

*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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Vanessa Peglar

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**Mexico**

Saleem & Naylah Massey  
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**Ireland**

Central Christian College of the Bible  
Ozark Christian College  
Show-Me Christian Youth Home  
Christ on Campus  
Mtn. Home Christian Academy

**You Choose**

by Joyce Rhoads

Wikipedia defines child sacrifice as 'the ritualistic killing of children in order to please, propitiate or force a god or supernatural beings in order to achieve a desired result. As such, it is a form of human sacrifice.'

Abortion has become so accepted in the last 40 years that society does not think of abortion as the sacrifice of children to the god of materialism or the god of selfishness. Below are some of the reasons WebMD gives for having an abortion. Many have to do with materialism, selfishness or self-centeredness.

- rape
- incest
- physical life of mother
- physical health of mother
- fetal health
- mental health of mother
- elective
- too young/immature/not ready for responsibility
- economic
- to avoid adjusting life
- mother single or in poor relationship
- enough children already
- sex selection

How this generation will be viewed by future generations concerns me. Will they think of us as barbarians, killing our babies, while on the other hand, being militant in our efforts to save the spotted owl or the rain forest? Do we not think human life is more sacred than an animal or tree?

This has little to do with a woman's right to have a choice about what happens with her body. It is more about the total disregard for the human being, which has no choice in an abortion. I wonder if the person choosing an abortion is ignorant of the fact that the fetus has a soul that God knows from conception. God tells us in Jeremiah 1:5, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you' and in Psalm 139:13, 'For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb.'

The issue that surfaces in discussing those having an abortion may be no relationship with the Lord. They may indeed be ignorant of the belief that God implants all of us with a soul at conception. Maybe an answer to that is education. We need to be telling the world why we believe life is a sacred gift from God and that abortion is the killing of a human being.

We have a choice in how we want to be remembered. As Joshua says, 'Choose this day. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.'

Stand with those who oppose abortion as the killing of innocent lives on October 4 from 2-3. Here in Mountain Home, Arkansas, we will be holding signs in front of Peglar Real Estate Group being united against abortion.

Choose you this day...



**Choose Life**



## Preacher's Pen

by Gene McCoy

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

This article summarizes a recent sermon.

### the baptist's prayer

A recent practice that is widely employed is nowhere to be found in Scripture. But there is a biblical prayer associated with salvation. Many will be surprised to learn where and when it occurs.

"Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name." Acts 22:16

Thanks to everyone who helped, the 2015 Prayer Event was a success. The first session was Eric Dwyer, with most staying for a quick sack lunch and the second session with Gene McCoy. The third session was Bruce Wolf. Gene and Becky McCoy provided the music arrangements for the event with a YouTube video providing the foundation. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LmoSvhQqBMo&feature=youtu.be> (a must watch and listen). However, true success for such an event is not measured in how smooth things went or even in the number of bodies attending, but in the number of those that were reached. If we only reached one person and expanded their knowledge of prayer, we have succeeded. We can only pray. Please Join the Conversation. Sundays at 9:00 am in room 152! Come 15 minutes earlier and become a prayer warrior!

In every biblical account of people becoming Christians, they were immersed in water as an expression of their faith that Jesus' death, burial and resurrection is the basis of salvation. The Bible not only contains the fact that baptism into Christ was a prominent element of every salvation event, but it is also very clear in terms of the purpose of baptism. Baptism is clearly a saving event! Those only who have expressed faith in Jesus by repenting of sin and being immersed into Him have been promised they are saved from the penalty and power of sin.

Consider the prayer associated with this saving event—the "calling on the name of the Lord" — which is said as the repentant sinner prepares for baptism and enters into the baptismal waters. Notice first that this prayer should be . . .

#### A PRAYER OF CONFESSION

To confess, in the context of salvation, is to agree with God that we are guilty and in need of divine help. Most people are willing to confess their sinfulness, to acknowledge guilt and need. The Pharisee in Jesus' parable (Lk. 18) was not even willing to acknowledge guilt and need. He was so self-absorbed that his only prayer was to that God he was not a sinner like everyone else. The tax collector, however, hung his head in humility and shame as he confessed both his guilt and his need.

As the repentant sinner descends into the baptismal water calling upon the Lord in prayer for the cleansing and salvation God promised, it should also be . . .

#### A PRAYER OF CONTRITION

David's prayer (Psalm 51) expresses proper contrition. The prayer of one entering the watery grave, where the blood of Jesus covers, blots out and washes away sin, should express genuine regret for sin. This is a godly sorrow that leads to repentance (2 Cor. 7:10). This prayer, then, necessarily includes the expression of repentance and humble submission.

Note that it should also be . . .

#### A PRAYER OF FAITH

Faith is the active response to a command or promise. This prayer expresses faith that God has the authority to forgive sin and can be trusted to do what He promises.

Our assurance of salvation is not in our baptism, but in the promise of God. God's promise to save is given at baptism to those whose faith is displayed by going down and into the water to receive all the grace gifts. Our assurance, therefore, is our confidence in God's faithfulness to keep His promise to wash away, blot out and forgive us all our sin.

Further, this baptismal prayer is...

#### A PRAYER OF PETITION

As the repentant sinner descends into the baptismal water he calls on the Lord in prayer to save him. That is what calling on the name of the lord is all about (Rom. 10:13)!

Peter says baptism saves us in that it is an appeal to God relating to a good or clear conscience (1 Peter 3:21). There is more to baptism than the outward, physical element portraying the gospel; that is, the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. What gives baptism saving power is its spiritual element as an appeal to God for a clean conscience.

Baptism is the repentant sinner's prayer to God, in which he asks God to do for him all He promised. Dr. Jack Cottrell writes, "Baptism saves because it is the prayer of the human heart crying out to God for spiritual cleansing by His grace. . .

Baptism saves us not because it is something we ourselves are doing but just because it is a prayer that calls upon the name of the only one who has the power to save, our Lord Jesus Christ."

Finally, when the repentant sinner calls upon the Lord as he enters the water for baptism, it should be...

#### A PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Baptism is not an arrangement in which the sinner only receives. It is the entrance into a covenant, in which both parties agree to advance the interests of the other. Our baptismal prayer, then, must express dedication to fidelity and faithful service. See James 1:27 and Ephesians 2:10.

Saul received forgiveness and the Holy Spirit, not when he prayed, but when he was baptized. It is clear from this account that Saul was not saved while on the road to Damascus. Neither was he saved during the period of fasting and prayer. He received the gift of salvation when he called upon the name of the Lord in baptism, thereby communicating confession, contrition, faith, petition and dedication.



## Reflections From the Prayer Event

by the Presenters

Preparation of my presentation reinforced several thoughts. Prayer requires more thought, energy and work than many are willing to admit or devote. Two more specific truths are that 1) prayer is more about us seeking and doing God's will than seeking God's help in fulfilling our wishes, and 2) you can never be too reverent or submissive when conversing with God.

People have a tendency to talk more about what concerns them than what concerns God. Someone may well say that God is concerned about matters that concern people. To whatever extent that may be true, the question relates to our starting point. Do we enter our prayer closet with the intent of talking to God about things we think He wants to talk about? Or are we compelled to prayer by our selfish agenda? How much more meaningful and enriching would be our prayer conversations with God if we were more attuned to His priorities and His heart. Are we motivated to prayer more by our desire that God hears what we have to say, or by our hunger for His counsel?

Another lesson reinforced by this study is that the degree to which God is conversant with us in prayer corresponds greatly with the degree to which we are conversant in His Word, the Bible. Those who expect new revelations from God in response to their prayers will be disappointed. He has revealed His will in the Bible. He may respond to our requests in prayer by calling pertinent Scriptures to mind. Or He may grant us wisdom in response to our prayers that will help us make proper applications to specific situations. But He is limited in this by our limited knowledge of the Bible. We should consider the possibility, when it seems God is not answering our prayers, that we have not prepared ourselves to hear it, due to our limited knowledge of the Bible. Gene McCoy

I hope you were as blessed as I was by the recent prayer event. It was exciting to give a presentation and equally enriching to listen to other speakers who were seeking to convey God's truth on this important aspect of our faith. God has spoken completely. There is nothing new under the sun. For thousands of years, people have gone to scripture for answers and examples on prayer. For decades I have listened to Godly men and women use this same text to teach me about prayer. Though I have grown over the years, I do not know everything and pray I never stop learning. The key in the answer to this prayer is often re-learning what God has already said (and what I have already been taught) as new situations arise in my life. It does not matter if the situation is "good" or "bad" by my standards. Whatever life throws

at me, I can call upon the Lord who is worthy to be praised and know He is good and He is more than able. Sometimes the lesson I need to "re-learn" is that God comes through. He always has, and He always will. We hope you take the information given from the Bible and continually apply it to your life as we seek to do the same. Let us all learn and grow together. Eric Dwyer

When Anne Mahoney asked me to participate in this year's prayer event she did not impose any restrictions on me or offer specific topics to speak about. I chose the topic, "Why We Should Pray" because I believe that I have seen evidence among Christians generally that indicates a lack of seriousness in following God's will for our lives.

Some of what I see is hesitancy by Christians to participate in significant church activities; the 20% doing 80% of the work. Another observation is reluctance by Christians to defend the faith both publicly and privately. Another is low participation in tithing; 2% on average nationally is well known. And sadly, here at CCMH, there is very low participation during scheduled prayer times that have been offered by this Prayer Ministry Team.

I do not think that we are bad people. But I do think that we should take time out to review our life's priorities, making sure that our actions actually match up with our words. Answering the most basic of questions, why we should pray, might help us to understand one foundational principle of Christian living.

At the conference, twenty different biblical reasons were offered for why we should pray, the first being to glorify God. Additionally, seven hindrances to prayer were discussed and the question, "How can I have my prayers answered by God?" was answered.

So, why pray? For the Christian, praying is supposed to be like breathing, easier to do than not to do. Praying is a form of serving God and obeying him. If Jesus thought it was worthwhile to pray, we should, also. And if He needed to pray to remain in the Father's will, how much more do we need to pray?

We come to God with our specific requests, and we have God's promise that our prayers are not in vain. But prayer should not be seen as our means of getting God to do our will on earth, but rather as a means of getting God's will done on earth. God's wisdom exceeds our own. A lack of prayer demonstrates a lack of faith and a lack of trust in God's Word. We will never see the results of answered prayer unless we pray. Bruce Wolf



## Family Info For October

### MEETINGS

- 5 *Willing Workers @ 1 pm*
- 6 *Benevolence Ministry Team 6:30 pm*
- 7 *Women of Worth Bible Study @ 9:30*
- 10 *Work Day @ 9 am*
- 11 *Peer Created Planning Group @ noon*
- 12 *Elders' 6:30*
- 14 *Women of Worth Bible Study*
- 18 *Education Ministry Team*
- 21 *Women of Worth Bible Study @ 9:30*
- 28 *Women of Worth Bible Study @ 9:30*

### Birthdays

- 1 *Tyler Bankes*
- 4 *Nancy Rose*
- 4 *Michael McQueen*
- 8 *Joseph Salik*
- 9 *Christian Belicek*
- 11 *Samantha Schmeski*
- 13 *Brandon Pickett*
- 14 *Gus Terry*
- 22 *Jan Schmeski*
- 27 *Becky McCoy*

### Anniversaries

- 1 *Ken & Mary Lou Fortier*
- 4 *Tom & Anne Mahoney*
- 8 *Ed & Susan Srutowski*
- 22 *Forrest & Ivadel Cotter*
- 27 *Norm & Sharon Belicek*

## Looking to the Future-What's Going to be Happening by Arlene Dixon

A busy time of year will be upon us in the next few months. The Benevolence Ministry Team and Willing Workers would like to bring your attention to some activities that will be happening at Christian Church of Mountain Home.

From October 1 through November 18, 2015, the Benevolence Ministry Team will be conducting our annual Food Drive for the **Mountain Home Food Basket**. Any non-perishable food items should be brought to the church and placed in the two boxes under the table at the back of the auditorium. The food will be taken to the food basket weekly. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please make checks payable to Christian Church of Mountain Home and note in the memo section that it is for the Food Basket. A check from the church will be sent when all donations have been received. The Food Basket has the capability of using all money donated to purchase food at a reduced price.

Wednesday, November 18, will be our annual Ingathering. If you are not aware of this event, you will be blessed as you attend. It is a great time for everyone, regardless of age, to participate. We have the opportunity to give thanks to our Heavenly Father for the many blessing He has given to us throughout our lives. It is a time of sharing a devotion, music or thought with your church family. It is also the time

to share monetarily with the donations going to the Mountain Home Food Basket.

Willing Workers will be accepting donations for the **Show-Me Christian Youth Homes** from October 18 through November 18, 2015. These donations will be used to buy Christmas gifts for the family living in one of the Show-Me houses. The Show Me director will give Willing Workers the names of the children and a list of what they would like for Christmas. Two or three ladies will purchase gifts, which will be displayed at the church on Sunday, November 29, so all the church family can see what these children will receive. They will be wrapped by the ladies attending the Ladies Christmas Dinner on December 3rd and delivered to the home. Any monies left over will be used to purchase something for the house. Please contact Mary Lou Fortier or Arlene Dixon for further information.



Start saving your one dollar bills, as November 29th is the last **Dollar Day** for 2015. Submit names of recipients you think have needs to any Benevolence Ministry Team member. 

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



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