



"Just Children"?

Tony Campolo is author of many of today's most-appreciated books, including *It's Friday but Sunday's Coming* and *20 Hot Potatoes Christians Are Afraid to Touch*. Some years ago he returned to his old neighborhood in Philadelphia and decided to drive by his old boyhood church. What he found shocked him: the windows were boarded up and the place was falling down.

He was sad, but being a good thinker he began to ask himself, "What kills a church? What makes a once-thriving church wither away and die?" He searched until he found a former elder of that church, and asked for the records of the church. He was led to the basement, to a vault behind a door nailed shut. Once he managed to pry open the door and find his way through the cobwebs, he found the annual report of the church.

Out of curiosity he turned to the year in which he gave his life to Christ. The author wrote that that had not been a particularly good year for the church. Giving was down, mission activity had subdued, attendance had declined, and there were only three conversions that year—and they were "just children."

As Wess Stafford tells the story in *Too Small to Ignore*, Dr. Campolo "stared at the page in disbelief and irritation." "Wait a minute!" he said out loud. "I was one of those three! And I know the other two. One spent his life in missions in Africa, while the other became president of a seminary here in the United States. And I've given my life to Christian higher education. What do you mean, just three children came to Christ that year?"

Dr. Campolo's conclusion: A church begins to die when it says, "They were just children." With that mind-set, a church will begin to decline and decay. 64% of all who become Christians do so by the time they are 18. Is there anything we do in the church that is more important than what we do for the children? *G. Crowe*

***Our vision:
Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known***

My Space No More

This has been my space for the last—almost—5 years. My thoughts and words have filled this section of the newsletter. But now, my words are moving. They aren't moving too far, just a little to the left. I will be taking Gayle's space when he leaves. My words will be over <----- (there). This space will not, however, be abandoned. Please be looking for important information from our shepherds in this space.

The elders will be using this column to update you on important community items. If you find yourself wondering how things are going with our functional structures, what progress has been made with S.H.A.P.E., or how the search for a new minister is going, this will be the space where you can get answers.

So please be looking for updates on these important church matters here. The shepherds want you to know what is going on here at Elmwood.

Please continue to pray for Elmwood and her various ministries, and be on the lookout two weeks from now, when the elders will begin using this column to update you regularly about community matters. May God bless Elmwood as we move forward—acting as his hand in this world. ~Dan

Pray for the members of our congregation that we will accept change even though it may be uncomfortable. Help us to embrace what God has in store for us with a new pulpit minister.



New Bible Classes for Women

Wanita White began a new class, *"Seeing God Through the Old Testament Prophets"* on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 in the elders' conference room. The 1:00 class on Tuesday afternoons will begin the first week in March to study *"Journey with the Apostle Paul."* All women welcome and bring a friend!

Prayer Concerns...

Henrietta Frampton is in room 4402 at Home Hospital after back surgery last week...**Kaden Koebeck**, Cami (McCoy) & Travis' son, just celebrated his first birthday! Praise the Lord for his continued progress. From Cami: *"It has been neat to watch him explore and figure things out...we would give anything to know what he is thinking about! He has also recently started sleeping through the night. We were REALLY thrilled about that."* Continue praying for **Seth Mullen, Willard Farmer, Annie & Elaine Crowder, Paul & Argie Verett, Beth Holt, Anthony Braden (Elmwood Preschooler), Linda Smith, Marcia Swails, Mark Eddy, Lynn Robinson, Delpha Allen, Anna Dale, Minnie Scott, Carrie High, Irene Fox, Ruth Marks, & Burnell Gulden.**

Serving in our military: **Jeremy Crable (Afghanistan); Brian Guthrie (Qatar, Persian Gulf), Philip Devine & Robbie Mullinax**, stateside training; **Jon Kiefner (Amanda Guthrie's brother in Iraq); and Amanda Martin (South Korea).**

Thank You!

I would like to give a special thanks to every member of this church for the love that has been given and for the constant lifting up in Christ. Thank God for you all. I will always love you.
-John Pippins

*Elmwood members,
Thank you so very much for all the food, payers, flowers and love you gave to me and my family. You are all such a blessing to us. I will miss Dale terribly but you have helped ease the pain! God bless you!*
-Tammy Allen & family

*Elmwood Church of Christ,
The Mental Health Association would like to thank you for your generous donations to the Holiday Gift Lift. Your contribution has helped ensure that people in our community are remembered during the holidays.*
Sincerely, Kurt Harker, MHA



Attention Parents

Since January 28 is the 4th Sunday of the month, there will be no Children's Church for grades 1-5.
-Joe Ruhl

It's a Girl!



Elina Rose was born to Kathy & John Henke on Wednesday, December 20. She weighed 6 pounds 2 ounces. Congratulations to the Henke family! *(Though we had announced it via email and the Sunday bulletin, we had not included it in the newsletter. Our apologies.)*

It's a Boy!



Congratulations to **Terri & Greg Miller** on the birth of grandson, **Levi Christopher**, born to daughter, Missy. He weighed 6 pounds 5 ounces and measured 19 3/4 inches long. Mother and baby are doing well.

January 21, 2007
Class: 188 Worship: 273
Contribution: \$6,286
Budget: \$8,550

ELMWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST newsletter (USPS 758-630) is published weekly, except the week of Christmas, by the Elmwood Church of Christ, 2501 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette 47904. Periodical postage paid at Lafayette, IN. POSTMASTER: send address changes to ELMWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST, 2501 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette, IN 47904.



The Battle is Real!

So perhaps the most important piece of the journey out of porn is a commitment to avail yourself of sources of God's grace: pray; go to church; take communion; steep yourself in Scripture. And know that God has plans for you so much bigger and better than Saturday night in front of your computer screen.

Many of you have commented that you appreciated the skit on Sunday morning. Let me tell you it was not an easy role to play. I understand the temptation...I too am human; but by the grace and power of God I will remain pure. I know many who are in this battle. Some want to remain pure and have succeeded and prayerfully will continue to do so. Some have been taken captive in the past but have escaped and plan to remain free. Some are in captivity and are looking for a way out. Unfortunately, there are even some who have been captured by the enemy and this powerful tool of his and have decided this is where they belong. Pornography is incredibly powerful and it sends so many wrong, deceptive and hurtful messages.

To some of you the skit was nothing new while to others it was eye opening. Wherever you may be on the awareness level, please know that this is a war that continues to be waged for the eyes and minds of young and old. I solicit your prayers of protection and strength and promise you I will be offering the same on your behalf. It is likely that some of the ladies are saying, "You poor guys!" That is exactly why I included the quote at the beginning of the article. The quote comes from trueu.org and includes advice to help women to break the pornographic chains of bondage. I have read that young women are among the fastest growing group of users of pornographic materials...on and off the web. No one is exempt from the attack! I say it again, let's pray for each other and ask God to claim the power of the web for His uses and not for Satan's. There is so much that is good available on the web, but we have to surf with our armor on.

Parents, if you haven't talked with your children (of "surfing age"), do it now. If you have younger children, prepare them before they begin to use the internet. All families: use the safeguards that are available to you - pop up blockers, porn filters, password protection, etc. If you are worried, nervous, or scared, good - it is that big and that serious. If you need help, we have knowledgeable people in our church family. I am not an advocate of kicking the computer out the door; I just want us to keep Satan from coming in the house/office/dorm, etc. through the World Wide Web.

I am thankful Gayle had the insight to speak to the church of the dangers of pornography and I pray that if you weren't here for the sermon that you will get a copy...you may want to get a copy, even if you were here. Remember, I'm praying for you and I'm thankful you are doing the same for me.

- Lee



Brianna Snapp, stepdaughter of Cindy Snapp, put on Christ in baptism Sunday morning, January 21. Brianna has two small sons, Domenic, age 3, and Dorean, 3 months old. She is a stay-at-home mom for now, but will be returning to work before too long. She lives at 814 N. 10th St., Apt. 1, Lafayette 47904. Congratulations, Brianna, and welcome to the Elmwood family of believers.



Elmwood will host a Farewell Open House for Gayle & Lisa Crowe on January 28, 2007, from 4:00-6:00 PM, in the Elmwood fellowship room. Elmwood members and past members, as well as friends from the Lafayette community and Purdue community, are invited to share this time with the Crowes.

At 6:00 we'll meet in the auditorium for a slide show that will include memories of the last 20 years

(If you have any pictures from the last 20 years you'd like to share, please give them to Lee Porter ASAP. They will be returned.)

Jan. 24, 7 PM...Bible Classes for all
Jan. 28, 12:45 PM...Brunch with the Crowes at The Trails
Jan. 28, 4-7 PM...Open House at Elmwood-entire congregation and community invited; at 6:00, powerpoint presentation of 20 years of memories and giving of gifts
Feb. 25 & March 4, 6 PM...Joe Ruhl shares "Why I Believe"

Read:
Exodus 19-36;
Luke 15:1-18:17

2007 Spiritual Adventure

Week 6: February 5-11

Blind Faith (Luke 18:35-43)

“Lord, I want to see.” Who would ever think that such a simple phrase could be so powerful? Yet from a blind man in the New Testament book of Luke, named Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52), this phrase tells us so much about him. He was no one special, just a beggar along the road to Jericho. Hardly noticeable, but he heard the crowd passing and asked what was happening. When told who was passing by, he called out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” He could not be silenced. He shouted even louder till he had the Savior’s attention. His only request was for sight but it was his faith that got the attention of Jesus. His faith healed him.

Have you ever considered that the first thing this man saw was the face of Jesus? How beautiful that must have been for this blind man. His healing was immediate and he followed Jesus, praising God.

The beauty of this story is that it resembles so many of us in today’s life. We are no one special. Often we are off to the side, hardly noticed. I’m sure many others were along the road that day, but we hear of only one man courageous enough to stand and boldly call out to Jesus by name and ask for mercy.

What courage it takes to swallow our pride, to come before Jesus and ask for mercy. What resolve it takes to stand up and seek out Jesus when others around us try to silence us. What strength it takes to stand before Jesus and ask him for what we need. But only by doing these our faith in Jesus heals us. What immediate joy it is when we are healed so that we can follow Jesus and glorify God.

Lord, I want to see!!!

-Jim Moore

 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 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	
	Ministers Gayle Crowe 447-6940 Lee Porter 463-6993 Dan Cooke 543-7469 Office Manager Sherry Marks 447-2874		

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This Week's Highlight:

Swearing on the Quran

Newly elected Congressman Keith Ellison created quite a stir recently when he announced that he would be taking the oath of office on a Quran. It is customary, although not required, for incoming officials to use a Bible while being sworn in. Ellison, who is the first Muslim congressman, was elected to the 5th Congressional district in Minnesota.

Even though I am a Christian, I cannot agree with those who so vociferously condemned Ellison. The practice of placing one's hand on the Bible when being sworn into office derives from the once commonly accepted view of the sacredness of that book, and thus indicates the seriousness and sanctity of the vow being made. If any politician does not personally believe in the message of the Scriptures, it would be rank hypocrisy for him to use God's Word as a mere political prop.

The people in the 5th Congressional district in Minnesota presumably knew what they were getting when they elected Ellison to office, so his rejection of the Bible, and acceptance of the Quran, should come as no surprise to them. I personally wish more politicians would be so honest. In fact, perhaps it would be more appropriate if, instead of using a Bible, incoming congressmen raised their right hand while placing their left hand in the wallet pocket of a nearby taxpayer.

I do raise an objection, however, to one specific aspect of the ceremony. In a shrewd bit of political theatre designed to blunt criticism, Ellison borrowed Thomas Jefferson's copy of the Quran to use while taking his oath. Ellison said the Quran "is definitely an important historical document in our national history and demonstrates that Jefferson was a broad visionary thinker who not only possessed a Quran but read it. It would have been something that contributed to his own thinking."

Ellison's maneuver will play well to the political correctness crowd, in large part because the average American is notoriously ignorant of history. Those who are familiar with Jefferson's term as president, however, will understand that our third president had a more likely motivation for reading the Quran than seeking personal spiritual enlightenment.

Many Americans today are unaware that one of the young nation's first challenges was facing Muslim "terrorists" in the form of the Barbary pirates. They seized United States vessels off the coast of Portugal, imprisoned Americans, and demanded "tribute" (which for a time was paid by the nation, since our military forces were too weak to respond.)

In 1786 John Adams, then our ambassador to Britain, arranged for a meeting with Sidi Haji Abdul Rahman Adja, the ambassador of the Dey of Algiers. Adams was joined in the meeting with Jefferson, at that time our ambassador to France, and together they tried to negotiate a treaty to end the piracy. When they asked Adja why the pirates were attacking American ships, he explained that Islam "was founded on the Laws of their Prophet, that it was written in their Quran, that all nations who should not have acknowledged their authority were sinners, that it was their right and duty to make war upon them wherever they could be found" and that every Muslim slain in these battles "was sure to go to Paradise."

These attacks continued well into the presidency of Jefferson. In fact, they did not end until Jefferson unilaterally deployed U.S. warships to the coasts of North Africa. (By the way, that is why the Marine Hymn opens with the line, "From the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli" - Tripoli was one of the piratical Muslim city-states in what is now north Libya.)

Jefferson most likely purchased a Quran for the same reason millions of other Americans have bought one since the attacks of 9-11: to understand what motivates those who wish our destruction.

In all the furor over Congressman Ellison's swearing-in ceremony, I believe the larger lessons of history are being lost. If one wishes to demonstrate the freedom that is found in America, he need only point to the fact that in this country a Muslim can be elected to high political position, and can even use a Quran to take his oath of office. The real question is: If Muslims were in the majority in this nation, would they afford that same freedom to Christians? The example of current Muslim governments suggests not.

-Dan Williams
El Dorado, Arkansas