

*Our Vision: As Gateway church grows, we see ourselves starting more churches that will help people find God and find real meaning in their lives through the giving and receiving of His love.*

*Our Mission: We desire to be a community of believers in Jesus Christ that loves the Lord God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and loves our neighbor as ourselves. (from Mark 12:29-31)*

## Gateway News

### Kids Classes

Class is available for kids through fifth grade during preaching time:

10:15 - 10:45 a.m.

### NURSERY TODAY Mattie Medders

The nursery is available during the worship hour for babies **under 2** years old.

Nursery February 21

**Lynn Beck**

### Today's Sermon: Excuses Luke 9:57-62

There is a Visions meeting immediately following the service **TODAY**. If you have not attended one of these meetings, please stay for a free lunch **TODAY**.

**House Warming Today**  
Honoring Cheryl Winters  
February 28 at Pete and Jeannie Harden's  
4516 Westminster  
2:00 to 4:00  
Cheryl is registered at Target

Last week's contribution \$1924.07

Don't forget to bring cans from the soft drinks you consume. They will go to benefit the Little Rock Ronald McDonald House.

## WELCOME VISITORS

If you are visiting today, we are honored by your presence. We hope you are blessed by being with us today. Join us in worship to our Almighty God as we sing, pray, take communion in which you are welcome to participate, and then teaching.

## KEEP KINDNESS GOING

"He is kind to the ungrateful and wicked"

## NOTE OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Son of Jackie Clements  
David Childress  
ADC #140587  
880 E. Gaines  
Dermott, AR 71638

### Prayer Needs

Brooks Nichols, he is not doing well.

Danny Russell

April Chandler, Daughter of Linda and Mike Chandler from LRC

Darin Dodson, nephew of Danny and Nedra

Gateway Women are invited to attend a brunch honoring Amanda Gentry Johnston on Saturday, March 6 11:00 am at the home of Beth Minor, 3089 Hiway 128, Lonsdale

**THERE WILL BE SOMEONE AT THE DOOR TODAY AS YOU LEAVE COLLECTING MONEY FOR A GIFT.**

## SERVICE ASSIGNMENTS

### Begin MARCH 7, 2010

\*\*\*SET UP/TAKE DOWN SIGNS AT ENTRANCE

**PETE HARDEN**

\*\*\*MAKE COFFEE

**WORSHIP TEAM**

\*\*\*CLEAN UP COFFEE AREA

**Kama Medders**

\*\*\*BRING DONUTS

**RYAN AND ANGIE RUSSELL**

\*\*\*BRING JUICE

**RAY AND SHERRY BURKHALTER**

\*\*\*COMMUNION PREPARATION/CLEAN UP

**CORY AND CRYSTAL BALENTINE**

by [Austin Thomas](#)

Confession time. Deep, deep inside me is a secret desire. This desire motivates most of the things I do, almost every single day. It dictates who I am (or who I act like) most of the time, and it directly influences how I treat my friends and family and the people I work and live with. This desire is also responsible for most moments of unrest and uncertainty in my life, and it has wrought a lot more harm than good within my soul. Just like Jesus said it would.

Obviously, I'm talking about my life-long yearning to live in a freaking awesome castle. I've got it all planned out. I'll earn money, make friends, stockpile knowledge and get a few defensive tools. Everything I buy goes in the castle. Everything I make goes in the castle. Everything I learn goes in the castle. Everything (and everyone!) I love goes in the castle. As I build up my wealth of things and people and ideas and experiences, I'll put up some walls. And probably a moat. And my castle will be sitting on a beautiful hill. And it will definitely have those little windows that you can stick a bow-and-arrow through, to shoot at intruders. And it will have a good carriage out front. And nobody can get in except those I want to. And I'll be able to leave whenever I want to go help people

or visit my friend's castles or do other important things, but I'll always have a safe, comfortable, warm, beautiful place to return to at the end of the night. It will be mine, and it will be awesome.

And while castles are really, really great (I mean...come on! They're castles! ), I wonder if they can also be really dangerous. I know that when I focus on building my castle, I'm not focused on building communities. Or churches. Or gardens. Or theaters. Or soup kitchens. I mean, on my better days I try to help build those things too, but only as much as I can without endangering the welfare of my personal castle. I have this idea that in order to help people and do what Jesus wants me to do in this world, I need to have myself squared away. I need to have my life in order before I worry about others. This is a logical way to think. It makes sense, and it's responsible. But it can also be crippling. Because we really like comfort, and I know that when I'm worrying about myself I'm not worrying about others.

I guess that the kind of kingdom Jesus is creating is one without walls. Without moats or arrow-shooting holes in the wall or locks on the door. And that is really scary to me, because some thief could just walk in the door and take what is mine. Some crazy homeless man

could just come and hurt me or my loved ones. Somebody who is bigger and smarter and better looking than I am could just ride in on his white horse and stage a coup for the hearts of all my friends and loved ones and associates, leaving me in the dust with nothing. But if I really believe what Jesus says, I can't get hung up on that stuff. Because like he says, matters isn't the kind you can put in a castle and protect with walls. I think my life would be a lot better if I acted like I believed that, instead of saying I believed it and continuing to build my walls and moats and castle, just in case.

Lord, tear down my castle!