



## “Live to Be Served”???

Near a busy Dallas interstate a large banner lures would-be condominium owners with the promise, “Live to be Served by Others!” In their new book, *Seeking a Lasting City*, authors Mark Love, Randy Harris, and Doug Foster comment on that banner with the six indicting words, “This is not the baptized life!”

And indeed it is not. The life of the Christian is modeled after the Lord Jesus who said, “I have come not to be served but to serve.” And this was not original with Jesus. He was reflecting the theme writ large throughout the Old Testament.

- Noah was picked by God not just to escape the flood, but to preserve a blood line and in fact the whole human race.
- Abram was picked by God not just to go down in history as the father of the Hebrew people, but to leave everything that was near and dear to him in order to follow the call of God.
- Generations later, the Hebrew people left what was secure and familiar in Egypt to follow a leader they weren’t sure about and travel to places they had never seen, all because they had a vague sense that a God whom they knew only by reputation had a plan for their lives.
- Did the prophets risk life and limb, security and reputation, because they thought the money and perks were good? Hardly. They were driven to sacrifice their lives to speak the word of the Lord to commoners and kings alike, upbraiding them for their profligate lifestyles, their intermittent obedience to the will of God, and their disregard for the disenfranchised of society—the poor, the widows, the orphans—precisely those people who rode on the very heart of God.
- And what of John the Baptist? Driven into the wilderness to preach the good news of the Kingdom, he incurred the wrath of the Jewish establishment and ultimately gave up his very head because of his unwavering obedience to God’s call.

No, Jesus was not the first. Nor was he the last. His call is for every follower of his—every individual, every church—to turn their backs on the deadly advice, “Live to be Served by Others!” God’s way has always been the way of service, sacrifice, and living out the call of God. For me. For you. For Elmwood. G. Crowe

## Beauty Amidst Destruction

Today I witnessed both beauty and destruction. I spent the day working alongside college students in Louisiana chain-sawing and clearing a yard where trees had fallen because of Hurricane Katrina. We also drove through the more devastated areas in the town. Several months after the media coverage has died, the problems Katrina left behind still persist. But amidst all the destruction I saw absolute beauty.

Beauty amidst destruction is a theme that is constant throughout scripture. Many times prophets would speak about the devastation to come (if Israel did not repent), but there was always a picture of hope and beauty in what God would do if they only would turn their hearts back to Him: a true picture of beauty amidst devastation.

Here, in Slidell, I have seen it in the form of Kingdom work and Kingdom people. I am blessed to be surrounded by the best students a campus minister could ask for. I see the beauty in *them*. The students have come together, everyone pulling his or her own weight, working hard cutting trees, hanging drywall, doing hard work...doing *Kingdom* work. Amidst the devastation here, it is wonderful to see the beauty of Kingdom-minded people doing Kingdom-oriented work. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to work with such an amazing group of students. See you next week.

~Dan



**Sarah Bird** had surgery to remove her gall bladder on Monday morning. All went well....**Mandy Anderson** had surgery to remove a varicose vein on Monday morning....Jack and Sue McCoy's grandsons, **Kaden Koebcke** and **Noah Powlen**, remain in NICU. Both are showing positive signs, but need more improvement before being sent home....**Shirley Farmer's** husband, **Willard**, had a stress test on Friday. He will know results on Wednesday....Continue praying for **Natasha Risley, Wanita White, Amber Tolle** (difficult pregnancy), **Phyllis Gray** (in University Place undergoing rehab), **A.J. Wilson, Ryan Woolard** (friend of Seth Mullen who has severe respiratory problems), **Mark Eddy, Marie DeWoody, Anna Dale, Ramona Farris, Delpha Allen, Carrie High** (Regency Place Nursing Home), and **Irene Fox** (George Davis Manor Nursing Home). Those in Rosewalk Village: **Paul & Ruth Marks, Minnie Scott, and Burnell Gulden**....**Pamela Strawsma**, 47-year-old niece of Margaret Gustafson, died Tuesday morning after a long-standing illness. No other details at this time. Our sympathies to Margaret and her family.

Serving in Iraq: **Jon Kiefner, Loren Sniffen, and Brad King. Dustin Holley** is now back in the states. Praise the Lord for his safe return!

## Thank You!

We wanted to thank everyone for all the kindness you have shown our family during this stressful time. Your prayers, emails, cards, care package, calls, and visits mean a lot to us. Even though we have a long road ahead of us, we have never felt like we were going through this alone. We have been comforted by so many, and we really appreciate it. We can't wait to tell Kaden and Noah when they are older, how much they were loved by everyone and how much people were pulling for them.

We also wanted to thank everyone for the kindness they have shown our parents, Jack and Sue McCoy. It has been hard for them to have two grandchildren in the NICU at the same time on top of dealing with some health issues. They have needed and appreciated the support and prayers too. All of us just can't thank everyone at Elmwood enough!

Love, Travis & Cami (McCoy) Koebcke & Craig & Jenna (McCoy) Powlen.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Elmwood family,  
I just wanted to thank everyone who has been checking in on Mom (Wanita White) during her walking pneumonia! (A special thanks to Dorothy Miller, Delores Nolan, Greg Sutherlin, Ron & Ruthann Wagoner, Bob & Penny Stafford, Kevin & Marilyn Walters, Gayle Crowe and others!) We pray that she will be feeling better and stronger soon! We thank God for your prayer, thoughtfulness, and your love in action! God bless you! In HIS great love, Bren White

## Sunday Night Schedule

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| March 19, 26, & April 2 | LIFE Groups                             |
| April 9                 | Leadership Training for Christ Showcase |
| April 16                | High School Graduation                  |
| April 23, 30            | LIFE Groups                             |



**Ryan Baker, 24**, grandson of Delores Nolan, died last Wednesday night. His funeral was Monday in Marcellus, Michigan. Our deepest sympathies to Delores' daughter, Carol Pica, and her husband, Patrick, and the rest of their family.



The food pantry is in need of **canned vegetables and beans.**



Purdue graduate student, **Ernest Nyannor**, and **Angela Darko**, who is an MD now in residency in Newark, New Jersey, were married by Gayle Crowe on March 11 in Wilmington, Delaware. Hopefully, Angela will be able to visit Elmwood in the not-too-distant future. See Lisa Crowe or Susan Huff if you are interested in contributing to a cash gift to be presented to them.

March 12, 2006  
Class: 200 Worship: 277  
Contribution: \$6,933  
Budget: \$8,100



## Phil Travis is coming!

Last week, I mentioned that Bill Bell, Joe Ruhl and I had interviewed a couple of intern candidates for this summer for our youth ministry. After the interviews, we thought, prayed, and ended up coming to a unanimous conclusion. Phil Travis was the right person for us for this summer. Phil has accepted the position and is excited about being with us this summer. I thought I would share a little from his bio with you. He will be sending his greetings soon. Believe it or not, he will be with us in about two months to help prepare and carry out the summer's ministry and programs.

From Phil: *I grew up in the Church. I attended the Coopersville Church of Christ for most of my young life, but moved to the Holland Church of Christ when I was about 11 or 12. I have lived my whole life in Michigan and enjoy the Midwest. I was baptized by my father December 1, 2001, after a lot of thought and preparation. I have been very involved with many youth group activities at the Holland Church of Christ, both as a student and as a leader. I was in Rochester College Chorus, Chamber Chorale, and Autumn, so I love to sing. And I am currently serving the college as a Campus Ministry Intern, working with Steve Corp.*

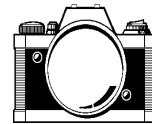
*I come from a large family; I have 5 siblings, and I am the second. I have wanted to do ministry for as long as I can remember. When my older brother and I were young we always talked about how we would be evangelists and travel around the nation in our camper and we wouldn't get married, just spend our time traveling and teaching. But then he started to like girls, and that kind of shot down that idea.*

*Around the time I was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, I began to see youth ministers and how they worked for the kingdom, and I decided that that was something that I wanted to become. Since then I have been introduced to many great youth ministers, but I have also seen the need for more great youth ministers, as many youth are without. This has driven me to want to become a youth minister even more in recent years, just knowing that there is a gap to be filled. I believe that I have the talents necessary to fill in some of that gap, given to me by God, and grown in me through the work of others. I am excited to become a youth ministry intern because I am excited to continue my work with youth. I am also excited because I know that it will give me some experience and some skills that I need to be an effective servant for God.*

As I mentioned last week, we are asking members of our church family to help out by providing Phil a place to stay and as many of his meals as possible. Please remember this is far more than a financial thing: it allows us to get to know Phil better and it allows him to get to know us and be able to be more effective in his ministry with us. In the past you have done a great job in this area by providing housing and meals for Steve and for Jonathan. Thank you in advance for supplying this need once again. I can't wait for all of you to get to know Phil and for him to get to know this wonderful church family.

-Lee

## New Directory Pictures to be taken in April



Elmwood is shooting a new pictorial directory, and we need everyone to participate. A photo studio will be set up at the church building on **April 14, 15, 25 and 26** (Friday, Saturday, Tuesday and Wednesday). Every participating family gets a **free directory and 8 x 10 picture**. **There is no cost to the church and you are not obligated by high pressure sales to buy any pictures.** There will be sign-up sheets available in the Farris foyer and the A-2 fellowship room this Sunday from 9:00 until 9:30 AM and 10:15 to 10:45 AM. Sign up early to make sure you get a convenient time!

## Disaster Preparedness for Your Home & Family

**Tuesday, April 4  
12:00-1:00 PM**

The Tippecanoe County Chapter of the American Red Cross presents the April Disaster Preparedness Brown Bag Forum Series. Do you know how to ensure that your home and your family are safe during a disaster? Topics include: Disaster preparedness, family disaster plans, family disaster kits, and financial preparedness for disasters, including special planning issues for those with disabilities or special needs.

All forums will be held at the Tippecanoe County Chapter of the American Red Cross at 111 South 7th St., Lafayette, and require pre-registration. Contact Melissa Axley, Emergency Services Director, at 742-6975, or [melissa@tippearc.org](mailto:melissa@tippearc.org) to register. Lunch will not be provided though you are invited to bring your lunch.



**March 15, 6:00 PM**...Small Group Singing practice;  
Jr. Puppet team at **6:30 PM**; Puppet team #2 at **7:00 PM**,  
and Puppet team #3 at **7:30 PM**.

**March 15, 7 PM**...Bible classes for all

*Read:*  
Deut. 31-34; Joshua 1-8;  
Psalms 42-48; James 1-5


# 2006 Spiritual Adventure

## Week 13: March 26-April 1

James. What a book. I like James because it makes people uncomfortable; I think we all need to be uncomfortable as Christians every once in a while. James talks a lot about works. While we know that works do not save us, James reminds us that they are nonetheless important. My favorite verse to illustrate this is James 2:18: *"Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do."* We can all agree with that. But that is where a lot of us stop, and this is the exact reason James makes us uncomfortable—he speaks against that. Two verses really stood out as I read over James; James 1:22: *"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."* The other was James 4:17: *"Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins."* These verses can definitely make a lot of us squirm.

A lot of us have been going to church for a long time. I've been going for as long as I can remember. It seems like Christianity shouldn't be that hard to grasp, that I should be better at it by now. But I think our problem isn't that we don't understand what Jesus wants us to do; we just don't do it. I think sometimes we get lost in generalities and don't quite understand how to apply God's principles to our lives—how Jesus should affect our lives in 2006 in Indiana. I pray that we (and I'm definitely included in this) think of practical ways to apply our Christianity to our lives and to do it! —Rob Flynn

|  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<br><br>City of Children<br>Ensenada, Mexico<br><br>Bren and Cheryl White<br>P.O. Box 245<br>New Market, MD 21774 |  |
| Elmwood Nursery School & Pre-K<br>Preschool: Tues-Thurs 9-11:30 am<br>Pre-K: Mon-Thurs 9-11:30 am<br>Director, Susan McClain 447-2874                   | <th> Staff</th> <td></td>                            |  Staff  |  |
|   | <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 |  |  |

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