



The Story IS the Point!

Madam Chiang Kai-shek (1897-2003) told of a hero during a tsunami. From his hilltop farm he felt an earthquake and immediately looked to the shoreline. He was astonished to see the waterline recede quickly (*sound familiar from last winter's devastation in southeast Asia?*), traveling out to sea to turn around and pick up speed. He knew when the wave returned it would devastate the lowland and many of his countrymen would be drowned.

How could he warn them? There was no time to go down and sound the alarm. He knew instinctively what had to be done. His rice barns were old and the wood was dry – what a perfect torch they would make! Without thinking twice he ran to the barns, lit each one, then rang the fire gong that hung beneath the eaves of one of the barns. His neighbors saw the smoke and rushed up the hill to help. From their safe perch atop the hill they then could see the tsunami cover the rice fields they had just left. They knew their friend had saved their lives, and they could see the devastation of their friend's barns and livelihood. In gratitude, they erected a monument in his honor. It read, "He gave us all he had, and gave it gladly." (From Dan Dozier's *Come Let Us Adore Him*.)

Get the point? Jesus saw the tsunami of sin attacking every person on earth, so did what he must, gladly giving all he had on the cross as the culmination of centuries of God's gifts to all people.

There you have the story. And there you have the point of the story. So why bother with the story? Why not just make the point and save all the words of the story? What if some get bogged down in the story and don't get the point? Amos Wilder tells why:

Before the message, there must be the vision.

Before the sermon the hymn.

Before the prose the poem.

That's why we have four gospels that take up 143 pages instead of simple statements of history and doctrine that would take up five. God knows how we think, how we learn, how we comprehend, how we come to feel and believe. Bring on the stories, the hymns, the poems, the vision! We praise God for them because they are how the message becomes ours and changes us.

CSC Winding Down or Gearing Up?

It is nearing the end of the semester and things are beginning to wind down. Or are they? To look at some of the things on our schedule might make you think we are gearing up! Here are a few things at a glimpse:

April 15-17: Spring Retreat at Country Lake Retreat Center. We are joining Indiana University, Indiana State University, University of Kentucky, Western Kentucky, and a few from Vanderbilt and Lipscomb!

April 22: Root Beer Kegger at the CSC beginning around 7 pm! We will have music, a moonwalk, and, of course, root beer.

April 23: Cookout at the Grand Prix Races. We will be cooking out and handing out free root beer at the races as an outreach event, and then that night we will be attending a campus worship event called "worship in Spirit and in Truth!" Should be really great!

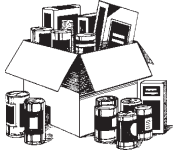
April 30: Spring Banquet honoring graduating seniors. Seattle Beanery will be hosting our banquet this year. Cost \$10, and yes, it is open to you!

Summer: The CSC is bringing a new ministry to Elmwood! "Friends Speak" is a domestic version of Let's Start Talking that we invite you to join us in undertaking. We will use the CSC as a place to teach English (using the Bible) to International students who remain in West Lafayette all summer. Jean Haynie, a college student and previous LST team member, will be helping us in the ministry! More to come on this.

So I ask you, winding down or gearing up?

~Dan

March Food Pantry Report



Our Food Pantry was open 15 afternoons in March (30 hours) and we served 220 families with 671 household members. Our purchases at Food Finders Food Bank were only \$389 because of the generous donations of food and personal items by you Elmwood members.

HELP NEEDED! A couple of our volunteers have had to cut back on their time in the food pantry. We need good folks who can volunteer for 1 or 2 two-hour shifts per month serving our guests and helping them select and bag their food. You will be blessed by this commitment. If you can help, please call Mary Ella King at 742-0634.

Prayer Concerns....

Joe White is in Home Hospital with pneumonia. He is in room 2307. Joe and Wanita are living at University Place right now. Cards can be sent there at 1700 Lindberg Rd. #2219, West Lafayette 47906....**Naomi Hunt** is back at Ball State hoping to finish the semester. She'll have more surgery in May....**Elaine Borie's** father, **Burnell Gulden**, continues chemotherapy for lymphoma. He is at Rosewalk Village....Remember to pray for **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 **Sipe, DeWoody, Hombs, Studebaker,** and **Wilson** families.

Serving in the military: **Josh Hunt** has returned to Iraq; **Loren Sniffen** is in Afghanistan.

Focus on the Family Programs

Upcoming *Focus on the Family* programs are heard on local radio, WHPL-FM 89.9 at 6:30 PM Monday-Friday.

- April 7 & 8* **The Importance of Encouraging Your Children**—Dr. David Jeremiah talks about the importance of encouraging children and offers practical tips for parents to do just that. (Parts 1 & 2)
- April 11 & 12* **Marriages That Have Been Restored**—Some Focus on the Family listeners share their personal stories about healing and restoration they've experienced in their troubled marriages. (Parts 1 & 2)
- April 13* **What Husbands Need Most**—Todd Wilson shares helpful advice on how to make marriage work in the midst of the unique dynamics found in homeschooling families.
- April 14 & 15* **Cherish Your Wife**—Dr. Walter Larimore emphasizes the importance of the marital relationship and encourages men to see their wives through God's eyes. (Parts 1 & 2)



Our Sympathies...

Sympathies to Michelle Clowdus whose 102-year-old grandfather, **Dwight Graves**, died Saturday evening. Funeral was on Tuesday in southern Illinois.

HoosierRx provides help to Indiana seniors

Do you or someone you know need help paying for prescription drugs and are age 65 or over? The state of Indiana's HoosierRx Drug Card can save eligible seniors 75% off the cost of prescriptions. Get a HoosierRx application at your pharmacy or by calling 1-866-267-4679. You may also visit our website at www.IN.gov/HoosierRx.

Youth & Seniors Together

Many of our seniors would enjoy visits and assistance from our younger people. We're looking to match kids and teens with a senior. If you're interested, please contact Michelle Robson at 583-3106.

April 3, 2005

Class: 200 Worship: 304

Contribution: \$15,330

Budget: \$8,100

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 Ultimate IM, text messages that matter...

That is the theme of the Area-wide Retreat, April 15-17 at Hidden Falls Camp in Bedford, IN. The cost of the retreat is \$60 and includes 2 nights lodging, 4 meals and a snack, a T-shirt (?), and swimming pool access (scheduled). I don't think the T-shirt is included any longer as the initial registration is closed. If you would like to go to the retreat, it is not too late to sign up. Please call or e-mail me as soon as possible and include your T-shirt size, just in case you are fortunate and can still get one. If not, I believe there will be a few available for sale at the retreat. This is for all 6th - 12th graders. The focus is not only to encourage young people to respond to God's message, but also to build more unity among the churches' youth. Lessons will include: Look @ God's Message to Bible Characters - Those who obeyed and those who didn't; Look @ God's Message to Us Through the Word and the Holy Spirit - How has God spoken to you?; Look @ God's Message to You - How will you respond to God? Each lesson will feature a 15 minute talk, followed by a discussion in "break out" groups. Registration begins at 8:00 on Friday the 15th and the retreat closes at 11:00 on Sunday morning. Once again, if you would like to go, please let me know as soon as possible. If you would like to see the facilities, visit: http://www.salvationarmyindiana.org/hiddenfalls/hf_enter.htm.

LIFE Groups

Believe it or not, we only have 4 more LIFE Group meetings left before we break for the summer. We will meet April 10, 24 and May 1, 8. This semester, we have been meeting at one location for the meal, a little singing, a video clip, announcements, etc., and then we have divided into the Jr. High/Sr. High groups. If your family would like to host one of the last four meetings of the school year, please let me know.

More Events Than Ever

It seems like our schedules get fuller every day. We have got to pick and choose. Among your upcoming choices are the **48 Hours of Passion Retreat**, April 29-May 1 in Cincinnati. Cost is \$40 and money is due by April 10. This weekend, we received the information on the Northside (Jeffersonville, IN) Youth Rally - "Stand at the Crossroads..." The rally is May 6th-8th and cost is \$15 which includes a T-shirt and most meals. If you would like to go, we will have a sign up sheet in the youth room. Also, I will not be able to go on this trip as Jessica will be graduating from Rochester College on the 7th of May. If any adults are interested in taking the group, please let me know as soon as possible. Thanks!

- Lee

Get out the Scrapbooks!



A reunion is on the horizon. 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. At this date 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. Save the date.

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

Love Won Out

April 16 is the date for the "Love Won Out" conference in Louisville. This annual conference addresses the homosexual issue from the perspective of nationally recognized experts who have firsthand experience with all aspects of dealing with homosexuality. Those who attend will learn how to help a friend or loved one who is struggling with homosexuality, how to respond to misinformation in our culture, how to defend Biblical beliefs, and how to prevent children from embracing this way of life. Sponsored by Focus on the Family, this one-day conference is \$60 per person, with an "early bird" rate of \$50 if registrations are turned in by April 7. For information, contact the church office or call 800-A-FAMILY or go to www.lovewonout.com.



April 6, 7 PM....Bible Classes for all

April 10....LIFE Groups meet

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

Brent Branstetter & Janet Boston teaching

April 30, 7 PM....College Spring Banquet
at Seattle Beanery, \$10

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

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

Read:
 Joshua 5-18; Luke 15-19
 Psalms 81-87; Proverbs 13:1-11

2005 Spiritual Adventure

Week 16: April 18-24

Read Psalms 81-87, and then think about these questions.

- 81:7 When has God rescued me in distress?
- 81:9 To what alien gods have I bowed?
- 81:14 What enemies would God subdue if I would just listen?
- 82:3 Do I defend the weak and fatherless? Am I maintaining the rights of the poor, oppressed, and needy?
- 83:18 Do I need to be reminded that God alone is the Most High over all the earth?
- 84:2 Do I really yearn for the courts of the Lord?
- 84:4 Am I ever praising God?
- 84:10 When have I allowed myself to dwell in the tents of the wicked?
- 85:4 Have I asked to be restored?
- 86:2 Am I devoted?
- 86:3 Do I call to the Lord all day long?
- 86:7 Can I be confident that God will answer when I call?
- 86:10 What marvelous deeds has God done for me?
- 86:11 How is my heart divided?
- 86:17 What signs of goodness has God given to me?
- 87:4 Will my house be recorded as one who acknowledges God?

—Gina Boyd

 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
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	 Staff 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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