



It's Tough to Tell the Truth!?

Many people who were there called it the best basketball game they'd ever seen: Westwood High versus Valley Center, to determine who would advance to the state basketball championship.

With only ten seconds to go, Westwood scored a basket that put them ahead by a single point. Valley Center called timeout. The team huddled with their coach, who drew up what would most certainly be the final play. The plan was to work the clock down to two seconds, set a few screens to get their best shooter a good look at the basket, and let him try to win the game with a last-second shot.

The Valley Center players executed the play exactly as the coach had drawn it up. With only two seconds remaining, Valley Center's star player took his shot. The ball bounced off the rim and ricocheted off the backboard—right to a Valley Center player, who tipped it in!

The Valley Center fans went wild. Their team was going to the state finals! Or so they thought. While the players and fans celebrated, the referees ran to the official scorer's table to make sure that the time on the clock had not expired when the ball was tipped in. With all of the noise, the referees had been unable to hear the buzzer to determine whether or not the shot was good.

The official scorer, an older man who had held the position for many years, suddenly had the game in his hands. He leaned over the table and said, "Tell the Valley Center coach I'm very sorry, but the shot was no good. Time on the clock had expired."

That news changed everything for both teams. The Westwood players and fans started celebrating their victory while those from Valley Center were left to deal with the agony of defeat. The stunned Valley Center coach sat down on the bench with his head in his hands.

The official scorer left his table, walked over, and sat down on the bench beside him. With a tear in his eye, the older man embraced the distraught young coach on the bench and said, "Son...I'm so proud of you." (Adapted from Youth Specialties, *Hot Illustrations*)

The preceding is based on a true story. How hard would it be to be the official scorer in that situation? The past few weeks I have witnessed a lot of people struggling with the truth. I saw a sports official intentionally make a call the wrong way to benefit his home team. I know of a person being encouraged to put information on an application to get their foot in the door; they would be able to clear everything up in the interview. I even heard a student say, "I shouldn't have gotten in trouble, I didn't lie, I just didn't tell them everything."

God makes it clear that we are always to be truthful – it may be tough sometimes, but it is always the right thing to do! – Lee

Elmwood this year...

There's a sense of excitement and anticipation going around Elmwood. One reason is the anticipation of the arrival of the Kerrigans as they begin their Elmwood ministry. What a wonderful opportunity we have to reach out to others as we begin this new era.

At the same time, we can look back over the last nine months with appreciation for how God continues to bless our Elmwood family.

We have been blessed with Cody Sipe and Josh Boyd who have willingly used their abilities to bring excellent messages over the past months. We are blessed that Lee Porter, Sherry Marks, Phil Travis and, for a short time, Dan Cooke ably carried on the day-to-day operational duties of the congregation. (We've never missed a bulletin, newsletter, e-mail, announcement, etc.)

What a great work by our youth group at LTC. They came home with many "Golds, Silvers and Bronzes" but, best of all, with a better understanding of how God can work in their lives.

Our young people were blessed while attending summer youth camps and then let God use them to bless others while working at Camp C.U.M.O. – the intercity youth camp. What a great example they set.

Thanks to Michelle Robson and a host of willing ranch hands, we had an exciting and fun-filled VBS. God has blessed us with many follow-up opportunities as a result of this effort.

Last month, God blessed us with great weather for our church picnic. Many thanks to all who helped make that a success.

Saturday we had a fun-filled Noah's Ark night thanks to Lynae Stafford and her Ark builders. A great opportunity to show our kids they don't have to dress up as scary ghosts and goblins (or worse) to have fun.

These are just a few of the things that have added to the excitement and anticipation. Just think what God has planned for us next!



Bob Stafford has an appointment at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, on Tuesday. They will leave on Monday....**Josh Martin** (Phyllis Simmerman's nephew) and his wife, **Michelle**, have a new baby, **Victoria**, born on Tuesday, October 23, with a heart problem. Doctors plan to do an angioplasty procedure on Thursday with hopes that it will take care of the problem. Josh is in the military in Florida, though they are at the UAB Medical Center in Birmingham, Alabama....**Max Houlton** had a good pathology report last week. He will consult with doctors in the near future about continuing treatment....**Ginger Maxwell-Spenard** will have surgery on Monday morning at Home Hospital....**Elaine Borie** was recently hospitalized with asthma problems and broken ribs....Continue praying for **Beth Miller, Beth Holt, Delpha Allen, Ellen Raguette, Chuck Smith, Valley Stockton, Dick Waterstraat, Marie DeWoody, Joe Bailey, Eagle Bailey, Sue Sill, Hattie Coffel, Kaden Koebecke, Irene Sims, Mary Tavana, Paul & Argie Verett, Anna Dale, Minnie Scott, Irene Fox, and Burnell Gulden.**

Serving in our military: **Philip Devine** is home!! Praise God! He will be in Lafayette the first week of November....**Jeremy Crable, Michael Farris, & Michael Bryenton** in Afghanistan; **Joshua Thompson and Ti Draughon** in Iraq; and **Chris Martin**, in South Korea.

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.

- October 26* **Mike Singletary: Making a Difference**—Former pro football player Mike Singletary describes how childhood tragedy shaped his early life and how God has helped him find fulfillment, healing and restoration.
- October 29, 30* **Raising Compassionate, Courageous Kids**—Author Tim Smith discusses his provocatively titled book, *The Danger of Raising Nice Kids* and offers advice to parents on building character. (Parts 1 & 2)
- October 31* **E.V. Hill on the Death of His Wife**—Dr. Dobson presents a recorded message in which minister, E.V. Hill (deceased) spoke at the funeral service for his wife, Jane, and offered a biblical perspective on the passing of loved ones.
- November 1 & 2* **Taking Your Faith Around the World**—A panel of guests encourages listeners to support evangelistic work as they discuss their experiences on a recent missions trip to India with the organization Global Action. (Parts 1 & 2)



By the end of October Elmwood will no longer have an AOL account. All email should be sent to **office@elmwood-church.org**.



Happy 59th Anniversary!



Congratulations to Willie & Calvin Batts who celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary on October 23.

Children's Church

Since this is the last Sunday of the month, **Children's Church for children in grades 1-5 will not meet this Sunday, October 28.**



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

—John Stafford

October 21, 2007

Class: 185 Worship: 272

Contribution: \$5,803

Budget: \$10,000/week

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 Story

If you have read my column regularly (thanks!), then you will know that I enjoy watching movies and television, and particularly fond of searching for glimpses of God within those forms of media. What you may not know, is that I also enjoy reading—novels, short stories, even theological journals (in small doses). I love a good story.

I think that most anyone can resonate with that idea, there is something about a story that is very powerful. We are people of stories, and not just Americans, but all people, are people of stories. From the caveman's writing on the walls, to ancient oral tradition from all reaches of the globe, people have been formed by stories of their ancestors, and others. Stories fueled by fear, anger, love, hope, desire, despair and longing are common in any culture.

Stories have infiltrated every form of media; we have books, books on tape, plays, newspapers, television, movies, movies on television, all concerned with telling stories. There is something about a story that reveals truths in our lives in such a powerful way, that it makes other things, like textbooks, for example, seem dry in comparison. Cultures are defined by their stories—their narratives forming and reflecting their form simultaneously. There is a lot of power in stories.

Now you may understand why I try to take in media, because it is the framework which holds our stories. Not only am I a part of those stories, and they a part of me, but with careful consideration, they also reveal much about myself as well as the culture around me. With careful consideration, a movie transforms into a short dossier on the culture of which I am a part, and of which we are trying to transform.

There is more value in media, however, if you have read my articles on a regular basis, you will see that I often talk about spiritual or Biblical truths found within the movie or TV show that I am talking about. Part of the reason that there are Biblical truths within our media is because we are a culture arisen from Christianity, and though not all media makers are Christian, they do all come from a culture formed from Christianity. Furthermore, I believe that there is one great story: God's working in the world. In some way, all stories reflect the one great story. Watching media with a discerning eye not only strengthens your ability to see God in the everyday, but it also offers an opportunity for one to examine self and the culture that surrounds us—a useful tool when thinking about evangelism.

—Phil

Welcoming the Kerrigans Potluck Dinner, Nov. 4

The Kerrigans arrive the first of November! To give them a grand welcome the first Sunday they are here, we are having a carry-in **potluck meal at noon** after the second worship service on **November 4**. Bring some food to share and take advantage of the opportunity to visit with Gilbert, Kate and Cole.

Baby Shower November 4, 2:00-4:00



Come to the baby shower being planned by Becky Pitt, Gina Boyd, and Dana Miller for **Kristi & Doug Smith** on **Sunday, November 4, from 2:00 until 4:00 PM**, at Becky Pitt's home, 630 Central Avenue, Lafayette. If you wish to contribute towards a group gift you may give your donation to Becky, Gina, or Dana.

Thank You!

Your kind and thoughtful expression of sympathy is deeply appreciated. Thank you so much for the visits, prayers, cards, and cut flowers at our time of loss.

—Gene & Jean Dilling



October 28, 6 PM...LIFE Groups meet
Nov. 4, noon...Welcome the Kerrigans potluck carry-in meal at Elmwood in A-2
Nov. 4, 2-4 PM...Baby shower for Kristi & Doug Smith at Becky Pitt's home, 630 Central Avenue, Lafayette

Read:
Ezekiel 1-21; John 9-11

2007 Spiritual Adventure

Week 45: November 5-11

I don't know very much about caring for sheep. The only time I have been around sheep was when I was a young boy. My friends and I spent a lot of time at a creek near my hometown. One time we had gotten permission from our parents to stay a few days camping at the creek. Our parents knew we wouldn't be gone long because we didn't take much food with us. What they didn't know was that we happened upon a farmer that needed help loading his sheep onto his truck. After several attempts the sheep were in the truck. The farmer paid us each \$3.00. We pooled our money and walked to town, where we bought enough groceries to stay out camping long enough for our parents to start worrying about us. When we were herding the sheep onto the truck, the farmer told us if we got the leader to go in, the other sheep would follow.

Following Jesus, the good shepherd, is not as simple as my one experience with trying to herd the small group of sheep. There are trials, disappointments, and challenges along the way. However, there is great comfort in the words:

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the father knows me and I know the father—and I lay down my life for the sheep" John 10:14-15.

Yes, he loves us so much he gave his life for us all!

—John Marks