

*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**

We have forced our Preacher, Gene McCoy, to include this article in the CONTACT, because he certainly wouldn't do it on his own.

# Double Decades

**As of Thursday, July 11, 2013, our Preacher, Gene McCoy, will have "filled our pulpit" for 20 years!**

That's a significant anniversary moment because of:

1. All the sermons prepared and preached — probably well over a thousand.
2. The times of praise led, when Gene has used his unique musical gifts to help all of us worship the Lord.
3. The many hundreds of Bible lessons prepared, taught and led.
4. The hundreds of people introduced to Christ and baptized into Him.
5. The thousands of visits in homes and hospitals that have been made.
6. The hours and hours of counseling people in times of need.
7. The marriages performed, funerals conducted, and comfort he has given to the sick and sorrowing.
8. The significant investment of personal time and resources in support of our worldwide staff — the missionary families supported by our church.
9. The countless little "behind the scenes" tasks that fall to any good preacher: arranging rooms, driving vans, cleaning up messes, helping people move — the list could go on and on.
10. The significant ministry Gene has done beyond our congregation with The Preachers Quartet, supporting Christian conventions in Arkansas, Missouri, and on the national level, and in helping with disaster relief.

11. By no means least, the very significant supporting ministry carried out by Gene's wife, Becky, in many different ways, but especially with the extremely skilled, committed and loving service she provides as our church pianist.

12. All the prayers which Gene and Becky have lifted to God for this congregation of believers.

The many tasks Gene has done as our preacher can only be hinted at in a simple outline. And more important than all the individual tasks are all the lives God has touched through Gene in these twenty years: people who have been led to Christ, have been helped to grow in Him and who have been helped to meet and deal with the struggles and joys of life.

**Right after our services and classes on the morning of Sunday, July 14, we will have an Anniversary Dinner with Gene and Becky as guests of honor.** Please attend in person if at all possible. Please indicate your plans to be present for the dinner by a voicemail at the church office using the number above, or send a simple RSVP by email to [cu@ccmhar.com](mailto:cu@ccmhar.com).

Please celebrate with us and encourage our preaching shepherd and his wife as we express our thanks for two decades of local ministry.

In Christ, David Benedict, Chairman, CCMH Eldership, along with Elders Forrest Cotter, Rick Schmeski, Don Truitt and Bruce Wolf



## Preacher's Pen *by Gene McCoy*

For other articles and information about our congregation, go online [www.ccmhar.com](http://www.ccmhar.com)



### Angel Deutscher

completed his High School education and we wish him all the best.



**August 4-9 5:30-8:00 p.m.**  
**Performance:**  
**7:00 p.m. Fri., Aug. 9**  
**Details on p. 3**

### Thank You

Dear Church Family,  
Thank you for the calls and cards during my extensive post-op recovery. A special thank you to Nancy, Mary, Audrey, Elaine, June and Ted (who repaired my electric recliner) and the home communion givers. May God bless you.  
Millicent Byrd



**Ice Cream Social**

**Sunday, July 21 6:30 p.m.**

The relatively brief tenure of preachers in local congregations has been discussed through the years and likened to that of military personnel and coaches. The military has the reputation for moving its personnel frequently and coaches are expendable when the team has a losing season. Military "brats" and "P.K.s" traditionally share the experience of living in multiple locations and making the transition to various schools.

By the grace of God and the strong work ethic of my preacher father, my siblings and I were not uprooted so frequently. And by God's grace and the blessing of gracious people, the length of my ministries have far exceeded the norm. When I interviewed for the ministry here, I remember being asked how long I intended to stay. My response was honest and candid. Ultimately, I was committed to stay as long as I or the elders determined God wanted me here—as long as I was effective in the work. Selfishly, I was committed to staying long enough for my three children to complete their secondary education, which was seven years. That, by itself, would exceed the longest ministry of any preacher this congregation had. That interview was twenty years ago!

The longevity of ministry is a testament to several key factors.

#### Testimony to God's Grace

We are eager to always attribute all of our blessings and accomplishments to the grace of God. Not only is it by God's grace that we are members of His body, but also that we have been granted a role to play in His eternal plan of redemption. It is a joy to attribute to God's grace the opportunity to serve in this capacity for twenty years.

#### Testimony to a Good Leadership Team

Other servants of God are to receive credit for a preacher's lengthy ministry. Our congregation has been blessed with some fine leaders, whose counsel and work have made it possible to reach this milestone. These include elders, staff members, deacons and many volunteers whose dedication to serving the Lord makes everyone on the team look good.

#### Testimony to Congregational Grace

A reason some advocate short ministries

is that the preacher, after the so-called "honeymoon" period of one or two years, begins to see the warts and wrinkles in the lives of the people. But the same is true from the other side of the pulpit. After a while a congregation begins to see the chinks in the preacher's armor, too. Grace must be extended from both parties for a ministry to endure twenty years! I thank God for the grace this congregation has extended to me. I continue to depend upon



it.

#### Testimony to a Good Family

A preacher's dedication and faithful service does deserve some credit to account for a lengthy ministry. But the contribution made by the preacher's family should never be overlooked or discounted when celebrating his effectiveness and longevity. God blessed me with a wonderful family to complement and validate my ministry. One reason this ministry has endured the tests through time is the fact that people like Becky. Her personal insights and professional training have provided valuable counsel and coaching that, when heeded, saved me from grief and regret on numerous occasions.

Active in the ministry and a vital link in the chain of church operations, Becky's role in my ministry as the preacher has provided value I could never overestimate. She has been and continues to be recognized by the congregation as a wonderful preacher's wife.

An added blessing has been children whose lives have validated and affirmed this ministry through reputable lives and service to God. The legacy of all parents is impacted somewhat by the lives of their children, but a preacher's children can have a great impact upon his effectiveness in ministry. I have been blessed with good children who continue to faithfully serve the Lord.

#### Testimony to Faithfulness

Ministry would be easy if everything went well and everyone behaved like Jesus. But the church is comprised of people who sometimes lack faith, tact and various Christian graces and virtues. Consequently, every church hits a rough patch now and again. That is when some preachers decide



## Preacher's Pen cont.

to move on to greener pastures and when some churches decide it's time for a change in the pulpit.

Faithfulness can be the testimony when two parties work through difficulties together, each accommodating and giving grace in the interest of the greater goal of representing the Lord in the community.

As would be expected in any relationship spanning two decades, we have experienced discouragement and conflict. There have been setbacks and apparent failures. But, due to the gifts of God celebrated above, the greatest of which is His grace, occasions of joy and happiness, peace and harmony have characterized our relationship and experience.

### Testimony to the Community

Faithfulness to our mission has been a testimony to the community. As is common among all groups of people, some have left our fellowship in favor of another. Most never return. But some have. Of those who have never returned, some have actually sought our counsel in some situation that arose in their new church. Some have requested our ministry when their family met with crisis. These testify to the fact that they were at least treated with respect and courtesy, despite the problem that motivated them to leave us. It also testifies to the trust they have in our spiritual and personal integrity.

Among the few who have returned, their reasons include the fact that they have witnessed the faithfulness of the leaders, not only to the Word of God, but also to the

preacher, who enjoys their support. In other words, the leaders didn't throw the preacher under the proverbial bus when difficulties arose. That commitment to principle produces an environment of security and stability that brings people back for the right reasons.

Our long ministry relationship also bears a positive testimony throughout the community, specifically that this is a congregation that is stable and dependable. We enjoy respect from the larger community as a result. When non-Christians are prepared to make a commitment to Christ, they are more likely to pursue this relationship in a context that is amicable and calm, as opposed to one continually fraught with conflict and controversy. A long ministry is the testimony of a church that stands together through changing and challenging times.

### Testimony to Christian Hospitality

Jesus instructed His disciples in their going with the gospel message to remain where they were offered hospitality (Matt. 10:11; Mk. 6:10; Lk. 9:4;10:7). While the context and specifics are not identical, the principle seems to be that the minister of God should learn contentment and exhibit acceptance of the hospitality granted to him.

We have been treated with gracious hospitality during our extended ministry. It has been a pleasant and rewarding relationship we continue to appreciate and enjoy.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve with you in this comfortable and hospitable place. 

## JULY MEETINGS

- 2 Willing Workers
- 2 Benevolence Ministry Team
- 8 Elders
- 10 Finance Ministry Team
- 18 Property Ministry Team

## Offering Report

Praise God and thank you for your generosity. The offering for Central Christian College of the Bible on June 9 amounted to \$1,556.00.

As an alumnus and Chairman of the Board of Directors, I thank you on behalf of our Bible college in Moberly, MO.

Gene McCoy



Our education ministry for children (age 3-12) this summer will be conducted the week of Sunday, August 4 with the performance of the musical on Friday, August 9. The camp will begin with a light meal each evening at 5:30 p.m. Parents are encouraged to eat with their children. S.M.A.C. will conclude at 8:00 p.m.

Volunteers at every level and for every aspect of this ministry are needed, so please make your time and talents available by signing up at the table along the back wall of the Worship Center.

The theme this year is "Gotta Move!" The focus will be on "keepin' in step with the Spirit."

Registration is now open! So reserve a space for your children and actively recruit other children to accompany you.

### HELPERS NEEDED

Kitchen workers	Set up/Clean up
Teachers' assistants	Costume design
Recreation leaders	Set design
Crafts supervisors	Check-in desk
Musicians / singers	Van drivers

## Policy Reminder

The preachers are happy to participate in the celebration of marriage by conducting weddings. Please honor the policy that was made to honor the sanctity of marriage by scheduling six counseling sessions over a three month period before setting your wedding date.

# Property Ministry Team News

submitted by Jim Darr



## Playground Committee Formed

A playground committee has been formed to determine the type of play equipment that will provide a well designed and safe playground. The first meeting of the committee was Monday, June 10, at which the placement of the playground was discussed. Consensus is

that a small playground for the toddlers and a larger playground for the older kids would be best.

Any who would like to join the committee to help plan the playground please attend the next meeting, which will be at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 15. Monetary donations for the playground continue to be received with gratitude.

Questions may be directed to Jim Darr via e-mail or telephone ([jadarr@ozarkmountains.com](mailto:jadarr@ozarkmountains.com) 870-436-4597).

# Benevolence Ministry Team News

submitted by Arlene Dixon

The team thanks all at Christian Church of Mountain Home for the blessing you have been to our community through your many generous contributions. Thus far this year, you have helped people in the following ways.

Electric	5 families
Propane	2 families
Rent	3 families
Gasoline	3 families
Food	6 families
Lodging	4 people

Your \$361 Dollar Day offering in March was distributed to three families and one non-profit organization.

You contributed 100 pounds of food and \$160 in cash to the Mountain Home Food Basket during the month of April.

Through the family at Christian Church of Mountain Home you are truly the "hands and feet of Jesus Christ."

**CHRIST HAS NO BODY ON EARTH BUT YOURS.  
NO HANDS BUT YOURS.  
NO FEET BUT YOURS.**

Yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion for the world is to look out.  
Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good,  
AND YOURS ARE THE HANDS WITH which He is to bless us now.

-St. Teresa of Avila

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

### Meeting Schedule

Wednesday Evening	6:30 Bible Classes
Sunday Morning	9:30 Supper
	11:00 Bible Classes

### RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

1365 Eastside Centre Court  
Mtn. Home, AR 72653 870-425-8323



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