



## God's Plan: People to People

A new face showed up for our Six-Way Happening last night. As we talked after the Amen I learned the pertinent name-rank-and-serial-number information about him, then offered to get one of the guest packets for him. He smiled and said, "I know what you believe - I just want to meet some people." I took him around to introduce him to other members of the Purdue community, to the elders, former elders, and others. When I left the building he was still in a huddle at the back of the building talking with several.

"I just want to meet some people." Suddenly I had a flashback to my dissertation which has now been gathering dust for 20 years. The study asked the question (phrased in real-world terminology), "Why do some people 'stick' in churches and others don't?" I gathered research on 500 Christians in the Delaware Valley region of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware, fed all the relevant data into a (primitive) computer, and out came three answers.

When the day is done, people tend to stick in churches for three reasons:

- (1) They make at least seven close friends,
- (2) They find a meaningful ministry within the church, and
- (3) They internalize the doctrine, so it is not what "they" believe but it is what "we" believe.

Relationships, ministry, doctrine. The top two were relatively close. Only a few percentage points separated relationships from ministry. Doctrine came in a distant third.

For decades, I assumed the reverse order. Just teach the doctrine, get people to believe the doctrine, and they'll be faithful forever. Not so. "I just want to meet some people" turns out to be of prime importance. Relationships make the difference.

Could this be why God's chosen designation for himself to us is "Father" and not just "Judge" or "Lawgiver"? Could it be why the most important news of the New Testament is not that "the King sent his Ambassador," but that "the Father sent his Son"?

Reaching out to others: it's God's plan for his people. *G. Crowe*

## CSC on the Web

The connection between the CSC students and Elmwood is a vital one as we continue to minister to university students. In deciding how best to keep Purdue students in touch with each other, the CSC, and with Elmwood, several ideas have come and gone over the last 4 years. We have tried calendars, emails, adopted students, and a number of other ways to keep that connection.

Some have been more successful than others, but I am really excited about our newest connection tool. The CSC is taking a leap into the 21st century with its very own website! It should be linked up to Elmwood's site soon if it is not already. Just type the following in your web address line: [www.purduescs.org](http://www.purduescs.org) and hit enter and you will see us!

The website is still under construction, but most of the key elements are there. A former student, Jean Haynie, designed the website and is still putting on the final touches. But, you will see some of our weekly activities, a good portion of our calendar for the entire fall semester, and some really good resources for spiritual growth!

So check it out and let us know what you think. It is just one more way that we are committed to keeping students in touch to one another, the CSC, and to Elmwood. Your feedback would be greatly appreciated!

~Dan

# Office Job Opening

With Mark and Sue McClain's departure from Lafayette next week, an opening has been created in the Elmwood office. The ad in the *Journal and Courier* last week read

**Office personnel/personal assistant** for local church. Proficient in Windows, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Publisher. Must be dependable, organized, creative, flexible, willing to multi-task. Confidentiality essential. 10-15 hours per week. Send resume and cover letter to [office@elmwood-church.org](mailto:office@elmwood-church.org) or to **Elmwood Church of Christ**, 2501 Elmwood Avenue, Lafayette 47904. No phone inquiries please.

A number of resumes have been received from people in the community. If any member of the Elmwood church would like to be considered, a resume and cover letter should be forwarded this week.

## Showing the Jesus Film

This Sunday, August 13, the *Jesus* film will continue to be shown, along with a discussion period, during the Sunday school hour in room 17, the conference room. The film is too long to be shown in one sitting, so it will be shown over several weeks, with a discussion period after each showing. The *Jesus* film has been shown all over the world with tremendous impact in mission sites. It should be interesting to watch it and find out what it contains that has had such an impact. *-Rick Swensen*



Our sincere sympathies to **Tammy Allen** whose grandmother, **Elizabeth Stalbaum, 91**, died Tuesday, August 1. She had lived in the Rensselaer area most all her life. Her funeral was in Rensselaer on Friday.

## Stipend Volunteer Weekend Coordinator Openings

The Emergency Homeless Shelter (at Lafayette Urban Ministry, 525 North 4th Street, Lafayette) has immediate openings for weekend coordinators. Coordinators may schedule to work any Friday or Saturday, 1-2 day/week/month according to their availability. Hours are from 8:00 PM until 7:30 AM. Volunteer coordinator stipend is \$35 per night. Call 765-423-2691 if interested or for more information.

## Can You Help?

Assistance is needed to transport approximately **3000** pounds of food from Food Finders to the building on **August 18 (Friday)** from 9:00 to 10:30 AM. If you have a truck and can help, contact John Stafford at 474-8478.

## Attention Women!

Missed the discussion and sign up for the Women's Ministry? Not a problem. Sue Wilder will repeat the presentation **this Sunday, August 13**, during Sunday morning class in room 206. Come hear about new plans for the Elmwood's Women's Ministry.

## Breast Cancer 3-Day



**Suzanne Fournier**, Elmwood Purdue grad student, will join thousands on **September 8-10** in Chicago, as they walk to support breast cancer research, education, screening and treatment through the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and the National Philanthropic Trust Breast Cancer Fund. Last year we, as a congregation, prayed for Suzanne's 25-year-old sister who was diagnosed with breast cancer. If you would like to make a donation, visit her website, <http://www.the3day.org/Chicago06/scfournier>, for information.

**August 6, 2006**  
Class: 145 Worship: 215  
Contribution: \$9,541  
Budget: \$8,100



## Youth In Action – “ru hiding?” August 11-13

One thing that is usually a sign of the end of the summer for the youth group is Youth In Action, an annual youth rally at the Okolona Church of Christ in Louisville, KY. Well gang, even with the signs it brings, the youth rally is this weekend. We will have groups going down at two different times because of school activities. One group will leave at noon on Friday and the other group will leave later that night. Total cost of the event is \$65 for registration/hotel/etc., plus \$10 gas money and money for a couple meals. It is not too late to go! Let me know if you are interested. This is always a great event!

## Parenting Teens May Be Rocket Science

Parenting teens can be really tough, we know that. That is why we are offering this class to be a support to you as you deal with these precious people. It may be that the only thing harder is to be a teen trying to raise parents...think about it. At any rate, we have had two good meetings on Sunday nights and we have four to go. If you missed the first two, you may still come – each session can stand alone and all of the information is helpful. Our next meeting will be this Sunday night (August 13) at 6:00 pm. This week's session is “Communicating With Your Kids.” Future sessions are: “Navigating Sexuality,” “Developing Media Discernment,” and “Helping Your Teenager Grow Spiritually.” Hope to see you all there! Your teens are worth it. Jimmy Huff is offering a special class just for them at the same time.

## Farewell!

Speaking of the end of summer, it is time to bid farewell to our new college freshmen. We will do our best to make sure you have the college addresses of our freshmen...as soon as we get them – parents, that is a not so subtle hint. Anyway, since Sunday will be the last Sunday for many of our '06 graduates to be with us before their college classes begin, we will be having a farewell in their honor at the Simmermans' this Sunday night after class. More details will be coming shortly, but mark your calendars now and plan to be there.

## Secretary

You will see in this newsletter that we are going to be looking for someone to fill the role Sue McClain has been handling so well for the past few years. We are excited about the McClains' new opportunities, but they will be missed and so will Sue's work. Are you interested in the job? The reason I ask is because much of the work will be done for the youth ministry. Pray about the possibility and be sure to say, “Thank You” to Sue. –Lee



Pray that the residents of Fiji who studied with the LST team will grow in faith....Pray that God would show each of us open doors to communicate our faith.

**Janet Nelson** will have her pacemaker replaced on Friday at St. Vincent's Hospital....**Ella McBride**, one-year-old great-granddaughter of Dorothy Walters is still at St. Vincent's Children's Hospital in Indianapolis.... Continue praying for **Rose Hunt, Nathan Weir** (*Riley Children's Hospital*), **Mary Burns, Lynn Robinson** (*treatment for colon cancer*), **Audrey Merriman, Linda Smith** (*Methodist Hospital*), **Henrietta Frampton** (*St. Mary's*), **Helen Clements** (*Heritage Healthcare*), **Kaden Koebcke, Noah Powlan, Phyllis Gray, Mark Eddy, Marie DeWoody, Delpha Allen, Anna Dale, Elizabeth Tinkle & Carrie High** (*Regency Place*), **Irene Fox** (*George Davis Manor Nursing Home*), and in *Rosewalk Village*: **Ruth Marks, Minnie Scott, & Burnell Gulden.**

Serving in Iraq: **Jon Kiefner, Loren Sniffen, and Brad King.** Serving in South Korea: **Amanda Martin.**

## Baby Gifts for Koebckes

Money and gifts (or gift cards) will be collected for **Kaden Koebcke** and given to Cami and Travis. Christie Branstetter and Becky Pitt are coordinating the collection (Kaden is not yet able to be introduced to a crowd of people and Cami is not yet ready to leave him). If you have any questions, call Christie at 423-5650 or Becky at 471-9155.



**August 9, 7 PM....**Bible classes for all

**August 13....**Adopted parent signup

**August 13, 6 PM....**Six-Way Happening

**August 16, 11:30 AM....**Senior Servants meet-bring a sack lunch and enjoy the fellowship

**October 13-15....**Men's retreat (more info to come)

## CSC August Events....

**August 21....**Open House

**August 22....** Sand Volleyball

**August 23....**Encounter & Ice Cream Social

**August 24....**Thirsty Thursday – Movie Night

**August 25....**Back to School Kickoff Cookout

**August 26....**Prayer Breakfast & Service Project

*Read:*  
Ezra; Nehemiah 1-6;  
Psalm 104:24-107:43

# 2006 Spiritual Adventure

**Week 34: August 20-26**

## A Love Story

As many of you know, I work 2-3 evenings a week at a little local restaurant in my town. About half way through one evening last week, a very elderly couple waddled in and sat in my section. When I asked "How are you folks doing tonight?" they looked up at me with painful smirks. The old man looked at me and said, "I've got diabetes and she's got heart problems. But we're doing ok. Sometimes you just gotta take it as it comes."

Unsure what to say, I expressed my sadness over their pain and asked them what I could get them to drink. The old man handed me the menu and looked up, "I want that there chicken & noodles with mashed potatoes and applesauce. And this young lady is with me, so get her whatever she wants," he said with a nod and a gleam in his eye. As I turned to the frail "young lady" my heart was saddened at her weakness and confusion. She was scanning the menu in search of something, but losing hope of finding it. With a somewhat embarrassed look, she whispered, "I'll take the roast beef, please...with a sweet tea."

Each time I would try to take away dishes, they let me know they were "still workin' on that." Yet, the frail young lady didn't seem to be eating anything. She only ate a few bites and took a few sips the whole night. The old man on the other hand, just kept slowly packing those spoonfuls away.

After the couple finished their meal and left to pay their bill I went to the table and soon realized there was no tip. At first I was angry, then sad. I had tried really hard to make these people happy. I quickly turned and looked towards the door. And there I saw the most beautiful thing.

The old man had one arm around the frail young lady. With his other hand he held her hand, and slowly guided her out the door, one weak, fragile step at a time. He then opened the car door and guided her safely into her seat. With a gentle push, the door shut with his greatest possession safely inside. As he waddled around to the other side of the car, my heart was filled with the most beautiful and fulfilling joy. And for that I say, "Thanks, old man. Thanks for being my hero."

—Sarah Bird

 Weekly Schedule	 Elders	 World Missions	
<b>Sunday</b> Worship 8:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Life Groups 6:00 p.m. <b>Wednesday</b> 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  City of Children Ensenada, Mexico  Bren and Cheryl White P.O. Box 245 New Market, MD 21774	
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	<th> Staff</th> <td></td>	 Staff	
	<b>Ministers</b> Gayle Crowe 447-6940 Lee Porter 463-6993 Dan Cooke 543-7469 <b>Office Manager</b> Sherry Marks 447-2874		

 **Elmwood**  
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# Operation French World France Mission Trip Report

## GREETINGS IN THE LORD!

We pray that you are growing in the Lord daily and are being filled with His life-changing grace and truth! We continually thank God for your passion for His Mission and your generosity toward us as we go about His work!

Cheryl & I just got back recently from a mission trip to France with 2 of our Frederick teens, Matt Goodhart & Eddie Clayson. It was the first time Cheryl had been back to Strasbourg since we lived there 8 years ago. She was able to spend valuable time with the missionary wife there (Tammy Frerot) and her girls (Candi & Marilena), with female mission interns ('AIMER'S') from Sunset International Bible Institute in Lubbock, Texas, as well as with friends and contacts from our time there in Strasbourg (1996-98). While there in the European Capitol (home of the European Parliament), we had a wonderful reunion with Daniel & Tammy Frerot, who followed us in the work there. They are doing an excellent job, and the Strasbourg church is flourishing! Attendance was over 30 (in their new meeting room at the Holiday Inn in Illkirch) the Sunday we visited and several families were not there. That's excellent for France! Many of the church members came from campaigns and other outreach over the years (if you have been on a Strasbourg campaign, you have directly helped with this) are still faithfully attending on a regular basis, and are sharing the Good News of Jesus with family and friends! **Praise God!**

We also got to visit with friends and other contacts in the region, including Christophe Muller, Bruno & Isabelle Muller, and their friends Jacky & his 3 children, Fabienne Carl, and her granddaughter Eloise. During the week, we did some outreach and distribution south of Strasbourg. A congregation may be started in Colmar or Mulhouse sometime next year. John Paul & Ruby Hundley may move there to help with this. We also heard from Daniel & Tammy that a young couple is trying to raise support to move to Metz to help start a congregation there later this year or early next year. This is the answer to much prayer and work by many over many years in this region of France. (If you would like to help with these efforts in any way, please contact me [[ofwmissions@adelphia.net](mailto:ofwmissions@adelphia.net)] or Daniel [[daniel.frerot@wanadoo.fr](mailto:daniel.frerot@wanadoo.fr)] as soon as possible!)

*A growing Strasbourg church, 2 new churches starting in the region—this is very exciting for France!* Please keep these local contacts, Christians, and mission workers in your prayers as God continues to expand His Kingdom in this area of France! I also encouraged Daniel to get on the radio locally to reach more people, and he has started discussion with Ken Bolden at World Radio, and received some valuable input from Jean Grenier in Quebec. We pray that this will fuel the work further.

Lord willing, we are planning to do more outreach & meetings with Jean Grenier all over northern Quebec in September; we hope to do some preliminary outreach in La Rochelle, France, later this fall if we have the necessary funds. Also dependent on special contributions: Bibles, correspondence course materials, and mission trips to the French West Indies and possibly Senegal (to help with the Bible College we recently helped Arnold Dzah to establish there with your help). At the moment we are running behind on work funds (we need about \$3100). We pray that God will provide as He always does. *Thanks for your love and prayers and partnership in spreading the Great News of Life in Christ!*

In HIS great love,

Bren & Cheryl White

“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.” -Hebrews 13:6

# To See or Not to See

*It happened, late one afternoon, that David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house. And he saw a woman bathing.... -2 Samuel 11*

*When he looked up, he saw a large crowd coming toward him. -John 6*

These two passages from the Scriptures have one thing in common. Like many passages, they tell us very simply about what someone sees and then what they think and do next. This powerful connection between what we see and what we think is crucial everywhere in the Bible and in everyone's relationship with God, then and now.

We tell ourselves, of course, that everyone knows how the eyes and the mind work. The eyes simply show the mind what's going on in front of us. We believe what we can see. That's how it works. Light from above us shines down, reflects off everything around us and then bounces into our eyes, and so we see. It's just physics, don't you know.

We laugh, in fact, at the old idea that somehow the eyes were a kind of headlight that generated light from the brain that enabled people to see. The idea that the mind somehow affects what and how we see just seems oddly quaint at best. And yet, the ancients may have seen something we don't.

The real truth is that the mind and our eyes are always in a deep conversation with each other, just like the ones that our mind has with our ears, our emotions, our body and our hands. The fact that a brain injury can affect a person's sight, no matter how perfect her eyes remain, is a little reminder that the mind is actually in charge of what and how well we see. So it is perhaps little wonder that God is always deeply engaged in conversation and struggle with our minds. It's in the mind that we frame the interpretation for everything we experience. So, it's crucial to everything just how healthy our minds are.

Take David, for example. It's spring-time, so when he sees his calendar, what he sees is that it is time to go to war. So, he sends Joab and the army out to Rabbah to attack the Ammonites. Meanwhile, David has the same conquer-and-control mentality when he looks out and sees Bathsheba. His lust for power and his lust for Bathsheba's beauty blinds him, even though his vision is probably 20-20. That's the way it is with lust. It is a disease of the mind that focuess everything on just one

small slice of other people. Lust makes us see other people as just pieces of chocolate that we can break off for our own enjoyment. Lust won't let us see the whole person, just as David can't see Bathsheba as a whole person. He can't see the life God has given her or her relationship with Uriah. David can't see his own relationship with God, in fact. He closes his mind's eye toward God and plunges off to conquest. And he doesn't let up or blink until he has what he wants.

But he does become concerned, however, not with what God sees, but with what others may see and begin to think about him in their minds. So, he tries to blind everyone else to the truth by at first manipulating Uriah and then murdering him. He can only see Uriah as a problem, not as the supremely loyal man that he really was. The brutality of the story revolves around the keen vision of Uriah's honest mind and the ugliness of David's mental plans to destroy him by making things look different from what they really are, perhaps even to himself. And it actually looks as though David has managed to succeed, except for two things he didn't want to see. For one thing, Bathsheba breaks down in tears over the death of Uriah, and for another, what David has done has greatly displeased God. What people decide to see based on what is in our minds is more powerful than we imagine—or want to acknowledge.

That is why it is so striking how Jesus sees people. He doesn't seem them in idealistic visions or naive blindness. Jesus sees people as they really are, as we really are, with all our ugly sins, just like David. But what Jesus decides to see is people like sheep without a shepherd when others would see only a hungry, uninvited mob. Jesus' mind is set on God and the love of God, which Paul reminds us is higher, wider, deeper and longer than the most mind-blowing calculation of the astronomers. Faith in God's love blows all the dust and dirt out of our minds so that we can finally see the true Light from above that shines on everyone around us. At long last, we can see both what really is and what really will be. -Robert Montgomery