

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

Gordon Addington
 David Benedict Rick Schmeski
 Don Truitt Bruce Wolf

Ministry Managers

Forrest Cotter
 David Benedict Don Truitt
 Jason Schmeski Joey Peglar
 Louise Addington Eric Dwyer
 Rick Schmeski

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**

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

Church Size in God's Eyes by Gene McCoy

Several years ago I was invited to lead a workshop as part of a convention that was intended to celebrate smaller congregations. Unfortunately, most of the speakers missed the point. All they could talk about were their plans and programs to grow their small congregation into a mega church. Winning more souls to Christ and increasing the number of people going to heaven is our mission. That mission is being fulfilled just as effectively through small congregations.

The idea for my workshop was born at the 50th anniversary celebration of the Ridgeview Christian Church in Rolla, MO, which was my first full-time ministry opportunity. Most of those gathered had been a part of that congregation at some point in their Christian life. Several grew up in that church and were sent out to their fields of ministry by that congregation. It occurred to me that this relatively small congregation was much larger in God's eyes than in the eyes of men, who tend to measure size by the Sunday morning attendance figure.

Participating on the program that day were servants of God whose ministries God has used to expand the Kingdom to the uttermost parts of the world. From that congregation came a campus minister, whose work impacted the lives of countless international students, some of whom have taken the gospel message to their native lands. There was also a married couple from that congregation that served as parents to orphans at a children's home. That congregation sent one of its young men to Africa, where he served in a medical ministry. Another served as an editor of a Christian publication in another country.

The list continued to include still others whose ministries expanded the Kingdom of God far beyond the limits of that congregation and that small Missouri town. The most interesting and

emotionally moving aspect of this congregation's impact in the Kingdom of God from my perspective is the fact that one of the young ladies who grew up in that congregation attended Bible college, where she met and married a man from Louisiana who had served as an officer on that state's police force. God favored that marriage with five children, one of whom became my wife.

Ridgeview Christian Church is a small church in the eyes of men who focus their attention on attendance figures. But God doesn't measure significance by the number on the attendance board. The small congregation that is committed to the support of worldwide evangelism through prayer and financial partnership is significant beyond our ability to calculate.

Perhaps we should focus more upon cultivating ministers than in generating numbers. Be grateful for the people in your small congregation and invest in their development as potential missionaries, teachers, preachers and parents. Send them out with your blessing and support to expand the kingdom well beyond the limits of your building and town. Adopt a global perspective as you measure church size.

Perhaps the largest church in the state of Arkansas is the one at Gilbert. I have never been there, but pictures of their church building lead me to the conclusion that it will not accommodate 100 people. But from that congregation have come people who have greatly impacted the growth of God's Kingdom, especially through the ministry of Ozark Christian College. The small church at Gilbert has provided leaders for that college from its inception in Northwest Arkansas.

The significance of a congregation cannot be measured by the number of people gathered in its building on Sundays. God measures significance by our faithfulness in fulfilling His commission. 🌐



Preacher's Pen by Eric Dwyer

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

Baptism

Elmer Johnson,

Jeannette McQueen's father, was immersed into Christ at 10:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 22, in his 82nd year of life.

Erica Nowlin

and daughter,

Vidallia Potter,

received the forgiveness of all sin and the gift of the Holy Spirit when they displayed faith in the blood of Jesus by reenacting His death, burial and resurrection on Thursday, February 27.

Evie Bertel

displayed faith in Jesus on Sunday, March 9.

Announcements

The elders have appointed

Eric Dwyer

to lead the

Education Ministry Team,

Norman Lueck

to lead the

Property Ministry Team

and

Rick Schmeski

to lead the

Missions Ministry Team.

Judy Truitt

has been appointed to lead the children's ministry.

We sincerely thank

LaDonna Mendleski,

who had served as the Education Ministry Team Manager.

And to

Ted Bankes,

who had served as the Missions Ministry Team Manager.

I have noticed a startling trend in our culture today. Parents aren't taking their kids to church. I'm not just talking about here at CCMH, or even in Mountain Home. I have had discussions with other youth ministers across these fruited plains who have also noticed this trend. What gives?

I want to get something out of the way before you read any further. Since I am a youth minister, I know I may come across as a *tad* biased with the next sentence in this article. Your kids need to be in church. If you are an awesome kid who happens to be reading this (props to you), then I'm speaking directly to you. YOU need to be in church. "But Eric, I DO go to church. I attend Sunday morning services... sometimes." That's garbage and you know it. Get that lame sauce outta here! Try telling your coach that you are a part of the team when you only show up to games... occasionally. On top of that, you never go to practices. Try telling your band, choir, or theatre director that you are a part of the show but you only attend *some* of the performances and you never rehearse. You never put in any work. Your coach would laugh at you. Your director would cut you immediately. Why would they respond this way? They have no interest in you if you're not even going to give half of your effort. Why do we even entertain the idea that we can give God less than we give our extracurricular activities? If a coach wouldn't point to a player who gives 30% of their time to the team as a shining example, why should youth ministers applaud parents for bringing the family to *some* of church?

I'm not trying to be scathing in this article. It really does come from a loving heart who, like you, wants your kids to know our God deeply. If you won't take my word for it, try listening to a parent who tried her best not to push her kids too far.

Lisa was a single parent with a lot on her plate. Her kids were dealing with a lot, too, and she felt she was losing her influence on them. In fear of pushing them away from God, she let them decide when they wanted to go to church. For Lisa, hindsight is 20/20. Her kids wandered away from God on their own while she sat on the sidelines because she didn't want to be too...I don't know...too much of a parent? She wishes she could do it all over again.

Don't get me wrong. This philosophy of letting the kids make decisions can be empowering. Let your kids pick the color of their bedrooms. Let them pick what they want for breakfast. But for something as important as discipleship, there needs to be more structure. After all, the word "disciple" shares the root of "discipline." It is not easy. It takes training. You can't go to www.imanavysealnow.com and click a link to be part of an elite task force. You need to be pushed and trained for years! Your kids have the opportunity to grow closer to Jesus and grow in grace and knowledge. They have the chance to be trained by the great teachers we have here at CCMH. We have Sunday school classes, we have Wednesday night classes, and we have multiple retreats and camps. I don't know when these training opportunities became "optional" in families, but you should not be surprised if your kids aren't as mature in their discipleship as God wants if you let these training opportunities slip by time after time. You need to dive in and commit! Commitment is not just for kids. Parents are more than welcome and encouraged to get involved. Take Bill for example.

Bill had two kids who never went on youth group trips. Bill didn't push the issue because it saved him a few bucks since he didn't have to pay for their registrations. Bill got asked to be a youth sponsor on a high school CIY trip. Bill agreed because the youth minister was really in need, sponsors had their trip paid for, and he had vacation time he needed to use or lose. On the final night, the group was sharing their experiences and Bill confessed, "I didn't realize how important these trips are. I didn't know how much deeper they take you in your faith and how much you connect with others. I've decided to be a sponsor on these trips every year, even if I'm out of paid vacation. My kids and I are NEVER going to miss these again."

Personally, I am grateful for my parents taking me to church from an early age. And when I say "early age," I mean that I was born on December 2nd and I was baby Jesus in the church Christmas play that year. I'm sure there were some days when I didn't exactly "feel like going." I don't even remember those days now. All I can recall is

Go to  on p. 3

ACTS OF GOD

**Why does God allow so much pain?
Sometimes God gives you more
than you can handle . . . Alone.**

Perhaps the greatest human question of all pertains to the problem of suffering: If God is good, why does He allow so much pain in the world? This is a question not often talked about in church, but Acts of God addresses it head on and doesn't offer trite answers.

Prepare to participate in a small group discussion of six themes brought out in the dramatic true-to-life portrayals of human suffering. Record your personal thoughts in the travelers journal and share the lessons

 the example they showed of the importance of training and the benefits I am reaping in my life now as a disciple of the Most High. THANKS MOM AND DAD! I LOVE YOU!

What kind of legacy are you leaving your kids? Are you teaching them that God deserves whatever time you have left after you've done all the stuff *you* want to do? Are you subconsciously teaching them there is a church quota you have to meet in order to make God happy? As I search the scriptures, that quota is nowhere to be found. In fact, the early church met together *daily* in each other's homes. I know for some of you, the thought of meeting together daily is disturbing. You can barely tolerate church for the two hours a week you can muster. Somehow, the first church managed to meet daily with "glad and sincere hearts." They couldn't get enough of each other!

I want you to consider how much time you spend with the church. Notice how I didn't say, "consider how much time you spend *in* church." I'm not talking about the time you spend at 1365 Eastside Centre Ct. There is much more to it. If being in a physical location were the requirement, Arlene Dixon would have achieved sainthood in 1998. How often do you spend time *with* the church? Are you a part of a small group? Do you fellowship on Wednesday nights? Do you train Sunday mornings after service? Do you go deeper on retreats and trips designed to challenge you. One of the trips we attend is *literally* called "Deeper Life."

you have learned in real life experiences of suffering.

Small group facilitators are preparing to lead discussions and host homes are being offered. The groups will form by mid-April and will meet once a week beginning the last week of April.

This study is another offered by the producers of Not A Fan, which we utilized several months ago. This series features Bob Russell, whose DVD studies in Genesis and Matthew we have used in our midweek Bible studies. Acts of God treats the topic of human suffering by using the account of Joseph's life of suffering. Acts of God tells the compelling stories of six individuals with whom we may easily relate as we consider our response to painful experiences. 

You will need a pen and paper for this next exercise. I want you to estimate the number of hours a week you spend *with* the church? Got it? Ok. Now I want you to consider and write down what else you do during the week. Do you work? Do you have any hobbies? Do you run errands? How much time do you spend on these tasks? Done? Cool. Now I want you to order your week based upon what you spend the most time doing. Put the task you spend the most time doing at the top of the list and the task you spend the least time doing at the bottom. Now put a star next to "*church*." For sake of argument, let's say you attend Sunday morning service, but do nothing else church related during the week. That is two hours a week in your "church" category. Now, let's say you average half an hour a day getting ready. This means bathing, fixing your hair, shaving, putting on make-up, etc. That means you spend three and a half hours a week grooming. Now don't get me wrong. Grooming is important. And we all need to work, sleep, and eat. I am not trying to say that if you don't spend more time in church than anything else you do all week, that you don't love Jesus. This was just a chance for all of us to examine ourselves and see if there is anything we are placing above God in our lives. I hope my point has been made. Get to church. Get your kids in church. Most importantly, get involved and *be* the church. Let's train together.

"The deeper life only looks deep because the average Christian is so unbelievably shallow." A.W. Tozer 

MARCH MEETINGS

- 3 Willing Workers
- 4 Benevolence Ministry Team
- 10 Elders
- 13 Property Ministry Team



Daylight Saving Time

begins on
Sunday, March 9

\$ Dollar Day Sun., March 30

Every one dollar bill in the offering plates will be given to an individual in the area who has a verifiable need. The recipient is selected by the Benevolence Ministry Team from among those nominated by people in the congregation who have a personal knowledge of the need. The money is given to that person in our congregation, who then presents it to the individual in need as an expression of our concern and desire to minister to them.

Praying God's Word

submitted by Gordon Addington

This article, written by Marla Aliphoatic, appeared in the October 2013 issue of Bulletin, a publication of Focus on the Family

I often tell my kids that a major part of talking with our Lord is hearing and responding to what He has already said to us. God's Word is alive and active (Heb. 4:12). It speaks to us in surprising ways. So incorporate Scripture into your family's prayers as often as possible.

This can sound intimidating at first, I'll admit, but it gets easier, and you'll become more confident with practice. Start with a few of your favorite verses, and look for appropriate ways to apply those messages to your lives, perhaps by integrating your kids' names, character qualities and spiritual needs. A great verse to start with (and a great one to return to) is Psalm 119:105. As a family, thank God for giving His Word to provide illumination and direction in a dark world, and pray for all the situations where your kids' paths require the light of God's truth.

Start keeping track of Scripture verses that jump out at you from sermons, songs, articles and your personal study time. Write these down on note cards or slips of paper to have handy for bedtime prayers. And memorize Scripture as a family so that the Holy Spirit can use the Word to speak to you during your day.



Annual Report

BENEVOLENCE MINISTRY TEAM

by Jason Schmeski

After acknowledging the grace of God as expressed through the congregation's generosity, the team provided a statistical report.

Receiving assistance during the year were

- 19 families with their electric bill
- 8 families with food
- 5 families with gasoline
- 4 families with rent
- 4 families with lodging
- 2 families with propane

The four "Dollar Days" generated \$1,800 in one dollar bills that were distributed among ten families and Serenity, Inc.

The Mtn. Home Food Basket received 300 pounds of food and \$673 in cash from the two food drives and the Ingathering Worship.

A meal was served to 95 Christian Clinic volunteers in May. Two individuals were given \$50.00 toward their mission trip to Haiti.

Our benevolence ministry complements our support of worldwide evangelism through our Missions Ministry Team.



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

Meeting Schedule

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

1365 Eastside Centre Court
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