



# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

204 S Washington  
Nevada, MO 64772

## THE BEACON

Telephone: (417) 667-3540  
E-mail: [lyndaj@fccnevada.org](mailto:lyndaj@fccnevada.org)  
[www.fccnevada.org](http://www.fccnevada.org)



**Sr. Min.** Bill Platt; **Assoc. Min.** David Rorabaugh; **Youth Min.** Gage Addington

**Elder Emeritus:** Ron Greenway, John McKinley and Glen Noble

**Elders:** Don Andersen, Greg Barneburg, Scott Buerge, Don Cubbage, Doug Gammon, Wayne Jeans and Rick Jones

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## *From the Pulpit* *Growing Grass*

We are always looking for talent in the church. There are many talents that I have, but there are only a few that I do well. I can dig. I can grow grass (if God does his part). And I can wash dishes. What can you do well?

Digging tends to work against growing grass. Recently, we had to have new clean outs put in our sewer line. The small back hoe came and did its digging. Then, I had a great opportunity to grow grass. It has not been easy to learn how to make grass grow. I have been trying to grow grass for most of the years that I have lived in Nevada. It has only been in the last couple of years that I am able to get excited about it growing. Because, finally, I have learned a few things and have been willing to make the sacrifices required to grow grass.

Relationships sometimes dig into our hearts and leave some horribly bare spots. Over time and obvious neglect, these bare spots begin to dominate us and affect the relationship. This will lead to breaking off the relationship. It will lead to bitterness ruling our life. Then we may even experience physical discomfort and possibly death because of the bare spots.

Jesus revealed the answer to the bare spots in our relationships. It's like grass in the yard. If you grow forgiveness you can overcome the bare spots. Forgiveness is in the model prayer of Jesus, "...forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." Right after this model prayer, Jesus reiterates the importance of forgiveness. In Matthew 6, he says, "For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

Just a few things that I would highlight about growing grass. First, it only grows if God does His part. Second, you can throw out a little seed, but what makes it really grow well is when you make the sacrifices needed. Finally, it requires constant care. Forgiveness works the same way.

If you are going to forgive, remember what God did for you and pass it along. Next, it takes more than lip service. It takes more than saying "Forgive me" to change the bare spots. It requires a great deal of sacrifice. Finally, real forgiveness needs to be cared for everyday. Can you do it?

My prayer is that you look after the "bare spots" in your relationships today.

C U Sunday,  
Bill

P.S. – I want to say thank you to so many that made our Easter Sunday a great day of worship. Thank you.

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**THANK YOU, CHOIR, DRAMA AND TECH TEAMS** for an excellent presentation of the cantata, *THE CROSS*. Several compliments have been shared with me and I want you to know how much you are appreciated.

We are taking a break until fall, and I pray that you will be back, along with your friends. We have plenty of room for more who want to sing for Jesus. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.



**Some new study groups are starting up in the next few weeks.** Watch your bulletins and the Beacon for information. If you would like to host a study in your home or somewhere else, please contact us. You are invited to join any of the established groups now meeting.

**Young Adult Small Group:** Monday evenings at 6:00 pm with Gage.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASS FOR ADULTS**, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm in a verse by verse walk through the Bible (book of Matthew), led by Bill.

**Soul Sisters** and **Cord Brothers** meet at 6:30 pm on the first and third Thursdays of the month. The ladies gather in the Fellowship Hall and the men meet in the Youth center. Please call the office if you need child care.

Because Jesus Lives,  
David Rorabaugh

# Finish the Race

In an effort to lose weight for a wedding I've got coming up, I have started running again. I used to be able to run forever, like, running was almost second nature. But picking it back up, I have realized just how out of shape I really am. Running is hard, running is painful, and running is not over nearly as quickly as we often want it to be. But running is rewarding, running feels good at times, and running allows me to experience God in different ways.

It is no surprise that a common metaphor for faith is a race. Faith in Jesus isn't some sprint, it isn't over quickly, and it isn't always easy or fun. But the reward far outweighs any pain or inconvenience we may suffer. Paul uses this metaphor in many of his epistles, but I want to take a look at his words to the Corinthian church in 1 Cor. 9:24-25.

"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable."

Paul is saying that we need to run, we need to endure in faith, as if we are trying to win. Not in that we put others down or make it a competition with them, but in that we make it a competition with the flesh. I need to beat myself. I need to beat my sins. I need to finish this race with endurance. If we can put ourselves through pain or inconvenience for the sake of something temporary, then why is it so hard sometimes to do the same for something eternal? Endurance in a normal race will lead to a little fame and a little reward, but endurance in faith will lead to something far greater. It will lead to an eternity of glory, peace, and freedom in the presence of God.

So endure. Whatever trials may be facing you right now, Christ is with you, and His example to us was not a feeble attempt, but a victorious finish, even though He was bearing a cross. Because if we finish the race, even as He did, we will be crowned victors with Him as well.

Until He Returns,  
Gage Addington

**Congregational Meetings will be held Sunday, May 19** immediately after each service to elect Board members for a three-year term effective July 1, 2019. Nominations include: for **Deacon** - Earl Higgins and Berry McClure; for **Deaconess** - Shirley Johnson and Teresa McClure; for **Trustee** - Charlotte Buerge for a regular 3 year term and Ronda Post who would serve the remaining 2 years of Jeff Post's term.



*We Rejoice  
in the recent  
Baptism of Will  
Zermeño!*



**Congratulations to Hunter Garyn Balk** who graduates on May 16 from Trinity Christian Academy.

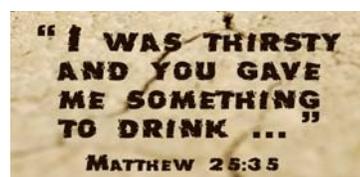
**Small Groups Begin Soon.** Watch for info and sign-up sheets about small groups that will be forming soon. The first group to begin meeting is the Butterfield/Clark Group which will begin this next Tuesday at 2:30pm at the Butterfield's house at 201 North Webster.



### Host Families Needed:

**Cotter has two local students who are in need of Host families.** The halls close on May 12, 2019, and re-open the 3rd week of August of 2019. Please contact Erica Siguake at 417-667-8181, ext. 2108 for more details.

**With Baseball Season just around the corner, the Nevada Griffons are in search of a few more families to host a Nevada Griffon Baseball Player.** Please contact Pookie DeCocq at 417-667-1261 for more details.



**Change For Life by Life Choices. From Mother's Day to Father's Day, fill up a baby bottle with change.** The money from the baby bottles goes towards baby supplies, ultrasounds, parenting classes, emergency needs, etc. Contact Pauline Jeans at 417-448-9408 for more info.

Anyone needing a ride to Sunday School/Church in our vans, please let us know by calling the church office at 667-3540 **BEFORE NOON on FRIDAY.**



To help support our local **Community Outreach Food Pantry** we are collecting non-perishable food and dry goods. A box is in the parlor for collection. **Suggested May products:** Pork & beans, applesauce, mac & cheese, raman noodles, canned veggies, salt, cereal.

