

*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

## ***American Rehabilitation Ministries***

ARM sends tremendous amounts of evangelizing and nurturing resources to prisons across America every week. Since 1973, ARM has placed over 1,400 baptisteries in prisons in the US. Selected by the American Bible Society as its exclusive distribution center for prison Bibles, ARM sent a daily average of 320 copies of the Word of God to American jails in 2009. Last year over 32,000 FREE comprehensive Bible correspondence courses were mailed to prisoners -- and their spouses -- who are hungering and thirsting for the Word of God. That's an average of 88 every day -- with 36 NEW student-inmates enrolled every day! Partnering with DaySpring Christian Greeting Card Company, ARM sent a daily average of OVER 12,000 Christian greeting cards to inmates in 2009!

Manual Noriega, former Dictator of Panama, may be the most famous prisoner immersed in an ARM baptistery, but it is estimated that some 65,000 believers are immersed into Christ in ARM baptisteries each year. In addition to our stateside prison work, ARM has placed baptisteries in almost 100 foreign mission fields from Albania to Pakistan to Zimbabwe.

Rod will be preaching for us on Sunday, January 9. He will also make a multi-media presentation of American Rehabilitation Ministries to the adult and youth Bible classes.



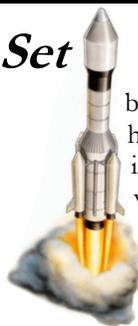
**Rod Farthing,**  
Development  
Director for ARM  
Prison Outreach

## ***Launch Date Set***

*by Eric Dwyer*

"Fusion," our evening family activity on Sundays from 6-8 p.m., will begin on January 16<sup>th</sup>. We decided to take a couple weeks to catch our breath from the recent flurry of activities. WHEW! So use this time to tell your friends, neighbors, and families with children of all ages about this opportunity we are providing for the community.

There may be some who still have questions about Fusion. You know we are trying to reach out to kids



but may wonder how you can get involved and what the impact will be. I will answer your questions with a story.

The cast for our Two for Noel presentation was sitting in the youth room getting ready for our final show. We could hear kids in another room sounding like stampeding buffalo. One of the cast members went to investigate the ruckus.

There was a lot of noise and running around. He even said there was a child standing on a table. He was able to tell them this was not appropriate behavior. The kids continued to have fun, but it was a more controlled fun, thanks to some guidance from a Jesus-loving authority figure. At least we were no longer able to hear them clearly through the walls!

Kids have so much energy. If you have worked

*cont. on p. 3*



## Preacher's Pen by Gene McCoy

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

### Baptism

**Susan "Candi" Wallwin**

was baptized into Jesus on Thursday, December 16.

### New to the Family

We welcomed **Linda Dupureur** to the work and worship here on Sunday, December 5. She comes to us as an immersed believer in Jesus.

### Thank You

I want to thank everyone at Christian Church of Mountain Home for making me feel so welcome. I already feel a part of your church.

Thanks so very much.  
Linda Dupureur

We received a card from the Mtn. Home Food Basket thanking you for our contributions of food and money through the year.

In April of 1993 I preached a sermon among a series of three when our congregation was considering my employment. The thesis of that message, as true today as it was then, is the fact that what a church needs is not more *members* but rather more *ministers*.

One of the principles supporting that thesis is the fact that any organization is limited in size and productivity by the scope of the leaders' ability to manage the people and resources. I cannot recall the statistics or the figures, but it would require an extremely gifted leader to effect and oversee the growth of a congregation beyond our current size, especially in our culture dominated by consumer-minded people (a.k.a. church customers).

The biblical principle is expressed in Eph. 4:12. God gave to the church various people whose purpose is to equip Christians for the work of service. The goal is the building up of the body of Christ. The building up in this Scripture is spiritual rather than numerical. The thesis of my sermon is supported just the same, however. Our primary purpose is not to add members to our congregation but to raise up and equip ministers to do the work of serving. Our goal is not to bring more customers into our congregation to consume

the services we offer, but rather to recruit more disciples who will eagerly submit to a systematic and intentional training regimen to become more effective and productive servants.

But the consumer mentality constantly challenges the attempts of responsible church leaders to fulfill their commission.



That the focus of many is upon customer satisfaction rather than training for service is evidenced by the things about which they grouse. They usually reveal self-absorption. This, in itself, mitigates against the Lord's commission to make disciples.

One reason a church stagnates at a numerical plateau is that the current leaders have reached the capacity of their ability or willingness to manage the people or resources. It may also be attributed to the fact that any given leader is going to be effective with only a limited number of people. The reality is that each of us relates well and responds favorably to a certain management style. So the fewer styles and personalities represented among the leaders in a group the more limited will be the growth of that organization. In either scenario, the conclusion is

the same. We need more ministers.

Our experience is not unique or isolated, which is no consolation. Every congregation always needs more ministers — more people who are intent upon serving the body to build it up. These servants are needed at every level. But I am addressing the need for more men who will prepare for leadership roles.

Since we first identified eight areas of church life for which deacons were needed, there have been only rare periods during which we have had a full complement of such servants. For over a year, the preacher and youth minister have functioned in that role, as has one Elder. Three of the eight ministry teams are being led by men who already hold another demanding leadership role in the church. This could be tenable if there were men in the process of preparing to assume the duties. But such is not the case in our congregation. This should prompt grave concern and be a matter of ardent prayer as we consider the implications regarding the long-term health of the congregation. This is especially true in view of the fact that these men, now serving by default, are over-extended. The growth and health of our congregation is compromised and hindered by the dearth of qualified ministry leaders.

*cont. on p. 3*

## 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 has survived airplane and helicopter crashes?
2. Who worked as a public school administrator?
3. Who used to drive a dump truck for a living?

### Answers to last month's questions

- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| 1. Whose husband had access to the Oval Office and awoke the president on at least one occasion? | Kay Bolinger |
| 2. Who has been employed to make canes out of tree roots?  | Jerry Rose   |
| 3. Who is a son of the American Revolution?  | Joe Harrell  |



### NEEDS cont. from p. 2

Adding new members to the congregation without the benefit of capable and willing deacons to take responsibility in employing them in ministry is to build a house of cards that will collapse beneath its own weight as consumers grow discontent by the inability of the congregation to provide whatever they think they need. If the trend of recent years continues, in which we have seen a decline in the number of deacons, our congregation will be more ill-equipped to nurture a body that serves.

This is not an appeal for men motivated by guilt to step into this office. One should satisfy the biblical standard before assuming the office. But it is an appeal for more men to seriously pursue leadership roles in the congregation by becoming intentional in Bible instruction and deliberate about on-the-job training.

The solution in the minds of some is to hire more staff members to do this work. Even if we could afford more salaries, that would not relieve us from the teaching of Eph. 4:12! Rather than *staff* up we need to *man* up.

I challenge men having the potential to

qualify for leadership offices to actively pursue such functions. Participate in a serious course of Bible instruction and study so as to become more knowledgeable and adept in using the Scriptures to teach others. Become involved in a ministry team that does not currently have a “dedicated” deacon — one who is not distracted by other leadership duties that warrant his full attention. Take initiative to learn from those now doing the job and offer to serve as an apprentice until you become biblically qualified and adequately equipped. Ask the Elder liaison for a ministry team needing leadership to mentor and groom you for that role.

Make the ongoing strength and stability of our congregation your personal interest and responsibility right now as you train for leadership service. The congregation will not grow above and beyond the ability of the leaders to manage. Nor will it rise above the level of the leaders’ maturity in Bible knowledge and spiritual judgment. The future of this congregation depends upon the next generation of leaders. Who will they be? We must not wait until tomorrow to identify them!



### Launch cont. from p. 1

with our children’s ministry, you know what I mean. They are Energizer Bunnies! If left unchecked, this energy could be wasted in creating a mess. The kids could embarrass themselves, their parents, or the church with their behavior. If we could come alongside this energy and give it a healthy dose of

Christian maturity, there is no telling what amazing things God can do. Just like the cast member reminding the kids they were not animals in a zoo, we hope to steer these children in a loving way toward a life that honors our Savior and have fun in the process! It could be as simple as making snacks to serve, playing a board game, playing a video game, monitoring the halls,

or cleaning up afterward.

There will be announcements on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights with more information! Call, e-mail, or stick a note in my box with your questions and suggestions. We have already had some great ideas by folks hoping to volunteer! Keep praying for Fusion!



## JANUARY MEETINGS

- 4 Benevolence Ministry Team
- 5 Finance Ministry Team
- 9 Family Life Ministry Team
- 10 Elders
- 20 Outreach Ministry Team
- 21 Building Committee
- 23 Missions Ministry Team



Celebrate on

## Perfect Attendance Sunday

January 2, 2011.

Everyone present on that day may celebrate their perfect attendance at church in the year 2011!

Please pray for the productive ministry and safe travel of our team visiting our mission in India January 2-14. Team members are

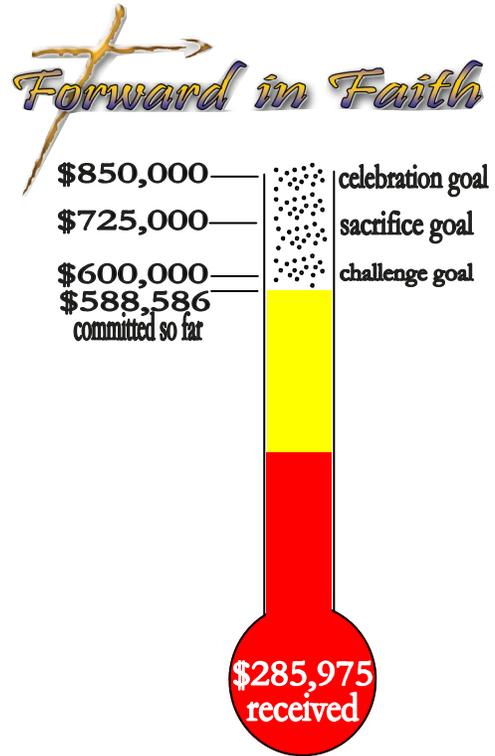
Dave Bettenhausen  
Norman & Kathy Lueck  
Gene & Becky McCoy

## Capital Campaign Update

We are one year into our three-year campaign. The adjacent illustration reveals the fact that we have received almost half of the committed amount. But this reflects at least \$15,000 of 2011 commitments. In other words, some people have already satisfied 2/3 of their commitment. It also includes significant one-time gifts. So while it *appears* we are on track to receive over \$800,000 in the three year period, these factors cause us to realize we cannot count on that occurring.

Another consideration is the fact that our Celebration Goal does not represent the total amount needed, which is well over one million dollars. So while we are celebrating the tremendous start, and while we believe God will continue to bless us through His generous stewards, we also realize that **we need additional participants** in the campaign.

If you, compelled by love for the Lord and His work in this community, are willing to commit a certain amount over a three year period, we would rejoice in the opportunity to enroll you! Please contact Rick and Jan Schmeski for a personal consultation. If you want to contribute to the Forward in Faith campaign, we will gladly receive your gifts anytime. Please designate such gifts clearly. Together, let's continue to move Forward in Faith!



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  
Mtn. Home, AR 72653 870-425-8323

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