



Identity, Income, Influence

It was a typical burning bush day for Moses, which is to say it wasn't a typical day at all. A once-in-a-lifetime day. God appeared to Moses in the burning bush and called him to up-end his life, returning to Egypt to lead God's people out of their 430-year exile.

Moses balked. No, God, not me. God: "What is that in your hand?" A staff. Moses threw it down and it became a snake. He picked it up and it became a staff again. Into the staff God had imparted power, and Moses' life would never be the same.

Moses' staff, says Rick Warren, shows his identity (a shepherd), his income (he was in the shepherding business to pay the bills), and his influence (such as it was, over a bunch of sheep).

Same for people 3,200 years later. For many years, a basketball in the hands of Reggie Miller showed his identity (an NBA player), his income (big buck\$\$), and his influence (why else are kids all over Indiana wearing #31 on their shirts?). A Chevrolet Monte Carlo under the control of Jeff Gordon shows Jeff's identity (a NASCAR driver), his income (more big buck\$\$), and his influence (even I, who have to strain to think whether NASCAR goes clockwise or counter-clockwise around the track, have a #24 coffee mug!).

The problem with these, however, is hinted at with Moses. His staff did indeed show his identity, his income, and his influence, but God told him he had to lay it down. Only after he had put it on the ground did it become a snake, a sign of God's power. But then it's not like Moses was minus a staff; once he put it down God told him to pick it up again, and after that it was called "the staff of God."

What we have—that which gives us our identity, income, and influence—must be given over to God. It then becomes God's tool for use as He sees fit. Giving over our possessions, our careers, our hobbies, our families—how strange all of it sounds. But once we go through the conscious effort and act of giving them to God, He then begins working miracles to transform our identity, income, and influence into a tool for Himself. Cool!

G. Crowe

The CSC is growing

It is a funny thing to watch something grow. That is just my opinion, but I think I am right. Have you ever watched something grow? Take the recent explosions of babies at Elmwood, for example (an awesome thing!). Some babies come out with lots of baby fat, but within three to six months they look completely different! No fat, much taller, thinner arms and legs. It is really amazing to witness!

Or take, for example, flowers. Some are green all year round, except for a few months out of the year when they change completely, turning into a wide range of beautiful colors! What was originally green becomes a masterpiece of colors! The stem, which previously was what people focused on, becomes no more than a foundation to hold up a unique flower, a beautiful blossom of distinctiveness.

Having said that, the CSC is growing. Growing academically. Growing spiritually. Growing numerically. We are a little green in some areas still, but blossoming beautifully in others. Keep in mind that the blossom cannot happen without the stem. Pray for us. Pray that God would help us grow, in every area. We may plant the seeds, but it is God who will make it grow. Pray that He will grow us! The CSC is growing into a wonderful a unique ministry for God. Thank you for your prayers.

~Dan



Betty Brown's father, **Bill Andrews**, died Monday night. Chuck and Betty were going to Indianapolis to make funeral arrangements Tuesday afternoon. No further information at this time. Our sympathies to Betty and her family.

Marie DeWoody suffered more seizures Monday night and was taken to Riley Hospital for observation and closer determination of future treatment....**Dana Fee**, sister of college student, Jared Fee, had surgery to remove lymph nodes last week.... Patricia Prickett's sister, **Phyllis Broft**, is having medical tests.... Continue to pray for **Joe White, Rose Hunt, Lloyd Burrows, Merville Zinn, Geneva Hamilton, Anna Dale, Eunice Whitesell, Mark Eddy, Irene Fox, Ramona Farris, and Delpha Allen**. Those in Rosewalk Village: **Paul & Ruth Marks, Minnie Scott, and Burnell Gulden**.

Serving in the military: **Josh Hunt** is in Iraq.

Men's Retreat 2005

This year's Men's Retreat will be held at the Tecumseh YMCA Camp at Brookston, Indiana, on October 21, 22, 2005. Retreat activities will begin Friday evening with dinner at 5:30 PM and conclude Saturday afternoon. Inspirational messages on becoming more Christ-like will be presented by **Ken Chaffin**, former minister at Elmwood, and currently preaching in Wake Forest, North Carolina. The theme of this year's retreat is **"Husbands Love Your Wives"** as presented in Ephesians 5:22-23. Men of all ages, married or single are invited to attend. Sign up sheets will be posted in the Farris foyer.

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**.

- Aug. 18 & 19* **Savoring the Wisdom**—Our panel discusses Apples of God, a ministry that seeks to mentor women in spiritual and practical ways. (Parts 1 & 2)
- August 22* **Finding Comfort in God's Presence**—Patsy Clairmont discusses how loss, failure and grief aid in the development of faith and how God is the best source of comfort during times of suffering.
- Aug. 23 & 24* **Creative Ideas for child Discipline**—Lisa Whelchel shares practical tips for parents from her book **Creative Correction: Extraordinary Ideas for Everyday Discipline**. (Part 1 & 2)
- Aug. 25 & 26* **Children and Stress**—Archibald Hart discusses the causes and signs of stress in children and how parents can help alleviate that stress. (Part 1 & 2)



Congratulations!



Brady & Stefanie Scott were married March 19 in Cancun, Mexico. They live and work in Indianapolis. Brady is the son of Bob & Shirley Scott, and grandson of Minnie Scott. Brother, Brian, performed the ceremony!

Congratulations, also, to **Bob & Shirley Scott** on their recent retirement. Shirley taught school in Brookston for 34 years! Bob retires September 1 after 33 years at Alcoa.

Temporary address:



Brandon, Veronica, & Natalia Hombs are in a temporary residence. You can send mail to them at P.O. Box 1576, Merrimack, NH 03054.

LUM Meal Providers

Serving dinner at Lafayette Urban Ministry next Monday night will be: **Hedi Devine, Janet Boston, Mary Kay Ciesielski, and Thelma Hoyt**.

August 7, 2005

Class: 183 Worship: 283

Contribution: \$8,708

Budget: \$8,100

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I'll Be Back...

Camp always goes by way too quickly! I have been to camp, and now I'm home. Satan started to tug earlier than normal this year. I got sick on Monday night. My throat was swollen shut, my voice was gone, and I had a nasty cough. I tried every cold medicine that CVS had to offer. However, I love camp, and I won't allow Satan to win.

To get camp started this year, we were in the storm shelter, and we watched the last 20 minutes of "The Passion of the Christ." One of our counselors acted as if he was John writing the last few pages of Revelation. It ended with everyone singing "Jesus is Lord." I knew that I was in the right place.

The past 10 months have been rough for me. I knew that I needed to fully seek God, but the independent part of me wanted to do it alone. God had a different plan for me. He wanted me to be ready when He comes back. That was the theme for our week of camp, "I'll Be Back."

There were several times of spiritual growth, but there is one that sticks out the most to me. Friday night is our last night at camp. We traditionally do something that is really thought provoking to everyone. We started out the night in worship. It is AWESOME to hear 150 people sing to God! Then the campers and staff had the opportunity to say how this week of camp has changed them. Several of my girls shared. I was blessed to have campers say, "I love you, Mary McClain." I wanted to say that they have changed my life so much more than they thought that I had changed their's, but I was crying and didn't really have the strength to say anything. Then we were given a piece of paper that we wrote down all of the things that kept us from a closer walk with Christ. Next, we got in a circle and prayed. We could feel Christ's arms around us! Then, we led our cabin to the campfire. After praying, we threw the paper of the "roadblocks" into the fire to burn. Then, I was humbled. I washed the hands of campers before they went to the cross to see Jesus "face to face." There were four men standing in front of the cross representing Jesus. When I got to the cross, I wasn't ready to face them. I knelt at the foot of the cross and prayed. Tears were flowing down my cheeks. I was not strong enough to hold myself up. I felt arms hold me as I cried. Then I heard, "Do you love me?" I felt I was face to face with Christ. He was asking me if I loved Him. I couldn't talk. Then finally, the little voice that I had, I said "Yes." A rock with the words "I'll Be Back" was handed to me. It was AMAZING!

There is just something about that place, where there are few worries about what is going on in the world around you. A place where there is constant praise to our Savior Jesus Christ. It is a place where we are humbled and refocused to come home to serve Him. Staff members and campers kept asking, "Will you be here next summer?" ... I'll Be Back.

-Mary McClain



Dottie Roberts comes to Lafayette from Texas where she was on staff for World Bible School. While doing temporary work at TRW she's looking for full time employment. She is living at 3380 Peppermill Dr., Apt. 1-D, West Lafayette 47906. Phone: 497-2263. Welcome to Elmwood, Dottie! We look forward to getting better acquainted.

A Look at the Future

For several months a "Health Team" at Elmwood has been doing a self-study of the church. It has looked at many elements of effectiveness in the past, and has also noted areas in which our patterns are holding back our effectiveness and our growth.

Kermit Wilson, of Indianapolis, has led our exploration, and this Sunday night at 6 PM he will be at Elmwood to explain the process. The work of the Health Team has "flown under the radar" of most at Elmwood until now, but Sunday will be a time for the project to be explained and a progress report to be given. All Elmwood members are urged to be present, as this ongoing work will affect all of us.



Everyone is invited to a couples' come 'n go wedding shower for **Sarah McClain & Mark Bird** at the home of Carol & Bill Bell, 216 Jennings St., West Lafayette (**note change of location**), on **Sunday, August 28**, from **2:00 until 4:00 PM**. Contributions for a group gift may be given to Carol, Mindy Hart, Jenny Sipe, or Sherry Marks.



August 17, 7 PM....Bible classes for all

August 17, 7 PM....Men's Class, room 204,
Young Mom's Class, room 202

August 21, 6 PM....Kermit Wilson, "**Principles of a Healthy Church**"

August 28, 2:00-4:00 PM...Couples' wedding shower for Sarah McClain & Mark Bird at the Bell home, 216 Jennings St., West Lafayette

Read:
Job 8-33;
I Corinthians 15-II Corinthians 3;
Psalms 36-39; Prov. 21:28-22:9

2005 Spiritual Adventure

Week 35: August 29-Sept. 4

As I was reading Psalm 36, I was reminded of a song from my favorite Christian band, Third Day. The song is entitled "Your Love Oh Lord," and the lyrics are taken from verses 5 & 6 of this Psalm:

*Your love, oh Lord
Reaches to the heavens
Your faithfulness stretches to the sky
Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains
Your justice flows like the ocean's tide*

*I will lift my voice
To worship You, my King
I will find my strength
In the shadow of Your wings*

Because God is so loving, so faithful, so righteous and so just, He deserves our undivided attention and worship. He longs for us to talk to Him, to listen to Him, and even to sing to Him. I think I'll start right now with this song... **Jenny Gibson**