

*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.*

**In this issue . . .**

**P. 2**

- ◆ Preacher's Pen
- ◆ Hilltoppers Info

**P. 3**

- ◆ 'Living in the Space'
- ◆ 'Through God's Eyes'
- ◆ Meetings
- ◆ Celebrations

**P. 4**

- ◆ 'Cleaning Toilets & Taking Names'

**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

**The Rest of 'The Story'**

We were introduced on March 26th to the plan that everyone in the congregation will be studying the same thing every Sunday. Beginning the Sunday after Easter, everything from the sermons and Sunday Bible classes for all ages to the midweek class for adults will revolve around The Story.

It's an exciting time for our congregation! A copy of *"The Story"* (the Bible as one continuing story of God and His people) is being made available to every person.

*"The Story"* is an abridged, chronological Bible that reads like a novel. There are no verse references and Scripture segments are seamlessly woven together with transition text into a single grand narrative. For those intimidated or overwhelmed by the unabridged Bible, *"The Story"* helps people understand God's Word more fully and engage with it more easily.

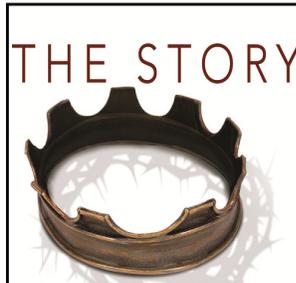
Simple, accessible, and easy to use, churches are finding The Story to be a powerful way to engage their people in Bible reading like never before. As The Story brings the Bible to life, the broad scope of God's message will penetrate hearts. People of all ages will be swept up in the story of God's love and God's plan for their lives.

God goes to great lengths to rescue lost and hurting people. That is what *"The Story"* is all about—the story of the Bible, God's great love affair with humanity. Condensed into 31 accessible chapters, *"The Story"* sweeps you into the unfolding progression of Bible characters and events from Genesis to Revelation. Using the clear, accessible text of the NIV Bible, it allows the stories, poems and teachings of the Bible to be easi-

ly read. And like any good story, *"The Story"* is filled with intrigue, drama, conflict, romance and redemption—and this story is true!

In the forward to *"The Story"* Max Lucado and Randy Frazee write: "This book tells the grandest, most compelling story of all time: the story of a true God Who loves His children, Who established for them a way of salvation and provided a route to eternity. Each story in these 31 chapters reveals the God of grace — the God Who speaks; the God Who acts; The God Who listens; the God Whose love for his people culminated in His sacrifice of Jesus, His only Son, to atone for the sins of humanity".

*"The Story"* benefits churches in the arenas of personal Biblical literacy, family cohesiveness, church unity and community outreach.



**Beginning This Month!**

- Featured in *"The Story"*
- ◆ The story of the Bible—in its own words. Selections from the NIV Bible with short transitions to connect the reader to the continuing story
  - ◆ Events, characters and teachings of the Bible arranged chronologically
  - ◆ Time lines of Bible events
  - ◆ New International Version (NIV) Bible text

Please make a point of joining us during Sunday morning Bible class, where there will be a time to discuss the week's chapter. On Wednesday night we encourage everyone to participate in exploring further the previous Sunday's chapter in the adults' weekly gathering.





## Preacher's Pen

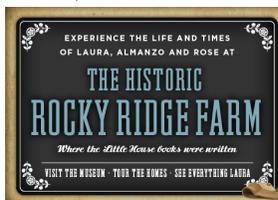
by Gene McCoy

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



Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10

A summary of the sermon delivered on March 12, when our congregation celebrated International Heritage Day, our own celebration of the ethnic diversity represented among those in our fellowship.



Those attending the Hilltoppers' meeting on February 16, 2017 decided to attend the Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum on Thursday, April 20, 2017. The church van will leave the church building at 8:30 am that day.

From the desert where He was tempted Jesus returned to His boyhood home of Nazareth. Among the leaders of the Jews in the synagogue Jesus cited the occasion when, during a severe famine, Elijah was sent by God to assist a widow from Sidon—a foreigner. Likewise, in the day of Elisha, there were many lepers in Israel. But Elisha healed only one—a Syrian! This message that Gentiles were favored over Jews angered the synagogue crowd.

From Nazareth Jesus traveled to Capernaum, where there was a Gentile military leader whose servant was deathly ill. Like his military counterpart at the cross, who testified of Jesus, "This man truly was the Son of God!", this centurion at Capernaum had come to a degree of faith. He knew Jesus could heal his servant. So he set in motion a plan by which to have Jesus come to the aid of his servant.

He had built the local synagogue for the Jews. He reasoned that his best approach to Jesus would be through the agency of his Jewish friends. That was reasonable, but not without challenges. For only a few months before these Jews had plotted to kill Jesus. They witnessed Jesus healing the paralyzed man after claiming to forgive the man's sins. Accusing Jesus of blasphemy, these Jewish leaders were outraged to the point of plotting His death.

Soon afterward, Jesus went into the synagogue, where He noticed a man with a deformed hand. Jesus' enemies watched intently to see if Jesus would violate the Law and do work on the Sabbath by healing the man. When Jesus did so, the religious leaders plotted with the supporters of Herod to kill Jesus. (Ref. Mark 2:1-12; 3:1-6)

Leaders of this synagogue are now submitting a request to Jesus on behalf of the Gentile centurion who built their synagogue. These Jewish leaders, who had charged Jesus with violating the Law by healing the deformed man on the Sabbath, and who had insisted that their traditions and regulations requiring separation from Gentiles, were now urging Jesus to go to the home of a Gentile!

We have no indication from Scripture that Jesus rubbed their faces in their obvious hypocrisy. To the contrary, Jesus started on his way to the centurion's house! But the centurion, himself sensitive to the Jews' traditions, and wanting to spare Jesus the grief He most surely would receive if He were to come to his house, sent a delegation to stop Jesus en route. He told Jesus He need not come to his house. In fact, he confessed he was not worthy of Jesus' presence. And then he said something that astonished Jesus. "Just say the word from where You are and my servant will be healed."

Jesus noted his faith as being unlike any He had seen in all Israel. At this, Jesus prophesied, "Many Gentiles will come from all over the world—from east and west—and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the feast in the Kingdom of Heaven."

The Kingdom of heaven—the church—is all-encompassing. It is populated by people of faith from every point of the compass. Heaven itself will be inhabited by people from all points of the compass. The apostle John recorded his vision of heaven in The Revelation (7:9). "I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb."

The realization of this all-encompassing Kingdom occurs in Acts 10, where we read about another Gentile centurion, Cornelius by name. Peter learned that God shows no ethnic favoritism but accepts people from every nation who fear him and do what is right.

This is the gospel message we preach, specifically that "we are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ" (Gal. 3:26-28).

Regardless your gender, nationality or station in life, we extend the invitation of Jesus Christ to be encompassed in His love as a citizen of His eternal Kingdom. 

## 'Living in the Space'

by Joyce Rhoads

An obituary usually contains a person's birth and their death dates. I recently attended a funeral at which the speaker referred to that time in between those dates as "living in the space".

She went on to fill in the accomplishments of the deceased in the "space"; and that is the part with which God is concerned.

How should we live our lives in the "space"? The Bible tells us that we are to live as Jesus would.

To live as Jesus did is to live by what Jesus said was the greatest commandment. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it, love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37-40.

God is not concerned with how many degrees we were awarded, what designer shoes we wore, what neighborhood we lived in or what car we drove. What He is concerned about is how we treat those with whom we come in contact. Matthew 25:37 says, "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and

invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Probably all the people I count as 'good friends' would provide food and water to anyone in need. But we do not see many people in our society today with that basic a need. That does not release us from doing good for others.

We have to be in the 'thinking and feeling' mode where we actually pay attention to the cries for help that are often muted. Some people hide their needs for whatever reason is personal to them. Too many of us have become so calloused to people who "know the system", that we have become numb to those legitimately in need.

Let's set our antennas to pick up those legitimate cries for help. That is accomplished by actually rubbing elbows with people outside the walls of the church building. The ways each of us does this varies widely. But we can't get better at it without making an attempt.

God expects us to get better at it!



## 'Through God's Eyes'

by Joyce Rhoads

When did we start finding fault and criticizing others? I imagine it is different for every person, depending on many outside influences.

My mother told me that she never heard her mother say a bad thing about anyone. Now, that probably meant that my grandmother did not criticize another in front of my mother. But the point is my mother was not taught to be critical.

The most humbling experience is when you realize you are doing the very bothersome action for which you criticized another. None of us is perfect. All of us do things for which someone could criticize us. All of us find fault in others. Some are quite adept at it.

My point is that the standard by which we find fault should be God's standard. He loves us unconditionally! It grieves Him when we sin, but He created us. He knows us, knows our hearts and He is forgiving.

Let's begin to look at others through God's eyes. God loves us. He gave His only

Son for us!

This is another of those actions in which there will be growing pains. It's another step in our development of the Spirit's fruit. We must first see God to see with the Eyes of God.

To accomplish that, we must know His Word and have the gift of the Holy Spirit living in us.

People should be seen through the eyes of compassion and the world viewed through the eyes of hope. And we should see ourselves the way God does. God is made known to us through scripture.

We all should begin to look at others through God's eyes with compassion, hope and forgiveness; the way we want Him to see us.

Jeremiah 9:24 says, **..but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,' declares the Lord.**



## Family Info For April

### Meetings

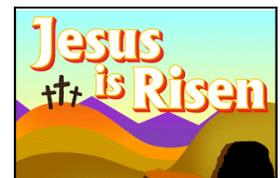
- 4 Benevolence Ministry Team @ 6:30
- 5 Women of Worth @ 9:30
- 9 Missions Ministry Team / Potluck @ noon
- 10 Willing Workers @ 1 pm
- 10 Elders @ 6:30
- 30 Dollar Day

### Birthdays

- 4 Maxine Harris
- 5 Samson Massey
- 7 James Evans
- 9 Chester Kocherer
- 12 Jace Peglar
- 12 Dean Britt
- 13 Sarah Dwyer
- 13 Bud Hall
- 18 Bryan Douglas
- 19 George Blohowiak
- 20 Norman Lueck
- 20 Kathy Lueck
- 25 Megan Terry
- 26 Louise Valeika
- 26 Doug Green
- 29 Steve Mendleski
- 29 Leo Mendleski
- 30 Billie Sue Darr
- 30 Sandy Lloyd

### Anniversaries

- 2 Jack & Sue Schaufler
- 3 David & Susan Nixon
- 5 Chris & Kelley Nosari



Easter Sunday  
April 16, 2017

## 'Cleaning Toilets and Taking Names'

by Eric Dwyer

*"Jesus called them together and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.'"* (Matthew 20:25-28)

Jesus set a standard of sacrificial service for His followers. I wish I could say it is easy to have a servant heart. I wish it was even easier to foster a servant heart in your children or grandchildren. It does not come naturally. While not easy to accomplish, it is possible to attain if we are intentional.

This is the reason behind our recent youth group "Week of Service" during spring break. We wanted to create an opportunity for the youth at CCMH to follow Jesus' command to be servants. Instead of using their week away from school to play video games all day or sleep for hours on end, these students would be doing the type of tasks they stereotypically have to be bribed to accomplish at home.

One day was devoted to climbing on roofs and

cleaning gutters and raking leaves. Another morning was devoted to baking cookies, brownies, and cupcakes to put in care packages for some members of our congregation. The students delivered the care packages (with a handwritten note) that afternoon and introduced themselves and the reason for their delivery (to bring smiles). Still another day was devoted to taking cleaning supplies all around town and asking businesses if we could clean their bathrooms for no other reason than to be a servant. From gas stations to strip malls, these kids humbled themselves. Confused employees had to ask their managers if "some kids" could clean the toilets. Shocked managers walked out of their offices saying, "I must not have heard this right. You want to clean our bathrooms... just to serve?" That's the idea!

From the thank you notes that have poured in the week after our event I know we made an impact in the community. This question was asked often of our students as they took to their tasks. "Why are you doing this?" The answer is simple to say, yet often difficult to live. "Not to be served, but to serve." If you're going to shock someone, shock them with service. 

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

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



Sent With a Prayer to

Non-Profit Org.  
POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit # 35  
Mtn. Home, AR  
72653