

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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Jesus Christ

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Forrest Cotter Bruce Wolf

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Brett Schmeski Eric Dwyer
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George Blohowiak Rick Schmeski
Barkley Terry Forrest Cotter

Preacher

Gene McCoy

Youth Ministers

Eric Dwyer
Rick Schmeski

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Salcem & Naylah Massey
Pakistan

Jay & Romola Henry, India

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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

Answering the CALL

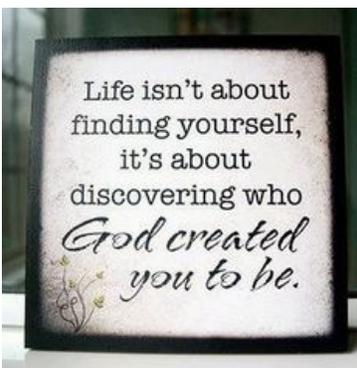
What is God's call on your life? I'm not talking about His call to come to Him for the first time to accept His salvation. What is your call to ministry? If you can't answer that right off the bat, then put this article down for a week as you seek God's face for that answer. I'm on paper. I can wait. If you already have the same answer you have been parroting for decades, you might want to revisit your call as circumstances in your life might have changed. You may have new experiences to offer the body and find you enjoy your new avenue of ministry much more. Some of you know full well God is calling you to step up right now in this congregation and you are letting Him go directly to voicemail. It would be a sign of poor health if a church went for extended periods of time without a phone call. It would indicate a lack of connection in the community. Why do we think it's acceptable to feel like we're not called to a particular ministry for our Savior? Any church acting in this way is dying.

I like to look at the life of Paul and I think it would be good to look at a situation Paul found himself in towards the end of his life. Read Acts 20:22-24. Paul heard God's call on his life at numerous times and he was compelled to follow God. Paul understood at this point in his life that obeying God's call was still the best thing he could possibly do. The more he followed God's voice, the more he walked with God and the more God worked through him. Paul knew that doing his own thing or going against God (which he had done many times) didn't bring happiness, hope, or anything that lasts. Even though it brought tough circumstances, hardship, and eventually death, Paul knew that a

by Eric Dwyer

life of hearing and following God was much better.

Sometimes we have false expectations about what it means to follow Christ. Here is a disclaimer. Suffering, pain, and being uncomfortable ARE parts of following Christ. You need to know that this is part of the deal. A friend of mine has a favorite movie called Shadowlands. It is a movie about C.S. Lewis and his relationship with his wife of only a few years, as she passed away from cancer. At the end of that movie Anthony Hopkins (who plays C.S. Lewis in this movie) says these words: "I have been given a choice: As a boy and as a man. The boy chose safety, the man chooses suffering. The pain now is part of the happiness then. That's the deal."



Lewis is saying, in reference to his wife, that the pain that he experienced when he lost her is part of the happiness he experienced with her. You can't have one or the other in life. You have to accept both.

It is the same way with Christianity and following Christ. We receive deep meaning, joy, happiness, purpose and many more

things in following the call but there is also a chance that we will face pain, suffering, loneliness, discomfort, etc. You don't get one or the other, you get both. They work hand in hand.

We each are called to die daily to ourselves and live for Him no matter how challenging the task. I ask again, with perspective about your new life in Him, what is the task to which you have been called? Have you answered that call? If not, find one of the ministry managers right now. Call them with the same fervency the Lord has called you. 🌐



Preacher's Pen

by Eric Dwyer

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

This from Saleem Massey in Pakistan:

You will be glad to know that God heard our prayers. The Muslim landlords agreed to sell one fourth of the adjacent land (behind the wall) of the hospital. They will talk with the rest of the family members and convince them to sell the rest of the land to us. After buying this piece of land we will be able to construct **Out Patients Door of the Good Shepherd Hospital**. That OPD will provide us an opportunity to treat poor patients with compassion, love and mercy. One acre of the land's price is \$50,000. Please pray the Lord will raise generous people to send gifts for this piece of land. May the Lord bless you richly.

In His love
Saleem

Even though my teen years are long in the rear view mirror of my life, I still like to read scripture with their perspective in mind. This helps me as a youth minister. In fact, I think we should be reading scripture through more than once. I want to challenge you to start reading passages not just as yourself, but as a teen, a senior citizen, or a non-believer. This could greatly benefit your ministry outside of the walls of CCMH. Recently I came to a passage which made teenage Eric "lol." It was Acts 20:7-12. This is the story of Eutychus (you-tuh-kuss) being raised from the dead in Troas.

This story starts off with the believers in Troas meeting on Sunday. Since he planned to leave town the next day, Paul keeps talking until midnight! Wow! I wonder how CCMH would react if next Sunday we decided to dismiss early Monday morning. You're probably thinking, "Teach like Paul and then maybe we'll talk." Touché. Back to the story. There is a young man by the name of Eutychus who has made the decision to sit in a window. This decision is made even more dangerous by the fact that he "was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on" (vs. 9). By the way, if your first reaction in your mind was to reprimand Eutychus for his church behavior since he fell asleep, then you probably read those words as a grown-up. A kid may chuckle when picturing these verses. A non-believer may even identify with Eutychus. Remember to try different perspectives. Back to the story. Eutychus gets deep into sleep and falls out of a third story window. Ouch! He was picked up dead. Paul goes down, throws himself on the young man and wraps his arms around him. He tells everyone, "Don't be alarmed. He's alive!" (vs. 10). Then he went back upstairs and broke bread and ate. He continues to talk until daylight and then Paul leaves.

What can we learn from these verses? How would they help in youth ministry? For starters, try asking average teenagers in Any-city USA if they've ever fallen asleep in church. You might not like the answer. People fall asleep in church. Don't think Gene and I don't notice that some of you seem to pray mid sermon with your head down and mouth open. It doesn't make me

mad at all. I think it's kind of funny, really. I don't automatically assume someone is disengaged. Some people simply need the rest. My youth ministry professor used to say, "It should be a sin to bore a kid with the Bible." You don't skirt around passages like a young man falling asleep in church. That is a perfect launch pad for a conversation with someone!

Now Eutychus was slightly foolish in that he decided to start nodding off while sitting in a window. That's like nodding off while you're driving these days. It's dangerous. Pull over and switch drivers or take a nap. Eutychus made the mistake of not getting out of the window. He fell out and died for this mistake. How many of you have made a poor decision which cost you dearly? Maybe you were caught cheating on a test and got a zero. Maybe you've had a marriage end because of a boatload of mistakes. For whatever reason, you decided you would nod off in your spiritual life, and that put you in a dangerous place.

Take a look at how the people responded. He was dead and they declared him so. There was no coming back from this error in their mind. When someone in your life falls and is dealing with the consequences, how quickly do you declare their sin as a death sentence? How quickly do people say, "There's no coming back from this. You're done for." As Christians we are called to be ministers and we are in a spiritual battle. I once heard a minister say, "The church has a tendency to shoot their wounded." In the times when fellow soldiers are wounded, are you quick to say something like, "That's what you get for falling asleep in church Eutychus!" There is another response.

Paul threw his arms around him and brought Eutychus back to life. Instead of seeing a lost cause, Paul walked down three stories to bring the power of God into the situation. I want to encourage us all, wherever we find ourselves and in whatever situations arise, to respond differently than the crowd. We especially need to be different from the world. Instead of declaring a teen (or anyone for that matter) a lost cause, care enough to wrap your arms

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God's Definition of a MOTHER

Proverbs 31 is one of those chapters of the Bible by which whole movements have patterned themselves. It contains God's characteristics of a woman of noble character.

Webster's Dictionary defines noble as having or showing fine personal qualities or high moral principles and ideals. Other words that can be used are righteous, virtuous, good, honorable, upright, decent, worth, moral, ethical, reputable, magnanimous, unselfish and generous.

Many Baby Boomers had the advantage of mothers who worked at home. Today's women have complex schedules and priorities that are glaringly different from the era of stay-at-home moms.

Does that change how God wants women of today to be known? I think not. Each of us women must conduct ourselves out in the world in a way that brings honor to our families, but more importantly, to God.

Definitions:

Righteous-morally correct

Virtuous-behaving or done in a way that is morally good and right

Good-morally correct behavior

Honorable-honest, moral, ethical, principled, righteous, right-minded

Upright-honest, honorable, upstanding, respectable, high-minded, law-abiding, right-minded, worthy, moral, ethical, righteous, decent, scrupulous, conscientious, good, virtuous, principled, of principle, noble, incorruptible

Decent-considered by most people to be moral, good, or reasonable

Worth-the value of something measured by its qualities or by the esteem in which it is held.

Moral-relating to right and wrong and the way that people should behave.

Ethical-involving the principles used for deciding what is right and what is wrong

Reputable-well-thought-of, highly regarded, respected, well respected, respectable, of (good) repute, prestigious,

by Joyce Rhoads

established

Magnanimous-generous, charitable, benevolent, beneficent, big-hearted, handsome, princely, altruistic, philanthropic, unselfish, chivalrous, noble

Unselfish-altruistic, selfless, self-denying, self-sacrificing

Generous-magnanimous, kind, benevolent, altruistic, charitable, noble, big-hearted, honorable, good

There's a theme in these words used to define noble. Let's sum it up.

M-

Meticulous,
Moral
Magnanimous

O-

Orderly
Open to needs of others

T-

Tongue controlled
Toiling
Trustworthy

H-

Hospitable
Honest
Honorable
High-Minded

E-

Ethical
Esteemed

R-

Respected
Righteous
Right-Minded
Reputable

S-

Selfless
Scrupulous
Self-Sacrificing

Quite a list? Yes. Read Proverbs 31. There is more. Happy Mother's Day!

Family Info For May

MEETINGS

- 2 *Willing Workers @ 1 pm*
- 3 *Benevolence Ministry Team @ 6:30*
- 4 *Women of Worth Bible Study @ 9:30*
- 9 *Elders @ 6:30*
- 11 *Finance Ministry @ 6:30*
- 11 *Women of Worth Bible Study @ 9:30*
- 18 *Women of Worth Bible Study @ 9:30*
- 25 *Women of Worth Bible Study @ 9:30*
- 29 *Dollar Day*

Birthdays

- 1 *Angie Crider*
- 6 *Dell Pickett*
- 7 *Mary Lou Fortier*
- 7 *Saleem Massey*
- 10 *Casey Hickman*
- 11 *Tom Mahoney*
- 12 *Romola Henry*
- 17 *Hubert Pickett*
- 17 *Ashton Schmeski*
- 17 *Joseph May*
- 19 *Maggie Salik*
- 21 *Susan Srutowski*
- 25 *Simon Massey*
- 26 *Anne Mahoney*
- 30 *Curtis Klos*
- 30 *Alice Wyma*
- 30 *Ed Srutowski*
- 30 *Julian Armijo*
- 31 *Jaxson Peglar*

Anniversaries

- 10 *Gene & Becky McCoy*
- 14 *Ken & Joyce Rhoads*
- 24 *Richard & Leslie Hytinen*
- 31 *Steve & LaDonna Mendleski*

The **CALL** has a thank you card on the bulletin board in the hall expressing their appreciation for the recent donation. They will use it to fund the foster parent retreat this Fall.

Preacher's Pen, continued

around them and love them enough to bring God's truth and power. You might just witness something truly miraculous. You could see a life completely turned around. There were dozens of men whose lives had been turned around by the power of God in our church building on May 30th. These men were society's "takers." They were hooked on addictions. Today they stand as servants and ministers through Care Center Ministries, who praise God for their spiritual resurrection.

It had to be a completely different meeting after Paul brought Eutychus back to life. The church would switch gears and break bread with another. Paul would keep talking until daylight (I highly doubt anyone else fell asleep) and then leave. It is important to note the story doesn't end with the miracle. The church continued to meet. In fact, this meant they had much more to discuss. They probably broke bread over a conversation of new life with the power of God. Maybe this is why the writer of Hebrews encourages his readers to not give up meeting together, but to encourage one another (10:25). If you're not letting the power of God take over in your life, maybe you won't see much of a reason to

meet and break bread. Seeing God move in our lives and surrendering to His will should constantly be driving the church back into fellowship with one another.

Back in Acts 20 we read, "The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted" (v 12). Maybe you do not identify with Paul as you read this. You aren't even the crowd. You're Eutychus. You've been "sleeping" through spiritual matters your whole life. Maybe you've made bad choices that have caused people to declare you DOA. I am telling you right here and right now there is hope. There is a new life offered through Christ. Whenever you let the power of God raise you there will be great joy and comfort, not just among you, but among all those who have been ministering to you.

The power of God is real and active. It's amazing what we can learn about ministry when we broaden our perspective. I would love to discuss any thoughts you might have about how ministry in these verses could apply to CCMH in the future. Please don't hesitate to swing by the office. Just text me and make an appointment! 

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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