



## Giving Some Back

Four businessmen were traveling through a country town and stopped for lunch at a small restaurant. About the time they were finishing, a young couple with a baby came in. The couple was obviously distressed: the woman was crying, the baby was restless, the man was visibly shaken. They ordered the most meager fare, as if all they had was a few dollars.

Finally one of the businessmen came up to them and asked if there was a problem. Indeed there was—their house, far out in the country, had caught fire that morning. Before help could arrive from town, it had burned to the ground. All they had left were the clothes on their backs, and they were now en route to stay with friends in the next county until they could rebuild. Touched by this story, the businessman reached into his pocket and gave them a \$20 bill. Their eyes lit up as they thanked him. Immediately they called the server to order a hearty meal.

Later, in the car, the businessmen discussed the plight of the young couple. All four men decided they would like to help, so they turned the car around and drove back to the restaurant just as the family was finishing their meal. The same businessman went back inside, walked over to the couple, and said, "Something new has come up—could I have my \$20 back?" The young wife slowly reached for her purse, opened it, and gave him back his \$20 bill. At that, the businessman pulled out a roll of bills, put the \$20 with some others, and handed back to the couple \$200.

What must have gone through the young couple's minds as they gave back the money? That must have been an agonizing moment. Yet that moment has parallels in the life of every person. To continue to have, we must always give back a little. Think of marriages you have known in which one of the partners will not put anything back into the relationship. He takes all the benefits and pleasures of marriages—he takes his partner's time, and love, and gifts, and respect, and compliments, and attention—but is not willing to give those back in return. What he doesn't know is that he has a \$20 marriage. If he were willing to give back the love, time, respect, compliments, and attentions, he just might wind up with a \$200 marriage. Funny how that works.

G. Crowe

## Utter Awe

The Gospel of Mark has the right idea. In its original form it conveys one of the things that churches are lacking in the world today: awe.

When reading Mark's version of the good news of Christ, one might notice that everything happens "immediately" (see Mark 1:42; 2:8; 5:29, 42; 6:27, 45, 51; 9:20, 24; 10:52; 14:72, etc.). Everything is constantly on the move in Mark's gospel. That is why the ending of Mark (Mark 16:8) comes as something of an abrupt halt to all the constant movement. (*Most Bibles now have a comment making note that the earliest manuscripts do not include v.9-20*). After all the "immediate" movements, the gospel ends with a slow, bewildered walk out of an empty tomb.

That is Mark's greatest gift to the world: a moment of awe at the sight of an empty tomb. The other gospel writers continue the story but Mark wants the reader to take a moment before moving on to the "Great Commission." Mark wants the reader to focus on an empty tomb. He wants the reader to contemplate the importance of it, the power and love behind it. Mark wants the reader to be utterly astonished, just like the women were.

Are you astonished? Have you felt the awe of the empty tomb lately? Is it the "same-old-story, heard-it-a-million-times" news or is it something that still leaves your jaw on the floor? If so, maybe it is time for you to revisit the tomb in Mark. Prepare to be astonished!!

~Dan



We are close to sending our information to Olan Mills for printing with our pictures. A draft of the information sheet that will be combined with the picture of each family has been prepared and we'd like someone from each family to proof the information. On **June 25** the information sheets for those with last names beginning with A through K will be in the Farris foyer. Information sheets for those with last names beginning with L through W will be in A-2. Please look at the information and make any corrections in ink. If the information is correct, please write "o.k." on the sheet. See Farrell Simmerman or Bill Hodges with questions. Thanks for your help.  
-Bill Hodges

## John Dittmer, Sunday Night Guest Speaker

**John Dittmer**, from the West Lafayette Christian Church, will preach for us Sunday night. John has been here for 7 years. His wife, Kris, is an LPN who works at a pediatric clinic. Their children, Cheyenne, Matt, and Philip, are teenagers. We look forward to meeting John and his family.

## News from Fiji!

Bula (greetings) from Suva, Fiji! We arrived safely here yesterday (Wednesday) at about noon Fiji time (16 hours ahead of EDT and 17 hours ahead of CDT). The flights were uneventful, and we landed in Fiji after a 10-hour flight from L.A. on Air Pacific. By the time we got our bags, made it through immigration and customs, changed money, and bought bus tickets, it was time for us to catch the bus across the island. We all slept intermittently, but we traveled through a lush green landscape dotted with poverty. It is the rainy season and rained much of the day, but the result is that everything is green. Many trees are covered with other plants growing out of their bark. Lots of tin shacks interrupt the natural beauty.

The bus ride was 4 1/2 hours. Unfortunately, 2 hours into the ride, the air conditioning quit! It was pretty hot and humid the rest of the way, but we made it.

Bimlesh and Nilu, our local contacts, met us and took us to our house, which is very nice. Each of us has our own space, and there is a kitchen and nice big dining table so we can all eat together comfortably. In fact, we went out and shopped for food and we cooked our first meal together for supper.

After supper, we met with Bimlesh and Nilu about our schedule, the information meeting that will be tonight, and what they expect of us. We're looking forward to worshipping with the Christians here.

This morning, we took public transportation downtown and walked to the house where we're going to have our reading sessions. We also checked out our information meeting space, at a nearby hotel, and it should work fine. We prayed over the space and asked God to bring lots of people with open hearts and at least basic English.

Please keep praying for us, and thank God for our safe long journey. We love you.  
Josh, Gina, & Kinley



## Peter Bell is an Eagle Scout

Boy Scout Troop 336 recognized Peter Bell last Monday night at a special Court of Honor as he was made an Eagle Scout. His many merit badges include Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Personal Management, Family Life, and others. He became a Scout in March, 1999. When Peter was given time to speak at the Court of Honor he gave special recognition to his parents and to Greg Sutherlin (an Eagle Scout himself) as his mentor. Congratulations, Peter!

## LUM Meal Providers



Serving dinner at Lafayette Urban Ministry next Monday night will be **Jenny & Chadd Gibson, Michelle & Ed Robson, Ed & Barbara Tilley, and Jimmy & Susan Huff.**

**June 18, 2006**

*Class: 170 Worship: 266*

*Contribution: \$5,832*

*Budget: \$8,100*

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One of my favorite authors is C.S. Lewis. His fiction in particular (except for his science fiction) speaks to me. I operate in the realm of stories, so I can much more easily read a story about a man who travels to heaven than I could read a highly technical paper on what Heaven might be like. Some of C.S. Lewis' most timeless books are **"The Chronicles of Narnia."** If you've seen the movie, "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," you know that this series portrays very Christian themes and stories in rather unusual ways (like talking lions). It is within this world that Lewis creates a narrative where the redeeming work of Christ is shown.

In "The Voyage of the Dawn Treader," Lewis tells a story about a young man named Eustace, a rather "beastly" boy from England. Now remember, these stories take place in a fantasy realm, so when I tell you that Eustace, after sleeping on a pile of Dragon's gold, thinking "dragon-ish" (read: selfish, greedy) thoughts, finds himself actually turned into a dragon, try and stay with me. So Eustace is a dragon, and surprisingly enough, finds it unsatisfactory.

One night as he is lamenting about the pain in his arm (caused by an altogether too small brace he had put on as a child) a lion came and told him to follow him. The lion led the dragon to a bubbling well which would certainly ease the pain in Eustace's dragon leg. The lion (who is, of course, Aslan) tells him that before he can go into the water he must first undress. So Eustace scratches the dead skin off himself (much like a snake) revealing fresh, clean skin. Seeing that he is fresh and new Eustace goes to get in the well, but sees in the reflection, that the new skin has become hard and rough just as the old skin. Eustace peels this layer of skin off, and the next, but he cannot stay clean.

Finally Aslan tells him that Eustace must allow him to undress him. Eustace when retelling the story later says:

The very first tear he made was so deep that I thought it had gone right into my heart. And when he began pulling the skin off, it hurt worse than anything I've ever felt. The only thing that made me able to bear it was just the pleasure of feeling the stuff peel off.

Aslan then threw Eustace into the well and while Eustace was swimming he realized that he had returned to his former, human self. He came up out of the water and Aslan dressed him in new clothes and Eustace became a kind and gracious person.

Think about it.

-Phil Travis



Remember our **Let's Start Talking Team--Josh, Gina, & Kinley Boyd, Lanita Boyd, Ryan & Stephanie Middleton, and Alison Ruhl**, in Suva, Fiji, for 6 weeks. (The team web page will be updated periodically by team members. The URL address is: <http://www.ryansmiddleton.com/lst>.)

**Chris Crable** is recovering at home from an accident in which he received some injuries and his car was totaled....**Carol Koons** had knee surgery last Thursday....**Helen Clements**, Carol Koons' mother, is in Home Hospital, room 4309, recovering from surgery for a broken hip....**Henrietta Frampton** is in Home Hospital, room 4314, recovering from surgery for a tumor last week. She will likely move to St. Mary's Healthcare Center this week....**Justin Gardiner** had an emergency appendectomy last week in Indianapolis. He is at home recuperating....**Lynn Robinson**, Oka LeMaster's daughter, has gone home....**Valley Stockton** was released from the hospital last week and is at home resting....Continue praying for **Elizabeth Tinkle** (surgery on her leg July 17), **Jim Rustin, Nathan Weir, Kaden Koebecke, Noah Powlen, Natasha Risley, Phyllis Gray, Mark Eddy, Marie DeWoody, Anna Dale, Carrie High** (Regency Place Nursing Home), **Irene Fox** (George Davis Manor Nursing Home), **Delpha Allen, Ruth Marks, Minnie Scott**, and **Burnell Gulden** (Rosewalk Village).

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



**June 21, 11:30 AM**....Senior Servants meet in A-2

**June 21, 7 PM**....Bible classes for all

**June 21**....Camp C.U.M.O. Fellowship at Greatimes (youth activity)

**June 25, 6 PM**....John Dittmer speaks at evening service

**June 25-30**....Elevate @ Rochester College

**June 27-July 2**...."Live Out Loud" at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana; sponsored by Exodus International

**June 30**....The Ride (Youth trip to Cedar Point)

**July 8-14**....Camp C.U.M.O. Mission Trip

**July 16-22**....Spring Mill Bible Camp Senior week

**July 23-28**....Spring Mill Bible Camp Intermediate week

*Read:*  
2 Kings 23-25; Luke 6-18;  
Hosea 1-6

# 2006 Spiritual Adventure

## Week 26: July 2-8

I have been taught that when reading the teachings of Jesus, it is important to ask myself the questions, why does He say what He says, and what does this mean for my life? Unfortunately I tend to miss the mark quite frequently. It seems as though my thoughts and actions are often concerned with avoiding obvious sins and judging myself and other people. I think sometimes that following rules is what makes me a “Christian.” I’m not sure exactly where I got this idea, but the book of Luke reminds me that I am actually missing the point. Luke 6:27-31 is very humbling:

*“But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone strikes you on the cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you.”*

Jesus always has a way of raising the standards beyond anything within my reach. I know I cannot accomplish this on my own, yet I am encouraged. It makes me more dependent on God because I know that only with His help will I ever change.

**–Caitie Jones**

 Weekly Schedule	 Elders	 World Missions	
<b>Sunday</b> Worship 8:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Life Groups 6:00 p.m. <b>Wednesday</b> 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	
	<b>Ministers</b> Gayle Crowe 447-6940 Lee Porter 463-6993 Dan Cooke 543-7469 <b>Office Manager</b> Sherry Marks 447-2874		

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