



Whispering in the Tents

Ever feel sorry for God? He ought to have a trophy for "Most Misunderstood Since the Dawn of Time." Think about what he was trying to do for his people as he led them from Egypt to take over the land of Israel. His intention was clear: to deliver them from their enemies and to give them the Promised Land. If they followed God's plan, they would have been on Easy Street.

But the Israelites—in their infinite wisdom (?)—perceived the exact opposite. They just knew God had brought them out to the wilderness to destroy them. So everything God told them had to pass through the scrutiny of that erroneous presumption.

The Book of Deuteronomy begins by relating the story that should have been a victory march: the people of God, led by Moses, making their way from Mt. Sinai to take over Canaan.

See, the Lord your God has set the land before you. Go up, take possession, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has told you. Do not fear or be dismayed. (1:21)

The words were not even out of God's mouth before the people started hedging. "Well, how about sending out a scouting party to be sure we know what we're doing?" The scouting party returned, made their report, and the response was, "It is a good land that the Lord our God is giving us." Full steam ahead!

Uh, no. The people wouldn't go. They whispered in their tents, "God really hates us—that's why he brought us out here—the enemies are too big, their walls are too tall, yada, yada, yada." Moses got wind of this and responded,

Do not be in dread or fear of them. The Lord your God who goes before you will himself fight for you, just as he did for you in Egypt before your eyes, and in the wilderness, where you have seen how the Lord your God carried you, as a man carries his son . . . (1:29-31)

In spite of that, the people whispered in their tents again, and finally said No. At that, God zapped them with 40 years' wandering so that none of that generation would enter the land.

It's our choice—whether to whisper in our tents, or to believe (and act on) the astonishing promises God has for our lives. *G. Crowe*

Heaven Into You

Faith is a funny thing. Even a little faith is more than enough in some cases. Jesus said that the faith of a mustard seed can move mountains! He also healed the relative of a man who said, "I believe, help my unbelief!" That was enough faith for Jesus.

However, a great deal of faith can have a tremendous impact on what your daily life looks like. One person is noted as having said, "A little faith can get your soul into heaven, but a lot of faith can get heaven into your soul!" I like that. I think he is right.

A little faith is enough. If you believe that Christ is the Son of God and you live for him, that is enough to get your soul into heaven. You should not worry about your eternal salvation.

A lot of faith is different, however. A lot of faith means more than simply believing that Jesus is the son of God and living for Him. A lot of faith means depending on Him for everything, making Him your Daddy, not just your Father. It means trusting Him on every issue in your life, not just the big ones. But the result is that not only will your soul get into heaven, but heaven will get into your soul. You will walk around with a joy that surpasses understanding. You will fulfill Jesus' teaching because you will have life and "have it to the full." The question before you is whether you are satisfied with a little faith or if you want something more. Do you want to get into heaven or do you want heaven to get into you?

~Dan

Latest News from Fiji!

Greetings from Suva! It has been a great week—we have added 36 new readers! We have a variety of readers—Indian, Fijian, Indo-Fijian, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, and Pakistani. Some of our readers come from Christian traditions, but others are Hindu, Muslim, and Sikh. Our reading area is in the carport of the missionaries' house, which is also where the church of about 40 meets upstairs each week. One of Gina's readers is Aditi, an Indian and a Hindu who only recently got married and moved to Fiji. She told Gina last week that Gina is her only friend here—may God use that friendship to draw Aditi to faith in Jesus. Please pray that whoever our readers are and wherever they come from, our study with them can draw them closer to God.

Thank you for your continued prayers.

In Christ, Josh

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will be Saturday morning, July 15th at 7:43am in A2. Starting on this date, Sam Postlethwait, Earl Nelson and others will begin a series in which they share their experiences in the development of the Elmwood Church of Christ over the past 60+ years. A sign-up sheet for the breakfast is located in the Farris Foyer. Men of all ages are encouraged to attend and learn more about our roots.

Sunday Morning Men's Class

A new Men's Class taught by Chuck Brown will begin Sunday morning, July 16, at 9:30 AM in Room 200. The format for the class will be a combination of videotaped presentations and small group discussion. Topics for each class session will come from the book *The Purpose Driven Life* written by Rick Warren and related scriptures. Together we will work toward more clearly determining God's will and purpose for our lives. Space is limited to the first 50 men indicating an interest in the class.

Me? A LUM Camp Counselor?

Volunteer counselors are the heartbeat of LUM Camp. They instill confidence, rejoice in accomplishment, build self-esteem, and support each child through the wonderful week that is LUM Camp.

Would you, or someone you know, make a good counselor? Camp takes place during the week of August 7th to 11th. Volunteers must be 18 years old, enjoy working with children and be able to spend the entire week at camp from 1:00 PM on Monday 8/17 to 4:00 PM on Friday 8/11. A comfy bunk in a rustic (air conditioned) cabin awaits you! All you need is the availability and willingness to have a fun week with a great group of children. Call 423-2691 for additional information or visit www.lafayetteurbanministry.org.



Employment Opportunity for Service

Shults-Lewis Child and Family Services is in need of a Christian married couple to live in and supervise a residence with 6 teenage girls starting in October of this year. The salary and benefit package includes excellent health, leave and retirement benefits as well as the opportunity to work in a Christian workplace. If interested, you may contact executive director, Ray Crowder, at raycrowder@shultslewis.org.



Jerry Harvey's mother died last Thursday in Ohio. Our sincere sympathies to Jerry and his family.

Attention Elmwood Women

Mark your calendars for a carry-in dinner and presentation on the women's ministry on July 22, at 5:30 PM. —Sue Wilder

July 2, 2006

Class: 164 Worship: 245

Contribution: \$9,104.58

Budget: \$8,100



And...We're Off!

Since several of us are about to be gone one, two, or three weeks, I thought it would be a good idea to give you an update and last minute reminder of the summer schedule. Thanks for your love and support! The Porters begin our 9th year of ministry with the saints at Elmwood – we have truly been blessed and look forward to the future. – Lee

Camp C.U.M.O.

For our mission trip, we will once again be joining with the youth group from the Withamsville Church of Christ in Cincinnati to do a camp experience for 50 inner city kids. The campers will come from the Cincinnati Urban Mission Outreach; most of the children live in the "projects." Our group will be leaving on Saturday, July 8, and we will be returning on Friday, July 14. Chaperones for the event include Phyllis Simmerman, Phil Travis and Lee Porter. Cost for the trip is \$75 and it is not too late if you are interested in joining our group. We have about ten planning to make the trip. The theme for this year is "AmazinGrace." If anyone is interested in helping students with financing the trip, please let me know. Everyone, please support our group with your prayers.

Senior Week at Spring Mill – July 16-22

Senior Week of camp is for all students who have finished 7th grade through high school graduates. Elmwood will be represented by several campers and by Mary Fee, Caitie Jones, Michael Nicodemus, and Lee Porter as counselors. Cost for the week is \$80 if you pre-register...\$90 if you register at camp. I don't recommend waiting as the session is usually full, or very near capacity.

Intermediate Week at Spring Mill – July 23-28

Intermediate Week of camp is for all students who have finished 4th through 8th grade. Elmwood will be represented by several campers and by Craig Hodges, Phil Travis and Lee Porter as counselors. Cost for the week is \$80 if you pre-register. If you plan to go to this camp session, you need to get your applications in NOW! This week always fills and there will be a waiting list very shortly. Please don't miss out on this special time. The theme for this year's Intermediate Week is "Foolish Beast" and is taken from Psalm 73:22.

Youth In Action – August 11-13 Okolona church of Christ

The theme for this year's YIA is "RU Hiding?" with the key passage being Jeremiah 23:24. Cost for this year's event is \$60 plus gas money and a couple meals. If we register by July 31, there is a \$5 discount!



Remember daily our **Let's Start Talking Team**—**Josh, Gina, & Kinley Boyd, Steve & Lanita Boyd, Ryan & Stephanie Middleton, and Alison Ruhl**, in Suva, Fiji, for 6 weeks. Check out the web page at: <http://www.ryansmiddleton.com/lst>.

Nathan Weir, 12-week old son of Kathy O'Donnell's cousin, Travis, and his wife, Nikki, had surgery on Wednesday at Riley Children's Hospital to remove a golf-ball sized tumor and half of his liver and his gall bladder....**Ben Stafford** is now home after being in the hospital over the weekend with a staph infection in his leg....**Hattie Coffel**, now home, had a brief hospital stay over the weekend....**Carrie High** is in St. Elizabeth Hospital, room 3203....**Dick Waterstraat** had foot surgery at St. Elizabeth Hospital (outpatient) on Wednesday, July 5....**Natasha Risley** leaves July 6 for St. Louis to have her neck/back brace removed. Praise God! It's been on since January!....**Rose Hunt** will have surgery on July 13 at Clarian North Medical Center in Carmel, Indiana**Helen Clements**, Carol Koons' mother, is now recuperating from her broken hip at Heritage Health Care....**Audrey Merriman**, Mike's mother, is in the hospital in Rensselaer....**Linda (Newberry) Smith** is in serious condition at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis. Surgery was done on two brain aneurysms, with two more to be surgically removed.... **Kenny Sizemore** of Delphi will have surgery for liver blockage on July 10....**Lynn Robinson**, Oka LeMaster's daughter, will soon begin treatment for colon cancer.... Continue praying for **Elizabeth Tinkle** (surgery on her leg July 17), **Henrietta Frampton** (St. Mary's, room 301), **Kaden Koebecke**, **Noah Powlen**, **Phyllis Gray**, **Mark Eddy**, **Marie DeWoody**, **Delpha Allen**, **Anna Dale**, **Irene Fox** (George Davis Manor Nursing Home), **Ruth Marks**, **Minnie Scott**, and **Burnell Gulden** (Rosewalk Village).

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



July 8-14....Camp C.U.M.O. Mission Trip
July 15, 7:43 AM....Men's Breakfast
July 16-22....Spring Mill Bible Camp Senior week
July 22, 5:30 PM....Women's Carry-in dinner in A-2
July 23-28....Spring Mill Bible Camp Intermediate week

Read:
 I Chronicles 4-24; Hosea 14;
 Song of Solomon 1-5

2006 Spiritual Adventure

Week 29: July 16-22

What's in a Name?

Most of you have heard the Johnny Cash song about a boy named "Sue." Having a "girl name" made the boy tough because he had to fight his whole life through. A couple of hippies in the 60's named their son "Rusty Nail." This name caused some discomfort when he became a doctor. One poor woman had to endure the name "Ima Hogg" until she got married to Fred Noble. Were the parents thinking it through when they named their baby-Harry Pitts? A name is something that sticks with a person and can cause some very difficult and uncomfortable moments in life.

Looking at I Chronicles 4 we find a long list of names that are included in the lineage of the nation of Israel. Most of these names are long and hard to pronounce and some of us (like me) must mumble through them when we read out loud. However, a person's name in the Old Testament times was just as important as it is now in defining a person's destiny and identity.

Nestled in this long list of names we find two verses about Jabez. The name Jabez means "pain." Jabez grew up believing that PAIN was in his identity and that was his burden to carry for all his life. Jabez carried that name but he didn't want to "BE" that name. He prayed to God, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from evil so that I might not cause pain."

God liked this prayer and blessed him because this man understood that intentionally bringing pain eliminates blessings. God wants us to be sensitive to the pain we cause others. If we aren't, we can push people away from Jesus, and away from the God who loves them.

Jabez' name started out as a handicap for him, but it eventually became a blessing. Let us follow in his footsteps as we wear the name "Christian." (Acts 11:26)

-Jean Dilling

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

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