



Pay Attention!

With school just around the corner, perhaps it would be appropriate to see just how the students are doing. A report from *Harvard Magazine* tells of a finding of the Faculty Committee on the Use of English by Students. The report found that undergraduates "write bad English because of sheer ignorance. Errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar, and sentence structure abound . . . the influence of bad school training and years of indifference." Pretty sorry state. By the way, that report was issued in 1916.

Ever get the feeling that nobody's paying attention? The teachers have been teaching their hearts out for years, and yet even among the brightest and the most diligent, results are often dismal.

Cross-reference that with an article in *Purdue's Exponent* dated June 21, 2006. English professors were surveyed, and the conclusion of the survey is that today's students are hampered in their abilities to handle the English requirements because they don't know the Bible.

"The survey of 39 professors showed that the majority of them believe a lack of basic Bible literacy hinders students' ability to understand classic and contemporary literary works. In fact, 38 of 39 professors agreed that it is important for students who take English courses to be familiar with the Bible."

One professor said, "Some students have come to me and said, 'the Bible is everywhere in the literature classes I'm taking and I don't understand what's going on.'" Even though many of the students have Christian backgrounds, it remains true that many of those, as well as others, have never actually read the Bible.

A 20-something once told me the motto of wisdom by which he lived: "Every day read your Bible, say your prayers, and back up your hard drive." Deciding which of the first two is more important is like trying to decide whether your right leg or your left is more important.

As both the *Harvard Magazine* and the *Exponent* remind us, we don't concentrate very well. Which is to say, when you're reading your Bible tonight, pay attention.

G. Crowe

Timing and Numbers

Timing is everything. And this is the perfect time to talk to a student about Christ. The beginning of the school year is the most critical time in a student's life. It sets the tone for the whole semester and, quite possibly, the entire scholastic experience. Not only is it the most critical time for students, it is also a time when they are open to new ideas. These young men and women are restructuring their entire world, and they could use some godly instruction on how to do just that.

Numbers are equally important. Recently, Elmwood saw how successful the LST has been. The potential for fruit in Fiji is endless now because of those contacts made. My guess is that if you asked Josh, he would say that all the team members worked hard all day, everyday. I know that they did because I have done it before! God blessed a handful of people with over 90 contacts.

Now, imagine Purdue: 40,000 possibilities, one campus minister. The possibilities are endless, but the students here need more than one person (because one person cannot reach everyone). They need more than two. They need an entire community of believers telling and retelling their testimonies, challenging student's minds and hearts, and showing that God is good and pure and holy. The students here need and deserve a team, a community, that will engage them as never before to share the gospel message. Timing and numbers! Funny isn't it? . . .we seem to have both. ~Dan

Showing the Jesus Film

Beginning Sunday, August 6, the **Jesus** film will be shown during the Sunday school hour in room 17, the conference room. The film is too long to be shown in one sitting, so it will be shown over several weeks, with a discussion period after each showing. The **Jesus** film has been shown all over the world with tremendous impact in mission sites. It should be interesting to watch it and find out what it contains that has had such an impact.

—Rick Swensen

Thank You!

Dear Elmwood family,

Thank you so much for your prayers and visits while Ben was in the hospital. I don't know what I would have done without my Elmwood family, since John was in Louisville at the beginning. It was such a blessing to be able to call a couple of friends and have them right away helping to get Josh and Rachel to where they needed to go and other friends right there for hugs. Special thanks to a bunch of the teens who showed up to entertain a very bored Ben on Saturday! We also really appreciated the ice cream deliveries!

Ben was able to go to Camp CUMO and Spring Mill Bible Camp. We're very thankful that he's okay now. We're so thankful for our Elmwood family and love you all very much!

—John, Lynae, Ben, Josh & Rachel Stafford

Congratulations to the Graduates!

This weekend **Mindy Hart** will receive her Master's in Educational Administration from Purdue. Happily, this requires no location change at this time!

On Monday, **Ernest Nyannor** defended his thesis for his MS from Purdue's Department of Animal Science in the School of Agriculture. His specialization was in non-ruminant nutrition. On Tuesday he left for Maryland where he begins a Ph.D. in metal trafficking (intermediate copper and iron metabolism) at the University of Maryland. His wife, Angela, is a pathologist. Their address: 9245 Livery Lane, Apt. L, Laurel, MD 20723.

Congratulations to both Mindy and Ernest!

Baby Shower for Koebckes



Money and gifts will be collected for **Cami, Travis and Kaden Koebcke**, for an upcoming shower in August. No details for a date at this time. Christie Branstetter and Becky Pitt are coordinating the collection and are working with Cami (Kaden is not yet able to be introduced to a crowd of people). If you have any questions, call Christie at 423-5650 or Becky at 471-9155.



Dorothy & Oscar Miller celebrate 25 years of marriage



Dorothy & Oscar Miller celebrated their **25th wedding anniversary** July 25. A come-n-go reception in their honor will be held this Saturday, August 5, from 2:00 until 5:00 in the Elmwood fellowship room (A-2). Cards (only) appreciated.

Attention Women!

Missed the discussion and sign up for the Women's Ministry? Not a problem. Sue Wilder will repeat the presentation on August 13 during Sunday morning class in room 206. Come hear about new plans for the Elmwood's Women's Ministry.

Can You Help?

Assistance is needed to transport approximately 300 pounds of food from Food Finders to the building on **August 18 (Friday)** from 9:00 to 10:30 AM. If you have a truck and can help, contact John Stafford at 474-8478.

July 30, 2006

Class: 185 Worship: 235

Contribution: \$5,242

Budget: \$8,100



Wow, it's already here: my last few days at Elmwood. It's pretty hard to say that. On one hand it feels like I just got here. I remember vividly driving into Lafayette, pulling into the parking lot here at Elmwood, and the first people I met here (Ben and Josh). But on the other hand, I feel like I've been a part of this community for years. I have had so many meals, meetings, and get-togethers with so many different people, so many times, it's hard for me to keep it all straight!

I am sad to be leaving. I am going to miss all of you so much. I have really enjoyed my time here and it has been an excellent experience. If I could have my way, I'd bring you all to Rochester with me. I truly have been blessed by spending time with you all this year.

But there are many good things for me to look forward to as well. For one thing, I will be able to spend some time with my best friend and girlfriend, Katy. Also, I will be going back to one of my favorite places in the world, Rochester College. My senior year brings with it extra responsibility as an RA, but also some extra rewards for the work that I will be doing.

There are so many things that I would like to say to you, but it just doesn't translate into written word very well. I would really like to thank everyone who spent time with me over a meal this summer. I really appreciate it, and I have enjoyed my time in your homes and in your presence. A huge thank-you also needs to go out to the families who let me stay in their homes and put up with my oddities.

Firstly, and mostly, the Sutherlins who took me in for a whole month, and on top of that, didn't even know what type of a person I was before I came to live with them. I could have been a crazy person and they would have been stuck with me for a whole month (though if you ask them, they may tell you that's the way it was). I also have great appreciation for the Bells, the Simmermans, and the Staffords who all were very hospitable and welcoming.

Well, my space on the page is becoming much like my time here...short. Suffice to say, I cherish each of you in my heart, and you have each had a hand in forming the person who I am. I will miss you all and my thoughts will continually return to my summer here. The best way to contact me in the future is to email me at ptravis@rc.edu. I have only one request for you: Continue being the loving community which God has called you to be, and which I have been blessed to partake in for the past three months.

~Phil Travis

Six-Way Happening

The "Six-Way Happening" at Elmwood continues this Sunday night. Six separate groups meet from 6 to 7 PM:

1. The nursery is staffed.
2. For toddlers through 5th grade, "Fiesta" (a modified VBS-format) is happening in the youth classrooms.
3. For teens in the youth house the topic is, "It's All About Me, Isn't It?"
4. For parents of teens, as well as others who would like to participate, Lee Porter is teaching "Parenting Teens May Be Rocket Science!" in A-2.
5. Janet Boston is leading the "Good \$ense" workshop in the new conference room.
6. For all others, Gayle Crowe and Dan Cooke are helping those in A-1 to say, "Now I See!"

You—and your friends—will benefit from this summer series!

Prayer Concerns....

Ella McBride, one-year-old great-niece of Kevin Walters and daughter of Angela & Joe McBride, is in Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis. They have discovered she has an enlarged heart and weak muscle around her heart....Continue praying for **Rose Hunt, Nathan Weir** (*Riley Children's Hospital*), **Mary Burns, Dick Waterstraat, Lynn Robinson** (*treatment for colon cancer*), **Audrey Merriman, Linda Smith** (*Methodist Hospital*), **Henrietta Frampton** (*St. Mary's*), **Helen Clements** (*Heritage Healthcare*), **Kaden Koebcke, Noah Powlen, Phyllis Gray, Mark Eddy, Marie DeWoody, Delpha Allen, Anna Dale, Elizabeth Tinkle & Carrie High** (*Regency Place*), **Irene Fox** (*George Davis Manor Nursing Home*), and in *Rosewalk Village*: **Ruth Marks, Minnie Scott, & Burnell Gulden**.

Serving in Iraq: **Jon Kiefner, Loren Sniffen**, and **Brad King**. Serving in South Korea: **Amanda Martin**.



- August 2, 7 PM**....Bible classes for all
- August 5, 2-5 PM**....Miller 25th wedding anniversary celebration in Elmwood fellowship room
- August 6 & 13**....Adopted parent signup
- August 6, 6 PM**....Six-Way Happening
- October 13-15**....Men's retreat (more info to come)

CSC August Events....

- August 21**....Open House
- August 22**.... Sand Volleyball
- August 23**....Encounter & Ice Cream Social
- August 24**....Thirsty Thursday-Movie Night
- August 25**....Back to School Kickoff Cookout
- August 26**....Prayer Breakfast & Service Project

Read:

II Chronicles 33–36; Obadiah;
2 Cor. 1–13; Psalms 104:24–
107:43

2006 Spiritual Adventure

Week 33: August 13–19

Open Book Test

God is the kind of teacher that all of us underachievers wish for, and boy, are we underachievers. He gives us chance after chance, no matter how many times we fail. If you doubt that, read this week's selection from the Psalms. God really wants us to succeed. This week's reading begins in 2 Chronicles 33-36. God was fairly strict back in those days when kings "did what was evil in the sight of the Lord," because you never heard much of them after that. After years of wickedness, God's people entered the reign of Josiah, who was the first king in a long while who actually bothered to read God's law, or more accurately, have one of his scholars read it to him (after all it's good to be the king). Suffice to say, after the reading of the law he was taken aback: "When the king heard the words of the law he tore his clothes" (2 Chronicles 34:19). I feel this was an appropriate response. He was trying to be a good God-fearing king and get the people back in line, only to realize that he could face hell fire for things like plowing a field with a donkey and an ox yoked together. Could you imagine trying to memorize Deuteronomy, much less live your life by it? The point is the law was strict and overwhelming. God undoubtedly noticed that we missed the point of his early laws and certainly had trouble following them, and that we began to ignore them. When we weren't busy ignoring His laws, we spent our time bickering over the minutest details of His law (see donkey v. ox).

Finally, 2 Corinthians teaches us that Jesus came to simplify things. Everything Jesus taught can be boiled down to two simple rules: 1) humble yourself before the Lord, and 2) love one another. Put these two things first and everything else will fall into place. Paul reminded the Corinthians that his authority was given to him by God to build us up, not to tear us down (2 Corinthians 10:8). I take great comfort in knowing that those are God's intentions. Another comforting fact is that all of God's tests nowadays are open book; we just have to take the time to look up the answers. **-Gabe Colon**