

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
- ◆ Birth

P. 3

- ◆ Church Trivia
- ◆ Curious Economic Indicators

P. 4

- ◆ Forward in Faith Update
- ◆ Defibrillator

Chief Shepherd

Jesus Christ

Pastors

Gordon Addington
David Benedict
Forrest Cotter
Rick Schmeski
Bruce Wolf

Deacons

David Benedict Don Truitt
Ted Banks James Darr
James Evans Joey Peglar
Gene Frazier Eric Dwyer

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

Central Christian College of the Bible
Ozark Christian College
Show-Me Christian Youth Home
Christ on Campus

Company's Coming!

We will have the privilege of hosting friends from our ministry based in LaMonte, MO when Co-Director, Brian Coats and his family pay us a visit on Sunday, February 12. Brian will be preaching that morning. He will also provide an update on our ministry to children.

The Missions Ministry Team has scheduled its quarterly luncheon meeting



for that day, giving opportunity for anyone who participates to learn more detailed information about the role we may play. Contribute to the potluck meal and enjoy the fellowship with our family from Show-Me.



Sunday, February 5
5:30 p.m.

Invite people from the community to watch the Super Bowl on the big screens while enjoying some super chili. Enter your chili in the competition. The winner will receive a night's lodging at "the river house," compliments of the Peglars.

**i am
not a fan.
but a COMPLETELY COMMITTED FOLLOWER.
are you?**

Jesus is not interested in mere fans. He doesn't want enthusiastic admirers. He wants **completely committed followers**

Come journey with us through six mini-movies providing a unique perspective to help shape today's believer into a first century Christ-follower. It is the story of Eric Nelson, a man leading a compartmentalized triple life as a pleasure-seeking rebel,

a cutthroat corporate executive, and a nominal Christian. When confronted with a near death experience, Eric embarks on a spiritual journey that transforms his commitment to Jesus Christ and tests the faith of his friends and family.

We will be preaching the themes on Sunday mornings and providing small group discussion opportunities throughout the week. It begins on Sunday, February 26 and concludes on Sunday, April 1. The midweek meetings February 29 through April 4 will present one small group opportunity. But there will also be small groups meeting in homes during the week.



Preacher's Pen by Eric Dwyer

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



Nick Wisniewski was immersed into Christ for the forgiveness of sin on Saturday, January 21. He and his wife, Linda, who was immersed several years ago, have expressed their desire to work and worship with our congregation.

Birth
Congratulations to **Keith Smoyer**, whose daughter, Sarah, delivered **Chandler Ray Smoyer** into the world on Thursday, January 19.

The subject of suicide is not an easy one to discuss. It is very devastating and difficult to rehash. But if our confusion, pain and feelings of loss are just swept under the rug we will not allow ourselves to heal as a congregation, as a family or as an individual. I never anticipated the need to write this article. But given recent events in our area, I would be remiss if I said nothing.

In November I was about to teach a Sunday school lesson on Jesus as our "Wonderful Counselor" (Isaiah 9:6). Our custom is to begin our class by asking how the previous week went for everyone. One of our young ladies informed us that a boy she knew from school killed himself that previous Friday. He printed three notes before his action. One note was for his parents and one of them was addressed to her. She was the first person he met at the school because she was selected to show him around when he arrived as a new student. He was also to be her escort to the school dance that weekend.

That next Wednesday, another tragedy took place which hit our youth group hard. A family with many siblings was experiencing trouble. The parents do not attend our church but all of the kids have. Almost an hour after the kids were dropped off at home after attending our Wednesday evening activities, the father was arguing with one of his daughters. He then went inside the house, and killed himself. His wife and step son witnessed the event.

Finally, right before Thanksgiving, a college peer of mine also committed suicide. He was a mentor and my friend.

Why do people choose to end their lives

and send shock waves through their loved ones? It doesn't seem to be isolated to one age group, as we have a teen and adults listed in this article. My friend from Bible college was well educated about the Bible and seemed to have a very strong faith in Jesus.

Is it because of the time of year? Studies have been conducted regarding the time of the year most suicides take place. The Centers for Disease Control has published an article on their website stating the suicide "rate peaks in the...fall."¹

Is it because of the culture? The song "If I Die Young" by The Band Perry contains the following lyrics. "A penny for

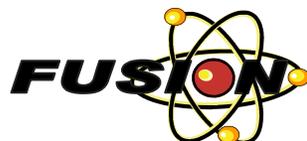
Cast Your Cares



my thoughts, oh no, I'll sell them for a dollar. They're worth so much more after I'm a goner. And maybe then you'll hear the words I been singing. Funny, when you're dead how people start listening. The sharp knife of a short life. Well, I've had just enough time."²

I hope it is not because we have lost sight of the promises of God. It is my prayer that you know you are loved and are not alone. The Bible says, "Cast all your anxiety on [Jesus] because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7). May we remind and encourage one another to be *living* sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God (Romans 12:1). Jesus came that we may have *life* to the fullest (John 10:10). Never forget there are lost souls looking for truth. Peter (1:2:12) tells us to *live* Godly lives among non-believers so they may see our good deeds and glorify God. With the help of the Holy Spirit, let us *live* the answers together.

¹<http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/suicide/holiday.html>
²<http://www.elyrics.net/read/b/band-perry-lyrics/if-i-die-young-lyrics.html>



6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Sundays

Combining an OLDER nucleus with a YOUNGER nucleus to create an EXPLOSION of energy

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. Who, as part of his employment, has dived hundreds of feet into caves, sometimes to recover bodies?
2. Who was a flight attendant who survived an emergency landing?
3. Who was known for owning several old vehicles (not necessarily classics)?

Answers to last month's questions

1. Who flew on several missions to rescue downed pilots in North Viet Nam? Gene Frazier
2. Who worked in a unit caring for Alzheimer's patients? Linda Hank
3. Who worked at one of the first U.S. nuclear energy plants? George Blohowiak

Curious Economic Indicators by Gene McCoy

Are people suffering from economic woes as much as they claim? Is niggardliness when the offering plate is passed really due to their lack of financial resources?

Political rhetoric in recent years has included the assertion that our national economy has not been as bad since the Great Depression. I am neither an economist nor historian, but I must wonder if those who endured the depression are both amused and disgusted by the comparison.

Our concern, however, is the effect such rhetoric has upon a Christian's stewardship. If the grim economic outlook has caused people to pull the purse strings ever so tightly when the offering plate is passed, perhaps some observations are in order to reinforce proper priorities.

A drive down Main Street may indicate that the economy is not as bad as reported. Count the number of storage units in town. Paying to store excess and unused stuff may indicate we have more than we need; including money.

On your drive, also note the number of places where people may have tattoos applied to their body and where body piercing is done.

Also note the number of businesses specifically

devoted to the enhancement of fingernails and toenails.

If things are as bad economically as people claim, how could those establishments remain in business? Some Christians have actually robbed God to secure a tattoo or to have their body pierced and studded. Some spend what rightfully belongs to God to decorate their fingers and toes.

A grandmother in our congregation felt compassion for a young woman who was mourning the fact that she was about to be evicted from her house, that she was not able to make the payment for her car, and that she couldn't take her children to the county fair due to lack of money. The grandmother gave some money to the young mother to relieve some of the pressure.

Soon after, the young mother received a Pell Grant to pay for her educational needs. With the balance the young mother could have paid some of her debts. Instead, she purchased an expensive cell phone and added a data plan so she could access Facebook and the Internet. As you can imagine, the donor was infuriated by her friend's misplaced priorities. Every taxpayer should share her fury.

Our drive down Main St. now leads us to the church parking lot on a Sunday morning. How many vehicles do you see that indicate the people inside are living in poverty? It may reveal, instead, that most Christians who claim they are unable to contribute more to the Lord's work would be more honest to admit that the issue is misplaced priorities.

Don't misunderstand. We aren't opposed to pretty nails and nice cars. But the economic indicators we have observed in our drive down Main St. may have implications that are spiritual more than financial.

Most Christians in the U.S. have not even approached the threshold of sacrifice in their giving. As long as we are paying for tattoos, pretty nails, luxury cars, video gaming systems and recreational equipment, we must admit we are giving out of our surplus. We are the ostentatious religious leaders in the account Jesus related about the poor widow (Mk. 12:41-44).

The reason many people have so little to offer God is that they have made poor choices. If we practiced what the Bible teaches by giving to God before we give to ourselves, we would discover we have plenty left to provide what is truly needed in and for life.

FEBRUARY MEETINGS

- 1 Finance Ministry Team
- 5 Education Ministry Team
- 7 Benevolence Ministry Team
- 12 Missions Ministry Team
- 13 Elders
- 16 Property Ministry Team
- 16 Outreach Ministry Team
- 21 Hilltoppers

WOW

WOMEN OF WORTH

a Bible study for all women

Wednesdays

9:30—11:30

Psalms &

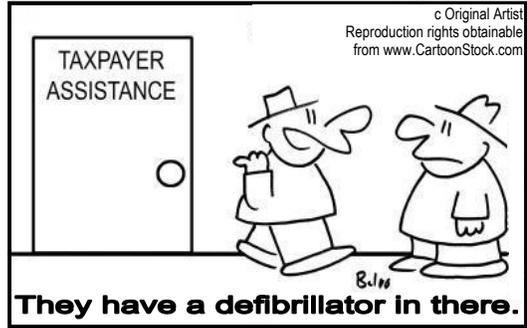
Proverbs

An automated external defibrillator is a portable electronic device that automatically diagnoses the potentially life threatening cardiac arrhythmias of ventricular fibrillation and ventricular tachycardia in a patient, and is able to treat them through defibrillation, the application of electrical therapy which stops the arrhythmia, allowing the heart to reestablish an effective rhythm. With simple audio and visual commands, AEDs are designed to be simple to use for the layman, and the use of AEDs is taught in many first aid, first responder, and basic life support (BLS) level CPR classes. (Source: Wikipedia)



Expressing gratitude to God for the preservation of their brother-in-law's life due to the use of an AED, Dave and Jeanette McQueen have donated and installed the device on the back wall of our Worship Center. Jeanette will be conducting a training session for those who are willing to serve the congregation in this way, if needed.

Receipts for 2011 contributions to ccmh have been placed in the church mailboxes.



Forward in Faith

Contact Rick & Jan Schmeski if you want to participate in the joy of victory in this capital campaign.

Not equal gifts but equal sacrifice

| | |
|-----------|------------------|
| \$850 K | celebration goal |
| \$725 K | sacrifice goal |
| \$611,433 | committed |
| \$600 K | challenge goal |
| \$434,526 | received |

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

Meeting Schedule

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

formerly Memorial Christian Church
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