

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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Gordon Addington
David Benedict Rick Schmeski
Don Truitt Bruce Wolf

Ministry Managers

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

Preacher

Gene McCoy

Youth Ministers

Eric Dwyer
Vanessa Peglar

Extended Ministries

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Papua New Guinea

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Saleem & Naylah Massey
Pakistan

Jay & Romola Henry, **India**
Ernest & Numreta
McFarland, **India**
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Ireland

Central Christian College of the Bible
Ozark Christian College
Show-Me Christian Youth Home
Christ on Campus
Mtn. Home Christian Academy

Annual Report

MORE THAN (USUALLY) MEETS THE EYE by David Benedict

As we gather together for worship each week we have a great fellowship, we praise the Lord and study the Word together and pray for one another. Each person has an individual pattern of activity that doesn't vary a whole lot from week to week. So we might begin to develop a sense of "same ol'-same ol'" over time. But that would be wrong.

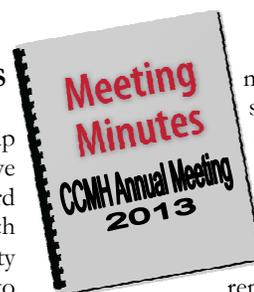
Our Annual Congregational Meeting held on January 19 was a good way for us to have our eyes opened to how much ministry is going on at—and beyond—CCMH that we are not usually aware of as we follow our pattern Sunday to Sunday.

The meeting was a real blessing as it revealed to us the many, many different ways in which the lives of people are touched. Education reports show us that step-by-step, children, youth and adults are learning and growing. Financial reports reveal to us the good that our giving does. Missions reports remind us that we get to impact sharing the gospel in distant places through the mission teams we support.

Recalling the activities through the past year from various ministries—and seeing some pictures—tell us that more is going on than usually meets the eye. And meeting together helps us to know one another better, and find out who is doing the work in various areas.

Also important were the forecasts of things which are being planned and will take place as we go on through the current new year... such as a new children's playground and a 24-Hour prayer event in the early fall (see Louise's related article).

And the meeting presented the challenge that there may be important areas of service in which you can help. Good ministry is the result of solid staff leadership—and a big, diverse team of volunteers in different areas. If you are not serving in a particular way right now, it



may be just the time to start. Join in, and we'll all experience an even better Annual Meeting in 2015.

Eight of the nine ministry teams reported at the January 19, 2014 meeting that reviewed the ministry that took place in 2013 and previewed that which is anticipated in 2014.

FINANCE MINISTRY TEAM

by Jan Schmeski

God gave us everything we own. We are God's stewards, entrusted to use his gifts for the good of our family and our church family. Our church family has truly been blessed.

Our weekly need in 2013 for was \$6727.00. We received an average of \$6083.00 each week. That was a little bit less than what we needed, but that represents only the general fund and the building fund contributions. We received additional contributions amounting to \$26,258.00 for the playground equipment. We sold the lot on 6th street for just under \$50,000.00 and used all of that to pay down the mortgage. The mortgage balance a year ago was just over \$975,000.00. By year's end it was reduced by \$110,877.59 for a year-ending balance of \$864,690.51. Because of the property sale and the support to the building fund, we were able to keep the bills paid and increase the mission support to 28% of all unrestricted contributions. For 2014 we increased mission support to 29% and the budget will remain very close to what is was last year with a weekly need of \$6700.00. That will enable us to keep paying extra on the mortgage, driving that principal balance down, and allow for the higher expenses due to inflation.

We received a couple of gifts last year that I hadn't seen happen here for many

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Preacher's Pen *by Gene McCoy*

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



You may be surprised by the suggestion that some of the best reasons people have for attending the meetings of the church may not be acceptable to God. It isn't that some of these are bad reasons, but that none of them should be a primary reason. In other words, there is a reason for attending that not only surpasses all other reasons but stands alone in the absence of all others. That which distinguishes this reason from all others is that it places God at the center, where He belongs, whereas the others place man at the center. When people put God at the center, faithful weekly church attendance is never a challenge or a chore. Neither is it a reason for boasting.

Consider some of the reasons commonly given for attending the meetings of the church.

The young couple that has neglected the weekly appointment with the Lord at His Supper in favor of their weekend getaways and recreational interests now has children who are beyond the infancy stage. The parents, who begin to take their role more seriously, will express the responsibility to "get their children in church." But why? If it hasn't been important to them, why should it be important for their children? Will they be satisfied if their children follow their example and drop out of church when they become adults? These adults repeat the mantra, "My children are getting to the age when they need to be in church." Just what is the age when a person needs to begin attending church or the age at which he no longer needs to be in church? If we are to believe that some people need to be in church more than others, it is the negligent adult guilty of sin who needs to be in church more than the innocent child!

Many have said the reason they attend church is that they were "raised that way." So it is out of respect for parental training, and not love for the Lord that you attend church.

Other selfish reasons people give in favor of their practice of attending the meetings of the church are equally thoughtless of God and, therefore, unacceptable to Him.

"I attend church," say many people, "because I receive a blessing." "My week just isn't complete when I have to miss. I feel like something is missing," say some.

To many church attendance is merely another social outlet. They enjoy the good, wholesome environment and associating with respectable citizens who are nice and affirming. It makes them feel good and socially acceptable.

A large number of people attend church out of obligation to obey God's commands. Still others attend so as to provide a good example for others.

Some attend because they sense the need for a spiritual uplift after a hard week. A few even recognize they need teaching and exhortation from the Word of God.

Can you see how selfish all these reasons are? Use them in the context of your marriage and let your spouse tell you how acceptable they are!

Apply this to your marriage.

How satisfied would your spouse be if you offered any of these reasons for faithfulness to your marriage? To the person who uses his children as a reason for attending church I ask if he would offer that as the reason for going home after work. What security does this provide your spouse after the children are grown and leave home?

Would your spouse feel especially loved and cherished if you said your love was motivated by the way you were raised? In other words, it really has nothing to do with your spouse but everything to do with the way your parents raised you.

How would you expect your spouse to react if you said your reasons for hanging around her revolved around how good it made you feel or look? Or how having her around enhanced your position in society or made you feel fulfilled and happy? These are all about "me." It is all about getting. There is no expression of giving in these reasons.

It is easy to see that many go to church with the expectation of getting than of giving. No wonder there are so many spats pertaining to matters of personal preference relating to the church meetings.

Consider, now, the best reasons for faithfully attending the meetings of the church.

Response to God's grace

Worship is a grateful response from recipients of grace. Grace is giving. God gives grace and we give worship.

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years. One of those gifts was a gift of common stock, which is a great way to give to the church. Giving appreciated stock benefits both the church and the give because the giver doesn't have to sell the stock first and suffer tax consequences. The other gift we received was from a will. That made me really think about how easy it is to include a lasting gift as a final way of giving thanks to God. Gifts in wills, beneficiaries through IRA's or transfer on death designations are all ways to leave a gift to our church and a way to thank God for all the many blessing we've received in our lifetime.

We are all rich in the gift and grace of Christ. "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich" (2Cor. 8:9).

PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM
by Louise Addington

Due to the importance of prayer in our spiritual well-being, there will be a **24 Hour Prayer Event** to be held at CCMH from 6:00 P.M. September 12th through 6:00 P.M. the 13th .2014. You might consider this as a "birth" announcement for what will take place in 9 months. Throughout most of that 24 hours, three prayer related activities will be taking place.

Prayer for our community, our primary emphasis, will be held all 24 hours in the community room. A list of those agreeing to silently pray for an hour in the community room, regardless of whether anyone else shows up, will be posted in the spring and will be designated as "the keepers of the flame". If you wish to volunteer for that

privilege/responsibility, please let me know. Everyone else will then have an opportunity to sign their name along with those willing to be our "flame keepers" in praying for our neighbors. Our goal will be to pray through the phone book. There will be guideline prayers for everyone to use, if so desired.

The second prayer activity will be the opportunity for you to meet with one of our elders/staff to pray for your own family, friends, relatives, neighbors, co-workers and acquaintances. Our elders/staff have agreed to be available for praying with you at previously arranged appointment times during the 24 hour time frame. You will be contacted by phone in early summer to find out if you want to avail yourself of this blessing, with whom you wish to pray, or what time would be convenient for you to meet.

The third prayer activity will be the meeting of various prayer groups, classes - including the showing of DVD's on prayer, and Skype contacts with our missionaries. The prayer groups will focus on a broader spectrum of subjects and people than just those we know locally. On Saturday afternoon between 2 and 5 pm there will be prayer activities designed for our younger children.

On both Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, Dr. Ben Merold will be a guest speaker on the subject of prayer. A luncheon talk Sunday afternoon, with all in any form of leadership, will conclude Brother Merold's time with us.

A schedule for all of these events will be available later this year. Direct offers to volunteer, ask questions, or make comments to Louise Addington, event coordinator. 

 Grace is God's expression of love. Worship is a reciprocal expression of love. Our attendance at the Lord's Supper and meetings of the church is not for selfish gain or glory, but a humble expression of gratitude for His grace and partial fulfillment of our enlistment as servants in training.

Responsibility to God's church

The church is community. It is family. Her members meet at the family table with the expressed desire to honor the Father by fulfilling His desires for His children. Their attendance, therefore, is motivated by the desire to serve and strengthen His family. This they do as they encourage, build up and admonish one another in love.

In response to God's grace and

responsibility to God's church, our motivation for attending the family gatherings revolves around God and other Christians.

When attending church meetings stops being about me and starts being about responding to God's grace and responsibility to His family, the Christian will not be satisfied with faithfully attending the Sunday meeting only. Instead, he will look forward to every opportunity to gather with the saints.

Ponder a question in the wider context of your participation in the family. How would the church fare if every Christian's practice were just like mine? Would the church flounder or flourish? 

FEBRUARY MEETINGS

- 2 *Worship Ministry Team Luncheon*
- 3 *Willing Workers*
- 4 *Benevolence Ministry Team*
- 9 *Missions Ministry Team Luncheon*
- 10 *Elders*
- 12 *Finance Ministry Team*



5:00 p.m.
Sun., Feb. 2

sponsored by the
Family Life Ministry Team
Prize: weekend at the Peglars' "Firehouse" VRBO in Cotter.



Church Library

We have a library with all types of books and videos that you may borrow for a month at a time.

Would your interest be in autobiographies or biographies? Perhaps you desire a commentary or some other Bible reference book. If your choice is family counseling or Christian living, missions, music or poetry, our library has it.

If non-fiction is what you enjoy, mysteries and inspirational books may be found in our library.

It is located in the front office. Come and browse during office hours, which are 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday. 

From our Youth Minister by Eric Dwyer

I realize we are well into 2013...I mean...14 (I'm going to make that mistake for months) but there is a lesson I think we all can learn as we put away our party hats for another year. I have always loved the New Year holiday. It was one of my favorites as kid. I looked forward to staying up past my bedtime. I'm also a huge sucker for party food. I ushered in 2014 with my parents, fireworks, and all the Doritos I could handle. What is better than a party with good food and friends?

This year, I did not make any resolutions, but many people do. They view the turning of the calendar as an opportunity for a fresh start. This is viewed as a time for new beginnings. A friend of mine named David Heffren rightly compares this feeling of new beginnings to the Israelites in the book of Deuteronomy. "It's at a transition



Crossing the Border in Faith

point—the Israelites have finished their forty years of wandering in the wilderness and are preparing to go into the Promised Land. One chapter of their story is ending, and a new one is beginning. And that fits the beginning of a new year, because this is also a transition point for us, built right into our calendars.”

In Deuteronomy 1:8 God says, “See, I have set the land before you. Go in and take possession of the land

that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give to them and to their offspring after them.”

Think about those words for just a moment. God had *set* the land before the people. Forty years earlier, when the Israelites first reached Canaan after being led through the Red Sea, God was more than willing to give the land to them. But we know what happened. The Israelites had a lack of faith in the one who carried them this far and they didn't go in. The land was set before them, but they turned away from it.

As we enter this New Year, let us consider what God might have “set” before us. Let us not miss out on His blessings just because we do not trust Him the way we should. He has faithfully carried us this far. Let's follow him across the border in 2014.



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
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