

*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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Deacons

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Bernie Hill

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Joy Williams

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Love and Respect— a retreat for couples February 24-25

The LOVE AND RESPECT message was the #1-responded-to radio broadcast for the entire year of 2003 on Focus on the Family Radio.

participation regardless your age, for no marriage outgrows or outlives the need for greater love and respect.

Reports from those who have experienced this

Tuition: \$30 deposit plus
Freewill Offering
(includes workbook cost)

dinner at 7:00 on Friday
and concludes with dinner
at 5:00 on Saturday. ■



Discovery Ministries

w/ Gary & Becky Colvin
Using DVD and materials by
Emerson E. Eggerichs

It is also the theme for this year's COUPLES RETREAT at Discovery Ministries near Eminence, MO.

We encourage your

presentation are most favorable.

The retreat begins with

For more information, call 573-226-3213 or log on to
http://www.godm.org/retreat_family/couples.html



**Arkansas Christian
Convention**
April 7 & 8

Wyndham Riverfront Inn
North Little Rock



Tom & Kay Moll
speakers



**A Heart
Like
God's**

Additions!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Bryan Douglas
has recommitted his life to the Lord and has expressed his desire to be a part of our congregation.

**Courtney
(Lawrence)
Pickett**
has expressed her desire to be a part of this congregation. She had been a member before her college career. We are happy to have her back in our fellowship.

Well Shut My Eyes!

By Gene McCoy

Across my desk came this piece from Bill Pyle's Culture Watch section of "Heartbeat," the newsletter from Christ's Church in the City at Highland Park (L.A., CA).



A letter to the editor in the July issue of Christianity Today contained the following strange statement on the subject of Christians' movie-watching habits: "If Christians actually believed that sexual immorality would keep them out of heaven and instead send them to hell, it would have a purifying effect on many" (from Paul Fretz, Marion, PA).

Why wouldn't they believe that? Scripture says so in unmistakable terms. "Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders . . . will inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Cor. 6:9, 10). "The acts of the sinful nature [ed.: lit., "flesh"] are obvious: sexual immorality . . . Those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God" (Gal. 5:19, 21).

If we believe those passages, can we, today's Christian movie viewers, refuse to answer the question Tertullian, the second/third century church father, asked:

"How can it be right to look at things that are wrong to do?" — Tertullian

If we Christians cannot make strong personal decisions about what goes into our minds, even if it is called entertainment, how will we be any different from the world that lives in darkness? Jesus warned us, "Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are good, your whole body is full of light. But when they are bad, your body also is full of darkness. See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness" (Luke 11:34, 35).

While flipping through the channels to find the Cardinal baseball game, I happened across a dramatic reenactment of a hostage situation. The S.W.A.T. team burst into the area,

setting off a firestorm that resembled a war zone.

The hostages sat with their heads tucked between their knees and covered by their hands and arms. This was as much a natural

defense reflex, I suspect, as it was to protect their eyes from seeing the carnage. But there I sat, my eyes wide open and glued to the television screen.

Bill Pyle's article caused me to analyze this phenomenon. Although the scene I watched was not sexual in content, it illustrates truth I wish to suggest for your consideration.

I'm sure one reason the hostages buried their heads was to protect their eyes from flying debris. This is not a hazard faced by the television or movie viewer. But Jesus says there is a greater danger to our eyes and minds than physical harm.

Consider the possibility, too, that our minds convince us that what happens in movies is not real, so the danger is not real, either. But we know that it is real. In fact, it is the reality of such things that makes them appealing to our carnal nature.

Here is an interesting observation. The same thing that would cause us to hide our eyes if we were actually involved in the situation is something we will pay inflated

prices to view in a theater with our eyes wide-opened. And we'll sit there casually consuming a tub of buttered popcorn all the while!

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But let's take it one step further. Christians who view immorality are admitting darkness into themselves. Could this be an explanation why the occurrence of divorce and sexual immorality among Christians is about the same as that in the general population?

James (1:14, 15) is right. "Each one is tempted

when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death."

Could it be true that viewing immorality on film allows darkness to infiltrate your mind to the extent that you could actually commit immoral acts with your eyes wide open? Do

you believe the Word of God that immorality results in eternal condemnation? Is this something Christians should consume as entertainment? Or should we hide our eyes? ■

Rescued —Costa Rican Style by Titus N.

Words. It is difficult to find the right words to express our feelings. Sometimes we cannot communicate our thoughts in a way that is clearly understood. Sometimes words are barriers. This is true for me as I remember my 10 days in Costa Rica, but I would like to share with you a lesson learned.



Roger Twitchell and Darrin King will not mean anything to most of you. I met them in Honduras five years ago. They were saying their last goodbyes to a church of eight years. The church they planted was now 300 in attendance with strong leaders in place. The time had come for the church to continue without the help of the missionaries and their families. At that time, Roger and Darrin did not know where they would be serving next. In 2004, their families found themselves in Costa Rica starting over.

The last year and a half has been difficult on them. Division has horribly infected the congregations. The Costa Ricans have been slow to respond to the gospel. The missionary families have had a hard time finding their place to effectively serve.

In these circumstances I found myself once again becoming a student in the classroom of faith. Perhaps the greatest teachers are not the ones with triumph after triumph, but the ones who endure the greatest trials. How do veteran missionaries who have had hardships and disappointment around every turn respond? One said, "I am convinced that God wants to teach us more before the church can grow" in leadership and in numbers.

Sometimes my prayers are so foolish. At the first sign of trouble I cry out "Rescue me." Perhaps my prayer should be "Teach me." I longed to be a superhero for Christ and a powerful evangelist. I soon learned that my abilities and wisdom (or lack of) was not near enough. For years, I have prayed that our church and youth ministry would grow. I wanted a quick rescue. I wanted knowledge, experience, and blessings that cost me nothing. God wanted me to learn and continue to depend upon Him. Let us pray, "Lord, teach me."

On Friday, January 13th I saw the fruits of perseverance in Costa Rica. Six lives confessed Christ as Lord and were baptized for the forgiveness of their sins. All because two missionary families were willing to be taught instead of rescued. ■



Welcome! To Memorial

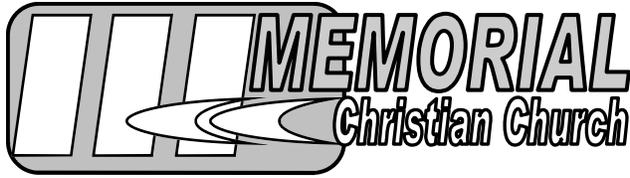
The response to the first orientation session was very positive, not only in attendance, but also in attention. Another session is planned for Sunday, February 26. This one will be a noon luncheon.

Sunday, February 26

SUPER CHILI BOWL COOK-OFF

*Sunday evening, Feb. 5
Everyone's invited to come and enjoy a time of food and fellowship while feasting on chili and watching the Super Bowl!
6:00 p.m.
This Sunday in the Banquet Center!*





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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

www.memorialchristian.com

Meeting Schedule

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

Women of Worth

Bible Study
9:30 a.m. Wed.

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



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

Sent With a Prayer to

MCC Goes Global

MCC on the WWW

Thanks to the capable assistance of Jason Schmeski, our congregation now has a presence on the worldwide web. Anyone in the world may now access information about MCC by going to www.memorialchristian.com.

The new site contains articles, pictures, prayer requests, information, links to our missionaries, the

church calendar, and a lot more.

We manage and update the site regularly. Check us out on the web. We think you will be pleased. The site is hosted by www.mychurchwebsite.net and is very economical and simple to use. We highly recommend it to other congregations. ■

Congratulations!

Mark and Gail Hinds welcomed **Ruby Lynn** into the world and their family just before midnight on Saturday, January 28 — three minutes before her due date! This is one woman who is going to be EARLY!

2006 Winter Retreat



2006 Winter Youth Retreat
February 10-12th

Join us at the beautiful Thousand Hills Resort for an unforgettable weekend. Ozark Christian College is sending a team that will teach us more about Christ through team building activities and worship.