



Forgiveness: the Right Thing to Do

Catherine Blount was a talented young woman of 19. She had wavy hair, loved animals, and was loved and respected by both family and friends. On a pear farm near Sacramento, California, Catherine's life ended when Douglas Mickey stabbed her to death.

Her mother, Aba Gayle, was understandably beside herself. In her depression she looked for solace the only way she knew, in longing for revenge. For eight years the bitterness grew until, in despair, she knew she had to do something. She enrolled in classes that put her in touch with spiritual realities she had either forgotten or never knew. One day, she heard what sounded to her like an inner voice telling her she must forgive the man she had considered a monster, and she must let him know that.

At 4 a.m. she began typing him a letter. "Dear Mr. Mickey, Twelve years ago I had a beautiful daughter named Catherine." After describing something of Catherine's personality and character traits, she wrote about the emptiness left by Catherine's death:

"I was saddened beyond belief and felt that I would never be completely happy again. And indeed my loss of Catherine became the point of reference for my entire family. All family history was prefaced as happening either before or after Catherine's death."

Then after describing her anger and her prayers, she went on to tell about the class she was taking.

"I was surprised to find that I could forgive you. This does not mean that I think you are innocent or that you are blameless for what happened. What I learned is, You are a divine child of God. You carry the Christ consciousness within you. You are surrounded by God's love even as you sit in your cell."

Aba Gayle began telling her story in churches around the country, and the result, according to an article in the *Journal and Courier*, has been life-changing both for her and for many who heard her.

Forgiveness. Tough but necessary. A 2001 study at the University of Michigan found that older adults tended to become sick more often and more severely if they had held onto grudges for years.

Forgive! It will do you good.

G. Crowe

Retreat Time

It is retreat time!

This year the college group will be heading to Trafalgar, Indiana, to the FFA Leadership Retreat Center. We leave this Friday evening and will arrive around 8 pm. We will then get checked into our cabins and start off with a time of praise and song. Then we will learn from God's word.

Josh Graves will be our speaker. Josh is a Young Adult Minister at Rochester Church of Christ in Michigan. Josh will also serve as an adjunct teacher at Rochester College in the Department of Religion.

The topic for our retreat is "kingdom." We will explore what it means to be kingdom oriented and how each person was uniquely designed to fit into His kingdom.

This should be an amazing time. I am really excited! The retreats are where freshman form and begin to nurture relationships in the Lord that will last a lifetime, and where the rest of us can learn to grow in the relationships we already have.

Pray for our retreat this year! Without prayer it is nothing but a relaxing weekend. But with your prayers and God's help, it will be a time where we can truly find our unique place in kingdom work and come back prepared to engage in that work.

~Dan

Prayer Concerns...

Natasha Risley had an appointment at the University of Cleveland on Tuesday to consult with a specialist for possible surgery for a serious back problem....

Elizabeth Tinkle had a seizure Sunday night and suffered a broken leg and broken bones in her foot. She had surgery Monday afternoon. She is in St. Elizabeth

Hospital, room 4341....**Alice Follick** is in St. Anthony's Health Care, room 106B....

Annie Crowder went home and was able to worship with us on Sunday ...Continue to pray for **Joe White, Marie DeWoody, Mark Eddy, Clarence Wilson, Geneva Hamilton, Terry Pepper, Anna Dale, Eunice Whitesell, Irene Fox, Ramona Farris, and Delpha Allen.** Those in Rosewalk Village: **Paul & Ruth Marks, Minnie Scott, and Burnell Gulden.**

Serving in the military: **Josh Hunt** should be coming home soon! Praise the Lord! Others now serving in Iraq: **Dustin Holley** (*Pauletta Smith's nephew's son, a Navy medic who will work with a Marine Unit*), and **Brad King** (*Joe and Sandy Seele's neighbor's son*).

Many in the church in the Gulfport, Mississippi area lost homes. Relatives of Lynae Stafford, **Jackie & Arthur Williams**, lost most of the contents of their home, though their home is still standing. Pray for them and their neighbors at this devastating time.



*Mr. & Mrs. Mark S. McClain
request the honor of your presence
at the marriage of their daughter
Sarah Elizabeth to
Mr. Mark David Bird
son of Mr. & Mrs. Gary Bird
Friday, September 16, 2005,
at seven-thirty o'clock in the evening*

Elmwood Church of Christ, 2501 Elmwood Avenue, Lafayette, Indiana



**Madagascar
Contribution tops
\$10,000!**

The response to the September 11 drive to fund the new World Christian Broadcasting station in Madagascar was overwhelming. To date over \$10,000 has been given by Elmwood members. This is a church that excels in the gift of giving. The results of these gifts by many in the church will be celebrated through all eternity. Thanks!



Matt Bishop, 32, nephew of Ann Vaught and Amy Hodges, died unexpectedly Sunday after a brief illness. He had just graduated from culinary school in Austin, Texas. Funeral arrangements are pending. Our sincere sympathies to his parents, **Tom and Marty**, and grandmother, **Leona Bishop**.



The food pantry is in need of **fruit and green beans**. No more cereal right now. Thanks.

-Herb & Mary Ella King

Nursery School needs subs

Elmwood Nursery School, meeting Monday-Thursday, 9:00-11:30 AM, is in need of substitute teachers for this year. This is a paid position. If you are available and you're interested, call Sue McClain at the church office.

September 11, 2005

Class: 208 Worship: 356

Contribution: \$8,904

Budget: \$8,100

Special WCBC contribution
for Madagascar tower: \$10,540

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Elmwood Youth in Christ News

Hunger Hike, Sunday September 18 – I'm Still Walking!

The Hunger Hike is this Sunday. As I have mentioned before, one of the beneficiaries of the effort is the Food Finders Food Bank, where we get the bulk of our foods for the pantry. I know this is a little bold, but I am suggesting that everyone either walk or sponsor (pay) someone. To the best of my knowledge, there are three of us from the youth ministry walking: Erin Simmerman, Rachel Walters and me. I am planning to walk and if you would like to sponsor me let me know or you can even pledge to me online at: <http://www.justgiving.com/pfp/elmwoodyouthguy>. If you help me pass my goal of \$500, I'll do the 4.5 mile jog instead of the 2 mile hike. As of right now, I'M STILL WALKING...don't you want to see this old guy have to run? If you don't have internet access, you can sponsor Erin, Rachel or me directly...up till Sunday morning.

LIFE Groups

LIFE Groups resume this Sunday and I don't know about you, but I am really excited! Parents, we are still wide open for hosts for LIFE Groups this semester. At the writing of this article, we don't have a host for this Sunday. If you would like to host at your house, the B.O.B., the park or somewhere else, just let me know. If you want to co-host with another family, we will work with you on that as well. You do not have to have teens in your family to host a teen LIFE Group. We really have a great group of young people and you won't regret the time you spend with them in your home or elsewhere...I promise – they bless my life all the time.

Open House – October 9, 7 PM to ??

Don't forget we plan to have an open house at the B.O.B. on Sunday, October 9. Since many of us will be coming in from the Fall Retreat at Spring Mill that afternoon, I really need a couple families to head up the preparation for the big event...let me know if you are available.

Fall Retreat at SMBC – Oct. 7-9, 2005

The dates are quickly approaching for "Crossroads," the 16th annual fall retreat at Spring Mill Bible Camp. This year's lessons will be focused on people whose lives were changed forever after "bumping into" Jesus as they traveled. I need to remind you that the close of registration is likely quickly approaching, too as we almost always have to turn people away for this awesome experience. There are only 120 spaces available, including staff, so you need to mail your registration TODAY! Total cost for the retreat is \$30 payable to SMBC and then there will be a nominal transportation charge for van use and gas. Don't hesitate! Instead of finding yourself at the "crossroads," you may find yourself left at home. -Lee

Jenna, Craig, & Ashleigh fly home

Your thoughts and prayers over the last several years on behalf of Jenna & Craig Powlen have been greatly appreciated. We would like to invite you to an Open House to introduce the newest addition to the McCoy-Powlen family. Please join us any time from 2 o'clock until 4 o'clock this Sunday, September 18, at the home of Jack & Sue McCoy. **Jenna, Craig, and Ashleigh** look forward to visiting with you.

Have Laptop- Will Donate?

The former youth room has been retrofitted into a well-equipped classroom. It will be used for special classes like Good \$ense, Dynamic Marriages, and other short-term events.

You may have a piece of equipment we could use for the room. We could use a laptop computer with a processor of P3 1Ghz speed or better, 256 MB ram or better, 5-10 GB hard drive or better. It needs a USB port and an s-video port. A DVD player in it would be nice.

Have one like that lying around that you don't need? We'd be happy to write you a tax receipt for it! All those who use the room will appreciate it and thank you for your support.



Sept. 14, 7 PM...Bible classes for all

Sept. 14, 7 PM...Men's Class, room 204,

Young Mom's Class, room 202

Sept. 14-18...."*Living a Christian Life*," a gospel meeting at the East Washington Church of Christ in Frankfort. Sessions begin at 7:00 each evening

Sept. 16, 7:30 PM...Sarah McClain-Mark Bird wedding

Sept. 16-18....CSC Fall Retreat

Sept. 17, 7:43 AM...Men's Breakfast

Sept. 18, 6 PM...LIFE Groups begin!

Sept. 18-21...."*God's Grace*," a gospel meeting at Eagle Valley Church of Christ, Indianapolis

Sept. 25, 12 noon....Adopted Student Lunch in fellowship room

Oct. 21-22....Men's Retreat at Camp Tecumseh; sign-up sheet in the Farris foyer

Read:
 Isaiah 34-50;
 Galatians 5-Ephesians 4;
 Psalms 58-64; Prov. 23:23-24:6

2005 Spiritual Adventure

Week 39: September 26-October 2

Just over twenty-three years ago, the Lord blessed us with the first of three children he wanted us to raise for Him. At the end of this week we will be celebrating the marriage of our oldest child, Sarah, to Mark Bird. There are so many memories and emotions filling my head and my heart this week. Life with Sarah has always been an adventure: from her birth (labor took four days!), her heart failure at 3 months of age and the subsequent medical roller coaster and cure (God answers prayer!), through her school years, through her life lessons learned in the past several years, to the planning of this important day.

We could not have raised her alone. God was an integral part in Sarah's upbringing. The first song that she heard was "Jesus Loves Me" when she was less than an hour old. She met her church family for the first time when she was only a week old. We sang cradle roll songs every night before going to bed. As a young child, she would call people for rides to church when we couldn't take her because we were sick. She began going to church camp when she was ten years old, and has been every year since (sometimes spending three weeks in a row there!). She loves the Lord!

I hope that she remembers the example that was set in our home of a Christian family. A family where love, teaching, and discipline were all important. Our family isn't perfect, but I pray that with His help we have raised her the way that He intended us to do. I pray that she will continue to grow in her love for Him and His teachings. I pray that she will be the kind of Christian woman mentioned in Proverbs 31. I thank the Lord for the Christian man that he brought into her life as her mate. I pray that their home together will be blessed and watched over by our God and Father. I didn't realize twenty-three years ago just how fast the time would go. My heart is breaking and rejoicing at the same time. Breaking for the loss of the little girl turned young woman that we have raised, rejoicing for the beginning of another Christian family. God bless them!

-Sue McClain

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

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