



Still Dreaming!

My first ministry seems like forever ago, but some things are still fresh. The elder's meetings took place in the library – between the preacher's office and mine. I learned a lot in those first elders' meetings and I am indebted to those men for shepherding me in a very important time of my life. One of the things I learned was that I needed to dream. I watched those shepherds dream, but someone had subtly planted the need to dream in my mind. I didn't know until recently that the quote was from Goethe, but in my mind's eye I can still see that plaque someone placed on the library wall...right across from my "assigned seat." The quote read, "Dream no small dreams for they have no power to move the hearts of men." I think those shepherds at the Vine Street church of Christ must have had good peripheral vision, because I watched them dream big and I think I have been a dreamer ever since.

Gilbert, Phil and I are reading a new book together; the elders will be joining us when I get them copies. The book is called, *an unSTOPPABLE force...daring to become the church God had in mind*. The following is a section that has me dreaming again:

"The problem is that we treat the church as an organization instead of an organism. Even an elementary reading of the New Testament would make it clear that the church is the body of Christ. The church in her essence is a living system. Whenever we see the church through the template of an organization, we begin creating an institution. When we relate to the church as an organism, we begin to awaken an apostolic ethos, which unleashes the movement of God. The power and life of God's Spirit working in His people result in nothing less than cultural transformation." (p.14) Do you have goose bumps? I do! I'm still dreaming.

What would the church be like if we really took seriously the task of daring to become the church God had in mind? What would we need to change? How would that impact our life as the body of Christ collectively? Personally? Please don't misunderstand. I honestly believe that our shepherds are leading us in a way that is intentionally guarding against the temptation to treat the church as an organization. However, the temptation is still there for all of us. We live in a world that focuses on corporate procedures and successes...let's not give in. I want to see the *movement of God* in my life and in the life of the family at Elmwood. I'm still dreaming (no small ones), join me, won't you?

–Lee

Big Weekend!

We have a lot going on this weekend! First, there are two retreats going on at the same time. First the CSC will be having their annual Fall Retreat – this is a very important time for returning students and incoming freshmen and transfers to be able to get to know each other and to be able to learn about plans for the Christian Student Center for the year...of course, there is a lot of focus spent on studying the Word and worshipping as well. Please pray for Phil and the campus committee as they lead the students in this special time. Pray for all those in attendance that they will be blessed and charged up to take on the semester and the rest of the year.

Next, the Men's Retreat will be taking place at Ross Camp. The focus of the retreat is becoming "The Man I Want to Be." Please keep the retreat in your prayers that God will use this time in a mighty way to shape and mold the lives of the men at Elmwood. We pray the outcome will be that all at Elmwood will be greatly blessed! Remember, the men will be finished in time to be back here at Elmwood in time for class and for second service.

Gilbert, Kate and Cole will be back this weekend for round two of their house hunting expedition. Please pray they will have a successful trip. In addition, Gilbert will be preaching at both services on Sunday. Plan to be here to get a taste of great things to come in the Kerrigan's ministry here with us.

–Lee



Max Houlton has surgery to remove his lung this Thursday, September 20, at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis...**Brenda Gibson's** nephew, **Chuck Smith**, who is permanently paralyzed from a motorcycle accident in West Virginia, will be transported to Chicago this week for 6-8 weeks of physical therapy....Continue praying for **Susan Swensen, Bob Stafford, Donnie Rigdon, Carolyn Rigdon, Valley Stockton, Dick Waterstraat, Oka LeMaster, Marie DeWoody, Joe Bailey, Sue Sill, Dottie Roberts, Hattie Coffel, Kaden Koebecke, Charles Moore, Irene Sims, Mary Tavana, Paul & Argie Verett, Ruth Marks, Delpha Allen, Anna Dale, Minnie Scott, Carrie High, Irene Fox, and Burnell Gulden.**

Serving in our military: **Jeremy Crable, Michael Farris, & Michael Bryenton** in Afghanistan; **Philip Devine, Joshua Thompson, and Ti Draughon** in Iraq; and **Chris Martin**, in South Korea.

Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense

The Smith/Swensen Sunday morning class will offer an opportunity to study N.T. Wright's *Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense*.

"Not since C.S. Lewis's classic summary of the faith, *Mere Christianity* has such a wise and thorough scholar taken the time to explain to anyone who wants to know what Christianity really is and how it is practiced....*Simply Christian* walks the reader through the Christian faith step by step and question by question."

The class will meet in room 19.

New Sunday Morning Class

A new class open to men and women will begin on **Sunday morning, October 7th**. It is a study of the four New Testament gospels with emphasis on their similarity, content, and application of material to our Christian walk. If you have any questions, contact Chuck Brown.

Thank You!

We want to "Thank You" Elmwood family for prayers, cards, phone calls, and visits during our illness the past months. May God bless each one of you. (Dick still awaits results from ongoing tests.) Again, thank you.
-Dick & Janice Waterstraat

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Dearest Brothers & Sisters in Christ,
It's impossible to express all the gratitude that is in my heart. Thank you very much. God bless you for your constant prayers and many, many kindnesses! Love in Christ,
Dottie Roberts

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Elmwood, you do the nicest things! I want to thank everyone for the prayers, calls, visits, and cards I received while I was in the hospital and since I came home.
Valley Stockton



It's a Girl!

Former Elmwood member **Ernest Nyannor** and his wife, **Angela**, are the proud parents of **Nadia Elizabeth**, born Monday, September 17. She weighed 6 pounds 10.7 ounces. Mother and daughter are doing well. Other exciting news is Angela's baptism three weeks ago! Angela has 2 months leave from her medical duties to be home with their new baby. They are living at 9245 Livery Lane, Apt. L, Laurel, MD 20723. Congratulations, Ernest and Angela!

Grocery Shower



Lynae Stafford is hosting a grocery shower for **Sonja Meador** (soon to be Mrs. Tom Pritchett) on **Oct. 7 from 3:00-5:00 PM**. For a group gift Grocery Store certificate you may give your money to Carol Bell, Becky Pitt, or Lynae Stafford.



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

-John Stafford

September 16, 2007

Class:168 Worship: 255

Contribution: \$5,976

Budget: \$10,000/week

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Zombies!

Ever since the classic “Night of the Living Dead” America has had some fascination with zombie movies. It seems like a summer doesn’t go by without at least one major zombie movie being released. Personally, I’m not a huge fan of the genre—I’ve only seen one or two of them, but I do find some of the concepts interesting.

Zombies are these no-longer humans that have died and come back to life. With that transformation, there is radical change in the Zombies look, behavior, actions and thoughts (or lack thereof).

I think that there are some things that we could learn from those zombies. Obviously, I don’t recommend that we all go out and start to attack people—there are some differences between evil zombies and us—but let’s think about the idea of being radically changed for a minute.

Romans 6:3-4: *“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the father, so we too might walk in the newness of life.”* (NRSV).

“So we too might walk in the newness of life”, what a powerful statement! What a radical change that comes from this death and new life. Paul goes on to say that we are no longer enslaved by Sin, but are dead to it. With this freedom, this death to Sin, we are given new life.

Perhaps our culture is enamored with zombies because they represent a huge change that can take place in a person. While the becoming-a-zombie process is an evil and perverted change, the change of becoming a Christian is Holy and blessed. We are called to live a different life, for a purpose. While the zombie has no leader and does not have a purpose, the Christian follows Christ and his or her purpose is to show others what Christ is like. Let’s try to think of ourselves as radically changed followers of Christ.

–Phil

Men’s Retreat “The Man I Want To Be!” September 21-23

Come join us at our Men’s Retreat and learn about finding your way to a life that counts! Spend a weekend in learning, worshiping and fellowship with Christian men who desire a higher purpose in life.

Join us at Ross Camp. Cost: \$55 (overnight 2 nights), \$45 (daytime only) and \$25 for students. Make checks payable to Elmwood Church of Christ and give to Greg Sutherlin.

LIFE Groups off to a great start!

LIFE Groups began last Sunday, September 16, with well over 125 in attendance (with one group not meeting yet). It’s never too late to join a group. If you haven’t been called about joining a LIFE Group, please call the church office, 447-2874, and let us suggest a group.

LIFE Group leaders are:

Allen & Elaine Baird	765-585-1409
Josh & Gina Boyd	471-1258
Browns & Moores	423-2996 or 563-6722
Gene & Jean Dilling (University Place)	765-564-2559
Houltons & G. Millers	523-2623 or 471-1045
Jimmy & Susan Huff (Campus House)	714-0998
John & Sherry Marks	474-1197
Joe & Joyce Mathews	474-8369
Amos & Dana Miller	337-5379
Chad & Becky Pitt	471-9155
Lee & Sharon Porter (Youth)	463-6993
Kevin & Marilyn Walters	474-3110
David & Lorraine Weckerly	765-564-4155
Jones & Ruhs	563-3352 or 463-7012

Children’s Church

Children’s Church for children in grades 1-5 is during second service only. There will be no Children’s Church on the last Sunday of each month.



September 19, 7 PM...Bible classes for all
September 21, 22, 23...Men’s Retreat at Ross Camp
September 23, 6 PM...LIFE Groups

Read:
 Isa. 62-66; Psalms 112-119;
 Col. 1-4; I Tim. 1-3

2007 Spiritual Adventure

Week 40: October 1-7

Psalms 112-119


“Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord. Let the name of the Lord be praised both now and forevermore. From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised” (Ps. 116, 1-3).

Praise the Lord indeed. It takes no effort to think of a list of incredible reasons to praise the Lord for the blessings he has given me, the lessons he has taught me, and the Salvation that he has provided for me. A strong family, a healthy body and mind, the means for an education, the blessing of a strong campus group just to name a few.

The Psalms of David are my favorite destination when I’m seeking encouragement. In David’s beautiful writings, you find heartbreaking cries of sorrow, urgent requests for intervention, and bursts of joy at the Salvation that God always brings forth. David’s Psalms are the personal testimonies and prayers of a man after God’s own heart, proof that *“great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!” (Ps. 117, 2).*

–Jared Wright

 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.	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
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	 Staff	Loren and Penny Hollingsworth Phuket, Thailand 83000
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	Ministers Gayle Crowe 447-6940 Lee Porter 463-6993 Dan Cooke 543-7469 Office Manager Sherry Marks 447-2874	City of Children Ensenada, Mexico Bren and Cheryl White P.O. Box 245 New Market, MD 21774

 **Elmwood**
 CHURCH OF CHRIST
 2501 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette, IN 47904
 (765) 447-2874 (765) 447-0878 FAX
 E-mail: office@elmwood-church.org
 Web site: elmwood-church.org



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