



A Step Above the Rational

"People are funny." Art Linkletter entertained the nation back in the late 50's with his shows (radio, then TV) by that name. He would drag his film crew all around southern California to create bizarre situations to prove that, as millions already knew but loved to be reminded, "people are funny."

Turns out that people are funny in lots of ways. A professor of economics at Harvard (not a source one would expect to tap for anything in the "funny" department) is a leader in what has come to be known as "behavioral economics." Dr. David Laibson has made a career of studying the fundamental tension between "seizing available rewards in the present, and being patient for rewards in the future."

Is there really anybody there who thinks human beings are rational creatures? People say they want to save for retirement, eat better, start exercising, quit smoking—and they mean it!—but very few of them do. Forget the caricature of man as an intelligent, analytic creature whose goals are unswayed by feelings or impulses. Better to just admit that people are funny. This is true even of people we pay to be carefully analytic: a 1990 study looked at the odd circumstance of stock traders paying different prices for Royal Dutch stock in Amsterdam than they were paying for Shell stock in London, even though it was just one company, Royal Dutch/Shell.

More proof of how funny / irrational we are. A bank in South Africa wanted to make more loans. In some of their mailed advertising they lowered their rates. In advertising to different homes they kept high rates but offered cheap cell phones or put photos in the letter. They were shocked to find that the least effective merchandising was cheaper rates. Makes no sense at all.

So what's the point for today? In his Bible, God has told us lots of things to do and not to do. We all want to be with him for all eternity, so that should end it. Ah, no, Professor Laibson reminds us, we aren't all that rational. So over all the do's and don'ts is a simple message: your Dad, who loves you, knows what's best for you. Just do it His way, and you'll be better off not just in the "there and then," but also in the "here and now." *G. Crowe*

Better Questions

Who? What? When? Why? How? All of these are questions that we use everyday. However, in order to get the answers we want and need, we have to ask the right questions.

Sometimes we do a poor job at asking the right questions. I remember returning home after work and finding my fish on the floor....dead. I remember saying, "How did my fish end up on the floor?" The answer to that question was not that important. Maybe it jumped out; maybe a sadistic roommate had taken it out and put it on the floor. Who knows?

I discovered that the better question was, "Why is my fish on the floor?" I quickly learned that the fish I had bought is known for jumping! My tank was uncovered. You do the math. By asking *why*, I received the answer to "how?" Solution: buy a different type of fish or cover my tank.

The church asks wrong questions too sometimes. For example, we ask "How can we work our faith into the workplace?" That is fundamentally wrong. The better question is: "How can we fit our jobs into our faith? How can we fit our jobs into the work of the kingdom?" It is just a slight change in word order, but it is a fundamental shift in theology. In the latter question, the kingdom assumes priority, not so in the former question. I challenge you this week to ask the right questions. What are your priorities? Perhaps a better question: What are God's priorities? *~Dan*



Carrie High is in St. Elizabeth Hospital, room 3114....**Kaden Koebcke**, grandson of Jack & Sue McCoy, remains in NICU at Riley Hospital in Indianapolis. He continues to have respiratory problems. He now weighs 4 pounds!...**Noah Powlen**, Jack & Sue's other grandson in NICU in California, is doing very well. He is off all breathing help... **Shirley Farmer's** husband, **Willard**, did not have surgery last week. He will consult with a cardiologist before rescheduling surgery....**Amber Tolle**, Ginger Maxwell-Spenard's daughter, is experiencing some problems with her pregnancy...**Brandon Hombs' grandfather, Jack**, is struggling with complications of lung cancer....Continue praying for **Natasha Risley, Betty Brown, Laura Reel, A. J. Wilson, Josh Dieterle, Doris Swensen, Mark Eddy, Marie DeWoody, Anna Dale, Ramona Farris, Irene Fox,** and **Delpha Allen**. Those in Rosewalk Village: **Paul & Ruth Marks, Minnie Scott,** and **Burnell Gulden**.

Serving in Iraq: **Jon Kiefner, Loren Sniffen, Dustin Holley,** and **Brad King**.

CSC Bake Sale

Next week we will be having a bake sale at Purdue to provide extra funds for the CSC Spring Break Campaign to help with hurricane relief efforts in Slidell, Louisiana. If you would like to provide cookies, brownies, or some bread (e.g. banana nut bread, etc.) product, please bring it to church Sunday, March 5, at any time during the day and Dan will take it to the CSC. If possible, please wrap them individually in plastic or we can do that for you. We will sell the baked goods at Purdue the first week in March and all the proceeds will go toward our mission effort. Thank you once again for contributing in this amazing ministry! If you have any questions, call Dan Cooke at 765-743-0954.

Leadership Training for Christ

Those participating in puppets for LILC should meet with Lynae this Wednesday, March 1, at 7:00 PM. Also, Large Group Singing will meet at the church building this Sunday, March 5, at 4:15 PM, for rehearsal.

Thank You!

Dear Elmwood family,

Thank you so much for your prayers. The cards and visits were so comforting. A special thanks to you who "walked the halls" with me. With love, Doris Swensen

To our wonderful church family,

We want to thank you for the flowers, calls, prayers, food, and visits. Our family was truly blessed by your love. For the family of Fred Whiteman, David & Vicki Henke

I would like to thank all the people who donated food or money for the Youth Group trip to Winterfest. We were able to provide 2 breakfasts, lunch and several ate supper with the food that was provided! It was good to make sure that the teens ate at least 3 healthy meals over the weekend! We all really appreciate your generosity! -Lynae Stafford

A very special thank you to the children, teachers, etc., who aided in the preparation of the Valentine goodies received by the Senior Servants of Elmwood. How thoughtful. We are so blessed to be in the family at Elmwood. God bless, Armilda & Bernie Follick

God bless the children and their Christian teachers for the Valentine treats. Thanks so much. In Christian love, Phyllis Gray



New Address

Bill & Emily Royston have gone to spend the next few months at their home in the Houston area. They expect to return in time for Emily to resume work at Purdue mid-summer. Next Sunday they are scheduled to attend an orientation class at the First Colony Church of Christ in Sugar Land, Texas. Their address will be: 10010 Lost Hollow Lane, Missouri City, TX 77459; phone: 281-778-7646.

LUM Meal Providers

Serving dinner at Lafayette Urban Ministry Monday night were: **Andrea Browell, Margie Moffitt, Pauline Arnold, Chadd & Jenny Gibson,** and **Chad & Becky Pitt.**



The food pantry is in need of **canned fruit and soup.**

February 26, 2006
Class: 225 Worship: 284
Contribution: \$7,206
Budget: \$8,100

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Parent Perspective – Winterfest 2006 thoughts: Sheryl Willison

This year's theme "Rock Solid" reminded me to keep God's foundation first in my life and also to remind my family how important it is to do the same. It gave me insights on how things had happened in my youth and not just how I may have handled them wrong or right, but instructed me on how I can be better aware of things in my daughter's lives now.

Can you image some 5 to 6,000 youth, and adults singing! AMEN! (Don't forget there were two sessions the same sizes!) The lessons were not only entertaining but really made you think. I saw all our youth listening and directing their thoughts on what was being said and how they can implement those lessons in their lives. Then there was Sunday morning...taking the bread and cup and watching Melissa experiencing her first time. WOW! (She didn't know that I had some tears.)

It was interesting to see our youth greet and hug friends from camp, last years Winterfest, and youth whose families have moved away. Our teens are so tied into one another (locally and with other churches) that just communicating on computers, seeing one another once or twice a week is not enough.

Our young people are so important that more of them should have this opportunity to go to as many youth rallies, retreats, and other events as we can fit in one year's time. I know things can be expensive, but let's get together as parents and find ways we can help our youth build Christian relationships that will last forever.

– Sheryl Willison

We Are Up and Running... Taking the Lead

Here we go! LTC is in full swing. Puppet practice is taking place on Wednesdays at 7:00, group singing is on Sundays at 4:15 and other events are taking place as participants can make arrangements to meet with their coaches. Most have already filled out their service challenge forms and 9th-12th graders need to remember to get their scholarship forms (don't forget you need to get two references!) in to Lee this week. Adults, please remember that several of you are needed to help with Elmwood's obligation to judge events, monitor doors, serve as score keepers, etc. If you want a job, just see Sue McClain, Rose Hunt or me! We will be glad to help!!!

– Lee

New Directory Pictures to be taken in April



Elmwood is shooting a new pictorial directory, and we need everyone to participate. A photo studio will be set up at the church building on **April 14, 15, 25 and 26** (Friday, Saturday, Tuesday and Wednesday). Every participating family gets a **free directory and 8 x 10 picture**. **There is no cost to the church and you are not obligated by high pressure sales to buy any pictures.** There will be sign-up sheets available in the Farris foyer and the A-2 fellowship room this Sunday between services. You can still make an appointment online at www.signup.olanmills.com. Use the number 05991 as your contract number, and be sure to advance the calendar to April to find Elmwood's date options. Sign up early to make sure you get a convenient time! This directory is an important tool in our staying in touch with each other and in helping new members learn who everyone else is.

Let's Start Talking Team goes to Fiji

For the sixth time, Elmwood is sending a team of Let's Start Talking workers to teach Jesus using English conversation. This year, the team will be sent to Suva, Fiji. The team includes Josh, Gina, and Kinley Boyd; Ryan and Stephanie Middleton; and Alison Ruhl. The team will leave for Fiji in mid-June and will spend 6 weeks sharing Jesus and their faith. Please pray for all the team members as they prepare. If you'd like to contribute to the project, see Josh Boyd or go online to <http://lst.kintera.org/2006projects/purdue>, where you can contribute to individual members or click on "general team donation" for your gift to be used by whoever needs it most.



- March 1, 11:30 AM**....Senior Servants meet in A-2 fellowship room for lunch
- March 1, 7 PM**....Bible classes for all; Good \$ense class
- March 1, 7 PM**....Puppet practice for LTC
- March 5, 4:15 PM**....LTC Large Group singing rehearsal at the church building
- March 5, 6 PM**....Jimmy Huff speaks; Finger Foods

Read:
Numbers 34-36; Psalms 29-35;
Deut. 1-7; Galatians 1-6

2006 Spiritual Adventure

Week 11: March 12-18

When was the last time you read Galatians 3:26-29? I mean really read it? Meditate on it for a moment. It sounds a lot like an equal access and equal employment opportunity statement. As a matter of fact, I think that it is!

Consider the passage that follows:

"You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." (Galatians 3:26-29)

Also consider a portion of an equal access and equal employment opportunity statement:

"... Prohibits discrimination ... on the basis of race, religion, color, sex (actually I prefer gender), age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability, or status as a disabled veteran." Admittedly, this statement in its totality may give some of us heartburn for various reasons, but would not this statement also work for Jesus' mission and His "great commission" to us? Is that not Jesus' mission in Luke 19:10? "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." Jesus was quite a radical teacher, leader, and minister!

As we consider our various God-given spiritual gifts through various processes at Elmwood, is it not appropriate to consider that God has given us various gifts regardless of our genetics or sinful nature—that we cultivate all too often? I would like to think so. Perhaps it is time for us to use our God-given spiritual gifts in the Greater Lafayette area in a radical way! Let us live for Jesus in this community in a powerful way and share the riches and blessings that we have as His children. Do not all—and I mean all—deserve to share the rich blessings that we have as an equal access and equal opportunity? Let us not judge, and let us get to work. There is a lot of work to be done!

—Mark S. 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	<th> Staff</th> <td></td>	 Staff	
	Ministers Gayle Crowe 447-6940 Lee Porter 463-6993 Dan Cooke 543-7469 Office Manager Sherry Marks 447-2874		

 **Elmwood**
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