

ARKANSAS CHRISTIAN CRUSADER

Scripture: Only those who give away their lives for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will ever know what it means to really live. Mark 8:35 TLB

February, 2016

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STATE SPRING MEETING, MARCH 18 & 19

Community Park Church, Bryant AR

STATE CWC CONVENTION, APRIL 15 & 16

Bishop Park Center, Benton, AR

STATE CONVENTION, JULY 13/15TH

Community Park Church, Bryant, AR

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HERITAGE HYMN

My Faith Still Holds

I tried to find life's mysteries
Just by the reason of my mind to see
But void remained 'tween me an
where I longed to be,
'Til childlike faith there built a bridge for me.

Chorus:

My faith still holds onto the Christ of Calvary
O blessed Rock of Ages cleft for me
O gladly place my trust in things I cannot see
My faith still holds on to the Christ of Calvary

I thought I had to see and feel,
To prove that what I loved was really real
But passion turned to ashes,
things I held to dust
I found reality in simple trust

And O' what joy to walk this way
I follow nail pierced footprints all the way
And though the end of where I'm bound
I may not see,
I choose to place my trust in Calvary
William & Gloria J. Gaither

*Hello
February.*

IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY IN THE PAST YEAR

(All of our congregations have had someone pass away who has impacted our church, I found this in a study guide and wanted to share. I know there are many I will be missing as I greet others during our state meetings. Annette)

Parable of Immortality

I am standing on the seashore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength, and I stand and watch until at last she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come down to mingle with each other. Then someone at my side says, "There she goes!"

"Gone where?" Gone from my sight - that is all. She is just as large in the mast and hull and span as she was when she left my sight and just as able to bear her load of living freight to the place of her destination. Her diminished size is in me, not in her. And just at the moment when someone at my side says, "There she goes!" there are other eyes - watching her coming and other voices ready to take up the glad shout, "Here she comes!", "Here she comes!" on the other shore.

Henry Van Dyke





STATE MINISTERS REPORT

Greetings to pastors and churches of God across the state of Arkansas,

I hope this newsletter finds all doing well. I know all have been busy the last few months dealing with Thanksgiving, Christmas and the beginning of a new year.

I'm looking forward to visiting with pastors and being in services of each of our congregations. I'm praying that God will guide and direct by his Holy Spirit the direction in which he wants each of our churches and our state to follow him.

The spring meeting this year will be March 18th, 19th at Community Park church in Bryant. The service on the 18th will start at 7:00 PM. And the meeting on Saturday morning the 19th will start at 10:00 AM.

I will be sharing on Friday night, and the subject ^{concerns} God's vision for the Church of God in Arkansas. Please be in much prayer that we hear from God's Holy Spirit and not some idea from a man's vision. Saturday morning will be a time for discussion and hear what's on your hearts.

Arkansas convention this year will be July 13, 14th, 15th, and the general assembly on Saturday the 16th. This year's convention will be again at Community Park church in Bryant Arkansas.

The speakers and times for this event will be coming given shortly. Again I ask that you be in much prayer for this gathering of the body of Christ in seeking God's will and vision for our lives and God's church.

We have three churches in the state that are without pastors at this time. First Church of God, El Dorado, Grape Chapel Church of God, Benton and Jackson Street Church of God, Fort Smith. Please be in prayer for these churches that God will send the right person to lead His churches to the next level.

I want to take this time to thank the body of Christ of the Church of God in Arkansas for allowing me to serve you as your state ministry director.

This is a calling I take very seriously and personal, and I pray that God will use me to serve you all in the state of Arkansas.

Your brother in Christ,
Jim Eustace
Ministry Director Church of God in Arkansas
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If anyone in the state has any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at any time.

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CHOGAR CHRISTIAN WOMEN CONNECTION

Presently our CHOGAR Christian Women Connection officers are as follows:

Secretary: Patricia Miller, Crossett COG
Treasurer: Dollie Brink, Community Park COG
Vice President: Nicole Richards, New Song COG
President: Now open

The By-laws committee which is was up of: the four state officers alongside Linda Speake from New Song COG, a retired missionary, and Pam Willis from New Life COG to represent the Pastor's wives, has been completed. Our goal was to complete the project in order that we could vote on these by-laws at our last fall prayer retreat.

Please be in prayer for all of us as we endeavor to be good stewards in the work of the Lord.

Our Annual State Convention is April 15th and 16th.

Location will be: Bishop Park Center on Boone Road in Benton, AR

Speaker will be: Jana McKnight

Convention cost \$25 per person and includes evening meal & breakfast*

**Catered by Golden Corral*

*Evening, April 15th, we will open for registration and the evening meal at 5:00 p.m.
Saturday morning, April 16th, we will have coffee, donuts, etc., to start the day at
8:15 a.m.*

Our State Projects for this year are 30% for Linen Chest

30% Hunger Fund

40% "While you are waiting" retreats.*

*Support for the ladies who spoke last year regarding seminars for parents who have children who passed away and help for grieving parents.

Please remember to bring your checks to support our project as a group effort.

Remember, you do not need to be a CWC member to attend, anyone interested in learning about our programs and what we support is welcome.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

Benton: Grape Chapel Church

Greetings from Grape Chapel. December was a busy month for us.

On December 5 we had our annual Free Yard Sale. We had lots of people in attendance and some people commented on how the yard sale helped with their Christmas.

On December 6 we had a potluck for Bro. Scott and Lisa Planck since it was their last Sunday with us. We miss them but wish them the best at their new church in Evendale, Ohio.

Our children and youth presented a wonderful Christmas program on December 16. Many thought that it was one of the best Christmas programs we have ever had.

On December 23 we had an Old Fashioned Candlelight Service that everyone enjoyed.

We were excited that the CWC almost doubled their Christ Birthday goal of \$1200 with an offering of \$2105.

We are looking forward to a great 2016. Please keep us in your prayers as we search for a new pastor.

May God Bless You!

Ann Woodall

Benton: New Song Church

Greetings from New Song,

We have had such a great holiday season. We celebrated the birth of Christ with songs and reading from our young people and children. We started our new year with a come and go communion service and now we're settling in for the new year with great expectation. Danielle and Kevin Edgar came down a couple of weeks ago to meet with our candidates for ordination. God has blessed us with 7 men and women who are seeking God's guidance as they answer the call of ministry. As a pastor, there are few times when you just know that God is about to launch something bigger than one could imagine, and this is one of those times. All seven candidates are meeting with me weekly as we walk through the process together. We just got started, but our first two meetings have proven to be as dynamic as they are special. It's great to know that God is still in the business of reaching others and equipping the church with men and women who are passionate about the gospel and dedicated to serving Him through ordained ministry. Please keep these guys in your prayers. We're looking forward to the upcoming Singspiration at Eagle Point. It's always a special time when our different sister congregations can come together to worship the Lord and fellowship with one another. No doubt, we're just like the rest of you with various prayer needs, so please know we are lifting you up in our prayers and ask that you would continue to keep us in prayer. May God bless you beyond measure as you go through this upcoming year. I don't know what God is up to, but I know it's going to be wonderful.

Until next time.

God bless,

Bro. Bob



Bryant: Community Park Church

We are seeking the Lord about revival services this spring so He can bring us closer together as His people and prepare us for the work He wants to do through us. Please be praying with us for God's wisdom about when to conduct these meetings, who could be God's vessel to speak to us, and for our hearts to be prepared for the work God wants to do. I sense that now is a very important time in our church family, Let's humbly ask the Lord to reveal His will to us. He will do His part as we seek Him and surrender our lives to do our part in Kingdom ministry.

MIDWEEK services continue every Wednesday night in February. I encourage you to join us in a MIDWEEK time of encouragement through singing hymns of the faith, hearing (and giving) praise reports, prayer and teaching from the book of Philippians that shows us the habits of always having the joy of the Lord in life.

LIFE GROUPS begin on Sunday, February 21st. These home groups will meet for 5 weeks, then take a break for Easter, and meet for another 5 weeks (through May 1st). The study will focus on **THE MIRACLE OF LIFE CHANGE: How God Transforms His Children** (by Chip Ingram, a pastor and president of Living on the Edge discipleship ministry). Chip will teach Biblical principles in a 25-minute video, followed by group discussion, sharing, and praying for one another. LIFE Groups are the **BEST WAY** to build friendships and do ministry together.
Pastor Wayne

Gurdon - Evergreen Church

Greetings from Gurdon!

During the past few months, we have been making an effort to reach our community and deepen our relationship with God. Here are a couple of ways we have been reaching out: 1) Our Fall Saplings and Youth program was well attended with about 90 young people participating on Wednesday nights. 2) The Community Pantry ministry is moving forward as we have moved into the near 9,000 square ft. building we purchased. Plans are being implemented to renovate with two offices, a conference room, restrooms, a large kitchen, and seating area.

As for deepening our spiritual lives, we have renewed our Sunday School and have been holding regular prayer services. The Sunday School effort has been going pretty good but still needs a little work. Our prayer meetings have been special as we are seeking the face of God. They usually go something like this: a time of sharing needs, a portion of Scripture is shared to help usher us into the presence of God, people with needs are anointed and prayed for, and then the remainder of the time is spent praying at a pew or the altar as soft worship music is played. We are reminded through this that all of our efforts are futile unless we are continually humbling ourselves before God and calling on His name out of desperation.

Peace be with you all,
Kevin Sims
Evergreen Church



Little Rock - Eagle Point Church

This fellowship of Christ followers is committed to experiencing a “New Normal” ... 2015 has been blessed, but is insufficient for the opportunities at hand. To this end we pray and obey.

Two fast approaching, “Together is Better” ministry events will be hosted by Eagle Point and include an invitation for others to attend and help maximize the moment ... # 1 – **Central Arkansas Unity Service – Sunday, January 31, 5:00pm**. This will be an opportunity for experiencing God, celebrating our Savior and uniting our worship and praise, followed by a time of fellowship and food. # 2 – Our first ever Central Arkansas Mid-week Unity Service, Wednesday, March 2, 7:00pm. We are excited to have the Mid-America Christian University Choir, from Oklahoma City, present and leading the entire service. Once again, we invite all within driving distance to join us for the very special opportunity to worship our great God and support and encourage the students and ministry of Mid-America.
Brother Jerry

Rogers - Exquisita Presencia Church

Blessings from your brothers and sisters in Rogers AR, December was a busy month as for many of you too. Christmas celebration at church left two new families that now are part of our congregation. 2016 started with an excellent spiritual time for all of us, the congregation was involved in twelve days of fasting time, praying all together for our church and personal goals.

New good things are coming from the lord to his church for this new year. We open a new worship service on Tuesday evening, people still coming in and it's a good way to do the praying service to the Lord. An evangelistic event was scheduled in our church on the evening of Feb 5th, our people are spreading the word, and we are expecting to have many new believers coming to join us in time. A revival service has been scheduled for March 4/16 together with other local Spanish congregations. Finally, we are asking the Lord for new leaders, we need additional hands to reach the lost and teach the word of God. Thank you for your prayers.

Brother Leo and Fanny - Church of God Exquisita Presencia.

Van Buren - Crosspointe Church

After a busy but great Christmas Season things haven't let up at CrossPointe. We will be wrapping up a study we did on prayer called “Before Amen” by Max Lucado. We hope to take what we have learned about prayer and the moment and growth in our faith and put into action in a brand new prayer group for Wednesday nights. We will call this group of people, “Just Pray.” That is what they will do for an hour together on Wednesday nights is just pray. We believe God will honor our prayers and begin to see growth in our young families, youth, and children. There will also be a topical class offered alongside this class. Two areas will be our focus in 2016, our children's ministry and prayer. This will include a revamping of our children's classes as well as nursery and toddlers. There will be some remodeling and upgrading in the facilities as well. Our youth are excited about our upcoming “Purity Service” on January 24th. We will be partnering with one of our Hispanic churches to minister to our youth. This gives our adults a great opportunity to serve as prayer counselors for the service after just going through our study on prayer. Our building project had come to a stand-still through the early winter but has gained momentum again with a lot of work taking place over the last several weeks. This will add 1250 sq. feet to our existing building and fellowship hall. Looks like we will be using it by the end of March. We continue to lift each of our sister congregations in prayer and look forward to Spring Meeting to be able to see you all again.

Pastor Ronny Mayfield

