

*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**

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

**Careful What You Pray For**

by Joyce Rhoads

In my younger Christian walk, I attended a seminar where the speaker encouraged us to be specific for what we pray. Pray for a spiritual gift, for example.

I have always admired those that exhibit patience in every situation; so I felt encouragement to pray for patience.

I must have missed the part where the speaker said that with those requests will most certainly come trials and tribulations that help in your development.

No one told me that when you pray, it's often not just free. There may be a cost. It most certainly will require work; so we can be conformed to God's character. **Psalm 66:10** says, "For you, God, tested us; you refined us like silver". We might have to go through the fiery furnace.

God allowed circumstances to help me develop patience. And, they were hard lessons; I am one of those learners that learn best from the hard lessons.

I remember thinking after that, 'Be careful what you pray for! What you pray for, you get.' So be prepared for the inevitable pain.

During a recent sermon, I reflected about how I had prayed for patience and the outcome.

So, I thought to myself that the malice I had cultivated and watered toward one that was abusive to me in my past; that is for which I need to rid myself. Not just for their good, but more importantly, mine!

It took some time, but I did (with God's help through some of his angels) let hard feelings toward that person go.

Then, like a lightning bolt, it hit me. As I thought on experiencing the trial by fire for patience and the process I went through for letting that malice go, God had been with



me both during the patience building and grudge relinquishing.

He allows us to grow; while keeping His hand on us, protecting us, while we grow.

So, whatever is coming, God is with us. Even when it's scary.

The pain He allows always has a purpose. We may not fully understand it at the time, but He is always with us during that pain.

When we allow God to do His work in us, we will begin to transform into His image. **Isaiah 43:2** says, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze."

God will be with us. Always. We have but to walk with Him.

**2 Peter 1:5-8** says, "For this reason make every effort to add virtue to your faith; and to your virtue, knowledge; and to your knowledge, self-control; and to your self-control, patient endurance; and to your patient endurance, godliness; and to your godliness, brotherly kindness; and to your brotherly kindness, love. For if these things reside in you and abound, they ensure that you will neither be useless nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

For which virtue should you pray?

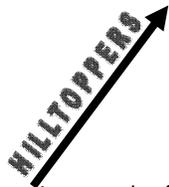




## Preacher's Pen

by Gene McCoy

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



is an outlet for fellowship among those who have reached the age of 55 years but who are young at heart.

Help plan this years activities!  
Community Room  
1:30 pm  
Thurs., Feb 16

"Daddy," said the little girl, as she was being tucked into bed, "read me a story." As long as we can remember we have liked a good story. What was your favorite bedtime story?

Among all the good stories is one we want our children to know. It has all the ingredients to a great story—interesting characters with a villain and a hero, a wonderful plot that includes adventure, intrigue, romance, and, well, you get it—everything. In fact, it is more than a story. It is THE STORY.

We have been telling and hearing the story for decades. Even centuries. But we are preparing to tell it in a way that many of us have never experienced. In a couple months our congregation will embark on a 31-week journey that will take us through the entire story of the Bible. Plan to go on this storybook journey together.

Our expectation is that this telling of the story will be more engaging than at any time in your life. One reason it will be different than before is that all who participate will be using the same story book. The Story is the Bible sequenced in chronological order and presented like a storybook. It is the Word of God that reads like a novel.

Another reason this retelling of God's story will be more engaging than ever is that every member of the family will be experiencing the story together. Every aspect of our Sunday gatherings will be focused on the same chapter of the story week by week. For 31 weeks the entire family will be living and breathing God's story together.

Motivation for this congregational initiative stems from the knowledge that relatively few read the Bible on a daily basis. Many who have made the effort but have grown discouraged and quit would resume the practice if only they knew how each part of the Bible fits into the story. And if they saw how their personal story fits into God's story. Our goal is to provide the opportunity to gain the grand perspective of history by knowing His story and how our story fits into the eternal story line.

The weekly story will be introduced at

the Sunday meeting of the church. Not only will the Bible message (sermon) develop the passage and the theme, but so will all the Bible classes, from the youngest to the oldest. Some of the songs we sing will also complement the theme.

The youth and adult classes will combine during the second hour to engage in discussions about practical applications. These breakout sessions will be led by trusted leaders, including Eric Dwyer and Hubert Pickett. Other respected leaders will facilitate conversation at each table.

Rick Schmeski and his Kids' Praise team will be developing the theme for our children during the first hour. Our nursery and elementary level teachers will be providing further instruction during the second hour. Each member of the family has its own age-appropriate curriculum, complete with worksheets that parents will find useful to reinforce the teaching and application throughout the week at home.

Each adult will be encouraged to purchase a copy of The Story itself. It is the NIV translation of the Bible that is organized in chronological order and presented in 31 chapters formatted like a novel.

All participants will be on the same page for 31 weeks!

Beginning in late April, the Sunday meetings will take on a little different feel and look. There will still be two distinct segments—the customary worship hour and the Bible class hour—but they will become more like one blended format. The look of the Worship Center will be transformed somewhat, as the east end will be set up with round tables to accommodate the discussion groups. There will be some freedom in the arrangement of the customary segments of our Sunday meetings, with the addition of some video instruction and some other interesting features that will enhance the experience and increase the level of learning.

As we approach this special season of family life, let this lyric set the tune and tone. Tell me the story of Jesus.

Write on my heart every word.

Tell me the story most precious, sweetest that ever was heard. 

## Leading in Prayer

Louise Addington has been a leading example in prayer and an integral part of our congregation's Prayer Ministry Team. We gleaned some insights from her that may be transferable to others who want to mature in the ministry of prayer.

### Talk to us briefly about the Christmas card we received from you as it relates to your practice of prayer.

I prepared a Christmas card for everyone on our contact list. In each card was a note explaining that I had prayed for the recipient throughout the year, along with a listing of what my prayers were for the recipient.

### How much time do you devote to these prayers?

I like to begin every day in prayer that takes at least half an hour. On days I awake especially early, my prayer time will extend to two or three hours. My daily practice includes reading the Bible and sharing devotional readings with Gordon. I have tried to learn to make prayer a part of my whole day.

### Is there a pattern you follow?

My prayer time always begins with putting on my spiritual armor, as Paul writes about in Ephesians 6. After that, I pray for country, government, family, friends, enemies and people I have contact with in my daily activities, including people I work with or go to class with and with people with whom I worship. Finally, I pray for local charities and ministries that I support.

### How do you organize your prayer lists?

One category of people I pray for is "the broken." These are people I may or may not know personally, but for whom someone has requested prayer because they are in spiritual danger. Among these people are those with drug or alcohol dependencies, anger issues, abusive situations, destructive life-styles, rebellion against or denial of God, incar-

ceration, or relational dysfunctions. At bedtime I pray for missions and missionaries, many of whom are just beginning their day when mine is concluding.

### Explain your prayers for each person in our congregation. Specifically, how much time do you devote to that?

Actually that's a hard question to answer because it varies every day. There is not a standard, rote prayer that I pray for you each day. What I pray depends on what I've read from Scripture, heard in a sermon or lesson, or gleaned from a devotional reading. My favorite method of praying for you is to visualize presenting you before God's throne, or before Jesus in a normal everyday setting. Sometimes it's individually, sometimes it's by families.

### How specific are your prayers for every individual?

I have to confess that my prayers for you individually are less frequent than the times that I simply word a prayer and then read everyone's name from the list. That only takes me a few minutes. That is about all I can manage some days. And there are occasions when I miss a day of praying for every individual.

### Are there any unusual prayer lists you keep?

For those in need of urgent and persistent prayer, people who have life threatening health or soul issues, I have what I call my intensive care prayers. Every 15 minutes, when I hear my clock chime, at that time I send up prayer on behalf of individuals suffering or in danger.

If there is an idea from Louise' example that inspires you to a deeper and richer prayer ministry, this article will have served its purpose. We thank God for Louise and others in our congregation who lead in prayer.

## Family Info For February Meetings

- 1 Women of Worth @ 9:30
- 5 Super Bowl Party/Chili Cook-off @ 5:30 pm
- 7 Benevolence Team @ 6 pm
- 8 Women of Worth @ 9:30
- 13 Willing Workers @ 1 pm
- 13 Elders @ 6:30
- 15 Women of Worth @ 9:30
- 22 Women of Worth @ 9:30

## Birthdays

- 5 Joey Peglar
- 6 Tony Snyder
- 8 Mark Hinds
- 10 Daisy Schneider
- 11 Brett Schmeski
- 12 Linda Wisniewski
- 15 Rhonda Hayward
- 19 Richard Britt
- 20 Forrest Cotter
- 20 Kay Bollinger
- 20 Evie Byrd
- 21 Jack Schaulfer
- 21 Lee Belicek
- 26 Hunt Nosari
- 26 Cheryl Britt
- 27 Nick Wisniewski
- 28 Bob Crider

## Anniversaries

- 14 Dennis & Barbara Cline
- 23 Brett & Ashton Schmeski



## We Rejoice! Baptisms

**Maranda Jones**  
Wednesday, Jan. 11  
**Marley Harig**  
Wednesday, Jan 25

## "Connected to Connection"

by Eric Dwyer

**October 1st, 1994.** That was the date the World Wide Web consortium was founded to ensure the long-term growth of "the Web." The Internet itself dates back even further. Many people have worked tirelessly over the years to develop this technology that many of us use on a daily basis. It's possible you are reading this Contact article via e-mail which was sent by our office.

Think of all the ways you could use "the Net." You could order flowers and chocolates for Valentine's Day (for the record, I like coconut cream chocolates). You may have ordered Christmas presents last year. You can connect with old friends on social media. You can find out late breaking news. You can watch funny cat videos. You can even find out what's happening with the youth and education programs here at CCMH.

Do you want to know what classes are being taught on Sundays and Wednesday evenings? Maybe you are a parent who would like to view lessons. If

you are a teacher, would you like a few extra weeks to prepare that elementary lesson?

To get the whole scoop, go to [http://ccmhar.com/page/education\\_ministry\\_team](http://ccmhar.com/page/education_ministry_team). You will find our theme, "Inspired." You will see who is teaching what class and you will also find a map of our congregation to see where the class is located.

While you're on our church's website, feel free to check out our "Youth" page as well. There you will find our 2017 event calendar, payment plans for summer trips, and all the info you'll need to make sure your kids are connected. Just go to <http://ccmhar.com/page/youth>.

There is no shortage of information on the World Wide Web, but if you want specific information on our education and our kiddos, take some time to browse! See me if you have any questions!



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

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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

Christian Church  
of Mountain Home

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