



The Gift of God

I look around
In a world of gifted people
And wonder, a bit wistfully,
What is my gift?
What do I have to give to the world?
 The gift of God to each of us
 Is life itself,
 This bubbling, restless force
 That churns inside us,
 That seeks expression and direction
 Like a rushing stream . . .
 Sometimes formed by circumstances
 As a stream is by its banks,
 But never contained by them.
 Moving, changing form,
 Ducking under obstacles, splashing over them . . .
My gift from God?
Life!
 And how twice-gifted I am
 If the stream of my life has been given direction
 By the meaning of Jesus Christ.

– Gordon & Gladis DePree

Two of the hardest jobs for sinful human beings: first, to believe that the great God of the universe has looked down on them, noticed them as individuals, loved them as if there were none other in the world, and embraced them in the cradle of personal salvation. Second, to believe that this loving God would go even a second step, to endow each of them with a gift, a spiritual gift, to bless them and others throughout their lives. As the DePrees say, it's enough to believe that God has gifted us with life itself. But then, stretching even the wildest imagination, is the promise of God to empower each of us with one or more spiritual gifts.

Ah, but then comes the best part: opening that spiritual gift. Exploring possibilities, experimenting, taking risks, until we discern the precise mix of God's grace and the roll-up-our-sleeves job of turning that gift into a blessing for others. To be a partner with God—would you ever have dreamed it? *G. Crowe*

The Cafeteria Is Closed

Cafeterias have their appeal. They carry virtually every variety of food that one can imagine, and an endless supply of those varieties as well! When you go into a cafeteria, you are guaranteed to get precisely what you want. If you don't want vegetables for dinner, don't ask for them. It's that simple. Not only are you guaranteed to get what you want, but so is the next person. You can both get what you want even if neither of you like the same thing! A cafeteria is nothing if not a crowd-pleaser. It is the perfect eatery for a consumeristic culture.

A problem occurs, however, when this concept bleeds into our walk with our Lord. A religious cafeteria, though reflective of our American melting pot, is not reflective of our Father. Indeed he has blessed His church with a variety of people with gifts and desires as different and numerous as the stars. But He has not done this so that we may have what we want. He has done this so that we can reflect His beauty and power in a variety of ways.

The variety of ministries God has provided may look the same as a cafeteria if we do not take a moment to remember something very important: we are the ones serving, not vice versa. The church is not a cafeteria where we are served what we want by God. It is an army where He makes us into all that we can be... ~Dan

Promise Keeper's (PK) 2006

If you're a male and you've been to a PK Meeting before, you know how exciting and uplifting it is to worship God with several thousand men. The fellowship and singing are the greatest!!! This year, several Elmwood men will attend the PK Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, on September 22nd and 23rd. The theme of this year's PK is "UNLEASHED." If your desire is to better understand God's vision for manhood in our day and to be free to live and enjoy new freedom in the power of God, make plans to join us. If you are able to join us, please add your name to the PK list located in the Farris Foyer by September 13th.

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.

Thank You!

Elmwood Family,

Thank you so much for flowers, cards, and visits. They really helped me. My grandmother was such a special person. I will truly miss her. Your love will help make things easier. God bless you all! Tammy Allen & Family

Dear Elmwood Family,

Thank you so much for all your prayers and comforting words. Your kindness and friendship has helped me cope with my uncle's tragic death. Please continue to keep my family, especially my father, Jerome, in your prayers. Thank you for being such a blessing in my life. All my love, Mandy Anderson & Family

Dear Friends of Tools for Schools:

We would like to thank everyone at the Elmwood Church of Christ who so enthusiastically supported our Tools for Schools program. We set a record by helping over 500 students with 16,000 pieces of school supplies. In these difficult times, it is wonderful to see so many in our community stepping forward to help make a difference.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity. Sincerely, Shirley Blauvelt &

Eloise Lewellen, Salvation Army



It's a Boy!



Knox Andrew was born Thursday, August 31, at 1:10 PM. He weighed 9 pounds 11 ounces, and measured 22 inches long. Congratulations to parents, **Gina & Josh Boyd**, and big sister, **Kinley!**



Yssa DeWoody's grandfather, **Al Rice**, of Odessa, Texas, died August 20. Our sincere sympathies to Yssa and her family.

Want to Walk?



On Thursday mornings at 8:45, walkers are encouraged to join Hedi Devine and Susan Hodges at the parking lot across from the Wild Bird Shop (beside cemetery) on Kalberer Road in West Lafayette. Questions? Call Hedi (497-3061) or Susan (583-4556). "*Will not walk if it's raining buckets!*"

September 3, 2006

Class: 196 Worship: 276

Contribution: \$13,101

Budget: \$8,100



Partners in Prayer

Some of you will remember our Partners in Prayer programs of the past. We have taken a break for the past couple years, but many have asked (some have prayed anyway) and so we are going to revive the ministry for the '06-'07 school year. Christi Branstetter will be heading up the 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 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 – the students will be blessed and thankful.

Here is a note from Christi:

"Please help our young people to grow in Jesus this year by being a Partner in Prayer. We will begin signing up Sunday, September 10 after the first and second services. Come by the Farris Foyer to choose the name of a school-aged student and become their partner in prayer. God calls us to be 'warriors in prayer'. For these young people, I thank you – Christi"

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.

Busy!

Well, I guess it is just that time of year. It seems like every weekend could be filled, not to mention all the normal craziness of the school and extra-curricular activities during the week. Please check your calendars and note the things coming up. Participate in what you can and do your best to honor God with your schedules and your lives.

Promise Keepers is in Louisville, KY this year and will be Sept. 22 & 23. The last word I had was that several tickets were still available – tickets are \$69 each. **Fallfest** has moved to Cincinnati, OH and will be Sept. 29 – Oct. 1. If you are interested in going, we need to make reservations as soon as possible. Please turn in your \$35 registration and \$20 for Kings Island. Hotel costs, etc., will be available shortly. **Fall Retreat** at SMBC is October 6-8. There are only 120 spots available. In addition, I will not be able to attend this year, so if any adults would like to chaperone, please let me know as soon as possible. The last thing I will mention here is the **Men's Retreat**, October 13-15. This year's theme is "Haven't You Heard, There's a War Going On?" and Patrick Mead of Rochester Hills, Michigan is the speaker. Cost for adults is \$65 and cost for students is \$25. Plan to be there!

- Lee



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

Bill Farris will have gall bladder surgery at Home Hospital on September 15....**Amy Weismiller**, Heather Hayes' 26-year-old cousin in Indianapolis, is waiting for word on the treatment for her brain cancer....**Emily Eberhart**, 2-year-old daughter of Susan & Marc, granddaughter of Pam Frampton and great-granddaughter of Henrietta Frampton, remains at Riley Hospital in Indianapolis where she is recovering from heart surgery. She is out of ICU and in a regular room....**Steven Rutledge**, brother-in-law of Fay Wolf, has been diagnosed with cancer. He is awaiting word on treatmentContinue praying for **Ronda Tidrick, Ella McBride, Nathan Weir** (Riley Children's Hospital), **Mary Burns, Lynn Robinson** (treatment for colon cancer), **Linda** (Newberry) **Smith, Helen Clements** (Heritage Healthcare), **Kaden Koebcke, 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, will soon be deployed to Afghanistan for at least 15 months. **Philip Devine** is receiving more training at his duty station in California.

Baby Gifts



Chris Sutherlin is collecting money for a gift card to be sent to new parents, **Eric & Michelle Clowdus** for newborn, **Cianna**. Chris needs money turned in to her by this Sunday, September 10.



Sept. 10, noon....All-church picnic at Columbian Park
Sept. 17, noon....Pot-luck Dinner for new & returning Purdue students and their adoptive parents
Sept. 17, evening....LIFE Groups resume!
October 13-15....Men's retreat-**Patrick Mead** the featured speaker

Read:
Job 34-42; Titus; Jeremiah 1-9
Psalm 119:121-176

2006 Spiritual Adventure

Week 38: Sept. 17-23

In Titus 2, Paul encourages Titus to *“teach what is consistent with sound doctrine.”* He then emphasizes different points of that doctrine based on age, gender and social status.

In verse 11, he gives the reason for the teaching of the doctrine. *“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly.”* (NRSV)

The young spiritual leader, Titus, had a difficult and important task in front of him on the island of Crete: training new Christians to live a God-centered life and not the Cretan-centered life, so that God might *“purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.”* (v.14)

What would Paul be instructing Titus to teach at Elmwood? What would need to be said to an older woman . . . a younger man? The factory worker? A college professor? Many of us are not new Christians, but the challenges of Crete may not be as far away as we think. Zealousness for God is not a normal state for the human. Let us always come to God’s Word expecting a needed correction or comfort for the day.

-Ryan Richardson

This Week's Highlight: "Missions"

Thailand

Here's the latest from **Loren and Penny Hollingsworth** and their Thailand ministry. They are currently living in Alaska, but they continue to mentor southeast Asian churches, particularly those in south Thailand, and they plan to return regularly for teaching missions. The message below shows what God is doing with our support and with the special funds we sent after the tsunami!

8/23/06:

"Gaet and Sak (local ministers in Phuket) have been doing a great job up in the area where we did a lot of tsunami work. They go up and teach and preach two different places on Sunday afternoons and return and teach Wednesday evenings. There have been some baptisms. Two last week. One good thing is that some of those becoming Christians aren't even the ones we helped, just saw the work of the church and were interested.

We will be going back to Thailand in November for about five months. Lots of teaching to do and several meetings. Also will be going and teaching in Cambodia the month of February."

Loren & Penny Hollingsworth,
lholly54@yahoo.com

Disaster Relief

In addition to people like the Hollingsworths whom Elmwood supports, there are other people and organizations who write Elmwood with Kingdom needs. Though we haven't budgeted for most of them as a congregation, sometimes there are needs that I think some individuals might be interested in contributing to. One of those arrived this month from the **Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort**. This is a Tennessee-based organization that tries to always have trucks full of supplies ready to send to primarily domestic disaster sites—places where hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, earthquakes, and other tragedies have befallen people. Largely because of the hurricanes last year (and continuing support needed along the Gulf Coast for over a year now), this organization has depleted most of its funds. In the past year and half, the organization has sent more than \$29 million of supplies to stricken areas—all helping people in the name of Jesus. If you would like to donate to help this organization be prepared for the next crisis, send a check to Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort, 410 Allied Drive, Nashville, TN 37211.

Christian Student Center

Please pray for the relationships being formed at the CSC during this crucial beginning time of the Purdue school year. Last Wednesday night's Encounter at the CSC had 45 in attendance—all the main floor of the CSC can handle! Thanks to the work of lots of volunteers, the basement (post-mold) is almost inhabitable again, and Encounter can squeeze a few more people in. But for now, the CSC is at capacity, largely with new people. Praise God!