



Keeping you informed of our mutual ministries

EXTENSION

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BOARD OF CHURCH EXTENSION OF DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Devoted Partners in Marriage, Ministry, and Mission

A devoted marriage and ministry spanning six decades is Lloyd Christensen's recipe for a happy and fulfilling life.

Lloyd's late wife, Lucille, was his "guiding light." She was by his side for 62 years beginning when he was a college student majoring in four difficult subjects. Lloyd has been employed as a school teacher, a chemistry professor, a WWII instructor, an executive with Amoco Oil, and a dedicated layminister serving 15 Disciples pastorates in Texas and Oklahoma.

All of their financial decisions were made jointly, especially when it came to donations and to the funding of Charitable Gift Annuities involving Board of Church Extension.

Lloyd, a spry, soft-spoken retired chemist, says his devout faith and passion for religion began when he was just a young boy. He worshiped in the Church of the Brethren where his father was an ordained minister. Lloyd eventually became ordained in that Church. "Even though I was ordained in a different denomination, I was thrilled that the Disciples gave me standing as a lifelong Disciples layminister," he added.

During WWII, Lloyd was an instructor in the Army/Air Force Engineering School. Lucille also did her part during the war. She obtained a beautician's license and was a hair stylist for the WACS (Women's Army Corp.) and the WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Services), in addition to sharing her musical talents.

Lloyd's path to discovering the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) came about by accident. Following several years as a professor at Oklahoma A&M and as a chemist in the oil industry,



*Lucille and Lloyd
Christensen*

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Devoted Partners *(continued from page 1)*

the Christensens were transferred to Brownsville, Texas, where Lloyd was sent to do research on synthetic fuel.

During the first few months in Brownsville, the Christensens lived in a hotel. One Sunday morning they asked the bellhop where the churches in town were. As the bellhop pointed to the street, he said, "Well, there's one down here, up there, and across from here." Lloyd said they chose the one "up there," which happened to be Central Christian Church. They have been Disciples ever since.

The Christensens eventually moved back to Tulsa, Oklahoma and became active members of Harvard Avenue Christian Church. Lloyd was also called to serve two interim pastorates there. Lucille was active in Christian Women's Fellowship and Church Women United. Throughout the years, Lloyd taught Sunday school and was active in Disciples Men.

Besides church work, the Christensens enjoyed traveling around the world. In 1989, Lucille became critically ill and they decided to stay close to home. "At this time in our life, Lloyd added, we decided to take the travel money and assist our 22 nieces and nephews. We also wanted to provide funds for mission outreach." Immediately, the Christensens set up a chaplaincy program at the Disciples Village Retirement Home where students from Phillips Seminary could gain experience in the ministry. Currently, Lloyd is in the process of setting up a music scholarship at Southwestern University to honor Lucille's love for music and education at the university.

Their passion for wanting to start a new congregation, as well as, to support church capital projects led the Christensens to Board of Church Extension in the late 80s. "Lucille and I were always interested in starting a new church but never had the opportunity. We always helped older churches rebuild. We figured making gifts to Board of Church Extension would be our way to help support a ministry that we truly believed in," said Lloyd. The Christensens also set up two Charitable Gift Annuities. According to Lloyd, "We thought that a Charitable Gift Annuity through Board of Church Extension presented very good options. The annuity allowed us to meet our charitable objectives, as well as, provide income for us." He added, "When Lucille passed away in 1996, I designated funds from one of the annuities to set up a Memorial Fund in her honor. Ellen Mitchell helped me determine there were several options to accomplish my goals."

Lloyd continues his ministry as a grief counselor in the Tulsa area. He added, "Words cannot describe the grief I felt when my wife passed away. Now it feels good to help others through their grief. Through it all, Lucille was the guiding light in my life and ministry."

Editorial Note: The Christensens have certainly helped BCE in many ways and Lloyd continues to support the Board's ministry. It is an honor to share their story.

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Investing *and* Gift Annuities

*W*hy would a person or a couple consider investing with Board of Church Extension **and** funding a Charitable Gift Annuity? Just listen to Lawrence and Dorothy Rueff.



*Dorothy and
Lawrence Rueff*

“The church has always been an important part of our lives. In the local church it is easy to find ways for Christian service but we asked how could we be a part of the larger church. One way we found was by investing with Board of Church Extension; the financial earnings are rewarding but even more, we know we are a part of the work of Board of Church Extension and the extended church.

“And now with our new Charitable Gift Annuity, we are grateful for the opportunity to help our church even more through Board of Church Extension, as well as, benefitting ourselves.”

With benefits of

- a good rate of return
- flexible options that provide higher returns
- knowledge that the funds help resource loans to congregations,

many find **investing** with BCE rewarding!

AND

With benefits like

- guaranteed life income
- higher interest rates
- charitable tax deductions,

many people are funding **Gift Annuities** with cash, appreciated stock, or assets.

And, as the Rueff's indicated, a Charitable Gift Annuity with Board of Church Extension ultimately means supporting the ministry on into the future.

Use the toll free number of 1-800-274-1883 for more information on how to both invest and fund a Charitable Gift Annuity.

This is not an offer to sell or a request to buy these investments. The offer is made only in the offering circular, which should be read carefully regarding any possible risks before investing. Rates may change without notice.

Q & A

Q What is a BCE Charitable Gift Annuity?

A The Charitable gift Annuity is an arrangement involving an individual or couple and Board of Church Extension whereby donors fund an agreement, receive fixed payments for the rest of their lives, and know that a future gift to BCE will be made.

For more information send an e-mail request to Ellen Mitchell: emitchell@bce.disciples.org

Building Highlights

Highlights of some of the hundreds of building projects you and Church Extension are helping through your gifts and investments.



“Celebremos not only was the theme but also the spirit for Board of Church Extension directors and staff as they experienced firsthand BCE’s building loan partnership with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Puerto Rico over the past 49 years.

The return visit by directors to the island for their summer board meeting included visits to congregations engaged in building loan projects through BCE.

Since 1949, BCE has provided 580 loans to Disciples congregations and organizations in Puerto Rico, totaling \$16.5 million. Since 1949, Disciples churches have grown from 41 congregations with 4,583 members to 100 congregations with more than 19,000 members today.



A \$35,000 BCE loan will assist the congregation of **Snow Hill Christian Church, Fort Deposit, Alabama**, with a construction project. In addition to providing accessible restrooms, the congregation will complete construction on the fellowship hall, kitchen, and storage.

According to pastor Dale Braxton, the new space will allow the congregation to provide extra space for school programs, summer tutoring, vacation Bible school, and storage for a food pantry. The added space will also serve as an evacuation shelter from storms and other natural disasters.

The congregation plans to open a “Clothes Closet.” With the extra space, the congregation will be able to store clothing and shoes for the community in need.

BCE loan rate has just dropped to 7.75% effective 10-1-98.

The beauty of churches is reflected in the view of Iglesia Discipulos de Cristo in Dajaos, Bayamon, Puerto Rico.

Disciples Churches in Puerto Rico Report Hurricane Damage

More than 500 Disciples families in Puerto Rico have been affected by Hurricane Georges. Several church buildings have also been damaged. At this time, we are aware of the following Disciples churches which have been damaged:

- Barrio Negros, Corozal, PR**—entire building destroyed
- Altamesa, Rio Piedras, PR**—entire pastoral office destroyed
- Palmarito, Corozal, PR**—parsonage severely damaged
- Vega Alta, Vega Alta, PR**—both Vega Alta churches suffered roof damage
- Higuillar, Dorado, PR**—roof totally destroyed

Board of Church Extension is in communication with the Central Office in Puerto Rico and will provide services and loan funds as needed.

Accessibility Loan Fund Grows

When George Blackman established a Memorial Fund in 1997 in honor of his late wife, Betty Bob Blackman, he did it with the intent to not only memorialize her life of giving and sharing but to also support the Board's new Accessibility Loan Fund.

"Having served as an usher and therefore having observed so many people (including my wife) having difficulty getting in and out of a church building, I know firsthand that we need to make our churches more welcoming. Of all the places where people come and go, the church should surely be one of the most accessible. We want

people's visits to be blessings to them, not a hardship."

At \$132,217 the Accessibility Loan Fund is now at 26 percent of the goal of \$500,000. Once that goal is reached, it will mean that Board of Church Extension can begin to assist those who are addressing the renovation of their facilities to remove barriers to persons with physical disabilities.

Annual Fund gifts in any amount, *Memorial Funds* established at \$500 or more, *Named Funds* at \$5,000 and above, and *Extenders Funds* at \$25,000 and above are all options for helping the special Accessibility Loan Fund reach its goal.

If interested, contact Ellen Mitchell at 1-800-274-1883.



*George
Blackman*

Theme Set for BCE General Assembly Dinner

"Designing The Journey" is the theme for next year's BCE General Assembly Dinner to be held on Friday, October 8, 1999 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Highlights of the dinner will include special donor and investor recognitions, architectural awards, news from New Congregation Establishment, and an update on the Accessibility Loan Fund!

We invite all of you to join us in acknowledging the great things we have done together in housing our congregations' ministries.

While more information will be provided in our next issue, plan now for a great evening of celebration with your friends, BCE staff and directors.

Seminar Emphasizes Church Needs

Board of Church Extension continues to assist congregations with their emphasis on estate planning through the Planned Giving and Wills Seminar service. The one-hour seminars are provided without charge to Disciples congregations. The needs of establishing a will, updating a will and including charitable bequests are discussed with special emphasis on the needs of the local congregation.

As Mike Valentine, pastor of Bethany Christian Church in Roanoke, Virginia, shared, “Far too many times I have run into families who forgot to remember the church in their estate

planning and as a result left a void where a resource could have been utilized.”

Following a BCE-led seminar, Valentine noted, “The seminar not only provided needed insight into the area of wills and estate planning, but also promoted each of the participants to either develop or update their wills and promote what they had learned to the rest of the congregation. I couldn’t have been more pleased.”

If your church is interested in scheduling a Planned Giving and Wills Seminar, contact Ellen Mitchell at P.O. Box 7030, Indianapolis, Indiana 46207 or call toll free 1-800-274-1883 or send e-mail to emitchell@bce.disciples.org

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