

The Meadowlark Messenger

Meadowlark Church of Christ

Glorifying God, Sharing Christ, Encouraging One Another



Fort Collins, Colorado March, 2006 Published Monthly

INDIA MISSION TRIP

For the first 2 weeks of February, Milt Brown and Chappy Wells were on a mission trip to visit Paul Renganathan in the city of Chennai, India. Paul is a native Indian, born a Hindu but converted to Christianity as a young man. He started an evangelistic ministry by going house-to-house and business-to-business in Chennai looking for a donated space to hold worship services. At first he had several short-term offers until a local Hindu man made his house available for a 1-year commitment. Paul proceeded to hold gospel meetings, preaching the Bible to invited neighbors and people off the street; it was the start of the Choolaimedu Church of Christ. Currently that church has about 300 members, meets in an owned 3 story building, houses a preacher training school, World Bible School, offices, and a residential section for students and teachers. It is a center of Christian activities in Chennai.

Paul's first contact with Meadowlark was in 1990 when Paul traveled to Ft. Collins to make a presentation on the opportunities to spread the gospel in India. A special contribution was given to him, along with commitments for support of various ministries. Since that first visit, Paul has made several trips to the USA stopping at Meadowlark and many other churches. He currently receives \$300 per month from Meadowlark, monthly contributions from individual members, and many other donations from other churches and individuals. Any money donated is applied according to the wishes of the giver.

The World Bible School continues as the umbrella organization over the preacher training school, orphanages/children's homes, taxi evangelism program, faith hospital, mobile gospel team, mobile medical clinic, and computer training program. A board of directors controls the WBS. Plans are under way to create a new entity, Church of Christ Ruth Foundation, to oversee the orphanages/children's homes.

Chennai, a city of 10.5 million people, is being evangelized by Paul, graduates of the preacher training school, and other missionary efforts. Most new Christians come from the poorer sections of town. At least one church has been established in a middle-upper class area of town. This church and several of the less affluent congregations are self-supporting. Many newer congregations are supported by WBS, which provides rented buildings, salaries for preachers, or preachers working and providing their own support.

Every first Saturday of the month about 400 ministers and church workers gather at the Choolaimedu Church of Christ building to share prayer requests, challenges, victories, to sing songs, listen to speakers, and have a meal together. Ministers come from up to 180 miles away to attend these meetings.

On our trip we observed the mobile medical clinic, mobile gospel bus, attended a wedding, spoke at numerous gospel meetings, the Saturday morning meeting, 3 church services on Sunday morning, and prayed for and with numerous congregations and individuals. We visited several children's homes, a woman in the hospital, observed the tsunami relief area, visited and spoke at a church in Bangalore, and laid the ceremonial cornerstone for a future Christian college and school. Each of these events has a story behind it. Everywhere we went we were greeted with honor and respect, most of the time given garlands (necklaces of flowers), drinking water, coconut milk, and sodas to drink. Paul and his wife Dorothy were gracious hosts. Twenty-four people were baptized during the week we were in Chennai.

The Christians in Chennai, India are excited, motivated, energetic, positive, and enthusiastic. There are several opportunities to support Christian efforts in the city. Financial giving, praying, being a visiting teacher, and sharing information here are all opportunities. Milt and Chappy are happy to clarify information or answer questions you may have. We look forward to sharing more information and photos with you in an upcoming presentation.



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Hall-Marks

... To Win as Many as Possible

I make myself a slave to everyone to win as many as possible...I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.

- I Corinthians 9:19, 22

I love those thrilling words of Paul! You cannot escape his passionate desire. He wants to share what he has been given with others. He wants to make himself accessible to them by learning what is important to them and getting close to them. If they are weak, he will become weak. If they are strong, he will become strong. If they are Jewish, he will relate to them in Jewish terms. If they are Gentiles, he will do his best to reach them where they are. Whatever it takes, he is determined to find a way to share with them his love for God and his grace.

To do what Paul says he wants to do means that we must lay down some of the other things that seem so important. Even if he has to lay down some of his rights (refuse to argue with others about them) he will do so in order to spend his time sharing the gospel with others.

Few people have the passion Paul has for sharing the love of Jesus with others. What is at the root of the passion? I think there are some things that are very clear.

1. Paul's heart was filled with gratitude. When you realize what Paul was doing before and how God had stopped him dead in his tracks on the road to Damascus and turned his entire life around, you get some insight into why he was so determined to share his faith. He had spent his early life filled with zeal for the Lord but because of the hardness of his heart he had been unable to recognize the Messiah.

He was a violent man (I Timothy 1:13) and Luke records that he wreaked havoc on the church. He was an up and comer among the Jews and would seemingly do anything that he thought would please the Lord. But he was wrong! How would you feel if everything you had poured your life into proved to be flawed? We would probably be disillusioned and even ashamed, but there seemed to be an additional reaction by Paul. He lived the rest of his life with a deep sense of gratitude. Gratefulness causes a person to want to share that for which he is grateful. It is almost as if you cannot contain it. You have been rescued. You have been saved. Your entire life has been redeemed.

2. He felt a great responsibility to share the life-saving news. It would be like knowing about a cure to cancer and not sharing it with anyone else. It would be unjust not to share what he had experienced. Too many others were enslaved in sin as he once was and since he had been set free he had an obligation to share the message with others. He could not live with himself if he did not.

3. He genuinely related to others and reached out in love. He knew what it was to be zealous for the wrong things. He knew what it was like to be sincerely wrong. He knew what it was to be a convicted sinner. He knew what it was like to be lost. He realized the incredible blessings of grace. Those who recognize their own deep need are able to reach out to others with compassion and love. They know what Jesus will mean to those who have failed.

So how about me and you? Are we deeply grateful for what Jesus has done for us? Do you feel an obligation to tell others about the grace extended to you? Do you know what it is like to be lost and without hope? If you do, why not share your faith with someone right now. What an incredible privilege to tell the world of the magnificent love of Jesus!

Stand Firm!!!

Doug Hall

CAMPUS

OP- R- N- E- R

by David Greer

You may have noticed the depleted front left section of the auditorium last Sunday and wondered why all the college students and the campus minister slept in and skipped church. If this describes you, I'd like to assure you that we weren't sleeping in or skipping church at all. We actually had "church" all weekend in Estes Park, CO as we all shared in our annual winter retreat. We spent the weekend singing, discussing the Bible, encouraging each other, eating awesome food, snow tubing, playing on the frozen lake, sword fighting with incredibly long icicles, and just generally enjoying the 360 degree mountain views. Overall, our retreat could not have been better. I'd like to briefly invite you into our retreat experience by telling you about one important element of the weekend.

One activity we all took part in was taking time to write encouraging notes to each other. Paul the missionary urged the believers in Thessalonica to "encourage one another and build each other up." And don't we all need that? Aren't there days when we just lose our confidence and need someone to build us up again? The very definition of "encouragement" is to inspire with hope, courage, or confidence. Haven't we seen this in the movies? The right words at the right time inspire a group of rag tag underdogs to win the game, win the battle, or save planet earth. Oh, and then there was the time that the Man who said he was God left his friends with some encouraging words concluding with, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." The movement born of that piece of encouragement has changed the world more than any other, and is still growing today. The right words at the right time can change a person's life.



Or as Proverb 25:11 says, "A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver."

I guess sometimes the golden apples of encouragement just naturally flow from one person to another, but more often, don't we have to purposefully go out of our way to encourage? When was the last time you wrote a letter of encouragement to someone? When was the last time you called someone or intentionally went to find them for the sole purpose of encouraging them? Here's my big one. When was the last time you remember thinking that you should tell someone what a great job they did or how much you appreciate them, but you never got around to it? I think the first step in being great encouragers is realizing that it takes a lot of effort. We must take extra time, extra attention, and extra effort beyond what our busy lives require in order to be consistent encouragers. And most of all, we just need to seize the opportunities for encouragement that God puts right in front of us. You never know what seeds you might be planting when you offer aptly spoken words at just the right time.

Youth Happenings

How Are You?

Wes Kohring



This past Sunday, I spoke briefly in the opening of my sermon about a phrase that we throw around – “How are you?” I confessed to lying when asked how I was this past Sunday morning (my wife and son were out of town but I still claimed to be doing alright, which was false). Below is a blog entry of my good friend Brian. He had some great thoughts on this phrase that we throw around.

If you are reading this blog, I want you to use your brain for a few minutes. Go ahead, put your thinking-cap on and answer this question: ***WHAT IS THE MOST OVER-USED QUESTION IN TODAY'S SOCIETY?***

I wonder what is popping into your brain. Some of you may be thinking that you don't have a clue. Others may think you may have an idea. What about this question...“HUH?” What about...“DO YOU WANT FRIES WITH THAT?” Maybe you are thinking what I'm thinking...

In my opinion the most over-used question in today's society is ***“HOW ARE YOU?”***. That question comes in different forms such as “How are you doing?” or “How's life?” or “How's it going?” (By the way, one of my biggest pet peeves is when people use pronouns before they make clear what noun that pronoun is replacing. For example the “it” in “how's it going”.) If you think about it, our society throws around this question so much. In fact, we have thrown it around so much that it has lost its meaning and its importance. Think about how much it is thrown around. You can walk up and down the halls of your school, your office, and even your local mall and hear this question over and over again. It has become synonymous with “hello” as a common greeting, but it is so much more than just a greeting.

Think about how many times people have asked you that today. How many times have you answered it with 100% honesty? How many times have you answered with “good” or “fine” and the last words to describe your life were “good” or “fine”? It is a hugely important question; it is loaded; it requires complete honesty; and it requires more time than a simple pass in a hallway. I made a decision a few years ago that absolutely changed my life. I decided to never ask the question “HOW ARE YOU?” unless I truly wanted to hear the answer. As I think of the life of Jesus, was there ever a time he asked somebody “how are you?” and didn't really want to hear the answer? Did He ever just want to be polite and act like He was interested to just not be rude? Is our goal as followers of Christ to not be rude or to be real and to really care about others? My challenge to myself on a daily basis is this: be real, be honest, and care about people enough to give them the time of the day to answer “HOW ARE YOU?” honestly. In my experience, people are really surprised when others truly mean that question. I have to sometimes say “seriously, how are you doing?” just so they can let the “I always answer with a smile and a ‘fine’ or ‘good’” wall down. I have also found that people are dying for somebody to simply listen to them. Often times, that question has opened the Pandora's box of a person's soul because they had held it in for so long. I dare you to try it for a week and see if your life is different. Only ask “HOW ARE YOU?” when you really mean it and when you really want to know the answer. Make sure that people you ask know that you mean it. Look them in the eyes, take an extra 5 minutes, and care. Instead of it being the most over-used question in our society, let's make it the most life changing question in our society.



New Building Improvements

by Chappy Wells

Plans for the new building construction are progressing. A building designer/draftsman has been hired and the plans are being drawn. The preliminary design includes the fellowship hall, kitchen, new north entry and hallway. We have had a preliminary meeting with the Ft Collins Building Department and completed an existing conditions survey. The design sketch that has been discussed appears to be feasible. The construction drawings should be completed in the next six to eight weeks. After review and revisions construction should be able to be started this spring. The clothing bank will be moved upstairs near the new entry on the northeast corner of the building, the youth ministers office will be moved downstairs in the room currently used by the clothing bank. Room 8 and the old nursery can be remodeled into 2 larger rooms as the hallway between them will no longer be needed.

Primetimers

by Don & Bonnie Fike

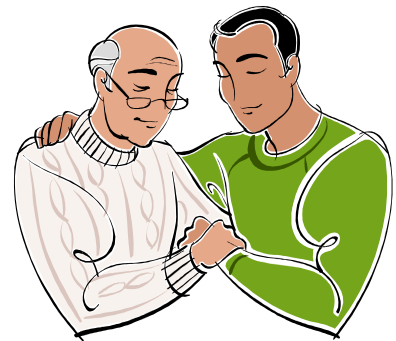
Primetimers exists for the purpose of encouragement, support, and fellowship. Primetimers primarily involves those who are retired or close to retirement.

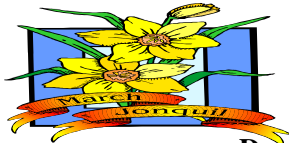
The group meets each first Friday of the month for breakfast, a devotional thought, report on the welfare of the body, as well as a few laughs. The big annual affair is attending a Sunday afternoon matinee at the Carousel Dinner Theatre. Many of the group are involved in serving others via the church as well as the community.

Young Marrieds

by Damond & Stacy Dotson

Meadowlark offers a relatively new young marrieds ministry which encompasses several areas. Sunday morning classes have focused on marriage, finance, & parenting issues among others. Currently, the young marrieds life group meets 3 times per month (2 evening meetings and 1 luncheon) and has begun an interactive study of Philippians. While last year's young married group successfully spent much time in fellowship and strengthening relationships, this year's focus is on outreach and spiritual growth. Fellowship activities are hosted frequently while events planned for the future include: marriage/parenting seminars, a weekend marriage retreat, and additional Dynamic Marriage courses. Young marrieds at Meadowlark are loosely defined as those married less than 10 years and/or have 0-1 child. If you would like more information or would like to be involved in this ministry, please contact Milt & Marci Brown or Damond & Stacy Dotson.





Upcoming Events

Primitimers Breakfast—Friday, March 3rd @ The Egg and I on Harmony and Lemay (1112 Oakridge Drive), 8:00a.m. Primitimers meets for breakfast every first Friday of the month.

Anita Renfroe is coming to Fort Collins again on **Thursday, March 2, 7:00pm** at the Timberline Main Auditorium! Several ladies are planning to meet for dinner at 5:30p.m. before the event and then go enjoy this very funny and entertaining Christian comedian. Go to www.anitarenfroe.com if you'd like to find out more about her. General Admission tickets are \$10 (suggested donation) and you can purchase yours by contacting the Timberline Resource Center at 482-4387. Come and join us for a fun girls' night out!

Family Meeting—We will have our monthly family meeting on **Sunday, March 5th**, after morning worship. Bring your own lunch. The meeting will last about 45 minutes.

Guest Ministry Meeting—Their will be a brief meeting for all those wanting to participate in or who are interested in learning more about the guest ministry at Meadowlark on Sunday, March 5th, right after the family meeting.

NCCC planning meeting—March 5th @ Meadowlark.

Ladies Days:

FROG-Fully Rely On God @ Windsor Church of Christ, March 4th, 8:30a.m.-3:00p.m.

Walking by Faith @ Montrose Church of Christ, March 17&18, Friday 7:00p.m., Saturday 8:30a.m.-2:30p.m.

Young Marrieds Luncheon—March 12th @ ML. The young marrieds life group will meet for their monthly luncheon.



Date Your Mate is on **March 17th** from **6:00p.m. – 10:00p.m.** If you would like to volunteer to help provide childcare for this event, or like to be involved as a parent in this program, please contact Sue Jones or Heather Meyer.

Colorado Christian Services will host its 4th annual Ladies Event on Saturday April 29th from 11:00a.m.-1:30p.m. at the Pinehurst Country Club. To make reservations, call René a 303-761-7236.

This year's Meadowlark Family Campout will be **August 4-6, 2006** at Pawnee Campground in Roosevelt National Forest, adjacent to the Indian Peaks Wilderness west of Ward, Colorado. This campground is very popular, so those who would like to attend need to **let Robert or Heather Donahue know** soon so we can reserve our sites in the same area since there are three loops in the campground. 4Him, Robert

College Dates:

Every Monday Night—Men's and Ladies' Bible study on campus @ 7:30p.m.

Every Wednesday Night-- Rams for Christ Worship Gathering at 7 pm in the ML College Room

The Young Adult Fellowship Group will meet in the fellowship room of Meadowlark every Thursday night at 7:00 p.m. The tentative schedule for these meetings is as follows:

Mar. 2nd: Potluck

Mar. 9th: Card Ministry

Mar. 16th: TBD

Mar. 22nd: TBD

Reminders:

Ladies Bible Class is held every Tuesday in Room 10 from 9:30 a.m.-10:45a.m.

The Clothing Bank is open every 1st, 3rd, & 4th Tuesday from 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Bible Classes are held every Wednesday night beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Critter Dinner!

The annual Critter Dinner, hosted by Randy Robinette, will be on March 26th this year. It will take place during our normal time to meet for life groups. It will be held in the fellowship room at Meadowlark. Make plans and mark your calendars to come enjoy this incredible feast. Please bring a side dish to share with everyone. Drinks and main course (meat!) are provided. If you would like to help with set up, clean up, etc., please contact Randy Robinette.



Meadowlark Church of Christ
2810 Meadowlark Ave.
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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 Third Class.

Members Selected for Service

March

	<u>Mar.5</u>	<u>Mar. 12</u>	<u>Mar. 19</u>	<u>Mar. 26</u>
Song Leader	W. Kohring	D. Greer	J. Schmitz	T. Wells
Shepherd's Prayer	P. Cooper	P. Cooper	P. Cooper	P. Cooper
Communion	B. Derman	D. Herrington	J. Whitfield	R. Robinette
Server 1	M. Derman	M. Derman	M. Derman	M. Derman
Server 2	S. Brown	S. Brown	S. Brown	S. Brown
Server 3	L. Lee	L. Lee	L. Lee	L. Lee
Server 4	M. Brown	M. Brown	M. Brown	M. Brown
Comm.Cor.	D. Dotson			
Take Count	D. Dotson			
Greeters	Tamlin	Tamlin	Wells	Wells
Nursery Attendants	B. Worrell J. Girard D.&S. Jones	H. Meyer L. Bolin R. Smith K.&S. Wheat	S. Watson H. Donahue D. Alexander R. Burnam	D.&J. James C.&K. Nance
Children's Bible Hour Feb:	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

Meadowlark Church of Christ

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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

Shepherds:

Dale Alexander 223-2663
 Tim Brown 223-1949
 *Paul Cooper 221-4073
 Don Kyle 225-8958
 Marvin Martin 484-8385
 Gary Richards 223-9663

* Elder chairman for the month of March

Ministers:

Doug Hall, Senior Minister
 377-9863

David Greer, Campus Minister
 226-0568

Wes Kohring, Youth Minister
 225-1173

Administrative Assistant:

Holly Fletcher, 484-4124

Help Wanted!

Repairs needed—One of our white boards has a broken stand and needs to be repaired. If you would be willing to do this please contact the office and let us know.

Child care providers – Date Your Mate needs 9 pairs of volunteers for DYM Fridays to provide child care at the building from 6:00p.m.-10:00p.m. Please contact Sue Jones or Heather Meyer if you can help.

Help Wanted: A Women of Faith coordinator to purchase tickets, make hotel reservations, collect money, arrange carpooling, etc., for this year's conference September 22-23, 2006 at the Pepsi Center in Denver.

Kitchen Coordinators needed—We need 3 people to volunteer to check the kitchen each week for towels, dish rags, etc. that need to be washed, and to make sure that the kitchen stays clean. If you are interested and want more details about what this involves, contact the office.

Teen Teachers—The teen's need at least two teachers for Sunday morning Bible class. Please contact Wes for more details.

Children's Bible Hour—Volunteers are needed for teaching Children's Bible Hour for the rest of this year. There is a sign up sheet for volunteers posted on the bulletin board. For more info. Contact Loyce Bolin.

Family Record—February

	1/29	2/5	2/12	2/19
Attendance—				
Worship A.M.	244	235	245	267
Weekly Contrib.	\$5106	\$9635.14	\$7064	\$6617
Budget	\$8,105.00			

Thanks to **Debbie James** for volunteering to help in the office!
 Thank you to **Esther Walden** for taking on the role of church photographer.

Thanks to **Robert Donahue** for his continued work on designing the banners for the auditorium.