



## Thinking Forward

1832. Does that year mean anything to you? It does to me. 1832 is a date that is very dear to many people that are a part of the Restoration Movement. It is the year that God did something very special at Cane Ridge, Kentucky. He called hearts back to Him, bringing them out of denominationalism. He used men like Alexander Campbell and Barton Stone to begin a spiritual awakening in this country that sped across the frontier like a forest fire. It was indeed a great year.

There are other special circumstances of the Restoration Movement that stick in the mind. For example, Alexander Campbell and his father, Thomas, arrived at the same conclusions theologically at the same time independently of each other while separated by an ocean. That is pretty special, special enough to get excited about and to believe that God is alive and well in the Restoration Movement. I have seen Churches of Christ so dedicated to the premises of the Restoration Movement that they have stones engraved *Church of Christ: established A.D. 33*.

The Restoration Movement is wonderful and God is at work in it, but its greatest strength can also be its greatest weakness. The Restoration Movement spends its time looking back at the early church, looking back to “restore” the church of the past. While looking back is helpful, looking backward can keep us from looking forward. Thinking about the past has the potential to keep us from thinking about the future.

The Lord has called us to look back to the past to see where we have been (and where He has been), but he has also called us to look to the future, thinking forward to where God wants to send us as a church. May God bless Elmwood as it continues to think forward.  
—Dan

Our vision:  
Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known

## The Un-Natural

I recently watched my favorite sports movie (perhaps my favorite of all movies) for the billionth time. The movie is called *The Natural* starring Robert Redford. It is about a man who lived for baseball. He was great in every aspect of the game. He started as a pitcher but after some hardship and a 16 year hiatus from the game, he resurfaced as a hitter, an incredible hitter. He truly was a natural.

Sometimes it seems that there are spiritual giants in the church and that faith comes naturally for them. But it always seems that it is someone else for whom faith comes naturally. The rest of us seem to live in an existence where faith is not always so natural. In fact, sometimes it feels quite unnatural.

Speaking as one of those for whom faith is sometimes unnatural, I must say that I am glad that God can use us even if faith is sometimes tough for us. I might add that we are in good company too. Scripture is filled with God's power being demonstrated through those for whom faith comes hard. I suppose that I am the Un-Natural, and I am proud. It reminds me (and everyone around me) that it is God's power that produces fruit, not mine. May God bless us as un-natural and awkward as our faith sometimes looks. It is through our un-natural brokenness that His power may be better displayed.  
—Dan

# Farewell Reception for Dan Cooke

## June 23, 2-4 PM, CSC

Join Dan Cooke and students on June 23, from 2:00 until 4:00 PM, at the CSC, 115 Waldron St., West Lafayette, for a come 'n go farewell reception to honor his 5 years of service on the Purdue campus. Dan will be leaving to begin a new ministry in Texas at the end of the month. Questions? Call Mindy Hart at 497-2481.

## Vacation Bible School



Let's corral 80 kids at Avalanche Ranch.  
August 8, 9, 10 • 6:00-8:00 PM  
August 11 • 9:00-11:00 AM  
August 12 • 5:00-7:00 PM  
YOU can help make it happen.

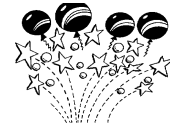
## Focus on the Family Programs

Upcoming *Focus on the Family* programs are heard on local radio, WHPL-FM 89.9 at 2:00 PM Monday-Friday.

- June 13, 14, 15* **Where's Dad?**—Dr. James Dobson encourages fathers to make their family a priority by guarding against the pressures associated with a fast-paced, busy lifestyle. (Parts 1, 2, 3)
- June 18, 19* **What We Believe**—Author Frank Peretti outlines foundational principles of the Judeo-Christian worldview. He also explains how modern worldviews like relativism and humanism contradict the absolute truth found in the Bible. (Parts 1 & 2)
- June 20, 21* **Finding Hope in the Little Things**—Author John Trent talks about the big difference that little changes can make at home, at work and in relationships. (Part 1 & 2)
- June 22* **The Path of Endurance**—Drawing illustrations from her remarkable life story, author Elisabeth Elliot explains why the Christian life is often characterized by endurance.
- June 25, 26* **Shaping the Will Without Breaking the Spirit**—Dr. James Dobson describes how parents can most effectively inspire obedience in their young children. (Parts 1 & 2)



## Congratulations!



Congratulations to Barb Tilley who received the **Teacher of the Year Award** for Mintonye Elementary School. We're proud of you!



The food pantry is in need of personal items: **soap, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, and toilet paper.**

—John Stafford

## Attention Parents!

**Children's Church for grades 1-5 will resume September 2, during second service.**

—Joe Ruhl

**June 10, 2007**

*Class: 164 Worship: 243*

*Contribution: \$6,687*

*Budget: \$8,550*

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## Heroes

I like the Star Wars Epic. I see the scrolling golden text and I am filled with giddiness. Maybe that makes me a dork, but judging from the franchise's staying-power and financial success, I think that I am not the only one! I think there are a lot of aspects about Star Wars that makes it so likeable. Who doesn't want to be caught up in some grand adventure, where their dearest loved ones are in danger, and the dreamer springs to action at the last minute, defeating all odds to rescue all those in danger? I think everyone wants to be a Hero.

I remember as a child that most of my imaginations had a common plotline: One of my friends, or members of my family (or the girl I had a crush on at that point in time) was in trouble, and I, with all of the gusto my 60 pound body could muster, took it upon myself to save that person from certain doom. It was a simple plot, but the circumstances could be varied greatly, and they always had the same happy outcome: everyone was safe in the end. It was my imagination; of course I was the hero! I wrote a series of short stories that involved my older brother, and myself, as well as our respective best-friends Mark and Trent. In each of the stories someone was in trouble, or a mystery had to be solved, and even though adults were baffled or unable to take action, the four of us were ready to serve.

I don't imagine hero stories for myself much anymore, although I have caught myself "saving" my fiancé a couple of times! I usually imagine different things, like cars that I want, or computer parts that I want, or books that I want. I want, I want, I want... far less noble, I think, than the imaginations of my youth. In fact, I think the young me might be a bit disappointed with what the current me imagines; cars and computers are awfully dull compared to an action story filled with speeding trains, power-hungry bad guys, and damsels in distress!

I think young me, if he did exist, would be right to be upset with me. I think that young people sometimes tap into something, quite inadvertently that is vital to the human story. This something is what we "educated adults" would call "Truth" I think. I did not realize it then, but at that young age, I was recreating the Jesus event in my own life, I was doing Christianity. The New Testament Scriptures are peppered with phrases like "in humility regard others as better than yourselves" (Phil. 2:3) and "Be Subject to one another out of reverence for Christ" (Eph 5:21).

Even if it was only imaginatively, what I was unknowingly doing was emptying myself (Phil 2:1-11) for others, doing in my mind what Christ did in the world, for all people. It is this self-emptying that we are called to. We aren't called to wax philosophical laboriously over who really wrote the book of Hebrews, we are supposed to go out there and serve. Now, it may not take the form of a rescue, and hopefully it is more than just imagination, but service is indeed what we are called to.

Are we ready to put away our adult imaginations and remember the truth of what we are called to? Are we ready to live cruciform "cross-shaped" lives? Are we ready to be Heroes?

-Phil

## Prayer Concerns....

Susan Shidler, Sheryl Willison's sister, has been diagnosed with a brain aneurysm and is undergoing tests for further evaluation....**Henry Hunt**, David's father, will have knee replacement surgery soon. He also will be treated for a recurrence of prostate cancer....Continue praying for **Bill Adams, Peter Bell, Oka LeMaster, Joe Bailey, Sue Sill, Dottie Roberts, Oscar Miller, Hattie Coffel, Brian Beeler, David Perkins, Lorena Poindexter, Jeanette Tidrick, Georgia Woodland, Kaden Koebcke, Kathy Ciota, Charles Carter, Charles Moore, Jo Gelfand, Willie Batts, Irene Sims, Mary Tavana, Willard Farmer, Valley Stockton, Paul & Argie Verett, Ruth Marks, Delpha Allen, Anna Dale, Minnie Scott, Carrie High, Irene Fox, & Burnell Gulden.**



Serving in our military: **Jeremy Crable & Michael Bryenton** in Afghanistan; **Philip Devine, Joshua Thompson** (*grandson of Mary Lou Baugh*), in Iraq; and **Chris Martin**, in South Korea.

## We Need Volunteers!

The 4th Monday of every month Elmwood provides a meal—main dish, salad, vegetable or bread, and dessert—to the homeless who are housed overnight at **Lafayette Urban Ministry**. With vacations and other summer plans, it is sometimes difficult to get enough volunteers to provide this service. If you'd like to help with this ministry this summer—June, July or August—call the church office at 447-2874. There are many at Elmwood who have done this and are always blessed by the experience.

One or two people are also needed to **teach the combined 1st & 2nd grade class on Sunday mornings for July and August.** (You may teach just one month.) Call the church office or talk to Lee Porter if you would like to help.



**June 13, 7 PM....Bible class for all**  
**June 17, 6 PM....Worship at Elmwood**  
**June 23, 2-4 PM....Farewell Reception for Dan Cooke at CSC, 115 Waldron**  
**August 8-12....Vacation Bible School**

Read:  
*II Kings 12-I Chron. 5;*  
*Matthew 15-18*

# 2007 Spiritual Adventure

## Week 26: June 25-July 1

If you look at 2 Kings 17, you can see how far Israel had degenerated from where they should have been. Starting in verse 7 and continuing all the way through verse 17 the list is full of all manners of evil directly against the Ten Commandments. This led of course to Israel being given into the hands of the Assyrians. But even after all of their idol worship, all of their child sacrificing, and all of their dishonor toward God, the Almighty chose to save Israel and eventually led them out of Assyrian control and back to the Promised Land.

That is a great example of God's willingness to forgive and shower us with his grace and mercy. It seems that God is willing to forgive everything, but what would cause God to remove his grace from us? If you continue with this week's reading and turn to Matthew 18, there is an example that will answer this question for us. Matthew 18 contains within it the parable of the Unmerciful Servant. In this parable we learn of a man who owes his master 10,000 talents, quite a large sum of money, but after begging for mercy the master cancels the man's debt and allows him to go free. This same servant then turns around and does violence to a man who owes him only 100 denarii, a relatively small amount, and when the man couldn't pay has him thrown into prison. Upon hearing this, the master calls his servant back and says to him (starting about halfway through verse 32), "I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?" The master then has his servant tortured and imprisoned until he can pay back his debt.

Jesus then finishes his parable by saying (starting at v. 35); "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart." Forgiveness is hard. Sometimes you feel so very deeply wronged or hurt that forgiveness seems almost impossible. But, as Jesus points out with his story, what right do we have to expect forgiveness if we cannot forgive those who have harmed us.

-Tom Miller

 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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