

The Meadowlark Messenger

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



Fort Collins, Colorado November, 2005 Published Monthly

TIRED OF BEING IN THE RED?

“ NO DEBT, NO SWEAT ”

A Life-Changing Seminar Teaching

God's Way of Handling Money

-
- How to Get Out of Debt
 - A,B,C's of Christian Money Management
 - How To Do a Successful Spending Plan
 - A Do-It-Yourself Credit Repair Kit
 - How Mutual Funds Work
 - Retire With Dignity

Coming To: MEADOWLARK — NOV. 13 & 14

PLEASE JOIN US
AS THE MEADOWLARK FAMILY CELEBRATES
IT'S 3RD ANNUAL DAY OF THANKSGIVING
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH

FOLLOWING MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

PLEASE COME, AND INVITE YOUR
FRIENDS!



Meadowlark Church of Christ
2810 Meadowlark Ave.
Ft. Collins, CO 80526
Phone: (970) 223-7788
Fax: (800) 832-5789
Website:
www.meadowlarkchurch.org
E-Mail:
office@meadowlarkchurch.org

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
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 November

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



Hall-Marks

Why a *No Debt No Sweat!* Seminar?

Today **Christians are drowning in debt**. Our **marriages are in trouble**. And people **aren't giving** like they should. We are so busy dealing with debt and bad spending habits—**our spiritual vigor is depleted**.

On average people are now spending **20% of their income paying off short-term, high-interest debt**. And, the average Christian is **giving barely more than 2%** of his income back to God. Most **college kids start out in the hole**—graduating with \$3,400 of credit card debt! Money problems are now the **#1 cause of divorce!**

A ***No Debt No Sweat! Seminar*** shows God's people how to use God's money God's way—Christians are freed from the bondage of “stuffaholism.”

The ***NDNS! Seminar*** serves on several levels:

- Christians learn how **kill the Debt Monster** —and **begin giving** like we should by **developing spending plans** that really work.
- **Restores romance** in marriages.
- People learn to **save for college** and prepare to **retire with dignity**.
- Christians **learn to give** like never before!
- The seminar is also **seeker-friendly**. It's an ideal way to reach the unsaved—churches that invite their communities broaden their outreach and build credibility. This approach opens peoples' hearts to the Ultimate Message.
- **Kids learn to avoid the mistakes we've made**.
- It is both **humorous** and **confessional**—yet **profoundly Biblical**.
- ***NDNS! Seminars*** “softens the beachhead” for churches that may want to offer an **on-going small group study in Godly money management**.
- People learn that there is **real hope—a brighter future**.

This seminar is presented by Steve Diggs of the Antioch church of Christ in Tennessee. Here is the schedule for the seminar:

Sunday, Nov. 13 ***5:30—6:30pm***
 6:45—8:00pm

Monday, Nov. 14 ***6:30—7:50pm***
 8:00—9:00pm

We hope you will join us for this exciting and insightful seminar!

Child care will be provided.

Being the Campus minister here at Meadowlark has been a real blessing to me and Sarah. One of the most obvious ways that I've been blessed is to have the opportunity to be constantly studying the Bible, reading books by current and ancient Christian writers, having soul conversations with Christians and non-Christians, teaching bible classes, and other such activities that have really stretched my faith. As Paul might put it, I've been allowed to spend time in a spiritual gym of sorts, working out my faith.

In my soul workouts, I've discovered that the gospel and the bible as a whole just might be a whole lot simpler than I had always thought. I guess I've always viewed God's word as a set of rules and guidelines, and additional stories from which we must extract more rules. Or maybe I've viewed it more as a book of answers to my questions, and it was my task to read it and find those answers. I understood there was far more to it than that, but in a very general sense, I think that may be the way many of us view God's story. But what if we could go back and read the Bible as just that, a story? To read it in the same way we'd read any other story, albeit with more reverence, searching for how it all fits together to make us feel or understand something. I had a writing teacher in college who told us that any good story must be truly attempting to communicate *one* thing. And every detail of the story must reinforce that *one* thing. Do you believe God's story does that?

I was recently reading a book titled *Searching for God Knows What*, in which the Author Donald Miller presents some interesting thoughts on the Bible. Miller says:

"Perhaps the reason Scripture includes so much poetry in and outside the narrative, so many parables and stories, so many visions and emotional letters, is because it is attempting to describe a *relational* break man tragically experienced with God and a disturbed *relational* history man has had since then and, furthermore, a *relational* dynamic man must embrace in order to have *relational* intimacy with God once again, thus healing himself of all the (stuff) he gets into while looking for a relationship that makes him whole. Maybe the gospel of Jesus, is all about our relationship with Jesus rather than about ideas. And perhaps our lists and formulas and bullet points are nice in the sense that they help us memorize different truths, but harmful in the sense that they blind us to the necessary relationship that must begin between ourselves and God for us to become his followers. And worse, perhaps our formulas and bullet points and steps steal the sincerity with which we might engage God."

I began to wonder, "What if I could read the bible as a story, full of drama, suspense, poetry, and love, rather than reading it like a scientist attempting to find the right solutions or a cook trying to find just the right ingredients?" What would I learn from it? Would I find that God is attempting to make *one* main point, and if so what would it be? I might find that as Miller suggests, "Becoming a Christian might look more like falling in love than baking cookies." Maybe you're willing to do it with me, or maybe you feel like you already know what you would find. Either way, I think it's time I read God's story as just that, a story, and see what God is trying desperately to get across. I can't think of a better soul exercise as I continue working out my faith.

Slow Down

Wes Kohring

One of my favorite tasks is to write and complete to-do lists. I know that might sound odd to many of you, but I actually really enjoy getting to the office, taking out my notebook, writing out everything I need to accomplish during the day, and crossing items off my list when they are finished. There is something that is deeply satisfying to me about finishing to-do lists. At the end of the day, if my list is finished, I consider the day to have been a good one. All because I was productive.

The fact that being productive is such a high priority of mine creates a problem for me. You will perhaps agree that in order to be productive at work, at home, or wherever you are, you have to be on the ball. You have to be busy. Always moving. Gaining speed and energy as you go about your day. Letting nothing get in your way, you shred your to do list. And perhaps it felt so good that you go ahead and make another one, hoping to finish it too. There is not anything inherently wrong with being productive. In fact, Jesus was productive. However, Jesus seemed to be able to do something that all too often, I am not able to do.

Luke 5:15-16 says: "Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." Jesus was a man in high demand. People valued his time and attention. There were so many sick, so many hurting, so many who were spiritually dying. I do not think that Jesus ever made a to-do list. I cannot even imagine him trying. I mean, imagine all of the tasks that would compose it! Everyone needed time with Christ for one reason or another. But the scriptures said that Jesus often withdrew from these people. He left the crowds to go and be with the One who gave him power in the first place. He went to go and be with his Father. He went away in order to slow down, to speak with God Almighty.

The question I want to ask is this: If Jesus Christ, the divine and sinless Son of God, thought it important enough to leave his busy life of healing the sick and teaching the crowds to be in prayer to God, how much more important is it for us who are not divine to go and do the same? To leave our to-do lists, to turn off the TV, to put down that novel, to not answer the phone because we have not met with our Lord. Sometimes I fear we value productivity and/or entertainment more than we value time spent in Bible study and praying with and listening to our own Heavenly Father. We must come to a point at which we crave time with our God. He is the Sustainer of life. Without Him, we do not survive. Jesus knew it and it affected the way he spent his time. We should do the same.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Prime Timer's breakfast will be Friday, November 4 at 8:00am. It will be at The Egg & I (on Harmony and Lemay.)

The teens and their families will once again be raking leaves this fall. If you are in need of having your yard cleaned, or have a neighbor who could use the help, please let Wes or Cristal know. We will be serving you on Saturday, November 12th.

The **No Debt No Sweat! Seminar** shows God's people how to use God's money God's way—Christians are freed from the bondage of “stuff-itis.” Today Christians desperately need the tools and the knowledge to get out of uncontrolled debt so they can be about Kingdom business. Our people are so busy dealing with debt and bad spending habits—their spiritual vigor is depleted. Most people are now spending 20% of their income paying off short-term, high-interest debt. And, the average Christian is giving barely more than 2% of his income back to God. Money problems are the #1 cause of divorce—by a rate of 4 to 1 over the next thing! Instead of sitting bolt upright in bed at 3:00 am, at a **No Debt No Sweat! Seminar** people learn how to kill the Debt Monster and develop spending plans that really work! The seminar gives hope and brings spiritual renewal. It increases giving and restores romance in marriages. It is both humorous and confessional—yet profoundly Biblical. This seminar is presented by Steve Diggs of the Antioch church of Christ in Tennessee. Here is the schedule for the seminar:

Sunday, Nov. 13 5:30—6:30pm

6:45—8:00pm

Monday, Nov. 14 6:30—7:50pm

8:00—9:00pm

We hope you will join us for this exciting and insightful seminar! *Child care will be provided.*

3rd Annual Day of Thanksgiving--On Nov. 20th the Meadowlark Family will celebrate a Day of Thanksgiving! We are in need of some people who will help plan and coordinate different aspects of that day. We especially need people to help us with:

--The Thanksgiving Feast after our worship services - menu, serving, preparation, etc.

--Decorations - For the building and the tables

--The Food Collection for Mountain States Children's Home

--Setup and Cleanup for the Feast - Tables, chairs, etc.

I am sure that I am leaving out something, so if you can think of it and want to volunteer, please do so! We will

be having the feast in the auditorium again this year so that we can all eat together, so that means we will need many servants to help us. If you would like to volunteer to help with any of these needs, please let me know as soon as possible. November 20, will be here before we know it....Thanks, Doug Hall

India and Pakistan Earthquake—We have this message from Paul Renganathan (via White's Ferry Road Relief Ministries): Chennai, India, October 10,05

Dear Brethren,

The earthquake at the boarder of India and Pakistan claimed over 33,000 lives according to the latest reports. Many thousands lost houses and belongings. 2.5 million needs shelter. Many millions look for help with drinking water, medicines, food and shelter. From the 9th morning we received many calls requesting to do rescue and relief work. In the northwest we are more known for relief work than religious work. This may be because of our participation in the relief work from the earthquake at Gujarat a few years ago, and the relief work at the tsunami affected places. I plan to leave for Uri, the epic center of the quake. Plan to do medical camps, food and water supply and whatever help possible to the victims. Called our contacts in Delhi, and asked to meet at the earthquake affected area. Can use all prayers and help... In Christ, Paul Renganathan Contributions may be sent via WFR Ministries: www.wfrchurch.org/relief/Katrina pages/contributions.htm

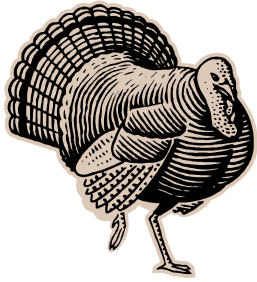
2006 Winter Retreat: Discussions are also in the works about planning a ladies retreat for January or February of 2006. If you're interested in either participating in or planning for this retreat, please let Karen Richards or otson know.

TEEN ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Dads of youth ministry students - If you and your son would like to attend the Father/Son retreat November 4-5 @ the Wells' cabin and you have not signed up with Wes, please let him know as soon as possible. Call Wes with any questions you might have regarding the retreat.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for the *victims of the India/Pakistan* earthquake. Chelsea Duncan has requested prayers on behalf of a friend of her mom, **Jeff Fadley**. He was recently diagnosed with leukemia. Please keep Jeff, his family, and the doctors in your prayers. Continued prayers for: **Robert Donahue, Anika Bott, Billie Harvey, Bob Lang, Barbara Herron, Elnora Boone, Joan Taylor.**



NOVEMBER 2005

Meadowlark Church Of Christ

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:30 Ladies Bible Class Clothing Bank noon-3pm Adult Education Committee Meeting @ ML 7-8:30pm	2 Bible Class 7:00pm College Bible Study-7pm Rm 10	3	4 Prime Timer's Breakfast 8:00am Teen Ministry Father/Son Retreat →	5
6 Coins for Christ 3:30pm- Sign Language Class, Rm. 10	7 Dynamic Marriage course @ ML 7-9:30pm Rms. 10, 8	8 9:30 Ladies Bible Class	9 Bible Class 7:00pm College Bible Study-7pm Rm 10	10	11 Date Your Mate Veteran's Day	12 Teen Ministry F.O.C.U.S. Day
13 Steve Diggs "No Debt, No Sweat" seminar Part I 5:30pm-8:00pm 3:30pm- Sign Language Class, Rm. 10	14 Steve Diggs "No Debt, No Sweat" seminar Part II 6:30-9:00pm	15 9:30 Ladies Bible Class Clothing Bank noon-3pm	16 Bible Class 7:00pm College Bible Study-7pm Rm 10	17	18	19
20 3rd Annual Day of Thanksgiving 3:30pm Sign Language Class, Rm 10	21	22 9:30 Ladies Bible Class Clothing Bank noon-3pm	23 Bible Class 7:00pm College Bible Study-7pm Thanksgiving Holiday →	 Thanksgiving	25	26
27 3:30pm Sign Language Class, Rm 10	28	29 9:30 Ladies Bible Class	30 Bible Class 7:00pm College Bible Study-7pm Rm 10			

Meadowlark Church of Christ
2810 Meadowlark Avenue
Fort Collins CO 80526

NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S.
 POSTAGE PAID
 FORT COLLINS, CO
 PERMIT NO. 46

The *Meadowlark Messenger* is published monthly, and is mailed free of charge to members of Meadowlark Church of Christ. If you would like to start, cancel, or change the address on your copy, contact the office at the address above. Mailed at Third Class postage.

MEN SELECTED TO ASSIST IN WORSHIP

NOVEMBER

	<u>Nov. 6</u>	<u>Nov. 13</u>	<u>Nov. 20</u>	<u>Nov. 27</u>
Song Leader	J. Schmitz	W. Kohring	B. Hall	D. Herrington
Opening Prayer	J. Schmitz	W. Kohring	B. Hall	D. Herrington
Shepherd's Prayer	M.Martin	M.Martin	M.Martin	M.Martin
Communion	F. Bruce	R. Martin	TBD	S. Tourney
Server 1	O. Wiglam	O. Wiglam	O. Wiglam	O. Wiglam
Server 2	C. Bolding	C. Bolding	C. Bolding	C. Bolding
Server 3	D. Worrell	D. Worrell	D. Worrell	D. Worrell
Server 4	D. Watson	D. Watson	D. Watson	D. Watson
Take Count	T. Gillen	T. Gillen	T. Gillen	T. Gillen
Communion Coordinator	T. Gillen	T. Gillen	T. Gillen	T. Gillen
PM-Worship				
Greeters	J.&K.Lucardie	M.&V.Martin	E.&M.Williams	
Nursery Attendants	D.Brunk V. Martin J.&T. Albiston	C. Stevens R. Smith J.&J.Goldman	C. Schmitz B. Brock T.&T.Brock	B. Worrell J. Girard D.&J. James
Children's Bible Hour Nov.:	Williams	Williams		

FAMILY RECORD—OCTOBER

	10/2	10/9	10/16	10/23	10/30
Attendance--					
Bible Class					
Worship A.M.	—	—	—	—	
Sunday P.M.					
Life Groups					
Weekly Contribution—					
This Week	\$9,032.00	\$9,672.00	\$7,628.00	\$6,049.00	
Budget	\$6,910.00				