



## Thanks for 20!

It was 20 years ago this week, January 19, 1987, that a moving van showed up at our house in Chatham, New Jersey, and through the snowy day all our worldly possessions were loaded for the trip to Lafayette, Indiana.

The following few days were filled with adventure. Freezing temperatures did a number on both our cars (especially the diesel Rabbit!), which were accustomed to the more temperate climate of New Jersey. Two visits to VW dealers in Ohio finally equipped us to come the distance. We arrived to a 17-below welcome.

But the home of Bill and Ramona Farris was so warm and cheery we quickly forgot the past few days. We ate a quick soup supper, and Ramona graciously gave up her ticket so that I could accompany Bill to my first experience with Purdue basketball. It turned out to be a "W" over Illinois in overtime, a game that fans talked about for years.

Over these 20 years we have been blessed far, far, far beyond what any minister and his family could expect. The elders and their wives—Bell, Brown, Dale, Farris, Floyd, Mathews, Nelson, Postlethwait, Swensen, Vance, Vice, and Wilkins—have been more than mentors; they have been colleagues and friends, encouraging and supporting at every step along the way. Fellow staff members—Peet, Williams, Davis, Morgan, Richardson, Porter, and Cooke—have all been close friends and counselors. Sherry Marks—and for almost 6 years Sue McClain—graciously and competently took care of the 1001 details of communication. The treasurers, service staff, all those special people who led the Life Groups I coordinated . . . there's no place to stop in handing out thanks. You never put Lisa or me into a preconceived box of expectations, but you allowed both of us to carve out the shape of our ministries here.

Sam is right: the hundreds who have been a part of the Elmwood family through the years are good people! It has been an honor to live and work among you. Young and old, you have been our friends and have taught us many things. Thank you, God, for all these people and for every day of all 20 years. *G. Crowe*

## A Biblical Church

Jack Bauer is a character on a television series called "24." He is a complicated and intense character who always seems to make the right calls in combatting terrorism. He plays outside the rulebook and often at great personal expense. But he always gets the job done, averts the attack, and thwarts the terrorists' attempts to cripple the USA. In fact, even his critics on the show admit that, although they do not like his methodologies, "Jack gets results." Boy does he get results....

Although a very complicated man, Jack lives by a simple philosophy, a philosophy where the end always justifies the means. Hence, torture and murder are necessary, if the end result is stopping the terrorists.

More churches than we care to admit operate using Jack's philosophy. A biblical truth can be easily neglected or even disregarded in church if it means that people won't leave the congregation. The problem with basing church policies on whether families leave or not is that it simply isn't biblical. Jesus himself had many people leave when he forged ahead with his purpose here on earth (John 6:66). One of our goals as a body of Christ is to fight through these subtle philosophies that tempt us all and shape a church community based on truth and righteousness. The type of church that is willing to do that is hard to find . . . it is also a church where I could serve in and be part of indefinitely . . . ~Dan

**P**ray that God touches the heart of the individual whom He has in mind for us to hire. That through God's divine power the individual He has prepared understands what God has in mind for him and will respond to that call.



## Memory Album for the Crowes

The church is putting together a memory album for the Crowes. A blank page for the album is being distributed to each family. Please use this page to contribute one or more of the following:

- write a note to Gayle and Lisa
- share a favorite memory or a favorite verse
- share a photo
- children could draw a picture
- create your own tribute



Please return this sheet by **Wednesday, January 17**, to one of the following:

- the collection box in the Farris Foyer
- Peggy Linback • Scheryl Gaylor
- Becky Pitt • Christi Branstetter

## Pulpit Responsibilities...

The elders have announced that **Cody Sipe** has agreed to assume Elmwood's pulpit responsibilities for the months of February through May. Having had a taste of Cody's preaching last year in his three-week series on spiritual fitness, we look forward to being blessed by his Sunday morning ministry with us. He will also be planning the order of worship, along with the song leaders, each Sunday morning for those months. Thanks, Cody, for stepping up to the plate for us!

## Prayer Concerns...

The following people continue to need our daily prayers: **Seth Mullen, Willard Farmer, Kaden Koebecke, Annie & Elaine Crowder, Linda Smith, Marcia Swails, Mark Eddy, Lynn Robinson, Delpha Allen, Anna Dale, Minnie Scott, Carrie High, Irene Fox, Ruth Marks, & Burnell Gulden.**

Serving in our military: **Jeremy Crable (Afghanistan); Brian Guthrie (Qatar, Persian Gulf), Philip Devine & Robbie Mullinax**, stateside training; **Jon Kiefner (Amanda Guthrie's brother in Iraq);** and **Amanda Martin (South Korea).**

## A New Study

The adult class led by **Rob Smith**, studying Max Lucado's book, ***In the Grip of Grace***, will meet in **Room 19** beginning this Sunday, January 21. The book centers on the question, "Can anything separate us from the love of Christ?"



## Studying Abroad

**Justin Gardiner**, son of Kim Hollingsworth and grandson of Sue & Bill Adams, leaves Saturday to study in Copenhagen, Denmark, for the next 4 months. What a great opportunity! We wish him well.

## Men's Breakfast this Saturday

The Men's Breakfast will be this **Saturday morning January 20, 2007, at 7:43am** in A2. The breakfast concludes at 8:59am. Men of all ages are encouraged to attend and enjoy the fellowship. Please add your name to the breakfast sign up sheet located in the Farris Foyer. 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!!



**Jan. 17, 7 PM....Bible Classes** for all

**Jan. 20, 7:43 AM....Men's Breakfast; A2**

**Jan. 21, 6 PM....LIFE Groups meet**

**Feb. 25 & March 4, 6 PM....Joe Ruhl shares "Why I Believe"**

**January 14, 2007**  
Class:200 Worship: 282  
Contribution: \$7,869



Read:  
Exodus 1-18; Luke 11:29-14:35

# 2007 Spiritual Adventure

## Week 4: January 22-28

In Luke's gospel, Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to a mustard seed, which "grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air perched in its branches."

In the ancient, eastern world, a mighty tree was often used to symbolize a great empire while the smaller nations under its protective governance were compared to birds that found shelter in its branches. This picture of the kingdom of God is fitting because, as William Barclay points out, Luke, a gentile, wrote for all the nations and dreamed of a world for Christ. Our world today, despite modern travel and communication, is *still* a pretty big place.

So what would a world for Christ look like? Barclay suggests that:

1. **There would be room for a wide variety of beliefs.** As long as all people's beliefs are rooted in Christ, they are all facets of God's truth. (*Does that mean I should rethink some of my "they're wrong and we're right" thinking?*)
2. **There would be room for a wide variety of experiences.** Some folks grew up in the church. Some have been prodigal children who had faith at one time but lost it. Some have had no religious training at all. (*Does that mean that I should welcome all who seek Christ?*)
3. **There would be room for a wide variety of ways of worship.** Some like the old songs. Some like the new songs. Some like traditional, others contemporary. (*Does that mean I should be more concerned about what I put into the worship and less concerned about what I get out of it?*)
4. **There would be room for all kinds of people.** Young and old. Rich and poor. Hip and square. Male and female. Dressed up and casual. Democrats and Republicans. Conservatives and liberals. (*Does that mean I should love God's people, even if they are different?*)
5. **There would be room for all nations.** (*Could it be that our little children in all their innocence might be right as they sing, "red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight . . ."?*)  
-Joe Ruhl