



A Giraffe in the 'Frig?

Who would have thought that the best thing to happen to some families is Pizza Hut?

Some clever person at Pizza Hut came up with a plan that would be good not just for business, but for families. One of the placemats on the table these days is headed, "What If?" On the page are suggestions for family discussions. Some of their discussion starters for getting kids and parents to talk with each other:

- What if you had a genie that granted one wish per day? How would you use it?
- What if you could travel back in time? When and where would you go?
- What if you were stranded on an island with one possession? What would it be and why?
- What if you were President for one day? What would you do?
- What if you had a million dollars? How would you spend it?
- What if you could have a wild animal for a pet? What would you choose and why?
- What if you had to put a giraffe in the refrigerator? How would you do it?

Goofy questions for the most part, but that's the point: the kids get engaged with the questions, they use their imaginations, and conversation will flow.

Not hard to guess why this placemat topic was conceived: Pizza Hut managers have gotten tired of seeing families come in, sit down, and just stare at each other. The kids bicker among themselves on one side of the table, the parents talk between themselves on the other side of the table, and nothing happens across the table. Why bother to go? In our culture, one of the attractions of the experience of eating out is the community it encourages. No food to fix, no dishes to wash, just time to be with each other. But if somebody doesn't break the ice and actually begin a dialogue, what's the point?

Communication in families doesn't just happen. Somebody, somebody, must take responsibility to make it happen. *G. Crowe*

Paradox Needed

Life is full of strange and unexplainable paradoxes. For example, we park on a driveway and drive on a parkway. What genius thought that up?

The Bible is full of paradoxes that are difficult for us to understand. For example, God is a just God full of grace. All things are under the submission and authority of the Father, and yet he serves his creation without hesitation . . . and he does so at great cost. Jesus also said that those who are last will be first and those who are first will be last.

Perhaps the greatest paradox of all is that one must lose his life if he desires to save it. To know God is to know the truth of this statement. It is a difficult statement to accept, but it makes sense if one understands the Father.

God has always, since creation and before, been in the business of "other." He is holy—"other"—and yet he serves others. Imagine that perspective! It is this perspective to which Christ calls us when he boldly claims the paradox of losing one's life in order to save it.

We, as a church, must be "other" oriented. We must rely on God's other-oriented nature to empower us so that we can, in turn, be "other" oriented here in Lafayette. Every single day that we lay down our self-serving nature and "lose" our lives, we become more like the Father. Let us walk like this together in the community of Lafayette.

~Dan

Prayer Concerns...

Annie Crowder is in Home Hospital, room 3341....**Alice Follick** is in St. Elizabeth Hospital, room 3104....**Natasha Risley** will be going to the University of Cleveland September 14 to consult with a specialist for possible surgery for a back problem that gives her daily chronic pain....Continue to pray for **Joe White, Marie DeWoody, Mark Eddy, Geneva Hamilton, Terry Pepper, George & Mary Ida Milhim, Anna Dale, Eunice Whitesell, Irene Fox, Ramona Farris, and Delpha Allen.** Those in Rosewalk Village: **Paul & Ruth Marks, Minnie Scott, and Burnell Gulden.**

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



*Mr. & Mrs. Mark S. McClain
request the honor of your presence
at the marriage of their daughter
Sarah Elizabeth to
Mr. Mark David Bird
son of Mr. & Mrs. Gary Bird
Friday, September 16, 2005,
at seven-thirty o'clock in the evening*

Elmwood Church of Christ, 2501 Elmwood Avenue, Lafayette, Indiana



THE GOSPEL TO THE MUSLIM WORLD

Elmwood has been a partner for 15 years with World Christian Broadcasting as we have helped to support Kevin Chambers, chief engineer in Anchor Point, Alaska. We are now broadcasting 15 hours a day in Russian and Chinese.

A new opportunity awaits: the building of a broadcast facility in Madagascar to broadcast in the Arabic language into the entire Middle East with many hours of daily programming. World Christian now has over 85 acres, more than enough land on which to build multiple antennas. Through this station the gospel can blanket Africa, South America, India, Indonesia, southern and western China and western Russia.

Next Sunday, the 4th anniversary of 9/11, we at Elmwood will take a special contribution to assist with the building of the station in Madagascar. Come prepared this week with two checks, one for Elmwood's ongoing needs and one for the billions in the Middle East who will one day hear the news of Jesus in their native language. Will you help to reach the world?



Congratulations!



Alvin & Anna Dale celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary on September 6! Congratulations, Al and Anna!



A memorial service for **Art Raguette**, the husband of Dovie Hurst's daughter, **Ellen**, who died Saturday, September 3, was held on Monday. Art had emphysema and other serious health problems for quite some time. His ashes will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery. Our sympathies to Ellen and her family.



The food pantry is in need of **CANNED TOMATOES** (stewed, diced, whole—no paste or sauce). No more cereal right now. Thanks.
—Herb & Mary Ella King

September 4, 2005

Class: 194 Worship: 278

Contribution: \$8,241

Budget: \$8,100

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Picnic—This Sunday, September 11

This coming Sunday morning/afternoon, shortly following the close of the second worship service, we will be meeting at Columbian Park for a great time of fun, food and fellowship. When you turn off South Street onto Park Ave., we are in the first shelters – color coded “brown, 1 & 2). This will be a wonderful time to bring your friends. If they are up for it, bring them to class, worship and then the picnic...if not, then you can go to first service and class, then go pick up your friends and bring them to the park. Let’s have a huge crowd and show our guests and ourselves how much fun Christians can have.

Hunger Hike – Walking or Paying?

The Hunger Hike is just over a week away. As I mentioned last week, one of the beneficiaries of the effort is the Food Bank, where we get the bulk of our foods for the pantry. I know this is a little bold, but I am suggesting that everyone either walk or sponsor (pay) someone. I am encouraging the youth group to have a big crew walk on the 18th. I hope that everyone will either join me or make a donation. I am planning to walk and if you would like to sponsor me let me know or you can even pledge to me online at: <http://www.justgiving.com/pfp/elmwoodyouthguy>. If you help me pass my goal of \$500, I’ll do the 4.5 mile jog instead of the 2 mile hike. Make me run, I DARE YOU!

Open House

Since LIFE Groups will be meeting on the first Sunday (2nd) of October, the teens would like to hold an “open house” for the Elmwood family on Sunday, October 9. Our proposal is that you come over after evening worship, tour the house (just the main floor, the basement isn’t ready, yet), grab a hot dog or hamburger hot off our grill and then venture back over to A-2 for the rest of the “fixin’s” and a place to sit. The youth group will take care of the meat and the buns, so the rest of the church can bring the other supplies needed to finish out the meal: chips, dips, desserts, etc. Come one, come all and see the “BOB” – building out back. The name isn’t official, but it’s catching on.

LIFE Groups

Parents, in visiting with the teens recently, they would really like to return to the practice of the teen LIFE Group(s) being hosted by different families in their homes. If there is a concern that your home is not big enough, we have the BOB. If providing all the food is a problem, families can work together. Either way, please sign up to host this Sunday morning in the Farris Foyer.

– Lee



Shirley Farmer, sister of Harold Riddle, has expressed her desire to be a part of the Elmwood family. Shirley is retired from Purdue. She and her husband, Willard, have 3 grown children and 10 grandchildren! Their address is P.O. Box 155, Chalmers, IN 46929; phone 219-984-5996. Welcome, Shirley, to Elmwood!

It’s a Baby Shower!

Everyone is invited to a Come-and-Go Baby Shower for **Eryn Studebaker**, daughter of Jesse and Tammy (Vaughn) Studebaker, at the home of Mike and Scheryl Gaylor, 4524 Bur Oak Lane, Lafayette, this Sunday, September 11, following the picnic, from 3:00-5:00. Please contact Scheryl, 474-8696, or Lisa Crowe, 447-6940, if you wish to contribute to a collective gift.

CD’s Available



Old Boys (Ben, Patrick, Josh and Andrew) have had a new CD. They will have copies available in the Foyer after both services for the next few weeks. All proceeds will go to the Elmwood Youth Center special projects.



- Sept. 7, 7 PM....**Bible classes for all
- Sept. 7, 7 PM....**Men’s Class, room 204, Young Mom’s Class, room 202
- Sept. 11....**All-Church Picnic, Columbian Park; **no evening worship at Elmwood**
- Sept. 11, 3-5 PM....**Baby shower for **Eryn Studebaker & parents, Tammy & Jesse**, at Scheryl & Mike Gaylor’s home, 4524 Bur Oak Ln., Lafayette (*south*)
- Sept. 16, 7:30 PM....**Sarah McClain-Mark Bird wedding
- Sept. 16-18....**CSC Fall Retreat
- Sept. 17, 7:43 AM....**Men’s Breakfast
- Sept. 18, 6 PM....**LIFE Groups begin!
- Sept. 25, 12 noon....**Adopted Student Lunch in fellowship room

Read:

Isaiah 12-33;

II Corinthians 13-Galatians 4;

Psalms 51-57; Prov. 23:9-22

2005 Spiritual Adventure

Week 38: September 19-25

Rules is Rules

I realized something watching Carol's niece and nephew this week: There are rule makers and there are rule breakers. On one extreme, there are people who like to have a rule for everything they do; anywhere from games you play to holidays you celebrate to what you have for breakfast. On the other extreme, there are people who avoid rules at every opportunity; they recognize the need for some basic rules in society but in their personal life they avoid the games the rule makers devise. Most of us are somewhere between those extremes.

The Jewish faith was fraught with rules. God had given them a core of rules as a guardian until Christ came (Gal.3.24). They liked the idea of rules so well, they kept adding to them to the point you couldn't tell God's rules from theirs. If you read in the book of Isaiah it is quite clear they also had a lot of rule breakers.

Me, I'm an avowed rule breaker (Carol's a rule maker). What a relief the Christian faith doesn't try to change us from the outside - in (rules) but from the inside - out (Holy Spirit). Here is the sequence of events that God uses to change us:

1. Changes our belief - uses scripture and the Holy Spirit.
2. Changes our expectations
3. Changes our attitude
4. Changes our behavior
5. Changes our performance/life

Praise be to God that his grace works for both the rule makers and the rule breakers. And I'm personally very thankful the "guardian of the law" is no more and our Lord and Savior is its replacement.

-Cecil Koons