

*A monthly publication of Memorial Christian Church
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
Rick Schmeski
Bill Sites
Bruce Wolf

Deacons

Kevin Cotter
James Darr
James Evans
Gene Frazier
Gene McCoy
Joey Peglar

Secretary

Joy Williams

Preacher

Gene McCoy

Youth Minister

Eric Dwyer

Capital Campaign

Introducing Our Consultant

Noted preacher and effective administrator, Ronnie Epps, of Overland Park, KS, will be serving us by organizing and leading the campaign to generate the financing necessary to construct our new facilities. He has demonstrated his ability to assist churches in this vital ministry over the last thirty-five years.



Ronnie Epps

Mr. Epps is first and foremost a preacher of the gospel. He started the Johnson County Christian Church in Overland Park, KS in 1969. The congregation grew significantly in size and prominence during his thirty-two year ministry. Since his retirement from the local ministry, Ronnie and his wife, Darlene, have been working with and for Show-Me Christian Youth Homes, which we support as a congregation.

Ronnie has conducted evangelistic crusades on several continents, including Australia, Africa, and Asia. He has

spoken at state and national conventions, including the North American Christian Convention, for which he served as Vice-President in 1995. He has also held revivals in every section of the United States.

In addition, he has also served as an adjunct professor for Cincinnati Christian University and has served on the Board of Trustees at Manhattan Christian College in KS.

His wife, Darlene, has been an integral part of his ministry, being active in directing a preschool for twenty-five years and conducting one of the largest Vacation Bible Schools among our congregations.

Ronnie brings a preacher's heart, an optimistic approach, and years of experience to help us realize our best potential.

Capital Campaign

Schedule Announced

There are a few events scattered throughout the 90-day campaign in which every member of the congregation is urged to participate. We ask you to reserve these dates or to cancel activities already scheduled so as to be involved in this very important initiative.

24-hour Prayer Emphasis	Advance Commitment Dinner	All Church Banquet	Victory Celebration Day
Friday & Saturday, September 11-12 6 p.m.—6 p.m.	Friday, November 6 6:30-9:00 p.m.	Sunday, November 15 6:30-9:00 p.m.	Sunday, November 22 9:30 a.m.



Pastor's Pen by Bruce Wolf, Elder

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

Thanks

Thank you for donating flower money to the American Diabetes Association. Delora would be pleased. It was a kind gesture.

Nancy & Jerry Rose

We gratefully appreciate your donation to assist the women and children at the Gamma House. May God bless you and keep you in His care.

In His Service,
S.P.A.R.K.S. Board

Dear Gene and Friends at Memorial Christian Church:

I want to thank the preacher and each one of you for all the prayers that you have given for my surgery and getting well. I appreciate the visits and cards that I received.

You are always in my prayers. I am getting better, thanks to you.

Julian Armijo

The Book of Esther is a fascinating account of how the Queen saved the Jewish race from extermination during the reign of the Persian King Ahasuerus, also known as Xerxes, who reigned from 486-465 B.C. At the end of the fourth chapter we find the queen determined to risk her life by going before the king without first being invited. Her own words demonstrate her resolve. "I will go to the king; though it is against the law; and if I perish, I perish."

As Esther prepares to go before the king she requests that all the Jews in the capitol city of Susa hold a three day fast in her behalf, seeking God's blessing in what she is about to do. Esther is described as putting on her royal robes before going to stand quietly in the inner court inside the palace opposite the king's hall.

Recognized by the King and finding favor in his sight, Esther is invited in. Esther then approached the king and touched the king's scepter, an act of obedience and respect. She did not speak until spoken to, but finally answered the king humbly and forthrightly with her request beginning with these words: "If I have found favor in your sight, O King, and if it please the King..."

We should remember that Queen Esther was an actual person, a real historical figure, and that the events that took place during her life are well documented in history books. After familiarizing ourselves with her story we should then take a moment to ask ourselves if her example can teach us anything about how we should approach the King of Kings in our time.

We have the solemn privilege of worshiping the Almighty God every

Sunday morning and we can call upon His name at other times. But how should we prepare for such a royal meeting? Esther provides a simple step-by-step protocol.

First, she demonstrates a sincere **attitude**. We see this in how she begins preparing several days in advance through prayer and fasting, including her community, gaining strength from prayer partners. In her prayers I imagine that she asked God to guide her heart, her lips, and her demeanor before approaching the King. I am sure she also asked God for confidence and courage, requesting that her plea be accepted by the King.

Approaching the King



Second, what can we glean from Esther's **physical appearance**? Being a queen, Esther had high ranking and, thus, appropriately donned royal robes, clothing in keeping with her station. But what

about common Christians like us? How is our dress consistent with our station in life?

First Peter 2:9 explains that followers of Christ are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people." Scripture assures us of our royal status. If Peter is telling us the truth (and he is), should we not then follow Esther's lead and put on clothing that best reflects our true position in God's eyes? When going to see the King should we not, then, select clothing that best demonstrates our true character, our love, and our respect for the one with whom we have come to commune?

It is difficult to visualize Queen Esther waiting in the inner court decked out in flip-flops, cut-off shorts or a short skirt, wearing a revealing blouse or tee-shirt as her royal ensemble. I don't

 *Continued on p. 4*

News From Camp

Our church camp is growing! Rock Garden Christian Service Camp in Pomona, MO has sought the Lord's guidance and is undertaking a new building project. The old trailer behind the multipurpose building that served as the dean's quarters has been removed. The 20' x 60' building replacing it will have three apartments — one for the deans, a second for the camp nurse, and the third for the visiting missionary. This new climate controlled building with a porch will be a blessing to volunteers who make the week of

by Eric Dwyer

camp so edifying for our youth, as well as missionaries, some of whom come straight from the field.

The camp board, having prayed about how to finance this project, has decided to construct this building without going into debt, hoping monetary contributions by participating churches will purchase the materials and volunteers will provide the labor.

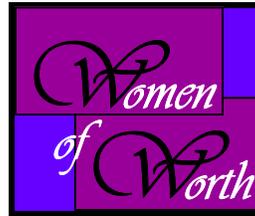
The camp is \$10,000 shy of the goal. Let's help our camp and help our kids at the same time by contributing our dollars and our labor

Women's Bible Study Resumes by Arlene Dixon

Begins Wednesday, September 9 (orientation & overview)
9:30 — 11:00 a.m.

Nellie Cooper Family Life Center
(at East Side Baptist Church)

This year's study is "The Divided Kingdom"
(1 Kings 12-2 Kings 25, 2 Chron. 10-36, several minor prophets)
Registration begins August 30 in our church foyer



Capital Campaign

Committee Chairs Announced

We are pleased to announce the leadership team that will be conducting various aspects of the three-year capital campaign.

CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR

Walt McKay will coordinate all the committees and be the campaign spokesman.

PRAYER EMPHASIS

Louise Addington will lead in establishing a spiritual climate for the campaign and organize the 24-hour prayer emphasis.

MINISTRY VISITATION

Bruce Wolf will lay a spiritual foundation for the campaign by enlisting people for ministry visitation.

ADVANCE COMMITMENTS

Kathy Lueck will coordinate the effort of working with potential larger commitments.

COMMITMENT VISITATION

Arlene Dixon will coordinate home visits to receive commitments after the Banquet.

PUBLICITY

David Benedict will oversee the promotion of the campaign through printed materials.

BANQUET DIRECTOR

B.J. / Linda Hank will oversee the arrangements for the meal functions.

HOSTESS DIRECTOR

Fern Frazier's role will be to recruit hostesses for the all-church banquet.

FOLLOW-UP

Rick & Jan Schmeski will make announcements about the progress of the program and enlist new families as they are added to the congregation.

CAMPAIGN SECRETARY

Sarah Dwyer will mail promotional materials.

SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

- 2 Finance Ministry Team
- 3 Property Ministry Team
- 8 Benevolence Ministry Team
- 14 Willing Workers Elders
- 17 Building Committee
- 25 Property Ministry Team

Congratulations!

Rick Schmeski, Jr. had the degree Doctor of Physical Therapy conferred upon him on Friday, August 7. Congratulations, Dr. Richard Alan Schmeski!



annual food drive throughout October

sponsored by the Benevolence Ministry Team

 **Pastor's Pen** *Continued from p. 2*

think she woke up late that particular morning throwing on the first thing she grabbed from her closet. I suspect she took time to bathe, fix her hair, manicure her nails, and apply perfume.

Esther also went to great pains to present herself in a **timely** fashion, arriving on time — even a bit early — not allowing last minute minutia to spoil her plans. Esther not only presented herself well, but she also represented her people well. She understood that her meeting with the king was not about herself only, but that the outcome would impact the future of many others.

Finally, how should we **talk** to the King? Scripture paints a picture of Esther approaching the king in a respectful and humble manner responding to his question with quiet resolve. Is our approach to the King similarly reverent? Is our attitude sincere? Or is approaching the King for us merely an afterthought,

an interruption, another item on our daily list of things to get done?

We must remember that we are the invited guests into the King's house. It is we who respond to His invitation. We are on His schedule, not He on ours. A casual manner, unfocused thought, or flippant language reveals a casual attitude toward our Lord and does no honor to us, to our neighbors, or to our King.

***WE are on HIS schedule
Not HE on OURS.***

We can learn much from the example of Queen Esther. Her humble boldness resulted in saving the entire Jewish race. To

this day her actions are celebrated annually during the Jewish Feast of Purim.

How we approach the King in modern times is no less important than in Esther's time. And our example will likewise result in how well our people will live for years to come. ■



Life Chain
Be a Link for Life. Spend an hour, save a life.

Sunday, October 4
2:00—3:00

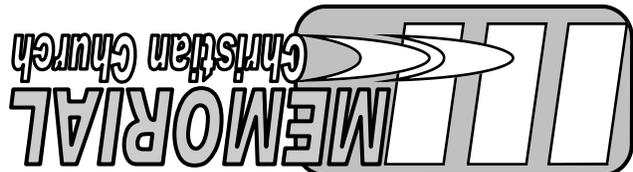
The LORD'S COMMISSION is OUR MISSION
Matthew 28:19-20

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

Meeting Schedule

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



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