

*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    David Benedict  
Forrest Cotter        Don Truitt

**Ministry Managers**

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

**Preacher**

Gene McCoy

**Youth Ministers**

Eric Dwyer  
Rick Schmeski

**Extended Ministries**

Steve & Rhonda Hayward  
**Papua New Guinea**

Brad & Linda Berg  
**Mexico**

Saleem & 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**

**'Walk a Mile...'**

by Joyce Rhoads

Although empathy and compassion are similar, there are striking differences. In defining the two words, it is noticeable that compassion, without the understanding of the depths of the suffering or how much it affects another, is about the *feelings* of sorrow toward a situation. Empathy is about attempting to understand another's problem while having a strong feeling for that person, *and sharing* that feeling.

Our approach to the one suffering is the main difference between compassion and empathy. Whereas compassion is looking at a situation from our perspective; empathy is attempting to look at a situation from the point of view of the one going through it. Empathy can best be described as the ability to *experience* another's emotions or feelings.

If my mother told me once, she told me a hundred times, to reserve my thoughts on another person until I had walked in their shoes.

That saying is well known as a Native American saying, 'walk a mile in their moccasins', but it actually comes from Mary T. Lathrap, who penned the poem, 'Judge Softly'.

And, empathy is thought to be the inspiration for Harper Lee to write "You never really know a man until you understand things from his point of view, until you climb into his skin and walk around in it", in 'To Kill a Mockingbird'.

But, I think it has roots in basic Christianity, well before there were moccasins or shoes. Empathy is a basic Christian value. There are numerous examples of Jesus,

moved by compassion, providing basic needs for people. He fed, healed and forgave. He *shared their feelings*.

Philippians 1:1 says: 'Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.'



We need to take this one step further. Sympathy is feeling sorry for someone, empathy is walking in

their shoes, but compassion is love in action.

Britt Nicole, a contemporary song writer and singer, brought that thought closer to me when she wrote:

*You love me even when I fall apart  
I can't explain it  
That's just who you are  
Don't want perfection  
You just want my heart*

*Cause You stood right there  
And then You broke apart the lies  
You told me I had something beautiful inside  
You brought to life the part of me I thought had died*

*Cause You stood right there until I saw me  
I saw me through Your eyes*

**Let us not just walk in their shoes, look at others through God's eyes and do something!**





## Preacher's Pen

by Gene McCoy

For other articles and information about our congregation, go online [www.ccmhar.com](http://www.ccmhar.com)

### 'Anniversary Reflections'

By Gene McCoy



We are all invited to the Fairgrounds on Friday, December 9 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm for the free CareCenter Ministries annual Holiday Dinner.

CCMH has been asked to make desserts for this dinner. If you can help, contact the office or sign up on the sheet at the back of the auditorium.



We will gather Christmas eve from 6 to 7 p.m. for Holiday Vespers. It is a time of singing and reflecting on Jesus coming to earth, bringing salvation. Invite family and friends.

The recent celebration of our congregation's fiftieth anniversary provided the opportunity to recall many blessings and to generate enthusiasm for the prospects of a happy future. The congregation appreciates all those who devoted themselves

to the planning and presentation of a meaningful observance. There were several who worked behind the scenes to produce decorations (Thank you, Anne.), to promote and publicize the event (Thank you, Joyce.) and to prepare and serve refreshments (Thank you, all).

Several others had a stage presence that contributed to the celebration. David Benedict's videography traced our history in a presentation that evoked various emotions. The very creative Jeopardy game Joey and Vanessa Peglar put together created was not only entertaining, thanks to Eric Trebek Dwyer as host, but it was also informative. It was fun for Becky and me to lead the singing of songs that were written at the time the congregation was established. All the components combined to make a memorable event that celebrated God's provisions through five decades.

Cooperation by many people was essential to the success of the celebration. That cooperation was possible because it was all coordinated by Arlene Dixon, to whom we express appreciation and for whom we give God glory and thanks.

Several people who have been associated with the congregation for most of our history were recognized with framed certificates, presented by Jan Schmeski. The certificate presented to me, in recognition of my years of ministry here, was sincerely appreciated. I must acknowledge, however, that it recognizes

valuable contributions of many people, whom I wish to extend deserved honor as having played significant roles in faithful ministry.



At the head of the list of people with whom I gladly share the honor bestowed

upon me is my wife, Becky, who has been a faithful partner. I cannot overstate the significance of her ministry with me. And ministry to me! Before Becky, of course, the greatest influence that prepared me for ministry were my parents, to whom appreciation by the congregation is due. Over the course of my ministry here the congregation has benefitted by the capable ministry of three youth ministers, each of whom has contributed in significant ways. I tip my hat in grateful acknowledgement to John Nappo, Eric Dwyer and Titus Neuenschwander.

The list of acknowledgements must extend to all the gracious people who have comprised our congregation. Apart from a congregation's grace and kindness, including mercy, a lengthy ministry is impossible. I know full well that these virtues have been tested and pressed to the limits from time to time. With you, God's good people, I share the honor.

A specific segment of the congregation deserving special recognition for playing an integral part of my lengthy ministry is the elder team. I am always happy to give grateful acknowledgement and appreciation to these leaders. They have provided needed support and guidance through the years.

To this point we have acknowledged human contributors. All of us unite in praise to the Lord, by Whose providence all celebrations are possible. Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow.

## Blessings and Burdens

by Bruce Wolf

Fifteen years ago Gene Frazier came to me asking if I would consider serving on the Board of Elders. I declined. The thought of serving in such a significant role in the church scared me and in no way did I feel prepared for such a task. But I told Gene that I would think and pray about it for a year.

As I reviewed and prayed about the biblical standards for one who is to serve as elder as provided by the apostle Paul in his letters to Timothy and Titus I came to see that the first elders were not perfect men but rather good men with the desire to serve. I felt that I fit in this category seeing myself as not completely ready for the task, but one who was willing to try, placing my trust in God to lead me and to teach me the things He wanted me to know in order to serve Him adequately in that capacity.

The requirements from scripture for the office of elder seem very strict, as they ought to be, however I wonder if the moral slack we have allowed into our lives makes the scriptures simply appear too stringent. I do not think it is too demanding to ask of a man to be the husband of but one wife. That is no more than the standard law of our land. I do not think it is too demanding to ask a man to be blameless, meaning not overbearing or quick-tempered or given to drunkenness, or not violent, or to avoid pursuit of dishonest gain. In a positive contrast, a man must simply be hospitable, love what is good, be self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. And most importantly he must hold firmly to the truth and encourage others in sound doctrine, refuting those who oppose it.

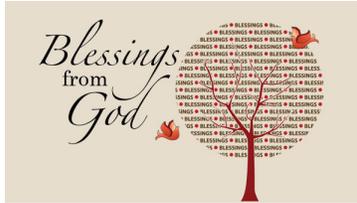
In a year's time Frazier asked again. I told him I would consent to having my name placed in nomination. And after fifteen years of serving on the board of

elders I still do not think that I am as complete a servant as God would like me to be. But I find encouragement in reflecting on the apostles who also had their flaws yet were chosen by Jesus anyway to work and develop their talents into effective service for the Lord. Over the centuries men have been found in each generation to serve in this capacity as well. This is what I desire to do as well.

God is unique in hiding blessings among the burdens he asks us to bear. The decision to serve, to give up much time, to spend emotional energy, to pray, to visit, to travel, to console the ill and grieving among other duties and most importantly to be held accountable for the souls of the saints whom we shepherd appear to be great burdens. And at times they are.

But God, in His wisdom, and when called upon, has always turned such challenges into abundant blessings. Through service as an elder I have experienced many moments of joy. The joy that comes when one who is prayed over becomes well again, or when one who is counseled comes back to Christ, or when one who has learned through your teaching in turn passes the lesson along to another who was unexposed to Christ.

I have received and more importantly felt the prayers of the saints here are CCMH during many circumstances and have been encouraged by them. I have received cards of encouragement from many who regularly bless me through their thoughtfulness and concern for my ministry. God, who works through His people has touched my life many times through the prayers of the saints at CCMH and I have received encouragement because of that. Only God could make what appears at first to be a burden blossom into an abundance of blessings.



## Family Info For December

### Meetings

- 4 Missions Ministry Team/ potluck-noon
- 7 Women of Worth @ 9:30
- 11 Worship Team @ noon
- 12 Elders' @ 6:30
- 14 Women of Worth @ 9:30
- 24 Holiday Vespers @ 6 pm

### Birthdays

- 2 Eric Dwyer
- 3 Clint Hinds
- 3 Jason & Jessica McFarland
- 4 Anne Mace
- 6 LaDonna Mendleski
- 12 Melva Derrickson
- 13 Sharon Belicek
- 14 Easton Peglar
- 15 Susan Nixon
- 15 Katelyn Benedict
- 16 Nelda Willming
- 18 Laura Hummitsch
- 21 Dorothy Sowle
- 23 Sabreena Massey
- 24 Karen Blohowiak
- 25 Maryln Evans
- 27 Adele Bettenhausen
- 28 Nash Anderson
- 29 Chloe Nosari
- 29 Barb Francis
- 29 Charles Monahan

### Anniversaries

- 2 Chester & Jeanine Kocherer
- 5 Bob & Judy Hummitsch
- 7 Brad & Linda Berg
- 13 Eric & Sarah Dwyer
- 17 Brandon & Courtney Pickett
- 18 Mike & Anita Lockhart
- 19 Joe & Maggie Salik
- 27 Ernest & Numreta McFarland
- 27 Dan & Anne Mace
- 29 Bruce & Vicky Wolf
- 29 Steve & Rhonda Hayward
- 30 Bryan & Mary Douglas



Thanks to all who have helped with the many events in the last month. It is very much appreciated.

## 'Party Time!'

December is party time at the Dwyer house and you're all invited. We celebrate 3 birthdays (Jesus, "Special K" and Eric), a wedding anniversary and New Year's Eve. From December 2nd - 31st, we live it up.

I suppose we could throw all of these events together into one big "bash." But we choose to celebrate them individually so we don't lose the importance and impact of each one.

"Special K" changed our lives forever when she came into the world and into our home. We have relied heavily on God and His people in bringing her up. You can try to prepare all you want for your first time caring for an infant by reading books or getting advice, but when the weight of the responsibility hits you, the author of a baby book won't be there to change the early morning diapers. Your life is forever changed.

Sarah and I said "I do" in 2008. This was another monumental shift that would shape the rest our lives. It changed mine for the better and I hope hers as well. Suddenly there was someone else in the mirror while the other was trying to do their hair (this hairdo doesn't happen on its own, Sarah). After all the wedding prep, the journey down the aisle didn't stop after

by Eric Dwyer

we left a church building in Missouri. We continue on this path God had laid out for us each and every day. I enjoy specifically celebrating the day our individual journeys merged.

None of these joy-giving events would have the impact and eternal significance they carry today if it were not for the coming of God to earth in human form. Talk about a life changing event! It deserves to be celebrated every day and not lumped in with other parties that pale in comparison. We've talked about the weight of parental responsibility. Imagine raising the savior of the world. We also spoke earlier about the joining of two lives into one. Jesus came to draw all people to God for eternity!

Maybe you won't have as many official parties this month as our household, but this doesn't mean you don't have anything to celebrate. I offer you a challenge this month. In your prayers, do not lump all God has done in your life into one "Thanks for everything" party prayer. If you celebrate each life changing event, person, opportunity and your eternal future in Christ; you will find that you, too, will have party times in your home. So let the celebration begin!



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

### Meeting Schedule

Wednesday Evening 9:30 Supper  
Sunday Morning 11:00 Bible Classes  
6:30 Bible Classes

### RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

1365 Eastside Centre Court  
Mtn. Home, AR 72653 870-425-8323



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