

*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

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*Gordon Addington
Forrest Cotter
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Bruce Wolf*

Deacons

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Walt McKay
Titus Neuenschwander
Hubert Pickett*

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Joy Williams

Preachers

*Gene McCoy
Titus Neuenschwander*



From Haiti



Missionary Speaker

Sunday, June 11

Salonique Adolphe

The valedictorian of his class at Central Christian College of the Bible a few years ago, Salonique has been conducting a very fruitful ministry in

Gonaives, Haiti. He has established a vibrant congregation and is very much involved in the continuing efforts to rebuild and restore their community that was devastated by the hurricane last year.

You will be thrilled to learn of the power of the gospel in a culture of animism, superstition, and voodoo. ■

DaPreacher on DaVinci

The outrage of picketers, protestors, and publishers has not prevented the public from viewing the blasphemous movie based upon Dan Brown's fiction novel by the same name, "The DaVinci Code."



I have no compelling reason to read the book, see the movie, or to become an expert on this subject. Those who have thoroughly researched it from various disciplines

of study have concluded that Dan Brown is accurate in at least one statement he made about his writing. It **IS** fiction. It contains blatant errors (i.e., lies) geographically, historically, artistically, theologically, and biographically. Why, then, has it been given any credence and enjoyed wide notoriety?

One reason is that it provides unbelievers with a convenient response to

the question everyone must answer, which is, "What will you do with Jesus?" Everyone has to relate to Jesus either as the eternal God He claims to be or as a mere mortal. Like Pilate, each of us has to decide what we will do with Jesus. If he is God, then we are accountable to Him. If He is just a man fraught with sin and scandal, we can reject Him without consequence.

The message concerning the deity of Jesus is attacked so vociferously because it matters for all eternity what (continued on p. 2)



Property Ministry Team Report

- ⇒ Team met on Thur., May 11
- ⇒ Nursery expansion nearing completion, including new HVAC system for nurseries, offices, and old fellowship hall
- ⇒ Much was accomplished on May 20 Interior Work Day
- ⇒ Exterior team (Jean H., Bill B., & Norman L.) doing a great job

All who want to serve the LORD in this ministry are welcome!

— Jim Darr, Deacon

For other articles and information about Memorial Christian Church, go to www.memorialchristian.com

June Meetings

- 5 Willing Workers
- 8 Outreach Min. Team
- 12 Elders
- 14 Missions Min. Team
- 20 Benevolence Min. Team

you do with it. The veracity of the Bible must be presented as doubtful, therefore. And the identity of Jesus as the only begotten Son of God must be debunked in order to escape any responsibility to Him. Everyone must either submit or somehow sidestep responsibility, no matter how futile that effort. Unbelievers must somehow minimize and marginalize Jesus. The DaVinci Code is the present popular means of avoiding eternal responsibility to the Creator Who revealed Himself to man in the written and Living Word.

Every attack of this nature is the fulfillment of the apostle's prediction that people, unwilling to endure sound doctrine, will accumulate to themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires (2 Tim. 4:3). Not wanting their hearts to be pierced with the truth (Acts 2:37), they embrace false teachers who will tickle their ears with a message that *comforts them in their sin* rather than *convicts them of their sin*.

How should we respond? We should not be alarmed. The Bible tells us this will occur throughout the last days. Shocked countenances and wringing hands reveal a lack of understanding and faith on our part. Hysteria should never be exhibited by the person of faith. This is neither the first nor the last attempt to avoid responsibility to the

Creator. It is another reminder that we still have a lot of work to do to persuade men on behalf of Christ to be reconciled to Him. And we can't be effective in that role when we allow ourselves to be rattled by every feeble effort to disprove and destroy the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Look at this rationally.

People who are predisposed to rejecting Christ will grab hold of any excuse, even if it means ignoring the fact that it has no basis in scientific or historic truth. They will accept fiction and reject Biblical truth despite the fact that every discipline of study and research has confirmed the Biblical account and record. People who are effectively influenced and impacted by fiction are not likely to be dissuaded by fact. Investing time and energy trying to convince them, therefore, is mostly futile.

The people we should be concerned about are Christians whose faith is threatened by the controversy. If we allow ourselves to be rattled about secret codes, we are revealing more about our immature faith and lack of knowledge of His Word than we are about Dan Brown or DaVinci's so-called code. Our focus should be upon the Bible, then, and not the Code.

Am I suggesting that we should be ambivalent about this? Do I condemn those who have written entire volumes about it? Should we **say** nothing? **Do** nothing? Are Christians wrong who have taken a physical stand at theaters to inform the

public? Should we just ignore this attack and others that have and will come down the pike?

I can speak and act only for myself. It is not mine to decide what you should or should not do regarding this book and movie. But whatever you do, don't discredit the faith by acting illegally, irrationally, or hysterically.

The best way to contend with challenges by unbelievers is to know truth. You will never convince the world of the truth of the gospel through emotional reactions to their attacks. If Christians spent as much time reading the Bible as they do reading fictional novels, and if they spent as much time in the Bible classroom as they do in the theater or in front of the television, and if they spent as much money on meaningful resources that strengthen faith as they do on meaningless movies and novels that compromise morality and marginalize spirituality, then these attacks would have less effect on us and on the world.

Hysteria should never be exhibited by the person of faith.

(continued on p. 3)

Plans are being made to take a group of up to forty people to Slidell, LA for a week-long work project to help rebuild a neighborhood where the Christian Church is located.



Construction and evangelism are the two primary objectives.



It is not unusual or unexpected for a non-Christian to discredit or discount Jesus Christ. Our response, then, should not be a nuclear reaction. We should oppose blasphemy intelligently and systematically, all the while presenting truth in a rational manner, contending earnestly for the faith once for all delivered (Jude 3).

DaVinci Dan and his code will fade away. But Darwinian evolution is eroding the foundations of faith among students in public schools and state universities every year. Where are the passionate protestors in this enduring battle? Why do we not hear their outcry? If we are willing to picket a theater in protest against a movie, should we not be willing to take a stand against evolutionary indoctrination in our schools?

Gratitude to Children's Teachers

We have long appreciated the dedication of the teachers in our children's education department, but our appreciation increased on Mother's Day when our visiting grandson was among the pupils. When we picked him up at the conclusion of the period, he was reminded to take with him the brightly-colored gift bag containing a gift for his mother. Attached to the bag by a nice ribbon was a coloring book page that portrayed the boy, Samuel. The caption read, "Grown-ups cared for Samuel."

I suspect the teachers stood the expense of these gifts that reinforced

the day's lesson. This unnecessary, yet very thoughtful and kind gesture confirmed the fact that we are very fortunate to have people like **Sandy** and **John Lloyd**. They perform this valuable ministry as quietly and cheerfully as faithfully. We are grateful!

Thanks, also, to **Vicky Wolf**, who has devoted many years to teaching our younger set. These are all professionals who do a professional job!

We are also grateful to **Linda Martin**, who recently joined the midweek teaching team.

Lesli Neuschwander and her crew also deserve great praise!

Contact Norman and Kathy Lueck to volunteer your service and ministry. The crew needs to be formed several weeks prior to the actual trip, so please make plans now. ■

Meet the Haywards



Steve and Rhonda, and Jason and Carissa will be our honored guests on Sunday, June 4. They will update us on their work and everyone will enjoy a potluck dinner at noon.

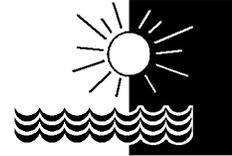
For over twenty years they have been translating the Bible in Papua New Guinea (PNG).

The Haywards will be our guests from May 31 through June 6. ■

Additions!

Spiritual Birth

BAPTIZED



Augustine "Gus"

Carrera, of Boston, MA, responded to the invitation on Sunday, May 21, and was immersed into Christ for the remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Physical Birth

Noah Trent McKay

was born the morning of Saturday, May 27, to Walt and Amy McKay. He weighed in at 8 lb. 8 oz. He joins brothers, Isaac and Bryce.

Jr. & Sr. High Canoe Trip

Saturday, June 24





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Meeting Schedule

Sunday Morning	Wednesday Evening
9:30 Worship	5:30 Supper
10:45 Bible Classes	6:30 Bible Classes

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

Youth Ministry News & Calendar Titus Neuenschwander

The youth ministry of Memorial Christian is making a big change this summer.

The focus of the summer will be on building stronger relationships with your children through church camp and special events. We are offering more activities than ever before so keep watch in your mailbox for the details of each event.

As a result, the regular Wednesday night children's program will not be in session June 6th through August 16th, but will resume again on August 23rd.

Please take a moment to review the camp schedule and special events. Specifically notice the camp dates for your children. Christian camp was an important part of my life. Each year I see teens and children make life changing commitments at camp. Our youth ministry believes so much in the importance of camp that we pay 50% of the tuition to Rock Garden Christian Camp. Registration will be located in the church foyer and office. There is a five dollar discount for early registration. ■

Rock Garden Christian Camp

<u>Camp</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Fall</u>	<u>Church</u>
		<u>2006 Grade</u>	<u>Discount</u>
High School	June 4-9	9 th -12 th	\$40
Intermediate	June 11-16	5 th -6 th	\$40
Pee Wee	June 25-28	3 rd -4 th	\$30
First Chance	June 29-30	1 st -2 nd	\$17.50
Jr. High	July 9-15	7 th -8 th	\$40
CIY	July	9 th -12 th	N/A

Summer Events Calendar

May 31 — JAM Summer Celebration
 June 21 – JAM Outdoor Theater
 June 24 – Sr. and Jr. High Canoe Trip
 June 28 – Sr. and Jr. High Snack and Shack
 July 7 – JAM Springfield Zoo
 July 26 – JAM Snack and Shack
 Aug 4-6 St. Louis Mission Trip
 Aug 9 – JAM Progressive Dinner
 Aug 20 – Sr. and Jr. High Lake Trip