

Contact

Volume 24

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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

Forrest Cotter
David Benedict Don Truitt
Jason Schmeski Joey Peglar
Louise Addington Eric Dwyer
Rick Schmeski

Preacher

Gene McCoy

Youth Ministers

Eric Dwyer
Vanessa Peglar

Extended Ministries

Steve & Rhonda Hayward
Papua New Guinea
Brad & Linda Berg, **Mexico**
Saleem & 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

I'm going to lay my cards on the table right here at the beginning of this article and you can feel free to read further if you want. We attend a really great church camp called Rock Garden in Pomona, Missouri and I want your kids and grandkids to go with us this summer. I know you are thinking, "What makes our camp so great Eric?" I'm glad you asked! Let's compare Rock Garden to King Solomon (the camp I attended in my youth).

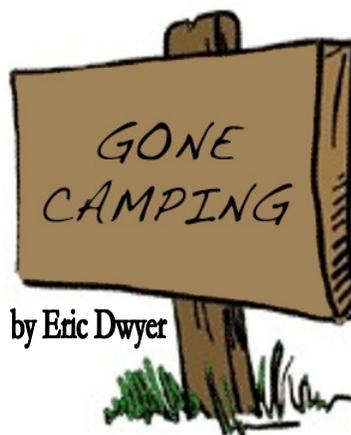
We'll start with facilities. Solomon crammed all us boys in like sardines above the dining hall (girls were above the chapel) without air conditioning in the blazing Kansas summers. If you got there early, you might be lucky to get close to the huge fans at either end of the dorm. We also had to trek out to the shower house every day (well...maybe not EVERY day at Jr. High camp). Rock Garden has air conditioned dorm rooms with showers inside! If you wanted to swim in the pool at camp growing up, you had to take a 15 minute drive by bus to the town of Solomon. This happened twice a week. Rock Garden has a pool on site the kids have access to daily! Rock Garden has an indoor gym in case of bad weather; they have built a new girl's dorm and are in the process of building a new boy's dorm.

Perhaps you are more spiritual and do not care about things like air conditioning or brand new beds. You want to know how Rock Garden will further the faith of your student. This is where Rock Garden, King Solomon, and hundreds of church camps across the country are very much the same. Our camp is staffed with fantastic people with one purpose. We want to take your child deeper in their walk with Christ and having fun while

doing it! Church camps offer a great place to retreat from the world so students can focus on God and what He is trying to say to them. Many decisions are made to be baptized, go into vocational ministry, or rededicate one's life to God are made at church camp and long lasting friendships are made. At King Solomon, after much instruction from my home congregation, I made the decision be baptized and I was given scholarships by camp teams from Ozark Christian College which helped guide my future. Camp teams from Ozark Christian College, Lincoln Christian University, Central Christian College of the

Bible, and St. Louis Christian College will be sending ministers in training to assist us this summer so your student will have plenty of chances to grow and learn. At high school camp we're having a preaching professor from Ozark Christian College give our nightly messages! We will have fun and games too, but the staff the Lord has brought around our camp is truly amazing. The cost is extremely competitive when compared to other camps as well.

A lot of prayer and planning has gone into these camp weeks, but they are merely tools to help parents "bring up a child in the way they should go." Like any good tool, you can't use it if you leave it in the toolbox. I know there are scout, band, and sports camps which threaten to swallow your calendar whole. When you toss in family vacations the summer could get away from you. I urge you to be intentional about send your child to camp. The dates are posted on our website and in the hallway bulletin board. Invest in your child's future in the faith by sending them to Rock Garden!



by Eric Dwyer





Preacher's Pen *by Gene McCoy*

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

Baptism

Kyatalin Cotter

was immersed into Jesus on Sunday, March 23.

Congratulations!

to
Eric Dwyer,
whose anniversary of employment we celebrated on March 1.
He is now in his eighth year of ministry here.

Both partners in a law firm were eating at the local diner when one of them exclaimed in a voice of alarm, "I have to go back to the office right away because I forgot to lock the safe!" The other lawyer said, "Calm down. We're both here!"

A backwoods boy was about to make his first jump as a paratrooper. His sergeant reminded him, "Count to ten and pull the ripcord. If it doesn't work, pull the ripcord for the auxiliary chute. After you land, our truck will pick you up."

The young man took a deep breath and jumped. He counted to ten and pulled the ripcord. Nothing happened. He pulled the ripcord for the auxiliary chute. Nothing happened. As he plummeted toward earth he said to himself, "I bet that truck won't be there, either."

Some days we wonder if we can trust anyone. There is no man in whom we may put our confidence and trust and not be disappointed. But we can trust God (Ps. 9:10; 84:12; 118:8; 62:5-8; 91:2).

Trust is Founded in History— What God Has Done.

God's faithfulness through history proves He is worthy of trust. Joshua 21:45 records the fact that "Not one of all the Lord's good promises to the house of Israel failed; every one was fulfilled." These promises were made hundreds of years before Joshua. The promises made to Abraham were kept; all of them, just as God said. And this He did despite the unfaithfulness of His people, so that Paul could write, "Though we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself" (2 Tim. 2:13).

When the church comes together we worship God for what He has done and for Who He is. We are reminded why we have placed our faith in Him. It doesn't make our troubles and trials go away, but it is an opportunity to regain our bearings. It is one opportunity to encourage one another (Heb. 10:25) to continue trusting God.

At the weekly meeting beneath the cross, we celebrate Jesus' victory in the greatest of all battles between good and evil and renew our relationship of trust.

Trust is Nurtured in Relationship— Who God Is.

The more closely we know someone, the greater is our level of trust. We experience

this in marriage. I have implicit trust in my wife because I know who she is—faithful, loyal and dependable, among many other commendable qualities. I am comfortable talking to her about anything because of our relationship of implicit trust. We care for each other as we care for ourselves.

Distrust affects the way we talk to God. We cannot pray effectively if our relationship to Him is weak.

How would you react if you were on an elevator that got stuck between floors? Some would begin yelling and banging on the walls and doors, hoping to get someone to rescue them. But the sensible thing would be to depress the call or help button on the control panel. When our relationship with God is healthy, our prayer life will be vibrant and natural.

Our relationship to God corresponds greatly to our commitment to obedience.

Trust is Expressed in Obedience— Who We Are and What We Will Do.

Charles H. Spurgeon delivered a sermon in which he said, "The more of faith in him you have, the more of obedience to him will you manifest." This faith is first a recognition of who we are by comparison or relation to Him. He is the sovereign ruler of His creation and we are His lowly subjects, indebted to Him for life, both now and in eternity. Spurgeon also said in his sermon that "a faith which is greedy in hearing, severe in judging, and rapid in self-congratulation, but not inclined to obedience" is "the faith of hypocrites."

It is impossible to trust someone while insisting on being in control. Trust involves relinquishing control to One Whose ultimate power and authority warrant our implicit obedience.

Trust is tested during adversity and trials. Trust will patiently hold on to the promises and ride out the storm in calm assurance. Trust is submissive obedience to God, assured of the fact that He knows the best direction and will guide us to the proper destination. It is the prayer of the Carrie Underwood song, "Jesus Take the Wheel."

Conclusion

When facing trials and troubles you can trust God. Trust Him because He is faithful to keep all His promises. Trust Him because of who He is. By His very nature He is trustworthy. Nurture a relationship of trust. 🌍

Polls conducted by Gallup reveal that the number of people believing in heaven increased significantly during the first decade of this century. Most of these people fully expect to go to heaven. During the same period, however, the same polls reveal a corresponding decline in belief that the Bible is the inspired, reliable and authoritative Word of God. What does this suggest if not that people are being influenced in their thinking about heaven more from secular sources than the Bible? Ironically, but not surprising, the basis upon which many, if not most people form their views of heaven is a materialistic and egocentric worldview in which man's desires, pleasures and rewards are central—a worldview that systematically attacks Christian principles and people. John MacArthur, whose book, The Glory of Heaven, provides much of the basis for this article, writes, "We live in a narcissistic culture, and it shows in . . . accounts of people who claim they've been to heaven. They sound as if they viewed paradise in a mirror, keeping themselves in the foreground."

MacArthur cites statistics showing that more books relating near-death and afterlife experiences are published and sold than all Bible reference books combined. These statistics and poll results are most troubling when it is learned that they reflect not only secular culture but also the church. Allowing testimony about heaven from sources other than the Bible spells trouble. It affects our doctrine—what we believe about spiritual matters. And that has an adverse effect upon what we teach, which has eternal implications for ourselves and anyone who is influenced by our teaching. Worse yet, it affects our theology—what we believe about God. And that is something to which we must give utmost attention and careful treatment.

MacArthur presents an interesting line of reasoning that explains the popularity and prominence of alleged journeys to heaven and back, and some of their doctrinal and theological implications. He reminds us that the Holy Spirit revealed through the writing of Paul to the Romans that the ungodly and unrighteous have willingly suppressed the truth (1:18). When a man rejects the God of the Bible, he must create his own god. And

then he must create his own heaven. When we worship a god of our own making, we become the center of our own heaven. Paul says the man who suppresses the truth, exchanging the truth of God for a lie, will serve and worship the creature rather than the Creator (v. 25).

In the same way that the gods of our own making are far less glorious and holy than the God of the Bible, so is the heaven of our own making less splendid. Our generation is enamored to the point of near obsession by the near-death and out-of-body experiences of people who have supposedly died, gone to heaven, and returned to earth. This interest has resulted in some prominent people becoming involved in superstition, mysticism and the occult, most notably Elisabeth Kubler-Ross and Raymond Moody, each of whom has influenced many through writings and academic lectures. Those who become enamored by and obsessed with back-from-the-dead testimonies may not now be one step away from superstition, mysticism and occultism, but they are certainly one step closer.

By the Holy Spirit's direction, Paul said that what God has revealed is adequate to equip us for every good work. Jude 3 says the faith—the body of teaching contained in the Bible—was once for all delivered or handed down to us. Should we think the Bible is insufficient; that we need eyewitness testimony of people now living to complete knowledge we need about heaven?

I believe heaven is real because the Bible provides testimony of those to whom God granted a vision of the celestial city. It is instructional that there is no biblical account of a person actually going into the realm of the dead and returning to earth to report the experience. The rich man in Luke 16 was told that the testimony of the Bible is all we need; that if people do not believe Moses and the prophets, neither will they believe one who returns from the dead. Yet some Christians clamor to buy the books and promote the movies telling the tales of extra-terrestrial travel as if they are more reliable and authoritative than the Bible.

Note the effect upon apostles and prophets who saw the glories of heaven and how it contrasts with the effect upon those who have reported their stories **Go to p. 4**



APRIL MEETINGS

- 1 Benevolence Ministry Team
- 6 Education Ministry Team
- 6 Worship Ministry Team
- 7 Willing Workers
- 14 Elders
- 17 Property Ministry Team

April 25-26



Sponsored by our Benevolence Ministry Team throughout the month of April.

Cash gifts are also accepted. In fact, the Mtn. Home Food Basket can purchase more food for the same amount of money you will spend to purchase it. Donating money will feed more people than donations of food.

in recent years. Isaiah exclaimed, “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips” (6:5). Ezekiel fell on his face (1:28). John fell at God’s feet as though dead (Rev. 1:17). The focus of all the biblical examples is the glory and majesty of God and the unworthiness of man. John’s vision centered on the throne and the One seated upon it (Rev. 4:2). Paul testified that the Lord dwells in unapproachable light (1 Tim. 6:16). In his vision Paul heard “inexpressible words” which a man is not permitted to speak, being unlawful (2 Cor. 12:4).

None of these actually went to heaven but was granted a vision of the city of God. Their reports are similar in various points. They covered their faces, fell on their faces and bowed in worship, for the focus was upon God. The only focus on themselves related to their unworthiness and uncleanness. It was all about God and none about man. They were struck with awe and wonder.

If we, like these in Scripture, really saw heaven and lived to tell about it, our testimony would focus on the resplendence of God. We would be so enraptured by God’s presence that all else would pale in significance. Into insignificance, in fact. MacArthur writes, “You would be preoccupied . . . with the majesty and grace of the One whose glory fills the place.”

“It is seriously dangerous to listen to anyone who

claims to know more about God, heaven, angels, or the afterlife than God himself has revealed to us in Scripture,” writes MacArthur.

Rather than giving credence to those who market their experiences by purchasing their books and promoting their movies, we should devote ourselves to reflecting the majesty and glory of God as redeemed individuals shining the light in dark places.

We must believe biblical testimony about heaven that

- makes more of God than of man.
- it is the eternal abode of reward for those whose faith has been expressed by repentance and immersion into Christ.
- accepts what God says without the need for human verification or validation.
- is based upon revelation (objective) as opposed to human experience (subjective).
- emphasizes the sovereignty of God and the sinfulness of man.
- glorifies God (His resplendence, holiness, majesty) and humbles man. 

Apart from his Calvinistic doctrine, John MacArthur’s exposé of prominent heavenly travelogues is very good. See the three addenda in The Glory of Heaven, Crossway, Wheaton, IL or a very condensed version at <http://www.gty.org/blog/B121018>.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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