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the
Effective Practice
of **MINISTRY**

ESSAYS IN MEMORY OF
CHARLES SIBURT

Tim Sensing, editor

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Essays in Memory of Charles Siburt

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In Memory of Charles Siburt

The contributors to this volume esteem Charles as their trusted friend, mentor, and teacher.

Select Bibliography: The Writings of Charles A. Siburt Jr. (1978–2011)

Compiled by Craig Churchill and Karissa Herchenroeder¹

Integrative Unit Project

1978 "Foundations for Youth Ministry in the Local Church." Integrative unit project, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

Books Edited

2006 *Like a Shepherd Lead Us: Guidance for the Gentle Art of Pastoring* (with David Fleer). Abilene, TX: Leafwood.

2007 *Good Shepherds: More Guidance for the Gentle Art of Pastoring* (with David Fleer) Abilene, TX: Leafwood.

Scholarly Journal Articles, Essays, and Reviews

1976 "Game of Rejecting God: Luke 7:31–35." *Restoration Quarterly* 19: 207–10.

1977 "Response by Charles Siburt." *Austin Seminary Bulletin* [Faculty Ed.] 92:8 (May): 30–34.

1981 Review of *Ministry in America*, by David S. Schuller, et al. *Papers Delivered at the First Christian Scholars Conference* (July 18): 1–11 [155–65].

1983 "Contemporary Marriage and Family Therapies: A Biblical Perspective." *Paper Delivered at the Third Christian Scholars Conference* (July 24): 1–14 [319–32].

- 1995 "Congregational Unity: Faith and Opinion." In *Church Unity: Stability and Flexibility in the Church*, edited by Donald Michael Kinder, 75-90. Harding University Graduate School of Religion, 1995 Preacher's Forum. Nashville, TN: Gospel Advocate.
- 1995 "A Response to 'And They Were Silent.'" *Christian Studies*, no. 15: 41-45.
- 2004 "Ministerial Compensation among Churches of Christ in the United States." (with Malcolm Coco and Tim Coburn) *Restoration Quarterly* 46: 29-50.

Surveys

- 2004-11 "Minister's Salary Survey." Administered annually via e-mail to ministers. Abilene Christian University, College of Biblical Studies, Siburt Institute for Church Ministry. Survey Results <http://www.acu.edu/siburt-institute/resources/salarysurvey/index.html> [accessed October 12, 2012].

Popular Articles

- 1979 "A Word Fitly Spoken." *Twentieth Century Christian* 41 (April): 26-27.
- 1981 "The Biggest Disease." *Twentieth Century Christian* 43 (May): 4-7.
- 1982 "The Fall." *Twentieth Century Christian* 44 (February): 7-9.
- 1983 "When to Love." *Twentieth Century Christian* 45 (July): 9-11.
- 1987 "Care for the Dying." *Twentieth Century Christian* 49 (August): 15-17.
- 1990 "Forgiven Parents." *UpReach* 12 (May-July): 4-6.
- 1991 "Worship—The Real World." *Gospel Advocate* 133 (February): 23.
- "Choose Your Future." *UpReach* 13 (April-June): 4-7.
- "Lighting the Darkness." *UpReach* 13 (October-December): 6-7.
- 1993 "Turned by Grace." *UpReach* 15 (July-September): 17-19.
- 1994 "Training Tomorrow's Ministers." *ACU Today* (Spring): 5.
- 2001 "Be of One Mind . . . Anyway." *Leaven* 9: 210-11.

- 2002 "Dealing with Negative Church Experiences." *Church and Family Magazine* (Summer): 29-30.

"Resource Guide: Bibliography Crisis Ministry." *Leaven* 10: 155.

- 2004 "Question and Answer: Providing Resources to Churches." *ACU Today* (Spring): 20.
- 2006 "Preparing for Conflict and Sustaining Peace." (with Royce Money and Joe L. Cope) *Christian Standard* 141 (September 10): 582-85.

1. The following student workers assisted with the research for all four appendices: Kyle Yarbrough, Dwayne Lee, Steven Brice, and John Kern.

APPENDIX B

Charles A. Siburt Jr: Primary Advisor

Compiled by Craig Churchill and Karissa Herchenroeder

Charles Siburt influenced hundreds of graduate theology students at ACU, in various programs (MS, MAR, MACM, MDiv, and DMin), through teaching, advising, counseling, examining, and mentoring. It is impractical to attempt to document the full scope of his activity in all of these areas. We can, however, illustrate something of the extent of his influence by focusing on one aspect of his work with a specific group of students: the ministers who entered the DMin Program during Charles's tenure at ACU.

From 1988 to 2012, Charles served as Director of the DMin Program at ACU. He served on more than seventy-five oral defenses for DMin candidates, and he was the major advisor for approximately fifty project theses. He served as secondary advisor on well over a dozen theses and as a reader on several more. Here follows a compilation of theses by students for whom Charles served as primary advisor.

Adcox, James M. "Christ Living Through His Church: Calling the Southwest Church of Christ to God's Vision for Christian Community." 1999.

Alexander, L. Bert. "Developing a Model for Incarnational Ministry at the Webb Chapel Church of Christ." 2009.

Bynum, David Otto. "Increasing Volunteer Participation in a Need Meeting Ministry in Rural Churches and Communities." 1994.

Camp, Daniel F. "Discerning a Vocational Theology of Marriage for the Smyrna Church of Christ." 2011.

Cartwright, Terry. "Developing a Theology of Worship for the Lakewood Church." 1991.

Cole, Paul Russell. "Equipping Church Leaders to Function as Spiritual Mentors." 1998.

Cook, Russell L. "An Initial Congregational Study in a New Ministry Setting." 1994.

Cummings, Ronald Gregory. "A Strategy for Increasing the Participation of Young Adults in the Kerrville Church of Christ." 2000.

Dykstra, Wayne Arthur. "Leadership Development in Christian Churches and Churches of Christ in Northeast Nebraska." 1999.

Edge, William Mark. "Establishing Criteria for Elder Selection at the Shiloh Road Church of Christ." 2008.

Ethington, Robert A. "Learning to Lead: Modifying Members' Psychological and Job Readiness Levels to Lead New and Existing Ministries through Situational Leadership Training." 1992.

Gore, Harold T. "Leadership Training for Initiating Ministry Teams at Fellowship Church of Christ." 1996.

Greene, Perry M. "The Initial Impact of a Small Group Bible Study Ministry on a Declining Church." 1990.

Griffith, Anna M. "Implementing an AIDS Ministry Model Inside and Outside the Congregation." 1998.

Hall, Douglas L. "A Roadmap for the Shepherds at Meadowlark Church of Christ." 2005.

Hall, John W. "Equipping Lay Leaders to Manage Pastoral Transitions at the First Baptist Church in Munday, Texas." 1999.

Hayes, Mark K. "Using the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator to Enhance Christian Community." 1993.

Henderson, Robert Mark. "Leadership and the Life of God: Distribution of Ministerial Gifts and Leadership Practices at the Quail Springs Church of Christ." 2004.

- Hendrickson, Marion A. "Leadership Training to Equip and Develop Leaders for Service in the Winnie, Texas, Church of Christ." 1998.
- Henry, Mark A. "A Model for Training for Outreach to Soldiers at Fort Lewis, Washington, Who Are Inactive Members of the Churches of Christ." 1996.
- Hile, Pat Waters. "Oak Hills 101: New-Member Seminar Revision." 2000.
- Hubbard, Robert E. "Parental Influence in Faith Formation of Their Children." 1991.
- Jenkins, Jerry Austin. "Inspiring a Church to Dream." 1990.
- Johnson, Stephen C. "A Narrative Model for Forming Pastoral Leaders at the Edgemere Church of Christ." 2000.
- Jordan, Richard Wayne, II. "Building People and Teams for Effective Ministry at the Pitman Creek Church of Christ." 2001.
- Keele, Billy Mac. "A Leadership Development Model for Volunteer Church Workers." 1994.
- Knox, John. "Developing a Regional Christian Crisis Response Team at the Fifth Street Church of Christ, Woodward, Oklahoma." 2003.
- Love, Mark. "Reimagining Evangelism at East County Church of Christ: Nurturing Individuals in the Art of Narrative Evangelism." 1997.
- Marcho, Robert K. "The Sanderson Church of Christ: Interim Ministry with a Church in Transition." 1999.
- Martin, David Forrest. "When Christians Disagree: Equipping Participants for the Promotion of Redemptive Conflict Management." 2002.
- Marutzky, Gregg L. "Transforming Leadership Model for the Denver Church of Christ." 2007.
- Morris, Daniel M. "Finding Our Way in Times of Conflict: A Training Seminar for Christian Conflict Management at Third and Central Church of Christ." 2001.

Neill, Jerry A. "Embracing an Informed Vision of the Maturation of the Body of Christ for the Functioning of Elders at the Meadowbrook Church." 2009.

Niethrath, Sean E. "As Those Who Have Hope: A Christian Constructive Approach to Grieving Death Losses among the Members of the East Main Church of Christ, Kalamazoo, Michigan." 2007.

Owen, Larry D. "A Model for Managing Congregation Transition during Leave-Taking by the Senior Minister." 2000.

Pape, Jack N. "A Model for Permission-Giving Leadership at the Eastside Church of Christ." 1997.

Peters, Douglas B. "Selecting Spiritual Leaders: Spiritual Discernment and the Selection of Church Leaders at the North Davis Church of Christ." 2006.

Redd, Harold R. "Leadership Training for Congregational Transition: A Case Study in an African American Church." 2000.

Sampson, David A. "Toward Renewed Theological Identity and Vision: Team Building for the Eldership and Staff of the Park Row Church of Christ." 1990.

Shotwell, Silas Howell. "Applying the Situational Leadership Model to Small Group Leaders in the Conejo Valley Church of Christ." 1990.

Torpy, Thomas James. "An Intervention to Enhance Cohesion for the Campus View Church of Christ and Her Related Campus Ministry." 1999.

Utey, Bruce. "Intergenerational Education in the Church: Assessing a Program of Family Cluster." 1991.

Vinzant, David Gene. "Building Community among Adults of Different Generations." 1997.

Walling, Aaron. "Implementing a Discernment Phase for Those Nominated in the Shepherd Selection Process at the Cinco Ranch Church of Christ." 2011.

Warren, David W. "Developing an Intentional Start-Up Strategy for a New Pastor at the First Baptist Church, Seymour, Texas." 2011.

Willingham, Randy. "Fighting for Peaceful Fighting: A Teaching Ministry Moving Church Members from Suppressing to Managing Conflict." 1995.

Young, Robert J. "Building Cohesion in Church Leadership: A Cohesion Enhancement-Empowerment-Training Model for Leadership Team Building." 1994.

Zustiak, Gary B. "An Educational Manual for the Development of a Congregational AIDS-Procedure Policy." 1994.

APPENDIX C

Charles Siburt's Career and Work as a Minister, Professor, and Consultant

Compiled by Craig Churchill and Karissa Herchenroeder

Minister

From 1971 to 1988, Charles Siburt served as a full-time minister for three churches, including thirteen years with the Glenwood Church of Christ in Tyler, Texas. Subsequent to his transition from full-time ministry into higher education, he served as interim preaching minister for two churches. The churches he served, along with dates of service, are as follows:

Minister for the Meadow-Lark Church of Christ, Fort Collins, Colorado (1971–73)

Associate Minister for the University Avenue Church of Christ, Austin, Texas (1973–75)

Preaching Minister for the Glenwood Church of Christ, Tyler, Texas (1975–88)

Interim Preaching Minister for the Broadway Church of Christ in Lubbock, Texas (May–Sept, 1989)

Interim Preaching Minister for the Highland Church of Christ in Abilene, Texas (1990–91)

In addition, and largely subsequent to, the preaching responsibilities associated with full-time ministry, Charles frequently served as a guest preacher for churches throughout the country.

These ministerial activities and emphases were consonant with Charles's educational background: "Preaching," was one of his major areas of emphasis as a doctoral student at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, where he received the DMin in 1978.

Charles had an extraordinary influence on the churches he served, and his wife, Judy, was an exemplary partner in ministry. Appropriately enough, the

Herald of Truth named Charles and Judy Siburt as the "Outstanding Family Ministry Couple of the Year" at the National Family Conference in San Antonio, Texas, September 26, 1998.

Professor

Charles's role as a professor emphasized ministering to and educating ministers and church leaders (see also "Consulting," below). Charles's influence was further heightened through his service on numerous committees at ACU (forty-four by his own count). Here follows an outline of Charles's various academic assignments, roles, and responsibilities from 1986 to 2012. All assignments were with ACU unless otherwise indicated.

Academic

Position/Rank:

Adjunct Professor, 1986–88 (Teaching Area: Church Leadership)
 Visiting Professor at Pepperdine University, 1987 (Teaching Area: Church Leadership)
 Professor of Ministry, 1988–2012 (Teaching Areas: Ministry, Church Leadership, Pastoral Ministry Skills, Conflict Management)
 Director, Doctor of Ministry Program, 1988–2012
 O. L. and Irene Frazer Professor of Church Enrichment, Graduate School of Theology, 1994–2012 (see also "Committee Service," below)
 Associate Dean for Ministry Programs and Services, 1998–2004, 2010–12
 Vice President for Church Relations, 2004–10

Courses Taught

BIBM 607 *Introduction to Christian Ministry*
 BIBM 644 *Pastoral Ministry Skills for Church Leaders*
 BIBM 645 *Managing Conflict in Churches*
 BIBM 701 *DMin Orientation*
 BIBM 706 *Christian Leadership Development*
 BIBM 725 *Project/Thesis Seminar*

Advising

DMin degree advisor for all DMin students, 1988–2012
 MDiv degree advisor for all MDiv students, 1997–99
 MS degree advisor for all Christian Ministry students, 1996–99

Oral Exams

Served on approximately 150 oral exams for MS, MAR, and MACM candidates
 Served on more than seventy-five oral defenses for DMin candidates
 Served on approximately fifty comprehensive exams for MDiv candidates

Committee Service (Select)

College:

DMin Program Committee, Chair, 1988–2012
 GST Center for Church Enrichment Committee, 1990–2012; Director, 2001–12
 GST Strategic Plan Committee, 2002–03
 GST Academic Council, 2002–12
 GST ATS Self-Study Subcommittee Chair, 2005–06
 GST Partnership for Missional Churches Project, Leadership Team, 2008–09
 CBS Ministers Renewal Workshop Committee, Chair, 1988–95
 CBS Center for Adolescent Studies Advisory Board, 1989–98
 CBS Lectures on Preaching Committee, 1989–2005
 CBS Library Acquisitions, Liaison, 1991–99
 CBS Academic Council, 1994–2000
 CBS ACU Lectureship/Summit Committee, 1995–2012
 CBS Ministers Support Network Team, Chair, 1997–2012.
 CBS Ministry Partners Editorial Committee, 1998–2003
 CBS Leadership Team, 1998–2012
 CBS Summer Workshop Committee, 2000–2007
 CBS ElderLink Forum Team, Chair, 2000–2012
 CBS Small Churches Workshop Committee, Chair, 2004–07
 CBS Communications and Technology Committee, 2008–12

University:

Search and Review Committee for ACU Provost, 1996
 Search and Review Committee for CBS Dean, 1997
 SACS Self-Study Committee on Organization and Administration, Chair, 2000–2001
 Center for Conflict Resolution Advisory Group, 2001–12
 Centennial Spiritual Reaffirmation Task Force, 2003–05
 President's Council, 2004–08
 Board of Trustees Purpose and Governance Committee, 2004–10
 Editorial Committee for *ACU Today*, 2004–10

Calendar Committee, 2004–10

Crutcher and Vickie Scott Foundation Board, 2002–12; Chair, 2010–11

Presidential Search Advisory Committee, 2009

Awards:

Recipient of the CBS Outstanding Graduate Faculty Award, 1994–95.

Recipient of the ACU Faculty Senate Award for Outstanding Service to the University, April 20, 2001.

National/Professional Service:

Association for Doctor of Ministry Education (ADME), Steering Committee, 1990–93; Nominating Committee, 2001

National Board for the Center for Parish Development (CPD), Chicago, Illinois, 1995–2008

Association for Case Teaching (ACT), Search Committee for Director, Cochair, 1998–99

Christian Leaders Benefits Alliance (CLBA; providing benefits for Christian leaders within Churches of Christ), President, 2007–12

Consultant

Charles provided hundreds of presentations for churches in a variety of contexts (consultations, conferences, seminars, workshops, lectureships, retreats, and in one-on-one mentoring contacts with leaders), and he was the theme speaker or keynote lecturer at many of these venues. He provided consulting services for more than 175 congregations and their leaders. Here follows a representative list of consultation themes.

- Conflict Management and Coaching Intervention
- Church Leader Crisis Intervention
- Congregational Effectiveness Assessment (a Ministry Audit)
- Elder Selection Process Coaching
- Leadership Coaching and Team Building
- Minister Effectiveness Coaching
- Minister Growth Review Assessment and Coaching
- Minister Transition and Search Consultation
- New Minister Start-Up Consultation
- Training in Caring Ministry Skills

Awards:

K.C. Mosier Award for Outstanding Service to the Church, from Lubbock Christian University, Lubbock, Texas, March 1, 2003

Distinguished Christian Service Award, [with wife, Judy] from Pepperdine University, Pepperdine Lectures, May 2, 2007

APPENDIX D

ElderLink (2000–2012)

Compiled by Craig Churchill and Karissa Herchenroeder

Charles Siburt exercised an enormous influence on churches through his leadership and service on various committees and programs, and by his work as a consultant. The select representation of committees on which he served, and the types of consultations he provided (see Appendix C), are suggestive of that influence. Even so, such listings are of limited value: the scope of his involvement with certain programs—and the lives touched through those programs—was extraordinary. Charles's involvement with ElderLink is a case in point.¹

Charles led the ElderLink Forum (ELF) from its formation in November 2000 until his death in 2012. The most recent, official description and purpose statement of the program is as follows:

ElderLink is designed to equip, encourage and link those who serve as leaders in Churches of Christ. This means that not only elders, but also ministers, deacons, ministry leaders and spouses can take advantage of an opportunity to improve their leadership skills and experience much-needed spiritual refreshment.²

Currently, the Siburt Institute Team holds events at various times of the year at the following locations: Highland Oaks Church of Christ, Dallas, Texas; North Atlanta Church of Christ, Atlanta, Georgia; and the Georgetown Church of Christ, Georgetown, Texas.

The times, venues, and frequency of these forums changed over the years. The first ELF was held on November 4, 2000, at the Holiday Inn Select Hotel in Dallas. The most recent event was the Central Texas ElderLink Seminar held in Georgetown on April 21, 2012. At its peak in 2005–06, ElderLink met six times per year. In total, forty-five ElderLink Forums have been held at thirteen different sites, in six states, and two countries. “Brazil ElderLink” met at a retreat center in Sao Paulo, August 4–10, 2010.

Despite the changing venues for ElderLink, Charles's leadership of and participation in the program was a constant. He attended forty-one of the forty-five

forums—missing only four due to illness—and directed all forty-five. In addition to leadership and planning responsibilities, Charles often led multiple sessions or provided multiple presentations.

In some ways, Charles's involvement with ElderLink serves as a microcosm for his overall ministry. The qualities of character, gifts, disciplines, and practices that enabled him to have such extraordinary influence through ELF allowed him to excel in other contexts. Among these were a remarkable capacity for leadership; exemplary people skills; the gifts of teaching, encouraging, and mentoring; and his faithfulness and constancy in serving—often through considerable adversity—over many years.

1. One might just as easily highlight Charles's involvement with the Ministers Support Network (MSN) to mention another example.

2. “ElderLink,” Abilene Christian University, College of Biblical Studies, Siburt Institute for Church Ministry, accessed October 12, 2012, <http://www.acu.edu/siburt-institute/elderlink/index.html>.