

Contact

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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

David Benedict Don Truitt
Jason Schmeski Joey Peglar
Louise Addington Eric Dwyer
Rick Schmeski Norman Lueck

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

Our older readers will remember the classic Heinz ketchup commercials in the late 70's that featured the soundtrack of Carly Simon singing, "Anticipation," with the tag line, "The taste that's worth the wait." The 24-Hour Prayer Event we have been anticipating for several months is now upon us. The planning and early promotion stage has whetted our appetite and piqued our interest, just like that portrayed on those old ketchup commercials. Now that the details have been finalized and the planning is complete, information is pouring out freely for all to consume. The excitement that has been building is now being expressed with eager anticipation.

Janet Pickett writes, "Opportunity Knocks.

The upcoming prayer weekend offers a unique opportunity to hear messages from a well-known and loved leader in our brotherhood, Ben Merold, as well as some of our own fellow workers via Skype, such as our missionaries, and other prayer warriors. We will also have the opportunity to learn from the planned classes and put some action into our knowledge.

Sunday morning, Vanessa challenged us to "Do Something." What a great place to start the forward motion with times of prayer for our community, church family, and special concerns.

I can't wait to see what blessings will be birthed from our concentrated efforts of prayer. I challenge you to attend and participate in the worship and classes. What will God do with our faithfulness to "Do Something" started with prayer?"

LaDonna Mendleski writes, "As a mother I was excited to see children of all ages included in the 24 hour prayer service. Not only are they being cared for, but there is time set aside for instructing our children as well. It is no secret that children learn differently than adults.

I appreciate the efforts that are going

into teaching them about the importance of prayer at their level and in ways that interest them.

As parents, Steve and I believe that we are not raising a child, we are raising an adult. More importantly, I am reassured to be a part of a church family that recognizes that we are not only raising an adult, but a Christian, and these children are the future of the Church."

Brett Schmeski says, "I look forward to learning more about having a more consistent prayer life. I also look forward to tips that will help me to work with Alyssa later on in her childhood."

Focused on the twenty-four continuous hours of actual praying in the Community

Room, Don Truitt emphasizes that, much more than an event to attend, this is an opportunity to "be a part of the hard work of reconciliatory praying for one another and the community . . . that can make a difference in this ministry and . . . the quality of life in this community."

Karen Blohowiak is particularly excited about the video regarding "Contemplative Prayer" that will be shown at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 13. She became familiar with this in a congregation of which she was previously a part.

We have the blessed opportunity to minister as priests unto God through prayer as we intercede on behalf of people. Just today, a woman called in response to our newspaper article, in which we invited people in the community to submit prayer requests. Pamela expressed her delight in knowing that a church would make such an offer and asked that we pray that she and her children could be reconciled.

The ministry of intercessory prayer and the opportunity to develop further in our relationship with God through prayer are reasons to approach the upcoming Prayer Event with eager anticipation.

Shake and shake the ketchup bottle;
None'll come and then a lot'll.

— Richard Armour



Anticipation

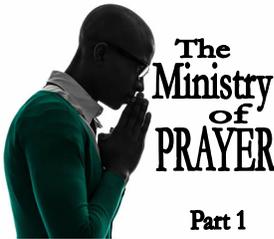




Preacher's Pen *by Gene McCoy*

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

This Preacher's Pen article is a summary of the current series of sermons,



Guest Speaker

We will have the privilege to host **Gary Taylor** on Sunday, September 28. He will present the Bible message and provide an update on our ministry in India, as a representative of Ernest and Numreta McFarland.

The Missions Ministry Team will then host him at their noon luncheon meeting, to which everyone is invited to bring a covered dish.

More than a spiritual discipline, prayer is a ministry that expresses a healthy relationship with God. It is that relationship, we think, that prompted the disciples to ask Jesus to teach them to pray. As our relationship with God grows and develops we will adopt a practice of prayer that resembles that of Jesus and the early disciples.

Our prayers should express thanks for the church. Paul thanked God for the Christians in Rome because their Christianity was well known throughout the world. He thanked God for the Colossian Christians, not only because of their love for all the saints, but also that the gospel was bearing fruit in and through them. He thanked God for the work of faith, the labor of love and the steadfastness of hope among the Christians in Thessalonica. See Rom. 1:8; 1 Cor.1:4,7; Eph. 1:16; Phil. 1:3,4; Col. 1:3-8; 1 Thess. 1:2,3; 2 Thess. 1:3. In your praying, include such gratitude for those whose faith or faithfulness is well known. Also pray that our love toward one another would grow ever greater and that we would bear fruit for God.

We should also pray that our brothers and sisters would be strengthened in faith. Jesus prayed for Peter, that his faith would not fail, though Satan should sift him like wheat (Lk. 22:31). When it became apparent in the Garden of Gethsemane that the kingdom they anticipated was not going to materialize, but that their King was going to be crucified, the disciples did precisely what Jesus predicted. They scattered.

Jesus warned the disciples that their confidence was in the flesh and that Satan had demanded permission to sift them all like wheat; to put them to the test regarding their stated commitment to never leave or deny Jesus. Jesus then said, "I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

Each of us has Gethsemane experiences when faith is tested. We should pray that our brothers and sisters would not fail in faith, but that, prevailing in the power of the Holy Spirit, they would then become a source of strength and encouragement for others whose faith is faltering.

It is noteworthy that the prayers of Jesus and the apostles focused almost exclusively

upon the spiritual well being of those for whom they prayed. What a contrast to the focus of contemporary prayers that is almost exclusively devoted to physical and material concerns.

Paul prayed that the Christians at Corinth would do no wrong but rather what is right (2 Cor. 13:7). It wasn't moral perfection that Paul had in mind, but rather their choice to disregard the undermining tactics of false teachers, specifically the Judaizers. These Jewish zealots created dissension in the fledgling churches Paul established by calling his apostleship into question.

Our prayer for one another should be that each of us does what is right as we are bombarded by false teachers and false teaching. The genuineness and sincerity of our regard and concern for one another will be reflected in our prayers. We pray that, when confronted with the opportunity to choose what is wrong, our brothers and sisters will do no wrong by falling for the imposters.

Paul's prayer for the Christians at Ephesus should be our prayer for one another (1:17-19). Specifically that they would grow not only in their knowledge of God, but also in intimacy with Him. A knowledge of the Bible will certainly help us know Him better. But it will also sharpen our spiritual eyesight. We should pray that the visual acuity of our brothers and sisters would be such that they can know the hope of heaven, the riches of God's inheritance in His church and the power of God in their lives.

This naturally leads to the prayer of Paul that we be strengthened with power in the inner man (Eph. 3:14-19) so that we would be and do that which glorifies God. This is a prayer that is appropriate at all times for every Christian.

Paul also prayed that Christians would be rooted and established or grounded in love; that we would not only experience the comprehensive and all-encompassing love of the Lord, but that it would flow out of our lives. It is appropriate for us to pray this prayer for one another, specifically that each of us would be completely enveloped by the awareness of Christ's love. To the extent, in fact, that we would be "filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." 

FAQ's re: the 24-Hour Prayer Event

What is the idea or purpose of the 24-Hour Prayer Event?

It has a three fold purpose. 1) To blanket the Twin Lakes area in prayer. 2) Give everyone the opportunity to have a time of personal prayer with one of our leaders. 3) To offer educational opportunities to learn more about prayer.

May I bring friends from the community?

Newcomers are always welcome at any event we host or sponsor.

What if I can't stay all night?

Each person must determine how much of the planned activities he or she may participate in. Ideally, everyone would spend an hour in the Community Room to actually pray for area individuals and businesses. And it would be good to participate in the worship assemblies, in which our special guest, Ben Merold, will be speaking. Beyond that, those who have prepared a class would appreciate a roomful of people who are interested in the topic they are presenting.

What is a "torchbearer?"

These are individuals and couples who will take hour-long turns around the clock to assist those who are willing to pray for every individual and business in the Mtn. Home telephone directory. Each participant will be given a page out of the phone book and asked to pray for each entry. The goal is to pray through the entire phone book.

Obviously, the more people who will sign up to pray with the torchbearers the more likely it will be that everyone in our town will be prayed for.

One of the Torchbearers, Arlene Dixon, adds, "Another purpose of this event is to pray for our church family and your needs. There are sign up sheets in the back of the church auditorium for you to sign your name for a designated time to meet with any of the Torchbearers. Prayers will be specific to your needs."

Could I not just stay home and pray?

Yes. And we hope you do pray at home! But there are times to come together and apart from the daily routine and the world to join together in prayer. The Christians did so when Peter was in prison (Acts 12). Jesus gathered His disciples together to pray (e.g., Gethsemane). From the beginning of the church Christians gathered for prayer (Acts 2:42).

The prayers with our missionaries via Skype will take place as the church gathers in the Worship Center.

What value is there in the Skype sessions with missionaries?

Of greatest value to us is the value it represents to our missionaries. We will have the opportunity, through this technology, to pray with and for our friends in far off places just as though we were sitting in the same room! Think of the encouragement they will receive, knowing we have devoted time in the middle of the night just to have this privilege of praying with them. Sure, it will cost us in terms of lost sleep. But it is a whole lot less of a sacrifice than having to travel halfway around the globe! Or of ministering in a foreign culture!

What benefit may I expect my children to receive?

Children of all ages will receive instruction about prayer on their own learning level. Judy Truitt will provide video and activity based instruction that will help our little ones develop a prayer relationship with God. Vanessa and Eric have planned similarly for the older young people.

What educational opportunities will be provided?

Ben Merold's messages to the general assemblies on Saturday will be both educational and inspirational.



Classes will be offered at various times throughout the two-day event. Selected video presentations by well-known speakers will provide information and motivation regarding various aspects of prayer.

Will there be opportunity provided for prayer with our elders and ministerial staff?

Yes, indeed. All of our leaders have made themselves available at specific times to pray privately with any individual or family who requests it.

Will there be any music involved?

For sure! In fact, Paul Baskin, of Cedar Hill, TX, has agreed to not only lead us in congregational singing, but to also grace us with some very special musical ministry that he calls "Heavens Heartstrings."

Other musical ministry will be provided by Gene and Becky McCoy.

SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

- 2 Benevolence Ministry Team
- 8 Willing Workers
- 9 Elders
- 18 Property Ministry Team

Family Programming

Todd Wilson, of FamilyMan Ministries,

presents his entertaining and encouraging message at Cabool (MO) Christian Church on Wed., Oct. 8.

The men will be specially blessed by Todd's presentation.

For more information about FamilyMan Ministries, go to familymanweb.com.

For more information about the Cabool event, call 417.962.3180. And see the poster on the bulletin board.



Sponsored by our Benevolence Ministry Team throughout the month of October

24-Hour Prayer Event Preview



The Prayer Scare

Prayer scares some people. What is scary about prayer?

One who has not grown up where people pray may be uncomfortable in the context where people are talking to an unseen person. That seems mystical.

And that can be scary. But the mystical is removed as we accept the promise that God hears and answers prayer.

Getting beyond that initial fear brings us to the fear that we will be called upon to actually pray. Many people are afraid to attend a Bible class or prayer meeting because they are afraid they will be put on the spot by being asked a question they cannot answer or to pray aloud. We can assure you those fears are unfounded in our gatherings, where we will never ask anyone to do either without obtaining their permission.

When one matures and finally becomes comfortable enough to consider praying aloud, he then encounters the common fear that he may not use the proper words, as if there is an approved prayer vocabulary. Prayer, however, is communicating with God, Who is delighted when His children express their praise, gratitude and petitions with

reverential fear and confident assurance that He will respond according to His wise providence.

There may be a more fundamental spiritual fear that, while praying, God will make us aware of changes that are needed in our lives—sins and shortcomings that must be addressed. Intimacy scares many people. It can be threatening and intimidating. Practiced properly, prayer is emotionally demanding and draining at times. Conscious that we are conversing with the holy Creator God strikes a degree a fear in us, knowing we will be confronted by our weaknesses and failures; and the corresponding need for repentance and consecration. Such honesty and intimacy scares the nominal Christian, who has grown comfortable in merely going through the motions.

Prayer also requires sacrifice and work, both of which scare many people. Seeking God's will above our own, which is involved in prayer, demands the sacrifice of our own will and requires work in areas where we are not in compliance. But like the ostrich, whose head is buried in the sand, our negligence in prayer does not change reality. Neither does it relieve us of responsibility to know and obey God's will.

Whatever your fears regarding prayer, we pray you will take advantage of the opportunity to overcome them by participating in the 24-Hour Prayer Event. 

Please reserve Fri. & Sat., Sept. 12 & 13 for PRAYER

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

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