



As a Hen Gathers Her Chicks

The Bible says that false teachers and false teaching will always be among us. It also says that the true word of God is "more precious than gold, than much pure gold . . . sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb."

Two opposing messages have crossed my path today, a reminder that the false and the true will forever exist in this fallen world.

From N. T. Wright, an insightful clarification of Jesus' words in Matthew 23 has opened a world of thought. The passage:

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! (23:39)

The figure here is not that of the "mother hen" doing her maternal thing in keeping the chicks together so that none of them wander off. Rather, Jesus' words picture a farmyard fire: in the desperate moment the hen gathers her chicks under her wings. When the fire has run its course, the dead hen is found scorched and black while the chicks under her wing have survived alive. As such, this is a beautiful-yet poignant-prediction of what was to happen to Jesus in just a few hours, giving his life that his "chicks"-the disciples and all who would follow him in the future-would live.

While basking in the graphic sweetness of that picture, I ran across a review of a book by David Griffin, *Christian Faith and the Truth Behind 9/11*. Reviewer Charles Colson says the thesis of the book is that "the Bush administration orchestrated the attacks, bringing down the Twin Towers with controlled demolitions." Griffin adds that this was "in imitation of Jesus, the original political activist who tried to overthrow the Roman Empire."

Come again?? Jesus trying to overthrow the Roman Empire? No wonder some reviewers have called Griffin everything from "irresponsible" to "a total wing nut."

As far as the east is from the west is Jesus' spirit of self-sacrifice and self-forgetfulness from any notions of worldly domination. Delusions abound, but truth will win out in the end. **G. Crowe**

Accountability

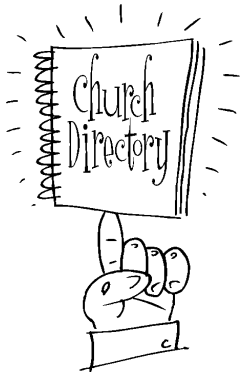
Accountability is an often overlooked spiritual discipline in the church. It is so much easier to not be accountable! But the Bible says that we are to confess our sins to each other and pray for each other. It is crucial that we are accountable to one another! Not only is it what God commanded, but it is so practical and helpful (which is probably why he said to do it!).

How might you go about that? Here are a few pointers that I have found helpful. 1) Find someone that you trust and that is reliable, 2) ask that person to meet with you and at least one other on a regular basis, 3) make a covenant with one another that whatever is said in the group stays in the group, 4) spend time praying for each member in your group.

Then, no matter what....stick with it! You will be amazed at the difference that community can make in your life when you try to change your life. Without community and accountability, it simply will not work! May God bless you as try to hold each other accountable! ~Dan



Give a warm welcome to **Marihelen & Jim Johnson**, formerly of Greenville, South Carolina. Jim is the project engineer for Indiana Packers in Delphi. They have one grown son, Steve, in Chicago. Their address: 1900 King Eider Ct., West Lafayette 47906. Phone: 464-2871. We're glad you are here, Marihelen and Jim!



New Directories!

A Texas-sized THANKS goes to Farrell Simmerman and Bill Hodges for their work in producing the new church directory. This was a huge job, but its benefits will continue to be reaped for many years. Already people have been heard to say, "Ah—that's who that is!" If your household (one for each family) did not receive a copy last week, pick one up next Sunday. Problems with yours? See Bill Hodges.

Elmwood Meets Purdue

Last Friday the Richard and Patricia Lawson Computer Science Building was dedicated at Purdue. Richard and Pat Lawson were members at Elmwood during Richard's days as a Master's student in computer science in the 1970's. The 100,000-square-foot building has meeting rooms and space for 45 faculty, 55 teaching assistants, 70 research assistants, and houses four classrooms, five instructional labs, and four research labs. Richard and Pat are faithful members of the Waterview Church of Christ in Richardson, Texas, and have visited Elmwood on one of their Lafayette trips recently.

World Bible School News

Three of our WBS students in Kenya were baptized recently by Tobias Elweny, follow-up preacher at Ongoro Church of Christ. Two of these were Harry Linback's students, and one was Ethel Cable's.

Women's Fellowship Carry-in

Mark your calendars for the **Women's Fellowship Carry-in dinner** planned for **Saturday, October 21, at 5:30 PM, in A-2**. Come enjoy the food and fellowship and a "surprise" program. Questions? See Barb Tillely, Betty Borwn, Susan Swensen, or Doris Swensen.

September 17, 2006

Class: 231 Worship: 323 Contribution: \$7,302

Budget: \$8,550



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.

Farewell to Norma Routt

Norma Routt has moved to Ohio to be close to her son, Brent, and his family. Norma and Gordon have been a part of Elmwood since the 1970's. Gordon died of cancer in 2001, but Norma has continued on as a faithful member of the congregation and a spark in the Senior Servants ministry. Her address: 4240 Fontenay Drive, Mason, OH 45040. Phone: 513.459.8208. Thanks, Norma, for all you have meant to Elmwood over 30 years!



A huge thank you to Michelle Robson who directed "Fiesta" for the children this summer, and for all who helped. Thanks to Jamie Banter, Stephanie Barrett, Kristie Beeler, Brent & Christi Branstetter, Karla Childress, Elaine Crowder, Cara Gamble, Susan Huff, Joyce Mathews, Amos & Dana Miller, Kathy O'Donnell, Miranda Parson, Becky Pitt, Joe Ruhl, Patrick Ruhl, Andrew Simmerman, Farrell Simmerman, Jenny Sipe, Lynae Stafford, Kelsey Sutherlin, Barbara Tilley, Phil Travis, and Vicki Vaught. It would not have been accomplished without your help.



What are you consuming?

Many parents are hard pressed to explain to their youth why some music, movies, books, and magazines are not acceptable material for them to bring into the home or to listen to or see.

One parent came up with an original idea that is hard to refute. The father listened to all the reasons his children gave for wanting to see a particular PG-13 movie. It had their favorite actors. Everyone else was seeing it. Even church members said it was great. It was only rated PG-13 because of the suggestion of sex – they never really showed it. The language was pretty good – the Lord's name was only used in vain three times in the whole movie. However, even with all the justifications the teens made for the PG-13 rating, the father still wouldn't give in. He didn't even give his children a satisfactory explanation for saying, "No."

A little later on that evening the father asked his teens if they would like some brownies he had baked. He explained that he'd taken the family's favorite recipe and added a little something new. The children asked what it was. The father calmly replied that he had added dog poop. However, he quickly assured them, it was only a little bit. All other ingredients were gourmet quality and he had taken great care to bake the brownies at the precise temperature for the exact time. The brownies would be superb.

Even with their father's promise that the brownies were of almost perfect quality, the teens would not take any. The father acted surprised. After all, it was only one small part that was causing them to be so stubborn. He was certain they would hardly notice it. Still the teens held firm and would not try the brownies.

The father then told his children how the movie they wanted to see was just like the brownies. Our minds are to be kept pure, even though Hollywood is trying to con us into believing that just a little bit of evil won't matter. But, the truth is that even a little bit of poop makes the difference between a great treat and something disgusting and totally unacceptable. The father went on to explain that even though the movie industry would have us believe that most of today's movies are acceptable fare for adults and youth, they are not.

Now, when this father's children want to see something that is of questionable material, the father merely asks them if they would like some of his special dog poop brownies. That closes the subject. – *author unknown*

What are you and your family consuming? Do you have questions about movies, music, etc.? Go to www.christiananswers.net. It is a great resource. – **Lee**



T.J. Campbell, 16-year-old son of Tony & Judy, was baptized on Sunday morning. T.J., a sophomore at Attica High School, starts for the JV team and is also on the varsity football team for Attica. He is a member of the varsity swim team which won the bi-county swim meet (first time in 13 years!) and enjoys being on the track team. Congratulations, T.J., on your decision to make Jesus Lord of your life. His address: 105 W. Columbia St., Attica 47918. Phone: 765-764-4158.

LIFE Groups

Squared away in a LIFE Group? If you didn't make it to a group last Sunday, it's not too late to start. Call the church office for suggestions for a group, or just see any LIFE Group leader.

Prayer Concerns...

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

Jim Willison had surgery to repair his broken kneecap on Tuesday...**Bill Farris** consults this week with doctors about gall bladder surgery...**Deidra Strickler**, Christi & Brent Branstetter's niece, has been diagnosed with Crohn's Disease...**Don Cadwallader**, a co-worker of Kevin Lee, had a kidney removed because of cancer. More tests to be done...Continue praying for **Jesus**, Evan O'Donnell's kindergartner friend, who was in a mowing accident, **Marcia Swails**, **Steven Rutledge**, **Amy Weismiller**, **Emily Eberhart**, **Mark Eddy**, **Lynn Robinson**, **Linda Smith**, **Kaden Koebcke**, **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** is at Ft. Dix, New Jersey, until he is deployed to Afghanistan.



Sept. 20, 7 PM...Bible classes for all
Sept. 22-23...Promise Keepers, Louisville, Kentucky
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:
Jeremiah 25-46;
Isaiah 1-7

2006 Spiritual Adventure

Week 40: October 1-7

Jeremiah Among Us

While reading these passages, my mind wandered to current wars and events. I wonder if anything has really changed since the time Jeremiah was preaching to Judah during their darkest days.

Jeremiah had been chosen, prepared, and sent by God to be a prophet to the Jews. Most of the people were very happy with themselves at that time and didn't appreciate anyone coming around to tell them their religious works didn't please God. They wanted to listen to the prophets who told them just what they wanted to hear. Jeremiah has been labeled the weeping prophet and for good reason – the guy was rejected, alienated and mistreated by the people, punished by the kings, opposed by the priests and other prophets, and accused of treason as well as having his life threatened. There is an earthly price to pay for being unpopular among your peers. Yet he continued on for 24 years, fearless in denouncing the faithlessness of the people and the kings, yet also offering encouragement and hope—hope that God would allow the people to return home one day. Each wave of opposition that set him back only made him more determined. The message God had given him became his own and he would not be silent even if he could.

Jeremiah was not a man-pleaser. He didn't do or say things to men that made them feel good about their puny and inferior service to God. He didn't pat the backs of people who professed to know God but their actions spoke otherwise. In the end, these people realized that Jeremiah had been a true prophet who had spoken the truth, but then it was too late.

Whether they liked it or not, the people needed Jeremiah then and we need his words still today. God demands true worship and service today as much as he did centuries ago. God wants us to discern what is true and what is false – not what we would "like" to be true or false.

–Jean Dilling

 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 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	 Staff Ministers Gayle Crowe 447-6940 Lee Porter 463-6993 Dan Cooke 543-7469 Office Manager Sherry Marks 447-2874	

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