

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

David Benedict
Forrest Cotter Don Truitt
Rick Schmeski Bruce Wolf

Ministry Managers

David Benedict Don Truitt
Jason Schmeski Joey Peglar
Jim Darr Ted Bankes
LaDonna Mendleski

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**

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

Gordon Addington

***Under Consideration for Elder* by David Benedict**

Gordon Addington's name has been submitted to be considered for appointment as an elder, and Gordon has expressed his willingness serve. Our policy on Elder Selection allows a recommendation for elder to be presented at any time.

Gordon's situation is somewhat unusual, since we announced to the church in May of 2012 that he was taking a temporary leave of absence from an active position serving as an elder. He had served for a number of years prior

to that time, and simply desired an indefinite time to step back from that responsibility.

Though his current status is technically a leave of absence, we want the congregation to be aware that he is being considered for the position of elder. According to our elder selection policy, any person who believes there is a reason to object to his appointment should contact a member of the current eldership within the next 30 days.



Louise & Gordon Addington

After that time, assuming no objection is presented, Gordon will be affirmed and appointed as an elder in an appropriate morning service. 

A matter of assurance

***The Point of Salvation* by Gene McCoy**

Does it matter whether or not we may pinpoint the time or occasion when sins are forgiven and a sinner is transferred from the kingdom of darkness to that of light? Some say not. They say that God can do this at any time He chooses. And that it may vary from person to person! So much for God not showing favoritism, I guess.

But that is so nebulous. Much too vague for such a weighty concern as salvation! If we are to know that we have eternal life (1 Jn. 5:13), we need a definitive point at which we can know we are forgiven. By His grace God has provided that stake in the ground to which we may point with confidence as the occasion when He delivered us from sin's guilt and consequences.

We know there is such a point because the Bible speaks only of the saved and the lost. No one is partly saved. At some point or on some occasion, therefore, the lost was saved; the sinner became a saint. There is a

specified and identifiable moment when God promises to forgive sin and to give the gift of His Holy Spirit. It is when our faith in the blood of His Son is expressed by repentance and baptism into Him. (See Rom. 3:21-26; 6:1-11; Acts 2:36-39; 22:6-16; Gal. 3:26-27; Titus 3:5; 1 Pet. 3:18-22 and Eph. 2:1-10 with Col. 2:9-15)

Every Christian may point to his baptism as the occasion when God kept His promise to wash away all sin and to give to him the gift of His Holy Spirit. Baptism is God's grace most graphically and clearly expressed, as the sinner, participating in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, receives the gifts God promised there to give. It is the sinner's expression of faith in the promise of God. His confidence is in God's faithfulness to keep His promise.

Baptism is the sinner putting his trust in God by dying to sin and self in the likeness *cont. on p. 4*



Preacher's Pen by Gene McCoy

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

Death

Betty Broom,

a former member of our congregation, died at her home in Topeka, KS on Sunday, August 4.

Announcement

MAJOR PRAYER EVENT SET

This month we are one year away from our next 24-Hour Prayer Event in September, 2014. Our elders will be leading and encouraging us in this time of intense entreaty of God on behalf of our church and community.

Louise Addington,
Prayer Ministry Team

Note: The Preacher's Pen article is the first of several items that will appear in this newsletter corresponding to our emphasis on prayer. The elders have added the Prayer Ministry Team, bringing our total to nine. They have appointed one practiced in prayer, Louise Addington, to lead it.

Why do many Christians feel unfulfilled and deficient in the matter of prayer? Consider the possibility that we have focused more attention and devoted more energy on the *action* of prayer and not enough on the *attitude* of prayer. We think more about the posture and practice than the heart and soul. More about the folding of the hands than the submission of the will. Have we created boxes into which we have neatly packaged prayer? Are we imprisoned by our mechanics, the rituals and rules, to the extent that we have missed the substance, the life and power of prayer?

Many have tried to break out of this self-imposed imprisonment by implementing various methods of personal devotions and reading books about the discipline of prayer or creative ways to vitalize our prayer life. Even that term, "prayer life," may indicate a mindset that approaches prayer in a mechanical way; that prayer is a room we have furnished with the trappings of prayer and which we enter and exit, as if there are times we need to pray and other times when we don't. Yet the Bible instructs us to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17). A reason we have difficulty understanding this may be that we have segmented our Christian life and relegated prayer to a compartment we refer to as our "prayer life."

Consider some indicators that you may be in the prison of prayer.

PRAYER IS RECITATION

A prayer commonly recited is the one Jesus provided as a model. If it were meant to recite, however, we would expect it to be uniformly recorded. But Luke's record, compared to Matthew's, is greatly abbreviated. (See Lk. 11:1-4 and Matt. 6:9-13)

Many who want to recite the words of this prayer have given little thought to actually praying the prayer. They have no idea what the prayer is or means. They have made it into a religious shrine to merely visit, as if doing so has some mystical power or spiritual significance.

Break out of the prison of prayer recitation by adopting the attitude in prayer that Jesus here teaches. Model your communication with the Father upon the basis of these attitudes.

"Father, hallowed be Your name." Express the attitude of reverence, adoration and worship.

"Your kingdom come." Express the attitude of surrender and submission as you pray that all men everywhere would allow God to rule in their lives. There is also the anticipation of the eternal kingdom where God's rule reigns.

"Give us each day our daily bread." Express dependence upon God's provision, but also trust

and gratitude for His faithfulness to provide what we need for today.

"And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us."

Acknowledge your need of forgiveness and your indebtedness to God for His forgiveness, which includes repentance and extending forgiveness to others.

Break Out



of the PRISON OF PRAYER

"And lead us not into temptation." Confess your need for His guidance.

PRAYER IS A RITUAL

The saying of prayers was a significant aspect of Jewish worship. It was formal, ceremonial and dramatic. They wore special prayer clothing, faced the temple in Jerusalem, beat their chest, tore their clothes and threw dust or ashes into the air and on their head.

Our rituals are less obvious. At least to us. We observe hours of prayer in our own way. We employ the sacred "order of worship," in which we strategically schedule prayers to fill slots or to neatly tie segments together. Every church meeting must be "opened" and "closed" in prayer so as to sanctify it. The chorus of Matthew West's song, "Motions," comes to mind. "I don't wanna go through the motions, I don't wanna go one more day without Your all-consuming passion inside of me."

Jesus' teaching was revolutionary. Prayer is not to be ritualistic or ceremonial, a mere motion we go through. So break out of that prison cell by sincerely expressing the attitudes of reverence, adoration, submission, dependence, gratitude and indebtedness in words that come from your heart and soul. These words may be appropriately accompanied by physical expressions such as tears of repentance or joy, the lifting of hands in adoration and bowing or falling prostrate on the ground in submission.

PRAYER IS A MAGIC WAND

Some view prayer as a magic wand that may be waved over any situation, circumstance or concern and, with the recitation of an ecclesiastical formula, God will work His magic. Presto! My wish has been granted. Prayer is thereby reduced to some kind of mystical hocus pocus by which we selfishly lift up to God our wish list.

But this is a prison cell of selfishness, in which we are absorbed with what "I" wants. It treats God as a genie who comes running at our beck and call to deliver us, provide for us, and grant that for which we wish, no matter how selfish or presumptuous the request.

I don't think God is the friend to whom Carole King's lyric, "You've Got a Friend," refers. But many treat God that way. "You just



Preacher's Pen cont. from p. 2

call out my name, and you know wherever I am I'll come running to see you again. . . All you have to do is call and I'll be there." We are quick to agree that God does hear and respond to our prayers, that He is concerned about our needs and has the power to resolve any difficulty. But He hasn't promised to jump every time we call upon Him or to deliver everything we desire.

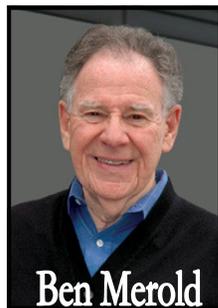
Remember, too, that He utilizes us to answer prayers. Moses' staff was no magic wand. Yes, God told Moses to extend his staff over the sea, at which God parted the water. But then Moses was to go with the people through the sea and to stand with them on the opposite shore. So, too, must we be prepared to be used by God to answer prayer instead of merely waving the magic prayer wand and then going on our merry way to pursue our selfish agenda while God tends to our wish list. We could be more like Epaphras, who "labored fervently in prayer" (Col. 4:12).

CONCLUSION

If the rules, rituals and mechanics of prayer have left you unfulfilled and dissatisfied, break out of the prison cell by humbling yourself before God and expressing the attitudes Jesus taught in His model prayer. Express proper reverence, adoration and worship and submit to His sovereign rule. Acknowledge your dependence upon Him for daily sustenance, forgiveness and guidance. Then pray like Jesus did in the garden, specifically, "Father, not my will but Your will be done." Make your requests along with the offer to be used by God in answering them. Put hands and feet on your prayers. Your hands and feet! 



8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Saturday, September 7
Mtn. View, MO



Ben Merold

Main Sessions:

1. Staying Encouraged and Sticking With It
2. Keeping the Spirit in Charge at Church
3. Forget Everything Else, But Remember This

Workshops:

- Doing Ministry through Big Events
- Worship Music: What Works, What Really Matters
- Getting the church involved in short term mission projects
- What to look for when you're looking for someone
- Being an Effective Deacon
- Being an Effective Elder

Cost:

The church is paying the registration for all who will attend. This includes the breakfast and the lunch! Transportation in the church van will also be provided to the first twelve people who commit to attend.

New Midweek Study In the Dust of the Rabbi

Walk via DVD with Ray Vander Laan through the land that Jesus and his disciples walked. Learn how the culture and politics of the first century influenced the imagery and stories of the Bible, and see the Scriptures through the eyes of God's chosen people, the Jews.

Filmed on location, this powerful series takes us on a journey through Galilee and Asia Minor. Learn how to follow Rabbi Jesus so closely that his dust covers you. Discover with Paul the apostle what walking like Jesus meant in the first century---and what it means today. It begins Wed., Sept. 25.

Gordon Addington will be leading the discussion that accompanies each DVD presentation. The hour-long studies begin at 6:30 p.m. 



Bible study

A Bible study designed with women in mind was started twenty-one years ago by a couple of our ladies. Its purpose was to open the Word of God to women who wanted to better understand His Word. The first year there were about ten women from the church studying the Gospels. Over the years this study has become a community outreach to women in churches around the area and to those who have no affiliation with any church. The 2012-2013 year saw an outreach to about eight churches and seventy-five women.

The study starts in September and concludes in late April or early May. It is conducted on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:00. The book of Acts will be the text for this year's study.

Participants are provided a copy of the study. Each woman completes at home the question sheet for the coming week's discussion, using the Bible as the only reference. At the start of each session we meet together to pray and ask for the Lord's guidance on our time together and the small group discussions that precede the lecture, which ties it together with applications for daily life.

This study is a wonderful opportunity to learn and share in an environment of caring ladies. Child care is provided for preschool children. 

SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

- 3 Willing Workers
- 3 Benevolence Ministry Team
- 4 Finance Ministry Team
- 9 Elders
- 19 Property Ministry Team

Dollar Day Sun., Sept. 29

Every one dollar bill in the offering plates will be given to an individual in the area who has a verifiable need. The recipient is selected by the Benevolence Ministry Team from among those nominated by people in the congregation who have a personal knowledge of the need. The money is given to that person in our congregation, who then presents it to the individual in need as an expression of our concern and desire to minister to them.

D.A.R.T. Disaster Assistance Response Team
targeting the needs of disaster victims

Deploying to Moore, OK

Our Disaster Assistance Response Team is an affiliate of International Disaster Emergency Service, a relief organization among the Christian Churches and Churches of Christ. We have answered the call to assist in recovery projects in LA, OK, KS, MS and MO, primarily in the wake of hurricanes and tornadoes.

Local Coordinator, George Blohowiak, has committed our team to join the relief efforts in Moore, OK following the devastating tornado in May. The team will be leaving after lunch on Sunday, September 22, and returning on Saturday, September 28. All expenses are covered by our Missions Team.

Christian volunteers are needed for various tasks. Men and women with reasonably good health and even minimal ability can contribute to the construction of prefab storage sheds. Two volunteers are needed to prepare breakfast and sack lunches for the field workers. Enlist for service by signing the list on the table in the Worship Center. Or call George Blohowiak by Sunday, September 8.



The Point of Salvation *cont. from p. 1*

of Jesus' death and burial. It is also expressing faith in the promise of resurrection to life everlasting based upon the bodily resurrection of Jesus from the dead, which baptism also portrays.

In baptism the sinner expresses trust in what Jesus did; that in His death, burial and resurrection He paid the penalty for sin. He also trusts that He will keep His promise to forgive all sin and to provide the Holy Spirit to live within him and to walk with him, a new creation in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). He trusts that the Holy Spirit given at baptism is his guarantee that all of Jesus' inheritance will be awarded to him on the final day.

So much relating to salvation occurs at one's baptism, not the least of which are the forgiveness of sin and the giving of the Holy Spirit—both essential for heavenly dwelling. This is the point of salvation which we are happy and eager to proclaim and make available by the grace and authority of Jesus.

It is essential, therefore, that we not only understand the point of salvation, but that we make it known to all who are yet outside of Christ.

He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.
Titus 3:5

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



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