

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
Forrest Cotter
Rick Schmeski
Bruce Wolf

Deacons

James Darr
James Evans
Gene Frazier
David Benedict
Gene McCoy
Eric Dwyer
Joey Peglar

Preacher

Gene McCoy

Youth Ministers

Eric Dwyer
Amy McKay

New Format Explodes on the Scene!

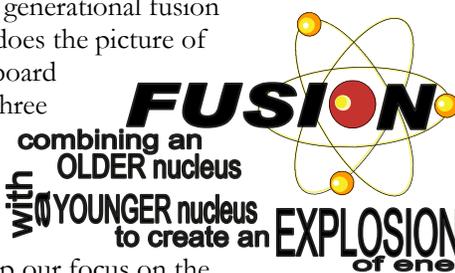
The response to the new Sunday evening format has been encouraging. Seeing a 70-year-old Elder playing kickball and dodge ball with children and teens illustrates the generational fusion we anticipated. So does the picture of teen-agers playing board games with adults three times their age.

While we bask in the early success indicated by these sights, we must keep our focus on the ultimate goal for this initiative. Some may see it merely as a youth outreach. But to do so misses the larger goal which should compel everyone to participate.

Our primary purpose is not to provide a fun and entertaining environment that will attract kids. This is one means by which we hope to achieve the overarching purpose of evangelizing

the parents of the kids entrusted to our care. As the kids see the beauty of Christian relationships between married couples, parents and children, the young and the old, they will be attracted to the Christ, Whose Spirit motivates and mobilizes Christians. As their parents see their kids flourish in this environment, they will come to learn that they, too, may trust God's people and will interact with us in a non-threatening and even fun context.

Please participate in this evangelistic opportunity. Granted, it won't happen quickly. But with persistence and prayer we may experience the blessings of God, Who wants to draw each one to Him for eternal fellowship.



State Convention

The annual gathering of Christians from around the state features something for every member of the family. There is programming for the teens as well as for children in addition to the convention for adults.

David Butts, president of Harvest Prayer Ministries, will bring

messages to help the adults pray more fervently and effectively. President Mike Armstrong writes, "Our focus is going to be prayer. Not the boring and tame kind of prayer that often comes to mind, but the kind of prayer we read about in

the book of Acts — the kind of prayer that shakes buildings, opens prison doors, and changes lives."

Registration forms will soon be available, along with information about motel accommodations. For now, however, reserve the dates and make plans to attend.


Arkansas Christian Convention
PRAYING BOLDLY
April 15 & 16 Ft. Smith



Preacher's Pen by Gene McCoy

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

This article is a condensed form of a sermon preached in connection with Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. The applications related to life issues, and primarily abortion. While we denounce sin, our appeal to the sinner must be redemptive. The sermon manuscript is posted on our website.

New to the Family

Jim Lillis

has formally expressed his desire to be a part of the work and worship of our congregation.

Greeting

Happy New Year! to all my sisters and brothers in Christ. May Christ continue to use each of you as you serve Him.

George & Gloria Rapson

An e-mail inquiry from an individual whose name is unfamiliar to me had the look and smell of a trap. The inquirer wanted to know how I would counsel a person involved in what he obviously thought was a sinful marital relationship common among divorcees. Not wanting to become embroiled in a fruitless argument, my reply was a simple Scripture reference - John 8:11. To the woman accused of adultery Jesus said, "I do not condemn you. Now go and sin no more."

All of us are familiar with problematic life situations for which there is no clear cut, nicely trimmed or neatly packaged answer. With our feigned sophistication has come more complex social problems, many of which involve sinful conduct and relationships. We are incapable to unravel the messes we create. We may apologize and try to make amends, but we cannot undo what has been done. We are forced to face the reality of our sin and our sinfulness.

But there is a one-word answer to meet the reality of our sin. That word is "redemption." It is the essence of Jesus' words to the adulteress. Redemption meets reality head on and with finality. But now let us hear other words from Jesus, this time to His disciples as He sent them out. "Freely you have received. Freely give" (Jn.

10:8). As each of us has received grace we should freely grant it. Let us give ourselves, then, to the healing ministry of redemption and reconciliation (Eph. 4:32; 2 Cor. 5:17-19).

Redemption meets Reality

John 8:1-11

REDEMPTION ACKNOWLEDGES SIN

We must face the fact that our sin has created a cataclysmic conflict between twin elements of God's nature - love and holiness. Until and unless we recognize we have been hoodwinked, hijacked and kidnapped by Satan we will neither understand nor seek redemption. Jesus did not tell the adulteress that what she had done really wasn't so bad. He didn't try to make her feel good about herself. Nor did He minimize her sin by comparing it favorably with sins thought by some to be worse.

REDEMPTION ADDRESSES THE SINNER

It is not possible to reverse the sinful action. And it is rare that the effects of sin can be undone. Redemption, therefore, addresses the sinner and changes his status, standing and situation.

Jesus did not focus on the adulteress' sin but rather upon her. There is a great lesson here for us. While we must

acknowledge sin for what it is, the focus of redemption must always be upon the sinner. Reclaiming the sinner and not denouncing the sin. **Redemption is about reclamation, not denunciation.**

Jesus states (Jn. 3:16) that God's love for us was demonstrated by providing redemption for all those who display faith in His Son. But Jesus continues in v. 17 to say, "For God did not send His Son into the world to judge or condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him." Explaining His earthly mission Jesus said to Zaccheus, "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost" (Lk. 19:10). One of Paul's faithful statements is that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all" (1 Tim. 1:15).

Paul declared that redemption is available for all sinners. To the Corinthian church that was comprised of sinners of every stripe (1 Cor. 5:9-10) Paul writes, "But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God" (v. 11).

Acknowledge your sin and turn from your rebellion. God has promised to wash you clean in the blood of His Son as you are baptized into Him. Let redemption meet your reality today! 

Meet interesting people at church!

Increase your appreciation for the people at church. How well do you know the people with whom you share a pew?

This month's questions

1. Whose house was located 1,000 feet above his mailbox?
2. Who delivered mail in Viet Nam?
3. Who managed the apartment complex in FL where Oak Ridge Boys tenor, Joe Bonsall, was a tenant?

Answers to last month's questions

1. Who has survived airplane and helicopter crashes? B.J. Hank
2. Who worked as a public school administrator? Billie Darr
3. Who used to drive a dump truck for a living? Melva Willard

New Staff Added

We are pleased to announce the addition of a custodian to oversee the cleanliness and maintenance of our nice, new building. Susan Crow, who has been a part of our congregation for quite some time, accepted the custodial duties in January.

The new year also brought two volunteer staff members who are serving

as part-time secretaries. Arlene Dixon has been functioning in that capacity for several months and will continue to serve us two days a week. Also assisting us in this important role is Maggie Allen, who is currently serving one day a week.

Office hours for the time being are 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.



In conjunction with the Arkansas Christian Convention will be separate programming for teens, complete with a speaker and music tuned to their wavelength. A family may register as a unit for the multi-faceted state convention.

In addition to the teen convention will be supervised structured activities for elementary school aged children.

The convention also provides free nursery and care for preschool children.

Midweek Series Resumes

Join renowned teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan as he guides you through the land of the Bible. In each lesson, Vander Laan illuminates the historical, geographical, and cultural content of the sacred Scriptures. Filmed on location in the Middle East, the Faith Lessons DVD series will transform your understanding of God and challenge you to be a true follower of Jesus.

NEXT: 10 sessions on the Death & Resurrection of the Messiah

Being a follower of Jesus does not mean staying away from evil. It means confronting it — face to face — just like Jesus did every single day and through his resurrection. In this set of Faith Lessons, learn how confronting evil can be loudly proclaiming the name of Jesus or quietly caring for someone in need.

Reflections of India

One of the beautiful benefits of direct support missions is the fact that we may have a personal relationship with our extended ministers and participation in the actual work. The team that recently traveled to our ministry site in India has returned with very favorable reports, giving us confidence that our investment of finances and prayers represents good stewardship of the Lord's resources. The multi-faceted ministry that

includes a school, eye clinic, media center, Bible college, a ministry to widows, outcasts and blind children, among others is faithfully and effectively representing and presenting Christ despite hostile conditions.

The team that spent ten days in ministry in India, including the visit to several outlying churches established by the mission, gives its unanimous and enthusiastic endorsement to Mid-India Christian Services — Bethlehem, Inc. The Henrys and McFarlands are faithful servants deserving our support.

FEBRUARY MEETINGS

- 1 Benevolence Ministry Team
- 2 Finance Ministry Team
- 7 Elders
- 17 Property Ministry Team
- 20 Education Ministry Team



An orientation luncheon for newcomers
Sun., Feb. 6
At noon in the CCMH Community Room

Thank You

Dear Church Family,
We can't thank you enough for the prayers and the love you have shown us during my mishap! The food so many supplied was super! Ted Said he gained five pounds last week. We are so blessed to be part of this family.

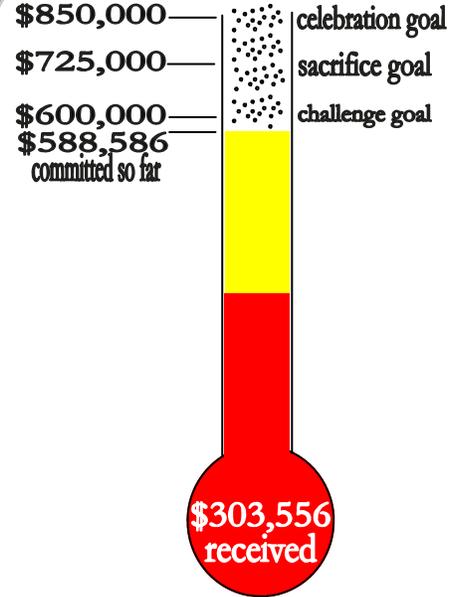
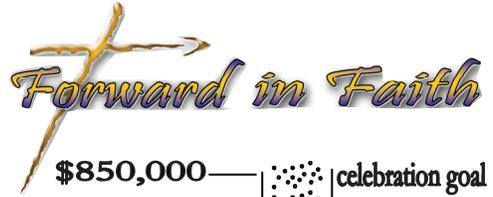
Love,
June & Ted

Opportunity Extended

The capital campaign for our new building was launched with a banquet in the fall of 2009. At that time, all those who were a part of our congregation were invited to participate in fulfilling this grand goal by making their intentions known. When all the intentions were tallied, we fell short of the lowest of three goals by about \$25,000. Some who have been added to our fellowship since then have enrolled in the three-year initiative. We have inched ever closer to the challenge goal!

The building is completed and the financial intentions have been faithfully honored. For this we give God glory and thanks. We would be remiss if we failed to disclose the fact that our debt exceeds the amount of the loftiest of the three goals. This is not an alarm. But it is a fact we acknowledge as we practice responsible and faithful stewardship.

The Follow-Up Team in the Forward in Faith capital campaign is comprised of Rick and Jan Schmeski. They are charged with the ministry of extending the opportunity of sharing in the joy of achieving this financial goal to all who have come alongside us in ministry since the campaign began. They are available for personal appointments to explain the opportunity. The approach is very low key and confidential, in keeping with the Elders' objectives. 



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

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 1365 Eastside Centre Court
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Christian Church of Mountain Home

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