

“No,” the Sweetest Answer

After a year of grad school I was tired of it, so decided to just find a church and go to preachin'. Through a friend I began conversations with a large church in Post, Texas, and went there for a weekend interview. All seemed to go well, and I started envisioning myself wearing cowboy boots and hats as I was driving those gravel roads making pastoral calls in an Eric Clowdus-type truck.

Why are you laughing? Never mind. Back to my story. No, Post, Texas, didn't come through, another proof that the Spirit of God continues to guide churches' decision-making processes even in remote parts of the world. I then came to my senses, went back to graduate school, and the rest is history.

Sometimes God's greatest gifts to us are “No” answers to our prayers. In Book 6 of his *Confessions*, Augustine wrote,

“I panted for honors, for money, for marriage. I found bitterness and difficulty in following these desires, and Your graciousness to me was shown in the way You would not allow me to find anything sweet which was not You.”

But a problem. Didn't Jesus himself say he would grant the desires and prayers of those who ask him? “So I say to you, Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you” (Luke 11:9). Or even more to the point, “Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours” (Mark 11:24).

So, does he keep these promises or doesn't he? If he does, why wasn't I invited to Post, Texas? Why wasn't Augustine given honors, money and marriage?

The answer is as close as any neighborhood family. Does any responsible parent give a child everything he asks for? 'Nuff said.

God wants to give us what we want. But more than that, He is committed to love us, to help us grow, to watch out for our best interests. More than that, his greatest commitment is to guide us away from, as Augustine put it, “anything sweet which was not You.” “No” is often the sweetest answer of all. G. Crowe

Picture it

I want you to try and picture something with me. Picture a time when more than 5 different universities could come together, over 100 college students, and worship together, relax together, learn together, and encourage one another. Imagine with me a time when hearts are renewed, spirits are convicted, and friendships are established . . . a time when God is there, present and active.

Now, I have good news and bad news. The good news is that we do not even have to really try and imagine this because it is exactly what will be happening this weekend! The students and I will be joining other campus ministries from such universities as Indiana University, Indiana State University, University of Kentucky, Western Kentucky University, and Vanderbilt University at the Country Lake Retreat Center in Southern Indiana for a time of renewal and learning. There will be a great speaker present talking to us about “Living Worship.” This Friday, April 15, we drive down in a caravan and we will return Sunday afternoon. Please pray for our trip. Pray for safety and for a time of growing and revival. This should be an incredible weekend!

Now for the bad news . . . it is only open to university students! I wish the entire community could taste something this good! Thank you, from everyone at the CSC, for your prayers. See you when we get home!

~Dan

Upcoming Reunion

May 17-19 (Tuesday through Thursday) has been reserved for an Elmwood reunion specifically for people who were here during the John T. Smithson era. People from all over the U.S. have committed to converge here for those three days. Besides the Smithsons, the guest list includes a former elder, several former deacons, a missionary, grad students, and others who were a part of the Elmwood family.

A special Wednesday night devotional service, led by people from that era, is being planned for May 18. This will be a great time for the "currents" and the "alumni" to mingle and celebrate the ties—both spiritual and Elmwood—that bind us.

For more information, contact Sam Postlethwait at 463-3976 or postleth@bilbo.bio.purdue.edu or Bud Darby at 463-5536 or buddarby@fconnections.com.

Sunday Night

In a town with a Fifth Third Bank, it's OK to have a Third First Sunday. That is to say, because of the way our Sunday night spring schedule has evolved, our "First Sunday Night Special" is on the **THIRD SUNDAY** this month—which is to say, **THIS SUNDAY**, April 17.

Farrell Simmerman will be leading singing, Dan Cooke will startle us as he helps us to explore, "*Where the Rubber Meets the Road*." We'll then adjourn to A-2 for **Finger Foods**.

The next three Sunday nights, (April 24, May 1 and May 8) will be our last three Life Group evenings for the 2004-2005 year.



Lots of showers coming up! Here's who they are for and where they are. Mark your calendars and plan to come.

On **Sunday, April 24**, from **2:00 until 4:00 PM**, a baby shower will be given for **Veronica & Brandon Hombs** at the home of Gina and Josh Boyd, 225 Duke Lane, Lafayette. Group gift money may be given to the hostesses, Gina, Becky Pitt, Michelle Robson, or Yssa DeWoody.

Sunday, May 1, **2:00 until 4:00 PM**, is the date for a wedding shower for **Julie (Groves) and Jackson Phillips**. It is a "grocery shower," so bring a bag of groceries and your favorite recipe to share to Phyllis & Farrell Simmerman's home, 415 Oaklawn Dr., Lafayette.

You are cordially invited to a wedding shower for **Michelle Woody** and fiancée, **Ty Lewis**, on **Saturday, May 7th**, **10 AM until 1:00 PM**, at the home of Bill and Carol Bell, 216 Jennings Street, West Lafayette. Michelle and Ty are registered at Target and Pier 1. For suggestions or contributions toward a group gift, please see Carol Bell, Sarah McClain, Joyce Mathews, or Sheryl Willison. This is a come-and-go shower. Everyone is invited. Please come, visit, and offer your best wishes.

Our Sympathies...

Sympathies to **Vicki Henke** whose aunt, **Nettie Criswell, 83**, died Sunday morning, April 10. She had been a patient at the White County Memorial Hospital in Monticello. Our sympathies to Vicki, her father, Herb Whiteman, and their entire family.



It's a Boy!



Congratulations to **Jenny & Cody Sipe!** Their son, **Colson**, was born Monday, April 11, at 9:05 PM, weighing 9 pounds 12 ounces, and measuring 21.5 inches long. He is welcomed by big sister, Cassie, and big brothers, Carter and Caden.

Celebrating 50 years together!



Gene & Nancy High will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Sunday, April 17. They have already enjoyed a Caribbean cruise with their sons and grandsons to celebrate. Congratulations!

Congratulations!

Purdue's Board of Trustees approved faculty promotions Friday, April 8. Happily, that included two Elmwood people: **Josh Boyd**, promoted to Associate Professor in the College of Liberal Arts (communication), and **Andrew DeWoody**, promoted to Associate Professor in the College of Agriculture (forestry and natural resources). Congratulations!

April 10, 2005

Class: 235 Worship: 333

Contribution: \$7,359

Budget: \$8,100

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Thought You Would Want to Know

Sometimes we forget that there is more to the world than just Indiana. Leadership Training for Christ continues to grow and branch out every year. The following numbers show you total students (observers/workers, etc., not included) at the eight LTC conventions for the last two years. Thank you all for your support in this wonderful ministry!

Convention	Location	2004	2005
North Texas	Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX	5775	5780
Southwest	Phoenix, AZ	416	359
Midwest	Kokomo, IN	489	456
Central Texas	Houston, TX	1530	1325
Great Plains	Tulsa, OK	1932	1825
Western	Santa Clara, CA	254	247
Southeastern	Mobile, AL	252	334
Heart of U.S.	Kansas City, MO	501	654
Eastern	Charlotte, NC	150	249

Summer's Coming

I know that some of you have already gotten your shorts out. It has been really warm recently. With warmer weather, many of you are thinking about mowing your yards. Some of us are beginning to plan for camp and other summer activities. Here is a little preview:

June 19-24 – Elevate at Rochester College – “Epic – we were meant to live for so much more!” This is for all students going into 7th grade through '05 graduates; \$160.

July 10-15 – Mission Trip to Cincinnati. We will be working with another church to conduct a summer camp for younger inner-city kids from Cincinnati. Details and costs should be available soon.

July 17-23 – Senior Week at SMBC – this week is for all students who have completed 7th – 12th grade. Cost is \$70 before July 1, \$80 if mailed in after July 1, and \$90 if you register on the 17th.

July 24-29 – Intermediate Week at SMBC – This week is for all students who have completed 4th – 8th grade. The prices are the same as Senior Week.

New Class

We have started a new Sunday morning class for all teens in the youth room. The class is a follow-up to Winterfest – The Real Master and Commander. We will be working through the characteristics of Jesus' life and ministry in the book of Luke. Bring your friends! –Lee

Prayer Concerns....

Dovie Hurst is home recuperating from a broken foot....Joe White has resumed radiation treatments. Cards can be sent to him at 1700 Lindberg Rd. #2219, West Lafayette 47906....Continue to pray for Naomi Hunt, Burnell Gulden, Geneva Hamilton, Terry Pepper, Minnie Scott, Eunice Whitesell, Mark Eddy, Ramona Farris, Irene Fox, Delpha Allen, and Bernice Todd.

Expecting babies in the near future: the DeWoody, Hombs, Studebaker, and Wilson families.

Serving in the military: Josh Hunt is in Iraq; Loren Sniffen is in Afghanistan.

You Can Help

The Community & Family Resource Center (CFRC) staff and volunteers will be collecting donations for their annual fund-raiser “Be a Lifesaver” to benefit their efforts to prevent child abuse. On April 15 Buffalo Wild Wings on the Levee will donate a portion of all their sales to CFRC and donations will also be collected outside the La Tapaita Mexican Grocery. On April 16 & 17 donations will be collected outside the Lafayette Super Wal-Mart (on St. Rd. 26) and Sam's Club (also on St. Rd. 26). Questions? Contact Amanda Hassenplug at 742-5046 or via email at ahassenplug@cfrc.org.

On April 30, the March of Dimes fund-raiser, Walk America, is focusing on premature births. Chelsea Barnett, daughter of Jim and Teresa Jones and a Senior Nursing student at Purdue, is looking for sponsors. If you would be willing to contribute to the March of Dimes as her sponsor please contact her at 420-7889 or email her at cljones@purdue.edu or contact Jim Jones at 563-3352 or jones@purdue.edu.



April 13, 7 PM....Bible Classes for all

April 17, 6 PM....worship at Elmwood

April 19, 6:30 PM....Good \$ense class begins

April 24, 2-4 PM....Baby shower for Veronica & Brandon Hombs at the Boyds' home

April 30, 7 PM....College Spring Banquet

May 1, 2-4 PM....Wedding Shower for Julie & Jackson Phillips at the Simmermans' home

May 7, 10 AM-1 PM....Wedding Shower for Michelle Woody and Ty Lewis at the Bells' home

May 20-21....Promise Keepers in Ft. Wayne

Oct. 21-22....Men's Retreat at Camp Tecumseh

Read:

Joshua 19–Judges 5; Luke 20–22
Psalms 88–94;
Proverbs 13:12–14:4

2005 Spiritual Adventure

Week 17: April 25–May 1

Acts 17:26 tells us God made from one every nation of mankind to live on the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation. In Joshua I read that God showed His people Israel where each tribe was to live in the land He had provided for them. They had pasture lands, cities of refuge—all that they needed. *“Not one of the good promises which the Lord had made to the house of Israel failed: all came to pass”* (Joshua 21:45).

In Luke Jesus tells us many times, in many ways, how much God loves us. He sent His only Son to earth for us, still providing all that we need. Psalms teaches us to have a close relationship with God. We can cry out to Him in our distress. We can praise Him and thank Him for providing us with all we need. Proverbs provides wise instructions, examples, and role models. He has given us a world to live in. He also gives His Spirit, a Comforter, all that we need. One would think that was enough, but there is more. He is preparing homes for us in eternity. Not only do we have opportunity to be close to God, but He is preparing for our arrival—all that we need.

Doris Swensen

 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. Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 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 Loren and Penny Hollingsworth Phuket, Thailand 83000
	 Staff	
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 743-0954 Office Manager Sherry Marks 447-2874	City of Children Ensenada, Mexico Bren and Cheryl White P.O. Box 245 New Market, MD 21774



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