



Between Two Fires

My undergraduate studies were focused on History and English before I chose the route of career ministry, and during that time I read a great book on the Great Depression called *Between Two Fires*. It is an engaging account of the years between the two World Wars. One of its primary goals is to remind the reader that the Great Depression was world-wide instead of being an exclusively American tragedy. It achieves this goal in an almost poetic fashion, and it remains one of my favorite history books.

The author wrote with a global perspective that is important for more than just historical events. It is important for the church. The tendency for the church, especially the American church, is to understand its situation in individualistic terms. When the times are good, the church is happy. When the church is sad, there can be no consoling it.

The truth is that the church needs to be more universal with its emotion. When times are good here in America, it is easy to forget that the church world-wide is being persecuted for its faith. There are those who are being hurt or even killed for their faith every year. It would do the church good to remember that. On the other hand when the government takes prayer out of school here in the states, it is comforting to know that churches around the world are outraged and praying with us.

There is a season for dancing, dreaming, lamenting, and languishing. But remember this week to develop a more universally-minded emotion. When the church around the world suffers for their faith, we suffer. When they lament, we echo their sentiments. The church is always in a state between two fires itself, and it would do it well to remember that it is one.

—Dan

Our vision:
Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known

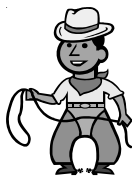
Minister Search

Beginning July 6th, we will be entertaining our first candidate for senior minister. We are trying to schedule three other such visits. We have narrowed our candidate list down to these four. Along the way, we have reviewed 26 resumes. From those, we selected nine candidates to interview by phone. Three of these candidates have declined to be considered, two for geographic reasons (imagine that!). Two other candidates we decided not to pursue further. The remaining four candidates are being invited for site visits. Three of these have been scheduled. They are Joey Gafford (7/6), Gilbert Kerrigan (7/13), Don Belcher (7/20). We will announce the fourth when arrangements have been made. The schedule for each site visit will be published.

Part of that schedule includes a visit with the congregation. It is very important that you plan to come to this part of the interview because the elders will be seeking your feedback about the candidate. A form will be available to facilitate this, but however you choose to communicate your assessment, the elders expect to hear from you. Your feedback will be considered when making the hiring decision.

Keep praying,
Bill Bell

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.

Farewell Reception for Dan Cooke June 23, 2-4 PM, CSC

Join Dan Cooke and students this Saturday, June 23, from 2:00 until 4:00 PM, at the CSC, 115 Waldron St., West Lafayette, for a come 'n go farewell reception to honor his 5 years of service on the Purdue campus. Dan will be leaving at the end of the month to begin a new ministry at the University of North Texas with the Singing Oaks Church of Christ in Denton, Texas. Questions? Call Mindy Hart at 497-2481.

Delores Nolan fell last week and suffered a broken nose, concussion, and wait 2-3 months for surgery. Hill had surgery Wednesday from a fall last week....Margie Moffitt Monday, June 25....David brother in Illinois, has first suspected....Susan Shidler, Sheryl Willison's sister, DOES NOT have a brain aneurysm. She will continue undergoing tests for further evaluationHenry Hunt, David's father, will have knee replacement surgery soon. He also will be treated for a recurrence of prostate cancer....Continue praying for Bill Adams, Peter Bell, Oka LeMaster, Joe Bailey, Sue Sill, Dottie Roberts, Oscar Miller, Hattie Coffel, David Perkins, Lorena Poindexter, Jeanette Tidrick, Georgia Woodland, Kaden Koebecke, Kathy Ciota, 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.



week and suffered a broken nose, concussion, and wait 2-3 months for surgery on her nose....Delores day on her wrist that she week....Joy Walker had moved on her nose last week will have surgery on her eye Perkins, Lori Miller's pneumonia—not a tumor as



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.



Happy Anniversary!



Happy Anniversary to **Paul & Argie Verett**. On June 25 they will celebrate **69 years of marriage**. Congratulations!



Thank you for the Bible in honor of my graduation. It is greatly appreciated. It will guide me for the rest of my life. Thanks again,
—Cody Mullen

It's a Boy!



Levi Cole was born Tuesday morning, June 19, to **Tammy & Jesse Studebaker**. He weighed 7 pounds 6 ounces, and measured 21.5 inches. Mom and baby are doing fine! Congratulations!



Sincere apologies to **Delores Hill** whose name was accidentally left off the list of people who provided food for the homeless at Lafayette Urban Ministry on Monday, May 28.

June 17, 2007
Class: 139 Worship: 204
Contribution: \$5,872
Budget: \$8,550



Plans

Uh-oh, I may have made a mistake. Last week I referenced Star Wars in my article... now that seems to be all I can think about, so you may be locked into a series of Star Wars related articles for the next little while... if they get old, let me know. I will try to eliminate as much geek-speak as possible, but for those of you that know me well, that is pretty difficult!

Anyway, I was thinking about one of the main characters from the movies, Luke. Now Luke goes through quite the adventure and changes drastically from the first movie (okay, I know technically it's the "fourth", but I'll be referring to them in order of production) to the third. I'd like to take a minute to focus in on young Luke.

If you recall, in the first scene that has Luke in it, he is portrayed as a whiney teenager. Let's not even get onto the topic of how (despite how the media portrays them), not all teenagers are whiney all of the time, as that is its own can of worms. Instead I would like to talk about the way that Luke views his world.

A fan of the series will remember that Luke is anxious to leave his hometown to go to the Imperial Flight School to join his friends. He is not happy with his place in the universe, he is far outside of the normally travelled area of the galaxy (he lives in "The Outer Rim" if you're interested), and he is just a farmer on a desert planet.

As any good movie maker knows, you can't leave your character on a desert planet as a farmer if you want to make a really good science fiction movie. He can stay there for a little while, but at some point in time he is going to have to stop traipsing around the desert looking for rouge droids and instead eventually (SPOILER ALERT!!) blow up the Death Star.

Here's the deal though: if Luke wasn't on that planet, the epic story about him could never have taken place. If Luke wasn't on Tatooine, then he wouldn't have come across the droids, Obi-wan, Han or Chewie, and would have never saved the princess. It turns out that the very thing that he found to be unbearable was the very thing that was necessary for a happy ending for the rebellion.

George Lucas is a good screenwriter, so he had a plan for his characters, and knew what they needed. How much more then, will God, the author and perfecter of life, have a plan for each of us! Jeremiah 29:11: *"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."*
-Phil



We Need Volunteers!

The 4th Monday of every month Elmwood members provide a meal, divided between the main dish, salad, vegetable or bread, and dessert, to the homeless who are housed overnight at **Lafayette Urban Ministry**. With vacations and other summer plans, it is sometimes difficult to get enough volunteers to provide this service. **We still need two spots filled for the meal on June 25th.** If you'd like to help with this ministry, call the church office at 447-2874. There are many at Elmwood who have done this and are always blessed by the experience.

One or two people are also needed to **teach the combined 1st & 2nd grade class on Sunday mornings for July and August.** (You may teach just one month.) Call the church office or talk to Lee Porter if you would like to help.

A Serving Opportunity

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.
-Christi Branstetter

- 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



June 20, 11:30 AM...Senior Servants in A-2
June 20, 7 PM...Bible class for all
June 23, 2-4 PM...Farewell Reception for Dan Cooke at CSC, 115 Waldron, West Lafayette
June 24, 6 PM...Worship at Elmwood
August 8-12...Vacation Bible School

Read:
I Chronicles 6-25;
Matthew 19:1-22:22

2007 Spiritual Adventure

Week 27: July 2-8

After telling the rich young ruler to sell all of his possessions and give to the poor, Peter tells Jesus that they (apostles) have left all to follow him, and what will there be for them? Jesus assures them that “at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first” (Matthew 19:28-30).

What an incredible assurance! We wonder, then, why James and John, along with their mother ask for their thrones to be placed on the left and right of Jesus, the places of utmost importance. In response to this request, as well as to the indignation of the other apostles, Jesus tells them, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Placing ourselves as “last,” or a “slave,” is not easy. I think that in this passage, however, we learn a valuable key to putting others before us. When we view our life, our time, and our possessions as a gift rather than an entitlement, we are more inclined to give of ourselves for others. We are less inclined to compare our lives, time, and possessions to others and seek to advance ahead of them.

—Jimmy Huff