

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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Jesus Christ

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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

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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

Friends Coming From PNG

The welcome mat is in place as we anticipate the arrival of our ministry team from Papua New Guinea. Steve and Rhonda Hayward will present an update on our ministry in Papua New Guinea during the 9:30 hour on Sunday, May 6. Steve agreed to also make a few comments that will encourage us in our continuing ministry of worldwide evangelism.

More than a ministry team, Steve and Rhonda Hayward are personal friends whose work of Bible

translation among the tribal people of Papua New Guinea we have supported for over thirty years. Neither of their two children will be able to accompany them this year. Jason is working with a ministry in CA and Carissa is finishing her first year of Bible college. Our financial ministry to the Hayward family has included scholarships for both students as part of our allocations through the Missions Ministry Team budget.

In 2009 Hubert and Janet



Steve & Rhonda HAYWARD

Pickett and Gene and Becky McCoy made the long journey to PNG to witness firsthand our ministry there. Their testimony of the impact of the gospel through the lives and ministry of the Haywards validated our longstanding support. 

Can God Do Anything He Wants? by Gene McCoy

Some contend that God can do anything He desires, even if it is contrary to what He revealed in the Bible. Contrary to fact, they think they are honoring God's sovereignty by that assertion.

The context in which this discussion recently surfaced related to the terms of pardon. Expressed was the idea that God can save whomever He wishes on whatever terms He determines. This view reveals a flawed understanding of divine sovereignty.

Inherent in sovereignty is authority and rule. God's ownership, power and lordship are absolute. But that also applies to His self-imposed limitations. For example, He limited Himself by creating man with free will. **God exercised His limitless freedom by limiting His freedom.**

If God can save *anyone* upon any basis, it follows that He can (actually must) likewise save *everyone*, which is consistent with His nature of not showing partiality (Acts 10:34). But this would clearly violate His very nature of holiness, justice, faithfulness to His word, etc. One of God's self-imposed limitations is that He cannot lie (Heb. 6:18). Yet God said many will perish due to sin. If God may save some who have rejected *one* element of His terms of pardon, then He is obligated by His nature to save others

who have rejected *all* His terms. That strips God of sovereignty and makes man sovereign.

The basis of this discussion is flawed. It isn't a matter of God's power and ability, but rather of God's will. We agree that God has all power and authority in heaven and earth. He has revealed His will to us in the Bible. His desire is to save all (2 Pet. 3:9). But His sovereignty includes the limitation of letting people choose Him by means of faith and repentance or reject Him by means of unbelief. Would those who assert God can act by fiat carry their reasoning to its logical conclusion and insist that God could save the angels who sinned despite the fact that the Bible affirms they are committed to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment (Jude 6; 2 Pet. 2:4) ?

We know what God wants by reading His Word. Those whose faith compels them to repent and be immersed into Christ for the forgiveness of sin will be saved. Those who do not believe shall not be saved (Mk. 16:16). To allow that God will save others is pure speculation at best but certainly bold presumption. We should avoid both in our evangelistic and teaching efforts!

We may wish that God will save people who have not responded in faith to His revealed will;

cont. on pg. 4



Preacher's Pen by Gene McCoy

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

Each of us wants to give more of our time, talent and treasure to God. Some are hindered by debt; others by low income. All of us struggle with an attitudinal tug of war going on in our hearts — a conflict between faith and flesh.

In "real life" Jack Benny was a very generous man. But the persona he created for television was that of a miser. In one of his comedy routines he related an occasion when he was mugged. The thief put a gun to Benny's back and told him to stick up his hands and give him all his money. Jack just stood there, so the mugger jabbed him with his pistol and insisted, "I said, your money or your life!" Jack Benny said, "I know what you said. I'm thinking it over!"



Where are our priorities? We want them to be where God wants them to be. But that is often difficult.

A well known text that is often neglected is 2 Cor. 9:7. God loves a cheerful giver. Giving is designed by God, not to be a drudgery, but rather a blessing — not only to us, but also to God and those we are able to serve through His resources. And that's all money is — a resource. Until we realize this, we cannot be cheerful givers.

We don't want to be miserly, but generous and cheerful givers. So let's consider three ways we may become better and more cheerful givers. Believe it or not, it has very little — really nothing at all — to do with how much money is in your checking account. It has everything to do with how you think, how you act, and how you feel.

I. THINK LIKE A GODLY SERVANT (A GOOD STEWARD)

The foundation of faithful stewardship is the consciousness that God owns everything and reserves the right to give money and possessions to his servants. See Ps. 24:1; 50:10; 1 Cor. 4:7. Our job is to manage it well. The owner has all the *rights*; the steward all the *responsibilities*. We must decide to use what God gives to serve Him and bring Him glory rather than to simply satisfy our desires (1 Tim. 6:18).

Understanding God's ownership gives us balance. If our income is up we praise God and serve Him faithfully without pride or greed (Deut. 8:18; 1 Chron. 29:12). The

tendency, however, is to think of ourselves as successful and we begin to think like an owner instead of a manager. That results in our thinking that we can use the money as we wish. Thinking like a steward balances our attitude and outlook because we know all will be well if we simply follow the owner's manual. Thinking like a steward helps us deal with the ups and downs of materialism because it doesn't matter how much or how little we have. See Phil. 4:11, 12.

When we think like a godly servant we will act like a trusted manager of God's resources.

II. ACT LIKE A TRUSTED MANAGER

Jesus says our hearts and our money are tied together (Matt. 6:19-21). Every spending decision is a spiritual decision. The manager God trusts invests his physical wealth in spiritual things, for heavenly investments cannot be stolen, devalued or destroyed. There is no such assurance with earthly investments.

There is a direct and definite correlation between making spiritual financial decisions and possessing a spiritual heart. A person's checkbook register reveals to what extent his heart is set on heaven.

Ron Blue, a prolific author and consultant in the field of biblical stewardship, says you can't fake stewardship. A Christian may fake prayer, Bible study, evangelism, going to church and the like. But he can't fake what his checkbook reveals!

In his letter to the Corinthian Christians (1 Cor. 16:1, 2) the apostle Paul provides a practical outline by which we may act like a trusted manager. He instructs us to give

- Regularly— "on the first day of every week"
- Personally— "let each one of you"
- Systematically— "set aside" (planning)
- Proportionately— "in keeping with his income"

III. FEEL LIKE A PRECIOUS HEIR

By training us in matters of financial stewardship God is preparing us for our heavenly inheritance. The faithful steward is portrayed as receiving a heavenly reward (Matt. 25: 14-30). God gives us resources and the freedom to use them, anticipating that our faithfulness will result in eternal blessings He desires to give to us. His desire is that we will be rich in good deeds and willing to share so that we may take hold of life that is truly life (1 Tim. 6:18-19).

cont. next pg.

Additions
Barkley & Megan
Terry
were welcomed to our
fellowship on
Sunday, April 8

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 walked three miles to town on Sunday afternoons to "check out the boys?"
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?
3. What couple was involved in a mission team that started a congregation that tripled in size its first year?

Answers to last month's questions

1. In whose ancestry is Alexander Hamilton, first U.S. Treas. Sec. and author of most of the Federalist Papers? Gordon Addington
2. Who sees everything in black and white (sees no colors)? Gene Frazier
3. What man donates his hair to the Locks of Love organization? Norm Belicek

Clean Car Day Set by Eric Dwyer

I'm sure you have noticed the beautiful sight of green returning to the hillsides. You have felt the warmth of the sun on your face. The smell your neighbor's fresh cut grass is a reminder of your backyard jungle. And once again you hear the pleasant sound of chirping birds (amidst the sound of people sneezing).

Yes, spring is finally here and I would like to extend to you an opportunity to join hands with your youth ministry as we use these warm months to prepare for the hot months of summer to come.

A lot of preparation and prayer has already gone into the camps and youth trips which lay ahead. One such trip is "Move," a week-long event produced by Christ in Youth (CIY) to help high school students grow through daily devotional times, interactive discipleship groups and nightly worship celebrations, which include powerful, challenging messages from God's Word.

This year, the CCMH youth group (call us "Refuge"

for short...all our friends do!) fundraiser has a corporate sponsor! The Daisy Shine Car Wash has graciously agreed to open a couple self wash bays for our kids to offer a free carwash to the community!



Now you may be saying, "Hold the iPhone Eric! Did you say the car wash is free?" How on earth do you intend to raise the funds these kids need so they can learn about Jesus for a week?" I'm glad you asked! Our goal is to wash fifty cars on June 2nd and we would like for you to sponsor each car. I am asking each of you to consider setting aside a certain amount of money per car our kids wash (up to fifty cars) and

donate this amount to fund our trip to Macomb, Illinois. If you would like to make a one-time gift instead, we would also be very grateful!

Your donation not only helps kids learn about Jesus, but it would also be a great service to the community. Imagine the faces of those surprised patrons when our youth tell them their car wash has already been paid for by the folks at Christian Church of Mountain Home. Who knows? Maybe they'll want to stop in and say thank you and see what kind of church would be willing to pay for their car to be washed! At the very least, it will be a great chance for our young people to serve others and use some of that elbow grease they store up playing video games!

We hope you'll join us in this endeavor. See Eric if you have any questions and please thank the Daisy Shine Carwash for their support by frequenting their establishment. They are right across the street from Old Hickory Park. Thank you so much!

MAY MEETINGS

- 1 Benevolence Ministry Team
- 2 Finance Ministry Team
- 6 Education Ministry Team
- 7 Missions Ministry Team
- 8 Willing Workers
- 14 Elders
- 17 Property Ministry Team
- 18 Outreach Ministry Team
- 20 Family Life Ministry Team

Gratitude

for the first aid kits donated by
Dave & Jeanette McQueen

for the severe weather radio donated by
Jim & Billie Sue Darr

to
Hubert & Janet Pickett

for providing housing and meals to the Haywards during their visit



Preacher's Pen cont. from pg. 2

In view of our promised inheritance and the faithfulness of our Divine Provider, we may trust Him implicitly. Because we know His supply is boundless and unlimited, we know He will satisfy our every need. Some exhibit fear by saying they will trust Him if God *provides*. God instructs us to

trust His *promise* to provide everything we need. The Bible doesn't tell us how God blessed the poor widow who gave all she had (Mk. 12:41-44). But because she sowed generously we have every confidence she reaped bountifully (2 Cor. 9:6-11; Mal. 3:9-10; Lk. 6:38).

Can God Do Anything He Wants? cont. from p. 1

even those who have actively rebelled against Him. But to say that God can do anything He wants by fiat or caprice—especially when it contradicts His stated will and command—not only cheapens His sovereignty, but also produces false hope within the disobedient, resulting in their eternal damnation. If God can act in ways contrary to His revelation, as some presume, then the Bible is discounted as being less than authoritative and final. This position is untenable on all levels, except an emotional one, and should be rejected by all who honor God’s sovereignty and the authority of His Word.

To suggest that God can save people by fiat is also fruitless and unnecessary. We have the privilege of showing people God’s promises, explain to them the conditions He set, and persuading them to comply. We should devote our energies to learning how

to effectively relate the truth of God’s Word rather than speculating about possible exceptions God might make based upon our human conclusions.

If we concede the point for a moment and allow that God can save someone by fiat, no one but God would know the individual is saved until the final day. And that will be one day too late for a person to do what he can and should do today. The one displaying faith in the blood of Jesus by repenting and being immersed into Christ may know he is saved. God so promised. The promise of God is the only sure and solid foundation upon which man may know he is saved. Let us, then, communicate this word of hope and security based upon what God **promises** He **will** do instead of our **speculations** of what God **might** do based upon our philosophical human reasoning.

HilltOPPERS
 Missouri Mills Tour
 9 am—3 pm
 Tuesday,
 May 8



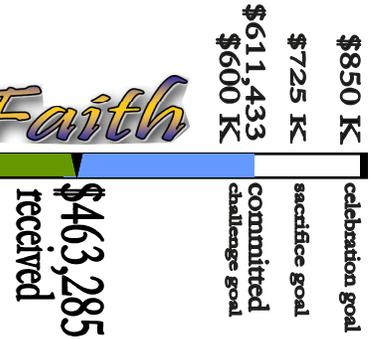
The motor tour will include several historic mills. Reservation deadline is Monday, April 30!



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



May 2012

CONTACT

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

Meeting Schedule
 Wednesday Evening
 5:30 Supper
 9:30 Worship
 Sunday Morning
 11:00 Bible Classes
 6:30 Bible Classes

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