

A monthly publication of Christian Church of Mountain Home in the interest of promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ and goodwill among His people, our friends.

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Chief Shepherd

Jesus Christ

Pastors

Gordon Addington Don Truitt
David Benedict Rick Schmeski
Forrest Cotter Bruce Wolf

Ministry Managers

Jason Schmeski Don Truitt
Brett Schmeski Eric Dwyer
Louise Addington Dick Huett
George Blohowiak Rick Schmeski
Barkley Terry Forrest Cotter

Preacher

Gene McCoy

Youth Ministers

Eric Dwyer
Rick Schmeski

Extended Ministries

Steve & Rhonda Hayward
Papua New Guinea

Brad & Linda Berg
Mexico

Salcem & Naylah Massey
Pakistan

Jay & Romola Henry, **India**

Ernest & Numreta
McFarland, **India**

Stephen & Alisa Walton
Ireland

Central Christian College of the Bible
Ozark Christian College
Show-Me Christian Youth Home
Christ on Campus
Mtn. Home Christian Academy

Ministry Focus

After four years at the CareCenter Ministries in Dallas, TX, Ty Cotter has come home to help others, like himself, overcome drug addiction. After completing the program in Dallas, Ty was instrumental in establishing a facility in Birmingham, AL. Now his focus is on Mountain Home.

Mountain Home is where Ty's heart is. His kids and his parents live here.

Ty's story of addiction began at age 13. His first run-in with the law was at age 15. It became apparent to him, after years of addiction, that this was not how he wanted to live. With help from his parents, Ty sought help from CareCenter Ministries in Dallas. His parents were confident he could get the help he needed through this faith-based non-profit organization. Ty received the help he needed, but also earned an associate's degree in Biblical studies.

After coming back to Mountain Home, Ty opened the faith-based men's residential home at 1378 Basswood Lane, outside Mountain Home. It is supported by the Dallas CareCenter Ministries.

In this recovery program men commit to living in a structured residential environment for one year, where they may focus on the goal free from distractions. Beyond treatment, residents focus on discipleship through a faith-based 12-step program. Ty is the director and his mother, Dawn, is the secretary and treasurer.

The first six months in this safe environment allows these men to begin building a relationship with God. If they feel called to ministry after the first six months, they can receive an associate's degree in Biblical studies through the International School of Ministry. Others choose to go to work.

Throughout the transition, CareCenter Ministries will work with them to receive the life skills their addiction kept them from de-

by Joyce Rhoads

veloping. They will learn to budget their finances, build a resume and develop job skills that will enable them to live independently.

The Mountain Home program began the Sidewalk Sunday School program last April, in which Christian Church of Mountain Home partnered. On the grounds of local apartment buildings, activities began, including cookouts, games, giveaways and gospel messages. The idea is to take the church to them, teaching them biblical principles to use in their daily lives.



Construction of a new facility for the Mountain Home CareCenter Ministry program is underway south of town. The warm days this winter allowed concrete to be poured for the foundation and the walls to be raised.

CCMH will host a "friendraiser" event for CareCenter Ministries on Saturday, April 30, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Finger foods will be served.

It is with gratitude that we acknowledge the work of the CareCenter Ministry crew that cleared the overgrown foliage along the church property lines.



Preacher's Pen

by Gene McCoy

For other articles and information about our congregation, go online www.ccmhar.com

ANNOUNCING

Bob and Judy Hummitsch

are now serving as our building custodians.

GRATITUDE

Our Secretary, **Joyce Rhoads**, has just been released by her doctor after an absence due to cancer treatment and surgery. For that we express gratitude to God.

During her absences in recent months, others have volunteered their time and service to manage the office operations. Most recently it has been volunteer extraordinaire,

Arlene Dixon.

We are grateful to all who volunteer in various ways.

Lazarus was sick. So his sisters, Mary and Martha, sent for Jesus. Upon receiving this news, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it" (John 11:1-4).

Lazarus was so sick he could die. He was at death's door. In fact, by the time Jesus arrived, he had died and was lain to rest. But Jesus said his sickness would not end in death. As Jesus stood at the door of death, represented by the opening of Lazarus' tomb, He wept, prayed to His Father in heaven, then spoke to the dead man. With the authority of the One Who holds the keys of death and the grave, Jesus said, "Lazarus, come out." And he did!

This is only one of many occasions when death was overcome by the Lord of Life. The most glorious and eternally significant occasion was His own resurrection from death to life.

The day is coming when each of us will stand at death's door. Will you stand in hope, joy and peace? The determining factor will be whether you stand alone or are accompanied by the Lord of Life.

HOPE

"If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied" (1 Cor. 15:19). The hope we have in this life is the hope we have in death. We have hope in neither except that Jesus was raised from death. And Jesus has been raised. Those, therefore, who have been baptized into His death and raised in the likeness of His resurrection have hope, not only in this life, but especially when we stand at death's door.

JOY

"Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him" (1 Thess. 4:13-14).

Not only will joy accompany us at death's door, but our Christian loved ones who survive will, like the women at Jesus' tomb, experience joy (Matt. 28:8) - the joy of knowing we are secure in the arms of the Lord. The hope of resurrection to life everlasting produces joy that overcomes fear and softens sorrow. It robs death of its sting and victory, for death is a vanquished enemy.

PEACE

To stand in peace at death's door we must live at peace with God in life. Peace is the blessed existence and possession of those who are in a relationship with God that is characterized by reconciliation. Our willful

disobedience ruined our relationship with God, putting us in conflict with His holiness and righteousness. But by God's grace, those "who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord . . . to life for our justification . . . have peace with God" (Rom. 4:24-5:1).

"Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!" (Rom. 5:9-10)

Death is the door to eternity. The Bible says many will go through that doorway into eternal death and that relatively few will go through that doorway into eternal life. The sole factor that determines our destination is whether we stand at death's door alone or with the One Who has conquered death by His glorious resurrection.

Jesus paid the penalty of eternal death for all those who will display faith in His blood (Rom. 3:25) by participating in His death, burial and resurrection in baptism, the doorway of grace into life everlasting.



Multi-level Evangelism

by Gene McCoy

The multi-level marketing model began in the 20's and 30's with such well-known organizations as the California Vitamin Company and the California Perfume Company. You know them as Nutrilite and Avon.

The products and services vary. But the characteristics of the system are similar. Among these are extreme energy, dedication, commitment and loyalty. Many have noted a cult-like feel to the system. Indeed, the tight relationships created within the organization have led some to regard their business associates as their church. Their business relationships are stronger and closer than their connection with spiritual brothers and sisters. Reverence for company founders and upline sponsors rivals, if not exceeds that which they afford spiritual elders and mentors. They minister to their business partners more readily than to their spiritual family. They will plan, save, sacrifice and travel so as to attend rallies with business associates, but would never give serious thought to attending a church-related convention.

These observations are made to prompt us to think about a parallel application to evangelism. Consider the impact on our evangelistic efforts if we approached them as we would our multi-level business.

A guest at a multi-level marketing recruitment event, I was astonished by the eagerness of some Christians to bear testimony for the benefits received from using the products. I was amazed because I had never heard them testify to the joy and peace of forgiveness and the assurance of salvation. I was also convicted by their example, wondering if I display such eagerness to declare the excellencies of Him Who called me out of darkness into His marvelous light (Eph. 5:8; 1 Pet. 2:9). Read Acts 26:12-18. Are they more committed and passionate about recruiting business partners than I am about evangelizing lost people?

As an upline associate in the church, I am also wondering how I could develop the skill of the upline business partner to generate the commitment of my downline church members to the degree that they would be as faithful and prompt for church meetings and events. And how I could transfer that ability so as to recruit people to become involved in our Outreach Ministry Team. It is apparent that, given the right motivation, the people who are outgoing and welcoming at business meetings could be such in the context of evangelism and outreach. Is it incorrect to say that the motivation for evangelism has been provided by the

grace Christians have received? And that the obvious lack of motivation to be actively involved in evangelism is a failure to properly respond to that grace?

Sales people are trained to look and listen for an opening to present their product or business opportunity. They develop sensitivity to circumstances conducive to making the pitch. And they practice approaches, even mastering key talking points and terms to excite interest and feed curiosity with a view toward making the sale or recruiting an associate.

CAUTIONS

Some words of caution are in order.

There is the inherent danger of becoming a so-called "Johnny-One-Note," whose enthusiasm is so fanatical that he becomes a nuisance. Relatives and friends are either amused or annoyed by the obsession that is manifested by the enthusiastic distributor who thinks his product is a panacea. Chances of this are remote in our evangelistic efforts, even though we say we believe Jesus is the answer for societal ills. Obviously, faith in Jesus will not prevent or cure cancer. But it most certainly produces hope, joy and peace in the face of death.

Litigation against multi-level marketing has been based upon the allegation that it represents a pyramid scheme. The aspect of this allegation that applies to this discussion is the emphasis upon building an organization that can be characterized as a personal empire. Not to call into question the integrity of the Amway Corporation, but someone made the point that, for the business to succeed, someone has to sell soap. We can become so fixated upon building a personal organization (local church kingdom) that our focus on the organism (body of Christ) is lost. Evangelism is not about building a large congregation for the sake of increasing revenue to keep the organization solvent and profitable. Neither is it about an earthly legacy or congregational reputation. It is upon converting sinners to Christ; making disciples. For the church to be the church, Jesus has to be King. We are not "selling" church membership but rather sacrifice and servanthood. Evangelism is not about the organization but the organism. It is not about mechanics ("doing church") but ministry (being the church). It is not about property (structures) but people (souls). Its focus is not local ("my" church) but global (Christ's church). It is not about the church visible (seen by men) but invisible (recognized by God). And it

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Family Info For April

MEETINGS

- 4 *Willing Workers @ 1 pm*
- 5 *Benevolence Ministry Team @ 6:30*
- 6 *Women of Worth Bible Study @ 9:30*
- 11 *Elders @ 6:30*
- 13 *Women of Worth Bible Study @ 9:30*
- 17 *Education Ministry Team @ noon*
- 20 *Women of Worth Bible Study @ 9:30*
- 27 *Women of Worth Bible Study @ 9:30*

Birthdays

- 5 *Saleem Massey*
- 7 *James Evans*
- 9 *Chester Kocherer*
- 12 *Jace Peglar*
- 13 *Sarah Dwyer*
- 13 *Bud Hall*
- 15 *Ross Gyles*
- 17 *Skylar Noice*
- 18 *Bryan Douglas*
- 19 *George Blohowiak*
- 19 *Braylen Hickman*
- 20 *Kathy Lueck*
- 21 *Norman Lueck*
- 25 *Megan Terry*
- 26 *Louis Valeika*
- 26 *Doug Green*
- 29 *Steve Mendleski*
- 29 *Leo Mendleski*
- 30 *Billie Sue Darr*
- 31 *Sandy Lloyd*

Anniversaries

- 2 *Jack & Sue Schaufler*
- 3 *David & Susan Nixon*
- 5 *Chris & Kelley Nosari*
- 16 *Roger & Krissy Caudill*

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is not about us (personal/congregational promotion) but about the Lord (promoting Christ's Kingdom).

TAKEAWAYS

There are lessons to be learned and applied.

A faithful steward of the gospel (an evangelist) will be alert to opportunities to present the gospel. And he will do so enthusiastically, confident that the message about Jesus will benefit people.

Christians intent upon fulfilling the commission to make disciples will continually cultivate the team, helping their downline develop skills that produce more disciple-makers. In this regard Ephesians 4:11-12 applies. One maxim in multi-level marketing is that you succeed only as you help others succeed. Our responsibility continues beyond our "downline's" baptism to include his continual development. This involves personal training and accompaniment in their recruiting efforts, even to include several generations or levels.

Another maxim that applies to the church states that positives are passed down and negatives up. When problems and negatives arise, express them to your upline. Express only positives to your downline. Evangelism is hindered when this rule is violated, especially when negatives are aired in the presence of non-Christians!

Celebrating expansion of the Kingdom by acknowledging

the evangelists will encourage more evangelism. Praising those who are doing it encourages others to do it. It also cultivates a cohesive team and family dynamic when everyone celebrates.

Learning our product better will certainly enhance the evangelistic work of the church. But learning how to present the message is just as important and necessary. The Kingdom will not expand if we do not expand our connections. Along with our teaching of Bible content we should provide practical tips regarding its usefulness in evangelizing lost people. We cannot overstate, however, the power of personal testimony regarding the positive impact Jesus has made in our lives.

Christians should be possessed with passion, not only for the Lord but for the lost. So much so that they are consciously seeking opportunities to engage people with a view toward dispensing the good news of redemption and the blessings of discipleship.

At the most basic level, we should nurture a more welcoming environment that makes it pleasant and easy for sinners to receive and respond to the gospel. If marketers, motivated by profit and material benefits, can go out of their way to make prospective recruits believe the business is exciting and fulfilling, we can do no less as distributors of the forgiveness and grace offered through Jesus Christ, resulting in eternal life!



The LORD'S COMMISSION is OUR MISSION
Matthew 28:19-20

Meeting Schedule
Wednesday Evening Sunday Morning
5:30 Supper 9:30 Worship
6:30 Bible Classes 11:00 Bible Classes

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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