

*A monthly publication of Memorial Christian Church
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
Forrest Cotter
Bill Sites
Bruce Wolf

Deacons

Kevin Cotter
James Darr
James Evans
Gene Frazier
Gene McCoy
Dave McQueen
Joey Peglar
Rick Schmeski

Secretary

Joy Williams

Preacher

Gene McCoy

Youth Minister

Eric Dwyer

P.C.E.S. Day

Dr. Saleem Massey to Preach

Sunday, August 3, has been designated "Pakistan Christian Evangelical Services Day." Our Pakistani preacher, the diminutive dynamo himself, will not only deliver the morning message, but also present an update of our ministry in Lahore.

Dr. Massey's wife, Naylah, and their four children have been living in Mtn. Home this summer as part of the

arrangements made to secure the ministry services of Sabreena, their daughter who is a student at Ozark Christian College. We will be honoring her on the same Sunday with a dinner and a special offering of appreciation. ■



Pastor's Pen
by Bill Sites, Elder

It has been some time since we have updated you on the progress of our plans to relocate our facilities. We regret that, and seek your forgiveness.

The first thing you should know is that a contract has been signed with an architect from Harrison, who is preparing to meet with several of our ministry teams to assess the needs of the entire congregation. Those meetings will then allow him to begin planning and drawing our new facility.

Secondly, as most are aware, our building is for sale, and listed on several sites. The leadership has realized from the beginning that the hardest part of this process could be the selling of this property. Church buildings are unique in their usability and have limited market appeal compared to other buildings. The word was put out 'on the street' immediately after the decision was made to sell, and is now being advertised widely.

In that respect, we know that some

are wondering what we would do if we sell this property before getting our new property/building ready for use. It is our prayer that we might find a buyer who would lease it back to us for a period of time, or that we can work out some arrangement by which we would share the building. This may mean that we would have to revamp/move some of our worship times in order to avoid conflict. This is something we believe can be accomplished, although it may not be the most ideal situation. Another possibility is the renting of another building for a temporary meeting place. We are still considering options on this issue.

Some are aware of the intricate, detailed planning that must take place prior to the first physical work on the building of a single family home. That home takes three to nine months to build in many cases. Imagine what kind of 'pre-building' details that must go into a structure of the kind we are planning. Our building will be larger and must contain multiple applications in order to meet our needs, and then take longer to build. *Cont. on p. 3*



Preacher's Pen by Gene McCoy

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

Additions

Corey Emerson

was immersed into Christ for the forgiveness of sins on Sunday, July 6.

Recognition

Jean Harrell, Master

Gardener, won First Place in Region 9 (10 counties) in the Arkansas "Acres for Wildlife" program. She was awarded a plaque by the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission to commemorate the honor. It recognizes her work in developing part of their property to be a "wildlife friendly" habitat.



It is a question often posed by people interested in becoming a part of our congregation. Some may think we would grow weary with the repeated inquiry. But it actually gives us another opportunity to give an account for the hope that is in us (1 Pet. 3:15).

The question is asked in various ways. The following is merely a sampling.

- "Is repentance necessary to be saved?"
- "Is repentance a requirement for membership in your church?"
- "Do you honestly think a person is lost unless or until he repents?"
- "Is it possible that so many unrepentant people can be wrong and bound for hell?"
- "Can it be true that all the churches that teach repentance is unnecessary are mistaken?"
- "Don't you think it is legalistic to require one to repent in order to be saved and a member of your church?"
- "Do you really think that the God of mercy and grace would send a person to hell simply because he hasn't repented?"
- "Since repentance is something a person does, how can it be a requirement for salvation, which is by grace? How can human works, such as repentance, be a condition for salvation?"
- "The Bible says we are justified by faith apart from works. How can you require repentance in addition to faith?"

Of course, no one has ever asked these questions. Yet there are many passages of Scripture related to salvation that do not mention repentance as a condition or a requirement. (Eph. 2:8; Acts 10:9, 10; 16:31).

Never mind the fact that Jesus, Himself, said, "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish" (Lk. 13:3, 5), because He also said, "He that believes and is baptized shall be

saved" (Mk. 16:16), which we are told does not make baptism essential. If those words of Jesus regarding



a question I have never been asked

baptism do not make it essential, neither do His words regarding repentance make *it* essential.

The ever-popular evangelistic tool, "the Romans Road," doesn't take one to the place called Repentance. The word appears only once in Romans (2:4), and then simply to affirm that God's kindness leads us to repentance.

Among the various imperatives relating to receiving salvation,

repentance is the one that requires the most work on our part. It is a *daily exercise* that demands mental, emotional, and physical effort. On the other hand, baptism is the least exerting. It is only a *one-time event*. The Biblical imperatives regarding faith and repentance are in the active voice, whereas baptism is in the passive voice. Baptism, then, is less of a work man does than is either believing or repenting.

Why is it, then, that no one asks if either faith or repentance is necessary to be saved? Why do people question the necessity of baptism, when it is the least demanding?

Of all the instructions relating to the reception of salvation, repentance is the most difficult for me. It requires the most work on my part; the most thought, resolve, determination, etc. Why would I disparage the importance and essential nature of baptism as being a work of man when it requires the least of me?

Faith is also something I must do or display. And while it isn't difficult to believe Jesus, given His credibility and authenticity, having faith or believing does involve work (Ja. 2:17).

Although I do not anticipate the question ever being asked about the

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Pastor's Pen

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Also, it should be noted that we are in an economic 'slump' where the mortgage market has tightened considerably, and where potential buyers have become more wary of investing in properties.

Further, fuel prices have risen sharply, creating higher prices all across the country. The squeeze has been put on almost all family units, not excluding Christian families. It is more difficult for all families to meet their financial obligations and to stay 'afloat'. Times are tough

and getting tougher.

The Apostle Paul told the church at Philippi, "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you." We, too, feel a strong bond within this congregation. That bond is because of the tremendous love of Jesus Christ, and our desire to work together for Him. Things are tough right now, but we urge you to keep your eyes on the future. There will be many changes, not all of them the kind we'd like them to be. There will be more good changes, though, if we just keep our eyes on the Lord and allow him to guide us

regardless of the situations that may stand in our paths. We will have to bond together even more strongly and work for a totally concentrated effort for Him. Doing so will allow us to see a future of victory for the Lord. We must continue to align ourselves to His will, and put forth our best efforts. The Lord our God will continue to bless His people and He will be victorious. Let us love Him and be part of that victory!

Borrowing from another of Paul's thoughts, your leadership team asks that you remember, "We know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

AUGUST MEETINGS

- 3 Education Ministry Team
- 4 Willing Workers
- 5 Benevolence Ministry Team
- 11 Elders
- 14 Outreach Ministry Team
- 18 Building Committee

Offering of APPRECIATION

Sunday, August 3, is when we will express our appreciation to Sabreena Massey for her service this summer as our children's minister. A church dinner will be held in her honor on that day, as well. Please submit a card expressing your appreciation and, if possible, enclose a monetary gift.

 **ouisiana**
MISSION: SLIDELL
October 12-18
 Details? Ask Gene Frazier or Dave McQueen



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necessity of repentance, I am prepared to answer it. Repentance is no more essential than faith or baptism. Nor is it any less necessary. God did not provide us with a smorgasbord from which we may pick and choose on the basis of how essential we perceive each item on the menu to be.

The Holy Spirit's reply by the lips of the apostle Peter to the inquiry about how sinners may receive salvation includes repentance and baptism. Being connected by the conjunction "and" means that the result of one is the result of the other. If repentance is essential to be saved, so is baptism.

Salvation is God's to give and the sinner's to receive. If we desire His salvation, we demonstrate humble

obedience and submission by simply complying with His terms without questioning whether or not it is necessary. After all, Paul does say (Rom.2:4) that repentance is a natural response to God's goodness. It isn't, then, a work I perform, but a grateful response of faith. Interestingly, that is precisely what baptism is, too! It is the sinner's response of faith in God Who there promises to cover, blot out, and forgive our sin. It is there that the blood of Jesus cancels our debt and that God promises to give His Holy Spirit as the seal of ownership and surety of salvation.

So what is required of sinners who want to receive God's salvation? The answer is faith that responds to the commands and promises of God through repentance and baptism.



Ministry Managers (Deacons) should submit '09 budget requests to the Finance Ministry Team by Sunday, August 31.



315 W. 6th St. Mtn. Home, AR 72653 870-425-8323

Non-Profit Org.
POSTAGE
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Permit # 35
Mtn. Home, AR
72653

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sent With a Prayer to

www.memorialchristian.com

Meeting Schedule

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

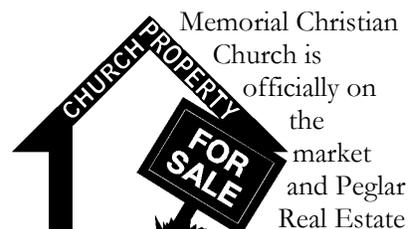
The **LORD'S COMMISSION** is **OUR MISSION**
Matthew 28:19-20



The Master's Gardeners by Eric Dwyer

A few years ago, I had a summer job as a plant vendor in a gardening center at Lowe's. I had done a lot of gardening with my mom over the years (she has quite the green thumb) so I figured this job would be a cake walk. I figured we would put petunias with the other petunias, vincas with the other vincas, ect., and call it a day. Boy was I in for a surprise! We actually had to categorize the plants! We had to separate the annuals from the perennials. We had to sort out the plants that needed a bunch of shade from the plants that could handle a good amount of sun from the plants that needed FULL sun. I found out there is a lot of work in gardening. There are many different kinds of plants. Some plants need a lot more attention than others. Some are more delicate. And patience is a must.

Likewise, there are different levels of maturity in the Christian walk. Some are new in the faith and need plenty of care and water because their roots aren't very deep yet. Some can take the summer heat all day because their roots run way down into the soil and they store water well. As we walk through this life together as brothers and sisters in Christ, let's be mindful of our different levels and encourage one another so we may all be mature in our faith. Let us be reminded of our need for Living Water. Let's soak up as much Son as we can. And may we be perennial, being present throughout the year and blooming as a living sacrifice in God's beautiful garden. ■



Memorial Christian Church is officially on the market and Peglar Real Estate Group is aggressively searching for prospective buyers. The property is currently advertised on several web-sites such as peglarrealestate.com, loopnet.com, homes.com, yahoo.com and our local MLS system. The property is listed for 795,000 dollars consisting of 3 acres m/l. The purchase price does include both church buildings. There is a "For Sale" sign posted on the corner of W. 6th and Dyer. If you need more information on the property please feel free to call Joey Peglar @ 421-1233.