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I've recently read two significant articles about the challenges facing the church today. One was published in a quarterly, and the other online. The first is entitled *America Follows Israel's Departure from God*, and the second, *America's New Religion: Fake Christianity*.

I referred to the online article in a sermon a couple of weeks ago when I pointed out how many Christians have embraced the belief that the purpose of life is to be happy, and we have no right to pass judgement on anyone if they're just trying to be happy. The article gave a name to this fake Christianity, calling it Moralistic Therapeutic Deism.

The moralistic perspective is that we're here to be good people and do good. The therapeutic aspect is everything is supposed to be geared to making me feel good about myself. And deism is the idea that God created the world but has no direct involvement in it. The bottom line is that God just wants everyone to be nice, and the purpose of life is to be happy.

The article in *Does God Exist?* suggests that the problems we face today are the result of doing five things Jeremiah said God's people were doing in his day. I'm simply going to note them. You can get the details by reading Jeremiah 6:10-19.

—They refuse to listen to the word of God.

—They are obsessed with material things.

—They delude themselves with falsehoods.

—They were not ashamed and could not blush.

—They rejected the only possible solution.

The author concludes: "The politicians and philosophers will not fix what is wrong with our world. The only possible solution is the teaching and example of Jesus Christ taught in our homes and congregations and lived out in the lives of his disciples." I'm sure we all agree.

God Bless, Rick



## THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

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# POWERLIGHT-FEST



**SUNDAY AUG 22 2021**

**MAC POWELL**

**DANNY GOKEY** FEATURING GRAMMY NOMINATED  
FOUR-TIME GRAMMY WINNER

**ISRINGHAUSEN**  
Our priority is you

**TOM GOLLY** **CARMEN MILLS**

**GREEN TOYOTA** **South Side Christian Church** **GREEN HYUNDAI**

**BRANDT** **LAKE AREA DISPOSAL & RECYCLING** **THE MIX**

**SCHEDULE**

12:30 - 1:15 PM  
PRAISE & WORSHIP (HOPE CHURCH)

1:45-2:30 PM  
K3HLAB (HIP HOP)

2:55-3:40 PM  
CARMEN MILLS

3:55-4:40 PM  
TOM GOLLY

5:00-6:00 PM  
BOILING POINT (ROCK)

6:30-7:30 PM  
MAC POWELL

8:00-9:00 PM  
DANNY GOKEY

**FREE SHOW**  
RAIN OR SHINE

**JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

**LEAVING CCC AT 4:00PM**

**RETURNING AT 10:00PM**

**ADMISSION: \$5.00**

**CHATHAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
9897 So. Main St., P.O. Box 527  
Chatham, Illinois 62629

Church Office 217-483-3987  
www.chathamchristian.org

**Rick Wenneborg, Minister**  
cell phone 217-836-4971  
Rick@chathamchristian.org

**Mark Huber, Youth Minister**  
cell phone 217-971-3075  
hubermark2@gmail.com

**Sunday Worship Service**  
**Bible School**  
9:15 AM  
10:45 AM

STATISTICS		
	8/8	
Worship		97
Offering		\$4,336.38
	8/15	
Worship		116
Offering		\$5,168.72

## Haitian Christian Ministries

As Haitians struggle with the aftermath of a devastating earthquake and the recent assassination of their president, we bring you some good news from the mission we support in Haiti.

"In June 2019, a young married man named Walter Gabriel decided to plant a church in an area where voodoo is highly practiced. This area is near a 'dirty pool', where people come from all over Haiti weekly and annually to take a dirty bath for good luck. This young man of God has been financially supported by the Board of HCM to study theology at Emmaus Biblical Seminary. Pastor Bob says 'I have learned to appreciate his man of God who has left his mother church at Lory in order to reach out to a lost community. His patience and his courage to win souls, baptize followers, and teach them is very encouraging.'

This church plant has grown up from 5 to 50 members. One of the families who submitted their lives to Christ has offered their yard to host the church. Without having their own land, the church is currently meeting under a tent. However, Pastor Walter is looking for a piece of land in the same community to put the church. Because of where the church is geographically, the church was persecuted by a group of witch doctors and community members. Some people of this community see voodoo as a means to gain money. They do not want to have people closely follow Jesus as they will abandon their voodoo practice. Walter's job is not easy, and it requires a great spiritual discipline to enter this spiritual battle. He has experience great Satanic attacks but believes fully 'greater is he that is in me than he that is in the world.'"



Sunday we had the joy of witnessing Kiayla Blakley being baptized into Christ by her father. And we recently received a picture of Theo baptizing Vanessa in Jamaica.

We thank God for the privilege of sharing the gospel both here and abroad, and for the joy of seeing two young ladies being born again and rising to walk in newness of life.



We are all anxious to begin another great season of Sunday evening activities here at the church. The Kickoff will be on Sunday, September 12th starting at 5:00pm. Over the years, we have done a lot of different activities for our kickoff or finale. We have had carnivals, a Foster Family Fun Fair, talent shows, movies, Fortnite contests, the Mass Anthem concert, dunk tanks, knockerball at LSCA, the world's largest banana split, and roller skating. What we have not had is a magician!

So this year a local magician will be here to entertain us with his faithful companion, a rabbit named Snowball. He will be performing a magic show in the auditorium after we have enjoyed some food together and games in our backyard. Speaking of games, with the help of a generous donation from an individual in our congregation, we were able to purchase a brand new 9 square game that will handle the wind in our yard a little better. That is always a favorite and will be set up along with a variety of other games for the kids to enjoy prior to the magic show. I am looking forward to getting the Fall season started at CCC!



Many of our kids are returning to school this week. Please keep them in your prayers!



Promotion Sunday will occur during the morning worship service on Sunday, August 29th. The teachers through 6th grade will have an opportunity to share a few highlights from the previous year and paint a brief picture of what is ahead for the class this upcoming year. Graduating students will be recognized at that time and attend the next appropriate grade level class that morning.

I would like to thank all the teachers for serving the youth in this capacity. Also, a special thank you goes out to Corey Moore who answered the call to teach our upcoming Junior High class. He is excited to step into the role and begin to work with our youth on a regular basis. In case you were wondering, the Sunday School Teachers for 2021/2022 are as follows:

Beginners Class - Marilyn Wenneborg  
(3 & 4 yr. old)  
K & 1st Grade - Paul Hunley  
2nd & 3rd Grade - Nikki Hunley  
4th & 5th Grade - Schar Zimmerman  
Junior High - Cory Moore  
High School - Mark Huber



We are grateful for all the volunteers who came out last Saturday to prep the new play area for the kids and finish the gazebo. It looks great!