

*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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Forrest Cotter
Bill Sites
Bruce Wolf
Deacons
James Darr
Gene Frazier
Bernie Hill
Gene McCoy
Walt McKay
Titus
Neuenschwander
Hubert Pickett
Secretary
Joy Williams
Preachers
Gene McCoy
Titus Neuenschwander

PASSION PLAY

- Depart Mtn. home by 11:00 a.m. and return at approximately 1:00 a.m. on Sunday
- Visit the Museum of Earth History (dinosaur exhibit)
- Visit the famous Bible Museum
- Take the New Holy Land tour
- Visit the Sacred Arts Center
- Buffet dinner
- View the Great Passion Play

ONLY \$47

IF at least 15 pay by **May 10**
Reserve your seat **before May 10** by giving \$47 (transferable but non-refundable) to Melva Derrickson or Maryln Evans.

Saturday, May 20



Passover Seder



WED., APRIL 12
6:30 P.M.
CALVARY BIBLE CHURCH
MIDWAY
RESERVE YOUR SEAT AT
THE TABLE BY CALLING
481-5327

Seating is limited, so make reservations early!

Long Ministries — Good? or Bad?

By Gene McCoy

SPECIAL OFFERING REPORT

The special offering collected to contribute to International Disaster Emergency Services and the Slidell, LA project amounted to \$3,169.25.

Volunteers to work on the project site the week of October 14-21 should contact Norman and Kathy Lueck. We hope to organize a group of up to 40 workers from congregations in our area.

LAKE AREA FELLOWSHIP

*Sunday, April 30
6:00 p.m.
Flippin Christian Church*

FELLOWSHIP DINNER

*April 30
Following Sunday School*

Speculations abound to explain why the average length of ministry a few decades ago was eighteen to twenty-four months. Some mused that it was because certain preachers had only that many good sermons. Others think it was because some preachers were too lazy to develop new sermons, so they had to move on after they exhausted their repertoire.

Some congregations have been very forthright in saying that they think there needs to be a change in the pulpit every two years. It was presented as an arbitrary term of service, but perhaps there were substantive reasons for it.

One student of church behaviors stated his opinion that this 18-24 month limit arose from the fact that it took about that long for a preacher to find out what the church members were really like. The honeymoon period was over and the true colors of key people were about to be discovered. Instead of allowing the preacher to get too close to them, they simply sent him on down the road and brought in another preacher from whom they could temporarily conceal their flaws.

A positive aspect of the longer ministries that are more common today is that the leadership team has the opportunity to develop strong personal relationships

that go much deeper than surface professional relationships of the short-term ministry.

My thirteenth year of ministry with this congregation is almost complete. There have been high points and low points. But perhaps one of the most positive aspects of it has developed undetected, albeit deliberately. That to which I refer is the strength and security of the relationship that exists between the elders and the ministerial staff.

Evidence of this was displayed during the current process of evaluating each other. Our elders have progressed beyond a level of satisfaction with a sterile questionnaire that asks you



support for the ministry team.

In the course of the conversation, candid observations were made relative to both elders and preachers. Was it comfortable? No. Was it safe? Absolutely. Why? Because maturity in leadership has developed over a lengthy period of close association in planning and praying.

We can see each other's warts and allow our warts to be seen. To the best of our ability, we look beyond each other's warts, which allows us to see fellow-servants and fellow-strugglers for who they really are — genuine disciples who depend upon the grace of God.

From where I sit, a long ministry is good. Not for the selfish reasons you might suspect — although I don't relish the thought of moving — but because it has provided for me the opportunity to be cared for and shepherded by those who have really gotten to know me.

“From where I sit, a long ministry is good. Not for the selfish reasons you might suspect —” Gene

to rate your performance in various areas in a range from 1 to 5. I'm not suggesting that the current process is dirty or unsanitary (as opposed to sterile). But it is . . . well . . . personal and pointed.

Our elders are now probing into matters of substance and the soul. They asked me questions about the effect of my work load and schedule upon my marriage. They asked me what they need to do to be better elders and better

The Joy and Blessings of Baptism

by Louise Addington

It breaks my heart that some people don't know whether they are saved or not because they don't "feel" saved. After a diligent search of my concordance, no scripture could be found indicating anyone ever felt saved.

Modern day preachers often cater to this desire to "feel" saved by telling people they have to pray with faith to receive Christ. Then they will feel saved, according to them. Even sadder is the account I read of a man who was told to go behind his barn and pound pegs into the ground while repeating "I am saved" until he felt saved. He was told to repeat this process every time he didn't feel saved.

We have a physical body which can feel safety. However, we also have a spirit within from which all of our thoughts and actions spring. We can place our physical body in danger and fear death because of such actions. The spirit within seeks union with its source, which is God. But it is separated from God's spirit by sin. Sin is everything that makes us less than perfect as God is perfect, holy, totally right and good.

God knows that we cannot be perfect on our own, so He provided Christ to be our perfection. He also told us how to physically and spiritually accept Christ so He can be our substitute in getting rid of the imperfect and putting on perfection. Just like

putting on a garment covers our body, so putting on Christ covers our sins. "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." (Galatians 3:27) We are told what that spiritual clothing looks like to God in Revelation 19:8 "... arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."

God takes into account both our bodies and our spirits in bringing us to Him. We hear with our ears that He loves us and Jesus died on our behalf to reunite us to the Father. We accept that within our hearts and minds, our spiritual components. With our mouth we confess (physical) our belief (spiritual) in Jesus Christ before others

We have a physical body which can feel safety. However, we also have a spirit within from which all of our thoughts and actions spring. The spirit within seeks union with its source, which is God.

(physical) because we are convicted that by stating our faith in Him, He will make good on His promise to save (spiritual) us, Romans 10:13.

As our creator, God knows we need to "feel" like we've been saved. Therein lies the beauty, joy and blessing of baptism. We are told when we are baptized (physical) our sins (spiritual) are washed away, remitted (taken away) and that we are given the gift of

the Holy Spirit (our spiritual companion). See Acts 22:16; 2:38. Just like the Ethiopian treasurer in Acts 8, we can rejoice (verse 39) because, like him, we know God has kept His promise to save us as we, in baptism, expressed faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

You know when you look at a map you are in a certain location. It is not a matter of feeling like you are in a certain place, but you know that's where you are. We look at our watch to know what time it is. We can't feel what time it is. When you purchase a house, you don't take possession based upon a feeling that you own the house, but rather upon the title deed that has your name on it. Baptism is



signing on the dotted line, agreeing to follow Christ's example in our lives on the way to taking possession of our new home. It is the occasion when God's Holy Spirit takes up residence in you as the down payment on your eternal home.

AR RIGHT TO LIFE BOARD PRESIDENT TO SPEAK HERE!

Mr. Wayne Mays, president of Arkansas Right to Life, will speak in our banquet center on Monday evening, April 17, beginning at 7:00.

He will be the guest of the Baxter County Right to Life Committee. Mr. Mays will be addressing some possible ramifications of the South Dakota legislation banning abortion, among other pro-life issues.

We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to be informed on critical issues that have moral implications.

ANNUAL APRIL FOOD DRIVE

*to replenish the Mtn. Home Food Basket
Deposit all items in the foyer of the church building, please.*

Current needs: toilet tissue, canned vegetables, canned meat, cereal, boxed non-perishable items



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

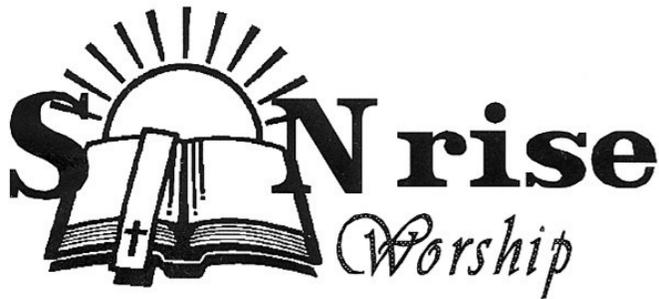
Bible Study
9:30 a.m. Wed.

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



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Mtn. Home, AR
72653

Sent With a Prayer to



Join us for a special reflection on the resurrection of Jesus as the sun rises over the Ozarks.

Sunday, April 16th
6:30 a.m.
Cranfield Pavilion



*Memorial
Christian
Men's
Club*

Saturday, April 22
9:00 — 10:30
Breakfast served

Program: Elroy Chinn, age 87, will talk about his recent achievement of learning to read! Ted Tigard will also talk briefly about his work as a tutor.