



Just Stay Away!

It's a little late for Christmas/New Year 2006-2007, but here are some tips for avoiding putting on those dreaded pounds next year. From Brian Wansink's new book, *Mindless Eating: Why We Eat More than We Think*, Consider these suggestions:

- Keep food displayed in bowls in plain sight: people eat less when they see the food than if they eat straight from the bag.
- Don't be quick to clean up: people eat less when chicken bones, candy wrappers, muffin papers are left on the table.
- Avoid too many choices. People eat 85 percent more M&Ms when they are offered in nine colors rather than seven colors.
- Keep food hidden: people eat 23 percent less candy when it's in a plain covered dish than when it's in see-through dishes.
- Keep your distance. People eat more when they sit just an arm's length from tempting foods than when they have to get up each time to get another handful. (I'm writing this on Christmas Day sitting a room away from the hors d'oeuvre trays!)

No brainer stuff, you say? Of course. So why is it so hard to translate that into important areas like faith and morals?

- Is greed your problem? Maybe a steady stream of *Forbes* and *Money* magazines coming into the house isn't the best idea.
- Overeating an issue? Don't even let your shopping cart travel down the potato chip aisle.
- Dating couples having a hard time fighting temptation? Try watching TV while sitting on chairs rather than stretched out together on the couch. Better yet, go take a walk.
- Racial attitudes hard for you to keep under control? Stay away from people who have the same problem you do.

Ever noticed God's advice for people in temptation? "Flee!" "Flee from sexual immorality." "Flee youthful passions." "Flee from idolatry." Moving toward a God-honoring lifestyle may not be as difficult to figure out as we've thought. G. Crowe

***Our vision:
Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known***

2007 Prayer

Last Sunday night, December 31, members of Elmwood gathered together at the building for a time of prayer. I can't think of a better way to celebrate and prepare for the new year than to spend time in prayer.

The prayers that were offered were upward, inward, and outward. Upward prayers were made thanking God for who He is and what He has done in the lives of the people here. Prayers were also inward as different people stood and petitioned the Father to guide Elmwood's leaders, to heal those sick among us, and to be with the youth in our church community. Prayers were made outward for the Lafayette community, for those at Purdue who don't know the Lord, and for the government officials both in the United States and those of other countries as well.

It was a really great time and if you were not there, I am sorry you missed it.

It reminded me that if we are going to start 2007 the right way, we must go to the Lord in humble prayer. It reminded me that if we are going to forge ahead as trailblazers for Christ in our community, then we must first admit that we need direction from Him. Finally, it reminded me that our walk in Christ begins with no movement at all; rather, it begins with us falling down, faces on the ground, and acknowledging the One that gives life. If you were not there for this experience, I encourage you to go home, fall on your face in private, and continue this important prayer. You will be glad you did. ~Dan

Pray for our Elders, Deacons, and Ministers as they formulate a process that will enable us to locate the individual that best suits our vision of *Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known*.



Wednesday Night Prayer Time

The first Wednesday night of each month at 7:00 PM, everyone is invited to come and pray with other Christians. Meet in the Farris foyer this Wednesday night, January 3.

Memory Album for the Crowes

The church is putting together a memory album for the Crowes. A blank page for the album will be distributed to each family Sunday morning. 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

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will be **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!!

Sunday Morning Men's Class

The **Sunday morning Men's Class** taught by Chuck Brown meets in Room 200. The class format is a combination of videotaped presentations by Rick Warren taken from *The Purpose Driven Life* and small group discussion. The next topic series titled "You Were Planned For God's Pleasure" begins **Sunday, January 7, 2007**. Men of all ages are encouraged to attend.



Thank You!

Thanks for all the visits, cards, and especially the prayers during and after my recent surgery. They were much appreciated.

—Bob Stafford



The food pantry is in need of **paper grocery sacks and toilet paper.**

—John Stafford

Coming in February

In a long-awaited two-night series, **Joe Ruhl** will present his reflections on "Why I Believe" at the 6 PM worship on February 4 and 11.

December 24, 2006

Class: 187 Worship: 300

Contribution: \$6,242

Budget: \$8,550

December 31, 2006

Class: 153 Worship: 257

Contribution: \$7,352

Budget: \$8,550

ELMWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST newsletter (USPS 758-630) is published weekly, except the week of Christmas, by the Elmwood Church of Christ, 2501 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette 47904. Periodical postage paid at Lafayette, IN. POSTMASTER: send address changes to ELMWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST, 2501 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette, IN 47904.



Unstoppable! (Acts)

MWLTC – April 6-8, 2007

Happy New Year everyone! I pray the holidays have been good to all of you and that all of you students are rested up and ready to head back to school...the school year is half over! April will be here before you know it, so we need to get ready for Leadership Training for Christ. I want to be sure that all of you are aware that LTC is for all 3rd through 12th graders. We have some new families, so if you have any questions about this, don't hesitate to ask. Our VERY IMPORTANT organizational meeting will take place on Sunday, January 14 at 4:00 pm; please make every effort to be present. If you can't come for some reason, please let Barb Tilley, Phyllis Simmerman or me know as soon as possible. We really need everyone's participation and we are excited about this year's convention. Adults, we will as always, need coaches for the various events and of course, we will need your help at the convention too. We will also need judges, door monitors and security people at the convention. The convention will be back at the Marriott East in Indianapolis and registration is only \$35 again this year.

Graysville

Bloomington Youth Rally – January 12-14, 2007

The youth rally at the North Central church of Christ in Bloomington, IN is less than 2 weeks away! If you would like to go, please let me know immediately. This is going to be a great rally and you will be able to see many of your friends from camp, etc., that live in southern Indiana. Cost of the rally is just \$10 and housing will depend on whether we are able to get into the free housing with church members or not. Let me know if you have any questions.

Winterfest

Gatlinburg, TN – February 16-18, 2007

If you plan to go to Winterfest, now is the time to sign up. There is an early registration cutoff of February 1. That means we need to have money and registration postmarked before that date. Registration for this year is \$21, T-shirts are \$10 and the concert (Jars of Clay) is \$10. Information packets for guests of Elmwood members are available at the house or outside my office door – remember, their total cost is \$50 plus meals. Registration packets for Elmwood members will be available shortly. We have forty places reserved at the hotel (two double beds per room). \$50 will pay for your registration and save you a bed at the hotel. If you have any questions or if money is a problem for your family, please let me know. We want everyone to be able to attend this incredible experience. Maybe this will be Elmwood's biggest and most beneficial Winterfest ever.

LIFE Groups

LIFE Groups will resume on Sunday the 14th after the LTC meeting. The first meeting will be at the Simmermans. If your family would like to host one of the group meetings, just let me know. – Lee

Prayer Concerns....

The Bells, Peter, Bill, and Carol, are at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, this week for Peter to have a physical exam and consultation with doctors....**Don Vice** had sinus surgery Tuesday morning. He is recuperating at home....Continue praying for **Seth Mullen, Pat Turner, Willard Farmer, Kaden Koebecke, Sue Durham, Annie & Elaine Crowder, Ella McBride, Linda Smith, Marcia Swails, Mark Eddy, Lynn Robinson, Delpha Allen, Anna Dale, Minnie Scott** (Lane House Nursing Home), **Carrie High** (Regency Place), **Irene Fox** (George Davis Manor Nursing Home), and in Rosewalk Village: **Ruth Marks, & Burnell Gulden.**

Serving in our military: **Jeremy Crable** (Afghanistan; Alpha Co. Task Force Lightning 513 MI; CJTF-76; Bagram Air Force Base APO, AEO 09354; Crablemc69@aol.com); **Philip Devine & Robbie Mullinax** completing stateside training; **Jon Kiefner** (Iraq); and **Amanda Martin** (South Korea:).

A BIG Thank You!



A big thank you to **Dorothy Miller** and her helpers, Judy Riddle, Gail Ruhl, & Marilyn Walters, for the wonderful brunch served on Christmas Eve between the 1st and 2nd worship services. Almost 200 people were served. We really appreciate their organization and hard work on such an undertaking.

A New Study

One of our adult classes will begin a study and discussion of Max Lucado's book, ***In the Grip of Grace***. The book centers on the question, "Can anything separate us from the love of Christ?" All are welcome. The class meets in the room at the back of the auditorium. The study will begin on January 14. Rob Smith will be the discussion leader.



Jan. 3, 7 PM....Bible Classes for all
Jan. 7, 6 PM....Gayle Crowe: "In the Dust of the Rabbi"
Jan. 14, 6 PM....LIFE Groups resume meeting

Read:
Genesis 20-35; Luke 5-7

2007 Spiritual Adventure

Week 2: January 8-14

HEROES

"Save the cheerleader, save the world." This startling statement makes sense to you if you've been watching the TV show "Heroes." Its comic book-styled story line features ordinary people with extraordinary powers: a police officer who can read minds, a Japanese office worker who can bend space and time, and yes, a Texas high school cheerleader who can seemingly withstand any injury. Unlikely heroes.

Both readings this week demonstrate that this story line is not new; God has always chosen unlikely heroes. Through dreams and angels, God speaks in Genesis to people unrelated to Abraham—Abimelech and Hagar. They are not "children of the promise," yet God clearly knows about them, cares for them, and uses them. In the Genesis passages, in fact, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (the "Big Three") all commit unethical acts, as do Simeon and Levi. The most sympathetic characters in these passages are not these famous men, however, but the outsiders and foreigners—not just Abimelech and Hagar, but also Leah and Esau. Unlikely, but true.

The heroes Jesus calls and identifies in the Luke passages are also unexpected—fishermen and a tax collector as part of his inner circle? A strange man in the desert "more than a prophet" (Luke 7:26)? A sinful woman washing Jesus' feet superior to Jesus' well-to-do Pharisee host? Nowhere is this reordering of heroism clearer than in the beatitudes of Luke's account, where Jesus praises the poor, the hungry, the sad and depressed, and the downtrodden.

He follows this unexpected list of heroes with a mockery of common motivation for good actions—"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you" (Luke 6:32)? Real heroism is living as Jesus lived and taught. Real heroism is not found in super powers, it is found in *the* Super Power—the love of Jesus that allows us to extend his grace to all kinds of unlikely people. To keep us tuned in to his book of heroes, God might say, "Follow the carpenter—he saves the world."

—Josh Boyd