January 3, 2011

Dear Religion Newswriters Association judges,

Victoria Advocate faith reporter Jennifer Preyss loves her beat. She shows that regularly with her daily assignments and with her in-depth features for our Saturday faith section.

She covers this important beat better than any reporter we've ever had on it. She cares deeply about her subjects and the issues explored, and it shows. Our readers let us know how much they enjoy her work and appreciate she's writing about what truly matters to them.

The three stories submitted her reflect what she's doing week in and week out at the Advocate. She also writes a weekly faith column called "Revelations" that shares her personal journey.

Jennifer's takes the time to get to know her subjects and gain their trust, as evidenced by the depth of her features. These are stories that would otherwise go untold in our community if not for Jennifer's strong work on her beat.

Thank you for considering Jennifer as the Cassels Religion Reporter of the Year and giving us the opportunity to honor her. The Victoria Advocate has a daily circulation of about 30,000.

Sincerely,

Chris Cobler
Editor
Michelle reflecting around the dance floor. 

After initial introductions to the dance organizers said to me, “Here’s your partner, he’s going to show you the ropes.” After starting the slow dance, I thought my explanation would just be a joke for the dance floor.

I stood and watched the dancing immediately. More couples, more smiles. It was a pleasure to be a part of the dancing.

Journey, Michelle responded, smiling over her shoulder with various pitches of the word “Dance.” The music was soothing, calming, and helping to bring me to the dance floor.

When my 30 weight sun screen began to boil on my sun soaked skin, I finally decided it was over. Tooooo hot!

Today, it was too hot to fish off my favorite little pier, and I decided to try the lake instead. A couple of pounds went into the bucket, and I could not find the right sort of bait. When I put my weight on screen began to bed on my eye valve. I finally decided to go home. When I pulled my annual weight from the bucket, I could not believe it! I had caught a 20 pound bass, and I was thrilled! A big fish that I was afraid that getting in it would be the end. It was more than I could have imagined. A boat trip to the lake and a bite on the hook was just the thing I needed!

I stood there, smiling, looking at the lake. It was a beautiful day, and I felt so content. I knew that I had made the right decision to go fishing, and I was happy to be out on the lake.

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**HIP-HOP:** Young rapper hopes to continue making music for God, attracting people to Christ

Although Jared Flowers has never been a religious family, he said he became a Christian after surviving a car accident. “Some people have a testimony where they have saved them from a life of sin,” he said. “I didn’t have a background in Christianity, but I was up to no good and that night I was driving drunk and I hit a car.”

Flowers said “as a Christian, I pray more concerned with God’s fame.”

**PRAYER:** Make plans to attend

**VICTORIA ADVOCATE, Saturday, July 2, 2011 —**

**Christmas Eve Mass**

**St. Francis**

**Texas Service Center**

**Lutheran Church**

**Worship**

**Hungry Hearts Outreach**

**Liturgy**

**Located at:**

**Sorrell Center, 2905 E. North St., Victoria**

**Perry Prayer Group, 361-571-6203 or**

**ATTN: Faith**

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**VICTORIA ADVOCATE, Saturday, July 2, 2011 —**
Making the world a little better, One pair of shoes at a time

‘This isn’t like every church. Not all churches speak in tongues’

BY JENNIFER PREYSS

As usual, a gold medallion robe with three decorative stripes adorn the sleeves of his robe, a sign of his rank, the Rev. Dr. David Moten leads his Sunday morning congregations in worship. But today Moten’s sermon transitioned to a spiritual language.

‘Eh te la ta la na ba na ta sha. Hal eh na la ta la na ba na ta e. Hallelujah’ he said, waving his index finger in the air.

Before him, an odd sight: The Joy of the Lord Worship Center’s sanctuary congregation dressed in gold and tracking their own tongues.

This isn’t like every church. Not all churches speak in tongues.

‘I don’t think it’s like every church. Not every congregation here has translated that into seeing our identity in the church. That’s what this fisherman’s brain came up with: ‘Follow Me, and I will make you Fishers of Men.’ It was stunning that he wanted to share it with you. And Jesus saith unto them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you Fishers of Men. If you catch them, He will clean them.’ I should have left it alone and just totally af...

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MOVED BY THE HOLY GHOST

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Glory in baptism – and the gift of tongues before you answer the call to share in this experience. A qualitative language between us that is a language of faith understood and experienced.

“This isn’t like any church I’ve been in, church where people speak in tongues. We do it when we feel led by the Holy Spirit,” Moten said. “The money we gave to your church, Pastor Thomas, to get their church started.”

Tongues are different, Moten said. “Why? Because I can’t see anything. I don’t know what you see or hear, but God understands it.”

Moten’s church formed about six years ago, when he moved from Texas to Destiny. After meeting his wife, Terri Moten, online, they decided to move in together and later they serve a congregation of about 46 people.

“Tongues mean, ‘It’s different. My whole life changed,’” he said. “And I didn’t know what I was experiencing, but God understands it.”

Moten’s church had been vacant for seven years. In 2010, the tenants had to move out as their leases expired. 

“Tongues mean, ‘It’s different. My whole life changed,’” he said. “And I didn’t know what I was experiencing, but God understands it.”

The congregation is made up of people of different ages and backgrounds.

Moten said he reserves his playing with only two summers ago. I hope he will come back for a few more.

“Tongues mean, ‘It’s different. My whole life changed,’” he said. “And I didn’t know what I was experiencing, but God understands it.”

One of the guests speakers at the event was Ray Earl Franklin, pastor of the First Pentecostal Church in Cleveland, Ohio.

“Tongues mean, ‘It’s different. My whole life changed,’” he said. “And I didn’t know what I was experiencing, but God understands it.”

The speaker at the 4 p.m. service was Dr. Jon Carmona, of Missionary Baptist Church, in La Mirada, Calif., associate professor of missions at Biola University.

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The Rev. Jon Carmona, of Missionary Baptist Church, in La Mirada, Calif., associate professor of missions at Biola University, will install the Rev. Kathryn Carson as pastor of the Joy of the Lord Worship Center.

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LESSONS

Reflecting about my Jewish self

BY JENNIFER PREYSS
jenpreyss@vicad.com

Last Wednesday my junior high school class had an afternoon off from our usual year-end final exams in favor of a visit to the Jewish community of Port Lavaca.

From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the corner of state Highway 35 and Virginia Street in Port Lavaca. A table will be set up in the Donut Palace parking lot.

Contact Pastor Ingrid Williams, JLPREYSS@VICAD.COM

By Jennifer Preyss

Jewish self

membered the years we grew up in the Suburban Jewish community, there weren't too many homes down from Leah. My parents bought a house four homes down from Leah when we were close, would be a gross understatement. When I was a sophomore in high school, we were a practicing Christian. It fit perfectly with the Jewish community, not as an everyday affiliation but more as a connection to a good life. When I was a sophomore in high school, we were a practicing Christian. It fit perfectly with the Jewish community, not as an everyday affiliation but more as a connection to a good life. Whenever I'd say, or do something, Leah or one of her family members would always tease me, "Are you sure you're not Jewish?"

Growing up Jewish was a word that described me, "Are you sure you're not Jewish?"

What was so quintessential Jewish living for me, the idea of My best friends from elementary school were always Jewish. Every year, no matter what, Leah's parents would throw a bash that would be the best night of the entire year. Always, I would get a gift on Hanukkah that could last every year, always made me feel like part of the family. Bringing in hundreds last week I thought about Leah and her family, and additionally remembered the years we grew up together.

SEE REVELATIONS, E3

PHOTO GALLERY

The Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion is to house 2004 Graduate Eliezer Williams, Ph.D., 301-671-3001 or 901-212-9903.

The seventh annual Pent Lecture Series, "Life Will Be Good" will be at 7:30 p.m. at the 710 S. St. and Virginia Street in Pent Lecture. "Life Will Be Good" will be at 7:30 p.m. at the 710 S. St. and Virginia Street in Pent Lecture.

Community news, VICTORIAADVOCATE.COM

The Rev. Leonard Johnson, Faith Family Church, was recognized with a 25th anniversary and new location with an open house.

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St. Paul Baptist Church, 2105 Wheat Street, will host the installation of Pastor Bred. R. The Rev. Leonard Johnson, Faith Family Church, was recognized with a 25th anniversary and new location with an open house.

Looking forward to the安装 of Pastor Bred. R. The Rev. Leonard Johnson, Faith Family Church, was recognized with a 25th anniversary and new location with an open house.

Family Church, 601 E. Main St. will host the Installation of Pastor Bred. R. The Rev. Leonard Johnson, Faith Family Church, was recognized with a 25th anniversary and new location with an open house.

See more faith calendar.

EVEN THE DAY

Gleaning in her holy name, let the heritage of those who are the LORD rejoice. - 1 Chronicles 16:8 (NIV)

Source: www.vicad.com

Thursday, October 1, 2011

SUNDAY

10 a.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 210 North Road, Bay City. Potlucks are $4 each and consist of a choice of three main dishes, two sides and children's meals. Cost: 979-243473. St. Paul Baptist Church, 2105 Wheat Street, will host the installation of Pastor Bred. R. More Info: 301-671-3001 or 212-0033.

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One-man artist show

Roberta Sharp will hold her 62nd one-man show Oct. 1 through Oct. 31, in the lobby of the Wells Fargo Bank, at One O’Connor Plaza. Roberta Sharp will hold her 62nd one-man show Oct. 1 through Oct. 31, in the lobby of the Wells Fargo Bank, at One O’Connor Plaza.

Class of ‘62 meets for lunch

On Sept. 10, a group of ladies from the Victoria High School Class of ‘62 met for lunch. The group meets every three months. Attending the event, from left, are Sadie Johnson Beard, Karen Dillon and Donna Ennis. The group meets every three months. Attending the event, from left, are Sadie Johnson Beard, Karen Dillon and Donna Ennis.

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