

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.

Change is Inevitable

by Eric Dwyer

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Chief Shepherd

Jesus Christ

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Gordon Addington Don Truitt
David Benedict Rick Schmeski
Forrest Cotter Bruce Wolf

Ministry Managers

Jason Schmeski Don Truitt
Brett Schmeski Eric Dwyer
Louise Addington Dick Huett
George Blohowiak Rick Schmeski
Barkley Terry Forrest Cotter

Preacher

Gene McCoy

Youth Ministers

Eric Dwyer
Rick Schmeski

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

It has been said that the only thing that stays the same is everything changes. Since our God never changes, the Bible links change and earthly activity by saying in Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NIV), "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." It is in this mindset that we announce a change in our ministry team here at CCMH. Vanessa Peglar will be stepping down after many years of dedicated and passionate service to the children's ministry.

Everyone who has worked with Vanessa, whether it be from within our congregation or from a partnering organization, has seen and commented on her ability, her heart for children to know Jesus, and her life's devotion to that cause. We have all benefited from her hard work. The thundering herd that leaves the Sunday morning service for Kid's Praise is a testimony to her ministry. She is still going to volunteer in and be a strong advocate for our children's ministry, but feels like God is calling for new leadership.

Speaking of this new leadership, I am happy to introduce to you her replacement. Rick Schmeski will be stepping into the role of Children's Ministry Coordinator starting at the beginning of 2016. Rick's soul is stirred by children needing to know the love of Jesus. On a recent trip to Cambodia to work with children rescued from slavery, Rick commented on the number of children he came across by saying, "My heart went out to them. I love kids and kids really love me." As someone who has had multiple children come through his home in foster care, I personally can testify that Rick is humbly telling the truth. If the kids were in my home long enough to meet Rick, they took a shine to him. He is a great mix of fun loving,

soft hearted, and Biblically motivated. While being a big-hearted man, Rick also knows how to train and instruct youth. He was not only a youth sponsor for many years, but with the help of God and his wife, Jan, he has helped raise three boys into godly men.

Rick believes a great work can be done not only in the lives of the children God gives us, but also in the heart of their families. He desires to see healthy and God-honoring homes which will reinforce the lessons and activities they receive at CCMH. Rick would also like as many people as possible to have the opportunity to be blessed by being a part of ministry to children.

That's where we come into play. If you have made it this far in this article, I would like



Rick and his granddaughters, Madison and Alyssa

to think it is because you, too, have a heart for children to know the love of Jesus. Jesus was, after all, pretty insistent on children coming to Him and not being blocked in any way. So I urge you to assist Rick in helping children come to faith in Jesus. Ask him for ways to be involved. You could volunteer to transport students to an activity, or

you could sit in the classroom as a helper to keep children focused (It's almost like they're full of energy or something.). And if you know the elementary truths of God's Word, you are more than capable to teach the precious future of the faith.

Let's all take after the example of Rick, Vanessa, and (most importantly) Jesus. Let's have a heart for children and actions that back up that claim. Who knows? Maybe one of the changes under the heavens will be in our hearts, too.





Preacher's Pen

by Gene McCoy

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

Dear Friends,

Gratitude fills our hearts in response to your generous cash gift and all the cards and goodies we received. We are grateful not only for the gifts, but also for the kindness, grace and generosity each one expresses. It is our privilege to serve you and with you. For you we give thanks to God.

Gene and Becky McCoy

Thanks to everyone for prayers and well wishes for Ken and myself. I started chemo and radiation this week. Thank you for the Christmas gift given to us.

I am so appreciative of our church family.

Joyce and Ken Rhoads

ANNUAL MEETING of the Congregation

Sunday, January 10
Immediately after the
Worship Service

Reports, Information,
Business
(in the unlikely event
we need
to do any)
Please Attend!

Conscientious people are constantly engaged in self-evaluation with a view toward continual improvement. Pleased by growth, they recognize there is yet room for more growth. Among the most conscientious people I know are preachers. Mark Engler, a conscientious preacher in Mt. Vernon, MO, disclosed such dedication. He writes that preachers live with the sense that they don't do enough, aren't good or spiritual enough, and don't pray or read enough. Mark also relates the tension many preachers feel as they are compelled to minister to other families all the while wondering if they are tending adequately to their own.

His sentiments resonate with preachers who stand before an audience comprised of his friends and family to declare the full counsel of God, knowing better than all of them that he needs the sermon just like the rest. Is it audacious for a preacher to exhort people to deeper devotion and greater commitment who recognizes his own need for the same? No. No one is perfect. Perhaps no one is more conscious of his sinfulness than the preacher. The faithful preacher speaks boldly with strong conviction while also confessing his need for more consistent compliance.

When he isn't preaching the preacher knows there are more books and periodicals he should read, more people upon whom he should call, more hospital and nursing home visits he should make and more time he should devote to prayer. Genuine ministers of God also live with the responsibility of rightly dividing the Word of God. That is, he is very careful to make sure that he is presenting God's message rather than manipulating the Bible to support his positions and opinions.

Everyone has probably thought that they could have expressed gratitude more, been more patient and gentle, or been more complimentary. We all miss opportunities. I have received great grace from those who listen to my preaching and teaching. Those with whom I minister express their support in many ways. As conscientious as I have tried to be to convey

proper gratitude, I often sit in contemplation of these many blessings and realize I have missed or blown opportunities to express gratitude.

When I am asked questions I cannot answer, I am as disappointed as the inquirer that I apparently have not read and retained enough. Occasions when I realize that my tone or manner was less than gracious cause me great concern and regret that I may have hindered or hurt someone. There will always be room for growth to display greater faith, spend more time in prayer, study, visit, read, encourage, console, teach, graciously confront and correct, etc., etc.

Don't misunderstand. I'm not whining or complaining. Neither am I seeking sympathy. I am merely expressing my awareness that I am not all that some hope their preacher would be by acknowledging that I am not as knowledgeable, wise, patient, kind, gracious and perfect as I want to be. And that makes me even more grateful for the grace extended to me.

I am blessed by a gracious congregation that has been very kind, patient and understanding with conscientious leaders who faithfully fulfill their ministries with humility. And this is one opportunity I will not miss to express my gratitude and appreciation.

Mr. Engler concludes his article with a word of exhortation to people in the church who may be critical of their preacher or who may think their preacher is lacking in sensitivity or compassion for them. "Please know that he loves you and cares for you. He never wants to hurt you even though you might feel hurt. He never wants to neglect you even if you feel neglected. He never wants to offend you even if you might feel offended. He loves you, cares for you, and wants the best for you and your family. . . . He is not good at everything, at every moment, in every situation, but he wants to be."

The preacher joins every sincere Christian to commit to continuing growth in grace and gratitude, study and prayer. May we all strive to be examples others may follow with confidence.



One Thing

Maturity is the goal of the Christian. That is the perfection toward which the Scriptures repeatedly urge us; attaining to the full measure of the purpose for which we have been called by the Lord. This was Paul's aim, as expressed in his letter to the Philippians (3:13-14).

This goal, however, is so big. Like humility, it seems that at about the time you think you have attained it you realize just how elusive maturity is. Like knowledge, the more we attain the more we realize is available. The smarter we get, the more cognizant we become of the amount of knowledge that is unknown. The greatness of the challenge causes some to give up in despair. But giving up is not an option in Scripture. No blessing is pronounced upon one who does not pursue perfection, that is, maturity.

Like many great challenges and goals, it is necessary to break it down into bite-sized, achievable objectives. This focus is suggested in Paul's words, "This one thing I do." There's the ticket to maturity! I need to focus on one thing, always keeping my sights on the goal, the prize of God's upward call. The goal is to be like Jesus. The prize is heaven.

Prayerfully contemplate the one thing on which God would have you focus your energies and attention. Avoid the temptation to make your goals too lofty. Be specific. Take one bite at a time. Identify the first thing you need to do in order to attain a lofty goal.

The first "one thing" to which some readers should commit themselves is the conscious decision and determination to stop being lazy. A friend has confessed that laziness is his big obstacle to spiritual advancement. My default counsel to the lazy and careless Christian is the same as that of the therapist played by Bob Newhart to the woman who feared the prospect of being buried alive in a box. Stop it!

Watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EAIWBhohDp4>

Laziness can lead to carelessness, which is a roadblock to maturity. And to godliness.

Once you have decided, do. Adopt one thing to do.

Almost too obvious to mention is the fact that a key element in spiritual maturity is the reading of God's Word. But, since the obvious is often overlooked, we are compelled to mention it. Just as a physical body

by Gene McCoy

will not mature apart from proper nourishment, the spiritual man will not develop properly unless it is nourished by the Word of God. This must be at the top of your "one thing" list, therefore. Utilize a systematic approach when reading the Bible, just as you would any book. There are many resources for meaningful Bible reading at your disposal. For example, go to www.cccb.edu > Current Students > Resources > Bible Reading Plan to access a schedule for reading the entire Bible in a year. Less ambitious plans are available as a first step toward maturity. If you are not a good reader, consider using an audio version of the Bible. Download the YouVersion app on your mobile device and listen to the Bible. It is FREE!

One thing many Christians could easily accomplish in pursuing the goal of maturity relates to their schedule. An elementary level goal is to make the weekly appointment with the Lord a non-negotiable item. In other words, a first step toward spiritual maturity is the commitment to the supper date we have with the Lord every Sunday. Fellowship in the Word with God's family is a priority practice of the spiritually mature.

Encouragement is one thing all of us need to receive and are capable to provide. The one thing you may decide to focus upon is to identify one person you could adopt for the purpose of providing encouragement. Pray for that person every day. Acknowledge special days by sending a card to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. Be aware of opportunities to compliment and congratulate that individual. Include that person in activities and events. Sit with that person at church events. Look for ways to serve that individual. This focused ministry of taking someone under wing, so to speak, will produce maturity in you by giving you an identifiable responsibility for which you are making yourself accountable. It parallels the maturity that develops as we function as parents to our children.

The "one thing" list is endless. And it is personal. It changes as we mature. Begin small and grow into more challenging goals. What one thing will you adopt as your primary focus to develop maturity in your walk with God? Devoting yourself to this one thing has potential to become a testimony of spiritual development that glorifies God and encourages His people. 

Family Info For January

MEETINGS

- 4 Willing Workers @ 1 pm
- 5 Benevolence Ministry
Team 6:30 pm
- 6 Women of Worth Bible
Study @ 9:30
- 10 Annual Congregational-
@ 11:00
- 11 Elders @ 6:30
- 13 Women of Worth Bible
Study @ 9:30
- 17 Education Ministry Team
@ noon
- 20 Women of Worth Bible
Study @ 9:30
- 27 Women of Worth Bible
Study @ 9:30

Birthdays

- 1 Nathan Lueck
- 2 Dick Huett
- 3 Dennis Cline
- 13 Steve Hayward
- 13 Monte Manchester
- 15 Judy Truitt
- 15 Matthew Sowell
- 21 Steve McFarland
- 24 Linda Berg
- 26 Saleem Massey
- 28 Jason Schmeski
- 28 Ruby Hinds
- 29 Gordon Addington
- 29 Bailey Crider
- 31 Kelley Nosari

Progress

It demands that we do something. It demands that we do something different. It requires a degree of vulnerability -- sticking your neck out. As long as the turtle remains in his shell retreat he never gets anywhere.

Behold, the turtle



makes progress only when
it sticks its neck out!

Let's approach the new year with the mindset that welcomes the opportunity to stick our necks out. Prepare to stretch. Prepare to be challenged. Prepare to take forward steps.

Christmas Came Down by Gene McCoy

On my journey home from our Christmas celebrations with the family I was struck by the number of towns in which the utility trucks and workers were busily taking down the decorations that had, only days ago, been attached to the light poles to mark the Christmas season.

Christmas is the season to celebrate the fact that God came down to man in the person of His Son. He resided among us for a season (Jn. 1:14) – long enough to complete His mission – before returning to the Father, where



He has prepared a heavenly dwelling for His children. Soon thereafter He sent The Other Comforter to dwell in us for as long as we would welcome Him.

Yes, heaven came down when Jesus was born. Jesus is born in us at baptism and dwells within us through His Holy Spirit. God has come to stay, to reside, to dwell and abide in us. That is something to celebrate all year long!

Bible Readers

As noted in the article on p. 3, we encourage the systematic reading of the Bible. There are many good plans by which people may read portions or all of the Bible within a year's time.

We celebrated with those who completed a formal reading plan in 2015 on the first Sunday of 2016. Recognized were

- Louise Addington
- David Benedict
- Becky McCoy
- Gene McCoy
- Jan Schmeski
- Rick Schmeski
- Dorothy Sowle

Acknowledged in their absence were Larry & Ellen Buckland.

As a result of highlighting their accomplishment, one of our elementary-aged young men was so intrigued by the concept of a formal Bible-reading plan that he has asked his mother to find one for him to use! Your Bible reading not only has helped you, but it inspires others.

Our secretary, Joyce Rhoads, has done well to keep up with her duties, despite the fact that she is undergoing treatments to eradicate cancer. We thank Arlene Dixon and others who volunteer to fill in the gaps of Joyce's absences and abbreviated schedule.

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

Meeting Schedule

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

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