



I Had a Dream

I had a dream. I dreamed that every marriage in this church would be strong and healthy, with both partners dedicated to building up the other's spiritual and emotional health.

I had a dream. I dreamed that every parent in this church would have no higher priority than seeing his or her children grow strong in the Lord. All other interests—academics, music, athletics, hobbies, career preparation—would be secondary to maturing their children in the Spirit of Jesus.

I had a dream. I dreamed that every wage earner in this church would see his or her job as God sees it: a way to provide the basic necessities of life while at the same time building bridges into the lives of coworkers, customers, suppliers, patients, clients, and colleagues who need a word about the Savior.

I had a dream. I dreamed that all of Tippecanoe County would turn to Jesus as a baby turns to its mother. That all its residents—from those living under the bridge to the executives living in stately mansions—would understand their deepest need to be a relationship with the Father, and that they would seek Him until they have found Him.

I had a dream. I dreamed that the daily schedule of every member of this church would include time for talking with God in prayer, listening to God through His word, and sharing God with others in both casual and deliberate conversation.

I had a dream. I dreamed that this church would have enough LIFE Groups to offer hope and connection to every person who is genuinely seeking the presence of God. I dreamed that enough godly men and women would be raised up by God to forget self and to commit themselves to the spiritual care of others.

I woke up, and found it was only a dream. None of it has fully happened. But this was a dream of hope, believing that God in His time and His way will use the members of this church to turn the dream into reality. Whom will God use? *G. Crowe*

A Family in the Making

Well, school is underway now and I thought I would take a minute to give you a little report about the CSC. Lots of things are happening around here. I am constantly amazed how the students at the CSC have become like a family in each other's lives on a daily basis, much more so than at any other point since I have been here.

We have been having more people at worship than before, which gives us a crowding situation. But the basement is almost completely repaired! This is, of course, due to Chad Pitt and Jim Jones (and a few key members and students who help) who have taken that task on themselves. Please tell them thank you when you see them! But even then it is going to be crowded, which is one more reason I am glad that we are raising funds for a new building. We are studying Ephesians and what it means to be "God's poem." Please pray for that series.

Coming up this weekend, Kenny Palmer has organized a canoe trip for the group. They leave Saturday and get back the same day. Beyond that, our retreat is taking place the last weekend in September (Sept. 29-Oct. 1) at the FFA Retreat Center in Trafalgar. We have more signed up to go on the retreat than at any time since I moved here. Please pray for these events and for our time together as we continue to study the word together, and as we become the family God has called us to become. *~Dan*

Men's Retreat 2006



This year's Men's Retreat is **October 13-15 (Friday night through Sunday morning)** at the beautiful Camp Tecumseh YMCA Outdoor Center. Our speaker this year is **Patrick Mead** from Rochester, Michigan. 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..."* It's a battle for a man's heart and soul. The schedule includes time for hiking, archery, fishing, rock climbing, and playing sports or just enjoying nature. Since we need to make final plans and commitments far in advance, we need to know if you will be able to join us. In this regard, please add your name to the list located in the Farris Foyer before September 24.

"Partners in Prayer"

Christi Branstetter will be heading up the **"Partners in Prayer"** ministry and her desire is to have every student from Kindergarten to Seniors in High School prayed for every day. Christi does not plan to keep any secrets this year; she wants everyone to know who they are praying for and who is praying for them. Be sure to stop by the table in the Farris Foyer before or after services and take a student or two or three to pray for each day during this school year; you will be glad you did and blessed by it too.

PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS...please stop by the table and be sure your children are on the list and that all of their information is correct. We have done our best not to leave anyone out, but we could have missed. Thanks in advance for your participation in this important ministry.

New Class begins Sept. 24

Joe Ruhl will begin a new class on Sunday morning, **September 24**, for "new Christians." This is during the regular Bible class time in the new conference room—room 17. Questions? Call Joe at 463-7012.

Thank You!

I would like to express my appreciation to the elders and congregation for providing me with food items from the food pantry, gift cards, and for those who provided single serving meals that I was able to use. Over the past two months many people have reached out to me and have given me the assistance I have needed to get back on my feet. I sincerely thank all of you!

-Love, Beth Holt

Paint Crew Needed

Volunteers are needed to help paint the exterior of Andrea Browell's house (at 35 McIntosh Ct., Lafayette). Plans are to meet this **Saturday, September 16, about 8:00 AM.** Men and women are needed to help. Contact Kevin Walters (474-3110) if you can help with this project.



Ann Smithson, wife of former Elmwood preacher, John T., lost her mother, Mrs. Bandy, on Wednesday, September 6, in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Her funeral was Monday, September 11 at the Portland Church of Christ in Portland, Tennessee, where she grew up. Our sincere sympathies to Ann and her family.

Success in Evangelism Seminar

The East Washington St. Church of Christ in Frankfort, Indiana, is hosting an evangelism seminar featuring **Peter Manuel** of Cape Town, South Africa, Sept. 20-23 at 7:30 PM, and Sunday, Sept. 24 at 9:30 & 10:30 AM. His topics include: ***Trying New Outreach Methods While Still Preaching the Pure, Simple Gospel, Planting New Converts Deeply in Christ, Avoiding Losing Our Zeal for Saving the Lost.*** The emphasis in each lesson will be on the "How to" practical side of accomplishing these tasks.

September 10, 2006
Class: 218 Worship: 317
Contribution: \$7,170
Budget: \$8,550

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CHAAANGE???

The youth ministry is suggesting a change for Elmwood's LIFE Groups for the coming year. We are proposing that one night a month (actually only one time this semester – November 26), students in the youth group would join their parents' LIFE Group. This means that if you have parents of teens in your groups, their teens will be joining you for a "Family Night." I have mentioned this in my article before, but let me take a moment and explain our logic.

It is not the desire or design of the youth ministry at Elmwood to create a separate church for the teenagers. Our youth will only grow to become healthy members of the body as they experience life in the body at large while experiencing life with their peers at the same time. For the past eight years, the Teen LIFE Groups have kept the pattern of always meeting separately. This never was my preference, personally I believe that the teens need to hear their parents concerns, see their faith responses, hear their parents pray, and witness their parents read and discuss the word. (The parents need to hear and see the same in their teens).

I admit my opinion was shaped by our experience in LIFE groups in Texas. In the groups there, the whole family met in the groups. Yes, it made some of the groups larger than the desired size, but it was a wonderful experience. We had 9 and 90 year olds sitting next to each other and reading, sharing, praying and loving the Lord together in community in "small" groups. After the LIFE Group meetings, we would have teen activities (devotionals, etc.).

I have received few concerns since I have shared this new plan with the teens and their parents:

- one Sunday per month all teens meet in their own large group,
- one Sunday per month Middle School and High School teens meet separately,
- and one Sunday per month the teens will go with their parents to their LIFE Groups.

Incidentally, we'll always let you know ahead of time when the teen night in the groups will be. We won't have one of these in the first cycle of three nights, so adult group members can get familiar with each other. The first "Family Night" will be November 26. So of the 10 meetings this fall, only one will be "Family Night." It's not expected that the LIFE Group format would change for these nights; the whole point is for the teens to see their parents doing what they normally do.

One teen, who tends to be less vocal, heard the plan and said, "That is a great idea!" Our hope, our dream, is that the teens will, as Dan says, "Experience faith in community."

- Lee



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

Jim Willison fell Sunday and broke his kneecap. Surgery is being scheduled....**Bill Farris'** surgery at Unity Hospital is being rescheduled....**Marcia Swails**, sister of Beth Holt, has cancer of the liver....**Steven Rutledge**, brother-in-law of Fay Wolf, recently diagnosed with cancer, is awaiting word on his treatment....Continue praying for **Jesus**, Evan O'Donnell's kindergartner friend, who was in a mowing accident and may lose his leg...**Amy Weismiller**, **Emily Eberhart**, **Ella McBride**, **Nathan Weir**, **Mary Burns**, **Lynn Robinson** (*treatment for colon cancer*), **Linda** (Newberry) **Smith**, **Helen Clements**, **Kaden Koebecke**, **Mark Eddy**, **Marie DeWoody**, **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**, **Loren Sniffen**, and **Brad King**. Serving in South Korea: **Amanda Martin**. **Jeremy Crable**, Carrie Roberts' son, leaves Sunday for Ft. Dix, New Jersey, before being deployed to Afghanistan. **Philip Devine** is receiving additional training at his duty station in California.

Can You Help?



Ted and Martha Ogle, veteran missionaries in Nairobi, Kenya, are in the United States for an operation for a detached retina. The operation was successful, but several weeks of special care are required before they will be allowed to return to Kenya. The trip to the U.S., costing about \$5,100, was unplanned and unbudgeted. Your help would be appreciated. Checks, made payable to Elmwood, can be given to one of the elders or ministers Sunday. Ted's home is near Frankfort, Indiana, so the Ogles visit Elmwood when they are home on furlough.



Sept. 17, evening...LIFE Groups resume!
Sept. 22-23....Promise Keepers, Louisville, Kentucky
October 13-15....Men's retreat-**Patrick Mead** is the featured speaker; sign up now for this great weekend!
October 15....**Patrick Mead** preaches at Elmwood

Read:
Jeremiah 10-24;
Psalms 120-126

2006 Spiritual Adventure

Week 39: Sept. 24-30

In this section of Jeremiah we read that the Israelites were again worshiping idols. The original covenant God made with His people was, "Obey me and do everything I command you, and you will be my people, and I will be your God" (Jeremiah 11:4). By worshiping idols they broke the covenant, which had now become a vicious cycle. God was finally fed up and was not going to let them off the hook this time. "'You have rejected me,' declares the Lord, 'You keep on backsliding. So I will lay hands on you and destroy you; I can no longer show compassion'" (Jeremiah 15:6). He was so mad He even told His prophet Jeremiah not to bother praying for them. He followed through with the intended punishment and sent the Israelites into captivity for seventy years. In spite of God's anger, He still preserved a righteous branch through which Jesus would come.

The vicious cycle between the Israelites and God consisting of idol worship, severe punishment, and forgiveness is something we read about throughout the Old Testament, but why did it keep happening? Was it easier for Israel to worship idols than do *everything* God commanded them? After reading Jeremiah 10, if anything, worshiping idols was more difficult and physically demanding than worshiping God. The thing that made idol worship "easier" than obeying God was that worshiping idols pleased the flesh; it was tangible, socially accepted, and possibly fun. It is easy to do something you enjoy, something you love, so what it really came down to was that Israel did not love God.

I can't imagine how horrible it was for God to realize that His own creation didn't love Him, even though He adored them. God the Father was rejected by man, and yet He still did not give up. He saved a righteous few so there would be a branch through which Jesus would come. The old system wasn't working. God became man, humanized Himself, so we could relate to Him and He could relate to us. Even though we are the ones who rejected Him after all of His efforts to save us, God still loved us so much that He came down to our level so He could have a relationship with us. Everyone knows that God can have great anger, but he has even greater love.

-Amy Colon