

BRIEFLY

 Revival features former FLDS member

HERMISTON — Brian Mackert of Short Creek Fellowship in Colorado City, Ariz., is the special speaker for a revival that starts Sunday in Hermiston.

 Born and raised in the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints — a polygamous sect most recently led by Warren Jeffs — Mackert is now an author, Baptist minister, evangelist and missionary.

 Rev. Jay Barnett is excited to announce the event, which starts Sunday at 10:30 a.m. at New Beginnings Christian Fellowship, 700 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston. Everyone is invited to attend. In addition, the revival continues Sunday evening at 6 p.m. and Monday through Wednesday at 7 p.m.

 For more information, contact pastor@newbeginningscf.com.

Episcopal bishop visits Pendleton church

PENDLETON — Father Patrick Bell is the special guest during a celebration at Episcopal Church of the Redeemer.

 Hamburgers, veggie burgers and hot dogs will be provided during the potluck gathering. Those attending are asked to bring a salad or dessert to share. The event is Saturday, Sept 24 from 5:30-8 p.m. at the church, located at 241 S.E. Second St., Pendleton.

 Bell was elected as the seventh bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon, which was announced Dec. 12 in Pendleton. A half-time position, Bell is in the diocese two weeks a month while maintaining his residence in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho.

 For more information, contact 541-276-3809 or redeemerchurch1897@gmail.com.

Lay counselor training begins in October

HERMISTON — Level 1 Lay Counselor Training is starting soon at Good Samaritan Ministries in Hermiston.

 The sessions offer instruction for the personal ministry counseling program, which runs weekly through May. The first class is Monday, Oct. 3 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in Hermiston. The Level 1 training is part of a three-year program. In addition, Level 2 and Level 3 classes — which require completion of Level 1 sessions — begins Thursday, Oct. 6 from 5-7 p.m.

 For more information or to obtain an application for registration, call 541-564-1041 or stop by Good Samaritan Ministries at 319 W. Locust Ave., Hermiston.

John Nilsen to perform four local concerts

An award-wining pianist will perform at several regional venues in October.

 John Nilsen, who recently released “Local Ocean,” has a distinctive piano sound, playing everything from folk-rock to jazz and classical music. He has performed throughout the United States as well as abroad.

 Nilsen’s 2013 album, “Wild Rose,” features 10 original compositions, each recorded with a different combination of top-notch Portland-area musicians.

 The local performances include:

- Saturday, Oct. 1 at 1 p.m. at the Wesley United Methodist Church, 816 S. Main St., Milton-Freewater (541-938-5760).
- Saturday, Oct. 1 at 5 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 191 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston (541-567-3002).
- Sunday, Oct. 2 at 10 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 824 Sixth St., Prosser, Washington (509-786-1097)
- Sunday, Oct. 2 at 2 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 175 Church St., Heppner. (541-676-9224).

 For more information about Nilsen, visit www.johnnilsen.com.

Friday’s faith page features local, national and international faith-related news. Send information about local faith-related news and events, including concerts, special speakers and activities to community@eastoregonian.com or drop off to the attention of Tammy Malgesini at 333 E. Main St., Hermiston or Renee Struthers at 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton. Call 541-564-4539 or 541-966-0818 with questions.

BOARDMAN’S LIMEY PASTOR

 God the builder

We stood behind the carefully trimmed lawn of our church: Randy, our church president, Phyllis, Kurt and me tagging along. In our service this morning, we had just remembered the somber anniversary, the 15th anniversary, of September 11 and the destruction that was wrought that day, and remembered it together. Coming together in communion, remembering our Lord in the Lord’s Supper, we stood in front of this stark memory that all but the then-unborn shared — and grieved together. We remembered the heroism of those rescuers on that day as well as its darkness.

 We gazed over the boundary of our church property, noticing trees in need of our stewardship, to ensure good boundaries with our neighbors. We looked over at the area of scrubland we owned, empty and at the same time inviting. We talked about reining in this wildness and using this acreage of space for a living space for our elderly — a little village of small homes that would provide a sanctuary for those who are now leaving for far-away places for their retirement. Just across from that land is a clinic, and down the street is the supermarket with its pharmacy. Having such a development here in our place would also provide a central community for worship for our church, along with visiting families. There are lots of possibilities waiting to be hatched.

 Later on that afternoon as I was reflecting on this plot of land, with its empty space waiting to be imagined into life, I realized that this is analogous for each of us. Each of us is a little building, with enormous space in our lives for useful construction, if we can only



COLIN BROWN

 Faith

imagine it — our self in Christ Jesus — imagined into being and see the pattern that is hidden in it.

 The way out of a present moment that seems static and sterile is to borrow God’s eyes — eyes of hope — for seeing things that are not yet but can be. The enemy of mankind, the old one, the betrayer, is always whispering in our ears that we cannot do things — that we do not have what it takes to make ourselves into anybody that matters or help a situation that seems without hope. The truth is that all of us can create and bring forth new ideas and visions into the world. We are made in God’s image with his potential for new creation. We are not made of junk.

 The day before, on Saturday, I visited Pastor Bill at Boardman’s Baptist Church for his church’s movie night. Pastor Bill is one of the holiest people I know and I like hanging out with him. Just seeing him is an antidote to troubles.

 The movie shown was called “The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry,” a true story about a man who befriended many of the young people in his town and drew them unerringly into the straight road of Jesus’ companionship. Within minutes my eyes were tearing up. At first I thought that this was a fictional film. It wasn’t. Sperry died in 1970. His own life was all about seeing the possibilities of all the young people in his town, seeing beyond the hurts that had wounded them, and connecting them to Jesus Christ as an anchor and navigator of the new lives he helped them build. He was an apostle. See the movie.

■

 Colin Brown is pastor of Boardman’s Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Locust Road.

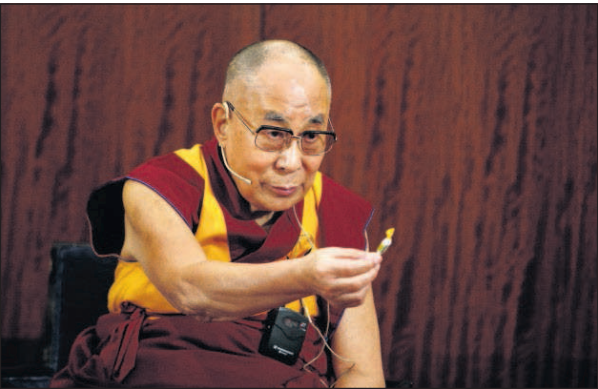
Dalai Lama urges talks with Islamic State, help for refugees

PARIS (AP) — The Dalai Lama says there should be dialogue with Islamic State extremists to end bloodshed in Syria and Iraq, and argues that religion is never a justification for killing.

 The Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader, speaking Tuesday in Paris, said dialogue “is the only way,” but didn’t elaborate on how it should take place or with whom. He insisted that Islam should never be conflated with terrorism.

 “A genuine practitioner of Islam must respect others’ lives,” he said, adding that someone who kills in the name of Islam or Buddhism “is no longer a Muslim, or a Buddhist.”

 He urged European countries to take in refugees, such as those fleeing Syria’s war, but said European governments should also work toward ending the war so that the refugees



AP Photo/Thibault Camus

Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama offers a sweet to a person during a press conference in Paris, Tuesday.

 can go home.

 The Dalai Lama himself fled Tibet and has lived in India for decades, effectively as a refugee, and is viewed by China as a separatist.

 He slammed Chinese censorship as “immoral” but said he’s optimistic that China will eventually relax restrictions.

 He is on a weeklong

visit to France for conferences on the environment, spirituality, secular ethics and preserving Tibetan language and culture.

 While he is no longer involved in politics, the Dalai Lama said he’d be happy to meet French President Francois Hollande. Hollande’s office said no such meeting was considered, however.

Pope honoring French priest: Killing in God’s name ‘satanic’

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis honored the French priest who was killed by Islamic extremists while celebrating Mass, calling him a martyr on Wednesday and urging all people of faith to have the courage to denounce such killings as “satanic.”

 Francis celebrated a morning Mass in memory of the Rev. Jacques Hamel, who had his throat slit July 26 in his Normandy church. Police killed the assailants, and the Islamic State group claimed responsibility.

Hamel’s relatives, members of his Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray parish and the Rouen bishop attended the intimate Mass in Francis’ hotel chapel. In his homily, Francis lamented the persecution of Christians today and denounced Hamel’s slaying as the “satanic thread of persecution.”

 Francis recalled that before being killed, Hamel cried out to his killers: “Satan, get out!”

 “This example of courage, and the martyrdom of one’s own life, to give everything of oneself to help others, to make brotherhood among others, helps all of us to go forward without fear,” Francis said.

 He said Hamel was a martyr to whom all people of faith should pray



L'Osservatore Romano/Pool photo via AP

Pope Francis holds up the host as a picture of Rev. Jacques Hamel sits on the altar during a mass in his memory at the Vatican, Wednesday.

 for peace “and also the courage to tell the truth: killing in the name of God is satanic.”

 Francis placed a photo of the elderly priest on the altar, and told the bishop that his photo could be exhibited in churches since as a martyr, he was already considered a “blessed” — the first step to possible sainthood.

 Francis has previously sought to distinguish individual attacks against Christians by Islamic extremists and Islam itself. Immediately after Hamel was killed, he declined to label Islam as “terrorist,” but said every religion has extremist fringes.

 Rouen Bishop Dominique Lebrun was asked by reporters afterward about the implications of the pope terming Islamic extremist

attacks as “satanic,” and whether some might believe his criticism was an indictment of Islam itself.

 “The assassins, I think they accepted influence of the devil, of Satan. The assassins — just this,” he said.

 Hamel’s sister, Roslyne, who joined the Rouen pilgrimage group and attended the pope’s Mass, was clear that Islam itself wasn’t the inspiration for her brother’s death.

 “Our Muslim brothers pray to a God who is our God and who is a God of love, of tolerance, of sharing,” she told reporters. “It is certain that these young men killed my brother, they assassinated him, in the name of a God who kills, and that is not the God of Islam and it is not the God of Christianity.”

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Ray O’Grady
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9:00 & 10:15 am
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541-567-8441

Seventh-Day Adventist Church

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276-0882
Sabbath School 9:20 am
Worship Service 10:45 am

Grace Baptist Church
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Worship - 10:45 AM
6:00 pm
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Pilot Rock, OR 97868
(541) 443-2500
prbconline.blogspot.com

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Kids’ Club: 6:00 pm
Wednesday Services:
Youth Group: 7:00 pm

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Tom Inch, Pastor
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164 E. Main St. / PO Box 1108
Hermiston, Oregon 97838

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241 SE Second St. Pendleton
(541)276-3809
www.pendletonepiscopal.org

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Wednesday Holy Communion Noon
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Fellowship - 11:00 am
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Center for Worship & Service

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9:30 - Sunday School
10:30 - Worship Service

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Sunday Worship.....10:30 AM

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SECOND SERVICE 10:30 AM

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10:00am

Wednesday Bible Study
6:00pm

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Overcomer’s Outreach
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Pastor Sharon Miller
401 Northgate, Pendleton
541-278-8082
www.livingwordcc.com

To share your worship times call
Terri Briggs
541-278-2678