



What if...?

Some of you will remember the sermon I preached on New Year's Eve – *What if...?* A few have asked me to preach it again or expand on it. Right now, I will just borrow some of the thoughts: Elmwood is in a time of transition. The Crowes are in Nashville and the search has begun for the preacher and family God has prepared to join us in the work here in the greater Lafayette area. In addition, Dan is in Texas serving in his new ministry and transition is taking place in the campus ministry. Where will the transition lead us?

What if??? I posed that to a few of the teens, but I qualified it by saying "What if Elmwood..." Here are a few of the responses I got – some of the responses may challenge you:

- What if Elmwood was able to raise the percentage of people who know and understand why they attend church and then reflect that in their daily lives?
- What if Elmwood was a thriving church who had everyone being contributors and not consumers?
- What if Elmwood helped out the needy more?
- What if Elmwood did not worry so much about upsetting people?

I wonder:

- What if Elmwood was so committed to meeting together that Wednesday night attendance was the same as Sunday morning? It may not be feasible for us to meet daily, but I do believe we can be more committed to each other...to the fellowship.
- What if all of Elmwood was caring for others daily?
- What if the Lord was using Elmwood to reach out to the lost in our community daily?
- What if every Elmwood member was in the Word every day? Could we handle the blessings?

What if Elmwood was seeing people added to the family daily...how many services would we need to have each week?

Only God knows for sure how to answer those "What if's." As we move to this new era with the family of God that meets at 2501 Elmwood Avenue:

- Let's be a church that is committed to each other daily
- Let's be a church that cares for others daily
- Let's be a church that wins souls daily
- Let's be a church that searches the Scriptures daily, and
- Let's be a church that asks the Lord to increase our number daily

Gayle and Dan helped us plant a lot of seed; what if we all believe it is time to trust God to bring the increase!
– Lee

Dr. Joey Gafford

(Pulpit minister candidate)
Elmwood Church of Christ
July 6-8, 2007
Agenda

Friday July 6, 2007:

- 3:00 PM Arrive
- 6:00 PM Dinner & Points of interest tour (show church location, campus)

Saturday July 7, 2007

- 7:30 AM Family breakfast with Elders and wives
- 9:00 Candidate interview with the Elders
- 11:00 Interview with Deacons
- 12:30 PM Lunch
- 2:30 Return to Hotel
- 4:30 Candidate interview with Search Committee
- 6:00 Dinner with Search committee
- 7:00 Meet N' Greet Devotional at Elmwood with Congregation
Philosophy of Ministry
Presentation for all and entertain questions
- 9:00 PM Return to Hotel

Sunday July 8, 2007

- 7:00 AM Breakfast on own at Hotel
- 8:00 First Service
- 9:30 Bible Class—feel free to visit all classes
- 10:45 Second Service
- 12:00 PM Lunch at The Trails with Elders and wives
- 3:00 Final wrap up with Elders

Prayer concerns....

Jerry Allen was hospitalized over the weekend for possible heart problems. He was released after some tests on Monday...Carolyn Burrell's sister-in-law, **Lorena Poindexter**, will have a 6-hour surgery this Thursday, July 5, at IU North**Henry Hunt**, David's father, will have knee replacement surgery July 9. He is also being treated for a recurrence of prostate cancer...Continue praying for **Delores Nolan, Delores Hill, Margie Moffitt, Rachel Eby, Elizabeth Tinkle, Oka LeMaster, Joe Bailey, Sue Sill, Dottie Roberts, Oscar Miller, Hattie Coffel, Jeanette Tidrick, Kaden Koebecke, Kathy Cirola, Charles Carter, Charles Moore, Jo Gelfand, Willie Batts, Irene Sims, Mary Tavana, Willard Farmer, Valley Stockton, Paul & Argie Verett, Ruth Marks, Delpha Allen, Anna Dale, Minnie Scott, Carrie High, Irene Fox, & Burnell Gulden.**



Serving in our military: **Jeremy Crable & Michael Bryenton** in Afghanistan; **Philip Devine, Joshua Thompson** (grandson of *Mary Lou Baugh*), in Iraq; and **Chris Martin**, in South Korea.



Mr. & Mrs. Lee Porter
and
Mr. & Mrs. Rick Hottmann
invite you to share in the joy as their children
Jessica Brooke & Nickolas Edwin
commit their lives in marriage
on Saturday, the eleventh of August, 2007
at 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

Oxford United Methodist Church
21 East Burdick Street, Oxford, Michigan

Your relationship with Christ can make a difference in every
area of your life. Are you letting it?

"Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ."
Romans 13:14



Thank You!

Dear Elmwood family,
I want to thank you for the present
for my graduation. Thank you for
remembering me. I will read my
Bible always. Sincerely,
Seth Mullen

Men's Breakfast



The food is being ordered and
plans are underway for the Men's
Breakfast on **Saturday, July 21,**
at **7:43 AM.** Sign up sheets are
posted in the foyers. Bring your
sons, grandsons, and friends, and
start your day with some good
fellowship and tasty food.

Free Tutoring offered

Tom Miller and others (college
students, graduates, etc.) are
offering **FREE TUTORING** to
anyone—any age—for reading,
math, anything you might need
help with. For more information
call Tom at 260-503-9163.

July 1, 2007

Class: 166 Worship: 193

Contribution: \$7,029

Budget: \$8,550

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Living in the Light of God

NOTE: The following is not my own creation, but like so many good ideas: I have heard the basis for this from various places, and don't remember where or from whom. So thanks to those people who have used this illustration in a similar (or the same) way before!

"The LORD went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people" (Ex. 13:21,22 NRSV).

The image of the pillar of fire is a strong one, but I think that there are nuances to this idea that are often overlooked, perhaps because they are not explicitly stated in the text. Now I'm all for not straying far from the bounds of the text, but I think there is also value in placing ourselves imaginatively in the text, "stepping into the text", if you will, that allows us to see things that we might not otherwise.

The pillar of fire must have been quite bright, giving the Israelites something to follow during the night, but I would imagine that it cast its luminescence on the things around it as well.

One can imagine the view of the Light of God in front of the Israelites, themselves being lit by its blaze. Looking around, they would have seen others, their family, their friends and their neighbors bathed in the light of God.

God's presence permeated his people, not unlike it does now, but then, it could be physically and tangibly seen. I wonder how his presence, and the Israelites conscious acknowledgement of his presence at all times, would have affected their actions and daily interactions with the people that were around them. How would the fact that God's light is shining on the face of the person with whom you are upset, change the tone of the discussion that you were having with that person? How would it change the way that the Israelites viewed one another?

We often talk about looking at people and seeing them not as the world sees them, but through the eyes of God, or stated another way, to see them in the Light of God. How awesome and radical would it be to be able to see the Light of God, the symbol of his love and grace, shining on the faces of all the people that we interact with?

I wonder if we might change the way we act?
-Phil

Vacation Bible School August 8-12



Let's corral 80 kids at Avalanche Ranch.

August 8, 9, 10 • 6:00-8:00 PM

August 11 • 9:00-11:00 AM

August 12 • 5:00-7:00 PM

YOU can help make it happen.

Parents may now register their children online at the Elmwood Church of Christ website: elmwood-church.org, obtain a form at the church, or call the church office and give us your information.

VBS needs....

Please help make our Vacation Bible School successful! If you have any of the following items, would you mind bringing them to church? Tape your name on the item and place it in the VBS box in the Farris foyer as soon as possible. Thanks so much.

- Four 6-foot stepladders
 - 12 plastic plants
 - 2 dropcloths
 - 2 dowel rods
 - Red rope or cord
- Small, dark, plastic tarp
 - Clothesline
 - Pocketknife
 - Electric campfire
- 1 medical or drywall mask
 - Newspaper
 - Firewood - 10 logs
- Plastic tubs (18) big enough for children's feet



July 4....No Senior Servants meeting

July 4, 6 PM....Short devo; no classes

July 8, AM worship hours....Prospective preacher,
Joey Gafford, will speak

August 8-12....Vacation Bible School

Read:
II Chronicles 1-22;
Matthew 26-28

2007 Spiritual Adventure

Week 29: July 16-22

As Yogi Berra has said, “Déjà vu – all over again.” Here is the familiar story line we see for all mankind (generic for everybody – even though men are of particular susceptibility and blame) – and in particular ourselves:

1. God is blessing us and taking care of us
2. !!!SIN!!!
3. Humbling experience involving ourselves and our loved ones
4. Repentance
5. Forgiveness and re-establishment of blessing – many times even greater
6. Start the 1 thru 5 cycle all over again

This is what you see over and over again in the Old Testament, and especially in II Chronicles chapters 1 – 20. From Solomon thru Jehoshaphat you see leaders blessed unbelievably—God appearing to Solomon directly at least twice—then falling on their face because of sin.

Alright Cecil, you say, “I’ve read that stuff myself and you’re preaching to the choir! **SO WHAT???** **How do we avoid this dilemma?**” I’m afraid we – I – have the same problem as Peter did in the Garden – we want to stay awake for the Lord, **BUT**, “the spirit is willing, but the body is weak” (Matt. 26.41). And just like Peter we fall into sin when we least expect it.

Would a stronger spirit be able to overcome the body, as did in the case of Jesus?

I would strongly recommend that you get a copy of *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard J. Foster **today** and make that decision yourself. I know in my own case I’ve lumped my **FAITH** along with all the other important things, in my in my messy garage – when I really need to find it, I can’t!!! I’m certainly not treating it like the “pearl of great price.” I have to wake up from my sleep of apathy, easy and cheap grace thinking, and the ‘web’ of cares for this life that are ensnaring me.

Please pray for me as I pray for you!!!

–Cecil Koons