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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

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

## 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

Paul says love does not keep a record of wrongs suffered. I have been keeping a record of a different kind over the years. It has been my practice to make a mental note of blessings received at the hands of people in our congregation. Although I have tried to acknowledge those who have ministered kindness and generosity to me, I know I have missed several opportunities. Frankly, some of the blessings and benefits have come to me anonymously. Many gestures of Christian grace extended to others I have also noted, giving thanks to God for the expressions of Christ's likeness in this body.

The apostle Paul commends Stephanas and his household because they devoted themselves to service—the ministry of the saints (1 Corinthians 16:15). Paul says we are to acknowledge such individuals (v. 18). There are many from the household of Stephanas in our congregation whom we happily acknowledge.

A single parent facing overwhelming challenges of various kinds received significant assistance from several in our congregation. From one party came moral and material assistance, including the gift of a car. From a couple others in the congregation came financial assistance that averted foreclosure on the property.

A retired couple has chosen an austere lifestyle so that they may put aside into a special account a certain amount from each month's pension. From this special account they generously respond to special needs that arise within the body. From it they also contribute with joy to urgent appeals from our missionaries. And they practice hospitality by treating newcomers in our church family to dinner in a restaurant, thereby establishing friendships.

Another retired couple regularly invites several people into their home for visitation and hospitality, achieving the same purpose.

Several—actually more than anyone knows—generously contribute to various ministry opportunities, and that without fanfare or desire for acknowledgement. Many who do not have the financial

resources to expend money will minister encouragement in the form of greeting cards. Several newcomers have testified to the great positive effect of those—mostly ladies—who have devoted themselves to this ministry.

At least one widow not only utilizes the mail but also makes several telephone calls to connect and communicate with all.

A much younger couple among us is usually attuned to service opportunities and leads in many such efforts. They eagerly share their blessings from God with others, too.

These from the household of Stephanas have blessed me indirectly, as their service encourages me to pursue service. But I have benefitted directly, too, as many people have assisted me in various ways.

Some have loaned tools and many have used their tools to help me with projects. I have received assistance in maintaining our swimming pool, which we used to enjoy. More than one brother has contributed electrical expertise, while another has lent his plumbing skills to remedy problems at our house. Some slung hammers to help with construction projects and others have wielded wrenches to maintain my vehicles. A couple have helped us upgrade computer programs and parts (I think they're called components?). Some of the ladies have similarly served my wife by sharing starts for plants or expertise and encouragement in her growing interest in quilting.

As members of earthly families share and acknowledge one another through expressions of gratitude and appreciation, so does the family of God. According to my records, I am a very blessed individual.

None of these kindnesses is reflected in the church's financial reports and records. But all are noted by the Eternal Auditor of Books. Revelation 14:13 says their works will follow them into glory.





## Preacher's Pen *by Gene McCoy*

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

This Preacher's Pen article is a very condensed summary of the sermon, "Confessing Christ," which was presented on Sunday, July 13.

### **Addition**

**Anne Mahoney** was formally acknowledged as a sister in Christ and received into our family on Sunday, July 13.

For many, especially those from a liturgical tradition, confession is seeking absolution through the sacramental act of acknowledging sin to an authorized church representative. Those from a so-called evangelical tradition, confession is a less formal acknowledgement of sin, a statement of humble realization that we need the forgiveness Jesus provided in His atoning sacrifice. But there is more to confession than the admission of guilt due to sin.

It isn't the confessing of **sin** that is our focus, but rather confessing **Christ**. Specifically, that He is the Christ, the Son of God—God the Son—the only One having the authority to forgive sin and to grant eternal life. And that we are incapable, as sinners, to save ourselves but are completely dependent upon Christ's atoning sacrifice and glorious resurrection. Jesus said anyone who fails in this matter He will deny before His Father in heaven. Paul says this confession is a condition of salvation. John says confession is a determining factor in whether or not God abides in him (Matt. 10:32-33; Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Jn. 2:23; 4:15).

The confession of Christ is something we are to make, mean and maintain with the right motivation.

#### **MAKE**

Confessing Christ is a verbal statement that agrees with Jesus' testimony about Himself (e.g., Jn. 14:9). Paul says every tongue will some day make that verbal acknowledgement (Phil. 2:11). Timothy made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses and Jesus made the good confession before Pontius Pilate (1 Tim. 6:12-13; Jn. 18:33-37). We are most familiar with Peter's confession (Matt. 16:13-17). Thomas confessed Jesus by saying, "My Lord and my God" (Jn. 20:28).

Before we may confess Jesus as our Savior we must confess Him as Lord. Jesus said, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord' will be saved, but only he who does the Father's will (Matt. 7:21). Confession is not merely a statement of our faith that He is Savior, but also a surrender of our will in complete submission to Him as Lord.

With the mouth confession is made. But it is with our lives that we demonstrate that we mean it.

#### **MEAN**

The Hebrew writer urges Christians to "hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering" (4:14; 10:23). Confessing Christ is a studied, calculated and determined resolve that

is both intellectual and emotional. Like our love for the Lord, our confession is a commitment of heart, soul, mind and strength. As such, it is not relinquished easily, but is tenaciously retained; not held loosely, but carefully guarded and lovingly embraced.

Confession is not merely a public statement acknowledging Jesus, but a deliberate disposition, the implication of which is that there is a corresponding change of conviction and course of conduct (Henry E. Jacobs).

The words of Elijah to the people gathered on Mt. Carmel serve as a good sermon for those whose confession of Christ is weak, tentative and temperamental. "How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him" (1 Ki. 18:21).

Confession of Christ that results in salvation is a verbal statement that Jesus is our only hope of salvation; a statement that is validated and verified by a surrendered life of service.

#### **MAINTAIN**

The urging to hold fast to our confession necessarily suggests that we may relinquish our grip on it. The Hebrew writer warns Christians against falling away, encouraging them to "hold fast . . . firm until the end" (3:14).

Christians today need this exhortation as much as the Jewish Christians to whom this letter was written. We also need the help of our fellow Christians. Each Christian is responsible to "take care, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away" (3:12). Each of us is responsible to other Christians, to "encourage one another . . . so that none will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin" (3:13).

#### **MOTIVATION**

We are motivated in confessing Christ by the faithfulness of God (Heb. 10:23) and our consideration of others, specifically the lost and the church. Holding fast to our confession is not only for our own salvation, but also for the salvation of others. It is a strong testimony that is effective in reaching the lost, especially as it is borne during times of persecution and threat. (Ex.: Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego and Daniel)

Betty Miller encourages us to confess Jesus in our prayers, for she says Satan also hears our profession of faith in the Lord's promises and confidence in His provisions. The victory we confess in the name of Jesus will put Satan to his knees. Victory always accompanies the confession of Christ! 

## Secretary Selected

Joyce Rhoads will begin her duties as the church's part-time secretary on Monday, August 4. She assumes the role that has been filled on a volunteer basis by Arlene Dixon the last four years. The transition in personnel will also mark an expansion of duties and an increase in the number of days our office will be open.

Joyce will be in the office four hours every weekday. Her duties will include all the current elements of office management. But she will also publish the weekly bulletin and this monthly newsletter, tasks that have been done by the ministry staff.



Joyce Rhoads

A graduate of the University of Missouri, her education was in the field of nutrition and fitness, physical education and child and family studies. Her career in recent years has focused on the administrative duties of a behavioral health concern and a shelter for women and children subjected to domestic violence.

Having managed the office with a staff of three ministers and four administrators for a congregation twice our size, Joyce possesses the skills to effectively fulfill the duties. She also has the personality and integrity of character to represent and serve the congregation well. She and her husband, Ken, have been an active part of our church family for many years. We welcome Joyce now as an employee.



## AUGUST MEETINGS

- 3 *Worship Ministry Team Luncheon*
- 3 *Education Ministry Team Luncheon*
- 4 *Willing Workers*
- 5 *Benevolence Ministry Team*
- 10 *Missions Ministry Team Luncheon*
- 11 *Elders*
- 13 *Finance Ministry Team*
- 14 *Property Ministry Team*

## 24-Hour-by-Hour Prayer Event *by Louise Addington*

God is about to bless and stretch us in our prayer life. A detailed program will be available before the September 12-13 event, but the outline of the schedule below gives you a preview that will help you plan which sessions you want to attend.

### Friday September 12

6:00 p.m. Opening Worship in the Worship Center led by various volunteers, who will read Scriptures, lead group singing, and lead focused prayers. A short video about the Lord's prayer and narrated by Frances Chan will be featured.

Continuous praying for our entire community begins in the Community Room.

Please take part in as much of the remaining schedule as you can.

7:00 p.m. Class: "Learning to Pray" – Don Truitt

8:00 p.m. Prayer Group: "Praying for our Enemies" led by Anne Mace

9:00 p.m. Prayer and Sharing via Skype video with Steve and Rhonda Hayward – Papua New Guinea

10:00 p.m. Prayer Group: "Prayer for Government Leaders" - led by Gordon Addington

11:00 p.m. Video - "God's Heart for Us" Jim Cymbala of Brooklyn Tabernacle

### Saturday September 13

12:00 a.m. Prayer and Sharing via Skype video with Saleem Massey – Pakistan

1:00 a.m. Prayer and Sharing via Skype video with Ernest McFarland – India

2:00 a.m. Videos: "The Amazing Power of Prayer" and "Obedience in Prayer" Jim Cymbala

3:00 a.m. Videos: "The Word of God and Prayer" and "Why Prayer Matters" Jim Cymbala

4:00 a.m. Video: "Creating a Prayer Ministry" Jim Cymbala

5:00 a.m. Class: "Praying Scripture for Addicts" led by Louise Addington

6:00 a.m. Video: "What is Contemplative Prayer?" Testimony from Various Christian Leaders

7:00 a.m. Video: "Inspiring Contemplative Prayer" Historical Examples of Prayer

8:00 a.m. Video: "Practicing Contemplative Prayer" Thoughts on How to Pray

9:00 a.m. Prayer and Sharing via Skype video with Stephen and Alyssa Walton – Ireland

10:00 a.m. Prayer Group: "Praying for Athletes and Sports Figures" led by Ken Rhoads

11:00 a.m. Class: "How to Pray Without Ceasing" led by Amy Lanning

Noon Class: "Increasing the Prayer Power of Our Church" led by Gene McCoy

1:00 p.m. Prayer Group: "Praying for Our Missionaries" led by Hubert Pickett

2:00 p.m. Prayer Group: "Praying for Our Schools and Educators" led by Jason Schmeski

3:00 p.m. Prayer and Sharing via Skype video with Mike Armstrong – University of Arkansas  
"Prayer for the Family" silent prayer with projected pictures of the church family.

4:00 p.m. Guest Minister Ben Merold, Minister at Large with Harvester Christian Church

Message One: "Five Questions about Prayer"

Message Two: "Prayer and Healing"

5:00 p.m. Guest music minister Paul Baskin will close the 24 hour event with a Prayer Concert

You may choose whatever you wish to attend. Or enjoy the entire 24 hours at CCMH. Please plan to spend an hour or more in prayer for our community with the Torchbearers in the Community Room. Names to pray for and prayers to use will be supplied for you. If any item in the agenda is canceled, consider joining in with the community prayers for that time.

Ben Merold and Paul Baskin will also be leading our worship service on Sunday morning. Ben's message will be, "Let's Talk About Prayer." At the noon luncheon Ben's message will be "We Have Prayed—So What?"



## 24-Hour Prayer Event Preview

By Louise Addington

### VISITING FEATURED SPEAKER



Ben Merold is currently Minister-at-Large for Harvester Christian Church in St. Charles, MO. In 2008 Ben completed a 17-year ministry as Senior Minister of this church.

During his 22-year ministry with the Eastside Christian Church (Fullerton, CA), the church grew from an average attendance of 185 people in a single worship service to an average of about 3,000 in multiple worship services.



Ben Merold

In 1991, Ben decided to "start all over again" and accepted the call to become minister of Harvester Christian Church. This was a rather new and very young congregation. Averaging about 200 upon his arrival, attendance at Harvester Christian Church now averages over 3,000. Their facilities include a Family Life Center, an Office Building, a Student Center, a larger worship auditorium, and a Community Lobby/Early Childhood building.

Ben received his education at Johnson Bible College in Tennessee and Lincoln Christian College in Illinois. He

was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree by Pacific Christian College and Los Angeles Seminary.

He is a past President of the North American Christian Convention and has served on several committees of that convention. He served on the Board of Directors at Hope International University and was an instructor at that college. He has taught at Cincinnati Christian University, Central Christian College of the Bible, Lincoln Christian College and more. Ben has been a speaker for over seventy high school commencements and eleven college commencements. He is a speaker for numerous revivals, men's retreats, state conventions, along with leadership and church growth seminars.

His video series, entitled "Principles of Church Growth," has been very popular in the United States and Australia. This series is produced by Good News Productions in Joplin, Missouri. His writings on Church and Sunday School Growth have appeared in The Christian Standard and The Lookout. He writes an article about practical ideas in the Restoration Herald.

Ben and his wife, Pat, travel extensively as speakers for retreats, conventions, and seminars. We are privileged to host Ben, who will speak twice during our prayer event, including the Sunday morning worship hour. 

**Please reserve Fri. & Sat., Sept. 12 & 13 for PRAYER**

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

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Christian Church  
of Mountain Home

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