



What's Your Ministry?

Dwight L. Moody, the famous evangelist, returned home late one night after a speaking engagement. As he climbed into bed with his almost-asleep wife, she rolled over and murmured, "How did it go tonight?" "Pretty well," said Moody, "two and a half converts." His wife struggled to think what that meant, then said, "That's sweet. How old was the child?" "No, no, no," said Moody. "It was two children and one adult! The children have their whole lives in front of them. The adult's life is already half-gone."

That story is the opening paragraph in Wess Stafford's book, ***Too Small to Ignore***. President and CEO of Compassion International, Stafford grew up as the son of a missionary in Ivory Coast, West Africa. His upbringing was as different as day and night from the cell phone/iPod world our children know. For as long as he can remember, Wess was a crack marksman with a slingshot. Hitting a mango at great distance was no challenge; he soon learned to hit the stem above so the mango would fall undamaged. As he grew into his teen years he learned to hit the stem above while he was running underneath.

Wess would accompany his dad into the bush country to preach. Excited at their visit, villagers would prepare a great meal and eat together, usually in the chief's courtyard. As the sun was setting, Wess's dad would lean back against a tree and begin to tell a story from the Bible. The longer the story went on, the more engaged his audience became. There was only one distraction: noisy birds. As the guinea hens and the weaverbirds gathered for the night, the noise became intolerable. "And then, without missing a beat, he would turn my direction and give an ever-so-slight nod. I knew my duty. I would immediately take my trusty slingshot from around my neck and zing a rock into the tree. The birds would fly away for a while . . . I would repeat my 'ministry' as often as needed."

Too young (or too old) for ministry? Think again! *G. Crowe*

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

Be Prepared

One thing I enjoy about Indiana is that I get to experience all of the seasons. This year the winter has been very mild so far (thank you, God), but usually all the seasons here are felt and enjoyed.

Back in December I had to get new tires for my car. While at the tire store, I noticed several ads for snow tires. I talked to the service person about snow tires, asking lots of questions about the need for them and the results I might get if I bought some. In the end, I decided against buying them because the winter has been so mild, but I was also convinced of the need for snow tires in certain situations. Being prepared in the snow is a very good thing!

It reminded me that spiritual progress can be determined by how intentionally prepared we are for the battles to come. We must be prepared if we are to fight off the attacks of the evil one and make progress spiritually. What good is it to wait til a conflict arises before we begin to look at Biblical conflict resolution? What good is it to wait until we meet someone we want to share the gospel with to study the words of the Lord? Shouldn't we instead develop an understanding of biblical conflict resolution first so that when conflict arises, it is surmountable without being destructive? Likewise, shouldn't we delve deeply into the words of the Lord so that we are ready to share the life changing nature of them when the time comes? Let us work toward these things (as well as other equally important things) so that when the time comes, we will be prepared!

~Dan

Pray for Lee and Dan as we search for a new pulpit minister, that they will be comfortable with the change and will continue the same "team approach" to leading their focused ministry as we have seen in the past.



Memory Album for the Crowes

The church is putting together a memory album for the Crowes. A blank page for the album is being distributed to each family. Please use this page to contribute one or more of the following:

- write a note to Gayle and Lisa
- share a favorite memory or a favorite verse
- share a photo
- children could draw a picture
- create your own tribute

Please return this sheet by **Wednesday, January 17**, to one of the following:

- the collection box in the Farris Foyer
- Peggy Linback • Scheryl Gaylor
- Becky Pitt • Christi Branstetter

A New Study

One of our adult classes will begin a study and discussion of Max Lucado's book, *In the Grip of Grace*. The book centers on the question, "Can anything separate us from the love of Christ?" All are welcome. The class meets in the room at the back of the auditorium. The study begins this **Sunday, January 14**. Rob Smith will be the discussion leader.

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will be **Saturday morning, January 20, 2007, at 7:43am** in A2. The breakfast concludes at 8:59am. Men of all ages are encouraged to attend and enjoy the fellowship. Please add your name to the breakfast sign up sheet located in the Farris Foyer. If you haven't been before, you're missing out on some great fellowship with some of the best men God created. If you don't believe it, check it out!!

Sunday Morning Men's Class

The **Sunday morning Men's Class** taught by Chuck Brown meets in Room 200. The class format is a combination of videotaped presentations by Rick Warren taken from *The Purpose Driven Life* and small group discussion. The new topic is titled "You Were Planned For God's Pleasure." Men of all ages are encouraged to attend.



Congratulations!



Dick & Janice Waterstraat will celebrate their 51st wedding anniversary on January 20. Congratulations!



Cody Mullen will have his Eagle Scout presentation at the Elmwood building this **Saturday, January 13, at 2:00 PM**. The ceremony will begin in the auditorium and then move to the fellowship room for refreshments. Everyone is welcome!



The food pantry is in need of **paper grocery sacks and toilet paper**. *-John Stafford*

January 7, 2007
Class: 169 Worship: 281
Contribution: \$9,481
Budget: \$8,550

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LTC Kick-off Meeting – Sunday, January 14 – 4pm

It may be hard to believe, but it is time to start thinking about Leadership Training for Christ. Our first and very important meeting will be this Sunday afternoon at 4:00 in the conference room (the old youth room). All third through twelfth grade students, their parents and any interested adults are encouraged to attend. Parents, remember that LTC is one of the big events that the elders and youth ministry team want your children to participate in each year...it is a great ministry! At the meeting, we will have some of the event rules and you are welcome to pay the registration fee of \$35 per student at the meeting. There is no cost for adult workers or other observers but all non-participants are observers and must register: http://www.mwltc.org/lcereg/observer_observer_walkup.php. T-shirt design contest entries must be turned in to Sharon Porter by Sunday night, January 14 or postmarked by January 15. This year's theme is "Un-stoppable" and the Bible Bowl book is **Acts**.

Winterfest – Gatlinburg, TN – February 16-18, 2007 THE PRIZE – Philippians 3:14

What is your favorite thing about Winterfest?
This is what people have said through the online survey (www.winterfest.org):
18.34% - Challenging Speakers
33.25% - Moving Worship Times
16.63% - Hanging Out With Friends
11.49% - The Concert
20.29% - Coming Home Energized
How would you respond to that survey? If you haven't responded, go online and do it. In the meantime, catch your parents with the check book out and make your deposit so we can beat the early registration deadline. I need your money by January 28...after that the price goes up. Early bird prices are \$21 for registration, \$10 for shirts and \$10 for the concert (Jars of Clay). After that, prices are \$25 for registration and \$15 each for shirts and concert. Remember I have reserved places for 40 people at the Riverside Motor Lodge. Lodging and travel costs will be \$75 each – meals and souvenirs are not included. If any of you are new to Winterfest, you can check out the website shown above and below is a little info too. This event is truly one of the highlights of the year for the eCy youth group. Don't miss this! - Lee
What is worship time like at Winterfest? All of our corporate worship times will be in the main halls. Our speakers will be very biblically based with relevant material affecting the lives of students, using music, drama, lecture, video, and experiences of Christians around the world. Our corporate singing is a cappella.



Don & Laura Fitzgerald put the Lord on in baptism Saturday, January 6. Don first visited the CSC back in the Mark Davis era. Later marrying Laura, he also began teaching at Jefferson High School where he still works with Joe Ruhl, David Hunt and Christi Branstetter. Laura, once a teacher at Jeff High School, now works for State Farm Insurance. They live at 809 W. 750 N., West Lafayette 47906. We welcome them to our family of believers at Elmwood and look forward to getting to know them.

Prayer Concerns....

The Bells, Peter, Bill, and Carol, are back from Mayo Clinic where Peter had tests done on his heart...**Ty Anderson** was hospitalized for pneumonia while in Pittsburgh, PA. The family is now home as he continues on medication...Continue praying for **Seth Mullen, Pat Turner, Willard Farmer, Kaden Koebcke, Sue Durham, Annie & Elaine Crowder, Ella McBride, 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*; Alpha Co. Task Force Lightning 513 MI; CJTF-76; Bagram Air Force Base APO, AEO 09354; Crablemc69@aol.com); **Philip Devine & Robbie Mullinax** completing stateside training; **Jon Kiefner** (*Iraq*); and **Amanda Martin** (*South Korea*).



- Jan. 10, 7 PM....Bible Classes for all
- Jan. 13, 2 PM....Eagle Scout ceremony for Cody Mullen; everyone welcome; refreshments in A2
- Jan. 14, 4 PM....LTC information meeting for parents
- Jan. 14, 6 PM....LIFE Groups resume meeting

Coming in February

In a long-awaited two-night series, **Joe Ruhl** will present his reflections on "Why I Believe" at the 6 PM worship on **February 25 and March 4** (note: incorrect dates given in last week's newsletter).

Read:
Genesis 36-50; Luke 8:1-11:28

2007 Spiritual Adventure

Week 3: January 15-21

I am not much for some pithy sayings because, generally, I cannot figure out what they mean. For example, a popular such saying in my teen days was "Keep on Truckin'." Mostly, this was used by people who did not own trucks, rendering its meaning even more elusive. Another one I hear occasionally is "Just give it to God." This makes sense to me if you are talking about money, but people use it to talk about things like bad tempers, bitter feelings, and addictions. I do not know how I would give such things to God, much less why He would want them.

One of these sayings I believe I have figured out, though, and I got some help from the narrative about Joseph in Genesis 36-45. "Let go, and let God." The way I see it, this is what Joseph did.

Throughout his adventure Joseph was true to God. He was a favorite son sold into slavery by jealous brothers. As a slave he is blessed by God and becomes head of Potiphar's house only to be framed by Potiphar's wife and thrown into prison.

One day, Pharaoh has a dream. Joseph interprets the dream, saves Egypt from the scourge of famine, and becomes the second highest ruler in the land. He uses his position to arrange to be reunited with his family and his father, and literally saves Israel from annihilation. Letting go of any hatred he could have harbored against his brothers, he welcomed them saying, "So it was not you who sent me here, but God." (Genesis 45:8 NRSV)

Joseph's faithfulness; God's timing. My faithfulness, God's will. Let go, and let God.

So there is one pithy saying I'll leave in my vocabulary. It reminds me of how God used Joseph and how Joseph came to understand that God was using him. And that He will use me, if I let Him.

Thanks for reading. And Keep on Truckin' — whatever that means.

—*Bill Bell*