

The *OBSERVER*

Volume 42, Issue 18

May 2, 2010

For Our Guests:

Attended Nursery at
back of the Auditorium—
infants

**Attended Training
Room** at back of the auditorio-
rium (East side)
[for 1-3 Yr. olds]

Wireless Hearing re-
ceivers available in sound
booth at back of auditorium

Coming Soon

- Gospel Meeting
Higden, AR
May 2-4
Mack Lyon Speaking
- "Fit Families for Life"
Seminar
May 6, 6:30 PM
Verizon Arena

Change For Children Campaign 2010



Sunday May 2

Morning Message
Guest Speaker: **Micah Brinkley**
Children's Homes of Paragould

Immediately after services,
Joe Ellis & Joe Gibbins will be
At the back tables to distribute the cans

Evening Message

Keith Myrick

Stuttgart, Germany

Keith Myrick has been a missionary in Germany since 1987. He is a native of Arkansas, having graduated from Sylvan Hills High School in 1975. He is a graduate of Harding (BA 1979 in Biblical Languages and Bible) and of the University of South Carolina (MA 1986 in German Language and Literature). He has spent over 25 years in Germany, including German Campaigns (with Harding International Campaigns) in the summer of 1978, two exchange programs during his graduate years in German studies, and 23 years as a missionary minister to the churches in Germany and German-speaking Europe. He currently serves as full-time minister with the church in Stuttgart, Germany.

Our Record April 25, 2010

Sunday Bible Classes	213
A.M. Worship	274
P.M. Worship	171
Ladies Bible Class	4/28 21
Midweek Classes	4/28 195

Budget	\$9,080.25
Contribution	\$10,091.75
Average	\$9,799.38

Wednesday's

Meal

**Bacon, eggs,
biscuits, gravy
and fruit**



MONTH OF MAY:

Sugar
Pancake mix & syrup
Muffin mix
Instant potatoes

Family News

SONS OF SHAMGAR FELLOWSHIP:

All men of Somers are invited to a meeting at the home of Mike and Mary Hughes on Saturday, May 8th at 5:30 PM. Burgers and hot dogs will be served. Please see Mike for details and let him know if you plan to attend.

OUTDOOR WORK DAY: Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 8th from 8:00-12:00. Your help is needed to mulch the flower beds, trim shrubs and trees.



BABY SHOWER: There will be a baby shower for Chelsea Jahnke on Sunday, May 9th following the evening service. She and Mark are expecting a boy. They are registered at *Target* and *Babies R Us*.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

The next course is scheduled for May 3rd—July 19th in MPB-M1. Register online at www.somersavenue.org under forms or contact Sean Ashberry. *Childcare will be provided with advanced registration.* If you would like to help with child care, please sign up on the list on the back tables. There is financial compensation for this.

AVAILABLE FOR SALE: An individual has contacted the church concerning two cemetery plots available at North Hills Memorial gardens. Contact Oran Burt for more information.

In Our Thoughts

Health Concerns ~

- **Jonathan Barfield** remains in MD Anderson hospital in Houston, TX. Treatment plans are incomplete at this time, but the doctors feel certain they can get the cancer back into remission.
- **Brittany Penrod** underwent reconstructive surgery on Wednesday, April 28th.
- **Scott Diles** (son of Mary and Bob Diles) remains in St. Vincent's Hospital in LR. His doctors are using several procedures to induce a seizure to help diagnose his health problems.
- **Jourdan Wood** (27 year-old daughter of a friend of Kathy Trickey's) is recovering from cervical cancer surgery on Tuesday at Baptist Hospital in LR.
- **Paul Treja** (Steve Smith's neighbor's uncle) recently diagnosed with cancer.
- **Bob Mauldin** (NLR Fire chief /Steve Smith's boss) suffered a brain hemorrhage on Wednesday. He is in Baptist Hospital in LR.
- **Brandy Holley's** mother sustained head and internal injuries on Thursday, April 29th in a car accident in Memphis.

FRIENDS & FAMILY Prayer Requests

~ **James Akins** (Akins' grandson); **Janet Akins**; **Eric Alexander** (Jodie Grice's son); **Ruby Chandler** (Shirley Whitfield's mother); **Tom, Jr & Susan Cloninger** (Tom & Barbara's son & daughter-in-law); **Annie Culpepper**; **Scott Diles** (son of Bob & Mary); **Betty Edlemon**; **Jonathan Esquivel** (Wilma Ingram's nephew); **Bill Frazier** (friend of the Haggards); **Ruth Fuller**; **Wanda Gadberry**; **Ann Ghee**; **Joe Gibbins**; **John Goodin**; **Billy Hale** (brother of Gerald); **Gerald Hale**; **Myrtle Henry**; **Alice Herbert** (sister of Jodie Grice); **Gail Jenkins**; **Vivian Johnson** (Carl Reynolds' sister); **Brad Holloway** (Cricket Harper's brother); **Henry Huckleba** (Don Huckleba's father); **Alice Miller** (Haggard's friend); **Charles Moore** (Contessa Moore's father); **Marie Necessary** (Chad's mother); **John Noles**; **Neva Raper** (Neita Phillips' mother); **Dorothy Ricks & Mary Ricks** (Linetta McDonald's sisters-in-law); **Kyle Rye** (Danny & Judy's son); **Mary & Radine Shock**; **Jenny Smith** (Steve Foster's aunt); **Mary Stehle** (mother of Mike Hughes' co-worker, Theresa Rogers). **Raymond Taylor** (Calvin Taylor's father); **Wanda House**; **Jane Weare**; and **Harry Word**.

Contact Elder for May — Mike Penrod

“A Faithful Witness”

This past week the full moon was on glorious display in the night sky. It’s full, brilliant glow brought fingers pointing out of our van window every night. In Psalm 89 the moon is called “a faithful witness in the skies.” That bright orb shone faithfully each night with the assurance that our sun was still burning bright. That got me to thinking...

Psalm 89 speaks of the faithfulness of God’s promise to David that his throne will be established forever. The moon glows with the assurance that God’s creation continues just as He wills and that God’s promises are true.

God has always seemed concerned with reassuring His people. Jesus reassured His

disciples that He would be with them always even until time ceases (Matt. 28:20). God even gave His Holy Spirit as a deposit, a guarantee, an assurance that the promise of our eternal inheritance was in fact a promise we could count on (Eph. 1:14). And God’s Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. (Rom. 8:16)

God has given us His Spirit of promise and He has given the world His church so that we may stand on glorious display in this world’s night sky. We are God’s promise to the world that He wants a restored relationship with His creation. That’s why Jesus called His followers “the light of the world” (Matt. 5:14).

Sean Ashberry, Involvement & Outreach

A challenge for us today is to shine in a world full of lights. Jesus continued by saying that a city set on a hill can’t be hidden. How true is that? I mean, you can overlook a single light or two in the night sky but the glow from a city of lights cannot go unnoticed. That’s God’s power through the church.

As an independent Christian my influence, though noticeable and important, is faint in comparison with the collective influence of a body of people on singular mission. This is why God has prepared His church and gifted each of us in a unique and special way so that together we make the body glow.

Over the next several weeks and months we will

embark on a new journey in the history of this congregation of people. Everyone is important. We need everyone involved. We want each of you involved in whatever way you are able.

May we remain mindful of the road behind us, prayerful for the challenge before us, and joyful for the opportunities to glorify our God and Savior. Then our full, brilliant glow will stand as assurance that God is concerned with His creation.

Check out my blog:
seanashberry.wordpress.com

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[sean.ashberry](https://www.facebook.com/sean.ashberry)

Church Growth Part One: The Most Essential Outreach Tool Oran Burt Pulpit Minister

We have all seen this before. But have we received the message it contains?

10,000 churchgoers were asked: “What was responsible for your coming to this church?”

- I had a special need 3%
- I just walked in 3%
- I liked the minister 6%
- I visited there 1%
- I liked the bible class 5%
- I attended a gospel meeting 0.5%
- I liked the programs 3%
- A friend/relative invited me 79%

Clearly, the most effective outreach tool is an individual member of the church.

We each have a responsibility in Christ the True Vine, to be a fruit-bearing branch.

When Philip found Nathaniel, he did the most fundamental thing possible in helping God reconcile the world to Himself in Christ—tell the good news!

The breaking news from heaven on a special occasion “This day, in the city of David, a savior is born...” was no less front page worthy when Jesus began His ministry. We have found the Messiah!

“Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?” That kind of question, packed with the baggage of prejudice, is the kind that often shuts everything down. In this case, the fantastic answer put the burden of proof right back on to the questioner. “Come and see.” It was an invitation and a challenge. You think we haven’t found the Messiah even though we said we have? Then, why don’t you check it out for yourself?

I have heard about the church of Christ. Do you seriously think those people have something to offer me? If we hear such questions, do they stop us in our tracks? Or can we muster the faith to say, “Why don’t you come and check it out for yourself?”

Only 1% of people in denominational churches are involved in evangelistic outreach. That is compared to 1% among the churches of Christ who are involved in evangelistic outreach. Hmmm.

We have about 4,000 members of the churches of Christ in the metro area of central Arkansas. With the population of Little Rock & North Little Rock at just above 200,000, it would take 20 congregations of 1,000 members each to have just 10% of the population. What are the chances? But will I be judged on the great and notable Day of the Lord concerning

whether congregations in Central Arkansas reached a certain percentage of the population? Or, based on the teaching of Jesus concerning judgment, do I find myself answering for myself? My faith and my works?

What do we need? *More faithful sowers, not new seed.* Nothing is wrong with the seed, the Word of God. It just doesn’t need to stay in the bag. It must have the soil of a good heart.

What do we need? *More faithful reapers, not new fields.* The existing fields we do have are already white for the harvest. Are we praying the Lord of harvest to send forth reapers *into* the harvest?

Five Minute Rule—Remix for 2010:

One of the most promising single acts of outreach that is free to all of us and available right here, right now, is the so-called “Five Minute Rule.” That simply stated is the agreement that for the first five minutes immediately after assembly dismisses we do not speak to our family and friends, but rather seek out a visitor or someone we do not know and talk to them. Then, after that, we mingle as usual with our favorite people and the rest of the congregation. It is painless yet effective. If I could just remember to do it every time. I will try again. [scriptures: John 15; John 1:45,46; Mt. 25; John 4:35]

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Phone: 501-758-5256
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We're On the Web:
www.somersavenue.org

Mark Your Calendar

- **May 2** Micah Brinkley, from Children's Homes of Paragould will be the guest speaker for Sunday morning worship.
- **May 2** Keith Myric, missionary in Stuttgart, Germany will speak at 5:00 PM evening worship.
- **May 8** Pinnacle Mtn Outing for 6th grade down. Details to follow.
- **May 30** Fifth Sunday evening services and picnic at Burns Park
- **June 27-30** VBS Levy hosting



More Things You Can Do

On Our WEBSITE:

- Link to other sites
- Check Calendar of events
- Read Blogs from Somers
- Print picture directory or pdf list of members & much more: www.somersavenue.org

Upcoming Teen Events

This Month

- May 2—Devotional
Hosts: Ashberrys
- May 16—Sr. Devotional
- May 23—Graduates Reception
- May 28-30—Summer Kick Off

Looking Forward

- June 4-6—Poverty Plunge
- July 8-17—Mission Trip
- August 2-8—Florida Trip

*The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine
upon you and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift his countenance upon
you and give you peace.*

Need-Meters

A few days ago I was walking through downtown Little Rock and I began to notice the parking meters. I noticed the way that they just stand there, growing out of the concrete as if they had always been part of the urban landscape. They aren't here one minute and gone the next. They aren't visible to some, while obscured or even invisible to others. Anyone who walks past a parking meter can see immediately what it says about the parking space it is representing. You can see that this one has 3 minutes left. You can see that that one has already expired. You can see that another has almost two hours before ticking down to 0:00. All you need to do is glance over and you know all that you need to know about that parking space.

I guess the reason that these parking meters struck me as if I had never seen them before is because I had recently felt a very deep need for acknowledgement, comfort, and support that I hadn't received except from one brother. It made me think... maybe my need wasn't seen. Maybe my need wasn't known to those around me who I would

Alex Wells, Youth and Children's Ministries

have expected to reach out to me in a time like that.

At some point I stopped thinking about my own situation and began to think of others. I wonder how many hurting souls have parked themselves all around me waiting, hoping for comfort, longing for needs to be met. I wonder how many times I walked by and never saw the need. I wonder how many times a kind word or a helping hand would have made all of the difference. I would have given them freely. I just didn't have eyes to see the needs around me.

I thought about the parking meters and began to wonder what it would be like if we all had meters. I thought about how convenient it would be if we each had a meter above our head that showed our needs. There would be no more guessing. There would be no more ignorance. There would be no more excuses. We would look to one need-meter and see that this one needs her yard mowed. We would turn to the left and see that this one needs someone to share some good news with. We would see

another need-meter and see that this one just needs to be noticed.

But we don't have need-meters. And most of us do not have the eyes to see the needs around us with such clarity. I have prayed for those eyes. I have asked God to help me find some hurting soul today that I can speak a word of kindness into. Help me to find someone in need today who my hands can serve. Help me to notice the eyes of everyone I encounter and see the joy or pain behind them... Still I fail. But I don't give up. I try again, and try harder. I would love to be a need-meter reader, but need-meters as such do not exist. So, I ask God to train my eyes to see past my own needs and past the surface in others, to see the reality of their circumstance. May he give us all the eyes to truly see.

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alexwells.wordpress.com

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