



## What We Do, Counts

The Spiritual Adventure congregational readings for this week (July 11-17) include First Chronicles 1-9. Most people tend to regard these chapters as, well, a little tedious. OK, more than a little.

For those who have never stayed awake at night wondering who the sons of Helah, in fact, are (Zereth, Zohar, Ethnan, and Koz, to spare you the trouble of looking up 4:7), perhaps a word of perspective on these chapters is in order.

These nine chapters, believe it or not, represent some of the most important information in all the Old Testament. Their importance is summed up in 9:1, "All Israel was listed in the genealogies recorded in the book of the kings of Israel." That is to say, there was a book, a book of recorded genealogies. The reason there was such a book is that somebody (many somebodies, in fact) cared enough to keep these records. And the reason they cared enough to do that is that these records are important. They tell of the history – history passed from one generation to another, one leader to another, one priest to another, one king to another, one temple musician to another – the history of God's people through the centuries. And that history is important because it was through the Hebrew people that salvation history weaved its way from Abraham to Jesus Christ.

But the importance of all this doesn't stop there. What this tells us is not just that God had an interest in preserving a blood line through which to introduce his own Son into the world. It tells us how God works. He works through history, through the events and acts of people, some good, some bad. And each one of those acts affects acts in subsequent generations.

God is still writing the acts of his people, though now the people have names like Bill and Mary and Frank and Jessica. What these people do – the way they spend their time and resources – affects the generation after them, and what that generation does affects the generation after them. This is the reason First Chronicles 1-9 is, after all, a page turner: it's my story, it's your story, and it's our children's story. What we do, counts.

*G. Crowe*

## A Snowball in July

The CSC held an information meeting last Sunday night for our *Friends Speak* ministry. We advertised in every way we knew how. We spent time putting flyers on almost every door in Purdue Village; we put a commercial on Boiler TV; we invited people personally. Just in advertising, we reached hundreds of students, if not more. So, a small part of me was disappointed when only one international student showed up for our information meeting.

But then this student came in and sat down and began to talk. His English is really great! So, why do you think he was there? You guessed it. He told me that he had seen the flyer on the outside of his door and he came to learn about the Bible. Now, I am not sure if you understand what a minister's dream is (or any other Christian's dream is), but when someone comes, meets you for the first time, and says, "I want to learn about the Bible," you tend to pinch yourself and wonder if it is a dream.

Disappointment left and I reminded myself that God usually chooses to start something big with something small. Remember the story of Gideon? The introduction of King David? The story of one woman named Esther getting married? A man named Jesus with only twelve helpers?

This is the snowball we have been looking for to start an avalanche for God among international students. Please pray for this ministry and thank God for the turnout so far! ~Dan

## Prayer Concerns...

Continue to pray for **Joe White, Bill Andrews, Geneva Hamilton, Beth Holt, Anna Dale, Darrel Martin, Gene Walker, Terry Pepper, Eunice Whitesell, Mark Eddy, Irene Fox, Ramona Farris, and Delpha Allen.** Those in Rosewalk Village: **Paul and Ruth Marks, Minnie Scott, Bernice Todd, and Burnell Gulden.**

Serving in the military: **Josh Hunt** is in Iraq.

*Thank You!*

Dear Elmwood Family,

Thank you for your cards, prayers, and special memorial remembrances for Mother's recent passing. Your thoughtfulness and support is truly appreciated.

Love, Perry & Janet Achor



**Paul and Ruth Marks** will celebrate their 62nd wedding anniversary on Sunday, July 17th. Congratulations, Paul and Ruth, on reaching this tremendous milestone!

## A Wedding

In the spirit of Christian joy  
Ken and Jannie Chaffin  
and  
Rod and Cindi Lindsey  
invite you to share in the joy  
of the marriage uniting their children  
Bethany Hope Chaffin  
and  
Ted Hamilton Lindsey  
on Saturday, the sixteenth of July  
Two thousand and five  
at three o'clock in the afternoon  
North Boulevard Church of Christ  
in Murfreesboro, Tennessee

## Nursery School is Enrolling for Fall

The Elmwood Nursery School and Pre-K is in the process of enrolling children for the fall. Classes begin on September 6. Two classes are offered, a preschool class for children who are 3 years old by September 1, and a Pre-K class for children who turn 4-years-old by July 1. Contact the church office for more information or to enroll your child.



## 50 Years Celebration

The Hillcrest Church of Christ, which was started in 1955 and became the Lindberg Road Church of Christ in 1980, is planning special events on July 23rd and 24th, 2005, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the congregation. For more information or to register for the lunch on Sunday the 24th, please contact the Lindberg Road church by calling 765-649-0136 ext. 10.

## Food Pantry Needs



The food pantry is in desperate need of **cereal**. This is an item that we cannot purchase at the reduced rate, and is something that all families need. Please help by bringing a couple of boxes the next time you come to the building.

## Men's Breakfast, Saturday, July 16, 7:43 AM, at Elmwood

July 10, 2005

Class: 156 Worship: 263

Contribution: \$6,659

Budget: \$8,100

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### Camp C.U.M.O.

Camp C.U.M.O. (our mission trip to Cincinnati) has begun. Here are a couple of pictures from our first training/planning/work session with the Withamsville group. Next week, we will share some pictures of the camp in action. Please keep us in your prayers. Thanks, Phyllis, Erin, Ben, Josh, Peter, Philip, Mark and Lee.



Here's What to Expect



Orientation Begins!



Writing Discussion Questions

## ...Let Me Introduce Myself Dinner

If the feedback we're receiving is any indication, the *"I Don't Believe We've Met, Let Me Introduce Myself"* dinners were a huge success! The next dinner is scheduled for Sunday, August 14th and sign-up will begin soon. If you missed this one, don't miss the next one! If you would like to host one of the dinners on August 14th, let Sue McClain know no later than July 22nd.

## Brown Bag Sunday

What: Food and Fellowship

When: Sunday, July 24th, after Bible Study (11:00) and late Service

Where: Lucas/Sutherlin Porch, 2805 Union Street, Lafayette

Details: Do a drive-thru, pack your own picnic, or eat and then come to visit. We will be there from 11:00 a.m. until the last person wants to leave. Just thought it would be fun to get together and enjoy the company of our church family. (Rain or shine) If you have questions, call the Sutherlins at 447-7785. Hope to see you there!

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Sue Wilder** on her recent promotion at Purdue. Sue has been named the assistant dean of students in charge of students with disabilities. Along with this, she will continue as director of TAEVIS (Tactile Access to Education for Visually Impaired Students).



**July 9-15**...CUMO (Youth group mission trip)

**July 13, 7 PM**...Bible classes for all

**July 13, 7 PM**...Men's Class, room 204,  
Young Mom's Class, room 202

**July 17, 6 PM**...Singing with Farrell Simmerman

**July 17-23**...Senior Week at Spring Mill Bible Camp

**July 24-29**...Intermediate Week at Spring Mill Bible Camp

# ***This Week's Highlight:*** **Prayer**

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An age-old question: *"Recently my dad died at age 62. A month later, my best friend died at age 37, leaving a widow and a three-year-old daughter. Many Christians in many places were praying for both men to survive and to be healed. It seems like God has an appointed day for our deaths. If so, what good does it do to pray?"*

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**T**he question is one of the oldest in recorded human history and also one of the most inexplicable. In a world where evil exists (and death is the ultimate earthly evil because it is both total and final so far as our present bodily existence is concerned), thoughtful people always ask "Why?" For people of faith, the moral question is more serious: "If God is both powerful and good, why does he allow evil?" Your religious questions then follow concerning prayer: "If God answers prayer, why is my prayer unanswered? If my prayer goes unanswered why bother to pray?"

The biblical book of Job (the narrative of which probably fits chronologically somewhere among the Genesis stories) wrestles with these questions but does not provide any clear answers. Job is a godly man who prays every day for his children. Yet God specifically allows the Adversary to destroy Job's children, his personal property and his physical and emotional health. Job's theological friends insist that the solution is simple: God is just, Job has sinned and he is getting what he deserves. Job, who knows that he is pious if not perfect, defends his own innocence before his friends and before God himself and demands an explanation from God.

Eventually God responds to Job with an "Enough already!" and silences the devout questioner with a volley of divine questions that say in effect: "I am God and you are not!" Through it all Job hopes in

God, asserting a personal faith that God will vindicate him even beyond death, which will never have the final word. This expression of faith brings the larger story full circle and proves the Adversary wrong who, in the prologue to the book, had alleged that Job would renounce all faith in God under the circumstances which then followed. Although the book of Job does not answer the questions that trouble us now, it provides a larger perspective in which we can trust God despite the present darkness.

The story of Jesus provides even more context for faith under fire. After publicly proclaiming Jesus to be his "beloved Son," God proceeds to permit Jesus to suffer and die in horrible pain, apparent abandonment and public disgrace. Before the weekend is over, however, God changes forever the way his people view death itself by bringing Jesus back to life in a glorified body belonging to a new and eternal dimension. The faithful Father has vindicated his faithful Son and, by so doing, has demonstrated himself worthy of unwavering trust as the all-powerful and all-loving master over time and eternity. Why pray? Because God invites us to do so and, in ways and for reasons we cannot now comprehend, our prayers sometimes make a difference in what would otherwise happen. Like Job, we trust God in the dark. Because of Jesus, however, a blinding shaft of light has pierced through the darkness, illuminating a path of faith that finally leads to the visible presence of God.

*—Edward Fudge*

*Read:*  
 I Chronicles 28-II Chronicles 16;  
 Romans 5-8; Psalms 11-16;  
 Proverbs 19:18-29

# 2005 Spiritual Adventure

## Week 30: July 25-31


Being a Christian in today's world is not always easy. There are temptations everywhere, and it can be very hard to stay on the "straight and narrow." Surely this problem is one that is unique to our modern society. The disciples must have had few temptations to deal with, and their walk with Christ must have been fairly unobstructed. Wrong!!

In Romans 7:15-20, Paul describes what all Christians, of any era, struggle with. He says, "For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do... For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out." None of us wants to fall to temptation — we all want to live like Jesus. However, our "sinful nature" gets in the way. How reassuring to read that Paul, a man who spent his life telling others about Jesus, battled with the same sin that we do. In Romans 7:24-25, Paul writes, "What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God — through Jesus Christ our Lord!" Praise God! He sees all our faults, and He loves us DESPITE our sinful nature.

**Chadd Gibson**

|  Weekly Schedule  |  Elders   |  World Missions   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Sunday</b><br>Worship 8:00 a.m.<br>Bible Study 9:30 a.m.<br>Worship 10:45 a.m.<br>Life Groups 6:00 p.m.<br><b>Wednesday</b><br>Bible Study 7:00 p.m. | Bill Bell 463-1139<br>Joe Matthews 474-8369<br>Rick Swensen 463-6822<br>Don Vice 471-8653   | Kevin Chambers<br>World Christian Broadcasting<br>Anchor Point, Alaska 99556<br><br>Loren and Penny Hollingsworth<br>Phuket, Thailand 83000 |
|   |  Staff   |   |
| <b>Elmwood Nursery School &amp; Pre-K</b><br>Preschool: Tues-Thurs 9-11:30 am<br>Pre-K: Mon-Thurs 9-11:30 am<br>Director, Susan McClain 447-2874        | <b>Ministers</b><br>Gayle Crowe 447-6940<br>Lee Porter 463-6993<br>Dan Cooke 543-7469<br><b>Office Manager</b><br>Sherry Marks 447-2874 | City of Children<br>Ensenada, Mexico<br><br>Bren and Cheryl White<br>P.O. Box 245<br>New Market, MD 21774                                   |

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