

"Therefore go, and make disciples of all nations ... teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you." Jesus



### Meet Rick Atchley, one of our outstanding Christians' Hour speakers

(interview conducted by the staff of KBXL,FM, Boise, ID., and by Gary Anderson, of Capitol City Christian Church in Boise)

**Q: Rick, you preach for the Richland Hills Church of Christ, a congregation with over 6,400 members - you are an author and radio speaker - tell us more.**

**A:** I am a minister in Fort Worth, TX., and have been a preaching minister for over 32 years. I grew up in Texas, and attended Abilene Christian University where my chief claim to fame is that I was Max Lucado's roommate. I became aware of The Christians' Hour radio ministry through a mutual friend who is also one of the speakers, Bob Russell. Barry McCarty was a classmate for a time at ACU. I began my ministry using almost exclusively expository preaching, and I still love to do that. I believe the Bible is living and active and there's nothing more powerful than simply letting the Word of God speak to our lives. However, I did just recently do an extended series that I titled "Called" and in that series I just examined some of the great Bible texts where God actually calls men and women and what it looks like when they live a "Called" life. I hope this will soon be on the broadcast.

**Q: As an author, which of your books has "hit home" so to speak.**

**A:** I do not consider myself a great author. In fact, the last time Max Lucado spoke at our church, I introduced him by saying we have a lot in common: we went to the same college; we both married over our heads; we both preach in large churches and we're both authors - in fact, together we have sold about 60 million books (mine only amounted to maybe 50,000 of that total - but who's counting). But I think my book on the Ten Commandments has been the best received. In that book I tried to re-frame the commandments and instead of looking at them as prohibitions, consider them as expressions of God wanting what is best for us. For example: "do not commit adultery" became "keep your marriage sacred."

**Q: Through your friendship with the speakers on The Christians' Hour, you seem motivated to help dissolve barriers between Christians - is that important to you?**

**A:** I do have a passion for unity and I think it's a God given passion. It comes from a number of factors. To be honest, I grew up in a very sectarian church and environment. I think God, in some ways, was preparing me to be a champion for unity by seeing some of the damage that is caused to the witness of Christ when Christians don't love one another ... My experience in growing up and seeing the ugliness of sectarianism, and having people like Max Lucado and Bob Russell and others plant the seeds of the beauty of unity, all came together to make that a passion of mine.

**Q: How has that played out in your ministry with Richland Hills Church of Christ?**

**A:** It has played out in a number of ways in the fact that we have broken down walls in our own community among area churches and area pastors in terms of things like pulpit swaps, working together to bless our city, partnering with other churches. It's blessed our mission effort around the world as we have partnered with other churches and denominations to be more effective in our witness in the world we're trying to reach ... and, I think it has blessed our church at the local level because it's helped us preach a purer gospel. It's been a gospel of "Jesus only" instead of "Jesus and". (continued on other side)



### For 2010

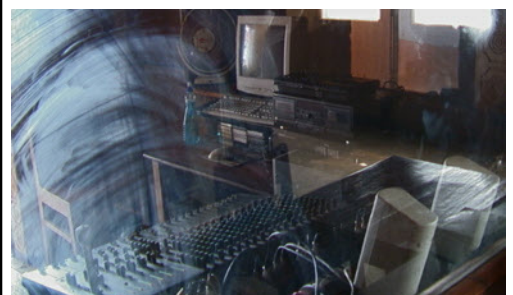
We have several important projects this year and to accomplish them we need your prayers and financial support:

**PROJECT 1: \$10,000** to equip a newly-constructed recording studio (built by GNPI, Joplin) in Mbale, Uganda. When equipped, it will help train broadcasters from Uganda, Kenya, Sudan, and other African countries, enabling them to produce Christian radio broadcasts in their language. It will also aid training in LivingStone International University which soon will be under construction.



(Students from the last seminar on radio production & broadcasting)

**PROJECT 2: \$3,000** to update our studio in NE India. This is where Bro. Lunkim, and others produce the Kuki & Meitei daily radio programs. It's great to use modern computers for production and duplication of broadcasts - but like any home or office computers, they must be replaced every so often.



(Studio in Imphal, India - the last update on studio equipment was about ten years ago.)

## Interview with Rick Atchley, continued.

I think whenever you start preaching "Jesus and" you sow seeds of division and you cost a church its joy. "Jesus and" does not produce joy - "Jesus only" does. So, at a very personal local level, it has increased the joy level in our church and for that I'm very grateful.

**Q: Thanks Rick and how can people be praying for your ministry?**

**A:** Well, I'm 53 years old and although I have great health and I am as passionate and in love with what I do as I have ever been, I have seen the heartbreak of men who started out well but who finished poorly. Out of the five men who were mentors to me and were my spiritual heroes when I first started as a preacher ... four fell into temptation and lost their ministry due to sin. One of the things very important to me is that I finish strong. In fact, I even wear a little bracelet around my wrist every day that just says "finish strong". I want my last laps to be as strong as my first laps. I would appreciate asking your readers and listeners - if they ever think of some preacher down in Texas named Rick - just pray that he would finish strong.

(Access Rick Atchley's website ([www.rhchurch.org](http://www.rhchurch.org)) where you can purchase his books, tapes, CD's, DVD's and other items of interest)

## Why we have **3** speakers

Some have asked why the Christians' Hour broadcast today features three speakers instead of one. There are several reasons:

With Barry McCarty, Bob Russell and Rick Atchley, we feature three talented, committed and very skilled Bible preachers representing "New Testament Christianity on the air." Using this format we want listeners to hear something from and about all three branches of our Restoration Christian Churches and Churches of Christ.

**Barry McCarty** serves the historic Peachtree Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Atlanta, Georgia, as Senior Minister.

**Rick Atchley** serves the Richland Hills Church of Christ N. Richland Hills, Texas, (largest non-instrumental congregation in the US),

**Bob Russell** served one church - SE Christian Church in Louisville, Kentucky. When he retired in 2006, 18,000 attended each Sunday. It is still one of the largest churches in our country.

Listen at: [www.OnePlace.com](http://www.OnePlace.com) or [www.thechristianshour.org](http://www.thechristianshour.org).



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## Who are we and what do we do?



Gospel Broadcasting Mission supports the use of radio technology around the world to preach the gospel where it is not heard or is severely restricted. So, we regularly use Shortwave radio in a variety of languages to tell people about Jesus.

A recent professional publication said: "Shortwave radio remains one of the key electronic media for reaching the maximum number of potential listeners in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, the Pacific, and certain regions in the Americas. This is proved by the fact that the world's biggest international broadcast organizations continue their activities via Shortwave, and are investing heavily in new studio and transmission facilities ... Shortwave is everywhere. It is the world's most mobile medium ... Shortwave is one of the greatest weapons in the fight for morality."

We use AM & FM here in the U.S. and we produce The Christians' Hour Program written about in this newsletter. This weekly broadcast is sponsored by local churches on their local stations and comes in two formats: 15 & 30 minutes in length. Write or call for a free sample.

We are a non-profit organization and your gifts and contributions are needed and deeply appreciated and they are tax-exempt. Thank You.