



Nothing Like a Mother's Love!

It was odd all around. Jesus (a man, a Hebrew, unmarried, traveling in the unfamiliar territory of Tyre and Sidon) was confronted by a woman (talking to a man??) who was a Canaanite (not a Jewess), with a demon-possessed daughter (demons in the presence of Jesus are always an eerie combination).

This frantic mother apparently knew how unlikely a scene this was, so she went to extraordinary lengths: she "cried out to him, saying, 'Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.'" Today's parents who have hyperactive or mischievous children have their hands full, but the woman in Matthew 15 dealt with a daughter who was demon-possessed, way over the top of parents' worst nightmares.

The story took an even stranger twist: "Jesus did not answer a word." Odd. The disciples took this a step further: "The disciples came to him and urged him, 'Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.'" Jesus didn't do what they suggested, but his responses suggested he agreed in principle: "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel (in other words, not to non-Jewish people)."

But behold this determined woman! "The woman came and knelt before him. 'Lord, help me!' she said." Words that obviously came straight from her maternal soul. But again, a seeming rebuff: "He replied, 'It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs.'" (The English translation makes this sound more harsh than it was, but it still wasn't what she wanted to hear.)

She came back not with an argument but with another request for mercy and compassion: "Yes, Lord, but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." And with that, Jesus was won over and granted her request. The daughter was healed.

No other group of people on the planet is as emotionally invested in another group as mothers are toward their children. It's no accident that Matthew ends his story with the words, "And her daughter was healed from that very hour." No reason to record how the mother felt. We just know.

G. Crowe

The "P" Word

Have you ever been drawn into a conversation by a single word? One word that begs the listener to stay, to pay attention, to invest? Today I am plagued by just such a word.

Preparation. Persistence. Power. Presence. Persuasion. Proliferation. Personality. None of these are the "p" word. Instead, they are, in fact, all by-products of the "p" word. The "p" word creates them, gives rise to them, perpetuates them.

Profundity is where the "p" word takes you. It causes you to think about yourself, your place, your position. It prods, pokes, pries its way into your life and asks you to reflect on the most basic, primary questions of your life. The "p" word to which I am referring, of course, is *purpose*.

Have you thought recently about your *purpose*? Eating lunch, making small talk, passing by co-workers at your place of business, have you thought about your *purpose*?

The Elmwood community, a small part of the universal church, has a purpose here in Lafayette! Perhaps it is time to put *purpose* in the forefront of our thoughts. God has given us a purpose here in this place. What an honor, a responsibility, a privilege! If everyone in the church spent this week thinking about our purpose, do you think that it could impact us as a community in amazing ways? . . . quite possibly . . .

~Dan

Elmwood Honors its Graduates

How time flies! Just a few years ago all these people came to us as strangers, and in the intervening years they have become a part of the heart and soul of the church. Those graduating from Purdue this month include the following:

Abby Lehman graduates with a BS in Management. She will be moving home to Ft. Wayne to take a position in sales with the Southwestern Company.

Chelsea Barnett, receiving her BS in Nursing, has already begun work as a nurse in the post-partum area of Home Hospital.

Anthony Burke, with a BS in Computer Science, is interviewing for a position both in Lafayette (yea!) and Indianapolis.

Jessica Porter will graduate from Rochester College this Saturday, the 7th, with a BS in Psychology. She is going to Australia for six weeks this summer for a mission trip and will go to work full-time while taking a year off from her studies. Jessica and her fiancée, Nick Hottman (of Oxford, Michigan) will be married in May of 2006 and she will then continue her studies with a goal of a doctorate in Neuro-Psychology.

Scott Schneider will be receiving a BS in Technology Education. He will return to Connecticut to teach school.

Brandon Hombs is currently interviewing for positions around the United States now that his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering will be granted this summer. He and Veronica will be missed for many reasons, not the least of which is Brandon's gift for music which he has used in leading worship the past several years.

Kellie White's Ph.D. will be in Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology. She and Ryan anticipate a move this summer and "almost" know where they will be going.

Mark Wilkins, who took his BS degree from Purdue several years ago, is being awarded the Ph.D. from the University of Illinois this month. He is working in Winter Haven, Florida.

Callout for a New Ministry

Did the drama sketch last Sunday morning speak to you? It obviously did to a lot of people. One person wrote, "I think the drama thing made a good point....more effective than trying to 'preach' it, so to speak."

To develop similar moments in the future, a drama team must be established. Interested in joining that ministry? To do it right we need young people, old people, middle-aged people, college people, men, women. If you think you might have an interest—or, to put it another way, if you think this is an area in which God might use you to bless others—contact Farrell Simmerman (474-6277, farrellnphyllis@aol.com) or Sarah McClain (714-3552, semmclain82@yahoo.com).

May 17-19 Reunion



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.

On Wednesday at 4 PM, a tree will be planted in honor of Scottie Morrison. On Wednesday night John T. Smithson will lead a devotional service for the congregation. 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.



Farewell Open House

Hedi Devine is giving a "Farewell Open House" for **Karen & Kenji Totsuka** this Saturday, May 7, 7:30 PM, at her home (715 Noble Ct., West Lafayette). Karen & Kenji will be living at 804 Seminole Creek Ct., Lexington, KY 40511.

Men's Breakfast

All men (young and old) are invited to the Men's Breakfast on Saturday morning, May 14th at 7:43am in A-2. Dan Cooke will discuss "Servant Leaders." A sign up sheet is posted in the Farris Foyer. Hope to see you there.

Memorial Service

A memorial service to remember the life of **Eric Gilley**, who died Thanksgiving Day, 2004, is being planned by his mother, Andrea Browell, on Saturday, May 14, at 2:00 PM, at the Elmwood building. All are invited to come and share memories with Andrea and the rest of the family.

Can You Help?

Jessica Porter, who graduates May 7 from Rochester College, needs to raise funds for a mission trip to Australia. (Many thanks to those who have already made donations.) If you would like to contribute to her—as a graduation gift—you can still do so until May 15.

May 2, 2005

Class: 202 Worship: 321

Contribution: \$13,998

Budget: \$8,100



Parents and Grandparents - PLEASE READ!

Some of you will see below that I am talking about summer plans again and you might be tempted to "tune out." If you love your children and grandchildren, please stay tuned. For many years, Abilene Christian University has surveyed our students from around the nation to ask some very important questions. Among those questions has always been, "What has caused you to grow the most in your spiritual life, or to take God seriously," or something of this nature. EVERY YEAR, the answers have reflected two constants at the top: Camps and Mission Trips. We could enumerate many reasons for this phenomenon, but the bottom line is that if this is what works best for encouraging spiritual growth and decisions in our young people, shouldn't these things be at the top of our families' calendars? Some might say that you don't have the money...let me know, I'll find the money for your children to go to camp and or mission trip. Others have said that they tried camp once and didn't like it...I say, "Try one more time and if you don't like it, I won't bug you again." Or, "Try another camp...I'll help you find one you might like better." Speaking of bugs, some don't like the outdoors that much. It sounds like Elevate at Rochester College is just what you are looking for. It costs a little more, but you stay in the dorms at RC and the meals are served in the cafeteria. There are several other perks that go along with being on a Christian College campus, one of which is the chance to consider if a Christian College might be in your future. I plan to be at all of the following events because our students are worth it and I want everyone to have every chance to enhance their spiritual lives.

REGISTER NOW!

June 19-24 – Elevate at Rochester College – "Epic – We Were Meant to Live for so Much More." The camp is for all 7th grade students through this year's high school graduates. You can register now at: http://www.rc.edu/elevate/ele_reg.htm. Elevate is always an incredible experience. Reserve your spot now; this is going to be the best year ever!

July 10-15 – Mission Trip to Cincinnati – We will be working with another church to conduct a camp for younger inner-city kids from Cincinnati. Details and costs will be available soon. This is basically for High School students and sponsors.

July 17-23 – Senior Week at SMBC – A week for all students who have completed 7th – 12th grade. Cost is \$70 before July 1, \$80 if mailed in after July 1, and \$90 if you register on the 17th.

July 24-29 – Intermediate Week at SMBC – A week for all students who have completed 4th – 8th grade. The prices are the same as Senior Week. These weeks fill up fast; sign up now!

– Lee

Prayer Concerns....

Joe White was taken to Home Hospital Monday morning. He is in room 2310...Kay Tavana's brother-in-law is in Home Hospital with a leg infection....Continue to pray for **Naomi Hunt** (*home from Ball State this weekend*), **Al & Anna Dale**, **Burnell Gulden**, **Dovie Hurst**, **Geneva Hamilton**, **Terry Pepper**, **Minnie Scott**, **Eunice Whitesell**, **Mark Eddy**, **Bernice Todd**, **Ramona Farris**, **Irene Fox**, and **Delpha Allen**.

Expecting babies in the near future: the **Hombs**, **Studebaker**, and **Wilson** families.

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



You are cordially invited to a wedding shower for **Michelle Woody** and fiancée, **Ty Lewis**, **this Saturday, May 7th, 10 AM until 1:00 PM**, at the home of Bill and Carol Bell, 216 Jennings Street, West Lafayette. Michelle and Ty are registered at Target and Pier 1. For suggestions or contributions toward a group gift, please see Carol Bell, Sarah McClain, Joyce Mathews, or Sheryl Willison. This is a come-and-go shower. Everyone is invited. Please come, visit, and offer your best wishes.

Great Songs of the Church CD

Circa 1962, a group of about 30 college students attending the Elmwood Church of Christ made a record containing 16 hymns from the *Great Songs of the Church* hymnal. The singing group was directed by Michael D. Ashley. Recently, Farrell Simmerman converted the vinyl record to a CD, and we want to distribute it to the church. Copies of the CD will be available in mid to late May. If you would like a CD, please put your name on the sign up sheet in the Farris Foyer. There is no charge for the CD, but if you can, please put a couple of dollars in the collection plate to help off set the cost of the CDs. We hope you enjoy listening to the hymns and praising God.



May 4, 7 PM....Bible Classes for all

May 5....National Day of Prayer

May 7, 10 AM-1 PM....Wedding Shower for Michelle Woody and Ty Lewis at the Bells' home

May 8, 6 PM....LIFE Groups meet

May 14, 7:43 AM....Men's Breakfast in fellowship room

May 17-19....Elmwood reunion for those of the John T. Smithson era; special Wednesday night service

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

Read:

1 Samuel 8-19;

John 6-8; Psalms 107-112;

Proverbs 14:34-15:14

2005 Spiritual Adventure

Week 20: May 16-22

Smaller Victories

When I read John 6, I was reminded of the chorus to a song by Christian recording artist Ross King that says "*smaller victories will never be alright by me, cause I've got my intentions set on bigger things than that.*" This is what John 6 is all about. It starts off with a bang! Jesus takes 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish and feeds 5000 people! (That's most of the seats in Elliott Hall of Music!) Then, as if that's not good enough, Jesus decided to join his disciples on their trip across the lake by walking on water to catch up with them. (Quick digression—for all the mathematically minded, I am sure this is where one of the first story problems came from:

Q: The disciples left Point A at evening and traveled three miles by boat. Jesus left the lakeshore some time after the disciples and he was walking on water. Both arrived at Point B in the middle of the lake at the same time. How fast was Jesus going?

A: Who cares? He was walking on water!!!)

So now Jesus has just done a couple of remarkable feats and then all the people believed, right? NO! They are following him out of greed—give me more bread and fish- that was pretty neat! BOY! Can you even imagine what your response would have been at this point if you were in Jesus' shoes??? But, we are not Jesus. Where we would have thrown our arms up in frustration, he persists and tells them about eternal life and a hunger and thirst they will never have. He tries to tell them that all this is nothing compared to what lies beyond. Manna from heaven, walking on water, these are just smaller victories. So just as it was Jesus' hope for those among him, I hope you will also continue to set your intentions on bigger things than that.

—Mindy Hart