



"Go Into All the World"

Fifteen Elmwood members spent most of last week at the Willow Creek church near Chicago studying the growth experiences of 5 churches across the U.S. These churches have grown from a few people into large churches (1,000+) by thinking creatively about how to take the Great Commission to the people around them.

Members of a church in Los Angeles "Adopt-a-Block." Each member goes to the houses on his/her adopted block every Saturday to ask, "How can we help you?" The church has grown to 35,000 people by reaching out to neighbors to let them know they care.

In 20 years a church in Montclair, New Jersey, has grown from 8 to 5,000 people by living out a commitment to diversity. People from any and all racial and cultural backgrounds know they can come to that church and be accepted and loved for who they are.

Ten years ago a church in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, decided to take seriously the New Testament call to break free of traditional, man-made restraints, and start asking what God wants for the church. The church has changed from an inward to an outward focus, never letting its members forget that lost people matter to God. It now meets in 3 locations with 5,000 attending.

"No perfect people allowed" is the theme for a new church in Austin, Texas. The church has created a "come-as-you-are" culture, believing that God takes us "as is." Knowing that many people think Christians are narrow, bigoted, and judgmental, the church has worked hard to create a culture of grace-giving acceptance.

A church in Edmond, Oklahoma, has begun setting up satellite church locations, video streaming the Sunday sermons to them. Not having Sunday sermons to create, the local ministers for each of the nine separate locations are free to do genuine pastoral work among their people through the week. Sunday services are "normal" until it's time for the sermon, at which time the video feed takes over. 13,000 people participate each week.

Any ideas swirling in your head? Lost people in Tippecanoe County matter to God. How can we best reach them? *G. Crowe*

Squirrel Hunting

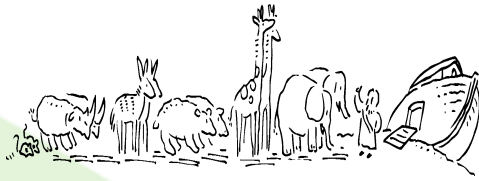
When I was 21 years old my friends and I went hunting. We loaded up in a truck, went to one of my friend's property out in the hollar (for those of you who are not from the South, that is "hollow"), and spent a weekend hunting squirrel.

This is how we hunted. We took turns driving, and the others all piled in the bed of the truck with shotguns. We drove through the woods and everyone in the back shot at anything that moved. Years later, looking back on this, it occurs to me that this was perhaps not the best method of hunting squirrel. It was dangerous. We shot at ANYTHING that moved! It was not as easy as it sounded either. We got one squirrel, and it was full of pellets! So, instead of picking out the pellets, we ate the hot dogs that the girls had brought with them!

Although everyone reading this sees the stupidity involved in this type of hunting, many of us engage in it on a regular basis on the spiritual level. We think perhaps it is best to drive through life at a terribly fast pace shooting at anything that moves: randomly reading Scriptures, praying, and engaging in other disciplines.

The skilled spiritual hunter knows different. He waits patiently. He steadies himself, calms himself, and strategically hunts his prey. He knows that one carefully aimed bullet is far more effective than a thousand that are poorly aimed. Instead of randomly reading Scriptures and getting frustrated when it does not work, I encourage you to pray, wait on the Lord patiently, and be strategic about your spiritual development. Know the areas you are weak in and then let Scripture address them. That will be a bullet that hits its target every time. Happy Hunting! ~Dan

Noah's Ark Night, November 4, 5-8 PM

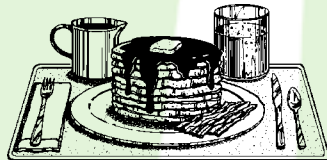


Our annual **Noah's Ark Night** is this **Saturday, November 4, from 5:00 until 8:00 PM**. Children are encouraged to dress as animals on Noah's Ark. This year you need to bring two cans of food: **one can of vegetables for the Two by Two stew, and a can of soup for our food pantry**. In fact, we are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

- 5:00-6:30 Crafts, face painting, bobbing for apples
- 5:30-7:00 Two by Two Stew & other goodies! (Come hungry)
- 5:30-7:00 Lots of fun games & prizes, maze, cakewalk and laser tag
- 7:00 PM Donut race, leap frog, and pinata

Bring a friend and join in on the fun!

Men's Breakfast



The next Men's Breakfast will be Saturday morning, **November 11, at 7:43 AM in A-2**. The breakfast concludes at 8:59 AM. A sign-up sheet for the breakfast is located in the Farris Foyer. Men of all ages are encouraged to attend. If you haven't been before, you're missing out on some great fellowship with some of the best men God created. If you don't believe it, check it out November 11th.

Shults-Lewis Milk Money Contribution



One of the ways Elmwood members have of showing their gratitude for God's bounty all year is through our willingness to provide milk for the children of Shults-Lewis Home in Valparaiso, Indiana. **That collection will be on Sunday, November 12**. As you are planning your gift for this year, recall that Shults-Lewis provides a safe, loving environment to children who otherwise would have no home or anyone to care for their needs. Our continued support is necessary for Shults-Lewis to become more responsive in reaching out to those in need.

"Til We Meet Again"

**Dessert Open House for
Dr. Tom Anderson**

**When: Friday, Nov. 10
7:00 until 9:00 PM**

**Where: Sutherlin home
2805 Union Street,
Lafayette**



Dr. Joseph E. Pryor, 88, father of **Susan Hodges**, died last Friday in Searcy, Arkansas. Before retiring, he was the Academic Dean and a teacher of Chemistry and Science at Harding University. A memorial celebration of his life was held on Monday. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to the Joseph E. Pryor Scholarship Fund c/o Harding University, Box 12238, Search, AR 72149. Our sympathies to Susan, Kurt, Audrey, and the family.



The food pantry is in need of **toilet paper, paper towels, and pasta**. *-John Stafford*

October 22, 2006

Class: 184 Worship: 282

Contribution: \$5,505

Budget: \$8,550



A-2 Conference

As Gayle mentioned on the front page, 15 of us were able to attend the A-2 (Acts 2) Conference in Chicago last week. I am still on information overload, but there was a lot of good stuff. The real question is, of course, what will we do with the information? I do wonder, "What if Elmwood took seriously the charges of the Great Commission and began seeing the Lord add to His church daily as happened in Acts 2?" I do pray we will and that the Lord will cause us to constantly remember that we don't set our eyes on anyone that does not matter immeasurably to Him.

Noah's Ark Night - November 4

I just checked the list and it looks like there are plenty of opportunities to serve this Saturday night from 5 to 8 pm. If you have not yet signed up to help, the sheet is outside the Teachers' Workshop on the bulletin board. There will be lots of fun games...one has your name on it. In addition to the games and candy and Two by Two Stew, there will be opportunity to meet folks from our neighborhood and community. If you don't want to "run" a game, come and enjoy the fellowship and be an ambassador for Jesus and Elmwood; people are coming for fun for their kids, but they may be looking for Jesus, too! Another opportunity to help out is set-up and clean-up. Set-up will start on Friday afternoon after school and will continue on Saturday morning. Come out and help us make this a great time for everyone. Call Lynae with questions.

Autumn from Rochester College

The information is coming slowly out of Rochester Hills, but here is what I know for now. Autumn is supposed to be with us sometime on Saturday and will be with us through Sunday evening for our "First Sunday Night Special" - they will be singing for us at the 6:00 meeting. It looks like there will be three girls and three guys...a couple of you have offered housing, more are welcome. We will need to feed the students as well, so even if you cannot house the singers, you could help with a meal (Sunday breakfast, or Sunday lunch) just let me know. After Autumn sings on Sunday, we will have our finger foods.

Treasure Hunter

Washington Church of Christ Youth Rally - November 17-19

The rally is just a couple weeks away and we need to make arrangements for housing and we need to send in our registration. Cost for the rally is \$20 for registration (T-shirt, snacks, breakfast and lunch on Saturday), hotel @\$60 per room per night and travel. I need to know if you plan to go!
- Lee



Pray that the body of Christ would soon reflect the ethnic diversity described in the New Testament where "there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all" (Colossians 3:11).

Paul Verett had surgery at Home Hospital on Wednesday....**Willard Farmer**, Shirley's husband, will begin treatment for lung cancer soon....**Argie Verett** is battling chronic back pain....Continue praying for **Ginger Spenard, Valley Stockton, Don Burrell** (*began radiation and chemo treatments Oct. 30*), **Jim Willison, Ella McBride, Geoff Walker, Annie Crowder** (*slowly healing from a staph infection*), **Linda Smith, Beth Holt, Elizabeth Tinkle, Pat Turner, Pat Dwyer, Steven Rutledge, Marcia Swails, Gail Monnet, Mark Eddy, Amy Weismiller, Lynn Robinson, 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.

AUTUMN is Coming!

Autumn, a singing group from Rochester College, is coming to Elmwood to sing for us during the evening worship this **Sunday, November 5**.

Can you invite one or two for Sunday dinner? Email Lee Porter if you can (porter@elmwoodyouthguy@yahoo.com) or call the church office.

We have waited a long time for Autumn to be here! It will be an inspirational event to which you can invite your friends. Finger Foods will follow in the fellowship room.



Nov. 1, 11:30 AM....Senior Servants meet in A-2

Nov. 1, 7 PM....Bible classes for all

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

Nov. 5, 6 PM....AUTUMN, singing group from Rochester College here; **Finger Foods** will follow

Nov. 10, 7-9 PM....Open House for Tom Anderson

Nov. 11, 7:43 AM....Men's Breakfast at Elmwood

Nov. 12....Shults-Lewis Milk Money Contribution during the AM worship services

Read:

Daniel 5-12; Isaiah 43-49; Joel
1-3; I Thessalonians 1-5

2006 Spiritual Adventure

Week 46: November 12-18

What I Learned in Greece

The stones of ancient statues, ruined but still mutely majestic, still sprinkle the hilltop in Athens, Greece, where Paul preached around 49 A.D. So do cigarette butts, litter, and crowds of tourists.

I was on the summit of the Areopagus, a knobby perch between the magnificent shadow of the Acropolis and the ruins of the ancient Agora. And I was disappointed. I was in Greece on a two-week tour with my father, and we were looking forward to the chance to walk in the apostles' footsteps: our schedule included stops in Athens, Corinth, Ephesus and the island of Patmos, where John wrote Revelation.

The trip was wonderful—but the sites were very touristy, often dirty and always crowded. Sometimes, as at Patmos, there wasn't even any certainty that the spot we were shown was the real deal. Because of this, I didn't have any "chill down the spine" moments, and it was hard to feel any closer to God than anywhere else.

On the plane home I realized something: we're not supposed to feel closer to God in some places instead of others. He wants us to have access to him just as easily from Anytown, U.S.A. What a wonderful idea. As Christians our faith doesn't depend on visiting faraway lands. Go somewhere to be closer to God? Through prayer, God will come to us.

A Christian can't simply stay home. There is value in fellowship with others, a duty to help the downtrodden, and of course church is critical. But God doesn't require us to visit holy sites to be holy. We can, and should, be holy anywhere and everywhere. I flew halfway around the world to learn what I should have know before leaving home. Greece was wonderful. But so is the idea of finding God just as close in our own homes, our schools, our workplaces and our lives.

—J.T. Rushing is a Lafayette native and a 1994 Purdue graduate. He is now a state government reporter in Tallahassee, Florida. He still considers himself a proud Elmwood member.)