

The Meadowlark Messenger

Meadowlark Church of Christ
Glorifying God, sharing Christ, encouraging one another



Fort Collins, Colorado September, 2004 Published Monthly

Transformed by the King

I imagine that Christ was good at fixing things. I would be willing to bet that He was good with His hands. I am sure that if Mary wanted new countertops that Jesus could easily install them. And if that chair was not quite even on its legs, Jesus was the man for the job. He was a carpenter; building things and making repairs was His earthly trade. However, Jesus did not stop with wood and nails. He did not repair tables and plows alone. He fixed much more than that. When John the Baptist sent his disciples to inquire if Christ was the Messiah, Jesus' reply was this: "The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor (Matt. 11:4-5). The Lamb of God repaired people's lives. And certainly the physically afflicted were not the only ones to witness Jesus' beautiful carpentry skills. Who could forget the woman caught in adultery, forgiven by Jesus of a sin that warranted death in those times? Remember the demon infested man, Legion, whose repairs inspired him to dedicate His life to the One who had fixed Him? Finally, who does not remember the little man of scripture? All Jesus had to say was, "I'm going to your house today" (Translation: I love you Zacchaeus and I want to be your friend).

Jesus brought good news to everyone He came in contact with though many did not realize how wonderful His message really was. Jesus fixed people. He fixed their lives. He repaired their hearts. His message, presence, and sheer power changed lives. And it changes us today. I long to be transformed by God. I yearn for Him to change me from the inside out each day. I desire for my commitment to and passion for seeking spiritual transformation to grow stronger each day. I know that God's grace is sufficient to save me, but I will never settle for mediocre Christianity. The grace of God must change us. His love must leave an indelible impression on us. Though we are broken, God longs to fix us. And that is why He sent Jesus.

In a Bible study that I have started recently, John Ortberg states ten core values of spiritual transformation that we need to be aware of as we seek for God to change us:

Spiritual transformation...

- ...is essential, not optional, for Christ-followers.
- ...is a process, not an event.
- ...is God's work, but requires my participation.
- ...involves those practices, experiences, and relationships that help me live intimately with Christ and walk as if I were in my place.
- ...is not a compartmentalized pursuit. God is not interested in my spiritual life; he's interested in my *life* – all of it.
- ...can happen in every moment. It is not restricted to certain times or practices.
- ...is not individualistic, but takes place in community and finds expression in serving others.
- ...is not impeded by a person's background, temperament, life situation, or season of life. It is available right now to all who desire it.
- ...and the means of pursuing it, will vary from one individual to another. Fully devoted followers are handcrafted, not mass-produced.
- ...is ultimately gauged by an increased capacity to love God and people.

John Ortberg, *Pursuing Spiritual Transformation*
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Sunday Bible class	9:00am
Sunday Worship	10:00am
Sunday Evening	5:30pm
Life Groups	5:30pm
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00pm

Elders:

* Dale Alexander 223-2663
Milt Brown 221-3256
Tim Brown 223-1949
Paul Cooper 221-4073
Don Fike 229-0676
Don Kyle 225-8958
Marvin Martin 484-8385
Gary Richards 223-9663
* Elder chairman for the month of September

Ministers:

Doug Hall, Pulpit Minister
377-9863

Russ Whitten, Campus Minister
494-0999

Wes Kohring, Youth Minister
980-9226



Hall-Marks

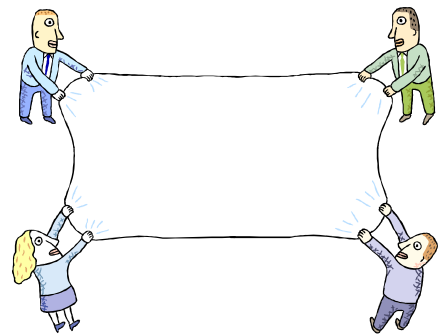
I Need Help!

You probably noticed this story on the news last week. The Chief of Police in Vernon, Vermont, was driving around in his city. At an intersection, Chief McCollin saw a driver who appeared to be confused as to which direction to take. So he played the Good Samaritan role. Thinking the man was lost and trying to find an address, he pulled over to help him.

As it turned out, the man was looking for something. He told Chief McCollin he was looking for a police officer to arrest him because he was drunk! Sure enough, the 28-year-old fellow was feeling no pain. He produced a non-driver's I.D. because his driver's license had been suspended. A preliminary breath test registered more than four times the 0.08 legal limit for alcohol.

"He was a gentleman – very polite and very cooperative," Chief McCollin said. "I think he was looking for, or needs, help."

This story is so amazing because, as you know, it is rare to find people that will admit their need for help. In fact, most people tend to do everything they can to avoid the truth, and not get the help they need. People aren't always that straightforward or self-aware when they are drunk – or angry or depressed or frightened. Sometimes we have to pick up the signals of someone's bizarre behavior and take the risk of trying to help. But this man wisely recognized his helpless position when it came to alcohol, and he sought to be arrested before he could hurt someone in his drunken state.



This is the first step in twelve step programs of all kinds. You first must admit that you are powerless to overcome your problem. You must admit the need for God to intervene and to give you the courage and strength you need to follow through. Until a person admits their need, not much can be done to help.

A screaming child is more likely to need attention, food, or a nap than to be punished for pitching a fit. A co-worker with a history of responsibility and efficiency may need encouragement through a tough time instead of a pink slip. Somebody who is being critical of everything at your church may need help with depression or a troubled marriage rather than help finding a new church.

Don't you imagine that there are many more people out there like this man – straining to find some help in a very discouraging world? Maybe you are in the office next to them at work, or maybe you sat by them at church Sunday. They might live next door to you. Are you the kind of person that others easily go to for help? How would you respond when they come to you in distress, admitting their lack of power.

It's a real gift to be self-aware to the degree that you know you need help. It is equally gracious to respond to another's distress with insight and compassion. I admire this man, and I feel sure that he found the help he desperately needs. Denial leads nowhere but to disaster.

Stand Firm!!!
Doug Hall



COLLEGE AGE CLASS DESCRIPTIONS FOR THE FALL

This semester the Wednesday evening college age Bible class will be on the CSU campus beginning at 7:00pm each week at the Natural Resources building. This semester our class will be entitled, "*The Top 10 Questions College Students Ask About Christianity.*" This class is designed to help college age young people be "prepared to give an answer" to the most frequently asked, (and most difficult) questions about Christianity. The ten questions we will address are as follows:

Does God exist?

What about evolution?

Does science contradict the Bible?

Is the Bible really the Word of God?

Were the books of the Bible reliably preserved for us?

What about the alleged contradictions, problematic texts and discrepancies in the Bible?

How can an all-powerful, all-loving God allow so much suffering and evil in the world?

Is Jesus really the Son of God?

Did the resurrection really happen?

What is the meaning of life, and can the answer be found in the Christian religion?

Our Sunday morning college age Bible class will be at Meadowlark in Room 8 beginning at 9:00am. We will begin this semester with a class entitled, *Revive Us Again!* This is a class inspired by a tape series by Rick Atchley. In this class we will study the great revivals in the Bible when God's people sought and received renewal, and a time of refreshing from the Lord. We will discover that each time in the Bible that God sent revival and renewal to His people, this was preceded by the people humbling themselves, passionately praying, fasting, seeking His face, confessing their sins, repenting and turning from their wicked ways and destroying idols. The key verse in our study will be 2 Chronicles 7:14 "*...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*"



ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Sunday Singing: Our next first Sunday singing will be September 5th. If you would like to have an opportunity to do a bit more singing than we do in our regular services, please join us at 4:45pm before our evening service.

A Note On the Special Contribution—Dear church family, Thank you so much for your financial offerings to the ministry of Christ here at Meadowlark. Our special contribution of \$16,200 on August 15 exceeded our expectations and we praise God for your wonderful generosity. He will continue to bless us as a congregation as we honor and glorify Him in the sacrificial giving of our talents and resources to His kingdom. Your commitment to the ministry of our church as exemplified in this special offering is a tremendous encouragement to all of us. May God continue to bless each of you as you continue to serve Him. We love you, your shepherds

World Missions Workshop—This year's World Missions Workshop will be held at York College in Nebraska. The dates are Sept. 30-Oct. 2. Cost is \$55 (includes lodging & meals), plus gas money. Information can be found on the missions bulletin board, or at worldmissionworkshop.com. If you are interested in attending this workshop, please contact David Wheat.

New Adult Bible Classes For The Fall: The new fall adult Bible classes will begin September 1st. Here is the schedule:

Wednesdays, beginning September 1st

**“A Christian Response to Violence and Terrorism”,
Taught by—Chuck Grenier, Damond Dotson, Jim Whitfield**

The Wednesday evening Bible class that meets in the auditorium will examine what the Bible says about violence and terrorism. Violence has been around for a long, long time, beginning with the first violent murder when Cain killed Abel. Ever since then, many people have used violent force to try to get their own way, or to call attention to grievances they would like corrected. The use of violent force can be found all the way from our own homes (domestic violence), to international terrorism. Jesus was well aware of the prevalence of violence in our world, and he provided instructions on how he wants his disciples to respond to violence. This class will examine some of the basic Christian principles that will aid us in forming a proper Christian response to violence and terrorism.

**Sunday Classes, beginning September 5th
“Survey of Joshua through Ruth”,**

Taught by—Don Fike and Dale Alexander

This class will be held in the auditorium, and is a continuation of our survey of the Bible designed to cover the entire Bible over a period of two years. We will hit the highlights of each book, and notice the central themes. The books of Joshua, Judges, and Ruth narrate the Israelite conquest and settlement of the land of Canaan. We see God continuing to work through these people to accomplish His purposes.

**Beginning September 12th
“Conquering Debt God's Way”**

Taught by Milt Brown

This class is for Young Marrieds and Families, and will meet in Room 10. This class will be viewing and discussing a

video series on “Conquering Debt God's Way”, along with supplemental material by Steve Diggs, author, teacher, and speaker about money, life skills, and God. What does the Bible say about money and wealth? What are you teaching your kids about money and debt? What are three great principles of godly giving? What are the ABCs of Christian money management? What can you do today to get out of debt, and kill the debt monster? This class will be practical, fun, and informative. It is intended to help us catch up, get ahead, and enjoy life. If you have any questions about the class, contact Milt Brown.

Beginning September 5th

Taught by Russ Whitten

College age students—For the last two years there has not been a separate Sunday morning class for the college students. This year we will offer a class especially for them, taught by our campus minister. Others are welcome to attend too, provided there is space in the room.

Ladies Bible Class: LBC will commence their study Tuesday, September 21st at 9:30am in Room 10. We will be searching the scripture and “Examining Yourself.” This is a topic that has been requested by ladies in the prior classes, and we would love to have all of the ladies in the congregation who can, to join us in this important study. Some of the topics we will cover are: Examine your thoughts, Examine your sense of values: Your Priorities, Examine your choice of associates and their influence upon your life, Examine your concept of worship and your attitude toward worship, Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith, Examine your attitude toward correction, Examine your attitude toward others, examine your attitude toward error, Examine your attitude toward the “tough times” in your life, and Examine your attitude toward the truth. Every week there will be handouts on the material to be covered. If you have any questions, please call Maxine Tamlin.

Meadowlark Picture Directory—Meadowlark will be creating a new picture directory. Photos will be taken starting immediately after morning worship on Sept. 12th. Locations to be announced. Pictures will also be taken on Sept. 19th and 26th. Ray and Rebecca Martin have volunteered to help with this project. A member directory information form will be distributed beginning Aug. 22nd. Please fill it out, and return to the box in the foyer asap. Thank you, Marilyn Watson.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Wendy Fleagane has requested prayers on behalf of her stepfather, *Flavil Miller*, who has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. They are considering what type of treatment to begin with. *Barbara Herron* has requested prayers on behalf of her cousin, Carolyn Olbert. She has been diagnosed with cancer. Please pray for *Alice Jackson* who is the mother of *Peggy King*. She underwent back surgery in Oklahoma the last part of August. Please pray for all of our **students** as they begin a new year at school.

Continued prayers for: *Geri Cooper, Elnora Boone, Percy Elie, Joan Taylor, Bob Lang, and Eunice Young.*

SEPTEMBER 2004

Meadowlark Church Of Christ



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 8:00AM PRIMER TIMERS' BREAKFAST	4
5 <i>Coins for Christ</i> <i>First Sunday Singing</i>	6 Labor Day (church office closed)	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 <i>Honor those married 50+ years</i>	27	28	29	30		

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MEN SELECTED TO ASSIST IN WORSHIP
SEPTEMBER

	Sept. 5	Sept. 12	Sept. 19	Sept. 26
Medley Songs	Jay. S.	Wes K.	Scott H.	Wes K.
Song Leader-AM	Brian S.	Wes K.	Scott H.	Jay S.
Opening Prayer	Jay S.	Wes K.	Scott H.	Wes K.
Elder Prayer	Dale A.	Dale A.	Dale A.	Dale A.
Closing Prayer	J. Whitfield	Seth Meyer	Ryan Wells	Ray Martin
Communion	Dave Martin	Don Kyle	Bob Bland	Todd Brock
Server 1	Jim King	Jim King	Jim King	Jim King
Server 2	C. Tamlin	C. Tamlin	C. Tamlin	C. Tamlin
Server 3	Bob Derman	Bob Derman	Bob Derman	Bob Derman
Server 4	Gary Bolin	Gary Bolin	Gary Bolin	Gary Bolin
Take Count	Gale Murphy	Gale Murphy	Gale Murphy	Gale Murphy
Communion Coordinator	T. Gillen			
PM-Worship	TBD			
Greeters	Gillen Grenier	King Lucardie	King Lucardie	Williams Mankin
Nursery	D & S Jones	J & J Goldman	E&M Williams	K. Gillen
Attendants	D & J James	V. Martin L. Annon	C. Schmitz E. Walden	H. Ferry C & K. Nance
Children's Bible Hour			Worrell	Worrell

Please meet in the back of the auditorium on Sunday morning before worship service at 9:45am. Be punctual.
Please contact Todd Gillen, or the song leader if you cannot serve. He will arrange for a replacement.

FAMILY RECORD—AUGUST					
	8/1	8/8	8/15	8/22	8/29
Attendance--					
Bible Class					
Worship A.M.	289	178	251	304	
Sunday P.M.					
Life Groups					
Weekly Contribution—					
This Week	\$8,166.00	\$4,487.00	\$16,120.00		
Budget	\$6,910.00				