



How About the Truth?

The *U. S. News & World Report* is devoted to reporting news, not favoring any religious view. But from their web site comes an interesting expose of the false claims in *The Da Vinci Code*.

The Code says Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene. *USN&WR* says there's not a hint of evidence in history that that is true.

The Code says Jesus and Mary had a child together. Not a shred of evidence anywhere—not even any speculation about it.

The Code says Mary Magdalene was at the Last Supper. Total fabrication. End of discussion. *USN&WR* says simply, "There's no evidence in the New Testament."

What about Da Vinci's painting, "The Last Supper"? *The Code* says that Mary Magdalene is on Jesus' right in the painting. *USN&WR* uses two words to debunk that idea: "It's John." Of course it's John. "There's no reason to think Da Vinci deviated from the usual groupings. . . ." Da Vinci would have been laughed out of Italy if he had tried to paint Mary at the Last Supper.

The Code says that dozens of gospels were written, but in a massive cover-up the church suppressed all but the four we have. *USN&WR* accurately says that yes, some of the early writings about Jesus' life were discussed in the first few centuries, but Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John quickly rose to the surface and there was never even genuine contention for any of the others.

In 1945 a collection of early heretical Christian Gnostic texts was discovered near the town of Nag Hammadi, Egypt. *The Code* says these texts were written as scrolls. *USN&WR* says that they were not, in fact, scrolls but codices—books with individual pages. This is proof they were not as old as *The Code* suggests and surely not old enough to be in competition with our four gospels.

All that is not from a preacher, but from the secular press. Truth is truth. Keeping truth sorted out from error is the job of anyone who reads or goes to see *The Da Vinci Code*. It's not an impossible job, but go in with your eyes open.

G. Crowe

The Perfect Day

I pose the following questions to you: What is better than Christmas Day? What is better New Years Day? What is better than Saturday? What is better even than your birthday?! The answer: TODAY. And yet many of us spend today thinking about yesterday or tomorrow.

Today is the most beautiful day that we have. In fact, it is the only day we truly have. Tomorrow is a dream, yesterday does not exist, but today is full of hope for everyone.

The Bible seems to agree with this on many instances. Hebrews 4 emphasizes the importance of today when the author says "*Today...do not harden your hearts.*" And also in Matthew, the words of Jesus preaching the Sermon on the Mount call us to focus on today: "*Do not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will worry about itself.*"

Today is the day that you should tell your husband or wife how much you love them. Today is the day that you should have a family dinner instead of another drive-thru meal. Today is the day you should make time in your schedule to draw closer to God in prayer, to teach your children about His desire for their lives, to tell a co-worker about the Savior and the way that he has changed your life. Take hold of the perfect day, take hold of today.

~Dan



Mr. & Mrs. Mark S. McClain
request the honor of your presence
at the marriage of their daughter, Mary Rachel
to her best friend, Jared Ryan Fee,
son of Mr. & Mrs. James R. Fee,
Saturday, June 10, 2006, at half past three in the afternoon.
Elmwood Church of Christ, 2501 Elmwood Avenue, Lafayette, Indiana

Reception immediately following serving cake and munchies
Hillenbrand Atrium Dining Room, Purdue University

Farewell to the Kings

Herb & Mary Ella King will be leaving Lafayette soon. They have bought a house in Huntsville, Alabama, near their son, Jason. **June 4** will be their last Sunday with us. That evening during our regular **Finger Food Fellowship**, we will honor them for their many years here and their dedicated service to Elmwood. Plan to come and wish them well on their move.



High School Graduates' Open Houses

Peter Bell's graduation open house will be this **Friday, May 26, from 7:00 until 10:00 PM.** It is being held at 208 Jennings St., (a neighbor is hosting the open house for 3 students who are all graduating from West Lafayette High School).

Danny Shields' open house is at the YMCA (St. Rd. 18) in Flora this **Saturday, May 27, 12 noon until 3:00 PM.**

Join us for brunch this **Sunday, May 28, from 11 AM until 2 PM,** at 415 Oaklawn Drive, to celebrate the graduation of **Erin Simmerman.**

Heather Willison's graduation open house at the Willisons' home is this **Sunday, May 28, from 2:00 until 6:00 PM.**

Mallory Woody will have her open house at Ross Hills Park on **Sunday, June 4, 4:30-8:30 PM.**

Our Sympathies

Johnnie Otto, Carrie Roberts' mother who was recently diagnosed with leukemia, died Thursday night in Midland, Texas. Carrie and her children flew to Texas on Saturday. Her funeral was Monday.

Thank You!

Janet and I appreciate the many expressions of sympathy and cards and the beautiful planter from Kevin and Marilyn Walter's LIFE Group at the passing of my brother, Robert. Your warm support and encouragement were very helpful during a sad time for us. Love, Earl Nelson

Directory Picture Problems?

Problems with recent pictures taken for Elmwood's pictorial directory? If so, call 800-596-3731, extension 3600. Also, if you were not able to have your picture taken, you may schedule it for June 6-10. Call Farrell at 474-6277 to reserve a time slot.

Senior Servants' Lunch

On **Wednesday, May 31,** the Senior Servants will be meeting at 11:30 AM at the Golden Corral Restaurant on Highway 26 E. Everyone is welcome to join us for this meal and fellowship time. We have the group room reserved. Cost: \$6.59.

May 21, 2006

Class: 202 Worship: 283

Contribution: \$6,287

Budget: \$8,100

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Thanks!

Okay, so every one of my English teachers told me to never start a paper, speech, etc., in this way, but I'm going to do it anyway: The dictionary defines hospitality as "behaving in a kind and generous manner towards guests." In the Bible there are several times where hospitality is rather highlighted. Abraham was hospitable to his guests and at the very sight of them jumped up and served them food and provided water to wash their feet (Gen. 18). Jesus talked about hospitality on more than one occasion, including when he said that hospitality shown to anyone is hospitality shown to God, and that God suffers with those who are hungry, thirsty, or strangers, and He is blessed when they are fed, or given drink, or welcomed (Mt. 25:31-46). Paul's work was able to be kept up thanks to the hospitality of congregations as well as individuals (Phil. 22).

Finally, I learned what hospitality looks like to the one being served over the past week. This congregation, as well as individuals within the congregation have welcomed me with open arms and shown me hospitality time and time again. Here are the facts:

- I have stayed in 1 house*
- I have had 14 meals*
- with about 40 individuals in 6 different locations.*
- I have been to 3 new restaurants.*
- Been given 3 shirts*
- 2 hats*
- 1 HUGE duffle bag FULL of Hoosier/Boilermaker stuff*
- And a trip to Indy to check out the racetrack*

This list is just the material things which I have received because they are a lot easier to put into list format than things like "X amount of people were nice to me" or "X amount of people said 'Hi' to me and shook my hand," those numbers would be in the hundreds. You might guess that I am a little overwhelmed and you would be right! But I am very thankful for you all overwhelming me and showering me with your love and kindness. You are all part of a really great congregation, one where people boldly show their love for God and their love for others. Thank you for making a decision as a congregation to support the youth ministry internship as already I have learned a lot of things which will help me form a good youth ministry after I graduate.

Most of all I would like to thank the families that are letting me stay in their houses (the Sutherlins, Bells, and Staffords), as they have to put up with me more than anyone else! Finally, thank you to all of you who were in on the intern selection process. Thank you so much for giving me this great opportunity! -Phil Travis



Dr. Lyn Freeman comes to us from the Cincinnati area to work in the veterinary department at Purdue University. Her specialty is in small animal surgery. We are delighted to have her be a part of Elmwood's family. Lyn and her husband, Gerald Hegreburg, live at 1305 E. 500 N., West Lafayette 47906. PH: 463-6184. Welcome, Lyn!

A Baby Shower!

Becky Pitt (630 Central Avenue, Lafayette) is hosting a baby shower for **Kristie Beeler** and newborn daughter, **Josephine**, on **June 8 from 6:00 until 8:00 PM**. You may give money to Becky or Jenny Sipe if you wish to contribute to a group gift.



Patty Vice is at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, undergoing tests this week....**Ken Nicholson** had surgery on Thursday. He remains in Home Hospital, room 3340....**Delpha Allen** is now recuperating at home.... Continue praying for **Nathan Weir** (*newborn receiving chemo treatment for tumor on his liver*), **Clifford Farner, James Thomas, Margie Moffitt, Barbara Newberry, Argie Verett, Sarah Watts, Willie Batts, 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*), **Paul & Ruth Marks, Minnie Scott, and Burnell Gulden** (*Rosewalk Village*)....Prayers are asked also for the family of Cody Sipe's secretary, **Jill Stickrod**, whose 3 year old granddaughter, **Reese Clawson**, was recently killed in a four-wheeler accident on Friday.

Serving in Iraq: **Jon Kiefner, Loren Sniffen, and Brad King**. Serving in South Korea near the DMZ: **Amanda Martin** (Phyllis Simmerman's niece).



- May 24, 7 PM**....Bible classes for all
- May 28, 6 PM**....**Alan Yater** to speak at evening service
- June 10, 3:30 PM**....McClain/Fee wedding
- June 13**....Let's Start Talking Team leaves for Suva, Fiji

Read:

2 Samuel 18-24; I Kings 1-6;
Colossians 1-4; Psalms 81-87

2006 Spiritual Adventure

Week 23: June 4 – 10

This week's readings remind me of selling homes. Michelle and I have talked about selling our house. I look around the house and see the blemishes. The work it would take to prepare the house for market is disheartening. Painting the rooms and the garage doors, fixing some dry wall, cleaning the house, and keeping the house picked up for prospective buyers all seems a little daunting. Then I look at all the other houses up for sale. I question how we will be able to compete. If someone comes in with our asking price, I think it will be miraculous.

In 1 Kings, Solomon builds the temple following God's directions. I am not sure what a cubit is, but I did catch the word "gold." The temple did not have any blemishes. God is perfect and desires perfection. Colossians also talks about blemishes. In chapter one verse twenty-two Paul states that we are without blemish. Just like the fact that I cannot remove every blemish around the house, I cannot remove my personal blemishes either. Those blemishes are the attitudes, thoughts, and actions that people may not see, but that the Creator of the universe knows all about. I can't remove them but God can! Not only does God forgive us, but he removes our blemishes! It is of great joy to be forgiven, but to be made perfect, praise God! As we start each day think of the following questions:

1. What is something that you have done or said that is so embarrassing that you would not tell even the people closest to you?
2. What does it mean to you that God gave his son up so that you could be free from blemish?
3. How do I live out the truth that I am forgiven and without blemish or accusation?

As we go out into our world, let us show joy in the fact that God does not just grudgingly forgive us; He both forgives us and takes away our blemishes.

-Ed Robson