



Back and Forth, Back and Forth?

It's a great story, right out of the history books of Lafayette, re-counted in last Sunday's *Journal and Courier* by the inimitable Bob Kriebel.

Seems that William Digby, the founder of Lafayette, would have made a perfect candidate for Gamblers Anonymous. One of his favorite gambling partners was John Pettit, at various times a lawyer, state legislator, U.S. attorney, U.S. senator, chief justice of Kansas Territory, and a Tippecanoe Circuit Court judge.

The story takes up as Digby and Pettit once again sat down to play "Old Sledge." Digby (sadly) ran out of money, but just had to keep on playing, so decided on a bold move: he wagered his new house with the plaster not even dry. Foolish move: he lost. So next morning Pettit made a deal with a housemover to move Digby's house to a vacant lot he owned a few blocks away. The mover put wooden wheels under the house and started toward the east. By nightfall he was about half-way there.

But that night Digby and Pettit played another game. This time Digby won. So in the morning the mover adjusted the wheels, hitched the oxen the other way, and rolled the house back toward Digby's lot. Ah, but that night was another game, and the next morning the mover started east toward Pettit's lot. The day after that the team was again going west toward Digby's. But then Digby lost once more, and the house started eastward again. That proved to be its final move: Pettit moved his law books into the much-traveled house and used it for years as his office.

Some stories are so great they shouldn't be moralized upon, but grant me just one short paragraph. I could have bought Digby's house many times over if I had a dollar for every person I've talked with who sees the travels of the Digby house as a paradigm of their own spiritual journey. Toward God, away from him. Toward him, away from him. Toward him, away from him. OK, that may reflect how people feel from day to day. But never forget that God is not a house mover. When we come to him, he embraces us to himself. Once we are in him, we are secure. Our emotions may come and go, but our God holds on to his own.

G. Crowe

The Little Engine That Couldn't

We all know the story of the little engine that could. But have you heard of the little engine that couldn't? This is the story of a man who tried and tried spiritually, but just could not do it. And not for a lack of trying . . .

This young man's life was full of attempts to be a spiritual giant. In the morning, rolling out of bed, it was his knees that he landed on. His morning prayers came before the morning shower. He came to church Sunday morning (Bible school too!), Sunday nights and Wednesday nights. He steps into the office and he invites everyone he sees to church. He reads his Bible daily.

But when this young man goes home at night, he is empty. He cannot shake the feeling that something is wrong. Prayers aren't cutting it anymore....reading the Bible is not changing him....he wonders why evangelism, even when successful, does not bring the joy he had hoped.

One afternoon, he took a long lunch and went to see a dear, trusted friend - the minister of his church community (because what else is a minister than a dear, trusted, spiritual friend?). After a long conversation, the minister realized what the problem here was. This young man was focused on all the right things but for all the wrong reasons. The problem was that he was trying to be a spiritual giant, but he was doing it for himself, not for God. He was trying to be worthy of God's love, earn his approval, prove

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Prayer Concerns...

Marie DeWoody, 3-month-old daughter of Yssa and Andrew, is in Riley Hospital in Indianapolis undergoing tests....**Mary McClain** has been diagnosed with mononucleosis....Continue to pray for **Joe White, Bill Andrews, Geneva Hamilton, Anna Dale, Darrel Martin, Eunice Whitesell, Mark Eddy, Irene Fox, Ramona Farris, Bernice Todd, and Delpha Allen.** Those in Rosewalk Village: **Paul & Ruth Marks, Minnie Scott, and Burnell Gulden.**

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



The food pantry is in need of **toilet paper** this week. A big thanks to all for your continued donations to our food pantry and those in our community.

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.**

- July 27, 28, 29 Sound Advice on Healthy Eating**—Health expert David Mainz offers biblically-based, practical advice on eating and living well. (Parts 1, 2, 3)
- August 1 From Jihad to Jesus**—Ergun Caner shares his amazing testimony of becoming a Christian after being raised by an Islamic leader in a devout Muslim family.
- August 2, 3 Understanding Intelligent Design**—Dr. Stephen Meyer and Dr. John West join Dr. Dobson in a discussion about intelligent design and world origins from a scientific point of view. (Parts 1 & 2).
- August 4, 5 Being Men of God in a Lost Culture**—Steve Farrar speaks to men about a crisis of leadership in America that can be overcome when godly husbands and fathers better develop their roles as leaders in the home. (Parts 1 & 2)

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his worth. He was the little engine that couldn't...and he needed to know it. He *couldn't* earn God's love; His love is given freely. He *couldn't* try to be worthy; no one is worthy. He is the little engine that couldn't...we all are little engines that can't! None of us can! That is why God sent His Son and then His Spirit! Thank God for the little engine that couldn't....praise be to the God who can! ~Dan



Rob Smith serving in Guatemala

Rob Smith flies to Houston this Thursday, and then on to Guatemala on Saturday. He is going as a translator for a medical mission group (Health Talents International) which will be doing an eye clinic. Pray for Rob and the rest of the team to have safe and successful trip, and that God will be glorified by their efforts.

Attention Youth!

If you are interested in going to **Youth in Action**, call Lynae Stafford before Friday to save \$5 per person for registration. Lynae's phone number: 474-8478.

LUM Meal Providers

Serving dinner at Lafayette Urban Ministry on Monday night were: **Greg & Terri Miller, Marilyn Walters, Jim Levick and Peggy Linback.**

July 24, 2005

Class: 210 Worship: 277

Contribution: \$10,830

Budget: \$8,100

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Spring Mill Bible Camp!

Last week, ten campers (Katie Ciesielski, Peter Bell, Ben Stafford, Erin Simmerman, Kelsey Sutherlin, Mark Moore, Jesse Jones, Andrew Simmerman, Heather and Melissa Willison) and three counselors (Caitie Jones, Mary McClain, Lee Porter) joined about 125 other campers and staff for our Senior Week of camp at Spring Mill. The week was wonderful though the temps were a little warm. This year's "Shining Light" award went to our own Peter Bell...it goes to the camper who goes out of his/her way to make sure everyone else is having a great time at camp – congratulations, Peter! This week, seven campers (Phillip & Rachel Burks, Levi & Seth Ratcliff, Rachel Stafford, TJ Campbell and Kyle Manus) and three counselors (Sarah McClain, Craig Hodges, and Lee Porter) are with about 160 other campers and staff for our Intermediate Week of camp. We will be telling you more soon, but here are a few pictures for now. Blessings. – Lee



Senior week worship



Intermediate week begins



Intermediate week worship

Adopt a College Student

There will be a callout for all those interested in being adoptive parents for a CSC student for the upcoming academic year on **Sunday, August 7, at 5:00 PM**, in the fellowship room at Elmwood. If you have an interest, please plan to attend this important meeting.

Health Team Update

A Health Team, which was formed by the eldership early this spring, has been meeting regularly and is looking at ways to add structure and processes to our church family. Presently, we're working on defining roles and looking at how communication systems can help us in our work. The hope and prayer is that these efforts will enable us all to share "Knowing Christ and Making Christ Known" to as many people as is possible. Stay tuned! More information to come. –Pam Houlton

Farewell & God's Best

Kellie and Ryan White are leaving Lafayette this week for their new home in Georgia. Ryan has accepted a transfer to the Caterpillar plant in Griffin, GA. Kellie defended her Ph.D. dissertation last month, so will be pursuing work in the Atlanta area as a post-doctoral researcher. Their address is 229 Edison Dr., Stockbridge, GA 30281. We appreciate Ryan and Kellie's faithfulness at Elmwood during their years here. Each year they had near-perfect attendance in their various LIFE groups. We look forward to their visits back here.



July 27, 7 PM....Bible classes for all
July 27, 7 PM....Men's Class, room 204,
Young Mom's Class, room 202

August 7, 5 PM....Adopt a College Student callout
August 14, 6 PM...."Let Me Introduce Myself" dinner

Read:

II Chronicles 32–Ezra 7;
Romans 15–I Corinthians 4;
Psalms 22–26; Proverbs 20:16–30

2005 Spiritual Adventure

Week 32: August 8–14

Lost and Found

In 2 Chron 34:14 something quite telling takes place: the high priest finds the book of the law. From the response of those involved, one gets the feeling that it was their only copy. If so, how did it get misplaced and how long had it been missing? How could Israel have neglected God's word in such an overt manner? Yes, many teachings and traditions had been passed down orally, but the King's dismay after reading the book of the law and his subsequent actions clearly demonstrated that God's written word needed to be heard by all.

The Christian church in Europe during the 14th century suffered a similar fate. They also neglected the word of God and suffered the consequences. The following are examples of their misguided ways:

The Franciscan Friars, a Roman Catholic order founded in the 13th century, consisted of mostly ignorant men. Friars did not preach the Gospel but mixed up the stories of the Bible with the most outlandish fairy tales. For example, it was commonly taught that when an unbaptized child died in infancy his soul trans-migrated into the body of a fire fly. These kinds of fairy tales were regularly taught as the word of God. If the friars' preaching was bad, their other official duties were even worse. They sold papal indulgences for a contribution, and even claimed to get their parishioners' deceased loved ones out of purgatory for the right price.

The parish priests were also illiterate and corrupt. They exercised no ministry of the word. They had the Bible but it was in Latin. They didn't understand Latin, so they Butsimply memorized and spoke statements from the Bible in Latin. They often sexually knew the women who came to them for confession and many had a family on the sly or kept a concubine.

How important is God's word in keeping man on the right path? History is shouting "there are no substitutes."

–Jim Levick