

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

P. 3

◆ Your, Mine & Theirs, continued

◆ The Rooster's Crow

◆ Meetings

◆ February Birthdays

P. 4

Preparation for Heaven

Chief Shepherd

Jesus Christ

Pastors

Gordon Addington

David Benedict Rick Schmeski
Don Truitt Bruce Wolf

Ministry Managers

David Benedict Don Truitt
Jason Schmeski Joey Peglar
Louise Addington Eric Dwyer
Rick Schmeski Dick Huett

George Blohowiak

Preacher

Gene McCoy

Youth Ministers

Eric Dwyer

Vanessa Peglar

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

Yours, Mine & Theirs

by Eric Dwyer

This article is not designed to offend anyone. Do I have your attention now? Good. Now that we've got that out of the way, let's get into the topic of discussion. I would like to discuss the family ("focus on the family" was already taken).

It does not take a PHD in Family Matters (good show by the way!) to realize that the family model which most closely represents the Cleavers (also a good show!) is not as prominent as it once was. If you don't believe me, here are some stats from the U.S. Census Bureau on which you may chew:

- ◆ 1,300 step families are formed each day.
- ◆ 500,000 adults become new step parents each year.
- ◆ 35 million parents are step parents.
- ◆ 18 million children live in step families.
- ◆ The number of households with step children has doubled in the last ten years.

This new type of family brings with it a set of questions. One of which is that of what to call ourselves. Many of us have felt the uneasiness of figuring out our relationship status within this family. The labels and names can get very confusing at times. "Do I introduce this person as my 'step mom' or do I just say 'mom'?" I'm sure step parents feel the same way when signing birthday cards. "Do I sign 'Love Dad' or do I just use my name?"

This is a concept not altogether unfamiliar to me. For different reasons, Sarah and I are both step children. She has one full blood sibling out of two. I have three half blood siblings and five step siblings. We are quite a mixed bag. Like many, we stumble through what it means to live out the command of "Honor your father and mother." While I may not be perfect in this myself

(mama tried), I try to be a good son, step-son, son-in-law, brother, half brother, brother-in-law, etc.

In Matthew 12, Jesus was speaking with a crowd of people and his family showed up to speak with Him. Verses 46-50 tell us what happened. "While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone told him, 'Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.' He replied to him, 'Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?' Pointing to his disciples, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.'"

Jesus was not saying, "Those are just my half brothers anyway, so they don't matter or count." Jesus CERTAINLY wasn't saying, "My Father's design of the family was incorrect." We need to be serious about our families, but we also need to remember not to put ourselves under all this pressure in labeling ourselves in our families.

I'm assuming all four of my parents are reading this, since they're my biggest fans. And I hope my extremely cool extended family sees this as well, because I hope they know they don't need to worry how to sign a card. "Dad, mom, bro, and sis" are all good because when it comes to family, we should realize there is a greater relationship we can share in the family of God which trumps any other label.

If you were paying close attention to the name of this article, you are probably saying to yourself, "I get the "Yours" and "Mine," but who are "Theirs?" This is another fun little twist to the family model with which you may not be familiar.

continued on page 3



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

Coming... next month Naked Before God



Next month, the Preacher's Pen article will be a synopsis of a recent sermon. Audio recordings of the messages are available via e-mail upon request.

Gene McCoy is scheduled to speak at the Southern Missouri men's fellowship meeting on Monday evening, February 23. Any man who wants to travel with him is welcome.

Congratulations to Mountain Home Street Rods. Competing against 300+ cars in a recent show in Wichita, KS, two cars built by Rick & Brett Schmeski took top honors!

The *McFarland's* visit has been scheduled for April 23-29

Pastor's Pen

Thank you CCMH.

In the Book of Job, chapter 1, verse 21, we hear Job speak from where he has fallen upon the ground in mourning after getting the news that disaster has struck him in the worst possible way, turning his world upside down. Read verses 13-20. Job speaks; "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

I have always admired Job's example of faith in the face of extreme personal loss. But after the unexpected death of my son, Brandon, I must now decide if I can find the fortitude to follow Job's example of faith. I wonder from where the strength to endure Brandon's loss will come?

Verse 22 states, "In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong."

How did Job do it? How did this man not fly into a rampage, throw furniture, or punch holes in the wall? How did he not wonder what he had done to make God so angry at him? How did he not lash out at God by cursing Him, throwing a tantrum? Or how did Job, in his grief, not think about ending his own life?

Verse 20 says he, "arose, and rent his robe, and shaved his head, and fell upon the ground, and worshiped."

I think this was all that this man could manage to do after learning the devastating news. I think it took all his stamina, all his gumption, all the mental and physical power that Job had left to simply fall down and worship God trusting that the answers would eventually come.

Worshiping God can become a difficult endeavor when grief is overwhelming you. On that first awful and long night Vicky and I read the Psalms, then again the next night, and the next. And each day as friends and family arrived we began to experience moments of comfort and strength. By Friday evening at the visitation, we greeted over 200 well-wishers and gained emotional strengthening from each interaction.

My mother, who had called from Honolulu earlier that same day, inquired as to whether I would do a eulogy for Brandon. I explained that we had not planned on doing one because I did not think I could hold my emotions together long enough to speak clearly. But on Saturday morning, the day of Brandon's funeral service, at breakfast I told the family that I felt strong — spiritually strong. My daughter-in-law, Amber, suggested that I go hide in the bedroom

Touched by God's Hands



and put some thoughts together for a eulogy. She then offered to stand with me. But Vicky suggested that Jason and Nathan stand with me at the podium.

The sanctuary was full of people and the funeral service was beautiful. Gene's message, based in Psalms 27, was a strong and convicting message, full of Biblical truth. I was very pleased that those who attended — my Christian brothers and sisters, my family and friends, but mostly those inexperienced in the Faith — heard a bold message and saw how graciously and lovingly this Christian family of believers not only greets and cares for one of their own, but also how strangers are cared for just as warmly as family.

For this gracious hospitality extended to all and the loving way in which my brothers and sisters in this fellowship allowed themselves to be used by God to minister to me and mine I am most grateful. There is no doubt that the strength to face those dreadful days and to read Brandon's eulogy came from above and was administered through those of you who so warmly ministered to me and mine. Through cards, letters, flowers, food, phone calls, hugs, nods, and especially prayers, Vicky and I have felt God comforting us through you. It is because of these practical things that we know that God not only rules from heaven above, but that His presence is real here in Mountain Home.

Job did not charge God with wrong. Neither will we, because we know that He is here among his people, that He is as real as every hug we received, and He is as sincere as every tear that was shed for us.

I wonder, "Can one actually be touched by the hands of God?" The answer is yes! We have been warmed by Him through the embrace of his people. We have been encouraged through our grief, strengthened through our sadness, and lifted up through our sorrow.

Because of His people at CCMH we know that God truly loves us and that we may trust in the Lord even in the dark times. Vicky and I repeat King David's words in Psalms 27:1, "The Lord is the stronghold of my life of whom shall I be afraid?"

Vicky and I wish to sincerely thank you all for offering yourselves to us and our family as healing medicine during our time of trouble. May God continue His work through you at CCMH.

By Bruce Wolf

Bruce and Vicky Wolf



Yours, Mine & Theirs

Many are aware of fostering and adopting. This is an amazing ministry which will open your eyes to the needs of orphans right in your back yard (even if they are only temporary orphans) and I encourage you all to educate yourselves on foster and adoption ministry and get involved as much as you are able. If you have any questions, I'd like to meet with you over a cup of coffee (or a Chinese buffet) and let you listen to me blab on and on about how you can help take care of "theirs."

Before I graduated from college, the only time I ever heard the word emancipated" was in connection with the Civil War. I did not realize there are youth all over the country who get legally emancipated from their home and end up living with other adults.

This is not adoption or fostering through DHS. Taking in an emancipated teen doesn't have government subsidies. And yet, some of our youth leaders have taken on this task more than once. Recently, Sarah took a displaced teenage girl from our youth group (who is

continued from page 1

staying with friends) to the store to buy her basic hygiene supplies. This is becoming far too common an issue that I bring up so that you can thank those who loved, guided, and cared for you, while considering how you can care for those outside your traditional family.

Jesus said those who do the will of the Father are in the family of God and His command is to love one another as He loves us. We are to treat others the way we would like to be treated. I said at the beginning of this article that I am not trying to offend anyone.

This does not mean I am not going to make you uncomfortable. I offer this challenge. Let's grow together as a family. However uncomfortable it may be, have the conversations you need to have with your children, mom, dad, brothers, and sisters about what it means to truly love each other so that we can drop uncomfortable labels and take the love of God to everyone in need of it. The world is full of yours, mine, ours, and theirs. But we are all His. 

Family Info for February

MEETINGS

- 2 Willing Workers 1:00
- 3 Benevolence Ministry Team Meeting 6:30 pm
- 8 Mission Ministry Team Luncheon-noon
- 9 Elders' Meeting 6:30
- 11 Finance Ministry Team meeting 6:30

Birthdays

- 4 Joey Peglar
- 5 Amanda Pickett
- 6 Tony Snyder
- 6 Colin Reed (Adams)
- 7 Amanda Salik
- 7 Kaylee Crownover
- 8 Mark Hinds
- 10 Daisy Schneider
- 11 Brett Schmeski
- 12 Linda Wisniewski
- 15 Rhonda Hayward
- 18 Rollie Ray
- 20 Forrest Cotter
- 20 Kay Bolinger
- 20 Elizabeth Wickser
- 20 Evie Byrd
- 21 Jack Schnauffer
- 21 Lee Belicek
- 23 Paula Mittermeyer
- 26 Hunt Nosari
- 27 Nick Wisniewski
- 28 Bob Crider

Anniversaries

- 14 Dennis & Barbara Cline
- 23 Brett & Ashton Schmeski
- 28 Gus & Jean Burden
- 28 Tony & Mary Snyder

The Rooster's Third Crow

by Joyce Rhoads

In our Sunday morning Bible Class, we are studying the book of Luke, Chapter 22. The setting is the Last Supper. Jesus is telling His disciples that one of them will betray Him and He will be killed.

And, of course, impulsive Peter asserts that he never would deny Jesus! Jesus tells him that day, before the rooster crows the third time, Peter will have denied Him three times.

Our teacher pointed out what anguish Peter must have felt when the rooster crowed that third time!

Peter is no different than some of us. We think we stand so tall in God's eyes, when we are all but sinners. How good we feel some times about our Christianity!

The Bible tells us in I Corinthians Chapter 10, "Therefore let him who thinks he stands **take heed** lest he fall."

And that anguish Peter felt after that third crow is what the Bible talks about in describing true repentance—our heart being broken from the realization that our actions separate us from the One who died for our sins. And, like Peter to weep bitterly.

Seeing there is a better way to do things and having the will to be led that way is true repentance. It is not simply being sorry.

AND, then, what JOY there is in the moments that follow true repentance! How emancipating is that realization, for sin truly has a hold on us and Jesus is the only way to repentance.

Most of us have not had a rooster's crow to get our attention concerning our sinfulness, but, like Peter, we have done something about it. And, there is Peace. 

“Preparation for Heaven” by Joyce Rhoads

Ken & I were recently in St. Charles, Missouri visiting family. We attended Sunday worship at Harvester Christian Church, a very vibrant church.

The sermon considered life from the Tree of Life in the Garden to the Tree of Life in Eternity. The speaker pointed out that on the eternal line between the two trees, we are merely a speck. One thing became obvious to me. He was talking about our extremely short life now on earth preparing us for an eternity in Heaven! What an awesome concept!

What does preparing for heaven mean? While some people I have encountered make no bones about choosing to go to hell with their ‘partying’ buddies over spending eternity in heaven with ‘church-goers’, most hope they go to heaven.

While these people ‘hope’ to go to heaven, what makes them think they would enjoy it? They have no relationship with Jesus and have no interest in prayer, worship or praise. What would they ‘do’ in heav-

en? The Bible tells us we will be praising, adoring and thanking God.

The godly actions and attitudes we nurture here on earth prepare us for heaven’s enjoyment throughout eternity. Our spiritual character is the foundation for all of our actions. Our acts of service to others is simply a reflection of our heart, a heart beating with love for God and developing that heart of a servant is a life-long process.

The great people of the Old Testament first of all loved God. They had personal relationships with Him. Their hearts were broken the same way God’s heart is broken when those in the world choose to deny Him.

We too, should express our love for God in how we deal with those we come in contact. There is a world of people who need to know of God’s love for them, in Mountain Home, in Arkansas, in the United States and in the world.

We can all make a difference, even if we are a mere speck on the timeline of eternity! 

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



Sent With a Prayer to

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