



War from Beginning to End

Only 14 chapters into the Bible is the first mention of war (though a good case could be made for the proposition that the first real hint of war occurred in the third chapter of Genesis as Eve fought an internal war in deciding whether to listen to the voice of God or the voice of the serpent). Wars and their devastations continue throughout the Bible until the book of Revelation signs off with a vivid picture of the ongoing battle between the forces of good and the forces of evil. From beginning to end, from early Genesis to the end of Revelation, war.

But the Prince of Peace is Lord of the universe! Well, yes, he is, and he will be, eventually. But for the moment—thanks to the wilful disobedience of the creatures God has loved into being—a large part of the earth is under the control of “the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience” (Ephesians 2:2).

Haven't you heard? There's a war going on! As long as people keep on making evil choices, inviting the wrong lord—the wrong control—into their lives, there will be war.

So what's to happen? One approach was what happened in Jeremiah's time. Just ignore it. It doesn't exist. Forget it. Just do the same things over and over, keep on going to the same cocktail parties, and ignore those nasty warnings of killjoys like Jeremiah. Just keep on dancing! Wonderful way to deal with the crisis! Only problem is, that didn't work. The ceiling did come crashing in, the party was over, and nobody (but killjoy Jeremiah) saw it coming.

So that wasn't the best course. Perhaps a little offense, a little defense, and a few practice drills with the troops would have helped. For our war—the war for our spirits and our souls—that means knowing there really is an enemy (Satan), fortifying ourselves with the weapons of spiritual warfare (scripture, prayer, the spiritual disciplines), and staying in close formation with our fellow soldiers (the fellowship of Christians). Haven't you heard? There's a war going on! The enemy is deadly, the stakes are eternal, but our Leader will, in the end, be victorious.

G. Crowe

Hope...

I just walked out of the movies with one of the students. I took one of my adopted children to the movies today because it was fall break (hint, hint to all the adopted parents out there). I won't tell you what we saw because I do not want to potentially influence you if you choose to see it. But I will tell you a couple of things about the movie. It was full of reality and full of despair.

Watching the violence and all that accompanied it cross the screen, I was reminded of the world's desperation, its selfishness, and its fears. I was reminded that when the world takes a deep, long, honest look at itself it sees hopelessness. I was reminded that a world without Christ is a world of tension without resolution.

The world has no trouble seeing the truth of its own predicament. All one need do is to look out the window, pick up a newspaper, stand long enough in a subway station and despair will easily be found. Identifying the gravity of the world's current situation isn't hard for anyone to do. They can even do a great job of portraying it on the silver screen. Seeing the problem is easy.

But much of the world is blind to the solution. Much of the world cannot see beyond the problems, the chaos, or the violence. Much of the world cannot see the healing that has already begun with the arrival and the continuing growth of God's kingdom. It is *our* job to show them, to point them toward the solution. A world without Christ is a scary world indeed....good thing we will never know what that world is like, nor will anyone to whom we dare to share the glorious riches of Christ.

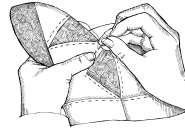
~Dan

Show & Tell Showcase!



Be part of the program at the Women's Fellowship Carry-In Dinner October 21, at 5:30 PM, in A-2. We want to share the talents and interests of women at Elmwood. Do you quilt? Sew or needlepoint?

Paint, make jewelry, scrapbook? Consult on make-up or own your own business? Bring some samples of your work or your business cards. Let Betty Brown (423-2996) or Barbara Tilley (538-3270) know so table space will be available.



Prayer Concerns...

Pray that God would show each of us open doors to communicate our faith.

Don Burrell had surgery for a brain tumor at Home Hospital Monday morning. It was as expected, though doctors now know how better to treat it. Radiation will begin in 14 days....Thinking it is not good for her to live alone, **Elizabeth Tinkle's** caseworker is looking for a group home for her to live in....**Steven Rutledge**, Fay Wolf's brother-in-law, is receiving chemo treatments. He is able to be at home with his family and appreciates our prayers....Fay Wolf's mother, **Pat Turner**, and her sister, **Pat Dwyer**, are in the hospital as they struggle with health problems.... Continue praying for **Jim Willison**, **Annie Crowder** (slowly healing from a staph infection), **Beth Holt**, **Marcia Swails**, **Gail Monnet** (co-worker and friend of Cheri Vaughn who is battling ovarian cancer), **Gale Schnaible**, **Mark Eddy**, **Amy Weismiller**, **Lynn Robinson**, **Linda Smith**, **Kaden Koebecke**, **Delpha Allen**, **Anna Dale**, **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** and **Loren Sniffen**. Serving in South Korea: **Amanda Martin**. **Jeremy Crable** will soon be deployed to Afghanistan.

Senior Servants' Schedule

The Senior Servants **will not** meet Wednesday, October 18, as originally planned. For November, the senior servants **will meet** on November 1, 15, and 29. The meeting on the 29th will be at Golden Corral at 11:30 AM.

Communion Steward Needed

The Body Life ministry is in need of an offsite communion steward for Rosewalk Village for Sunday afternoons for a small group of special people. This person may also provide communion as needed to a few others from the Elmwood church. Contact Dave Weckerly (765-564-4155) if you are interested.



Tom Anderson's grandfather, **Ed Newman, 85**, died Friday morning in Devine, Texas, after complications from surgery. His funeral was this week. Our sympathies to Tom and his family.

Thanks!

To our Elmwood Church family, We appreciate very much the love shown to us by our Elmwood church family at the death of my (Janet's) sister, **Kathleen Lloyd**. The beautiful flowers, prayers, cards, and words of comfort will long be remembered. Lovingly,
Janet & Earl Nelson



The food pantry is in need of **canned fruit, pasta, and personal items such as: toothpaste & tooth brushes, shampoo, soap, & deodorant.**
-John Stafford

October 8, 2006

Class: 169 Worship: 249

Contribution: \$6,486

Budget: \$8,550

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The War is Real!

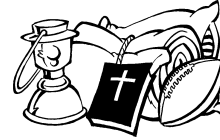
I think I may have shared the lyrics with some of you before, but I'll risk being redundant because of the point the song makes:

*"Oh, my job keeps getting easier
As the time keeps slippin' away.
I can imitate the brightest light,
And make your night look just like day.
I put some truth in every lie
To tickle itching ears
I'm drawing people just like flies –
They like what they hear.
I'm gainin' power by the hour
They're falling by the score
You know, it's getting very simple now
Since no one believes in me anymore!*

–from "No One Believes in Me"
by Keith Green

The point is fairly clear: many influences in our lives have caused us to believe that Satan is just a fairy tale...many of us seem to be living that way. And, if Satan isn't real, then there must not be any evil armies warring against our Lord for the ownership of our souls. **DON'T BELIEVE THE LIE!** Satan is alive and well and his army is huge. The war is real and the prize is our souls. This weekend, Patrick Mead, minister of the Rochester Church of Christ (Michigan) will be sharing with us about the battle and just what we can do about it. Some deadlines have passed and some of you may be saying, "It's too late for me to go." Trust me, if we end up with so many men from Elmwood at the retreat that there is not enough food, one of you can have mine. We are all busy. There are other things I could be doing this weekend, too. If you can't make the whole weekend, that is fine. Come be part of whatever sessions you can and learn how to be better equipped for the war. If money is an issue, let us know. If you need a ride, tell us. If snoring keeps you awake, go home at night. This retreat could be a life changing event for you and for many others in this church family. **MEN:** junior high through 99-year-olds, please make every effort to be part of this special event. If you are not blessed, I'll be amazed. See you there! – Lee

Men's Retreat 2006



The Men's Retreat is this weekend–**October 13-15 (Friday night through Sunday morning)** at the beautiful Camp Tecumseh YMCA Outdoor Center. The theme of this year's retreat is "**Spiritual Warfare.**" Haven't you heard there's a war going on? "*Our struggle is against the rulers, against the powers, against the spiritual forces of wickedness...*" Come hear our speaker, **Patrick Mead.** The schedule includes time for hiking, archery, fishing, rock climbing, and playing sports or just enjoying nature.

Noah's Ark Night, Nov. 4, 5-8 PM

Our annual **Noah's Ark Night** is Saturday, Nov. 4, from 5:00 until 8:00 PM. Children are encouraged to dress as animals on Noah's Ark. This year you need to bring two cans of food: one can of vegetables for the Two by Two stew, and a can of soup for our food pantry. In fact, we are having a food drive to restock our depleted food pantry, from now until Noah's Ark night. Bring your food (canned goods or boxed food) to the foyer where the youth group is arranging the food in the shape of an ark!

Foster parents, don't forget the Adopted Student Dinner for your Purdue student(s) at the CSC this Wednesday night, October 11, at 6:00. Bring food for you and your student. Give them a call and personally invite them to join you.



October 11, 7 PM....Bible classes for all
October 15, 6 PM....LIFE Groups
October 13-15....Men's retreat, YMCA, Brookston
October 15....Patrick Mead preaches at Elmwood
October 21, 5:30 PM....Women's Fellowship Carry-in Dinner in A-2

Read:
Ezekiel 11-24; Isaiah 22-28;

2006 Spiritual Adventure

Week 43: October 22-28

Ezekiel was exiled to Babylon when Nebuchadnezzar invaded Judah and took many of the Hebrews captive. God's heart had been broken by the idolatrous ways of His people (Ezekiel 6:9), and their captivity was the result of Divine Judgement.

Ezekiel was commissioned by God to be a "watchman" to the exiled Hebrews, both by forewarning them of further calamity, and by calling them to repentance. The Hebrew people believed that God looked upon them and judged them as a whole community, and Ezekiel reinforced this concept by preaching that God's people, as a group, had been judged. The devastation that had already occurred was a consequence of their sin, and more destruction was to come. But Ezekiel also introduced the new idea of individual responsibility and salvation. Through Ezekiel, God called each person to repent and find life (Ezekiel 18:32).

Apparently, some had responded to this call (Ezekiel 11:16-20). There were those who had turned from idol worship and made God their sanctuary, even while they lived as exiles in a corrupt land. Therefore, God blessed them—not only by promising to bring them back to their own country, but also by rewarding their individual spiritual growth with even *more* spiritual growth. He would give them hearts softened with undivided loyalty toward Him. Whereas when their judgement had occurred they had been a pile of dry bones (Ezekiel 37:11), now God would breathe His life into their spirits so that they would be able to live as His people. They had taken that first step by deciding to trust in Him, and God would richly reward their trust!

God has not changed. No matter what our individual circumstances are, if we decide to truly trust in Him, He will breathe His life into our spirits and give us new hearts, too. Paul said that he was confident that "He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6). Like the Hebrews in Babylon, if we will make God our sanctuary, He will give us the hearts we need to truly belong to Him.

—Beth Richardson

 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	
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> City of Children Ensenada, Mexico Bren and Cheryl White P.O. Box 245 New Market, MD 21774 </td>	 Staff	City of Children Ensenada, Mexico Bren and Cheryl White P.O. Box 245 New Market, MD 21774
	Ministers Gayle Crowe 447-6940 Lee Porter 463-6993 Dan Cooke 543-7469 Office Manager Sherry Marks 447-2874		

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