

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

Forrest Cotter
 David Benedict Don Truitt
 Jason Schmeski Joey Peglar
 LaDonna Mendleski Ted Bankes
 Louise Addington

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 & Alyssa Walton,
Ireland

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

Growth Resolutions by Gene McCoy

We are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ; to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. Eph. 4:15 ESV & NIV

How serious we are about growing up into Christ, our head (Eph. 4:15) is evident by our resolve to mature in aspects of godliness; to our commitment to sanctification, the life of a saint. Many resolving to stop growing physically will join a fitness club and commit themselves to a restrictive diet. Many Christians resolve to grow spiritually. But to do that requires some definitive goals relating to diet and exercise to which they must be strongly committed. Unlike the ease of physical growth, which results naturally from the lack of discipline, spiritual growth demands concentration and hard work. It begins with a resolution and is maintained by unwavering resolve.

The application of Paul's teaching in Ephesians 4 is personal, but the context is congregational. He is addressing the unity and growth of the church body. My commitment to spiritual growth has implications for the entire church. The growth of the body of Christ is affected by my personal maturity.

A person who finds it difficult to keep a resolution for his benefit alone will exert extra effort to honor it if doing so will benefit someone he loves. We are less likely to give in to selfish urges when doing so hurts those we love. In other words, when we put the interests of others above our own, emulating the humility exemplified by Jesus (Phil. 2:3-4), we will be more motivated and compelled by love to not only resolve but to dedicate ourselves to a process of maturation that is never ending. We can never attain to the goal, which is the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ (Eph. 4:13). But the faithful Christian will commit to a life of deliberate discipline that steadily pursues that goal. And that, not merely for personal development, but

for the building up of the body in love.

You, dear Christian, are responsible to every other Christian in the matter of spiritual growth or maturity. Demonstrating your love for the body of Christ and your sincere desire that she is built up and expands involves your devotion to spiritual maturity. Paul says this growth depends upon each individual making a contribution, "according to the proper working of each individual part" (v. 16).

For Christ's sake, therefore, and for the health and growth of His body, the church, resolve to grow up into Him even more.

It is utterly impossible to contribute to the growth of the body when absent from the body. Your attendance at the family meal, the Lord's Supper, each Sunday is one way you not only grow up into Christ yourself, but that you contribute to the unity and growth of the entire body. One who seriously resolves to grow up into Christ for the building up of His body will make the weekly supper his top priority — every week.

Selfishness is displayed by a Christian who absents himself from the weekly meeting of the church. He is thinking only of his own interests and neglecting his ministry to the body.

This resolve is also expressed by
go to GROWTH on p. 3



Sunday, January 19

All who call CCMH their church home are urged to participate in the hour-long meeting when information will be provided to review the year past and preview the year ahead. All ministry teams will provide a report, as will members of the elder team and staff.



Preacher's Pen by Gene McCoy

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

Our Family Grows!

Dave & Erica Nowlin presented themselves for service with us as immersed believers who recently discovered our fellowship.

Chloe Nosari was baptized into Christ.

Death / Tribute

Jim Darr

entered into eternal glory on Friday, December 6, after a lengthy physical struggle, not only with heart and kidney disease, but ultimately cancer.

Jim faithfully served our congregation for many years as the Deacon who led our Property Ministry Team. In conjunction with that role, Jim also functioned as the construction superintendent who oversaw and managed every aspect of building the nice facility in which we study and worship as a church family. That responsibility Jim took very seriously, as evidenced by his work in contracting builders, his presence on the construction site nearly every day and by the coordination of volunteer crews. The benefits of his contributions to our congregation are of inestimable value, for which we are very grateful. We extend our condolences to Billie Sue and their family.

Announcement

In the wake of Jim Darr's death **Lee Belicek** eagerly and graciously offered to manage the completion of the playground project.

Two demographic groups upon which a congregation's health may be projected are the teens and young adults. We are blessed with a good number of both.

Our effort to facilitate the growth and development of both segments will include a new format we will launch in late January. We have commissioned Eric Dwyer to develop a worship format designed for the teens during their midweek meeting. While it will employ the teens in some aspects of the worship (e.g., music), it will be led by the young adults whom Eric has recruited to take ownership of various elements. Casey Hickman, for example, has agreed to be responsible to lead in all aspects relating to the music. Some of the young men will be presenting the sermons, which will include Bible instruction on the church at worship (e.g., the Lord's Supper, giving, etc.).

Most of our teens attend on Wednesday evenings only. They come from homes where the adults provide no spiritual training or example. We do not see these young people on Sunday mornings. But we hope this new initiative will acquaint them with the church at worship, resulting in their expanded exposure to Bible

teaching and church life through their eventual attendance on Sundays.

At the same time, we anticipate that the young adults (especially the men) will benefit from the opportunity to hone their leadership skills and to gain confidence that will prepare them for congregational leadership. Our desire is that the adolescent females will adopt the Christian attitudes and behavior modeled by our young adult women.

Both groups are in a transitional stage. Adolescents will relate more easily with the young adults, who may, themselves, mature spiritually and in other ways through this format. As a result, our anticipation is that both will transition in such a way that the entire congregation will enjoy greater fellowship in every aspect of church life.

An added side-benefit of this initiative will be the addition of the young adults' children to our midweek children's ministry, led by Vanessa Peglar and her team of volunteers.

Please pray for the effectiveness of this initiative. Pray for the young adult leaders and for the teenagers and their families. Now read what Eric has written concerning this initiative.



The following is from Eric Dwyer.

I do not want you to go to church on Wednesday nights in 2014. You heard me. Don't go to church. That may seem crazy for me to say, but I will try to explain as best as I can.

Wednesday nights next year will be different for some of you. Perhaps something is missing in your discipleship. Maybe God seems distant. Maybe you feel slightly detached from fellow believers. You may not be able to outline exactly what is making this hole you feel, but you know it's there. You want to fill it.

If you do not feel this way, then you do not have to read the rest of this article. It does not apply to you. You have a great discipleship group on Wednesday nights and you couldn't be more filled with the meaty Biblical teaching our church provides. I praise God for your maturity in the faith and for the many gifted men and women from whom we all learn here at CCMH.

So what is going on with the rest of us? Well, I had better start by telling you what it is NOT.

This is not going to be just another service. Ain't nobody got time fo dat. I'm not going to get a tattoo and some skinny "hipster" jeans. We're not going for trendy. Our goal is authenticity. We are going to combine the youth group and adults who want to learn from and teach each other. We will pour into each other as scripture intended for us. It helps our feeble human minds to attach a name to something like this and we have chosen, "Connection." Please do not assume that since there is a name that this

is just another church program. There may be a logo, but you have enough stuff crammed into your week. We're not trying to compete with your kids' sports practice or your book club. In that line of thinking, the deck is stacked against what we are trying to accomplish. If you want to connect with God and connect with others, we'd like for you to join us. We will start in the first quarter of 2014 and I promise you that a start date will be announced soon.

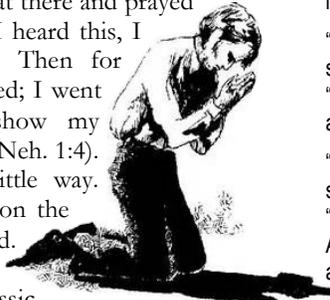
So, what can you expect? The lifetime churchgoer in me wants to say something "Christian" like, "Come and feel free to be you." That would be wrong. Don't misunderstand me. I like you. I really do. You have unique gifts, thoughts, and abilities God imprinted on you when you were made. That's truly awesome. But if you decide to join us on Wednesdays, you need to show up like Christ. Be ready to serve. Be humble. Be ready to lead. Be ready to teach. Be ready to worship. I'm sure there will be singing. I'm sure there will be Biblical instruction. It is my sincere prayer that there will be true community. It might be uncomfortable at first, but I think you will grow to cherish what you will experience and learn. If you have any questions, please call me and set up a time where we can discuss this matter further. (Warning: When I talk about something that excites me, I could go on forever!).

Whatever you do, do not *go* to church on Wednesday nights. Show up ready to *be* the church. 

Prayer Posture by Don Truitt, Elder

What is the correct posture for prayer?

The scriptures present us with many examples of different kinds of prayer posture. Moses often knelt down. Hannah was brokenhearted and was crying as she prayed (1Sa. 1:10). Hezekiah turned toward the wall and prayed (2Ki. 20:20). David went into the tent ... sat there and prayed (1Ch. 17:16). When I heard this, I sat down and cried. Then for several days, I mourned; I went without eating to show my sorrow, and I prayed (Neh. 1:4). Jesus walked on a little way. Then he knelt down on the ground and prayed. (Mark 14:35). Then there is the classic



Pharisee and Publican. The Pharisee stood over by himself and prayed, "God, I thank you that I am not greedy, dishonest, and unfaithful in marriage like other people. And I am really glad that I am not like that tax collector over there. The tax collector stood off at a distance and did not think he was good enough even to look up toward heaven. He was so sorry for what he had done that he pounded his chest and prayed, "God, have pity on me! I am such a sinner" (Luke 18:11-13).

Paul's admonition to the church in Ephesus is to be noted. "I want everyone everywhere to lift innocent hands toward heaven and pray, without being angry or arguing with each other" (1Ti 2:8).

I hope this bit of verse from Sam Walter Foss will underscore a very important lesson about prayer .

THE PRAYER OF CYRUS BROWN

"The proper way for a man to pray," said Deacon Lemuel Keys, "and the only proper attitude is down upon his knees."

"No, I should say the way to pray," said Rev. Dr. Wise, "is standing straight with outstretched arms and rapt and upturned eyes."

"Oh, no, no, no," said Elmer Slow. "Such posture's too proud. A man should pray with eyes closed and head bowed."

"Seems to me his hands should be austere clapsed in front, with both thumbs pointing toward the ground," said Rev. Dr. Blunt.

"Last year I fell in Hitchkin's well, headfirst," said Cyrus Brown. "And both my heels were stickin' up and my head was pointin' down."

"And I made a prayer right then and there, the best prayer I ever said. The prayin'est prayer I ever prayed was standin' on my head."

The lesson is that it is not the words, it is not the posture; it is the content of the heart that connects with the Savior, the Spirit, and the Father. 

GROWTH cont. from p. 1

making yourself available and accountable for training in service. Paul says the saints are to be equipped for the work of service. And again it is to the end that the body is built up. See verses 11-12.

Much of the equipping for ministry is done in the Bible classes and other Bible study opportunities provided under the direction of the Elders and staff members. The building up and growth occurs as each individual offers the fruit of his personal study to the benefit of others in the class. The purpose of Bible instruction is not merely the personal growth of the students, but rather the growth and maturity of the body corporately. The Christian who does not participate in these training sessions in not only depriving himself, but is also

depriving the body the nutrients he can provide to the building up of the church family.

Be it resolved that your life will display a conscious awareness of responsibility to the body by your faithfulness in building her up. Be devoted to personal spiritual growth by a daily diet of Bible study so that you will have food to share with other members of the body. Present yourself at the weekly supper not only for personal nourishment, but with the purpose of building others up through encouragement and prayer. Employ the gifts God has granted you to serve the body as a good manager of God's grace (1 Pet. 4:10).

Your personal growth is important. But do not be short-sighted or selfish. Instead, apply the benefits of your personal maturity to effect congregational growth.

JANUARY MEETINGS

- 5 Education Ministry Team
- 6 Willing Workers
- 7 Benevolence Ministry Team
- 13 Elders
- 16 Property Ministry Team
- 19 Congregational Meeting

conGRADulations!

to
Becky
McCoy
who



received the BSN degree, graduating Summa Cum Laude from Arkansas Tech University.

Gratitude

We are grateful to all for the many Christmas gifts and greetings. Our sincere thanks is extended to the congregation for the generous cash gift.

With love,
Gene & Becky

We are sincerely grateful to the church family for surrounding our home in support. The year end gift was again greatly appreciated.

The church's sponsorship of us at the appreciation event for foster parents was also a great blessing. We are truly grateful for the gift card. Thank you all so much for joining us on this journey. We look forward to serving with you in 2014!

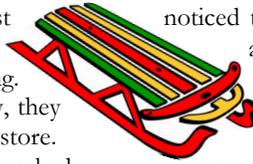
Eric & Sarah

Of Sleds and Salvation by Julie Hickman as told to Gene McCoy

The snowfall last month gave us the opportunity to enjoy the winter sport of sledding. But we soon discovered that sleds were in very short supply. Just when we were about to give up, a friend told us she saw sleds at a small discount store that morning. So we called to see if they had any left. Fortunately, they had a few remaining. We immediately drove to that store.

When we could not find them in the store, we asked the clerk at the register where we could find the sleds. She explained that an individual had purchased all remaining sleds just a few minutes before we arrived. We expressed our disappointment, noting that we had rushed to the store after calling and learning sleds were still available.

“Oh,” she said. “You’re the ones who called? Well, the gentleman who bought all the sleds overheard my phone conversation with you as he stood at the register to pay for the sleds.” At that, the clerk turned and grabbed a sled that was tucked in the corner of her booth. Handing it to us, she said, “He left this one for you.” Delighted, we reached for our money to pay for the lone sled. The clerk said, “Oh. You don’t understand. The man paid for all the sleds—including this one he left for you!” Dumfounded, we headed to the golf course for a day of playing in the snow.



While sledding, we saw some friends from church. Eric and Christina Setzer were there with their kids. We noticed that their sleds were identical to our sled. I asked if they had purchased them at the store where we had just gotten our sled. They said they had. Just as I was beginning to tell our story, Eric said he had purchased all their sleds. As he began to relate how he left one for a lady who called the store as he was paying for his sleds, I held up our sled and said, “I am that lady! Thank you for your good deed.”

Reflecting on this, I thank God for His amazing grace. He did not have to purchase my salvation. But He gave His one and only Son to pay the penalty of death for my sin. Because of His kindness, I owe nothing.

I was happy that I had the opportunity to thank Eric for his thoughtful generosity—that I know him who did this kindness. I am eternally grateful that I know Him Who set me free from sin’s guilt and punishment. And I look forward to the day when I have the opportunity to thank Him face to face.

Meanwhile, I have the privilege to show kindness to others through deeds of mercy and by sharing the good news of salvation by God’s wonderful grace. 

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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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