

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

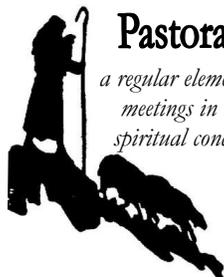
Youth Ministers

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

March 31, 2013
by Bruce Wolf, Elder

Matthew 13: 8 "Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop-a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

Please join me in prayer.

Father God, maker of heaven and earth, thank You for hearing our prayer today. As you know, Lord, this congregation of believers is preparing itself to be good soil in anticipation of growth and evangelism here in Mountain Home. Of course, Father, You know best about the importance of good soil, because it was from the dust of the earth that you created man and from the ground that you formed all the beasts of the field and the birds of the air.

As I dwell on Jesus' teaching in His parable of the sower, I find that before the farmer's seed took hold in the good soil there was much other seed that was lost. Sadly, I must confess, Lord, that I identify with these soils - all of them, in fact. I confess that the soil of my heart has not always been fertile ground.

When I first heard the message of the kingdom, I did not understand it. It was too fantastic, too unreal, too simple to be believable. I now see that in my immaturity I made it much too easy for the evil one to snatch away the truth of the Word that You were trying to plant in my heart. By default Satan easily claimed victory over me in my youth and I forgot about what had been offered and continued to live a life unchanged and unphased by the unopened gift of truth. Blind heart - dry soil.

And, Father, just as some of the seed fell on rocky soil the shallowness of my

heart has often prevented your word from gaining a viable foothold in me and again it has quickly withered and died. Never opening the scriptures to learn for myself, never meditating on Your word, and never exposing myself to Your truth resulted in lost relationship with You, Lord; a life of growing seasons lost and no harvest. Shallow heart - poor soil.

Even now, Lord, as a baptized believer in Christ, the soil of my life often becomes crowded with weeds and thorns. Daily demands and duties, that are mostly self-imposed, distract me from serving You as effectively as I should. The worries of life strangle the good fruit that seeks to blossom in me, and I am reminded that I am still in need of the farmer.

I need Jesus. I need You, Lord, to come with the sharpened blade and remove the unproductive weeds and worries from my heart that I may finally produce a crop worth harvesting.

You absolutely adore us Lord, so much so that you chose to die for us. So I come now in humble prayer, speaking for those in this fellowship who seek to become fertile soil submitting to Your cultivation. You have shown us, Lord, that a heart once left fallow can be made fertile again. So I pray that as you did long ago on that day of creation, that You would mold me/mold us into more usable stuff that the harvest may, at last, come in.

I pray these things in the precious name of Jesus. Amen.

MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON
Sun., May 12
CCMH Community Room
Everyone welcome



Preacher's Pen by Gene McCoy

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

The Preacher's Pen article is a synopsis of a sermon recently preached.

Thank You

for helping with our baby bottle fundraiser. Your church raised \$529.63.

God bless you all!

With sincerest thanks from the Pregnancy Resource Center, Mary Collins, Dir.



Love Life

Dessert Extravaganza
fundraiser sponsored by Pregnancy Resource Center of Mountain Home
Monday, May 6
6:30-8:30 p.m.
First Baptist Church

Speaker: Carol Everette, author, "Blood Money"

Call 424-4673 to reserve seat or to volunteer as a table host.

One of life's most challenging considerations is putting your hand to the plow representing service to God. Jesus boldly states that no one, having put his hand to the plow and looking back is fit for or worthy of the kingdom. Jesus' words in another place and context (Lk. 17:32) are pertinent: "Remember Lot's wife."

Verbalizing intense devotion to God is one thing, but living it is another. Jesus told the scribe that the birds of the air and foxes of the field enjoy greater earthly shelter and security than His disciples. He urges would-be disciples to first count the extreme cost (Lk. 14:25-33). It demands complete and exclusive loyalty and devotion. Nothing is to take priority over following Jesus. Yet our lives say, "but first." Whoever responds to an emotional "altar call," saying, "I will follow You, Jesus, wherever You go" and in the next breath says, "But first," is not fit for the kingdom.

Jesus never asked us to make Him **A** priority in our lives. To the contrary, discipleship demands that He be **THE** priority. This is a decision of the will.

Neither Jesus nor the apostles appealed to the emotions in calling us to discipleship.

Their sermons did not end with heart-rending stories encouraging people to make an emotional decision, as is the custom in modern practice. Peter's sermon on Pentecost, for example, seems to have been interrupted by the outburst of a convicted conscience pierced by the cognizant realization of guilt.

Putting your hand to the plow is a serious matter. It is preceded by the crucifixion of self that relinquishes control of every resource and claim of every possession. It is to say that there is no loyalty to family, nation or any other relation or interest that means anything in comparison to loyalty to Jesus Christ. Familial and marital love emanates from love for and loyalty to Jesus. Devotion to one's country is in response to his love for God, Who has ordained government and taught us to be good citizens.

So put your hand to the plow. But do so advisedly, understanding its significance as expressed in the well-known chorus.

I have decided to follow Jesus.

Though none go with me, still I will follow.

The world behind me, the cross before me.

No turning back. No turning back.

Will you decide now to follow Jesus?

Do it. And never turn back!



Luke 9:57-62

Matthew 8:18-22

I Refuse by Vanessa Peglar

Music speaks to people. There are those that turn on the radio and hear nothing but catchy tunes. But for some, lyrics really hit home. A song that has caught my ear recently is one by Josh Wilson entitled "I refuse".

Read these lyrics.

Sometimes I, I just want to close my eyes

And act like everyone's alright

When I know they're not

This world needs God, but it's easier to stand and watch

I could pray a prayer and just move on

Like nothing's wrong

But I Refuse

I don't want to live like I don't care

I don't want to say another empty prayer

Oh, I refuse to sit around and wait for someone else

To do what God has called me to do myself

I could choose not to move

But I refuse

What would the church look like if we refused not to move? Think about it. Would it look different? Many times, when it comes to evangelism and outreach, I find myself responding, "I'm not comfortable doing that." I'm confident I'm

REFUSE
not to move

not alone in my response.

Aren't I really saying "I'm not willing to move?"

James 2:26 says, "As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead." I don't want my faith to be dead! How "choosing not to move" must make our Heavenly Father so sad. He keeps giving us time.

Second Peter 3:9 says, "The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

Let's make 2013 CCMH's year of action.

cont. on p. 3

We should feel a sense of urgency to proclaim the good news.

I have been a hairstylist for about 16 years. Many of my “older” clients started with me way back in 1997. They’ve become like family to me. I spend time with them weekly. Many in the congregation remember my prayer request recently concerning a client who was terminally ill with lung cancer. After she shared with me her serious diagnosis, I knew I must ask her about her faith. I’m certain my mouth fell open when she told me she and her husband believed in reincarnation. I had never met anyone who believed in reincarnation.

When I asked her how she came to believe this, she said they once met with an Indian psychic who told them things no one else knew about them. Satan is such a deceiver! They built their faith on the words of a mere man. I have to say the even greater tragedy, however, is that I had been acquainted with them for nearly fifteen years and I didn’t know about their faith. I was disgusted with myself. I mourned her death before she was even gone. She didn’t make it in for her next hair appointment. She passed away very quickly. Because I knew her time was short, I did have a chance to send them an email sharing my faith. I offered to come to their house and visit with them if they would like to know more. I received a very kind and grateful response from Jim, that basically said “thank you but no thanks.” And “aren’t you glad we live in a country where people can believe different things and still live as friends?” What it comes down to is, I didn’t move when I was given the chance.

We interact with people every day — sometimes on a regular basis — and we’re being still and silent. This story isn’t over yet, though. My client’s husband remains. He is in mourning, recovering from an emergency heart surgery, and without family in the area. The words of Jesus in Matthew 25 come to mind like never before. “Truly I tell you,” Jesus said, “whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.” Jesus called us to move! Now don’t get me wrong. I don’t want to be so busy doing things that I can’t hear God speaking to me. Finding a balance is vital. However, I want to stop making excuses for my weaknesses and embrace things I am comfortable doing. Join me! What do you love or like to do? Whether it is cooking,

sewing, singing or landscaping, it can be turned into a ministry. Could we move to benefit the Kingdom of God through things we love to do?

Here’s a fun example. I have a friend that is gifted in party planning. I know that seems like a strange gift. She has taken this gift and used it for God’s glory time after time. She is an outreach-focused Christian always looking for opportunities to use her talent. She is planning a Father/Daughter ball for inmates in the prison at Calico Rock. Inmates who have demonstrated good behavior in the months preceding the event will be allowed to participate. She is praying and searching for the right speaker who will share the gospel and challenge these men to honor God through strengthening their relationships with their daughters. This woman refuses not to move!

Children often think they can’t really do “big things.” Some kids near and dear to me are moving. My sons attend the Mountain Home Christian Academy. We chose this school most obviously for Biblical teaching while receiving a quality education. God’s desire is for evangelism and outreach to be a part of life, the result of realizing Jesus’ great love for us. These students are inspired by James 1:27, which says, “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” Each class at MHCA has adopted a widow or widower in our area. They minister to their adopted man or woman with cards of encouragement, gifts and invitations to special events at the school. They are building a personal relationship. I love this idea. Children are moving! Their next plan of action is to pray specifically by name as a class for foster children in Baxter County awaiting their forever family and watching how God answers those prayers.

Jesus said, “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:34-35). An accepted statistic is that 20% of those in a congregation are actively serving and 80% are “sitting around and waiting for someone else to serve.” Let the Holy Spirit get CCMH moving and let’s defy statistics. Refuse not to move and let’s be active Kingdom growers together. 

MAY MEETINGS

- 2 Finance Ministry Team
- 7 Benevolence Ministry Team
- 12 Mother’s Day Luncheon
- 13 Elders
- 16 Property Ministry Team



Announcing!
Sabreena S. Massey
*will be graduated from
Cincinnati
Christian University
with the degree of
Master of Arts
in Counseling
on Friday, May 17*

NATIONAL Day of Prayer First Thursday of May

May 2
Hickory Park Pavilion
12:00—1:00 p.m.

Congratulations!

to
Christina Crownover
and **Eric Setzer**,
who were married on
Saturday, April 27



Church Camp News

Grades 10-12 - June 2 -7
 Grades 5 & 6 - June 9 -14
 Grades 7 & 8 - June 23 -28
 Grades 3 & 4 - July 7 -10
 Grades 1 & 2 - July 11-12

Hey everyone! It's that time of year again! We are ready for a rocking camp season during which God will do amazing things in our young people. We invite you to be a part of it in at least two ways.

1. Mark the dates and register your campers.
2. Support our cam and our kids by participating in the **NEW! and Improved Rally at the Rock** on May 4.



Our emphasis upon being good soil and nurturing a good soil environment at CCMH continues. In this regard we appeal to all in the congregation to include those very words in all of your prayers. This is one means by which we hope to implant this focus in our minds.

Please ask God to cultivate good soil within you and to cultivate through you an environment of good soil at CCMH. We trust God to bring about a good harvest!



a rally for ALL ages Saturday, May 4

This annual church camp event has been completely revamped to appeal to all ages.

ACTIVITIES	CHILDREN'S PROGRAM
Frisbee golf & facility tours	music & crafts
3 on 3 basketball	for elementary kids
Free throw competition	Nursery care provided
3-point competition	FOOD
MUSIC	pulled pork, salad bar
Youth: Allen Lorton Band	desserts
Adults: Age to Age	

Everyone may participate in the activities as they choose. All will eat dinner together in the dining hall. The youth will have their age-appropriate program in the tabernacle and the adults will have their age-appropriate program in the cafegymnasium, as Eric likes to call it. The children will also have their own music and crafts.

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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