

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

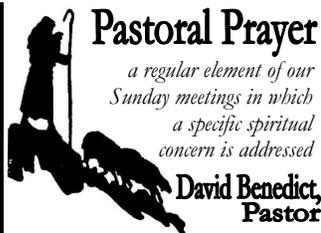
Youth Ministers

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



Pastoral Prayer

a regular element of our Sunday meetings in which a specific spiritual concern is addressed

David Benedict, Pastor

Sunday, May 5, 2013
Good Soil Eyes & Ears

Eternal Lord, as we see the beauties of spring breaking forth around us from the earth You have made, we are reminded of Your purposes. We recall the teaching of Your Word, which teaches us that here on earth, the wise human farmer cares for his soil, the good earth You have given him.

He weeds out the bad and puts in the good.

He folds his land to plant, he lets his land lie fallow to rest.

He adds to the land that which will nourish, works into the dirt what will enrich, until good soil is formed.

You, O God, are the Wise Farmer of our hearts, the tiller of our spirits.

Our spirits are like the soil which may be eroded or enriched.

Your psalmist wrote, (Ps 94:9) Does he who implanted the ear not hear? Does he who formed the eye not see?

Our eyes and ears are the gates for nourishment of our spirit, or for its corruption.

But we must see and hear with hearts of faith.

Father, with our eyes

may we behold the beauty of the Lord, may we look upon what You want us to see...

Ps 119:18 Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.

Ps 119:37 Turn my eyes away from worthless things;

With our ears may we hear the songs and sounds of earth, by through the din of culture may we hear the word of the Lord, hear the teaching of Truth, hear the cry of the poor and afflicted, hear the mumbling pleas of those who would call on You, but don't know how.

Lord, You have made us able to focus our eyes to see the good and needful, and direct our ears to hear Your Word and the cries for help of the lost.

May the way we use our eyes and ears make our spirits fertile soil in which You seed of truth may grow and produce a harvest.

We ask these things in the name of our Savior, Jesus. Amen.

Sunday, April 21, 2013
Good Soil Hands

Dear Lord,

Thank You for our hands, such wonderful instruments of service and communication.

May our hands demonstrate that our lives are good, fertile soil in which Your word is growing to fruition.

You have allowed us to do so much with these funny looking but facile things at

the ends of our arms...

Help us to serve with our hands by carrying a burden for someone, cooking a meal with love and care, building what needs to be constructed, fixing what is broken, putting away what needs to be stored, cleaning what has become soiled, and shining it up when clean, or folding, or hanging up, or mending what is torn.

May we reach out in a meaningful embrace, sweep back a cowlick out of place, or apply a comforting band-aid; or shave or shampoo a patient too weak to do for himself or herself, or any of the hundreds of things You have enabled us to do with our hands.

May we honor You by using our hands in service.

And Lord, You let us communicate with our hands. May our communication honor You, whether applauding a job well done, or conveying a manual message with a handshake, a wave, or pointing clearly in a good direction.

When our hands manipulate a pencil, pen, marker, chalk or brush, when they pluck a string or float over a keyboard, when they tap computer keys or stroke a touchpad may every message generated to be seen by ourselves or by another be a message that demonstrates that our hands are gardening in good soil for You.

In the name of Jesus, Amen.





Preacher's Pen *by Gene McCoy*

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

Condolences

Extended to Ramona Lease, whose oldest son has died.

Thank You

for all the prayers, calls, visits and wonderful food following Bryan's surgery.
Bryan & Mary
Douglas



Ice Cream Social!

Sunday, July 21 6:30 p.m.

Cycling has become a hobby, of sorts, in recent years. I rode a bicycle professionally as an adolescent. Well, what I did for pay was deliver newspapers. But that involved a lot of bike riding!

Like many other activities, cycling provides the opportunity to get out in the fresh air and enjoy the scenery, which is very beautiful in this part of God's creation. But it is also a time I use to think and process.

There are applications for Christian living in every activity, just as there are Christian values to be learned. Humility is one virtue I have had plenty of occasions to develop. When I ride with others, my companions are usually Rick and Jan Schmeski or Bruce Wolf. I am humbled by the fact that Bruce, a man three or four years my senior, greatly outperforms me. He waits at the top of hills while I struggle to inch my way in the lowest gears. But more humbling than that is the fact that Jan chooses to ride behind me, not because she couldn't breeze past me, but because I provide a draft in which she likes to ride. Rick rides the same route as I, but rides a few more miles by virtue of the fact that he gets so far ahead that he doubles back to check on me. Not only that, but one day he actually rode beside me and literally pushed me up a hill!

Another virtue cycling has given me the opportunity to develop is persistence. Many are the times when it seems I have not one bit of energy left to power one more revolution as I climb a hill. But I have a settled resolution to never get off the bike conceding defeat. It is this resolve that has been my only salvation on several hills. That, coupled with the fact that Jan doesn't walk her bike up any hill. So my male ego demands that I keep pedaling.

My stamina and endurance will be tested on June 22 when I participate in the annual Tour de Corn bicycle ride in East Prairie, MO. The 100 mi. ride, part of which is along the Mississippi River, is part of that city's annual Sweet Corn Festival. My longest ride to date is only 40 miles.

Jan says the beautiful vista is a reward that awaits the rider at the top of hills. Some of the hills around these parts are very challenging! But the summit of the biggest hills provides the most beautiful views.

One good thing about hills is the fact that you can coast down the other side. That is a metaphor on life. For every hill there is a valley. After the struggle God often provides a period of rest. Conversely, every valley is the precursor to another hill. The opportunity to rest is to prepare for another period of exertion.

One technique that helps me climb hills is to keep my eyes focused, not on the summit, but just a few feet ahead. At times I look at the front tire just to assure myself that I am actually still moving! If I focus on the summit it is easy to be defeated, for it seems I will never reach it. As we face challenges in life, we sometimes need to simply put our head down, lean forward and keep pedaling.

I do not anticipate ever getting into competitive or professional cycling. But I am launching a fundraising initiative on Memorial Day. **I am soliciting sponsors who will pledge an amount of money for every mile I ride between Memorial Day and Labor Day.** The proceeds will benefit my alma mater, Central Christian College of the Bible. My rides will be documented using the MapMyRide app. At the end of each ride I will e-mail the documentation to the Bible college in Moberly, MO. A college employee will contact each of my sponsors at the end of each month, and the sponsors will make the appropriate donation to the college.

Riding the bicycle will not only benefit me physically, provided I do not have an accident, but it will also benefit the college financially. I invite our readers to consider participating in this initiative. If you would be willing to sponsor me, please contact the Bible college via e-mail at legacy@cccb.edu or by calling 660.263.3900.

All proceeds will go to the "Growing Our Legacy" Campaign to continue the legacy of Central Christian College of the Bible. Please publicize and promote this unique opportunity and participate in this cycling initiative.

Cyclists who want to duplicate my efforts by riding and obtaining sponsors are encouraged to do so. Please coordinate with the Bible college or myself.

You may always make a lump sum tax deductible contribution to the college, too.🌍



Financial Blessings

Conservatism Corrected

Last fall, the Finance Ministry Team struggled with the challenge of recommending our 2013 church budget. The national economy prompted everyone to be careful about finances. The Finance Ministry Team recommended a conservative approach that included a couple of major features:

1. No pay increases for our local staff, and
2. Break the pattern of more than a decade by not making a 1% increase in the portion of the budget allocated to Missions Ministry to support our extended ministry team (servants beyond Mtn. Home)

Nobody really wanted to take these conservative steps. It was hashed over within the Finance Team, and rolled and tossed around when the recommendation came to the Elders. At one point the Elders were on the verge of overriding the budget recommendation of the Team. But caution or nerves won out and a conservative budget was approved. Of course, the budget was recommended and then approved with the proviso that “if the Lord blesses,” those cutbacks would be reconsidered.

IF the Lord blesses! Our conservatism is corrected because that is exactly what has happened. Why should we be surprised? Through nearly the first half of 2013 the Finance Team has come to the Elders month by month with reports that make it clear that, in regular giving, God has continued to lead His people at CCMH to be generous. Budget needs have been met, with the “bottom line” slowly improving and staying strong. Add to that the fact that He answered our focused prayers for the sale of the acre of land we still had at 6th and Dyer Street. With those funds God has enabled us to pay off the smaller of two mortgages (\$100,000 two years ago) on our property here and reduce the principal of the larger mortgage (originally about \$1.1 million) to under \$900,000.

Additionally, in the May Finance Team report, they have told us that God has blessed to the extent that:

1. Cost of living salary increases for staff have been put in place—retroactive to the first of the year, and

Burning Questions

Real answers to real questions real people are really asking will comprise the **sizzling summer study series** on Wednesday evenings throughout the summer. We polled several young adults to discover the questions their peers are asking. The idea is to scratch where people itch; to provide a series that is relevant and practical.

Various individuals will be leading round table discussions on Wednesday evenings on topics our young adults identified as being “hot.” These are questions they are being asked by their peers for which they desire biblical answers.

The following questions should pique your interest and prompt your participation.

- ◆ What is the biblical standard of modesty?
- ◆ How can a good God allow bad things to happen?
- ◆ What is the biblical standard for sex?
- ◆ How are we to relate to practicing homosexuals?
- ◆ What is the biblical standard for social interaction? (e.g., drinking, dancing)
- ◆ Are we living in the “end times?”
- ◆ What is the biblical standard regarding divorce?
- ◆ What is the biblical standard for giving?
- ◆ How can I be a good citizen when government policies violate biblical principles?
- ◆ How can I know Christianity is true and other religions are false?
- ◆ Are science and the Bible in conflict?
- ◆ Can I not have a relationship with God without going to church or being baptized?
- ◆ What does the Bible teach about our enemy?
- ◆ What is the decision to become a Christian?
- ◆ How can I know God exists? What is His nature? 

2. The amount allocated to Missions has been increased by 1% of our general fund, making the total shared with Missions 28% of the budget—the same level of increase we have made for many years.

Conservatism corrected—thank You, Lord. Now please help us not to be conservative in our continued generosity toward Your ministry, or in our faith in You! 

—Submitted by David Benedict, Elder

JUNE MEETINGS

- 2 Worship Ministry Team
- 4 Willing Workers
- 4 Benevolence Ministry Team
- 6 Finance Ministry Team
- 9 Education Ministry Team
- 10 Elders
- 21 Property Ministry Team
- 21 Outreach Ministry Team

Policy Reminder

On the Selection of Elders

- Initiated by recommending an individual to the Elders
- May be done at any time by anyone
- The suggested servant who satisfies the biblical standard will be presented by the Elders to the congregation for approval by consensus.
- Absent objection based upon biblical criteria, he will be appointed by the Elders to this specific role of service.

Please refer to the Policy & Procedure Manual for the details.



Mission: to develop servant-leaders for the church

History: founded in 1957 as a four-year accredited college dedicated to equipping men and women for leadership in the Kingdom of God both nationally and internationally

CCCB has been a part of our extended ministry through our missions budget for many years. The congregation has benefitted from leaders trained there, among whom are Jason Schmeski, Hubert and Janet Pickett and Gene and Becky McCoy.

We will have the opportunity to be informed of our ministry in Moberly, MO on Sunday, June 9,

when personnel from CCCB, including students, will be our honored guests. Associate Director of Admissions and CCCB alumnus (2011), Michael Butrum, will present a Bible message.

An offering will be received for the Bible college, so please come prepared to share financially with this worthy work. It is the only one of our colleges that offers a full tuition scholarship. This has been a valuable opportunity that allows students to graduate without any educational debt. Unencumbered by debt, graduates may enter the mission field and work with new congregations without that stressful burden. This scholarship is made possible through the generous contributions of

churches and individuals. So please be prepared to contribute.

DEGREES OFFERED

- Preaching
- Biblical Research
- Christian Ministries
- Christian Education
- Christian Counseling
- Cross-Cultural Ministry
- Youth & Family Ministry

Central also offers a range of co-operative majors (e.g., nursing, business, education) in association with other institutions. Students receive an associate's degree from CCCB and a bachelor's degree from the co-operative institution.

The Missions Ministry Team will host a luncheon meeting on June 9, to which all those interested in worldwide evangelism are invited.

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

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Sent With a Prayer to

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