

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.

In this issue . . .

P. 2

- ◆ Preacher's Pen
- ◆ Added to the Family

P. 3

- ◆ Loving Muslims to Christ
- ◆ Dollar Day
- ◆ Thanks

P. 4

- ◆ Concert!
- ◆ FPU graduation

Chief Shepherd

Jesus Christ

Pastors

David Benedict
Forrest Cotter Don Truitt
Rick Schmeski Bruce Wolf

Ministry Managers

David Benedict Don Truitt
Jason Schmeski Joey Peglar
Jim Darr Ted Bankes
LaDonna Mendleski

Preacher

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

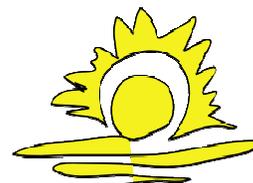
Ernest & Numreta
McFarland, India

Central Christian College of the Bible
Ozark Christian College
Show-Me Christian Youth Home
Christ on Campus



**Friday, March 29
Vespers at Calvary
6:00 p.m.**

The annual worship service on what men have called "Good Friday" will again feature music, Scriptures and devotionals that highlight the atoning work of Jesus at Calvary. The Sunday men traditionally set aside to celebrate Jesus' resurrection will again have two worship opportunities. One will be at sunrise and the other at the usual time (9:30).



He has risen! **He has risen indeed!**

6:45 a.m. Sunday, March 31

Our thematic focus this year is summed up with two words — good soil. We not only want to be good soil in which the seed of the Gospel may take root, germinate and produce fruit, but we also want to nurture and cultivate an environment in which others may also thrive and flourish.

January's messages related to a good soil tongue and February's to a good soil heart. In March and April we will consider good soil feet and hands, respectively.

Our purpose is to address some practical teaching that is fundamental not only to personal maturity and development, but also necessary for healthy surroundings in which to expand the Kingdom of God numerically.

A quick and clean way to achieve the appearance of fulfilling the great commission would be to stick some artificial plants in styrofoam and arrange them attractively. This would make us look good and may impress many people. A farmer's primary interest, however, is not to look good but to produce a bountiful crop. The Lord is not favorably impressed with anything artificial because it does not produce any fruit. A bountiful harvest is His heart.

The process will involve some plowing, some fertilizing, a lot of cultivation and

watering, as well as some weeding. The goal is to produce a harvest that glorifies God by expanding His Kingdom, the church. At some point, therefore, seeds must be planted.

This is a continual and simultaneous process of cultivating soil and nurturing seeds. If the environment of a congregation is acidic and arid, it will be very unlikely that seeds planted there will ever blossom, much more produce any fruit. But a congregation characterized by the fruit of the Spirit, grace and other divine virtues, such as forgiveness and forbearance, provides a good soil environment in which all may grow and develop. We must, therefore, look to ourselves as well as out upon the fields that are white unto harvest.

In the January CONTACT we laid some groundwork in regard to this emphasis and explained that the two preachers will be visiting in the homes of as many in the congregation who will welcome them. Appointments are being set for an hour-long visit that will include the viewing of a brief DVD presentation and an informal conversation in which your questions may be asked and ideas expressed. Please join us in prayer for good soil at CCMH.





Preacher's Pen by Eric Dwyer

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

Added to the Family

We were happy on Sunday, February 10, to extend fellowship to **Dick Huett**, an immersed believer who returned to his AR home after a 40-year career in CA.



Dollar Day March 31

Every one dollar bill in the offering will be given to an individual in our congregation to present to the needy recipient s/he nominated and that was selected by the Benevolence Ministry Team.

News Flash

The sale of the 6th St. property is final and the proceeds have been applied to the principal of our current mortgage.

I do not like the song, "Free to Be Me," by Francesca Battistelli. It plays on Christian radio frequently. That may sound harsh, so let me say I have heard Francesca in concert. She is very nice and has a great voice. For reasons I would explain if asked I do not like the song. I will say, however, that I do like topic of freedom in the song. She says, "... on your shoulders I can see I'm free to be me."

If you are a Christian, you have true freedom only Jesus can give. You and I are familiar with freedom because we live in the good ol' U.S. of A. But slavery is a dark part of our past, too. Picture yourself as a slave. Make no mistake about it. At one point we set ourselves against God through our sin. We all became slaves to our sin and were chained to the punishment of death. Picture yourself trapped. You struggled against the thick and heavy chains in your own strength. It is no use. You cannot break the bonds.

Just when it looked hopeless for us, Jesus came along and offered us a way out. He was sinless. But He allowed himself to be chained before the High Priest and Pilate, but also to our death punishment. He was able to break those chains through His power because He is God and He turns to all those in captivity and says, "I am the way

to break your chains." Jesus offers you freedom. You have freedom from your mistakes. You have freedom from your past. You have freedom from a meaningless and destructive future. In Jesus we are free to be who we were created to be. We are free to live life to the fullest!

Do you feel this freedom? If you do, it should flow through every aspect of your life. The winds of politics can't take away your freedom. Paul and Silas were able to sing with joy when they were chained up in prison. They knew who was really in charge.

What about your family members? Do they feel freedom through your relationship to Jesus? Do you allow your spouse to be free as you both strive to honor God? Are your children free to form their own relationship with Jesus, or are you letting them use your faith as a crutch? What about in church? Are you allowing your fellow Christians to enjoy their freedom in Christ or are you trying to impose your personal opinions on them which are not found anywhere in the Bible?

Let us act in such a way to be known as free people at CCMH. It is the only reasonable thing to do if we claim freedom in Christ. Our families, our communities, and our congregation can only flourish from it.



Free to Be Me

Preacher's Pen by Gene McCoy

In his article, "Loving Muslims to Christ," Victor Knowles II provides valuable suggestions that will make us more effective evangelists, not only to Muslims, but to all people. The reader is encouraged to subscribe* to One Body, the magazine Mr. Knowles edits. The Fall 2012 issue is devoted to "Christianity's Supreme Opportunity" to effectively engage Islam for the cause of Christ.

Mr. Knowles' primary point is the fact that extending the genuine love of God to Muslims is very important, for Islam is devoid of this compelling divine characteristic. Citing former Muslims and those who have worked among them, Knowles contrasts Islam's love of power with Christianity's power of love.

But Muslims are not the only ones with whom this message resonates, of course. Consider the application of Mr. Knowles' suggestions relating to Muslims to our evangelistic work among all people. With Mr. Knowles' permission, I have modified and embellished his list for my purpose.

1. Be a friend. Show hospitality. This applies to evangelizing anyone. As we have reiterated time and again, there is a difference between being friendly and being a friend.
2. Show respect for your Bible. Muslims may have more regard for the Bible as a holy book than do many Christians. A Muslim will never place the Qur'an on a chair and definitely not on the floor. It is always kept on the highest shelf. We would do well to

display similar respect for The Book. Although we are not to worship The Book, the way we treat it may reflect our regard for God, at least to Muslims.

3. Dress modestly. Immodest attire is a road block to evangelizing Muslims. None would contend that immodest attire is conducive to more effective evangelism in any culture. We should not **detract** from the gospel by **attracting** attention to ourselves, especially when that attraction encourages sinful thoughts.

4. Never underestimate the power of prayer and the Word of God. Pray, lovingly and patiently present what the Bible says, and pray.

5. Be completely humble. Don't talk down to people (especially Muslims). Exuding an air of superiority is a huge turn off. Our purpose is to **exalt Christ**, not to **promote self**. Choose words and expressions that clearly communicate that it is the Bible, not you, that is authoritative.

6. Learn what you can about Islam. Muslims (and others) will take you more seriously if you are knowledgeable of their religion and practices.

7. Testify to God's love, mercy and grace that provides you with confident assurance. This is especially effective when relating to Muslims, for they do not have a relationship with Muhammad. Nor has Muhammad changed their life. They live in fear and have no assurance or confidence, even though they have followed Islamic teaching and practice. Humbly rejoice in your present and eternal security because of God's gracious forgiveness.

8. Distinguish between Christianity and America when speaking to Muslims. Since Muslims equate the two, they associate the decadence of American culture with Christianity. A similar distinction must be made for all between "churchianity" and Christianity—between church attendees and Christians. More than **making** the distinction is **living** the distinction.

9. Don't assume the terms you use are understood. For example, Knowles points out that Muslims do not understand "sin" to mean that we are morally guilty and condemned before a holy God. They believe it means making mistakes. Another

example is the different meaning Mormons give to biblical words. Be sure you communicate accurately.

10. Listen to people and offer to pray for them on the spot. When praying in the presence of a Muslim, hold your hands out in front of you with your palms up. The reverence in your voice and demeanor means as much as the actual words.

11. "Trust the power of the Holy Spirit. He is the one who convicts of sin, righteousness, and judgment (Jn. 16:8). Only God can lift the veil that Islam has cast over the hearts of Muslims," writes Knowles.

12. Private study may be wiser than taking them to church. What a Muslim sees in many of our churches would likely be offensive (e.g., immodest attire, disrespectful and even irreverent conduct, Bibles casually and carelessly disregarded, etc.).

13. Respect their dreams. Many Muslims, among others, claim to have seen Christ in a vision. Despite your opinion about such things, it may be counter productive—even wrong to challenge them on this.

14. Be patient. Lee Turner labored fifteen years in Pakistan before the first congregation was established. Patiently and lovingly lay the groundwork through example of life and teaching. We should not expect a radical life change to occur quickly.

15. Love. Many Muslims testify that it was a Christian's love that attracted them to Jesus.

A former member of the PLO and Yasser Arafat's personal driver is now a Christian. He testifies, "Only through the supernatural love (Christ's love) can we hope to reach Muslims for Christ. We must ask ourselves, do we love them enough to devote our time to prayer and fasting, studying, and understanding them? We must offer the Gospel to them on the plate of Christian love, which never fails. It is with love alone that you will be able to gain their confidence and thus open the door to speak to them about their eternal life." He, Taysir Abu Saada, continued, "If God can turn me from being a terrorist to a peace-loving man, then I believe it is possible and that there is hope for all Muslims."

This testimony is repeated by others formerly ensnared in cults and immorality. ☹

MARCH MEETINGS

- 4 Willing Workers
- 6 Finance Ministry Team
- 10 Family Life Ministry Team
- 11 Elders
- 14 Property Ministry Team
- 14 Outreach Ministry Team



Daylight Saving Time
begins on
Sunday, March 10

Thanks

To: Christian Church of Mountain Home

I wanted to thank you all for help getting our propane back up and running. Thank you for the blessing. We now have a house that is evenly heated (not just in certain spots) and we are able to eat much healthier and better . . . on a stove! I cannot thank you enough, we are forever thankful for your help!

Sincerely,
a person in the community who received financial help administered by our Benevolence Ministry Team

*Subscribe to One Body by mailing \$15.00 to Peace on Earth Ministries, P.O. Box 275, Joplin, MO 64802-0275

e-mail onebody@poeministries.org Web Site: www.poeministries.org

Request that your subscription begins with the Summer 2012 issue when you subscribe.

Preachers Quartet Concert

Friday, April 5 7:00 p.m.



The preachers, who have been singing together since 1983, will be ministering in song southern gospel style here at CCMH. They have preached and sung the gospel message throughout the Midwest and as far away as WY and FL in the U.S. and Beijing, China. On previous stops in Mtn. Home the

quartet was featured at the Baxter Co. Fair and ministered to the inmates at the North Central Unit in Calico Rock. From Mtn. Home the group will travel to Nixa and Forsyth, MO. Their recordings will be available for purchase and an offering will be received. Everyone is welcome, so invite guests. 🌐

Dave Ramsey's

Financial Peace
UNIVERSITY GRADUATION
Tuesday, March 26
6:00 p.m.



The current class is scheduled to conclude on Tuesday, March 19, unless bad weather requires us to cancel one week. In that event, the graduation party here promoted will be canceled.

Weather permitting, however, we hope to celebrate the completion of Financial Peace University with a dinner and special presentation to honor those now enrolled, along with all alumni from classes our church has sponsored. All FPU alumni and their families are invited to participate in the evening of food and fun.

After the potluck meal and the acknowledgement of current class members will be a special time of inspiration that is suitable for every member of the family. Child care will be provided, however, for the little ones. We must know in advance how many children will need to be cared for.

All FPU alumni are encouraged to come with food to share. Reservations are not required, but it will be appreciated if we can know how many intend to come. Please call the church office by March 25, if you would be so kind. 🌐

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

1365 Eastside Centre Court
Mtn. Home, AR 72653 870-425-8323

Christian Church
of Mountain Home

Sent With a Prayer to

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