



It's Great to be Accepted!

In Bible class last Sunday the teacher asked, "What is it you really want in life?" The first answer came almost immediately, "Acceptance." Other answers were given, but most of them were just variations on that theme.

Actually I don't remember much of the next few minutes in class, because my mind wandered to two days before. I was visiting my 20-month-old granddaughter (and her parents). We decided to go someplace, so I went downstairs to get my coat. As I started back up, I looked at the top of the stairs and there was my granddaughter, sitting on the top step, just waiting for me. I hadn't seen her for months, and when I walked in the door from the airport I was obviously a complete stranger to her. But in those 24 hours we had bonded (it was a magical combination: I love to read books to children and she loves to be read to . . . a match made in heaven!), and there she was waiting for me. I had been accepted.

How many figures in the Bible are variations on the theme, "You've been accepted"! The Hebrews were God's chosen people. The Hebrew word *bahar*, to be chosen, means one is accepted into God's service as a chosen instrument. He isn't worthy, he probably doesn't have any special qualifications, he may not even do that great a job at what he's been chosen to do. But in God's eyes he's been accepted, he is considered valued, and hence he's a special person to God. The same idea is picked up by one who was himself accepted by Jesus in spite of many missteps over the years, the Apostle Peter, when he wrote the church, *You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light*" (1 Peter 2:9).

Think of the assignment in the last part of the verse: to carry out a sacred mission for God. Can you think of anybody worthy of that kind of holy honor? Nobody. Not anybody. None. But here we are, valued and honored by God with this task because he has accepted us and chosen us.

It's wonderful to be accepted by our peers – and by 20-month-old granddaughters. It's even better to be accepted by God. *G. Crowe*

God the Communicator

Communication. It makes the world go 'round. For years now, the world has been moving toward global communication. We have email, instant messaging, mobile phones, and satellites. A person can even have a video conference with another person anywhere in the world! The people of the world are connected in ways never before seen in human history.

The days of smoke signals, telegrams, and other forms of delayed communication are gone. For the first time ever in history, we have the communication capabilities to produce ongoing community with others that live on the opposite side of the earth.

So one has to wonder why community seems to be on the decline. Not only are the days of delayed communication gone, but so are the days (it seems) of communicative marriages, community trust, and family meals together.

Ask any communication professor (we have two in residence I believe), and they will tell you of the utter need for clear communication. They will also tell you that communication is much more than words on a screen. There is body language, voice inflection, and a number of other forms of communication than simply speaking or writing.

That is what makes the Father the ultimate communicator. Knowing the need for clear communication, the Father sent the Son not only to die but also to live. He sent the Son to live as

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A note about our finances...



Our congregation needs to collect an additional \$12,000 in contributions by the end of November. The main reason for this is that a significant mold problem has been discovered at the campus house for which remediation has begun but which will cost more than \$11,000. This problem has rendered the basement room unusable because of health risks. Other items impacting the budget include contributions to WCBC for the Madagascar tower and to Katrina relief. Complete financial details have been prepared by our treasurer, Bill Hodges, and are available from the church office.

Thanksgiving Dinner Tuesday, Nov. 22



Elmwood's annual Thanksgiving Dinner and devotional will be **Tuesday, November 22, at 6:00 PM**. Don Vice needs volunteers to cook the meal (5 cooks), serve the meal (6 servers), help in the kitchen (4 kitchen help), and 6-8 people to help with clean-up. Call Don at 471-8653 or email at donaldpattyvice@netzero.net if you can help. Sign-up sheets are posted in the Farris foyer.

Prayer Concerns...

Michelle Mullen suffered a stroke Monday evening. She is in St. Elizabeth Hospital....**Ruth Marks** is in St. Elizabeth Hospital after a fall Tuesday morning at Rosewalk Village Nursing Home....**David Swank**, Vernell & Pete Swank's son, had encouraging news from the oncologist last week. He has large cell lymphoma which is curable with chemotherapy and radiation. After more tests this week, they will begin treatment....Continue to pray for **Elizabeth Tinkle, Natasha Risley, Kaleb Anderson, Jim Beghtol, Lucie Levy, Marie DeWoody, Merville Zin, Mark Eddy, Geneva Hamilton, Terry Pepper, Anna Dale, Eunice Whitesell, Ramona Farris, Irene Fox, Carrie High** (her health has prevented her from attending worship for quite some time), and **Delpha Allen**. Those in Rosewalk Village: **Paul & Ruth Marks, Minnie Scott, and Burnell Gulden**.

Serving in Iraq: **Dustin Holley and Brad King**.

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the Father's message to the world. More than words on a screen, more than a voice booming from the sky, more than a mere Bible/telegram from the Father. He is much, much more. He is a living, breathing, flesh-and-bones message. God knew that it would take that in order for clear communication to take place.

I encourage you to look at the Son and see the Father, to look at the Son's life as a living statement that the Father made, and to become living messages for one another. Praise be to a Father that is a great communicator.

~Dan



Alice Follick, 90, longtime Elmwood member, died Oct. 25, at St. Anthony Health Care. She recently learned she had cancer. Alice worked faithfully for many years with Wanita White on World Bible School correspondence. Alice was a retired registered nurse and physical therapist. A memorial service will be held at Elmwood this Sunday, Nov. 6, at 2:00 PM. Our sympathies to Bernie & Armilda Follick and their family.

Women's Carry-in Dinner, Nov. 19

Females of all ages are invited to a carry-in dinner on **Saturday, November 19, 6:00 PM**, in the A-2 fellowship room. It will be a special time to gather, share prayer requests with one another, sing praises to God, and enjoy fellowship. Questions? Call Sue Wilder at 497-8955.



The food pantry is in need of **vegetable soup and cereal** this week.

October 30, 2005

Class: 172 Worship: 269

Contribution: \$7,388

Budget: \$8,100



Noah's Ark Night Saturday Nov. 5, 4-8 PM

Hopefully all of you...kids from 0-99 have already made plans to attend the festivities at the building this Saturday night. We always have a lot of fun and we don't have to worry about where the candy came from. In addition to the fun on Saturday, Lynae and company need lots of help setting up on Friday afternoon and on Saturday morning. If you are available for a short period of time, or for the whole time, please come by and help us get ready for this special event. The rain Monday night seemed to have kept many off the streets; maybe everyone will show up on Saturday...let's help everyone have a great time! Don't forget your veggies for the "two by two" stew and the food pantry.

Declaration of Dependence

The youth rally at the Washington Church of Christ is just a couple weeks away (November 18-20). Please get your registration in as soon as possible so the church will know how much housing is needed. Cost is just \$20 until November 11 and then it goes up to \$25...let's not keep the church guessing – send in your registration today!

Sunday Morning Class Update

At the request of students in Jr. and Sr. High, we are not dividing classes by age all the time this year. We are instead offering some options. A group just finished an optional six week overview of the Bible. The rest studied the Minor Prophets. On Sunday the 13th of November, we will be asking the group to decide which of two studies they will participate in for the remainder of the year. Sunday morning, Michael Nicodemus previewed "**Redeeming the Time**" a study of Old Testament characters: Prophets, Priests and Kings. The question is asked whether students are better at wasting time or using it to make an impact. Through meeting the prophets, priests and kings in the study, the students will be challenged to make a difference in their lifetimes. Sunday I will be previewing "**No Ordinary Joe**", a study that will look at the character of Joseph. Many will find they can easily relate to Joseph. He had to deal with favoritism, dreams of great things, disappointment, brothers who hated him, and sexual temptations. Students will get to know Joseph and discover what it was about him that allowed him to live a life of integrity and character through tough situations. For the remainder of the year, Michael will teach "Redeeming the Time" and I will teach "No Ordinary Joe." Once students pick, they will be asked to remain in that class for the duration. Both studies will be great...which one will you choose?

– Lee

Noah's Ark Night November 5, 4-8 PM



Noah's Ark Night is this **Saturday, November 5th, 4:00 until 8:00 PM.** A two by two stew will be served. No charge for the meal, but a request of canned vegetables for the stew and a can of food for the food pantry. Work days to prepare for the activities will be all day Friday, Nov. 4, and Saturday morning, Nov. 5. Lots of fun activities for the children are planned. Children are asked to dress as an animal or Bible character. Questions? Call Lynae Stafford at 474-8478.

Exodus International Comes to Elmwood

Brad Grammar, a representative of **Exodus International**, will speak at Elmwood this **Sunday night, November 6, at 6 PM.** Exodus International is the Christian group that works with people who are trying to break the chains of homosexuality and walk out into the freedom of God's forgiveness and grace. Invite friends to come with you. **Finger Foods** will follow.

Thanks!

The congregation appreciates the work of those who work hard to make our worship times not only worshipful but also meaningful and helpful. Special thanks for last Sunday morning's drama go to **Sue Wilder, Susan Swensen, Farrell Simmerman, Bill Bell, Jim Moore, Doris Swensen, and Mark McClain.**

Also, many, many thanks to all who contributed clothing for the Katrina victims. You selected items that will be most appreciated by the men for whom we bought. God smiles on those who tend to the needs of the unfortunate. We have no idea how He will use these gifts in the months and years to come.



November 2, 7 PM...Bible classes for all
Nov. 5, 4-8 PM...Noah's Ark Night
Nov. 6, 6 PM...Exodus International speaker,
Brad Grammar, **Finger Foods** to follow

Read:
Ezekiel 18-30; Hebrews 9-11
Psalms 104-106; Prov. 27:10-17

2005 Spiritual Adventure

Week 46: November 14-20

Let Us Draw Near To God

A most troubling and frustrating time for a father is when he is unable to draw near to his beloved wife and children. As a father I've had the experience of this unfortunate circumstance. During such times we labored indirectly via the telephone or perhaps through letters to initiate or respond in expressions of love. However, full and intimate expressions can never be accomplished in a relationship where there is separation and where closeness cannot be achieved. I can still reflect on the emotional void of being separated from the presence of my beloved wife and children. I can also remember looking forward with eager anticipation of being reunited within their presence again.

God the Father and His beloved children of Israel also experienced a dispensation of time in which they were unable to draw near one to another in their loving relationship. Even though God was the perfect Father and the children of Israel were blessed and highly favored, they each were unable to draw close to one another in spiritual intimacy. God could only approach His beloved children in an indirect veiled manner, such as under the cover of a cloud, or within the pillar of smoke or perhaps through the glory of fire. In a similar manner, the children of Israel were unable to respond directly to the love of God, their Father, to express adoration (worship), to entreat supplication (prayer), or to present gifts (sacrifices), all of which had to be offered through priests who were fallible mediators. These types of expressions were merely shadows of the reality and fullness of love.

The Hebrew writer reminds us in Hebrews 10:22 that under this present dispensation of grace and truth we have much better opportunity *"to draw near to God"* than did the children of the past dispensation. Under this present dispensation God's Grace has been made manifest through the shed blood of Christ

We are exhorted to take full advantage of God's glorious Grace by our obedient response of faith in the shed blood of Christ through whom God, as a loving Father, has washed away the shame, the stench, and the sickness of sin which had before served to separate God our Father from us His children, blessed and highly favored.

-Eric Johnson

 Weekly Schedule	 Elders	 World Missions
Sunday	Bill Bell 463-1139	Kevin Chambers
Worship 8:00 a.m.	Joe Matthews 474-8369	World Christian Broadcasting
Bible Study 9:30 a.m.	Rick Swensen 463-6822	Anchor Point, Alaska 99556
Worship 10:45 a.m.	Don Vice 471-8653	Loren and Penny Hollingsworth
Life Groups 6:00 p.m.		Phuket, Thailand 83000
Wednesday	 Staff	City of Children
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	Ministers	Ensenada, Mexico
Elmwood Nursery School & Pre-K	Gayle Crowe 447-6940	Bren and Cheryl White
Preschool: Tues-Thurs 9-11:30 am	Lee Porter 463-6993	P.O. Box 245
Pre-K: Mon-Thurs 9-11:30 am	Dan Cooke 543-7469	New Market, MD 21774
Director, Susan McClain 447-2874	Office Manager	
	Sherry Marks 447-2874	

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