

# The Meadowlark Messenger

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



Fort Collins, Colorado October, 2005 Published Monthly

## OVER \$15,000 —THANK YOU MEADOWLARK!

### From Mike and Sharon Von Gunten—

Dear Congregation:

First of all, a huge thank you for raising over \$6,000 for medical relief supplies. Allison was given a list of over-the counter medicines to bring with her, and she spent about \$3,000 for them. She was asked to bring the rest of the money with her to take care of medical needs there....

After a very rocky, difficult beginning, things are looking up. Allison, Erin, John, and Christina arrived at Sliddell, La, on Friday night to work with a medical team through Rapha International. Because there were very few people left in that area, there was no need to continue the effort there beyond the weekend, so the Rapha doctors returned to their hometowns. This left our team very discouraged since they no longer had a base to work from....

Allison says the Tammany Oaks church is impressively well-organized. They have been delivering truckloads of food and water to the small towns in the surrounding area of St. Tammany Parish and will continue to do so as long as they have the funds. Allison has been assigned to work with a nurse practitioner providing medical care and she feels she is doing a lot of good. A small hospital/clinic in Mandeville needed medicines badly, so Allison gave them the over-the-counter drugs she had bought in Fort Collins. They were very grateful to receive them. Christina has been assigned to help care for some elderly at a nursing home that had been neglected and short-staffed due to the hurricane. Erin and John are helping clear debris.

### From Clear Lake Church of Christ, Houston, TX—

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your contribution to our Hurricane Katrina Relief effort. The need for some kind of immediate aid for those seeking refuge from the storm-damaged area became apparent to us by Tuesday, August 30. We reviewed our resources and determined we could offer assistance with nonperishable groceries and some superstore cards. As our first refugees, dazed with disbelief at the magnitude of their situation, drifted in, we revised our plan as we evaluated the needs of the displaced.....

The stories of desperate escapes, miraculous survival, devastating loss, and joyful family reunions will be forever impressed in our memories. The gratitude of the evacuees for the small amount of assistance offered has been genuine and heartfelt. During one prayer session, an elderly gentleman was so moved he could not wait his turn to pray and interrupted shouting, "Holy Jesus, thank you, thank you, thank you for these people!" "These people" include you. We stepped out in faith, trusting God to supply the needs. Through you He has.

As godly stewards of the resources provided, we plan to send an accounting of our relief efforts through a special newsletter and a presentation on CD. As the needs continue, we at Clear Lake Church of Christ will continue to serve.

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|                              |                |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Sunday Bible class</b>    | <b>9:00am</b>  |
| <b>Sunday Worship</b>        | <b>10:00am</b> |
| <b>Sunday Evening</b>        | <b>5:30pm</b>  |
| <b>Life Groups</b>           | <b>5:30pm</b>  |
| <b>Wednesday Bible Study</b> | <b>7:00pm</b>  |

#### Elders:

Dale Alexander 223-2663  
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 October

#### Ministers:

**Doug Hall**, Pulpit Minister  
377-9863

**David Greer**, Campus Minister  
226-0568

**Wes Kohring**, Youth Minister  
225-1173

**Gena Neise**, Church Secretary  
223-7788

*"...The service you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people, but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God."*

II Corinthians 9:12



Hall-Marks

## Why, O Lord?

Less than one month ago, Hurricane Katrina devastated large portions of the Gulf coast in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Today, as I write this article, Rita, another category 4 hurricane, is threatening the Texas gulf coast. Combined with the recent tsunami and other kinds of natural destruction, there are many Christians who are wondering out loud if all this is some kind of judgment from God.

Have you been hearing what I have? “This happens in our country when we have taken God out of the schools, and God out of society.” Another said, “This happened because there is no moral standard in this country.” Did these people stop to wonder why churches were leveled and inner-city ministries that were reaching out to prostitutes, homeless people, and hungry children were stopped by the horrible situation? Why did God allow indiscriminant devastation and suffering? Why were so many who were trying to live for God, and to serve others harmed?

Do we really think that New Orleans is the poster child for all the evil in the America? It would not take us long to realize that many other cities and regions of the world could give this area a run for their money when it comes to unrighteousness. Tsunamis, hurricanes, earthquakes, and tornadoes are all natural phenomena that occur for a variety of reasons, so we should be careful assigning God’s judgment to any natural situation.

But didn’t God use disasters like floods in the past to send judgment? Didn’t he destroy entire cities by fire? Yes, but only after warning the people of the judgment to come. He sent prophets and a clear advance warning to give the people an opportunity to repent and escape the coming disaster. Remember how God sent the prophet Jonah to Nineveh? He didn’t send prophets after the fact to help the people figure out why a disaster came or why it targeted a certain area.

And what do we make of Job and others like him who suffered horribly for no apparent reason that had to do with judgment. To give easy simple answers to deep and difficult questions to try to explain *all* suffering is wrong headed and may be in many circumstances harmful.

We live in a fallen world in which disaster and suffering is a sure thing. It rains on both the righteous and unrighteous. Buildings fall on people. Hurricanes and tornadoes destroy. People are born blind, deaf, and crippled. Car accidents, floods, lightening, and all kinds of things happen in a fallen world that we cannot control. These are not opportunities for judgment, but occasions for trust in God and compassion.

Maybe in the face of Katrina and Rita Christians should not spend their time looking for some hidden judgment that God may have handed out, but instead we should be determined to be the presence of Jesus in the tragedy so that those who are suffering can find some hope. Open and loving hearts that respond quickly and continually are called for and not hearts filled with some sense of false judgment.

I don’t think I will ever understand suffering and pain, yet, I will trust my God. He will never leave us or forsake us. What a message of hope to a world of pain!

Stand Firm!!!  
Doug Hall



Passion! What an overused word. I mean, it's a great word, but I think we tend to water down its meaning. Just in the past few weeks I've heard people declare a passion for pets, for food, for music, for cars, for football (as a disclaimer, after the CU game, most of the football-passionate people tend to find a passion for something else), for people, for God, and many other things. So what we tend to presume from these uses of the word is that having passion is when you just really like something. But when we flip on the DVD player and watch Mel Gibson's portrayal of the sufferings, or passion, of Jesus, can we help but wonder if God's definition of this word might be drastically different from ours? I believe it is.

A man by the name of Dean Trune was recently speaking to about fifty campus ministers, including myself, and he proposed that God's definition of passion can be found in Matthew 22. This chapter tells of a time when Jesus was asked to reveal the greatest commandment. And we all know his reply don't we? "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." And Luke adds strength to the list. I don't think I've ever heard a better definition of *Passion*.

But Jesus continues his teaching and defines another important word. "And the second is like it: love your neighbor as yourself." That's *Compassion*.

So Jesus gives us our priorities. Develop a passion for God, and a compassion for people. But it's just not that simple is it? Do you find yourself developing a passion for work, sports, hobbies, or busyness which only leaves room for a compassion for God? Or are your passions more noble yet just as misguided: church, ministry, family, people, service, all great commitments, but commitments which leave room for only a compassion for your Heavenly Father? Don't we remember the Pharisees' passion? The law, religion, rules, legalism; translated today as bible knowledge, the nuts and bolts of religion, and watching others to make sure they're following them. And they became the villains of the gospels for it, good looking on the outside but dead and rotting within, not because they were focused on bad things but because they placed good things before God.

So what is our passion? There is only room for one. Are we seeking first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, or are we seeking first the health of our church, family, career, etc. Real and lasting transformation begins within us as a solitary desire, a hungering and thirsting to know the living God. It's not easy and it's not something our culture will ever promote, but if we as a group of believers will just make our one and only passion loving God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength, and our compassion loving people, God's work in this place will be limitless. He will transform our families. He will renew our church. He will use us to change lives. And the world will never ever be the same.

#### Youth Ministry Happenings Wes Kohring

I thought I would take the opportunity this month to let you all know what is going on in Meadowlark's youth ministry. Our teens have resumed with small groups of their own again on Sunday nights. Three groups are led by Cristal and myself, Derek and Shelli Walker, and Logan and Katie Brown. We are studying the responsibility of service that Jesus commissioned us for. On Sunday mornings, Gary Richards and I are teaching on the Pastoral Epistles (1 and 2 Timothy and Titus). Finally, Wednesday night is a time of fun, worship, and some sort of gospel presentation.

Other than the traditional fall programs which include a retreat, a trip to the corn maze, fifth quarters, and prayer breakfasts, there are two new ministries that I wanted to make you aware of.

**FOCUS Days** – Once a quarter, the families in the youth ministry will participate together in a day long experience that will draw them closer together as a family, bring them into closer fellowship with other families, and strengthen their family's walk with God. Focus stands for Families Opening Connecting Understanding and Serving. This November (November 12<sup>th</sup> to be exact), we are having our first Focus Day. In the morning and early afternoon we will be raking leaves for anybody who needs their yard raked. If you need us on that day, please let Cristal or myself know. We would love to help you. After our service project, we will give families a chance to get cleaned up before meeting back at the church for fellowship, worship, games, and other "family wide" activities. Please pray that the families in our youth ministry will be strengthened.

**Wild Challenge** – You might have seen an announcement about this in the concern sheet already. Beginning this fall, the Wild Challenge is a brand new father/son ministry. It will include a father/son retreat during the weekend of November 4-5, monthly gatherings in the spring, and a blessing ceremony in May. The objectives of this ministry are twofold. First, we are praying that this experience will give dads greater connections with their sons, bringing them closer together. Second, we are praying that dads will be more equipped to impart to their sons what it means to be God's man in this world. If you are a youth ministry dad and you have not let me know if you will be attending the Father/Son retreat or if you would like more information on the Wild Challenge, please contact me ASAP. Everyone please pray for our boys and dads to come closer to each other and to the Heavenly Father.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The next Prime Timer's** breakfast will be Friday, October 7 at 8:00am. It will be at The Egg & I (on Harmony and Lemay.)

**Our 1st - 6th** graders are planning a trip to the Corn Maze. It will be on Friday, October 7. The cost is \$5 for children and \$8 for adults. We will meet at the church at 6:00pm and then head over to the Corn Maze. Families are welcome to come, but if you just want to send your child let Becky Worrell or Karen Shumate know. We will try to arrange transportation for all who need a ride. It should be lots of fall fun! Speaking of which, look for upcoming announcements about our Fall Festival.

**Dear Church Family:** God bless you for sending the sweet, caring cards as an expression of sympathy. Also, the beautiful basket of flowers. Everyone has been so sweet. Thank you so much. I love you all for caring and sharing...Joyce Dillon

**Ladies Bible Class** resumed Sept. 13. We are studying "God's Makeover Plan." We as Christian women go through a spiritual makeover. As we submit our hearts to God, we begin a deliberate, but gradual transformation (Romans 12:1-2) Hope to see you there!

**Thank you** for the rose received on Sunday, 9/18 in honor of our anniversary. ...Ray and Norma Frisby

**Extreme Spiritual Makeover:** Are you a Christian woman struggling with all the pressures of 21<sup>st</sup> century life? Then please join us, Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, as we explore the roles and expectations cast upon us by the world, ourselves and each other. This day will be filled with thoughtful study of God's Word, discussions, entertainment, and even a little pampering, to give you an "Extreme Spiritual Makeover" and transform you into a 'Proverbs 31 Woman!' Cost is \$ 15 /person. Contact Stacy Dotson or Karen Richards for more information.

**Women's Christian Book Club**—We're ready to begin meeting again this fall with a slightly new format of meeting bi-monthly (every other month), rather than monthly. Next meeting is Friday, Oct. 21, 7-9:00pm at TBD, and the book slated for discussion is "The Atonement Child" by Francine Rivers. We'll also be scheduling the dates/books for the next six months at this meeting.

**A big thank you** to all who have been saving labels for Mountain States Children's Home. There is a new container for the labels marked "Labels for Mountain States Children's Home" located on the counter in the coatroom (off the foyer.) Please join us in saving these labels that help MSCH get free merchandise for the children. Some of the labels needed are: Campbell Soups-save front label, Campbell Super Bakes-UPC code, Franco American-front label, Pepperidge Farm Soups-front label, Swanson Broth and Canned Chicken-front label, V-8 Juices-UPC code, Prego Pasta Sauces-front label. If you have questions, or want a more detailed list of the labels, please see Maxine.

**2006 Women of Faith Conference:** You might think it's too early, but tickets are already selling fast for next year's conference, so mark your calendars for Sept. 22-23, 2006. Also, we're looking for a Women of Faith Coordinator for next year's conference who can organize the participants, purchase the tickets, make hotel reservations, etc. so please let Karen Richards or Stacy Dotson know if this is an area where you can serve.

**2006 Winter Retreat:** Discussions are also in the works about planning a ladies retreat for January or February of 2006. If you're interested in either participating in or planning for this retreat, please let Karen Richards or Stacy Dotson know.

## TEEN ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Fall Retreat** - October 21-23 @ Buckhorn Camp with the Rocky Mountain Church youth group. Sign up with Wes ASAP.
- **Student Leadership** - Meeting @ 6:00 p.m. at Meadowlark on Wednesday, October 5th.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

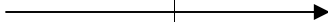


**Billie Harvey** continues to need our prayers. She is going through a very difficult time with her illness. **Jacqueline Padilla** has requested your prayers on behalf of **Daniel, her grandson**. Please pray for **Robert Donahue** who will be leaving on another mission trip the first two weeks of November. He will be traveling to Burundi, Africa. The project is a ministry center for the Youth for Christ. Continued prayers for: **Warren Kraxberger, Anika Bott**-grand niece of **Anita Schiebel, Bob Lang, Barbara Herron, Elnora Boone, Joan Taylor, the victims of hurricane Katrina**.



# OCTOBER 2005

## Meadowlark Church Of Christ



| Sun   | Mon   | Tue  | Wed  | Thu       | Fri  | Sat                                       |
|---|---|--|--|-----------|--|---|
|   |   |  |  |           |  | <b>1 Teacher Training @ ML 8:30-12:30</b> |
| <b>2 Coins for Christ</b><br><i>Take a student home day</i><br><i>3:30pm- Sign Language Class, Rm. 10</i>                                   | <b>3 Dynamic Marriage course @ ML 7-9:30pm Rms. 10, 8</b>   | <b>4 9:30 Ladies Bible Class</b><br><b>Clothing Bank noon-3pm</b><br><i>Adult Ed. Committee Mtg. @ ML 7-8:30pm</i> | <b>5 Bible Class 7:00pm</b><br><br><i>College Bible Study-7pm Rm</i>     | <b>6</b>  | <b>7 Prime Timer's Breakfast-8:00am</b><br><br><i>Corn Maze for 1st-6th graders. Meet @ bldg. at 6:00pm</i>                      | <b>8</b>                                  |
| <b>9</b><br><i>3:30pm- Sign Language Class, Rm. 10</i>  | <b>10 Dynamic Marriage course @ ML 7-9:30pm Rms. 10, 8</b>  | <b>11 9:30 Ladies Bible Class</b>  | <b>12 Bible Class 7:00pm</b><br><br><i>College Bible Study-7pm Rm 10</i> | <b>13</b> | <b>14 DATE YOUR MATE</b>   | <b>15</b>                                 |
| <b>16</b><br><i>3:30pm Sign Language Class, Rm 10</i>   | <b>17 Dynamic Marriage course @ ML 7-9:30pm Rms. 10, 8</b>  | <b>18 9:30 Ladies Bible Class</b><br><br><b>Clothing Bank noon-3pm</b>   | <b>19 Bible Class 7:00pm</b><br><br><i>College Bible Study-7pm Rm 10</i> | <b>20</b> | <b>21 TEEN-FALL RETREAT @ BUCK-HORN</b><br> | <b>22</b>                                 |
| <b>23</b><br><i>3:30pm Sign Language Class, Rm 10</i><br> | <b>24 Dynamic Marriage course @ ML 7pm-9:30pm Rms. 10,8</b>   | <b>25 9:30 Ladies Bible Class</b><br><br><b>Clothing Bank 12-3pm</b>   | <b>26 Bible Class 7:00pm</b><br><br><i>College Bible Study-7pm Rm 10</i> | <b>27</b> | <b>28 TEENS 5TH QUARTER</b>  | <b>29</b>                                 |
| <b>30</b><br><i>3:30pm Sign Language Class, Rm 10</i>   | <b>31 Dynamic Marriage course @ ML 7-9:30pm Rms. 10, 8</b><br><b>HALLOWEEN</b><br> |  |  |           |  |   |

**Meadowlark Church of Christ**  
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**MEN SELECTED TO ASSIST IN WORSHIP**

**OCTOBER**

|                                | <u>Oct. 2</u> | <u>Oct. 9</u> | <u>Oct. 16</u> | <u>Oct. 23</u> | <u>Oct. 30</u> |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Song Leader                    | B. Hall       | Hollingsworth | W.Kohring      | B. Shumate     | B. Hall        |
| Opening Prayer                 | B. Hall       | Hollingsworth | W.Kohring      | B. Shumate     | B. Hall        |
| Shepherd's Prayer              | D. Kyle       | D. Kyle       | D. Kyle        | D. Kyle        | D. Kyle        |
| Communion                      | J. Schmitz    | A. Fletcher   | D. Walker      | R. Donahue     | C. Hall        |
| Server 1                       | L. Luna       | L. Luna       | L. Luna        | L. Luna        | L. Luna        |
| Server 2                       | T. Connors    | T. Connors    | T. Connors     | T. Connors     | T. Connors     |
| Server 3                       | E. Lucardie   | E. Lucardie   | E. Lucardie    | E. Lucardie    | E. Lucardie    |
| Server 4                       | J. James      | J. James      | J. James       | J. James       | J. James       |
| Take Count                     | D. Dotson     | D. Dotson     | D. Dotson      | D. Dotson      | D. Dotson      |
| Communion Coordinator          | D. Dotson     | D. Dotson     | D. Dotson      | D. Dotson      | D. Dotson      |
| PM-Worship                     |               |               |                |                |                |
| Greeters                       | Alexander     | Brown         | Ferry          | Grenier        | Wheat          |
| Nursery Attendants             |               |               |                |                |                |
| Children's Bible Hour October: | Walker        | Walker        | Gillen         | Gillen         | Gillen         |

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.*

| <u>FAMILY RECORD—SEPTEMBER</u> |            |            |             |      |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|-------------|------|
|                                | 9/4        | 9/11       | 9/18        | 9/25 |
| Attendance--                   |            |            |             |      |
| Bible Class                    |            |            |             |      |
| Worship A.M.                   | 257        | 278        | 249         |      |
| Sunday P.M.                    |            |            |             |      |
| Life Groups                    |            |            |             |      |
| Weekly Contribution—           |            |            |             |      |
| This Week                      | \$8,085.00 | \$6,528.00 | \$10,562.00 | \$   |
| Budget                         | \$6,910.00 |            |             |      |