

*A monthly publication of Memorial Christian Church  
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  
Forrest Cotter  
Bill Sites  
Bruce Wolf

**Deacons**

Kevin Cotter  
James Darr  
James Evans  
Gene Frazier  
Gene McCoy  
Dave McQueen  
Joey Peglar  
Rick Schmeski

**Secretary**

Joy Williams

**Preacher**

Gene McCoy

**Youth Minister**

Eric Dwyer

***Crossroads Choir***

***Iowa Teens to Present Musical***

The youth choir from the Rising Sun congregation in Des Moines, IA has selected our congregation as one stop on their 2008 tour that includes destinations in MO, KS, AR, and OK. Last year's tour took the choir to Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Maryland.

This year's musical, that includes drama and choreography, contains a strong message on living for Christ. That is the assignment not only for teens, but for every Christian.

***The Assignment***

**7:00 p.m.**

**Thursday, June 26**

Our midweek schedule that week will be changed to accommodate the tour. The activities usually held on Wednesday will be moved to Thursday.

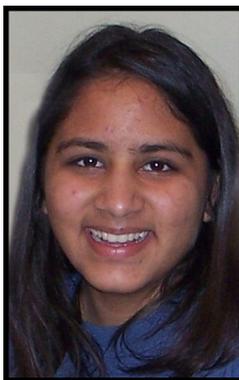
Your assignment is to bring a guest to this special event.



***Summer Intern***

***Sabreena Massey Added to the Staff***

Addressing the need for assistance in our elementary education ministry, our Elders extended to Sabreena Massey the invitation to work with us during her summer break from Ozark Christian College. Sabreena is the younger daughter of our Pakistani preacher.



She will be responsible for the Kids' Praise graded worship on Sundays and the midweek class on Wednesdays. She will also assist Eric with the outdoor education format that has been called Explorers, a five-week alternative to a

traditional Vacation Bible School.

On her final Sunday of service, which will be August 3, the congregation will honor her with a dinner and a love offering to express our appreciation.

We will have the added blessing of welcoming her mother and siblings, who will be living with her in Mtn. Home. In late July, her father, Saleem, will join the family when his tour of supporting churches brings him to Memorial Christian. He will preach and update us on our ministry in Pakistan during the worship period on Sunday, August 3.

Assisting Sabreena will be our dependable volunteer staff, which includes Becky McCoy and Amy McKay. ■



## Preacher's Pen *by Gene McCoy*

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

### Additions

Immersed believers, **Mike and Barbara Schnauffer**, publicly confessed their faith in Jesus and expressed their desire to work and worship with us. We welcome them into our congregational family.

*This Preacher's Pen article represents a composite collection of actual conversations with various individuals.*

They sat down in my office. The pleasantries and chit chat completed, it was now time to discuss the matter for which they had requested the conversation. They wanted to ask some questions about our congregation before they committed themselves to affiliating with us.

Most readers — maybe all but the preachers — probably think this is the preacher's delight. What preacher wouldn't eagerly welcome such an inquiry and such interest? It isn't a matter of liking or not liking the interest and the inquiry. It is the context in which such interest and inquiry is couched. Allow me to explain.

In most instances like this, the interest and inquiry is all about what the church has to offer them in terms of services. Single adults want to know what social programs and opportunities are afforded them. Many select a church on the basis of programs that cater to their specific stage in life or situation (e.g., divorce care, child care, women's groups, men's groups, youth groups). Others' choice is predicated upon the offering of a "name brand" curriculum (e.g., Awana).

In one of my previous ministries, one couple actually quit coming because our small congregation's nursery was

not adequately equipped to provide their baby with his own crib in which he alone was allowed to sleep and play! That is an extreme example, of course. One older gentleman quit coming to another congregation I served because we did not provide social outlets among senior adults.

### On Choosing a Church

We want people to know who we are and what we are trying to accomplish. It isn't that we expect people to blindly choose us. The concern is the fact that most people who visit a church are not basing their consideration on the right criteria. Most make the decision based upon their felt needs or their selfish desires. But the couple sitting before me did not ask about any special programs or services to cater to them.

Having read the Bible, they recognized the discrepancies between apostolic teaching and practice and those of the religious group with which they were affiliated. After their first visit with us, they remarked that they were delighted to see many indicators that the teaching and practices here match those of the church described in the Bible.

Among these is the

weekly observance of the Lord's Supper. Despite the fact that the religious group in which they were involved did not teach or practice baptism for the remission of sins, both had been baptized simply because that is what the Bible prescribes.

Their questions related to our compliance to Bible teaching and practice. They wanted to know about our Elders, and specifically the direction in which they are leading the congregation. Intrigued by the fact that we are not "owned by" or beholden to a denominational organization, they wanted to know about our beginnings, our heritage, our associations with other congregations, and our government. Satisfied that everything was consistent with Bible teaching, they expressed their desire to fellowship with us in work and worship.

I was refreshed by their approach that places the authority of the Bible and apostolic practice above selfish preference. I was also renewed by their allegiance to God and His Word and not to a pet dogma or denomination.

The thought also occurred to me that this is what the Restoration Movement is all about — calling people out of denominational division into unity that is founded upon the deity of Jesus

*(Continued on page 3)*

## *Steve Hayward to Visit Proposed Journey to Papua New Guinea*

The next of our international ministries to be paid a visit by a contingent from our congregation is the work of Steve and Rhonda Hayward in Papua New Guinea. For many years they have been translating the Bible into one of the hundreds of languages and dialects on the island.

The Hayward family has been stateside for several months, but plans to return to PNG this summer. Steve will be here on Tuesday, June 3, to help us plan and prepare for our team's visit sometime in 2009. All who are interested in this adventure should attend this meeting.

## *Pan de Vida Rio Bravo Ministry Presentation*

Representatives of our border ministry team will be here on Thursday evening, June 5, to report on the growing outreach to children in Piedres Negres, Mexico. The team will include Linda Berg, Sandra Tate, and Candy Garcia, a teacher in the Pan de Vida program.



The midweek format that week will be adjusted to accommodate these ladies. Our usual Wednesday schedule of events, including the meal, will be moved to Thursday.

## *Preacher's Pen (continued from p. 2)*

and the authority of the Bible.

The movement of which we are a part sprung from the realization that the unity for which Jesus prayed could never be enjoyed until and unless each individual renounced the divisive designations in favor of the one name that truly unites — "Christian." It is the only designation that glorifies the Savior.

How refreshing and reassuring it is when people come to the realization that they do not need to be encumbered by denominational division and dogma, but can be a Christian, pure and simple. And how satisfying it is when the primary concern

of those seeking fellowship among other Christians is based upon what the Bible teaches rather than the familiar programs and traditions that serve their selfish interests.

Selecting a congregation with which to associate should be based upon how it corresponds to the church described in the Bible. Is the Bible regarded as the sole authority to the exclusion of human writings? Is the Lord's Supper observed each first day of the week? Is every Christian regarded as a priest, a minister of reconciliation? Is baptism into Christ for the remission of sins taught and practiced?

Our concern should not be what the church can do for us, but rather upon what service we may render to the Lord and His people. Choosing a congregation should not be predicated upon how well it lines up with our thinking, but how closely it corresponds to the church in the Bible. We should select the congregation where we may serve in the confidence that the Lord's mission is being advanced to His glory. To borrow a famous line from Pres. Kennedy, "Ask not what your church can do for you, but what you can do for the Lord in and through this congregation."

## *JUNE MEETINGS*

- 2 *Willing Workers*
- 2 *Building Committee*
- 3 *Benevolence Ministry Team*
- 9 *Elders*
- 19 *Outreach Ministry Team*

## **Offering Report**

Contributions and product sales at the Preachers Quartet concert amounted to **\$3,051**. This has been added to the fund for their planned trip to China this October.

On behalf of the quartet, I thank you for your extreme generosity!

Gene McCoy

## **THE BOOK OF NUMBERS**

**\$0** = balance owed on the East Side Centre Court property  
**\$5,305** = the Building Fund  
**\$26,380** = General Fund balance as of 5/10



315 W. 6th St. Mtn. Home, AR 72653 870-425-8323

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

[www.memorialchristian.com](http://www.memorialchristian.com)

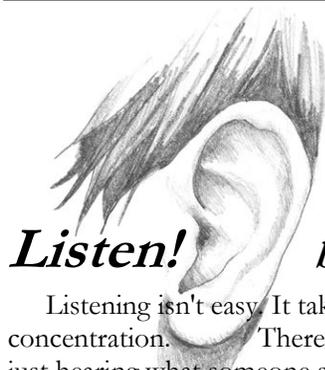
### Meeting Schedule

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

Non-Profit Org.  
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 Permit # 35  
 Mtn. Home, AR  
 72653

Sent With a Prayer to

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



## *Listen!* by Eric Dwyer

Listening isn't easy. It takes a fair amount of concentration. There is a difference between just hearing what someone says and truly listening to them. If you are going to listen to someone you have to focus on them. It helps if you look them in the eye to let them know they have your attention. You turn off music that is playing or close a book you are reading so the person knows you are interested in what they have to say.

These same ideas must take place when we listen to God. Every once in a while it seems like there aren't enough hours in the day. We have deadlines, clients, meetings, or chores. If taking time to listen to God is just another one of our "things to do", it will become all too easy to push Him down to the bottom on our list of priorities. Psalm 46:10 says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." Like we've already mentioned before. Listening isn't easy. It can be even harder during the summer. Kids are out of school. There are camps and trips all over the

country. One of our own is even going to Africa! These are amazing opportunities! But we must build time into our day to be still before God. If we are going to listen to God we have to turn off the background noise and give Him our full attention. Then we will know that He is God and we will exalt him.

June 1-6	Sr. High
June 8-13	Intermediate
July 6-9	Pee-Wee
July 9-11	1st Chance
July 13-18	Jr. High



### CAMP KITCHEN DUTY

Our congregation is responsible for providing the following on Wednesday, June 11.

**NEEDED:** 2 or 3 adults from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
 15 doz. cookies and/or brownies

If you are willing to help with any of these duties, please let me (Eric) know by June 1. Thanks for your help in making this a great year of camp!