

Contact

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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

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Gordon Addington

David Benedict Rick Schmeski
Don Truitt Bruce Wolf

Ministry Managers

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Jason Schmeski Joey Peglar
Louise Addington Eric Dwyer
Rick Schmeski Forrest Cotter

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Gene McCoy

Youth Ministers

Eric Dwyer
Vanessa Peglar

Extended Ministries

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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

Quoting the Bible can create problems and earn for you a moniker that is uncomplimentary. Phil Robertson, Duck Commander of Duck Dynasty fame, is a high-profile example of the abuse one may suffer for stating biblical truth. He has been charged with judgmental bigotry. But we need not go to West Monroe, LA to find examples of this danger. It occurs regularly any place truth is presented.

We expect the world to be critical when Scripture challenges and condemns their practices and standards. But Bible quotations are resisted and rejected by some who call themselves Christians. Some have actually objected when preachers proclaim God's promise to grant His gift of salvation, the forgiveness of sin and His Holy Spirit, when a repentant sinner displays faith in the blood of His Son, Jesus Christ, by re-enacting His death, burial and resurrection on the occasion of his immersion into Christ. Those who simply recite the words of the inspired apostles, specifically those of Peter recorded at Acts 2:38, are pinned with several uncomplimentary labels.

One individual states that teaching the words of Peter over-emphasizes baptism. That begs the question as to how one may over-emphasize what is portrayed in Scripture to be the saving event—the occasion when sin is forgiven and the Holy Spirit is granted as a gift from God. There is no biblical purpose for baptism other than the forgiveness of sin and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Is it over-emphasizing faith to preach Acts 16:31? Or to over-emphasize repentance by preaching Acts 3:19? The Bible speaks of all these in connection with salvation.

Why the aversion to baptism, when it is inextricably connected to repentance by the inspired apostle (Acts 2:38)? And when every account of conversion in Acts indicates that faith was immediately followed by immersion into Christ?

Jesus said that faith, repentance and baptism are essential for salvation (Lk. 13:3, 5; Mk. 16:16). The apostles preached all of this openly and unapologetically. It is instructive

that apparently nobody on the Day of Pentecost argued with Peter, but rather submitted in humility, understanding that they needed forgiveness for their sin of rejecting



is he who delights in His commands.
Ps. 112:1 by Gene McCoy

Jesus. They willingly, even eagerly, presented themselves for baptism without question, simply believing God's promise that He would, then and there, forgive them.

Duck Commander, Phil Robertson, was not attacked until his long held convictions were made a matter of public record. One person broke fellowship with a congregation only after the preacher and teachers publicly stated in sermons and lessons what was clearly articulated in its publications and online sites, specifically that forgiveness of sin and the gift of the Holy Spirit are necessarily connected with baptism. This individual became upset only when Bible teachings with which she disagreed were verbally presented as authoritative and applicable today. She asserted that the apostles' teaching about baptism applied to only certain individuals in certain circumstances. She could offer no biblical basis or rationale for that, however.

Duck Commander, Phil Robertson, quoted Scripture that listed several sins that disqualify one from entering heaven. But he was maligned for mentioning only one of them. Similarly, those who proclaim the full counsel of God are maligned and criticized for only one element of Bible teaching, specifically immersion into Christ for the purpose of washing sins away.

Those who suggest apostolic teaching about baptism is over-emphasized may actually be confessing their own negligence in adhering to and promoting Bible teaching. Those who object to Bible teaching being proclaimed from the pulpit are urged to read the words of the apostle Paul (Acts 20:27) who indicates that integrity demands that we declare the full counsel (whole purpose) of God.

Instead of breaking fellowship, we need to band together with those who proclaim the clear teaching of Scripture regarding the forgiveness of sin.



Preacher's Pen by Gene McCoy

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

This Preacher's Pen article corresponds to a sermon preached on Father's Day.

One of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples." And He said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. . .'
Matthew 6:5-13; Luke 11:1-13

Of all the things we may have anticipated the disciple asking Jesus to teach him and his associates, prayer probably would not have ranked high on the list. Many today would likely have asked Jesus to teach them to cast out demons, to walk on water or to speak in tongues. But the disciple asked Jesus to teach him and the others to pray.

Note, too, that the disciple initiated the topic of prayer with his request. Having witnessed the seasons of prayer Jesus had with His Father, indicative of a rich and genuine relationship, the disciple sought a similar fellowship with the Father. More than a request to be taught merely how to pray, this may have been expressive of the desire to have such a real relationship with God that they would pray; to talk to Him just as a son would talk to his father. That is, after all, what Jesus' prayers were—a Son talking to His Father.

What do your prayers indicate about your relationship with God? Would one listening to your prayers have the impression that you are speaking to the Creator of the universe and the Redeemer of men as a close acquaintance—even Father? Some, like the Pharisees, pray to be heard by men. Their focus is on their relationship with and to men. Jesus' teaching on prayer directs us to first enter the closet and to close the door.

Consider how your prayers would change and how your prayer life would be revolutionized if you approached Jesus' model as instruction about our relationship to the Father more than a pattern to be recited. Or even a form to be followed. There is nothing wrong with reciting it or using it as a pattern so long as it expresses genuine reverence and acknowledges appropriate dependence. He is our Father in heaven, after all. And He is the sovereign Ruler in the kingdom to which the prayer refers. We are dependent upon Him for our physical and spiritual sustenance, also. Daily bread, forgiveness and the power to avoid temptation all come from Him.

There is a balance to be maintained, however, in the nature of our relationship with God, and as it is displayed in our prayers. As described above, God is transcendent. That is, He is above and apart from humanity. Not only is He in heaven, but His name is holy—hallowed. This transcendent God, however, determined before Creation to visit mankind; to pitch His tent among us. Which He did by sending Jesus. This relates to His imminence, that God has come near to us. In fact, He became a man so that He could become a faithful High Priest to offer the sacrifice to

end all sacrifices; a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, Who experienced temptation, just like us, yet without sin.

Our prayers may appropriately express the heart of a child speaking to his daddy, but in a tone and context of extreme reverence, as the Sovereign over His kingdom. We must be submissive, deferring to His will being done in our lives.

It certainly is not our desire to grade prayers, much more to judge hearts. But it is our observation that the compulsion to appeal to contemporary culture, that has replaced the formal with the casual, has resulted in a less reverent atmosphere. The effect is seen in prayers that display what could be characterized as a flippant attitude, in which it seems little thought had been given to the awesome nature of addressing the Creator of the universe and the Almighty Redeemer. Reverence does not permit one to address God as we would a mere human. Yet, the way some begin their prayers is very similar to the way they would greet a buddy on the street. Their requests are more about their will being done, with little thought given to God's kingdom agenda.

Consider what Jesus teaches us about prayer in the example He provided. It is robed in respect and reverence—the fear of God. He is Almighty God in heaven and you are a mere human on earth. Be sure to address Him as a subject in the kingdom over which He rules as Sovereign. You are altogether undeserving His mercy and grace, much less even His attention. Acknowledge His works with expressions of praise and gratitude. Confess His might and power, His faithfulness and majesty. A good model to emulate or recite is that provided by the psalmist in Psalm 8.

Seek His will. It is His will that all should come to repentance through submission to His Son, Jesus Christ; that His kingdom would come to rule in the heart of every individual.

Acknowledge your dependence upon Him. In your asking for daily bread, forgiveness and avoidance of temptation, consciously confess your dependence upon His resources and provision for physical and spiritual life, not the least of which is His Holy Spirit, Who guides and guards, feeds and leads.

Nurturing a relationship requires time and thought. Prayer is not a religious exercise you do to fill a square or fulfill an obligation. Paul teaches us to pray without ceasing, so it is not something we can relegate to appointed times. God, our Father, desires a growing and constant relationship with His children. 

Baptism
Christa Salik
and
Madison Schmeski
were baptized at church camp on
Wednesday, June 11

Addition
Monte Manchester,
an immersed believer,
enlisted for service with us
on Sunday, June 8.

Upcoming Special Presentations



ACPN
Arkansas Church Planting Network

Lynn Cook, representing Arkansas Church Planting Network, will make a presentation on **Sunday, July 13**, of the work being done to establish new congregations in the state. The hour-long presentation will begin at **4:00 p.m.** in our **Community Room**. All are welcome to attend and learn about this ministry.

The mission of establishing and working with new congregations in the state was formerly the focus of the Big Rock Evangelistic Association. When the methods employed by that ministry lost their effectiveness, leaders took up the baton under the new designation. The former group was primarily reactive, but the current approach is proactive. The ACPN employs strategies that are more effective in today's culture.

We invite all those who are interested in the mission of starting new congregations in the region to hear the presentation that will be made in our **Community Room at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 13**.



**Central Christian
College of the Bible**

Sunday, July 27

We will have the distinct honor of hosting Dr. David Fincher, President, who will present the morning message on Sunday, July 27. He will also provide an update on this ministry we have supported for many years.

Dr. Fincher was appointed as the college's seventh president in April, but he has served the college as professor, Academic Dean and Executive Director of Advancement. He is a singer, who also plays the bass guitar. The father of two boys and a girl, David and his wife, Sandy, are both graduates of C.C.C.B. He has earned graduate degrees from Lincoln Christian University and the University of Missouri.

Gene will be preaching in Liberty, IL on that Sunday, promoting C.C.C.B. as Chairman of the Board of Directors. 

The Church is for Both Genders by Eric Dwyer

Examine these two sets of values and ask yourself, "Which set better characterizes the values of Jesus Christ and His true disciples?"

Set A	Set B
Competence	Love
Power	Communication
Efficiency	Beauty
Achievement	Relationships
Skills	Support
Proving Oneself	Helping
Results	Nurturing
Accomplishments	Feelings
Objects	Sharing
Goal Orientation	Relating
Self-sufficiency	Community
Success	Loving Cooperation
Competition	Personal Expression

More than 90% of the time, people choose set B as the beset representation of Christ and His values. These two lists come from the well known book, "Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus." In the book, set A represents the values of Mars (men), while set B represents the values from Venus (women).

Within the authority of Christ, values like *competence* and *efficiency* can be found in Ephesians 5:15-16. Jesus tells us that the Holy Spirit is *power* from on high in Luke 24:49

"But Eric, what does this have to do with youth ministry?" I'm glad you asked. "...if a father does not go to church, no matter how faithful his wife's devotions, only one child in 50 will become a regular worshipper. If a father does go regularly, regardless of the practice of the mother, between two-thirds and three-quarters of their children will become churchgoers (regular and irregular). If a father goes but irregularly to church, regardless of his wife's devotion, between a half and two-thirds of their offspring will find themselves coming to church regularly or occasionally."

I'm not saying we should neglect values like community and support. But if the church focuses mainly on one set of values, we could be missing out on a crucial outreach to the males in the community, which goes a long way to reaching our entire community, youth included. 

JULY MEETINGS

- 1 Benevolence Ministry Team
- 7 Willing Workers
- 13 ACPN presentation
- 14 Elders
- 17 Property Ministry Team
- 27 C.C.C.B. presentation

Congratulations!

Rick & Brett Schmeski

were awarded the PPG prize for the best paint job on their cars at the huge show in Springfield, MO (over 2,000 cars!).

Joseph May

took 4th place in the Main Dish category June 4 for his "Cheesy Ravioli" recipe. He was one of four representatives from our region at the state competition in Little Rock.

24-Hour Prayer Event Preview



MANY CHOICES

By Louise Addington

Besides prayers for the community, which will be the primary emphasis, other prayer-related activities are planned. We urge you to attend and participate as much as possible.

In addition to our excellent guest speaker on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, we will have the pleasure of praying with some of the missionaries we support. This will be through the use of live video technology. This will be an exciting way to share with them. Joining us via Skype will be Steve and Rhonda Hayward, who have worked with a native tribe of Papua New Guinea for over thirty years. They will have just returned from PNG after dedicating the completed New Testament in the Tay language.

We hope to also interact in prayer with Stephen and Alisa Walton, who have been ministering in Ireland for two years, as well as Saleem and Naylah Massey in Pakistan, Jay and Romola Henry in India and Ernest and Numreta McFarland, also in India.

If you would like, you can be a part of a prayer group for specific groups of people, as follows.

Our Enemies—Anne Mace
 Our Missionaries—Hubert Pickett
 Athletes and Sports Figures—Ken Rhoads
 Politicians & Government Officials—Gordon Addington
 Our Schools & Educational System—Jason Schmeski

Various classes will also be offered, as follows.

Learning to Pray—Don Truitt
 How to Pray Without Ceasing—Amy Lanning
 Praying Scriptures for Addicts—Louise Addington
 Increasing Prayer Power in Our Church—Gene McCoy

Beth Moore, Max Lucado, Jim Cymbala, Louie Giglio, Frances Chan and singer, Ginny Owens, will be among the more well known figures you will hear from during engaging video presentations concerning different aspects of prayer.

Messages delivered by Ben Merold will include

Five Questions About Prayer
 Prayer and Healing
 Let's Talk About Prayer
 We Have Prayed—So What? or
 (Prayer and Action Go Together)



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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