



## Open His Eyes

There are times in ministry (lots of times!) when I feel like I'm not real sure what I am doing. There are many other times in ministry when I'm not real sure what God is up to. I often feel like I am in unknown territory, and I'm not always quite sure what is going to happen next. I don't always know where or when God is going to pop up and do something amazing. Maybe you feel the same way about church in general. Just when you think you have it all figured out, God does something different. Just when you think you know where you are headed, God takes you down a different path.

Honestly, that is one of the things that I find so exciting about ministry. You can never get too comfortable. You can never rely too heavily on a plan of action. You have to allow some flexibility. If not, then you may miss the work of God altogether, because God is always full of surprises.

Joshua found this out when his army was asked to just march and blow their horns, rather than fight like they were trained to do. Jonah found this out when he rode by whale to Nineveh. The disciples found this out when Jesus used people who, in their own words, were *not of us*. Peter found this out when the Holy Spirit fell upon Cornelius and the rest of the Gentiles. Paul found this out when he would try to visit some place, but the Spirit would not allow it. The list just goes on and on.

I love what we read about the Holy Spirit in John 3:8. There Jesus says, *"The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."* You can't predict it. You can't plan it out. The Spirit blows wherever it pleases. That, to me, is the exciting part of ministry. I love watching God work and being surprised by his movements.

My prayer is not for better plans, but for eyes of faith that can see God at work.  
-Gilbert

*And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.*

2 Kings 6:17

## Our Greatest Need

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, so that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16).*

This short, well known verse has a lot of meaning packed into twenty-six words. In these few, short words, we have a very complex and near complete theology. God loved the world so much that he gave us exactly what we needed the most. He gave us his son, the Savior. He saves us from death and we participate in eternal life by believing in him.

This verse, known to many who have not ever opened a Bible, reminds us that people are lost without God, that without God the only alternative is death. But it also reminds us that God has worked in a powerful way to rectify that situation. He gave of himself, sacrificing himself, to fulfill our greatest need.

How great it is to be called "my child" by the God who created all! -Phil

*"If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent an educator. If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist. If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist. But since our greatest need was forgiveness, God sent us a Savior."*

~Max Lucado



**Annie Crowder** is home but still experiencing some problems that doctors will be checking on..... **Thelma Hoyt** is in room 4411, in Home Hospital, after surgery on both knees....Heather White has injured her back.....**Bud Darby** is not doing well following a stroke a few weeks ago....Continue praying for **Pete Swank, Diann Doty, Betty Farner, Jan Lucas, Elaine Crowder, Kaden Koebecke, Henry Hunt, Ella McCullough, Christa**

**Phillips, David Brutans, David Santogrossi (leukemia), Charles Moore, Eloise Shank, Hattie Coffel, Mary Tavana, Ted Heitman, Dorothy Walters, Irene Fox, Edith McCoy, Eugene Zinn, Valley Stockton, Irene Sims, Marie DeWoody, Paul & Argie Verett, and Minnie Scott.**



In the military: **Josh Martin** (Phyllis Simmerman's nephew), **Brent Kaufman**, and **Matt Kaufman** (nephews of Ronda Tidrick) are serving in Iraq.



**September 18-20**

We want to remind men of all ages that the Men's Retreat is coming up soon at Ross Camp, West Lafayette. The Planning Committee is developing an interesting program applicable to church and family life situations. To help offset retreat costs, suggested donations are as follows: \$40 per family; \$30 single; \$20 for students. Can't stay overnight or every day? We understand so come and attend as much as you can. Money a little tight right now? Not a problem, scholarships are available. Money not a problem, why not sponsor someone else?

Abbreviated Program/Schedule is as follows:

**Friday** - Arrive and eat at 6 pm, followed by the first session; fellowship; and sleep.

**Saturday** - Breakfast at 8 am, followed by the second session, lunch, free time, supper, third session, fellowship and sleep.

**Sunday** - Breakfast around 8 am, devotional, return to Elmwood for second service.

What do you need to do? Let us know that you will attend. If you have any questions, please contact planning committee members. Thanks!

Planning Committee: Chuck Brown; Jason Cochran; Jim Moore; Lee Porter; Don Vice; Kevin Walters; Bob Waltz; and David Weckerly.



We now have two trash dumpsters. One is for regular trash and the other is for "recyclables." It is a "single sort" dumpster meaning we can put any recyclable in it that they accept. Be aware of the dumpster you are using. A flyer is posted on the bulletin boards around the building for instructions. One rule is that we must break

down all boxes. The dumpsters will only be dumped every other week. Please follow the instructions from Waste Management on the recycling flyer.



## Sunday Night, August 23: CSC Night

This Sunday night at 6:00 is **CSC night**. After a short devotional, everyone will be directed to the fellowship room for finger foods and a time to get acquainted with the students.



Mark your calendars! **Bill Farris** will be moving to Westminster on **Saturday, August 29**. If you can help that day, contact Chris & Greg Sutherlin, 447-7785.

## Food Pantry Needs



The **food pantry** is always in need of personal items: **soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste & toothbrushes, and especially toilet paper**. These items are not available at the Food Bank.

**August 16, 2009**  
Class: 161 Worship: 271  
Contribution: \$10,219



Pictured above is Roger Birkey. Roger is one of the new faces here at Elmwood, he has been worshipping with us for a couple months and he is thrilled with his new church family. Roger wanted to do something for the family and noticed that the trim on the carport at the youth house needed some attention, so he scraped it, bought some primer and paint and well, you can go check the finished product. Thanks Roger, great job!



Janet Boston went over to the youth house to help Jim Markle (our tenant) with some curtains and she noticed the flower beds could use a little work. Well, a little turned into a lot and it looks wonderful! Thank you Janet for your labor of love!



The youth ministry here has been blessed with several excellent interns. Randy Kerrigan was no exception. Randy performed all tasks well and really connected with our group. Thank you Randy for a great summer and may God bless you in all your future endeavors!  
– Lee



**George Kenworthy** made the decision to give his life to the Lord on Sunday night, August 16. George has been attending Elmwood for several months. He is a retired Lafayette policeman and brother of Edith Smith. We are delighted with his decision and welcome him to the Elmwood family. George's address is: 1532 Colfax Street, Lafayette 47904. Congratulations, George!

## Ladies' Tea, August 29

Any woman who was not able to sign up for the **Ladies' Tea on August 29** can still attend by calling Terri Miller at 471-1045.

## Weekly Prayer Focus

### August Prayer Focus: Campus Ministry

Pray for all the the college students at Purdue that they might come closer to God during this semester, whether that's for the first time experiencing God's love through another person, or if it's stepping deeper into an already cherished relationship with Him.

## Supporting a Mission

For many years Steve and Jacqueline Cable supported a Church of Christ in Zimbabwe, Africa. Steve and Dan continued this support after her death. This support primarily goes to the many widows and orphans in the congregation, of which there are many. Due to Steve's health issues last year and loss of wages his ability to support has been cut by nearly 50%. If you would be interested in helping support this great mission you can send your donations directly to the address below, or contact Steve for more information.

Sakubva Church of Christ, P.O. Box SK5, Sakubva, Mutare, Zimbabwe, Africa.



**August 19, 7 PM**....Bible classes for all  
**August 23, 6 PM**....CSC Night; finger foods  
**August 29**.....Ladies' Tea, various locations  
**August 30, 6 PM**.....Mission Trip Reports

Read:  
 Eccl. 7-12; SS, Isa. 1-6  
 II Cor. 3-10

# 2009 Spiritual Adventure

## Week 36: August 31-September 6

### Spiritual Treasure in Clay Jars

#### II Corinthians 4

In 2 Corinthians 4:7 Christians are referred to as “clay jars”. This verse makes it very clear how ordinary, fragile and imperfect we are. We all at some point feel unworthy of the grace of God. The Christian music group Casting Crowns in their song “Who am I?” ask the question: “Who am I? That the Lord of all the earth, Would care to know my name, Would care to feel my hurt. Who am I? That the bright and morning star, Would choose to light the way, For my ever wandering heart.”

Why “clay jars” then? Because these “clay jars” contain a great treasure (vs 7). The last part of verse 7 tells us “This shows that this great power comes from God and not us”. God chose us to carry this great treasure. Though fragile vessels the treasure of God is within us and it is for us to share. In verses 1-6 we find that the treasure is “the Good News” or the gospel of the Glory of Christ. We read in verse 2 that we should teach the truth plainly so that others may see who we are and may know in their hearts what kind of people we are. Verse 13 says “I believed, so I spoke” (Psalms 116:10) showing that “Our faith is like that too. We believe, and so we speak”. We are bearers of the grace and the power of the gospel or Good News to all mankind.

The chorus of “Who am I?” concludes with these words, “Not because of who I am, But because of what you’ve done. Not because of what I’ve done, But because of who you are. I am a flower quickly fading, Here today and gone tomorrow, A wave tossed in the ocean, A vapor in the wind. Still you hear me when I’m calling, Lord, you catch me when I’m falling, And you’ve told me who I am. I am yours. I am yours.” We are his chosen to believe and speak!  
 -Jim & Marsha Moore

| Weekly Schedule   | Elders   | World Missions   |
|---|--|--|
| Sunday<br>Worship 8:00 a.m.<br>Bible Study 9:30 a.m.<br>Worship 10:45 a.m.<br>Life Groups 6:00 p.m.<br><br>Wednesday<br>Bible Study 7:00 p.m. | Bill Bell 463-1139<br>Joe Mathews 474-8369<br>Joe Ruhl 463-6822<br>Rick Swensen 463-6822<br>Don Vice 471-8653<br><br><b>Staff</b><br>Ministers<br>Gilbert Kerrigan 418-3652<br>Lee Porter 463-6993<br>Phil Travis 447-2874<br>Office<br>Sherry Marks, Manager 447-2874<br>Carol Bell, Secretary 447-2874 | Kevin Chambers<br>World Christian Broadcasting<br>Anchor Point, Alaska 99536<br><br>Loren and Penny Hollingsworth<br>Phuket, Thailand 83000<br>E-mail: lholly54@yahoo.com<br><br>Bren and Cheryl White<br>P.O. Box 245<br>New Market, MD 21774 |

**Our Vision:**  
 Knowing Christ,  
 Making Christ Known.

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