

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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Forrest Cotter	Bruce Wolf

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Brett Schmeski	Eric Dwyer
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Gene McCoy

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Rick Schmeski

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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

Comfort in Uncertain Times

by Joyce Rhoads

Most people agree that our society is in a sad state of affairs. And it is. But no more so than in Bible times. One thing is SURE and CERTAIN. God is in control! Assurance that we are in God's hands and that He is in control is the theme of the following Scripture passages that produce comfort and peace in these times.

Isaiah 41:10

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Psalm 56:3

When I am afraid, I put my trust in You.

Philippians 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

2 Timothy 1:7

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

Psalm 94:19

When anxiety was great within me, Your consolation brought me joy.

1 John 4:18

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

Zephaniah 3:17

The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight

in you; in His love He will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.

Isaiah 43:1

But now, this is what the Lord says—He who created you, Jacob, He who formed you, Israel: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have summoned you by name; you are mine."

Mark 5:36

Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; just believe."

Psalm 23:4

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Joshua 1:9

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Matthew 6:34

"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own".

1 Peter 5:6-7

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.

Psalm 27:1

The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalm 118:6-7

The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me? The Lord is with me; He is my helper. I look in triumph on my enemies.

Psalm 34:4

I sought the Lord, and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears.

So says the Lord!





Preacher's Pen

by Gene McCoy

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

Baptism

Michelle Hannaford
on Saturday, July 16
the culmination of study with
Vanessa Peglar
and **Anne Mace**.

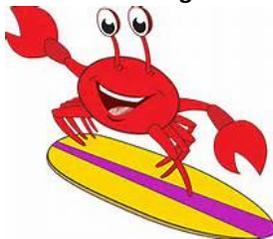
Recent Additions

Bill & RoseHood
Ken & Charmaine
Warren
Terry & Judy Balcom

Next Level

9:30 a.m.
Sunday, August 14
Celebrating the growth
and progress of our
young people

Catch the Wave of
God's Amazing Love



and come to the
Surf Shack

A VBS Beach Party!
for grades K-7

6:00—8:00 p.m.
August 1-5

Many congregations waved the flag in conjunction with our nation's celebration of independence last month. In no other country we have visited is the national flag even displayed in houses of worship. Some people insist that the church house is not an appropriate place to exhibit patriotism, including the stars and stripes.

Throughout the world, however, every gathering of Christians celebrates stars and stripes of a different kind — those relating to our liberation from sin, its penalty and power.

The birth of our Liberator was heralded in the skies not only by the angelic choir, but also by the Bethlehem star. After consulting with King Herod, the magi continued following the star, which they had seen in the east, until it stood over the place where the Child was (Matt. 2:9).

The prophets Isaiah and Malachi prophesied about the birth of this One, the Dayspring or Day Star, as the rising sun.

Isaiah 60:1-3 *Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness will cover the earth and deep darkness the peoples; but the Lord will rise upon you and His glory will appear upon you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.*

Malachi 4:2 *For you who revere My name the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings (rays).*

In the closing chapter of the Bible, as Jesus speaks about His return, He identifies Himself as the bright and morning star (v. 16).

Yes, the Star that Christians celebrate and to Whom they pledge allegiance is He to whom the stars of heaven direct wise men yet today. He is the Star, the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man (Jn. 1:9), attracting men from every nation (Is. 60:3).

Yes, there are significant stars associated with the Savior. But notice what **Malachi** said. "The sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings." Peter says this healing comes by the stripes / wounds of him who bore our sins in His own body on the tree (1 Pet. 2:24 NKJV). As a result of His wounds — His stripes — we are healed and made whole. He endured the scourging we



deserved and paid our penalty of death so that we may be set free from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us (Gal. 3:13).

Patriots celebrate those who paid the "ultimate sacrifice" in relation to national security. Christians celebrate the One Who paid THE ultimate sacrifice in relation to our eternal security.

Isaiah 53:3-5 *He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes — His scourging — we are healed.*

Every year our nation celebrates freedom — freedom from an oppressive earthly monarchy. Every week Christians celebrate freedom from spiritual oppression and eternal condemnation. The national patriot waves a flag of fabric that features meaningful symbols relating to liberty. The Christian raises a banner of rugged wood stained by the blood of the Savior, Whose body hung upon it in bitter agony and pain until He died, offering the sacrifice to end all sacrifices. The cross is the banner of salvation, purchased through scars and stripes.

'Stars and Stripes' continued from page 2

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.

It is easy to wave the flag and to sing the anthem of the free; to be patriotic. But being a patriot is an entirely different matter! Our freedom resulted from great personal loss; sacrifice. And that is not something we are eager to accept; a price only a few are willing to pay. We relish in the results – the victory, the pride, the bravado. Surrender is not in our blood, much less in our vocabulary. We sing about the night of bombs bursting in air and how, by the rockets' red glare, we can see the flag is still there. And how, by the dawn's early light, we see the stars and stripes gallantly streaming.

It is difficult for a red, white and blue American who is all about national pride, military strength and superiority, human ingenuity and victory to fly the Christian flag. It is the white flag of surrender. The Christian resigns control and lays down his arms in surrender.

The citizen expresses loyalty and devotion to country through patriotism. The Christian expresses worship through surrender – living an abandoned life (Chris Clayton, song writer and worship leader). It is a life laid on the altar and laid down as a sacrifice (**Rom. 12:1-2**). It is a cross-carrying life of self-denial (**Lk. 9:23-24**)

Luke 9:23-24 If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.

The Christian's flag looks much different. The U.S. flag is flown proudly as a statement of superiority and victory. Our patriotic songs tout the nation's

virtues and victory. The Christian's flag, however, communicates surrender. It is the white flag of surrender.

Philippians 3:8 I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ . . .

This banner communicates our surrender to the King of kings and Lord of lords. We lay down all claim to presumed privilege or entitlement when the Lord takes up residence and our bodies become a temple of the Holy Spirit. With Him in residence, the Christian flag of surrender to His rule and reign in our life will be exhibited by the Spirit's fruit (**Gal. 5:22-23**) and by service.

An appropriate anthem for sacrificing and serving Christians is that attributed to D.W. Whittle or James McGranahan, "The Banner of the Cross."

There's a royal banner given for display to the soldiers of the King. As an ensign fair we lift it up today, while as ransomed ones we sing, "Marching on! Marching on! For Christ count everything but loss! And to crown Him King, toil and sing 'neath the banner of the cross!

Though the foe may rage and gather as the flood, let the standard be displayed. And beneath its folds, as soldiers of the Lord, for the truth be not dismayed!

Over land and sea, wherever man may dwell, make the glorious tidings known of the crimson banner, now the story tell, while the Lord shall claim His own!

When the glory dawns, 'tis drawing very near—it is hastening day by day. Then before our King the foe shall disappear and the cross the world shall sway.



Family Info For August

Meetings

- 1 Willing Workers @ 1 pm
- 8 Elders @ 6:30 pm
- 14 Benevolence Ministry Team luncheon @ 12 pm

Birthdays

- 2 Mary Douglas
- 5 Lynn Huett
- 5 Wyatt Holland
- 6 Kim May
- 7 Tamara Pickett
- 10 Barkley Terry
- 13 Dakota Townsend
- 14 Bailey Byrd
- 15 Brad Berg
- 17 Bill Hood
- 18 Vicky Wolf
- 19 Landon Crider
- 21 Thelma Hill
- 23 Chris Nosari
- 24 Jon Gambold
- 26 Leslie Hytinen
- 27 Bruce Wolf
- 30 Mary Snyder

Anniversaries

- 4 Mike & Sandy Lloyd
- 9 Richard & Cheryl Britt
- 11 Jerry & Nancy Rose
- 13 Bernie & Thelma Hill—60th!

CORRECTION

Mike Armstrong is our minister at Christ on Campus and is not affiliated with Campus Crusade, as incorrectly reported in last month's CONTACT.

Women of Worth

Resumes in September!
Contact Arlene Dixon for information.

Bible Fellowship Group (BFG)

by Gene McCoy

Over seventy people participated in the cookout at the Peglars' river house in celebration of our Bible Fellowship Groups. The multi-generational spectrum illustrated one of the values of our home study groups. The majority of those present are current participants, but it attracted some who are considering their involvement.

We honored the hosts of the first seven groups, our elders and preacher and their wives who have led the way in this initiative. We then introduced current participants who will launch new groups and urged those not currently involved to plug into one of them. Six individuals bore personal testimony to the benefits derived from their participation. Not only have participants gained additional Bible knowledge through this format, but relationships have been born and nurtured. Overall, the body of Christ here has been strengthened as a result of the Bible Fellowship Groups.



The evening concluded with a fun and interesting activity through which we all became better acquainted. The relaxing, enjoyable and filling event was planned and organized by our Family Life Ministry Team, to which we owe our gratitude.

Our initial goal has been to involve as many of our current church family as possible. But our ultimate goal is to incorporate those who are not yet a part of the family of faith, the church. This objective we hope to accomplish as succeeding generations form. Please invite friends from the community and family members to your Bible Fellowship Group.

To obtain more information about our Bible Fellowship Groups, please contact one of our elders or the preacher. The second generation begins on Sunday, August 7!

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

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