

*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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**Pastors**

*Gordon Addington*

*Forrest Cotter*

*Bill Sites*

*Bruce Wolf*

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*James Darr*

*Gene Frazier*

*Bernie Hill*

*Gene McCoy*

*Walt McKay*

*Titus Neuenschwander*

*Hubert Pickett*

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*Joy Williams*

**Preachers**

*Gene McCoy*

*Titus Neuenschwander*

***Remodel or Relocate? From the Elders***

We informed the congregation a few months ago that we were considering some major renovations to our church building. The increased number of babies made expansion and improvement of our nursery facilities an absolute necessity. This expansion has begun. A new heating and cooling system has been installed, also. The original equipment was certainly inefficient, and its reliability was unpredictable. Further remodeling and improvements, however, are being suspended in view of an objective assessment of projected needs compared to our present location. The stewardship factor has played a major role in this postponement, as well.

Instead of pursuing an aggressive and comprehensive remodeling program, our direction has taken a dramatic turn. After much prayerful deliberation and consultation with a respected professional church building firm with which our congregation

has a long-standing and happy relationship, the elders have begun to explore the possibility of selling our property and facilities in favor of searching for land upon which to construct a new physical plant. No decisions have been made, but all licensed real estate agents in our congregation have been authorized to actively seek out potential buyers. At the same time, we are actively looking for five to ten acres of land that could serve our purpose.

Nothing definite is known, so nothing definite has been decided. We are merely in the stage of exploring the

possibility and feasibility of relocating. The investment in nursery expansion and replacement of heating and air conditioning equipment were immediate essentials which will also increase the marketability of our building, should we decide to relocate.

Until we have information to relate to the congregation, we simply ask you to pray and prepare. Pray for God's direction and prepare to move in whatever direction we perceive Him to lead. The congregation will be kept apprised as we proceed in this exploration. ■



**Arkansas Christian Convention**  
★  
**April 7 & 8**

**Wyndham Riverfront Inn**  
**North Little Rock**

**A Heart Like God's**



**Tom & Kay Moll**  
speakers

## Additions!

### By birth!

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!

### By Rebirth!

**Victor Bottorff** was immersed into Christ, becoming a new creature, on Thursday, February 9.

Read other articles on our web site, [www.memorialchristian.com](http://www.memorialchristian.com)

## I'm Offended!

by Gene McCoy



Today's mail contained a solicitation that was abrupt and offensive. The salutation reads, and I quote, "Dear Senior Citizen." Thinking the postman had inadvertently left someone else's mail in my box, I quickly reviewed the address label. But, alas, it was addressed to me — by name! Before the product could even be presented, the decision had been made not to purchase.

Swallowing hard and taking a deep breath, I acquiesced and decided to graciously consider their message. That's when I became very offended, because it was an offer to help pay for my final expenses!! First, they tell me I'm old. Then they insinuate that my death is imminent!

What nerve! How insensitive of them to confront me with . . . well . . . stark reality! I know I'm getting older. But to call me a "senior citizen" and to bring up the unpleasant consciousness of my mortality crossed the line.

But then I was struck by my own hypocrisy. (I hate it when that happens!) I recalled the fact that my favorite restaurant always

gives me the Senior's Discount. That is one reason it is my favorite restaurant! I have never asked for the discount, nor implied or insinuated that I am even close to the age of qualification. Well, unless taking off my cap to reveal my white and thinning — alright, disappearing — hair could possibly be interpreted as a play for the discount!

But I have never complained about it, demanding that they charge me the full price. I confess I have smiled with pretended pity that they would even think that I might qualify. I have figured that I deserve the discount as consideration for their insult or their inability to accurately judge one's age.

***Our response to truth says more about us than it says about the message or the messenger.***

The nature of my offense parallels that which occurs at church many times. The preacher fulfills his God-ordained duty by declaring the full purpose of God, by exposing false teachers and their damning doctrines, and by confronting people with what they **need** to hear as opposed to what they

**want** to hear (1 Tim. 4:6; 2 Tim. 4:2; Acts 20:27). The result many times is that the hearer is offended when confronted by truth. The truth can *hurt*. But it can also *heal*.

The scribes and Pharisees responded to Jesus' teaching of truth with allegations of blasphemy (e.g., Matt. 9:3). The inhabitants of His home town were offended by His teaching (Matt. 13:53-58), and His claims to be the Messiah prompted them to cast Him out of their city, where they threatened to kill Him (Luke 4:29). The rich young man who inquired of Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life was apparently offended by the reply (Mark 10:17-22). At least, the Bible says he went away grieving, not liking what he heard.

Even Peter was offended by Jesus' predictions of His unjust demise at the hands of wicked men (Matt. 16:21-23),

whereupon Jesus had to sternly rebuke him.

The point is that our response to truth says more about us than it does about the message or the messenger. It may say we aren't honest. It could reveal willful deception. Perhaps it just says we are stubborn. But it doesn't change the truth!

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***I'm Offended!***

*Continued from p. 2*

Maybe I could think of more sensitive ways the insurance company could have begun their solicitation of my business than by addressing me as "Dear Senior Citizen." But the cold, bare fact of the matter is . . . well, . . . I'm close enough to that category that clerks at restaurants are giving me the benefit of doubt. If I am going to accept the benefits, I should also

accept the reality. When the preacher declares the whole counsel of God, you may not like the part about guilt and deserved punishment. But don't reject it, because he also happily reports that God's grace is greater than our sin (Rom. 5:20) and that there is no sinner beyond the reach of His arms of mercy.

That is a message we are eager to receive. But it is good news in the context of and by contrast with the truth that we are

sinners deserving of God's wrath. The preacher must tell the whole story to be a "good servant of Christ Jesus" (1 Tim. 4:6).

For the listener to be a good servant of Jesus Christ, he must accept the truth that is lovingly delivered and not reject the Lord's call for repentance and holiness. Don't be offended. Everyone who lives long enough will grow old and sin. Face reality in the reassuring realization of God's mercy and grace. ■

## ***1st Century Christianity in the 21st Century***

When the saints in Judea were suffering from need, their Christian counterparts in Corinth determined to come to their aid by means of a financial collection. A year went by and the collection had not been completed. So Paul urged them to complete their intention (2 Cor. 8:11). Those who enjoyed an abundance shared with those who lacked so that no one remained in need. This was a hallmark of the first century church.

Several months have elapsed since the huge storms devastated greater New Orleans. We have been awaiting the opportunity to assist in a meaningful manner. Our time has come!

Gene and Fern Frazier will soon give a pictorial report on the work being done through the Slidell, LA congregation, with the assistance of the International Disaster Emergency Services (IDES). The Fraziers, along with Norman Lueck, have been on the site where hands on ministry and service are being done in the name of Christ.

The assistance is more than financial and material. It is primarily evangelistic. The Slidell congregation has reaped a harvest of souls through their humanitarian outreach in the community. They have become known as "the church that helps

people." It is an exciting portrayal of the church described in Acts.

We pray the harvest prayer (Matt. 9:37, 38) at the conclusion of every worship service. The harvest is truly ripe in the Big Easy. It is time to put feet on our prayer about sending workers.

A team of workers is being recruited to spend a week in Slidell. This team will carry a generous offering from those who cannot go. The money will be given to IDES for their relief work in New Orleans.

God will use whatever service you offer and whatever gift you can afford to transform a community for time and individuals for eternity!

### **SPECIAL OFFERING**

for Hurricane Reconstruction and Evangelism  
in Slidell, Louisiana  
Sunday, March 19

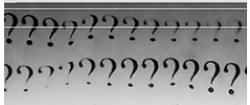
Checks should be made payable to Memorial Christian Church

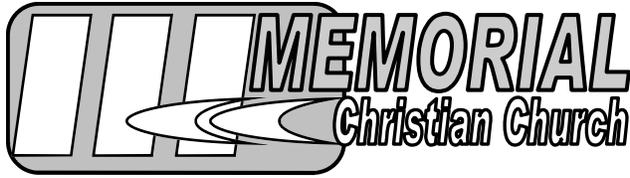


April 21-22

Ozark Christian College

WHO AM I?





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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

[www.memorialchristian.com](http://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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Sent With a Prayer to

## Youth News



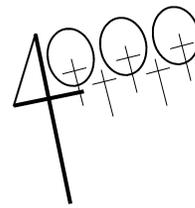
### Purity Retreat March 23-25

Let us equip young women with the practical tools to live a lifestyle of purity and self worth in the eyes of Christ. All young ladies in the Jr. or Sr. high are invited to attend.



### April 1-3 Just the Guys

All high school young men are invited to watch the Dallas Mavericks play basketball and visit Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship Church, a largely African American church and ministry of Tony Evans.



### Crosses for Life memorial display

remembering lives lost to abortion

The crosses, sponsored by Baxter County Right to Life, will be displayed along Hwy. 62 W for three weeks.

**Dedication Service**  
**East Side Baptist Church**  
**Saturday, March 18**  
**6:00 — 7:00 p.m.**

Able-bodied volunteers are needed to help set the crosses in the field on Sat. afternoon, March 18. Call Caron 425-3910. Bring: 3 lb. sledge, work gloves, phillips screwdriver