



“O Lord, Those Pears!”

A few months ago the major news services were abuzz with news about a drug called propranolol. Still in the experimental stages, this drug is designed to erase painful memories, a “therapeutic forgetting.” This drug, some say, could prevent or reduce post-traumatic stress disorder in soldiers coming home from battle, torture victims who survive brutal treatment, and survivors such as those who escape from burning buildings.

“Is Every Memory Worth Keeping?” is the *Washington Post* article explaining this new drug. “Some memories can be very disruptive. They come back to you when you don’t want to have them—in a daydream or nightmare or flashbacks—and are usually accompanied by very painful emotions,” said a Harvard professor of psychology, Dr. Roger Pitman, who is making a study on the topic. “This [drug] could relieve a lot of that suffering.”

Others are more cautious. Rebecca S. Dresser, a medical ethicist at Washington University in St. Louis who serves on George Bush’s Council on Bioethics, wrote, “All of us can think of traumatic events in our lives that were horrible at the time but made us who we are. I’m not sure we’d want to wipe those memories out. We don’t have an omniscient view of what’s best for the world.”

Good point. Augustine, writing over 1600 years ago (*Confessions*, Book 2, Chapter 4), remembered a pear tree. When he was about 16, he and some buddies came upon a pear tree loaded with fruit. The fruit wasn’t particularly good, either to the eye or to the palate, but no matter. It was there, it was available, and they were intent on mischief. “We set out late at night and stole all the fruit that we could carry. . . . I had no wish to enjoy what I got by theft; all my enjoyment was in the theft itself and in the sin.” Decades later he still remembered that night, recalling, “The evil was foul, and I loved it; I loved destroying myself; I loved my sin.” Remembering that sin, along with many, many other moral transgressions, finally brought Augustine to the point of repentance and confession.

We need our memories, painful as they are. God uses them to indict, to shame, and thus to remold our spirits. *G. Crowe*

CupaJavaStudentsandJC.

The title says it all. This weekend the CSC is putting on an outreach event on campus. A coffee shop will be held for anyone who wants to come this Friday from 7pm-8:30pm in MATH 175 on campus. The theme of the coffee shop is on identity and calling.

Who called you? To what have you been called? What is your identity? These are questions that many people face on a daily basis and we believe that this coffee shop will make a wonderful impact on the students that come.

What should you expect at this coffee shop? The title says it all. Expect free coffee (the good stuff!), students, and Jesus Christ. Christ never fails to show up when people come together and try to spread the good news about His victory over death.

Want to bring a snack food? PLEASE DO! Bring it by the CSC before 6pm on Friday! We would love to have any help you wish to provide! Almost everyone at Elmwood knows at least one college student, Christian or non-Christian. Invite that person and come along with them to the coffee shop! It is a great time to mingle and make friends! This is not a black-tie event, but Jesus is on the guest list. And if he is coming, how can you refuse?! See you this Friday!

~ Dan



Peter Tavana's gall bladder surgery went well....Minnie Scott is back at Rosewalk Village....Geneva Hamilton, Margaret Gustafson's sister, has been moved to the IU Medical Hospital in Indianapolis....Bob Stafford will have back surgery March 3....Remember to pray for Eunice Whitesell, Stan Newberry, Terry Pepper, Mark Eddy, Jay Verett, Ramona Farris, Irene Fox, Delpha Allen, & Bernice Todd.

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

Joe Ruhl speaking Sunday night on "Evolution through the Eyes of Faith"

Evolution. The sound of the word evokes a range of emotions from intellectual curiosity to dread and fear. This Sunday night, February 27, at 6 PM, Joe Ruhl will be speaking on the topic, "Evolution through the Eyes of Faith." Bringing to the discussion a lifetime of interest as well as an academic career in biological sciences, Joe has studied often and thought hard about the topic of evolution as it relates to Biblical faith. Put this evening in your calendar, and think of friends you could bring with you Sunday night. Finger Foods follow at 7 PM.

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.

Feb. 23 & 24 *Breaking the Bonds of Welfare*—Star Parker discusses her book, *Uncle Sam's Plantation: How Big Government Enslaves America's Poor And What We Can Do About It.* (Parts 1 & 2)

Feb. 28 & March 1 *Seeing Life from a New Perspective*—Comedian Chonda Pierce delivers an entertaining and uplifting message about getting a new perspective on life. (Parts 1 & 2)

March 2 & 3 *Resolving Money Conflicts in Marriage*—Mary Hunt discusses the attitude toward money that is necessary to maintain financial harmony in marriage. (Part 1 & 2)

February 20, 2005

Class: 223 Worship: 310 Contribution: \$6,013
Budget: \$8,100



New Wednesday night class for young mothers

Becky Pitt is gathering material for a new class to begin Wednesday, March 2, at 7 PM, for young mothers. If you'd like to be a part of this class or have an interest in the topic to be taught, contact Becky at 471-9155. She welcomes your input.

Join the Senior Servants

Elmwood Senior Servants meet next Wednesday, March 2, at 11:30 AM, in the fellowship room. Bring a sack lunch and enjoy the fellowship.

Attention Parents:

Since this Sunday, February 27, is the 4th Sunday of the month, there will be **no Children's Church for grades 1-5.**

—Joe Ruhl

LUM Meal Providers

Serving dinner at Lafayette Urban Ministry next Monday night will be: Yssa DeWoody, Marilyn Walters, Ed & Barbara Tilley, and Cody & Jenny Sipe.



Winterfest 2005 Gatlinburg, Tennessee



The conference was wonderful!



Our group was big...



...the crowd was huge!

Thank You!

For Valentine's Day a number of young children (with their mothers supervising and doing the delivering) decorated boxes and filled them with goodies for the elderly. The following are thank-you notes acknowledging their efforts.

Dear children,

I thank you so much for the Valentine gift. It was so nice of you to think of me. I enjoyed having Yssa visit with her children. I will enjoy the goodies. Love, Oka LeMaster

To the children of Elmwood (especially Robby, Rachel and Daniel),

Thank you so much for the beautiful Valentine box. I was so surprised. The candy, cookies and cupcakes were delicious!

In Christian love, Argie Verett

A special thank you to the mothers and children who gave Valentine boxes to senior servants. It was very thoughtful and very much appreciated. Bernie & Armilda Follick

I wish to thank the boys and girls of the church and all the others who helped to make a Valentine package of cards and goodies which was brought to me on Valentine's Day. A special thanks to Ben who made me a very pretty card. It was all appreciated very much. Thanks again,

Delpha Allen

LTC Help Needed

Two door monitors and nine judges (one each) are needed for Bible Bowl, Puppets, Large & Small Group Singing, Bulletin Boards, Christian Art, Scrapbook, Bible Reading, and Live Modern Drama. Contact Phyllis Simmerman, Rose Hunt, or Barb Tilley if you can help.



Feb. 23, 7 PM...Bible Classes for all; LTC training
Feb. 27, 6 PM..."*Evolution Through the Eyes of Faith,*"
with Joe Ruhl

March 19, 7:43 AM...Men's Breakfast at Elmwood
March 20, 6 PM...Leadership Training for Christ
Showcase; refreshments to follow

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

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

This Week's Highlight: "Getting Things Done"

Every school teacher has said these words: "He has so much potential—so much going for him—but there's just something not clicking." Same dilemma is found in the early chapters of Acts: the first sermon is preached, the first converts give their lives to Christ, the church starts moving, like a massive train it picks up speed in the first chapters of Acts—then without warning one of the cars jumps the track. Something wasn't clicking. The widows were being neglected (Acts 6). Just a little thing? Not if you're one of the widows! Suddenly the leaders of the church had to stop what they were doing and get the car back on the track. They did it by tending to matters of functional structures.

Last Sunday afternoon about 60 members of Elmwood looked at the congregation's overall health. Using a model from an international study of thousands of churches, we looked at the eight characteristics of healthy churches:

- Holistic Small Groups
- Loving Relationships
- Need-Oriented Evangelism
- Passionate Spirituality
- Gift-Oriented Ministry
- Inspiring Worship Services
- Empowering Leadership
- Functional Structures

After analyzing all data from surveys taken by members of the congregation last fall, the conclusion was that the area of Elmwood's overall health that needs the most attention is precisely the one that the Jerusalem church needed in Acts 6, "functional structures." But what, exactly, is meant by "functional structures"?

In one sentence, "functional structures" refers to the mechanisms by which things get done. Some examples:

Recently an AA group asked if they could use our building for weekly meetings. Who makes that decision? Who draws up the guidelines for making the arrangements as welcoming as possible

for the AA group? All these arrangements were made, but they would have been made easier if we had had a "functional structure" in place to oversee such requests.

Who guides the adult curriculum? If somebody wants to start a new class, with whom do they talk? If somebody isn't happy with something about the classes, to whom should they go?

If somebody were to want to begin ministering to the inmates at Tippecanoe County jail, how would they proceed with working this into the overall vision of the church?

If somebody calls on Friday and needs a ride to worship on Sunday, whose business is it to handle such requests?

If a new TV is needed for a classroom, who makes that decision? Who decides what kind to buy? Who goes to buy it? If it doesn't work right, who handles the paperwork and takes it back?

On Monday morning if somebody needs the prayers of the church, who handles that request? How is such a need communicated to the church?

The carpet in the auditorium has been there for 20 years and is starting to show wear. Whose responsibility is it to think about such things?

In other words, "functional structures" simply refers to the mechanisms for getting things done. "Just let the elders do it!" No, the elders have their plates full already. Cf. Acts 6:4.

A "Health Team" (Bill Bell, Josh Boyd, Gayle Crowe, Pam Houlton, Chad Pitt, and Lorraine Weckerly) has been established to guide the church's progress in working toward better health.

(1) Pray for the church as we attend to this area.
(2) Pray for God's guidance for the Health Team.
The team welcomes your written comments, suggestions, and insights!

Read:

Leviticus 24–Numbers 9; Mark
10–13; Psalms 45–50; Proverbs
10:20–30

2005 Spiritual Adventure

Week 10: March 7–13

“WHERE NO ONE STANDS ALONE”

A wonderful promise that Jesus made was that *“No one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age.”* (Mark. 10:29) . This has been so marvelously fulfilled in our lives at Elmwood. The love we share is incredible and wonderful. Recently, Sara and I visited a congregation, which was a lot like ours—people perceptibly loved each other. We entered the building 15-20 minutes before worship, found a seat just behind three or four people. They were obviously glad to see each other—so much so that they talked across seats and aisles with their many friends that were around us. Even when worship began they continued visiting. We were so close to them yet they ignored us. We felt alone! After announcements, there was the “greet one another” time and these people still overlooked us to visit with others they clearly already knew. Only one man from several seats forward came back and visited with us—he was an elder-type person. That congregation IS a group of loving people. I know this from other experiences. I’m sure the people who were in front of us also are loving people, but their very love for each other made us feel as “not-one-of-them”. Could this happen at Elmwood? It has. Not long ago a stranger came into class, participated in the discussion and several of us visited with him explaining that worship came next. People began to arrive, we did our usual expressions of love. Sara sat behind this man and he told her he was an alcoholic and smoker looking for a church to help him do better. No one visited with him but Sara. We did the “greet one another” time and, as we sat down, the man told Sara, *“You’re all family, I’m not comfortable here”*, and he left immediately. Do you think this is an isolated case?

–Sam & Sara Postlethwait