUITION	FEES
<b>BUSINESS</b>						
BOS 101-31	QUICKBOOKS ACCOUNTING	T	6-8:30	2/6-5/15	\$150	\$25
BOS 102-31	ACCOUNTING FOR SMALL BUSINESS	Th	6-8	2/22-5/3	\$100	\$30
BOS 103-31	KEYBOARDING 1- Beginning Typing	M&W	6-8	2/5-4/9	\$129	none
BOS 201-31	REAL ESTATE SALES	M&T	6:30-9:30	1/22-3/26	\$349	(includes books)
<b>COMPUTERS</b>						
BDP 101-31	BEGINNING COMPUTER SKILLS	M&W	6-9	1/31-3/21	\$160	\$45
BDP 101-32	BEGINNING COMPUTER SKILLS	M&W	6-9	3/26-5/16	\$160	\$45
BDP 102-31	COMPUTERS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS	M&W	4-6	2/7-3/21	\$89	\$20
BDP 102-32	COMPUTERS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS	M&W	4-6	4/9-5/16	\$89	\$20
BDP 202-31	MS-WORD 2003, Basic	T&Th	6-9	2/6-3/1	\$108	\$75
BDP 204-31	MS-WORD 2003, Intermediate	T&Th	6-9	3/6-3/29	\$108	same book
BDP 206-31	MS-WORD 2003, Expert	T&Th	6-9	4/10-5/3	\$108	same book
BDP 209-31	MS-EXCEL 2003, Basics	M&W	5:30-8:30	1/31-2/28	\$108	\$75
BDP 210-31	MS-EXCEL 2003, Intermediate	M&W	5:30-8:30	3/5-3/28	\$108	same book
BDP 211-31	MS-EXCEL 2003, Expert	M&W	5:30-8:30	4/9-5/2	\$108	same book
<b>MEDICAL</b>						
MOC 101-31	CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT*	M&W	4-7	1/22-3/5	\$335	\$37
MOC 101-32	CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT*	M&W	4-7	3/7-4/23	\$335	\$37
<b>*Additional costs apply</b>						
MOC 201-31	Q.M.A.*	T&Th	4-7	2/1-4/24	\$369	\$95
<b>* QMA required orientation, Jan. 25, 4 p.m.</b>						
MOC 102-31	MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY	W	6-8:30	1/31-5/9	\$160	\$75
MOC 300-31	ICD-9-CM CODING, Basic	T	6-9	2/6-5/22	\$289	\$168
MOC 305-31	CPT CODING	Th	6-9	2/1-5/10	\$289	\$140
<b>TRADE &amp; INDUSTRIAL</b>						
TAM 203-31	BEGINNING PRECISION MACHINE TECH	T	5-8	2/6-4/17	\$169	\$50
TAV 101-31	AUTOBODY	T	6-9	2/6-5/1	\$189	none
TAV 112-31	AUTO SERVICE	T&Th	6-8:30	2/27-3/29	\$89	TBA
TAV 112-32	AUTO SERVICE	T&Th	6-8:30	4/10-5/10	\$89	TBA
TAV 104-31	WELDING-INTRODUCTION	T	6-9	2/6-5/1	\$189	\$26
TAV 105-31	WELDING FOR ALL SKILL LEVELS	W	6-9	1/31-4/25	\$189	\$20 fee, \$6 book
<b>HORTICULTURE</b>						
SAG 104-31	HORTICULTURE	M	6-8:30	4/9-5/7	\$69	none
<b>COMMUNITY</b>						
CES 301-31	BUYING & SELLING ON-LINE	T	6-8:30	2/6-3/13	\$60	\$10
CES 301-32	BUYING & SELLING ON-LINE	T	6-8:30	4/10-5/15	\$60	\$10
CES 104-31	CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH	W	6-8	2/7-3/14	\$89	\$19
CES 105-31	CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH II	W	6-8	3/21-5/2	\$89	\$19
CES 110-31	COOKING WITH STYLE	T&Th	5:30-8:30	2/27-3/15	\$65	\$45
CES 111-31	BAKING TO IMPRESS	T&Th	5:30-8:30	4/10-4/26	\$65	\$45
<b>ADULT BASIC EDUCATION</b>						
GED 101-32	LEARNING CENTER*	T&Th	6-9	Ongoing	free	\$10
GED 101-35	LEARNING CENTER*	T&Th	8:30-11:30a.m.	Ongoing	free	\$10
GED 101-37	LEARNING CENTER*	M&W	6-9	Ongoing	free	\$10
ESL 101-31	ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE*	T&Th	6-9:30	Call for schedule	free	\$10
ESL 101-32	ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE*	M&W	9a.m.-12:30	Call for schedule	free	\$10
<b>*Please inquire about fee assistance if needed for ABE classes</b>						
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>						
EMS 101-31	EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN	M&W	6-10	1/17-5/23	\$425	\$120
EFS 501-31	MANDATORY FIREFIGHTER (3 Saturdays required)	W	6-9	1/24-2/28	\$140	none
EFS 231-31	FIRE OFFICER STRATEGY & TACTICS	W	6-10	3/7-5/9	\$130	TBA

No school: Jan. 15, Feb. 19, April 2-6

**Central Nine Career Center • 317-882-2088**

Janet Hommel Mangas, the third of seven children, grew up on the east side of Greenwood. She now resides in the Center Grove area with her husband and three daughters.