

*A monthly publication of Memorial Christian Church
in the interest of promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ
and goodwill among His people, our friends.*

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Gene McCoy

Youth Minister

Eric Dwyer

Your Ministry in Papua New Guinea

by Fern Frazier



We have had a recent note from our missionaries in Papua New Guinea (PNG) explaining some rather exciting developments there.

As you know, Steve & Rhonda Hayward and their family have been on the field there more than 20 years. Their task has been to learn the native language, develop a written alphabet and language, teach them to read it and ultimately to translate the Bible into the language of the people. That is a monumental task!! However, much has been accomplished toward this

goal. They have the language, have taught them to read it, and are in the process of finishing up the translation of the Bible. Several books have been completed.

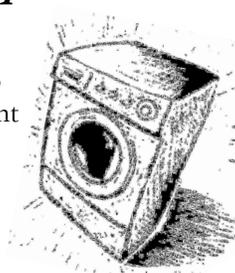
The people are superstitious and have many fears. They seek the spirit world for help in time of trouble. As they have become Christians they have had a difficult time leaving those things behind.

See "PNG" on p. 3

Stimulating!

Elder Proposes Money Laundering Scheme!

by David Benedict



Not long ago some of President Obama's folks sent me a message that began with the words, "Good news! The economic recovery bill that President Obama signed into law in February

2009 provides for a one-time payment of \$250 to Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries."

Now, probably everybody likes to get

"free" money. Haha. It's not free, but at least it's cash flow that I hadn't counted on. But I couldn't escape the nagging feeling that this tax money that I was now going to get back had become a little tainted.

continued on p. 3

A Personal Relationship With God ***by Gene McCoy***

One of the hallmarks of the movement to restore the church to its apostolic beginnings is the commitment to calling Bible things by Bible names. We are deliberate about using terms that are employed in Scripture. Yet we carelessly fall into sectarian practices by

using terminology created by men. This observation and concern prompted one Christian to inquire about the language of contemporary evangelicals who are fond of encouraging people to have a "personal relationship with God."

See "Relationship" on p. 2



Youth Minister's Pen *by Eric Dwyer*

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

Condolences

To the family of **Belle Sites**, who departed this life on Sunday, May 3. The family requests that memorial gifts be made to our Building Fund.

Thanks

The food that was prepared and brought over to the Christian Campus House was very much appreciated. The MSU students could eat a good meal and relax in a peaceful setting. Thank you so much for your generosity.

MSU-WP Students

We provided a meal for the Christian Campus House students on the West Plains campus of Missouri State University.

What is the first thing that pops into your brain when you hear the word "deep?" I think of the side of the pool I never ventured into as a kid because I wasn't the best swimmer. I always stayed in the shallow end. It was safer there. My head was fully above water! But I was also with children who were three to five grades behind me!

It's pretty embarrassing to be splashing around the shallow end with second graders when your friends look like Olympians springing from the diving boards. They would shout at me to look up at them on the high dive. "Man," I would think, "that takes GUTS." Guts I didn't have. Sometimes I would get brave enough to venture to the blue and white rope that divided shallow end and deep end, but I would never stay for long. I needed to have my feet on the bottom of the pool. I needed to feel safe!

The youth group recently took a trip to Ozark Christian College. The speakers and sessions ROCKED. We even hit up laser tag and ate at Olive Garden! The event we attended was called, "Deeper Life." This event is geared toward high school students who really want to get to know Jesus and the way He lived. These students are not comfortable with just going to church on Sundays and Wednesdays. Instead, they want to live like Jesus every day of the week; to follow wherever He leads. Those who

want a Deeper Life with Jesus know they can't stay in the shallow end. Sure, your feet may touch the bottom and it's nice and safe. But you can't stay! You're choosing to stay with the less mature and miss out on the fun of the diving board!

As we grow and mature in Christ, we need to get out of the Christian kiddie pool, get some faith guts, and dive into a deep end relationship with Christ. In his letter to the church that met in the city of Ephesus, Paul wrote that he prayed for them to grasp how wide, long, high, and DEEP Christ's

love is (Ephesians 3:18). Don't live your life tip toeing to the rope line and watch as others flip, twist, and turn into a deep relationship with Jesus. It may be scary. You're feet won't touch the ground! What if Jesus messes up my plans for my future? What if I have to change the way I spend my money? What if He asks me to tell others about Him? That is so scary! Steven Curtis Chapman wrote a song called "Dive." The lyrics to the chorus are my closing prayer for all of us as we strive for a Deeper Life with Christ.

"I'm diving in. I'm going deep.
In over my head I wanna be.
Caught in the rush; lost in the flow;
In over my head I wanna go.
The river's deep. The river's wide.
The river's water is alive.
So sink or swim I'm diving in." ■



Relationship *cont. from p. 1*

Having no Scriptural usage by which to determine its meaning, this phrase is left to each person to define.

Many use this terminology in the context of contrasting relationship and religion — specifically that we must

relate to God as we would with a friend. That is to say, not on the basis of perfunctory rituals to which we feel obligated, but service that is rendered willingly and communication that is heartfelt, warm, and, well, personal.

The caution to which we must be
See "Relationship" on p. 4

Building Committee Update by Jim Darr, Chmn.

Ground work that began in early May was stopped due to extended periods of rain. A trench was dug for the drainage pipe to be put in place as soon as the ground dries up. The grass or sod that was being removed from the building site when the rains started will be hauled away.

The Building Committee met with the architect, Elton Roe, on May 21 to review the blueprints and to consider various flooring materials for the multi-purpose area.

The committee is studying various means (with the guidance of Elton Roe) by which we would want to bid out

the project. The committee is also looking at volunteer labor provided by church building ministries to at least frame up the building and get it under roof, which would save money.



PNG cont. from p. 1

In a recent survey the believers suggested that they would like more teaching on prayer and also how to overcome their fears. The first study on prayer has been completed and now we learn that they have been going to other villages and sharing with them what they learned about prayer. This has been done on their own in the absence of the missionaries!!

Now, the Haywards

will be returning to the village in June and will teach the study regarding 'Fear.' Included in their study will be a DVD that reveals a spiritual revival that is happening in some other PNG communities. It tells how various people groups have completely 'sold out' to God. The DVD shows whole villages on their knees crying out to God for forgiveness, burning all their fetishes and magical articles, and returning things that have been stolen from others. As

they have done that, God's Spirit has moved mightily. Even the ground itself is being blessed in new and unprecedented ways as the people discover natural gas on their property and their gardens produce amazing crops, etc.

The Haywards ask for our prayers for them as they prepare this study and for the people that their hearts will be tender toward these lessons from God's Word.



continued from p. 1

Money Laundering

Sure, I'd like some cash-- but I didn't feel too enthusiastic about this so-called stimulus payment.

Then I realized that as a Social Security beneficiary, I'm going to need to be pretty creative to find ways to make a substantial contribution to our church's new building program which is soon to get underway. So I was then struck with the stimulating idea that I'll take my \$250 dollars and "untaint" it-- redeem it, by

contributing that to our building fund.

Hey, I know it ain't much. But if all of us at Memorial who are going to get 250 stimulus bucks give it to the building fund, it might amount to something. And, it will be spent back into the economy as money spent to purchase materials for our building. Even better, spent that way, it will stimulate the growth of God's Kingdom in our beautiful little corner of the world.

What about it? Want to do a little "money laundering"?

JUNE MEETINGS

- 1 Willing Workers
- 2 Benevolence Ministry Team
- 3 Finance Ministry Team
- 8 Elders
- 25 Building Committee

New Address Memorial Christian Church



God on Vacation?

If you don't want God to take a vacation from tending to you (safety in travel and protection from harm), don't take a vacation from God, but attend to Him wherever you are. We can direct you to a Christian fellowship in most locations across the nation. Just ask for the information!

If alcoholics can find and attend an A.A. meeting anywhere in the world, certainly Christians can find and attend the assembly of Christians around the Lord's Table!

Relationship cont. from p. 2

alerted, however, is that such an approach may lend itself to an unhealthy and disrespectful familiarity.

But there is Biblical basis for the concept of establishing and maintaining a personal relationship with God. It results from conversion and adoption at our spiritual birth in baptism. We become members of the body of Christ, joint heirs with Christ, and children of the Father (Gal. 4:6,7). These are all terms of personal relationship.

As a result, we are privileged to call upon Him as our Abba Father (Rom. 8:15-17; Gal. 4:6,7). We are no longer slaves, Paul writes, but sons and heirs through God. Now that is a personal relationship!

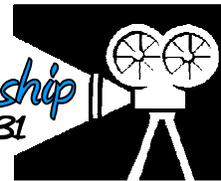
The Lord knocks on the heart's door of Christians with whom He desires fellowship (Rev. 3:20). Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem because its inhabitants rejected His desire to gather her children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings (Matt. 23:38). These pictures portray familial affinity.

One with whom you have a personal relationship will listen with interest and sympathy to your concerns and allow you to dump your burdens upon him. This aptly describes our great High Priest (Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 5:7; Matt. 11:28). A personal relationship will be evident by our

manner, speech, and conduct. The boldness of Peter and John gave evidence to observers that they had been with Jesus (Acts 4:13).

One who enjoys a personal relationship will also receive personal gifts. God has promised such to all who enter into His covenant — a relationship of security, blessedness, salvation, peace, mercy, grace, forgiveness, fellowship, and intimate friendship. Take your relationship with God personally. And seriously.

Lake Area Fellowship
6:00 p.m. Sunday, May 31
Flippin Christian Church



A film that informs and inspires will be shown. Support the area fellowship by your attendance.

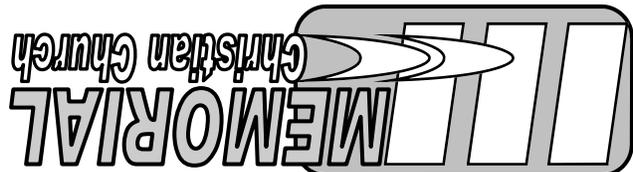
The LORD'S COMMISSION is OUR MISSION
 Mathew 28:19-20

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

Meeting Schedule

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