

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 Rick Schmeski
 Don Truitt Bruce Wolf

Ministry Managers

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 Jason Schmeski Joey Peglar
 Louise Addington Eric Dwyer
 Rick Schmeski Norman Lueck

Preacher

Gene McCoy

Youth Ministers

Eric Dwyer
 Vanessa Peglar

Extended Ministries

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 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

“Do Something”

by Mary Snyder/Joyce Rhoads

Christian Church of Mountain Home for many months now has been exploring the boundaries of “Do Something” for those less fortunate than we are.

A complete re-organization of the essence of the ‘Good Samaritan’ was born during a couple of hot days last summer when our youth experienced a tangible picture of benevolence while raking and pulling weeds.

It continued with our ‘Foster Parents Night Out’ where we provided a night of ‘time off’ for foster parents while we played with their children.

During the month of October, we were challenged to a Diaper Drive for the ‘The Call’. The Call, it is a non-profit organization that rallies the churches to encourage those from their congregations to foster and/or adopt or support those who do.

Our Annual Holiday Dinner, where the congregation comes together to enjoy a traditional Christmas meal, took on an expanded dimension this year. We invited those people in the community that had reached out to us this past year for financial help. 35 individuals accepted our invitation to join us for a night of good food, good music and good company.

Last month, we collected money for Christmas presents for the children and house parents of Show-Me Christian Youth home in Lamonte, Missouri. Christian Church of Mountain Home has been involved with Show-Me Christian Youth Home for many years.

Our Ladies’ Christmas party has long been more than food and presents. We have come together for a meal, listen to a guest speaker and wrap those Christmas presents for the Show- Me Christian Youth Home.

Show-Me Christian Youth Home is a faith-based organization dedicated to improving the lives of children struggling because of circumstances in their current

home environment. Their motto is “We believe every child deserves a home, a family, the opportunity for a better future and an excellent eternity.”

Tony and Mary Snyder graciously volunteered to make the 5 hour trip to northern Missouri to deliver those Christmas presents to one of the individual homes at Show-Me Christian Youth Home in LaMonte, Missouri.

The Snyders met with the Child Service Director, Rachel Reynolds, who did the emailing and planning that connected us with the Hinz family home; followed by a tour of the premises by the Director of Development, Chris Rahnke.

They were able to see one of the homes, where the children loved to show off their rooms. A home may have 8-10 children living there.

They had lunch at the school with the children and the house parents. They all meet at their school for lunch, where the children work in the kitchen, learn to cook and have clean up tasks.

They saw the school and observed how the children are taught. The older ones are trained how to write résumés and how to present themselves during an interview. The younger ones can learn at their own pace and have one-on-one help. The classroom was so quiet one could hear a pin drop. When break came, they met in a big room, like a gym, and it was not quiet!

Show Me Home is a place for children to get a chance to experience a family life with love and care. They have a Bible based home life and school. Praise the Lord for the house parents. It is truly a blessing to be able to provide a little “caring” in the form of Christmas parents for these children.

What lies in the future of “Do Something”? Our prayers are for God to show us how to be His eyes, His feet and His hands. He is always looking for helpers.





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

Are You Serious?

This Preacher's Pen article is a synopsis of a recent series of sermons. Audio recordings of the messages are available via e-mail upon request. The manuscript is available in the Info Center on our website.



Oxford Dictionary defines serious as:

acting or speaking sincerely and in earnest, rather than in a joking or halfhearted manner

As the newest member of the church staff, I wish to thank everyone for the support I see shown to all of us. Thank you also for the very generous Christmas gift for Ken & myself. You are a blessing!
Joyce & Ken

Preacher's Pen

It is the season to make resolutions. It is when we evaluate what is truly important and decide to get serious about it. But the proof of how serious we are about such things is what we actually do about them.

Among the most popular resolutions are those pertaining to physical health (reduce weight, quit smoking, etc.). Joining a health club or merely going to the gym, however, does not produce the results we desire. It isn't until we change our diet and exercise regularly that we will enjoy improved health.

Our primary concern ought to focus on improved **spiritual** health. Are we serious about our faith? How serious we are is measured by our faithful dedication to various aspects of how we relate to God.

Are you serious about WORSHIP?

Worship is life lived to God's glory. Every day. But the Hebrew writer (10:22-25) indicates the assembly of the saints is an integral element in the practice of one who is serious about worship. In this passage are three exhortations, specifically to draw near, to hold fast the confession of our hope and to stimulate one another to love and good deeds. In the interest of Christians remaining steadfast and faithful in keeping these instructions the writer then warns against neglect in the matter of the weekly gathering. And it comes with an emphasis relating to the coming day, which probably refers to the Lord's return. He goes on in the verses that follow to warn about the consequences of falling away, the potential for which is greater among those who forsake the assembly. It is abundantly clear in Scripture that the gathering of the saints on the first day of the week is more important than anything we have allowed to interfere with keeping the supper appointment with the Lord.

Sure, you could draw near to God, hold fast to your confession, and provide encouragement to the body at other times. But that doesn't change what the inspired writer says about the connection of all three to the weekly assembly. And it is highly unlikely that one who habitually misses the assembly in favor of other priorities really has the body of Christ that close to his heart or that he is faithful in obeying these instructions.

The Bible says there is a correlation between our spiritual health and eternal well-being and how serious we are about worship—the weekly gathering in particular.

Are you serious about THE WORD?

Does your life reflect the love and

by Gene McCoy

regard for the Word of God as expressed by the Psalmist? Read 119:11, 103, 105, 148. To truly gauge how serious we are about the Bible, we must go beyond mere knowledge of what the Bible says and evaluate how our lives correspond to its teaching. It isn't how much of the Word we have in our head as much as it is about how that knowledge has affected our heart, hands and feet. The Word should reach beyond our intellect to impact our will and emotions.

Measuring how serious you are about the Word of God, therefore, cannot be done inside the church building. Nor can it be measured in your devotional closet. It is measured at the office, at the gym, in your social settings. It is also measured by your dedication to discipleship expressed through stewardship, prayer and service.

One is not serious about the Bible until and unless its message reaches beyond the theoretical to make a practical difference in life. It isn't mere Bible **memorization** but Bible **application** that measures how serious you are.

Are you serious about STEWARDSHIP?

Since stewardship is an expression of worship, it is a daily concern that impacts every part of life lived to God's glory. A way to measure how serious we are about stewardship is to evaluate how conscious we are that we own nothing. We do not belong to ourselves (1 Cor. 6:19-20).

A good way to determine what a person is sincerely serious about is to examine how he spends his time and his money. What does it say when a person doesn't have or take time to meet with the Lord at his Supper because he has dedicated that time to other people and interests? What does it say when a person isn't able to obey Bible teaching about financial stewardship because he has allocated so much money toward other priorities? This is what Malachi 3:8-10 defines as "robbing from God." How serious is this person about his faith?

Stewardship is not about the amount of your contribution (time, talent or treasure), but rather about the condition of your heart. A primary measure of how much of your heart God has is the level of **cheerful** generosity you display in your monetary giving (2 Cor. 9:7). This provides an accurate measurement of how serious you are about your faith. It expresses gratitude for God's provision in the past, your priorities in the present and your faith in God to supply what we need in the future (Mal. 3:10; Matt. 6:33; 1 Cor. 16:2).

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Are You Serious?

A person who is not faithful in sacrificial giving is not likely to be serious in any aspect of discipleship. Jesus says the way we manage our finances pretty well tells the story about how serious we are about our faith.

Are you serious about PRAYER?

Apostles Peter and Paul urge us to be serious about prayer. Peter wrote to Christians who were soon to suffer severe persecution, "The end of all things is near." (1 Pet. 4:7). Now that, in itself, is reason enough to be or to get serious about prayer! No matter what "end" is in view, Peter says we should "be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer." In traumatic times we are to be self-controlled, temperate, not given to emotional outburst or irresponsible reaction, but of tempered passions, as people who are possessed by the Holy Spirit and secure in God's promise. We are not to be bewildered, confused, alarmed or fearful, but calm, so as to be able to pray in faith. When all hope seems to be lost and the end is near, be calmed in spirit so that you can be serious about prayer. Comforted that God sees and understands our troubles, we may pray with confidence that God has the desire and the power to make His glory known, despite the circumstances.

Paul urges us to be serious about prayer because we are engaged in a great spiritual battle. Waging war with Satan is serious business that warrants serious prayer. Pray all kinds of prayer at all times with vigilance, as a century standing guard to ensure the safety of his fellow soldiers (Eph. 6:18). Furthermore, Paul continues to say that being serious about prayer is to pray for those who proclaim the gospel, specifically that God would provide the right words and grant boldness to say what is appropriate and needed.

Is this how you pray—calmly confident and for boldness?

Compare your prayers to that of Daniel (9:1-19), who acknowledged the sin of the people and pleads for mercy. Do you display appropriate humility and repentance when you pray (v. 3)? Do you address God with due reverence and respect (v. 4)? Is confession of sin genuine? Are your petitions heartfelt (v. 15)? Do you pray with a humble and penitent spirit, boldly confessing your sin and pleading for God's mercy?

Is the faithfulness and fervency of your praying indicative of one who is serious about prayer? This is one indicator of how serious you are about your faith.

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Are you serious about SERVICE?

Another indicator of how serious we are about our faith is how serious we are about serving. Paul celebrates our freedom from a system of law-keeping as the means of obtaining saving approval from God. But in Gal. 5:13 he warns, "Do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another." He warns against abusing this liberty as a means to justify a life of anarchy (no law) or self-gratification, specifically to satisfy the desires of the flesh. Such an attitude is extreme selfishness in disregard of others.

Jesus taught His disciples about selfless service when he took the towel and basin and washed their feet (Jn. 13:5-20). If we are serious about our faith, we will be like our Teacher and Lord by being serious about serving. How serious we are about serving reveals how serious we are about our faith. And how serious we are about our faith is demonstrated by how serious we are about serving.

Peter wrote, "As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God" (1 Pet. 4:10). Paul wrote, "And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ" (Eph. 4:11-12).

We return, now, to Hebrews 10:24, which informs us that part of our service is to stimulate one another to love and good deeds (or service). Spurring one another on in performing service is one aspect of the Sunday meeting of the church. But it is part of our daily worship of building up the body and glorifying God to urge one another to be faithful in serving.

Conclusion

An avowed atheist considered all Christians he knew to be crazy. It wasn't because they claimed to believe in God but that they did not take their Christian walk seriously; that they did not live as though what they **claimed** to be true actually **is** true.

How serious are you about your faith? Are you serious enough to

- ◆ Acknowledge shortcomings?
- ◆ Identify how the Holy Spirit has convicted you about a specific decision you need to make?
- ◆ Repent and reorder your priorities?
- ◆ Seek the counsel of your spiritual shepherds?
- ◆ Gratefully and humbly receive an elder's counsel?

Family Info for January

MEETINGS

- 5 *Willing Workers 1:30*
- 6 *Benevolence
Ministry Team
Meeting 6:30 pm*
- 12 *Elders' Meeting 6:30*
- 18 *Congregational Mtg*

Birthdays

- 1 *Nathan Lueck
Dick Huett*
- 3 *Dennis Cline*
- 13 *Steve Hayward*
- 13 *Monte
Manchester*
- 15 *Judy Truitt*
- 21 *Steve McFarland*
- 24 *Linda Berg*
- 26 *Naylah Massey*
- 28 *Jason Schmeski
Ruby Hinds*
- 29 *Gordon
Addington*
- 31 *Kelley Nosari*
- 31 *Aiden Setzer*
- 31 *Brenton Setzer*

It is with great sadness that we must relate to you that Brandon Wolf, youngest son of Bruce & Vicky Wolf, was killed in an auto accident on December 14, 2014.

We recently learned that Julian Armijo's son, Chris, passed away Sunday evening, December 21, 2014.

Our prayers are with both of these families.

THANK YOU

We are humbly grateful for the very generous gift from the congregation. Thanks to all for the consideration given to us throughout the year, as well as the many cards during the Christmas season. Gene and Becky

Yes, As A Matter of Fact, This is Personal!

Louise Addington

You know how you hear people say, "Now don't take this personally." In this case, I do want you to take this very personally. Unashamedly, and without hesitation, or qualification, I can say to you who are reading this: I love you! Being able to say that does have a precondition for me. I love my Lord. Knowing He loved you and me so much He died for us and asked us to love one another, makes me want to comply with His wishes.

Words without actions ring hollow, so I want you to know what I do for you on a daily basis. (Well, almost daily because vacation and sick days are excluded.) Every day I take you with me before the throne of God in prayer. Yes, you. By name.



"Surely, you don't include me," you may be thinking. If your name is included on our contact list, have had prayer requested for you by a member, if you are new to attending our worship services or Wednesday class and I have met you; then yes, you are included in my prayers.

Not that I am a mind reader, but I am guessing you have a couple of questions about this practice. First, why do it? Examining Jesus, Paul, early Christians and the prophets of the Old Testament, I see a pattern of examples of them praying for those in their care, company and under their influence.

Doesn't it take a lot of time? Well, yes, sometimes it

does. It depends on how I pray. If time is short, or I am in a hurry, not so much as you might expect. I take my cue for what to pray for you from my devotional or Bible reading. Each day I choose a thought, wish, or hope that is inspirational, or encouraging and pray it for you. Days when I know I have the leisure of an unfettered large block of time available, I go for the "fun" prayer adventures.

What is a fun prayer adventure? That is when I join with you before the Lord picturing you in my mind dressed for a special occasion. You may be arrayed in royal garments as a king or queen, or just as easily dressed for kayaking, horseback riding, or picnicking. This sort of praying makes me feel closer to you because I allow you to choose what you want to share with the Lord. You will have to try it for yourself to see what I mean. If you were to observe me during this time of prayer, you would be able to recognize what I am doing because of the huge smile on my face.

Hopefully, by now you should have received my letter asking you to pray for our church family this year. You don't have to pray for everyone by name daily, but praying for even a few each week can be a great encouragement to both them and you. That is, if you let them know you cared enough to remember and mention them in prayer. Try it and see what happens!



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
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