

Contact

Volume 23

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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

David Benedict

Forrest Cotter Don Truitt
Rick Schmeski Bruce Wolf

Ministry Managers

David Benedict Don Truitt
Jason Schmeski Joey Peglar
Jim Darr Ted Bankes
LaDonna Mendleski

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

CCMH annual meeting

Seasoned with sprinkles of entertainment was the annual meeting of the congregation on Sunday, January 20. Interspersed throughout were jokes told by each presenter and musical treats dished up by the McCoy's and Toby Mac. We cannot guess what Toby Mac would say about the presentation of his music, however. The "boy band" that neither sang nor played, but rather lip synched and danced, presented a rendition of the song that had some in stitches and others in shock. Regardless, everyone seemed to enjoy this meeting more than any congregational meeting they had ever attended.

Overall, the reports from the various ministry teams were positive and very encouraging, as you may see in the synopses provided.

PREACHER'S REPORT

Last year was one of the most challenging in memory. But additions of new people have offset the number of subtractions, resulting in no net loss, either numerically or financially. We praise the Lord for rewarding our perseverance in the face of the challenges. We are now positioned for significant growth, to which we are committing our efforts with the Lord's help, through the "Good Soil" thematic emphasis.

PROPERTY

Compared to the two previous years, last year was quiet. Limited funds & limited participation from team members translated into limited progress. One completed project was the new sign on Commerce Dr.

Volunteers who picked up the slack during the time our custodians were unable to work were acknowledged with gratitude.

Goals for this year include fulfilling some of the dreams listed on the team's "wish list."

MISSIONS

The team was allocated 27% of all undesignated contributions, or \$69,481.20, which was dispersed among ten mission ministries and four student scholarships (\$800 @/semester). When the books closed on 2012, all obligations were met and a balance of \$787.00 remained.

A balance of \$4,928 is earmarked for the Disaster Assistance Response Team

(D.A.R.T.), which is our congregation's partnership with the ministry of International Disaster Emergency Services, Inc. (I.D.E.S.).

EDUCATION

The team is continually strengthening the Bible content of all curricula.

Emphasis has also been on improving security measures, especially in the nurseries.

FINANCE

Total unrestricted contributions were \$255,783. Compare this with \$255,714 the previous year. Total building fund contributions were \$102,633, as compared to \$98,972 the previous year.

Our mortgage balance as of 12/31/12 was \$975,568. This is down from \$1,029,039 on 12/31/11.

WORSHIP

Gratitude was expressed and acknowledgement given to all those who are involved in the planning and presentation of the corporate worship format, including the behind-the-scenes volunteers in the media center. David Benedict began his report by saying, "We enjoy our worship experiences at CCMH. And although worship is no joke, we often have fun."

BENEVOLENCE

Over \$1,800 was donated to needy individuals through the Dollar Day offerings last year. He also noted that several hundreds of dollars were donated to the Mtn. Home Food Basket and other local charitable entities. Plans for the coming year include the provision of a meal for volunteers at the Mtn. Home Christian Clinic.

OUTREACH

This team is on the threshold of developing a new vision and identity.

YOUTH MINISTER'S REPORT

Our ministry is to spiritual orphans—teens whose parents do not attend, much more encourage them. Consequently, our van route extends from one end of the county to the other and sometimes requires over an hour and a half to traverse. The group is slowly growing, both numerically and spiritually. FUSION, C.I.Y., and church camp combine to contribute to the growth and development of our teens and our ministry. 



Preacher's Pen *by Gene McCoy*

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

FUSION
combining an OLDER nucleus with a YOUNGER nucleus to create an EXPLOSION of energy
6:00 - 8:00 Sunday evenings
Through March 24

Notice

On the bulletin board in the hallway of the church building are posted the following items:

- Serving schedule
- Midweek meal schedule
- Monthly financial statement
- Minutes of monthly Elders' meeting
- Contact lists (mailing address, phone, e-mail addresses, etc.)

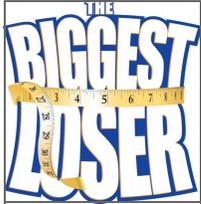
Home Communion

The Lord's Supper is served to those we know are hospitalized. We also serve those who are convalescing at home or a rehabilitation facility who request it by 9:00 on Sunday morning.

The testimonial of a woman who had enjoyed success as a client of a local weight-loss clinic caught my ear as I was listening to the radio ad. She said she was looking for a weight-loss program that fit into her lifestyle. I suppose the woman meant something different by her testimonial than what was conveyed on the surface. But maybe not. For there are scores of people who approach their selection of a church or practice of religion based upon how well it correlates with their worldview or philosophical bias. They are willing to **adopt** a religion so long as it doesn't require them to **adapt** to any requirements that are outside their lifestyle.

There are various ways to lose weight. Some methods are more suited to one lifestyle than another. But the point is that any credible weight-loss plan will require a change in lifestyle as it relates to two primary factors — diet and exercise. Deluded is the couch potato who really thinks there is a legitimate weight loss program that does not demand a change in his lifestyle.

Weight loss plan: sit on couch and watch



Many people, however, shop for a church on the basis of how closely it aligns with their traditions and personal beliefs. Even many who claim to respect the Bible's authority will reject Bible teaching on the basis that it does not correspond to their preconceived ideas or family's religious heritage.

Contrary to their profession, they are more committed to what they believe than to what the Bible says. Their loyalty to family is stronger than their devotion to God's Word. To be completely candid, they want the Bible to conform to their lifestyle. They bristle when it is even suggested that, to comply with biblical teaching, they must make some fundamental changes in the way they think and behave — i.e., how they relate to God.

Lest you think this relates to "the other guy," consider the possibility that you may be implicated, as well. For diet is only part of the problem. The other issue relates to exercise.

Some who have committed to a diet of wholesome Bible teaching and who espouse sound doctrine bristle when they are urged to exercise. They pride themselves in consuming only healthy food that is high in protein and fiber from the Word of God. But they don't get very excited about expending energy to

dispense it to others. Nor do they respond enthusiastically when presented with opportunities to serve. They are satisfied to merely consume healthful food. But they can become defensive when asked to get off of the couch and to trade the remote control for a towel and basin.

We are inspired and encouraged by those who are not afraid to be challenged by the Word of God and the responsibilities of being a Christian. In our congregation is a young woman who has asked us to pray for her as she approaches a terminally ill client who believes she will be reincarnated, according to the word of her psychic. This conversation will take my friend far outside the boundaries of comfort. But she knew when she enlisted as a soldier of the King of kings that it would demand sacrifice, dedication and commitment. She has always displayed the willingness—even eagerness—to be challenged by the Word. Not only is she committed to a healthy diet, but she is active in Christian exercise.

This disposition is characteristic of the good soil about which we are talking and thinking this year. It is soil that accepts and ingests nutrients that produce optimum growth and healthy development. It maintains focus on producing the greatest yield for the harvest. That means we must also plant gospel seeds everywhere we go. This will require a change in lifestyle for many.

Weight loss is one of the most common New Year's resolutions. Only those who accept the challenge of a changed lifestyle succeed. Similarly, the gospel seeds will grow and produce fruit in those who surrender to the Lord and conform to the lifestyle He prescribes.

Reigning champion, David Benedict, defends his title against those dedicated to taking him down.
This year's champion receives a weekend getaway at The Firehouse in Cotter and bragging rights.

Some people may have already dropped their New Year's resolution to read the Bible every day. Perhaps you quit at the first list of genealogical records in Genesis. Or you dozed off on the directions for making the tabernacle in Exodus. Maybe your exit from trying to read came when you ran into all the laws in Leviticus. If, perchance, you did get as far as the opening chapters of Numbers and ran into the census information, it is truly impressive that you are still reading!

For me, learning to read the Bible daily was a long arduous process that took place over the space of many years. See if you can relate to any of these floundering attempts I made early on in my journey:

- Just open the Bible and read random passages.
- Read one verse or chapter a day.
- Read through one book (the shorter, the better) for as long as it takes.
- Read whatever is being preached about or studied in Sunday school.

These haphazard attempts left many questions and more than a little confusion in my mind.

Like many people, I used to think that reading through the whole Bible was only for preachers, and doing it just once was a bucket list goal. When seriously considering taking a stab at it for the first time, I remember thinking that the Old Testament seemed too dry and boring for me to try starting there. If I was going to succeed at all, I better try the New Testament. After all, it is shorter. Finishing the New Testament was like a first date; I wasn't sure I wanted another. Eventually, I conquered reading through the Old Testament, too. It was a bit like drudge work and took a long time. There was no celebration when I finished that, either.

However, one important thing had resulted from pushing myself to do it. Reading the Bible had become a habit. Amazingly, I missed it when I stopped. So I started again and found the most unusual thing happening. With almost every passage I read now, I say to myself, "I don't remember seeing that when I read it before".

Now, whether or not you have gotten to the point of reading the entire Bible, you may have decided you want to try reading it through all in one year. That is similar to taking on Mt. Everest for your first climbing experience; or not conditioning before you enter a marathon.

Judging from the notes I kept during the second time I read through the Bible, it took me about six years to get through it. Well yes, journaling may have been the reason it took me so long, but it can give you a great sense of accomplishment to have notes of your very own on the whole Bible.

It wasn't until 1996 that I undertook the challenge of reading through the Bible in one year when someone gave me a New International Version of *The One Year Bible*. It has portions from both the Old and New Testaments to be read each day of the year. That is a good Bible to read for this purpose. But a better one is *The One Year Chronological Bible* because it puts everything in the order as it occurred in history. The Old Testament is a whole lot easier to understand that way. My favorite one, though, is *The Daily Bible in Chronological Order* because it not only puts things in order, but it also combines passages that are repetitious. It also provides easy to understand introductions to each book. In *The Story*, Max Lucado and Randy Frazee have taken the Bible and made it one continuous story, making it much like reading a novel. It gives an abbreviated overview of the whole Bible.

Hearing on Christian radio about a missionary who had read the Bible yearly for twenty-seven years inspired me to not only read the entire Bible in one year, but to keep on doing so.

Of course some people opt for a Bible reading plan they have run across that affords some variety. By having you read a little bit each day from several locations, you don't get bored. But you may get confused. However, if that is what appeals to you, go for it! The Internet has listings for many different methods, so you can take your pick. And, you can start anytime, not just the beginning of the year.

I can just hear you saying, "But I am not a very good reader." Try the Bible in a pictorial format, maybe as a graphic novel. Really hate reading at all. Then don't. Just get the Bible on tape or CD and listen to it. You can probably download it to your mp3 player, if that's your thing. Last year I listened and read at the same time from an Internet site called *Joann's Inspiration Site*.

Let me encourage you to give the Bible a serious try. It is worth the effort.

I would be happy to listen to your story or to discuss your questions and comments.🌐

FEBRUARY MEETINGS

- 3 Worship Ministry
Team luncheon
- 11 Elders

Bible Reading 101 by Louise Addington

Bible Baseball



The home team, Gail Hinds' elementary school aged children's class, has challenged the adults to a competition on **Sunday, February 3**. Gene McCoy's class has accepted the challenge.

The text to be covered is the Old Testament. Spectators are welcome! Come out and cheer on the home team! Game time is 11:00 a.m. Game on!!

Thanks

Hello church family,

I just wanted to tell you all how much my family and I appreciated your Christmas gift to us. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I love you all and I know we are so fortunate to belong to such a wonderful and generous church family. We can't imagine our life serving the Lord anywhere else.

Thanks again!
Vanessa and Joey
Peglar

Thank you for everything everybody has done in the past year and a half. I have felt your prayers. I will be coming soon to the church to visit.

Dakota Hill

A Day to Pray for our nation

Gov. Mike Huckabee invited the nation to pray for our country on Sunday, January 20.
Hubert Pickett led our congregation in this prayer.

"With thanksgiving, Lord, we stand before you today lifting up our leaders and authorities. May we, each one, do this expecting results. We thank you for the stewardship as citizens of this country. As Your church, we are obligated to be an example to the world. It is for this reason, we bring our leaders before Your Throne. Who is like You, Oh Lord, that understands the hearts of men. We implore You to intervene in their hearts, to apply some sort of pressure, to arouse their conscience and make Yourself known to them. May we love them enough to be concerned about their eternal condition.

Sometimes, Lord, we are so irritated with the sinful direction they take our nation that we forget they are sinners separated from You, doomed eternally unless they repent and turn to Your Son, Jesus. He sacrificed Himself

on the Cross for them as much as for us.

We seek for Your influence in our leaders' lives and decisions. Remind us that Your plan includes them — even the evil ones.

We do not thank them for the sin they commit. But we do thank You, Lord, that, in Your plan and in Your wisdom, You have chosen to lift them up into leadership. May we, Lord, not falter in our important stewardship of prayer.

You are a God who uses broken things; broken soil to produce a crop; broken clouds to give rain; broken grain to give bread; broken bread to give strength. You have authority over nature and nations. You can change times and seasons. You set up kings and depose them. You give wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. You use those who choose not to be used to bring about Your

purposes. I must admit, Your way of working is not always obvious; not always stunning. But Your power and Your influence is absolutely absolute.

May our leaders face the truth. But if they are unwilling to do so, Lord, pursue them until their attention is caught. Pursue them with relentless determination.

May our leaders see their position and power as a trust to be exercised with stewardship for the benefit of others and not as an end in itself. May those who exercise authority acknowledge that You are the ultimate source of all power and influence. May those who lead live with the truth that You give positions and power and You will hold each accountable. May all see You, Lord, as a God who is not cruel, not distant or unconcerned, but as a God who loves; and gave His Only Son to call us family in His Name. Amen.

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

Meeting Schedule
Wednesday Evening 9:30 Supper
Sunday Morning 11:00 Bible Classes
6:30 Bible Classes

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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