

# Contact

Volume 22

June, 2012

*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

### Deacons

David Benedict Don Truitt  
Ted Bankes James Darr  
Jason Schmeski 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

The Five Ws is a basic formula employed in various disciplines as a means of gathering essential information. Apply this method to learn what the Bible says about baptism.

**WHY?** We could echo the chorus sung by much of the evangelical world that says baptism is merely an outward display or testimony of a previous inward salvation

experience. But that is not only foreign to Scripture, it is contrary to Bible teaching. Search as you may, but you will not find any such language in the Bible. The sole purpose or meaning of baptism is always found in the context of sinners being saved from the effects and consequences of sin. These may be summarized as the *penalty* and *power* of sin.

The penalty is addressed by God, the Lawgiver and Judge, Who declares that our penalty has been paid in full by virtue of the atoning sacrifice of His sinless Son. The power of sin is addressed by God, the Great Physician, Whose Holy Spirit performs a heart transplant and provides continuing rehabilitation. Baptism is the occasion when God does this saving work (Col. 2:11-13).

God's remedy for our legal problem due to sin (breaking God's law) is the blood of Jesus. It covers our sin, blots it out and washes it away (Acts 22:16). God's remedy for our sickness or weakness due to sin is the gift of His Holy Spirit, Who regenerates and renews, giving power to live as saints.

At baptism God forgives us on the basis that the blood of Jesus has blotted out our sin. At baptism the Holy Spirit takes up residence in us and directs our steps along the road to recovery from and victory over sin. This is what Peter declared on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:38). Just as Jesus' blood was poured out for the forgiveness of sins (Matt. 26:28), so baptism is for the forgiveness of sins. To give to baptism a meaning other than the forgiveness of sins and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is to deny what the Bible does say in favor of something the Bible does not say.

**WHO?** Consistent with the meaning or purpose of baptism, sinners are its proper subjects. Sinners are those who, having understood God's will, have chosen to rebel

against it.



Consistent with the prerequisites of faith and repentance, only those who are capable to respond in faith to the

Lord's commands and promises are proper subjects for baptism. To be baptized in accordance with Bible teaching, the individual must be able to understand the gospel and to commit himself in submission to the Lord. In accordance with Bible teaching and example, therefore, those who had water sprinkled on them in their infancy must express their faith in Jesus by being immersed into Him in order to receive the saving benefit of His atonement.

**HOW?** The Bible is clear and consistent. Baptism is immersion in water, a re-enactment of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. This is supported linguistically and historically, as well as by what baptism illustrates — burial and resurrection.

Greek scholars (even those from groups that practice sprinkling) unanimously concur that the language specifies immersion or submersion only. There is not an occurrence of the word in all of Greek literature where it is translated any other way but to immerse or submerge.

It wasn't until centuries after the church came into existence that any other practice was employed. And those methods were considered to be substitutions. In fact, history records that the method of baptism was considered a matter of salvation; that only those who were immersed were considered to be Christians.

The biblical record of people becoming Christians testifies to the fact that everyone in the first century understood that baptism is the immersion in water of a repentant sinner. There was no *continued on p. 4*



## Preacher's Pen by Eric Dwyer

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

The article on the front page is condensed from a sermon preached recently.

### Gratitude

The world is a better place for the generosity of the Christian Church of Mtn. Home.

Thank you all for your dollar donations to help in our time of need. You all help make the world a more wonderful and beautiful place, not only for us but everyone you help.

Keep up the great work.

— beneficiary of the recent Dollar Day Offering.

“Dollar Day” is a quarterly offering we receive in which every one dollar bill is taken from the offering and given to a person in our congregation to award to an acquaintance in the community who has a financial need. See the article in the January 2012 **CONTACT**.

The recipient this time was a family that has been overwhelmed by medical bills. There were 345 one dollar bills contributed on this last “Dollar Day.”

American youth who profess to be Christians are looking more and more like youth who do not claim to follow Jesus. As a youth minister, I can tell you the numbers are sad, but not surprising.

A confidential poll of youth done by the Josephson Institute of Ethics is revealing, as displayed in the chart below. When asked if they had behaved in a certain manner in the past 12 months there is little statistical difference between “church kids” and kids who do not attend church.

BEHAVIOR	NON-CHRISTIAN	CHRISTIAN
Physically hurt someone when angered	67%	63%
Lied to a parent	93%	93%
Lied to a teacher	85%	83%
Cheated on a test	76%	74%
Satisfied with their ethics and moral character	90%	91%

According to this study, there is no more than a 4% difference between the attitudes and actions of professing Christian youth and non-Christian young people. (Source: The Last Christian Generation by Josh McDowell, Green Key Books, © 2006)

We have youth ministers, don't we? The kids have their own youth room and lessons. Right? What gives? The problems are far too many and too serious to nail down in a newsletter article. But we shouldn't be surprised that kids who grew up not caring about the Bible had kids (or grandkids) of their own who do not care about the Bible. Generation after generation seems to be slipping further away from Biblical Truth. It can be easy to get frustrated with the kids and say, “Why can't they get their act together?” But many of them have not been dealt the best hand in life. It is true they are responsible for their actions. They have no one to blame for their sin but themselves. But sometimes

you can't help but feel sorry for the broken system in which they have been raised. Kids have been pawned off at every turn by parents who don't seem to care for them (much less LOVE them), and who show no (zero, zilch, none, nada) concern for their spiritual well-being. One parent told me he is allowing his kids to “find their own path.”

So what can you do about this problem? First, realize that reaching out to youth is a **need**. It is not a want. One girl told another youth sponsor and me that she wishes either of us was her father. This didn't sound like a, “My daddy made me eat all my vegetables before I could have dessert” hissy fit. By being youth sponsors, we were filling a void in her faith left by the man God put on earth to show her His nature.

Second, do something about it. Knowing the good you ought to do and doing nothing about it is sinful. Get involved in your youth ministry. Hang out with us on trips, events, and even in lessons. I've never heard a kid say, “I have enough friends.” It may be outside of your comfort zone, but that's okay. Don't expect them to come to you. It may be louder than usual. It may be messy. They dress funny. “Eric, I don't think I can teach a lesson to kids.” That's okay. Mentoring them looks different than the way you were mentored as a kid, but you can do it. They need to see your life. They need to see your love for them. As is true with adults, kids won't care how much you know until they know how much you care.

They don't trust much because the family, the fabric of that trust, has been broken from their birth. You may not even know the impact you have on a kid. But if you trust God and say, “Put me in the ring with those weirdoes God; I love them because you do,” you'll be amazed by what He will do.

Finally, say a prayer of thanks for Godly parents. They are in the growing minority these days. We have a problem. You can be part of the solution. Will you accept the challenge?

## 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 was an engineer for an airplane manufacturer in Wichita, KS?
2. Who has been acquainted with the person who 'put the twinkle in George Washington's eyes' on Mount Rushmore?

*This long-standing feature of our newsletter ends due to the fact we have exhausted our list.*

### Answers to last month's questions

1. Who walked three miles to town on Sunday afternoons to "check out the boys?" Melva Willard
2. Which of our Elders swore off smoking after he, as a little boy, got very sick after taking a puff off of his grandfather's pipe? Bruce Wolf
3. What couple was involved in a mission team that started a congregation that tripled in size its first year? Don & Judy Truitt

## Property Ministry Team Report by Jim Darr, Deacon

The Property Ministry Team offers the opportunity for all to contribute toward specific items that are yet needed. If you wish to fund any of these in part or in whole, please submit your contribution in the regular offering, but clearly marked for the specific project. Projects will be completed as they become fully funded.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. 7 Wood grain blinds for the remaining classrooms \$ 400                              | 5. Trees and shrubs for landscaping (5 trees \$150; 15 shrubs \$300) \$ 450 |
| 2. Chain link fence around planned playground (75 feet) \$ 2,000                        | 6. Additional shelving for library in the office. \$ 1,000                  |
| 3. Sod for playground (120 yards) \$ 400  | 7. Playground equipment for young kids \$ 8,000                             |
| 4. Plastic 6' privacy fence around the emergency generator and transformer (50') \$ 500 |   |

## A Working Decision Gordon Takes a Leave from Elder Service

by David Benedict, Elder

At our most recent regular meeting on May 14, Gordon Addington expressed to staff members and other elders present that after much prayer and a long period of consideration, he sought our permission to take a temporary leave of absence from service as an elder. We didn't anticipate his request, but it would be wrong to say it surprised us. The work of an elder involves long hours of voluntary service, struggle with spiritual issues, biblical questions and people needs. It can be very taxing, especially over the long haul. All of us well understand that at times God's servants experience a need for spiritual relaxation and renewal. Sometimes just a vacation can meet that need—sometimes more is required.

Gordon has been serving our church as an elder for many years, has several times served as chairman of our board, has helped lead us during the course of two building programs, has participated in many significant practical decisions and has provided much counsel, teaching and spiritual insight for both individuals and groups along the way.

We are happy that he has not resigned,

but has just asked for a leave from service. His prayer led him to the conclusion that this is what the Lord wants for him at this time. He (and we) will be waiting for the point at which he senses God wants him to step back into the leadership harness. The timing for that is open-ended and may be soon or late. We assured Gordon that he didn't really need our permission to take this step, but that we appreciated that he wanted to share his decision with us personally so that we would be "with him" in taking the action. Most of all, we are very thankful to Gordon and to the Lord for the service has already given in the role of elder. And, as with any of our leaders, we are also greatly appreciative of the support and sacrifice of the servant's spouse. In this case it is Louise.

Don't worry. Gordon's not going anywhere. He and Louise will still be serving among us and worshiping with us, but his fellowship and service will have a different focus for now. Please thank him for his good work, and pray for him for a good time of spiritual rest and rebuilding. And please pray for your other elders as we continue in our "official" service.

## JUNE

### MEETINGS

- 4 Willing Workers
- 5 Benevolence Ministry Team
- 6 Finance Ministry Team
- 11 Elders
- 21 Property Ministry Team
- 22 Outreach Ministry Team



sponsored by the  
Family Life Ministry Team

12:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 3

Under a big tent  
at the east end of the  
church building

### BRING

- Lawn chair
  - Side dish or dessert
  - Friends & family
- Main course and  
beverages provided*

Activities for the kids  
Good company for all



MC<sup>2</sup> June 16

The Mtn. Home  
Christian Men's Club  
travels to Busch Stadium  
to see the Cardinals play  
the Royals.

## Preachers Quartet Concert

Sunday, June 24

Forsyth, MO  
Christian Church  
5:30 p.m.

**The Bible on Baptism** *continued from p. 1*

debate in the early centuries regarding baptism's form or mode, for immersion was universally practiced.

To advocate any other mode or method of baptism is to advocate a salvation by faith in men and not in God, for there is no divine command or promise connected to anything other than immersion. To affirm that salvation results by saying a prayer of repentance and inviting Jesus into one's heart is to advocate salvation by human works and not by faith, for no command or promise of God is connected to such. Immersion into Christ Jesus for the purpose of receiving God's gifts of forgiveness and the Holy Spirit, however, is an expression of faith in God, for it is a response to God's command and promise.

**WHEN?** As soon as one believes Jesus and is prepared to surrender to Him in complete submission and trust, baptism is appropriate. In the Bible, those who heard and believed the message were immediately immersed into Christ.

**WHAT?** What, then, should this mean to us in practical terms? Anyone who has not expressed faith in the blood of Jesus by repenting of sin and being baptized to receive forgiveness must do so in order to have the hope of salvation based upon the promise of God. Those who have submitted to rituals or practices other than immersion need to humbly respond in faith to God's command and promise by being immersed into Christ. We are always eager to assist people in complying with God's will.

**take note**

**SMAC Summer Musical Arts Camp**

Music Choreography Bible teaching

August 5-10

Toddlers — grade 6

**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
<b>\$469,340</b>	<b>received</b>

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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