

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

In this issue . . .

P. 2

◆ Preacher's Pen

P. 3

◆ Time Change
◆ Home Communion

P. 4

◆ Forward in Faith Update
◆ Arkansas Christian Convention

Chief Shepherd

Jesus Christ

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David Benedict
Forrest Cotter
Rick Schmeski
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Bruce Wolf

Deacons

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James Evans
Gene Frazier
Gene McCoy
Joey Peglar

Preacher

Gene McCoy

Youth Ministers

Eric Dwyer
Ashton Schmeski

Barriers to Effective Youth Ministry

by Eric Dwyer, Youth Minister

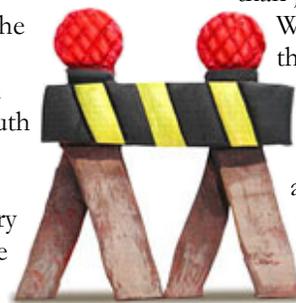
When it comes to the unpredictable, youth ministry is second to none. I can't think of any other job in which you are shooting a paintball at a kid one minute, then talking to him about the work of the Holy Spirit the next. Youth ministry requires a lot of patience, prayer, and spackle. Our God is truly an amazing God. And if you can look past the energetic games, the blaring music, the unhealthy food, and the belching contests, you can see the sole reason for youth ministry is to bring the youth of this world closer to this amazing God.

The purpose of the youth ministry at Memorial Christian Church can be summed up in these four words: love, live, learn, and lead. We want students to *love* the Lord their God with all they are (Luke 10:27), carry their cross daily and *live* for Him (Matthew 16:24), *learn* His word and hide it in their heart (Psalm 119:11), and help *lead* His church as examples in their youth on into adulthood (1 Timothy 4:12).

There are many obstacles trying to block the path between our young people and their creator. These barriers may be quite personal so please hear my heart as you read this. I am not judging anyone. I am not trying to pick a fight. I truly care about our kids. And from personal experience, study, and discussion of this topic at length with youth sponsors from our church and fellow youth ministers across the country, here are a few barriers to evangelism in the life of young people.

The first barrier is **TIME**. Let's say a student attends Sunday school and our Wednesday night activities every week

while he is in high school. He is in church for only two hours a week. He would spend just over seventeen days in church. If this same student spends three hours a week playing a video game, he would play games for twenty six days during high school. If a student is involved in band, theatre, or a sport, more time is required than just three hours a week.



Time Culture Family

Why is it acceptable for the band leader, the director or the coach to demand so much time but it is not acceptable for the church to do so? It is a challenge to squeeze life changing youth ministry into two hours a week. Jesus

does not call anyone to a part time faith. It is difficult to follow God if you don't make time for Him.

The next barrier is the **CULTURE**. The media presents as acceptable situations the Bible clearly states are against God's will. Those on screen don't come right out and say, "Hey kids, do all this stuff no matter what anyone says." Instead, the sin is placed next to something viewed as culturally unacceptable. Therefore, the original situation they have been told to abstain from becomes the lesser evil. If you do this long enough, the lesser evil becomes culturally acceptable and anyone who thinks otherwise is shown negatively. Sins are constantly joked about, flaunted, and encouraged. Uncertain youth looking to find their identity as adults will see photos in magazines, applaud violence in

Go to "Barriers" on p. 3



Preacher's Pen *by Gene McCoy*

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

Thanks

We received a letter from the Hospice House in Mtn. Home thanking us for our recent donation.

Lake Area Fellowship
Sunday, March 28
6:00 p.m.
Flippin Christian Church



Some business owners have employed great creativity when selecting names for their enterprises. One local coffee shop is called The Brewed Awakening. Here are some other creative names for businesses.

- Wok N Roll
- Wok Around the Clock
- Hard Wok Cafe
- Pizza My Heart
- Garden of Eat'n
- Hour Place (clocks)
- Den of Antiquity (antiques)
- Citizen Canine (kennel)
- Many Happy Returns (tax prep.)
- Dedmon Funeral Home
- Boxwell Bros. Funeral Directors
- The Daily Grind (coffee shop)
- Curl Up & Dye (salon)
- Beauty and the Bistro (salon/bistro)
- Stinky Stork Diaper Service
- Body & Sole (massage/reflexology)

Some churches have gotten caught up in the cutesy creativity. A storefront church that is also a bakery in Talladega, AL is called Fruit-Filled Ministries. Our new building is located on East Side Centre Court. I suggested that we consider renaming our congregation Centre Court Christian Church so that we could say we are located at the top of the key. But only basketball enthusiasts would understand that stroke of creative genius.

But our current designation has created some degree of confusion or curiosity. On different occasions people have asked what a Memorial Christian Church is. Some who have enjoyed our fellowship have asked if there is a Memorial Christian Church where they are going to move or visit on vacation. The obvious indication is that they

What's in a NAME? consider the designation to be the identity of a distinct sect among Christian churches. That is understandable, given the variety of Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Pentecostal groups.

Our research, though limited, has not discovered the origin or significance of the designation, "Memorial." If it was to memorialize a prominent member and civic leader at the time the congregation was formed, as one person speculated, it certainly has not been effective. One might well wonder why a church would memorialize a mere man. Or Jesus Christ, for that matter. After all, He is alive! The word "memorial" customarily connotes death.

All would agree, we trust, that the name of a congregation of free Christians should not lend itself to concepts of denominationalism/division or of death. A cursory study of the church in the Bible reveals that it did not have a name, as such, but was designated in various ways. It was common to identify the congregation in terms of its location, as in the church at Corinth.

Some of the Biblical designations for the church may create some unnecessary confusion and misconceptions in today's culture. Calling a congregation "the Way" (Acts 9:2), for example, could easily conjure up cultic suspicion among people. "Church of God" or "church of Christ" are Biblical. But both carry connotations in our culture that we may want to avoid. "The Church" may be the most straightforward, but it could also create unnecessary resentment as being elitist. *cont. on p. 3*

Help From Heaven The Work and Ministry of the Holy Spirit Personal Counselor - Provides God's Word - In Conversion Provides Power - Equips Saints for Service

Plan to participate in this Bible study that begins on Wednesday, March 3 (6:30 p.m.).
Learn about and rejoice in the help we are promised from heaven.

What's in a NAME?

cont. from p. 2

The identity of a congregation of Christians should exalt Christ and reflect the culture it seeks to impact. Our culture recognizes brands. Branding is a part of our marketing system. The designation a church adopts should not ignore that cultural reality. The "brand" that identifies our congregations more than any other is "Christian Church." Someone who moves to or is visiting our community will look for a "Christian

Church." It is advisable, therefore, that our designation includes those words.

What's in a name? Apparently there is more in a name than some have recognized or anticipated. Simplicity and clarity is a good rule to follow, not to mention the importance of exalting Christ. A simple, straightforward and accurate designation that is as free as possible from confusing people or creating misconceptions will include the words "Christian Church" and identify the location which, in our case, is "Mountain Home" or "Baxter County." ■



Barriers, cont. from p. 1

movies, and laugh at vulgarity on TV and think, "I need to be like THAT." All of us are called to keep ourselves from being polluted by the world. Taking in a lot of media trash makes this call very difficult.

The last barrier I would like to discuss is the **FAMILY**. I am not a parent. But I am a husband, a son, and a brother. I know families can be difficult, but families are crucial to the spiritual well being of young people. In our world today the family is under attack. They are falling apart both outside and inside the church far beyond an alarming rate.

The next time you go to a wedding, see if the minister flips a coin and says, "Heads, you stay together. Tails, you divorce."

According to the statistics, he would be justified in doing so. In Deuteronomy chapter 6, God commanded the Israelites to constantly remind their children about Him. From

the moment of conception, kids are entrusted to a family for love, safety, and an introduction to their creator. There are more opportunities for this to happen in the home than anywhere else. Kids spend most of their time at home. It is where they eat, where they sleep, and where all their stuff is. If a child sees anger, lies, and resentment in the family, they will seek the love, safety, and acceptance elsewhere. Does faith in God go beyond the walls of a building in your family? Do you pray with your family for anything besides the food you are about to eat? Do you read the Bible together? Your family should read about God, look at you and say, "Wow. You are a lot like Him."

How can we overcome these barriers? This road seems impossible. First of all, we can know our God is an expert in the impossible and pray for Him to open the eyes and the ears of our youth to reject the off-brand

spirituality Satan is selling them. We also need to know and live the unchanging word of God to have the answers youth are desperately seeking. They may not ask you about your faith with words, but they will ask by observing you. In either case, be ready to model Christ. Lastly, we need to know young people and their culture. They may look and dress funny. They might txt u l8 @ nite. They may even eat all the food out of your fridge if you invite them over. But if you can look past the energetic games, the blaring music, the unhealthy food...and yes...even the belching contests, you can see the sole reason for *your* ministry is to bring the youth of this world closer to an amazing God.

If you would like to research this subject more on your own, I would strongly recommend you read the Book, *Engaging the Soul of Youth Culture* by Walt Mueller. ■

MARCH MEETINGS

- 1 *Willing Workers*
- 2 *Benevolence Ministry Team*
- 3 *Finance Ministry Team*
- 7 *Family Life Ministry Team*
- 8 *Elders*
- 18 *Outreach Ministry Team*
- 18 *Building Committee*
- 28 *Lake Area Fellowship*



Move your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night, March 13

Home Communion

Communion is served to the sick and homebound upon request. Please call the one scheduled to serve home communion or one of the Elders by 8:00 a.m. on Sunday.

Arkansas Christian Convention



a family convention
children - teens - adults

April 9 & 10
Little Rock

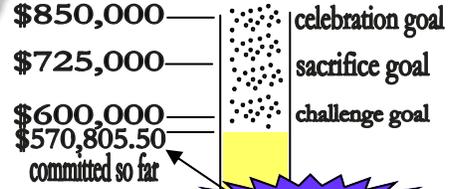


featuring Dr. G. Thomas Sharp
and his dinosaurs

of Creation Truth Foundation

Register and Attend

Forward in Faith



an increase!

\$174,458 received

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

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

Meeting Schedule

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

P.O. Box 388 Mtn. Home, AR 72654 870-425-8323
(located at 315 W. 6th St.)

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