



All Eyes on Grace!

What if a doctor said you must make changes in your lifestyle or you will die? Would you do it? No brainer—of course you'd do it!

Oh, really? A recent article in *Fast Company* magazine reported on people who have had coronary-artery bypass surgery. These people were told that they must make healthier diet and exercise changes that would keep the problems from recurring. If they didn't make the changes, they would face almost certain pain, repeated surgeries, or possibly even death.

The amazing result of this study is that 90% of the heart patients who were told all the gloomy things that would happen if they didn't change, didn't change. "It won't happen to me!" "I'm too set in my ways!" "Exercise is boring!" So they didn't change.

The article in *Fast Company* went on to say (as reported by Dick Towner in the *Good Sense* newsletter) that when positive, not negative, outcomes were stressed by the doctors, patients took a completely different route and often made the changes they needed to. Rather than saying, "You're going to die!" the doctors stressed such things as, "You'll be able to play actively with your grandchildren," or "You'll be able to take long walks with your wife and not feel any pain!" When joy, not fear, was the motivator, the percentage of people who changed was much higher. And if patients also attended regular support sessions, 77% both made and stuck with lifestyle changes.

Explains a lot of what's in the letters of the New Testament, doesn't it? There's much encouragement and admonition, and most of it is couched in positive terms: "Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed" (1 Peter 1:13).

God knows how we work best: when we keep our eyes on the grace to be revealed, not on threats of punishment and condemnation. A positive outlook is not just a genetic predisposition; it's a necessity for the kind of healthy outlook that will bring godly—and permanent—changes into our lives.

G. Crowe

Elmwood Construction Company

Have you noticed the amount of construction at Purdue right now? Seeing all of the construction got me thinking a little bit about the church and the construction business.

Construction was an important concept in Paul's writings. He even calls the church a building and says we are being "built up" in Christ. Paul believed that God was building us, the church, into something bigger than ourselves, that the church was a construction site where all the parts come together in harmony with His will.

The question for us is, *do we want construction?* The universal church is good at tearing things down, good at deconstruction. Theologies that do not mesh with our personal beliefs, personalities that are not similar to our own, lifestyles that are different from our own . . . all of these have been reasons to de-construct, to destroy, in the past. We have all seen this power of the church. We have great power to tear down. But how good are we at building?

We have the same potential to be powerful at building! In fact, we have even greater potential to build because the Holy Spirit lives in us! When we tear down, it is solely on our power, but when we choose to construct we have the power of the Spirit, the power of God! I am tired of tearing down, aren't you? Let us look to the future and see what we can build! I mean, really, are we going to let Purdue be the only institution that builds in Lafayette?

~Dan



Bill Andrews, Betty Brown's father in the hospital in Indianapolis, has been diagnosed with leukemia....**Geneva Hamilton**, Margaret Gustafson's sister in Williamsburg Health Care in Crawfordsville, is in failing health....**Paul Marks** is in St. Clare Hospital in Crawfordsville....**Gene Walker**, brother of Marilyn Walters and Carolyn Rigdon, is in IU Medical Center in Indianapolis with pneumonia. Now out of intensive care, he will be there the rest of the week and have a 5-6 month recovery period....Continue to pray for **Joe White, Seth Mullen, Beth Holt, Sarah McClain, Argie Verett, Elaine Crowder, Anna Dale, Burnell Gulden, Terry Pepper, Minnie Scott, Eunice Whitesell, Mark Eddy, Bernice Todd, Irene Fox, Ramona Farris, and Delpha Allen.**

Expecting babies in the near future: the **Hombs** and **Studebaker** families.
Serving in the military: **Josh Hunt** is in 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.**

- June 23-24* **The Greatest of These is Love**—Corrie Ten Boom shares her amazing testimony of helping rescue Jews during World War II and surviving a Nazi concentration camp. (Parts 1 & 2)
- June 27-28* **The True Heart of a Woman**—John and Stasi Eldredge discuss the healing, restoration and abundant life that Christ offers specifically to women. (Parts 1 & 2)
- June 30* **America: Designed with Godly Intent**—Historian David Barton discusses how America's Founding Fathers viewed the Constitution and the First Amendment. (Part 1)
- July 1* **America: Designed with Godly Intent**—Historian David Barton discusses First Amendment religious liberties and demonstrates that the Founding Fathers had no intention of leaving Christianity out of government. (Part 2)

Me? A LUM Camp Counselor???

The Lafayette Urban Ministry is in need of volunteer counselors for LUM Camp 2005. The 4-day, 3-night camp for needy children takes place at Hanging Rock Camp in Warren County August 8-12. Eighty children, ages 8-10, will attend, coming from families that have recently been served by the Lafayette Urban Ministry.

Volunteer counselors are the heartbeat of LUM Camp. They instill confidence, rejoice at accomplishment, build self-esteem, and support each child throughout the week. It takes 24 adult counselors to fully staff camp. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old, enjoy working with children, and be available to spend the entire week at camp. Call Joe Micon (423-2691) or email him at lum@lafayetteurbanministry.org.



Helen Achor, Perry's 96-year-old mother, died Tuesday in Newcastle, Indiana. The funeral was Friday and burial at Hillsboro Cemetery in Newcastle. Our sincere sympathies to Perry and his wife, Janet.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Dr. Brandon Hombs**, who successfully defended his dissertation last week. He and Veronica (and baby) will be moving to New Hampshire where has taken a job in Merrimack with BAE Systems. They work on future military technology, and Brandon will be working on future communication systems.



Michelle & Ty Lewis' address was incorrect in last week's newsletter. It should be 29 Crest Lane, Farmingville, NY 11738.

June 19, 2005

Class: 199 Worship: 299

Contribution: \$5,578

Budget: \$8,100

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Thank You Church!

Okay, so it's a hassle and the boxes filling up outside my office aren't very attractive, but your efforts pay off! Two weeks ago, Sue McClain got two boxes of empty inkjet printer cartridges ready for shipment and they were picked up via FedEx. Last week, we received a check for nearly \$250. Some of you may not know, but the youth group has decided to use the money we collect from the cartridges to help with mission trip funds and scholarships. Next year, we expect our mission trip to cost more than this year, so please keep those cartridges coming in. Thank you!

Congratulations Michael!

Sunday morning, during the second worship assembly, Michael Merriman confessed his faith in Jesus as the son of God and his dad Mike baptized him. Michael is very active in the youth group and he has been considering this step in his life for some time, now. We are proud of you Michael and can't wait to see you grow in the Lord...we are here for you! - Lee



Michael Merriman, son of Mike & Kendra Merriman, made his decision to make Jesus Lord of his life on Sunday morning in baptism. Michael is 12 years old and going into the 7th grade at Wea Ridge Middle School. Michael takes part in many of Elmwood's youth activities and especially looks forward to going to Spring Mill Bible Camp this summer. Congratulations, Michael on your decision and we wish you well in your walk with the Lord.

"Hymns from Our Hearts"

All copies of the CD of hymns recorded by the Elmwood College Class Singers (~1962) have been distributed. If you signed up for one or more but did not get them, please add your name to the **NEW** sign up sheet posted in the Farris Foyer. If anyone else would like a CD, just add your name to the same sign up sheet. We'll keep the sign up sheets available through the end of June and try to have the CDs for you by July 17th.

"A Few Good Men"

Beginning this Wednesday night, a new Men's Class will start studying scriptural topics described in *Discovering The Mind Of A Woman*, by Ken Nair. The book helps males be better husbands/parents and understand their wives as Christ would and learn to respond to their wives in a consistently Christ-like manner. The class will meet in room 204.



June 22, 7 PM....Bible classes for all
June 22, 7 PM....New Men's Class begins
June 26....Friendship: Creating a Culture of Connectivity in Your Church (Part II)

Read:

II Kings 13-25; Acts 19-22

Psalms 146-150;

Proverbs 18:2-13

2005 Spiritual Adventure

Week 27: July 4-10

God's Party is My Party

"Praise the Lord. Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the saints. Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; let the people of Zion be glad in their King. Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with tambourine and harp. For the Lord takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with salvation. Let the saints rejoice in this honor and sing for joy in their beds" (Psalm 149:1-5).

In a world of cynicism and pain, what is it we crave most? A new car, a successful career, a little more sleep? I think we crave a little more joy, a little more happiness, a few more good times.

How about having a good time with God? Have you done that recently? Have you "sung for joy in your bed" lately instead of just falling into it after working so hard for Him? The hardened, critical, worn-out Christian is unworthy of the task she is attempting, because she is working by her own power. However, the joyful, partying Christian shows the loving, creative, spontaneous God that this world so wants to believe in. Can we humble ourselves enough to realize WHO contains the real power in our lives?

I'm not too good at dancing, or at playing the tambourine or the harp, but I was created to worship and enjoy my God for the rest of my eternal existence. God is out on the dance floor. He's striking up His favorite song. Don't make Him dance alone!

-Ryan Richardson