



Getting Ready

Crosses are everywhere. They're on clothes, jewelry, trinkets. To many they symbolize no more than, "I'm a Christian." But is that all? Even a quick survey of the history of the Roman cross as an instrument of torture and execution suggests that there's more. Much more. A world of sacrifice, anguish, pain and suffering.

I'm expanding my reading choices these days to get ready. Every sign in our culture tells us that Christians are headed for darker days in the future than we have enjoyed in the past. I'm reading Gracia Burnham's *In the Presence of My Enemies*, the story of her life-changing experience in the Philippines when she and her husband were captured by the Muslim extremist sect Abu Sayyef and held for over a year. Since the day she escaped and her husband was killed, she has been ministering to a lethargic church to get us ready for similar atrocities to come.

Do we need this message? The March, 2005, issue of *The Voice of the Martyrs* reports that in Pakistan, those who become Christians can expect rigorous persecution. After one woman, Rebekha, became a Christian, two of her uncles took her to a canal. One held a pistol to her head while the other held her firmly, demanding that she return to Islam. "I told them they could kill me, but I would not leave Christianity." The uncles saw a black cobra swimming their way, so they pushed Rebekha into the canal and ran. She got out of the canal and the snake was nowhere to be seen. Rebekha is still on the run from family members.

Only in Pakistan? In Sweden, a minister was given 30 days in jail for preaching from the book of Romans. In Australia, two Pakistani Christians who were leaders of their church were jailed for comparing verses from the Koran to the Bible. In Canada, a Christian, Scott Brockie, lost \$100,000 in court costs for refusing to print business cards for a homosexual organization. In October of last year, four Christians were arrested in Philadelphia for singing a hymn at a homosexual rally, charged with "criminal conspiracy, ethnic intimidation, and riot."

It's coming. The wise will be ready.

G. Crowe

Patience

I was taught to drive in Nashville, Tennessee. Now, many of you may not know this, but if you say it quickly, Nashville sounds alot like "Nascar." I drove as if I were running a test car for Nascar. Speeding, weaving in and out between cars . . . I think I am the only person in our church that was pulled over for drunk driving without ever touching a drop of alcohol! Some might heretically say that my driving habits have not changed much, but they are wrong.

Driving is a spiritual issue because it is linked to so many different things. Among the most relevant is patience. Patience is not really one of my strong points. If someone is driving the speed limit in front of me, I sometimes act as if I will never make it to my destination. But, behold, I always do.

Do you struggle with patience? Are you impatient with the big things that come your way (i.e. problems at work, problems at church, etc.), or do you struggle more with the little things (your spouse left socks on the floor, rolls the toothpaste tube while you insist on not rolling it)?

I want to tell you about a man who is patient. Jesus, the Christ, was very patient. He was patient with his disciples' lack of understanding; he was patient with Nicodemus; he was patient with his mission . . . never rushing it, always moving slowly, strategically, patiently. In a world of instant gratification, a world where everything we want/need is only a click away, I urge you to work on your patience.

~Dan



Joe & Wanita White are now at University Place, 1700 Lindberg Rd #2219, West Lafayette 47906. Joe begins radiation treatments this week....While playing wallyball at school (Ball State), **Naomi Hunt** broke her leg....Elaine Borie's father, **Burnell Gulden**, has been diagnosed with lymphoma. Pray for him and Elaine as he makes a decision on treatment options....Margaret Gustafson hopes her sister, **Geneva Hamilton**, will be transferred to a facility at Kokomo this week. She has been improving with treatment at the IU Medical Center....**Elizabeth Tinkle** has broken several bones in her foot....Remember to pray for **Bob Stafford**, **Minnie Scott**, **Eunice Whitesell**, **Ken Nicholson, Sr.**, **Mark Eddy**, **Jay Verett**, **Ramona Farris**, **Irene Fox**, **Delpha Allen**, and **Bernice Todd**.

Expecting babies in the near future: the **Sipe**, **DeWoody**, **Hombs** and **Studebaker** families. Pray for them as they await the safe arrival of their babies.

Serving in the military: **Josh Hunt** in Iraq; **Loren Sniffen** in Afghanistan.

New Wednesday Night Class for young mothers

Becky Pitt is teaching a new class on Wednesday night, at 7:00, for mothers of young children. They are using the book, *Mom, and Loving It*, by Laurie Hilliard & Sharon Autry. She invites mothers to come and sit in on the class as they hope to encourage one another in this "exciting" and yet sometimes "trying" time of their lives. Questions? Call Becky at 471-9155.

Attention High School Students!

Rochester College is hosting a weekend program for all high school students to coincide with *Celebration 2005: Hollywood*. There will be plenty of free food and fun, as well as devotional time, giveaways, and complimentary admission to the Saturday matinee performance of the show. Dates are **April 1 & 2**. For more information, check out the *Celebration* website at www.re.edu/celebration. To register, call 248.218.2031.

Focus on the Family Programs

Upcoming *Focus on the Family* programs are heard on local radio, WHPL-FM 89.9 at 6:30 PM Monday-Friday.

- March 18** *Coping with Anxiety*-Dr. Paul Meier discusses the difference between fear and anxiety, the symptoms of anxiety disorders and treatments for them.
- Mar. 21, 22,23** *Advice on Bringing Up Boys*-Dr. Dobson offers parenting help in a discussion of his best-selling book, *Bring Up Boys*. (Part 1, 2, 3)
- April 5, 6** *The Importance of Encouraging Your Children*-Dr. David Jeremiah talks about the importance of encouraging children and offers practical tips for parents to do just that. (Part 1 & 2)



Congratulations, Sam & Sara



Sam & Sara Postlethwait will celebrate their 64th wedding anniversary next Tuesday, March 22. Congratulations on such a milestone!!

Sweet Celebration of Life

Matrix Lifeline Pregnancy Center is hosting *Sweet Celebration of Life*, a dessert party fundraiser, on Saturday, April 9. Guest speaker is sidewalk counselor **Mary Waalkes Verwys**. It will be held at the Evangelical Covenant Church Life Center, 3600 S. 9th St. (corner of S. 9th & 350 S.). Enjoy desserts and appetizers and help Matrix financially to support women in crisis pregnancies. Tickets are free, but required. Call 742-1533 or email matrixlife@aol.com to reserve your space by April 6.

March 13, 2005

Class: 186 Worship: 247

Contribution: \$5,349

Budget: \$8,100

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Midwest Leadership Training for Christ 10 Years! – The Good Fight...



You may have already picked up on this, but this year's MWLTC convention will be the tenth. The Leadership Training for Christ ministry has actually been in existence since 1989. At the beginning in 1989 conventions were held in Dallas, Texas. Virtually every year, LTC has expanded and there are now nine conventions held annually in the spring: North Texas LTC in Dallas, TX; LTC Southwest in Phoenix, AZ; Mid-

west LTC in Indianapolis, IN; Central Texas LTC in Houston, TX; Great Plains LTC in Tulsa, OK; Western Region LTC in San Clara, CA; Southeast LTC in Mobile, AL; Heart Of America LTC in Kansas City, MO; and Eastern Region LTC in Charlotte, NC. Elmwood has participated in 6 of the conventions and March 25-27 will be our seventh. I am very proud of the involvement Elmwood has had. We were one of the three original supporting congregations and we have been able to have convention coordinators in several events. Mary McClain is serving in her second year as the convention event coordinator for Live Modern Christian Drama. Harry Linback is one of three members of the regional Scholarship Evaluation Committee for the second year running, as well. In addition, Sue McClain serves on the Advisory Board and I am honored to be one of the Executive Board members. Locally, we have been ably directed by our Church Coordinator Team of Phyllis Simmerman, Rose Hunt and Barb Tilley. I have not mentioned all the coaches of the events because I will leave someone out...these folks will be identified a little later. Needless to say, we are deeply involved in MWLTC here at Elmwood and I am proud and I pray you are as well.

What can you do? Thanks for asking! First, continue to pray for our students and coaches as they prepare to showcase the talents/gifts/abilities they have been given by our gracious God. Second, be sure to be here Sunday night at 5:30 for the LTC Preview. Finger foods will follow the presentation. Third, come to the Marriott East and support our students at the convention Friday, March 25 and Saturday, March 26. Remember, there is no charge to attend. We will provide you with a schedule of our involvement next week. See you in Indy! – Lee

Grace.

\$\$ Joy. Freedom. \$\$

Are those among the first words that come to mind when you think of your home finances? They could be! Grace, joy, and freedom are words people often use to describe their experience of **Good \$ense** – a proven, Biblical resource for changing hearts and lives in the area of finances.

Beginning **April 19** and continuing for six Tuesday nights (ending May 24), Brent Branstetter and Janet Boston will be teaching the **Good \$ense** course at Elmwood. This course will look at Biblical financial principles that will transform your finances and your life. You will hear more about this in the next few weeks, but for now, (1) block out the dates, and (2) start praying that God will use this course to bring you and your family to a level of financial stability and comfort that you have not known before.

Youth & Seniors Together

Many of our seniors would enjoy visits and assistance from our younger people. The youth would gain joy as a result of serving and also benefit from the wisdom and experience of our seniors. We're looking to match kids and teens with a senior. If you're interested, please contact Michelle Robson at 583-3106.

New Class Topic



The adult class, meeting in room 2 and taught by Rob Smith, will begin a study April 3 on the classic book, *The Christian's Secret to a Happy Life*, by Hannah Whitall Smith. All are invited to join in this study. Please let Rob Smith or Betty Brown know if you are interested before March 24, so copies of the book can be ordered.



March 16, 7 PM....Bible Classes for all; LTC training
March 19, 7:43 AM....Men's Breakfast at Elmwood
March 20, 5:30 PM....Leadership Training for Christ
Showcase; Finger Foods to follow
March 25-27....Leadership Training for Christ in Indy
May 20-21....Promise Keepers in Ft. Wayne
Oct. 21-22....Men's Retreat at Camp Tecumseh

Read:
Numbers 34–Deuteronomy 10;
Luke 5–7; Psalms 65–69;
Proverbs 11:23–12:3

2005 Spiritual Adventure

Week 13: March 28–April 3

Shema

^{DT6:4} Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

This passage is known as the *Shema*. The *Shema* is routinely recited in synagogue worship. We sing the *Shema*. Here we are encouraged to love God with all of our heart, soul, and strength. Jesus commented on this passage during his earthly ministry by aptly proclaiming that perhaps the best way to live out the words of the *Shema* is to “love your neighbor as yourself.” Jesus concludes that “all the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” We are called to love God and to love our neighbors. Is there a better way of loving God than to truly love your neighbor as yourself?

It has been my goal as a father to my three children to impress upon them the importance of living Christian lives and loving God above all. My family knows the importance of knowing God and making Him known to others. I would encourage all parents to impress upon your children to have God and His church to be the primary focus of their lives. –Mark McClain

 Weekly Schedule	 Elders	 World Missions
Sunday Worship 8:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Life Groups 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	Bill Bell 463-1139 Joe Matthews 474-8369 Rick Swensen 463-6822 Don Vice 471-8653	Kevin Chambers World Christian Broadcasting Anchor Point, Alaska 99556 Loren and Penny Hollingsworth Phuket, Thailand 83000
	 Staff	
Elmwood Nursery School & Pre-K Preschool: Tues-Thurs 9-11:30 am Pre-K: Mon-Thurs 9-11:30 am Director, Susan McClain 447-2874	Ministers Gayle Crowe 447-6940 Lee Porter 463-6993 Dan Cooke 743-0954 Office Manager Sherry Marks 447-2874	City of Children Ensenada, Mexico Bren and Cheryl White P.O. Box 245 New Market, MD 21774

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