



More Than We Imagine?

Paul writes to the church in Ephesus saying, “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen” (Eph. 3:20-21). Do we really believe this? I’m not sure I fully believe this, or at least my actions do not provide evidence that I believe this. I want to believe this. I want to live my life in a way that others know I believe this. But I often fail to live this way.

When is the last time you asked God to help you do something that is far beyond your own imagination? When is the last time you asked God to help you do something truly God-sized? I believe we are all guilty of asking God to do things that are well within our own capabilities. We often fail to take full advantage of the *power that is at work within us*.

Last week we talked about the Kingdom as a treasure; as a treasure that trumps all other treasures. Our challenge for the week was to be honest with those little treasures that stand between us and the true treasure of the Kingdom. For most of us, these little treasures have not gone unnoticed. We usually know the treasures that we struggle to get rid of. The problem is that we often feel it is a useless task. We have wrestled and wrestled with these treasures for so long that we give up trying. The lure of these little treasures seems to be more than we can handle.

What if we decided to tap into that *power that is at work within us*? What if we decided to ask God to do things in our lives that end up being more than we could ever have imagined doing on our own? What if we asked God to do God-sized tasks rather than man-sized tasks? What if we prayed God-sized prayers, fully believing that God will respond?

There is a power that is at work within us. It is the power of one who wants us to overcome. It is the power of the one who did overcome. It is the Spirit of the Lord. -Gilbert Kerrigan

Happy New Year!

For many Christians around the world, last Sunday marked the beginning of the New Year. The season of Advent (the beginning of the church year) began on December second and will end on Christmas day. Advent is a season of remembering and reenacting the anticipation of the Christ’s coming. In addition to remembering the Hebrew anticipation for the Messiah’s arrival, Advent also serves as a reminder that we as Christians are waiting for Christ’s second coming.

It’s easy to get caught up in the secular properties of Christmas, distracted by the bright flashing lights and flashy wrapping paper and forget about the Christ story. Though Advent is not traditionally observed within our heritage, it has been a part of the Christian life for at least 1400 years, and I believe that there is value in observing, or at least thinking about the Christmas season within the context of our Christian faith. Advent helps me do that.

This year, let’s remember the Christmas story, but let’s also remember that Christ is coming again at some time in the future, which is yet another reason to have great joy during the Christmas season. -Phil Travis

Prayer Concerns....

Delores Nolan had surgery for an internal hernia on Saturday. She is in Home Hospital, room 3303....**Chris Crable** had surgery to repair a splintered bone in his right hand on Tuesday....**Steve Cable's** test results showed no problems with his heart....**Herb King**, will have surgery this Friday, Dec. 7, for an aneurysm in his leg. You may send cards to 287 Usher Rd., Madison, AL 35757. Email address: king2007 @knology.net**Lynae Stafford** will have surgery on her left shoulder this Friday, Dec. 7....**Henrietta Frampton** is in room 3114, St. Elizabeth Hospital....Continue praying for **Rick Sims** (room 3337, Home Hospital), **Ginger Maxwell-Spenard**, **Terry Spenard**, **Scott Baker**, **Mickey Rigdon**, **Matt Rigdon**, **Ellen Raguette**, **Marie DeWoody**, **Beth Holt**, **Sue Sill**, **Hattie Coffel**, **Kaden Koebcke**, **Irene Sims**, **Mary Tavana**, **Dick Waterstraat**, **Paul & Argie Verett**, **Delpha Allen**, **Ivan Ellis**, **Valley Stockton**, **Eagle Bailey**, **Anna Dale**, **Minnie Scott**, **Irene Fox**, and **Burnell Gulden**.

Expecting families: **Joshua & Linnet Chia**, **Sarah & Mark Bird**, and **Dana & Amos Miller**.

Serving in our military: **Jeremy Crable**, **Michael Farris**, & **Michael Bryenton** in Afghanistan; **Ti Draughon** in Iraq; and **Chris Martin**, in South Korea.

CHRISTMAS CARDS



In lieu of sending cards, all who wish to contribute to the **Christmas Card Fund** may do so this Sunday, **December 9**. You may hand your check to one of the elders or ministers, drop it into the collection plate, or send it to the church via regular mail by December 14. *If you give cash, be sure to attach your name on a piece of paper.* In the December 18 newsletter we will include a list of all who have contributed to this fund.

This year, Christmas card money will go toward Elmwood's two Let's Start Talking teams. In summer 2008, Elmwood will send out its largest group of mission workers for Let's Start Talking ever, so the teams can use the help. LST offers free English practice using the Bible as the text. There are more missionary invitations around the world than there are teams to fill them, so the teams' destinations are still being matched up with the invitations that fit best. Here are the Elmwood team members: *6-week team*: Josh, Gina, Kinley, and Knox Boyd, Mandy Anderson, Farrell Simmerman; *2-week team*: Jimmy and Susan Huff, Jason Cochran, Amy Berkshire.

Snow Servants

Elmwood is in need of some volunteers for light snow removal this winter. You may be asked to assist a senior servant or someone just home from the hospital. All you need is a snow shovel, a loving spirit, and some time to volunteer. Sign up on the back of your yellow attendance card this Sunday with a telephone number where you can be reached.



A Baby Shower



Betty Brown is hosting a baby shower for **Dana & Amos Miller** this Sunday, **December 9**, from **2:00 until 4:00 PM**. You may give your donations for a group gift to Betty, Mindy Hart, or Joyce Mathews.

Did You Know...?

Kaitlyn O'Donnell is performing in the PMO Kids' Choir at the Purdue Christmas Program. This is her 3rd and final year to do so.



A big heartfelt thank you to all who prayed for my nephew's newborn daughter, Victoria Martin. She had her first check-up and is doing great!
-Phyllis Simmerman

Our Elmwood family, We want to thank you so much for all the gifts, cards, calls, prayers and visits. Your thoughtfulness has meant so much to us. We are so blessed to have our healthy daughter, Addison Grace. Thanks for all you have done for us. Love, Doug, Kristi, Drew & Addison Smith

The family of Alvin Dale gratefully thank everyone at Elmwood for their many examples of Christian kindness over the years—from the meal to the visits to the funeral home. So many of you deserve a big hug! Until we ALL meet again....

the family of Alvin Dale

December 2, 2007

Class: 174 Worship: 287

Contribution: \$9,179

Budget: \$10,000/week



On your mark, Get set...

Some of you may be new to part of this, but there are a few things that the elders, youth ministry and youth minister really encourage families (especially the students) to participate in each year. For our younger students 3rd to 5th grade, we really would like to have everyone be involved in Leadership Training for Christ (Easter weekend each year) and Christian Camp in the summer. For our 6th to 8th graders, we add Winterfest - a great youth rally in Gatlinburg, TN - almost always the weekend after Valentines' Day. And finally, for our 9th to 12th graders, we encourage all of the three previous activities and add our summer mission trip; for the past three years, we have taken a group to Cincinnati to do an inner-city kids' camp. It is time to mark your calendars so other things don't "creep in." These events are very important to each student, to the youth group as a whole and to the church family as well. If you need more information about any of these, don't hesitate to ask. I'll fill in a few of the blanks here.

First, for LTC (Leadership Training for Christ) we will begin working on some of the events immediately. Because Easter comes early this year: March 23, the convention will be held in Indianapolis at the Marriott East - March 21-23, projects must be completed much earlier. For instance Monday, January 14, 2008 is the Pre-Convention Event Deadline. Project material for pre-convention events must be submitted (postmarked) by this date. (This deadline applies to [Bible Class Teaching](#), [Christian Website](#), [Christian Writing](#), [Radio Minute Message](#), and [Video Bible Drama](#).) You don't have to wait; you can find the LTC rules for events at www.mwltc.org. Since you are smart people, you realize a lot of work on the pre-convention events will have to take place during the holidays. I have faith in you...you can make it happen.

Next, Winterfest is February 15-17. We have already reserved hotel rooms and you can check out the other information online at www.winterfest.org. You can see what your registration fees will be. Added to that will be lodging, transportation, and food. We do our best to keep prices down so all who are interested (6th -12th grade students, parents, and other adults) will be able to go. This event has always been a great blessing to our group and even life changing for many.

To kick off the summer frenzy, the 9th - 12th graders, a couple college students and a few adult will be heading back to Camp CUMO in Cincinnati July 6-11. We have been so blessed by this mission trip/camp event. It is so rewarding to work with 40-50 inner city kids for the week.

Finally, depending on when you choose to go, summer camp is probably up last. Most of our students go to Spring Mill Bible Camp (www.springmillbiblecamp.org) and dates for Senior Week are July 13-19 and Intermediate week will be July 20-25. We also have a group attend Camp Wabashi (www.campwabashi.org), but I do not know what week they will attend this year; I'll let you know when I know more. Get your calendars out and mark them now! Now...Go!!!

-Lee

Christmas Sock Exchange



Come to a Christmas sock exchange party! The party is at Carol Bell's house (216 Jennings St. West Lafayette, IN) at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday, December 8th. It should be lots of fun. If you're coming, be sure to bring a wrapped pair of Christmas/Holiday/Festive socks to exchange and a breakfast food item to share. We'll enjoy each other's fellowship and take home some Christmas cheer for the feet. Hope you can come.

-Susan Huff

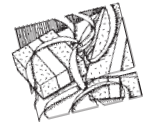
Campus Minister Search Update

The campus minister search committee has posted our position opening with various college recruiting offices, minister employment referral services and individuals involved in campus ministries. Resumes are being accepted through the middle of January. At that time the committee will begin reviewing them and selecting candidates for phone interviewing.

If you know of anyone that the committee should consider for this position please contact one of the committee members. Members are Gina Boyd, Josh Boyd, Mindy Hart, Craig Hodges, Catie Jones, Jim Jones, and Joe Mathews.

We ask that you continue to keep this search effort in your prayers and continue to pray for all involved in this Elmwood outreach ministry.

Christmas for Everyone



Distribution Day for "**Christmas for Everyone**" will be at Elmwood on **Saturday, December 15, between 9 AM and 12:00 noon**. Have the purchased gifts in the green bags here by that time. You are welcome (and encouraged) to be here on distribution day to meet the families picking up the gifts.

Also, on that day we plan to provide free wrapping for those who request it. If you have extra rolls of Christmas wrapping paper, tissue paper, Christmas bows, labels for packages, and boxes you will not be using, please bring them to the kitchen area by Wednesday, December 12. Thanks for all your help and generosity.

Coming Soon....

Dec. 5, 6:30-8:00 PM....Christmas musical rehearsal

Dec. 5, 7 PM....Bible classes for all

Dec. 9....Special Christmas Card contribution

Dec. 16, 6 PM....Elmwood's children's musical, **Cooking' Up Christmas**, refreshments afterward

