

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

◆ **'Worried or Wise', continued**

◆ **Prayer Event, continued**

◆ **Meetings**

◆ **August Celebrations**

P. 4

"Making the

Prayer Event 2015

by Anne Mahoney



"Lord Teach Us To Pray..." Luke 11:1
 It's A Prayer Event! A seminar on prayer has been scheduled for Sunday, September 20, 2015 following our regular worship service. The seminar will include three speakers, worship and prayer, all supplies for workshops, babysitting, and a free lunch.

Guests and public welcome. All ages.
 Reserve your place early! 870-425-8323

Chief Shepherd

Jesus Christ

Pastors

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
 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

Prayer is not an integral aspect of a vibrant life in Christ; it is essential. It is not to be a daily exercise for the Christian, but a constant state of conscious communication with the Father in which we seek His will and express our devotion and trust. Yet some Christians confess they do not know how to pray. And many, if not most, confess dissatisfaction with the fervency, faithfulness and frequency of prayer in their life of prayer.

Responding to this reality in a positive and practical way prompted an annual event focused exclusively on prayer. The first one was conducted on the church property soon after we purchased it and before our current building was constructed. Led by Louise Addington, it was held in a tent near the entrance drive. As this focus became more consistent, the elders established the Prayer Ministry Team and appointed Louise Addington as its manager.

The initial gatherings, led by Gene McCoy, were called "Prayer Clinics." The intent was to use our own people to present the Bible messages (sermons) every other year, with speakers from outside the congregation secured for alternating years. Individuals from within our congregation have led the various workshops each year.

For many of the years after we moved to this new facility in 2010, we have celebrated the beginning of autumn with a Prayer Event. This year our prayer ministry team will be hosting a Prayer Seminar, taking our direction from Luke 11:1 "Lord, teach us to pray".

Last year all residents and businesses in the Mountain Home area had prayer offered on their behalf during the 24 hour prayer event held here at Christian Church of Mountain Home. We received several reports from those who noticed some happening, occurrence or significant positive change in their life following their inclusion in the prayer time.

This year's seminar will begin directly following the morning worship service on September 20th; with a group prayer in our parking lot under the autumn sun, in the midst of the changing color and the wonder of our Lord!

We will open the first session in the auditorium with music and worship led by Gene and Becky McCoy; always a pleasure and inspirational. Eric Dwyer will conduct the first learning session, "An Attitude of Prayer". We always enjoy his message, especially the animation in his delivery. He is such a treasure to our congregation.

continued on page 3



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



from Wrath

This Preacher's Pen article is a synopsis of a recent sermon in the series entitled, "Rescued." Audio recordings are available via e-mail upon request.

We shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him [Jesus].
Romans 5:10

Ireland Missionary Here

Stephen Walton, the missionary we support in Ireland, will be here the weekend of September 13. He will preach & provide an update on our ministry in Ireland. Because of travel hiccups, his trip in August was delayed. But, that might allow Alisa and the boys to travel with him. We look forward to visiting with this young family.



Preachers Pen

When John, who came immersing in the Jordan, saw Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "*You sneaky snakes, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? You must produce evidence that you have repented*" (Matthew 3:7). They had come to the right place and person, but for the wrong purpose. It was not on the basis of genuine repentance or with strong convictions that would change the way they live. Perhaps their intent was to capitalize on the popularity of John so as to maintain control of the people and to retain their respect . . . and revenue.

John called them out in front of the very people they hoped to impress and deceive. "Don't think for a minute that your religiosity is going to save you from the wrath of God," John scolded.

The apostle Paul was equally blunt and direct about the wrath of God. He said, "*The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness*" (Romans 1:18). Paul writes concerning people who know the truth but reject it. More than that, they suppress it. They tamp it down. Paul identifies the cause for this deliberate covering over or crushing of truth beneath one's feet to be a "*hard heart*" (Ephesians 4:18). Some are so rooted in sin and committed to unrighteousness that they consciously avoid and resist the influence of truth, lest it creates guilt. Others live wicked lives openly and deliberately to renounce any claim God has on them. It is a conscious rejection of God by open defiance of His authority. God has revealed His wrath in response to such.

We understand why God's wrath would be focused upon the hypocritical religious leaders and the deliberate wicked. But what does that have to do with me — the sincere, well-behaved, beneficent, church-attending, Bible-carrying, baptized church member? The Bible says all of us have been objects of God's wrath just as much as the vilest of sinners. "*All have sinned and fall short of God's glory*," Paul wrote (Romans 3:23). All of us have lived in the lusts of the mind and were by nature children of wrath, according to Ephesians 2:3.

All people should welcome the means by which to escape God's wrath, therefore. It should be apparent to all that objects of God's wrath are in need of a divine rescue.

Romans 5:8 states that Jesus loved us so much that he died in our place and on our behalf while we were living in the lusts of the flesh, rebelling against His will—as sinners. Paul reasons further by saying that God, who has reconciled us to Himself by the death of His Son, will surely save us by His Son's life (Romans 5:10). We have been reconciled by His death and rescued by His life!

by Gene McCoy

But rescued from what? Paul says we shall be saved from the wrath of God (Romans 5:9). Being justified freely by Christ's blood we have been rescued from God's wrath.

At the cross God expressed His righteous wrath, not merely against sin but against sinners. At the same time, however, He expressed His unending love for sinners by offering pardon and reconciliation to those who would repent. This God did by pouring out His wrath upon His sinless Son instead of us, giving Him to be our substitute, the perfect Lamb, whose blood would atone for our sin. This is grace!

We have been reconciled through Jesus' death and saved through His life. Our rescue from God's wrath is through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Our rescue, therefore, comes when we participate in His death and resurrection at our baptism. Baptism is the demonstration of God's grace, as the repentant sinner receives the reward deserved only by Jesus as a result of Jesus paying the penalty only sinners deserved.

The only way to escape the wrath of God is by the grace of God. And the only way to receive His grace is to participate in His death and resurrection in baptism. Those who have not expressed faith in the Lord by repenting of sin and being immersed into Jesus Christ to receive His forgiveness are objects of God's wrath. The good news of the gospel of grace, however, is that He has the desire and the power to rescue those who are objects of His wrath. That is precisely what He promises to do for repentant sinners whose faith in His blood is displayed on the occasion of baptism.

Just as salvation by grace must be understood in the context of God's wrath against sinners, so must those coming to be baptized demonstrate genuine repentance from the rebellion that created the estrangement from God.

Those who "get baptized" for reasons other than to receive forgiveness need to be confronted with words similar to those of John to the religious leaders, reminded of the fact that the wrath of God is real, has been revealed as focused upon sinners, and that it has been averted by the sacrifice of Jesus.

We have been warned concerning God's wrath. Its reality is not a reason for fear, however, among those who have responded in faith to God's provision of grace by participating in the death and resurrection of Jesus. This grace is received by all who are immersed into His death and raised in the likeness of His resurrection to everlasting life (*see Romans 6:1-11*). He alone can rescue and save. And that He will do for all who accept His offer of pardon and peace by dying to sin and self in the baptismal grave, thereby averting His wrath. 

PRAYER EVENT 2015, continued from page 1

We will break for a light lunch, served by our benevolence ministry team. Following lunch, the second session will be conducted by Gene McCoy, whose spiritual guidance we so appreciate. He will be speaking on **'Prayer – a Conversation'**.

After a small break to stretch our legs, the third session will be led by Bruce Wolf, an elder and leader of our church. We will end about 3 pm with more music and prayer, led once again by Gene and Becky McCoy.



An invitation has been extended to the public and teens will be included in all the sessions. Babysitting will be provided.

We are asking for reservations to be made by calling the church office so we can plan the meal. We are so thankful to everyone involved in the planning and implementation of this event. When asked to help, the answer from everyone has always been, "We will be glad to serve".

We pray for a successful event.



WORRIED OR WISE? – Part 2

by David Benedict, Elder

In the last CONTACT I tried to share information which I hoped would assure anyone who might be worried about how the Supreme Court's June 26 decision legalizing same-sex marriage would affect Christian Church of Mountain Home. I referenced Matthew 10:26 to suggest where we should position ourselves: *"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves."* – NIV.

I wrote in that article that the elder-ship is trying to be wise, shrewd or even crafty (the positive attributes of snakes, biblically stated). We are trying to be wise in seeking to make any changes needed to be protected from possible (though unlikely) efforts someone might make to involve CCMH or our ministers in a same-sex marriage ceremony.

Unlike some states, Arkansas law still provides some protections of conscience in this matter. But we also will make certain that our stated, written policies as a church are crafted (there's that word again) to provide protections against any frivolous and antagonistic lawsuits which could arise from our position. We will keep you informed of any specific changes we might make in our church Constitution, By-Laws and Policy Manual to help provide that protection.

On the other hand—here comes the "gentle as doves" part, we want to be able to minister to homosexual persons who are open to ministry and who want to be seekers after God's will for them as a person. It is entirely possible, and even

likely, that persons who say and believe that they are homosexual will come to join us in our gathered worship, or in some of our small group Bible study settings. Even if we find their interest illogical from our position as Bible-believing Christians, it's not a time for "Katy bar the door" if a homosexual comes to church.

"Gentle as doves" involves providing a welcome which will allow a homosexual person to benefit from the blessing of our worship of a Sovereign, Almighty God, and to be disciplined by biblical teaching. Assuming we are aware that a person identifies as a homosexual, we don't turn our backs—we try to minister to and disciple them. Admittedly, this is a challenge, but it follows the Apostle Paul's command that Christians "speak the truth in love." Homosexual persons, like other sinners, may resist—likely will resist—admitting that they have a sin problem to let God deal with. Sinners often live within a protective wall of rationalization. But welcoming such people (and we are all such people to some degree) within our walls provides the opportunity to proclaim to them the Word and will of God. It may lead to the opportunity for one-on-one counseling on the sin issue in their lives.

Being "gentle as doves" in today's politically correct, militant homosexual world will not be easy. But we will try to move our emphasis from worry to loving Christian witness.



Family Info For August

MEETINGS

- 1 Benevolence Ministry Team 6:30 pm
- 6 Worship Ministry Team
- 9 Women of Worth Bible Study
- 13 Missions Ministry Team
- 14 Elders' 6:30
- 20 2015 Prayer Event
- 27 Education Ministry Team

Birthdays

- 1 Anita Lockhart
- 3 Khloe Cotter
- 4 Janet Pickett
- 6 Dan Mace
- 8 Michael Lockhart
- 11 Don Truitt
- 12 Louise Addington
- 13 Colt Crowover
- 14 Brandon Belicek
- 14 Joyce Rhoads
- 14 Alyssa Schmeski
- 16 Parker Adams
- 19 Richard Hytinen
- 19 Kim Ralston
- 20 Nick Wyma
- 24 Laney Lueck
- 25 Bernie Hill

Anniversaries

- 1 Stephen & Alisa Walton
- 11 Casey & Julie Hickman
- 12 Jim & Irene Lillis
- 13 Bob & Angie Crider
- 25 Nick & Alice Wyma

Baptism

We rejoice with Shannon Holland, who made the decision to be baptized August 30! Shannon & Barry Holland have 2 boys, Wyatt & Connor.

Making the Grade

by Eric Dwyer

When I started writing this, it was the second day of school for Mountain Homies and for the last couple of weeks, Facebook has been full of adorable pictures of children in their school clothes with their school supplies who are getting ready to spend the next month trying to remember everything they forgot over the summer. Some students are nervous about being in a new school, some are already practicing their "I'm bored" face, others are excited, and there are a precious few who are determined. This year they are going to study. This year they will turn in their homework on time. This year, they are going to make the honor roll. This year, they will make the grade!



Parents have all sorts of incentives to encourage their children. The most popular motivation for kids is probably staying out of trouble, but other parents

will pay money for good grades. What drives you to learn? What is your reward? Too many people view learning something to be avoided at all costs because they don't have the time, energy, resources, or attention span. Is learning an exciting opportunity to "grow in a different direction" as Jason Schmeski recently phrased it to me? Perhaps a better question is, "What are you teaching?" If you really want to realize how much you don't know and drive yourself to new depths, perhaps you should consider teaching. In your study of the topic for your students, you will find you are learning as well.

This must be a collective mentality in the life of our congregation so that we are doing what Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 5:11, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." I challenge us all to learn this upcoming year. If the kiddos can do it, we can too!



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