



The Ministry of Worship

Barna Research group conducted a survey in 2005 entitled *Top Religious Trends of 2005* that resulted in some interesting if not disturbing information. According to the study, "most local churches essentially ignore three critical spiritual dimensions: ministry to children, ministries to family, and prayer." Prayer was labeled as a top priority in only one out of every 25 of the churches surveyed! But the study showed other trends as well.

It demonstrated that there were problems surrounding the concept of worship in local churches. "Even though churches build their primary weekly event around the concept of worship, and call the event a 'worship service,' the researcher stated, "less than one out of every five churches rated worship a top ministry priority. . . ." The irony is both glaring and tragic. To build a weekly gathering around worship and yet rank it so far down on the church's list of priorities is a sign that something is askew if not counter-productive.

The problem may come from an incomplete understanding of what worship is. The biblical retelling of the call of Simon Peter (Luke 5:1-11) is a great tool for reminding us exactly what worship is. Having filled their boats with fish after obeying Jesus, Peter was amazed. He fell on his face and exclaimed, "Go away from me, Lord, I am a sinful man!" But notice how the passage ends with Peter leaving his nets and following the man that he had just told to leave. He knew he could not be near Jesus, but he also knew he did not want to be distant from him. Now that's worship! It is a unique blend of saying to the Lord, "Go away, I am sinful," while yet saying, "Please come near." Worship is knowing who you are and who God is; it is being so blinded by his righteousness that you hide your face; it is being so drawn to His goodness that you can't go another step without Him.

Worship deserves our very best. It deserves a community willing to engage in dramatic readings of the text, planned out prayers that are kingdom-minded, and a people willing to go to bed early on Saturday night anticipating an encounter with the living God on Sunday morning. May we continue to improve on an already incredible ministry of the Elmwood community . . . worship.
-Dan

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

Where's your Heart?

Believe it or not, I'm not going for the obvious here. I am asking you about the second letter of our SHAPE studies... your Heart, as in what do you have a heart for or what motivates you? I have a couple reasons for asking and I'll take a few lines to elaborate on both.

First, I know this church family has a heart for our young people. Many of you have been right along with us as we have participated in Leadership Training for Christ for nine years and we appreciate that, but we need seasoned helpers and new recruits to step forward...the convention is just over one week away. As I write this article, we need about one dozen room emcees to help our convention event coordinators: Sarah Bird – puppets, Tom and Beth Miller – group singing, and Mariah Wise – live modern Christian drama. In addition, we need 11 judges for various events and 4 door monitors. No pay, but lots of hugs and appreciation! If you have the Heart to help, please let Phyllis, Barb, Rose or me know as soon as possible, thanks!

Next, did you know that on any given day in Lafayette there are about 37 homeless families (estimate from the mayor's office) living on the streets or in their cars? A homeless family is any family group with at least one child – there are far more individuals. If you have the Heart for helping homeless folks and might be interested in being involved in a city-wide ministry, I would like you to attend an information meeting with me on April 26. Let me know if you have the Heart to do this.
- Lee

"What Every Woman Should Know About Finances" Seminar

The Women's Ministry is hosting an educational evening on financial topics for women on Saturday, April 14, from 7-9 PM at the Elmwood building. God calls us to be good stewards of the resources He has given us. Come with your questions and we will all learn together. The program is free but pre-registration is necessary. Please indicate on your yellow card on Sunday if you plan to attend.

Thank You!

We wish to express our gratitude and love for the portion of the family of God that is the Elmwood Church. We were absolutely blown away by the outpouring of love, care, and concern that we received. We have never felt more loved in all of our lives; and as a result we felt comforted by the arms of the Lord. We will miss Brian terribly, but we were reminded by your notes and comments just how much he was loved and appreciated during the 26 years he was with us. Thank you all so much for your kindness and support. In Christian love, Cecil & Sherry Witherbee, Jeff, Amber & Caleb Witherbee, and Kelly & Chris Nelson

Volunteers Needed!

The Elmwood food pantry is open from 1:00 to 3:00 Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday each week and serves more than 250 needy families a month. Elmwood members greet those who come and help them fill a grocery bag with the items they select. If you would be interested in helping 1 or 2 times a month, please contact John Stafford at 474-8478. Also, the food pantry is in need of paper grocery bags.


CSC Root Beer Kegger Friday, April 20

Once again the CSC will host their annual **Root Beer Kegger on Friday, April 20**. As always, any snacks that the Elmwood family could provide in the form of cookies, desserts, chips, finger foods, etc., would be MUCH APPRECIATED! They can be brought to the church building for pick up at Friday noon.

Can You Help with LTC?

Leadership Training for Christ (LTC) will soon be here. Our youth needs your help. If you can be in Indianapolis at the Marriott East on April 6 or 7, we are in need of judges and door monitors. Our students are participating in Puppets, Drama, Large Group Singing, Small Group Singing, Bible Bowl, Scrapbooks, Bulletin Boards, and Christian Art at the convention. If you can help with any of these areas, please let Lee Porter, Rose Hunt, Barb Tilley, or Phyllis Simmerman know.



Until they move into a house, Gayle & Lisa Crowe's address will be: 
2000 Mallory Lane, Suite 130-53,
Franklin, TN 37067-8231.

Good \$ense Class

The "Good \$ense" budgeting course—a series of 6 one-hour sessions—begins April 11, 2007, at 6:00 PM, and each week thereafter on April 18, April 25, May 2, May 9 and May 16.

—Janet Boston

Thanks!

Our thanks to Tyrie Mower Repair who gave the church more than a 40% discount on two used mowers to use on our church lawn.

FYI....

You might be interested to know that the "**In God We Trust**" license plate costs no more than a regular license plate costs.

March 25, 2007
Class: 189 Worship: 264
Contribution: \$7,832
Budget: \$8,550

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MWLTC 2007 UNSTOPPABLE!

You have probably already noticed the front page, but we are still needing lots of help at the convention, so parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, big brothers and sisters, if you are going to be in Indy, please let us know so we can plug you into some of the roles we really need to fill. Honestly, the way LTC is dependent on volunteers, we are technically not supposed to let the students participate if the proper judges and door monitors are not supplied... that has never happened, but let's not test the situation this year, either. Thanks in advance for helping out!

On the same topic, but a different area is that there is construction to deal with this year. Construction on the new "Super 70" will make a little different route necessary. We will have copies of the adjusted travel directions from the hotel available before you head over to the Marriott East. Also, there will be construction on the new facilities at the hotel going on, so there will be mud issues, etc., while we are there...might need to watch the younger ones a little more closely.

It's getting warm...time to think about summer!

Among the most important events in the youth ministry (for any and all churches) are camps and mission trips. For our mission trip this year, we are planning to return to Camp CUMO in Cincinnati. This has been a wonderful experience for all who have worked with us and we look forward to another great year. One note is that the lead church (Withamsville) would like to build permanent "cabins" on the property. These would be very basic and would cost only about 1,600 each. Elmwood would have the opportunity to fund one (or more) if the elders approve us requesting funds. We will keep you posted. Dates for CUMO this year are July 7-13 and all current 8th graders through college age and adults are welcome. Immediately following Camp CUMO is our Senior Week of camp at Spring Mill Bible Camp, July 15-21. Applications have already been mailed to last year's campers, and we will have a supply here at the office as well. The senior week is for all students who have completed 7th-12th grades. Finally, our intermediate week of camp is July 22-27 and is for all students who have completed 4th-8th grades. Parents please make every effort to help your children participate in these life changing events. As always, if money is an issue, please let me know.

- Lee



Gail Tidrick, 55, sister-in-law of Harry & Ronda Tidrick, died unexpectedly on Thursday, March 22. She had been in ill health for some time. Gail's husband, **Joe**, and daughter, **April**, attend Elmwood frequently. Her memorial visitation was held at Soller Baker Funeral Home on Monday. Our sincere sympathies to the Tidrick family.

Prayer Concerns...

Bob Stafford was released Tuesday from the hospital following back surgery last week...**Connie Nicholson** had throat surgery Tuesday, March 27 ...**Charles Carter**, father of Marsha Moore, had a massive stroke last week while in Jacksonville, Florida. He is recuperating at The Shands Stroke Center at the Shands Hospital in Jacksonville...**Oscar Miller** will have knee surgery (6th time) soon...Continue praying for **Sean High, Mary Tavana, Sarah Watts, Seth Mullen, Willard Farmer, Annie Crowder, Paul & Argie Verett, Kaden Koebecke, Marcia Swails, Lynn Robinson, Ruth Marks, Delpha Allen, Anna Dale, Minnie Scott, Carrie High, Irene Fox, & Burnell Gulden.**

Serving in our military: **Jeremy Crable & Michael Bryenton** (Afghanistan); **Brian Guthrie** (Qatar, Persian Gulf); **Philip Devine** (in Iraq); **Joshua Thompson** (grandson of Mary Lou Baugh in Iraq), **Jon Kiefner** (Amanda Guthrie's brother in Iraq); and **Amanda Martin** (South Korea:).

LUM Meal Providers

Serving dinner at Lafayette Urban Ministry Monday night, March 26, were **Greg & Terri Miller, Jim Levick, Mary Kay Ciesielski, and Marilyn Walters.**



March 21, 6 PM...Good \$ense budget class
March 21, 7 PM...Bible Classes for all
March 25, 6 PM...LIFE Groups meet
April 6-8...LTC in Indianapolis at Marriott Hotel
April 14, 7-9 PM... "What Every Woman Should Know About Finances" seminar at church building

Read:
Proverbs 1-14;
1 Thess 4-2 Thess. 3

2007 Spiritual Adventure

Week 15: April 9-15

Advice from Proverbs

Sometimes it is hard to listen to advice. I know I have a tendency to think that my way is right and am sometimes stubborn when it comes to taking advice. That is why I am glad we have Proverbs. Solomon was famous for his wisdom; if anyone had the right not to need the advice of others, it would be him. But one of the main themes of Proverbs is that the wise listen to advice and correction. Solomon knew that even a very wise person can have foolish ideas now and then. Albert Einstein said, "The more I learn, the more I realize I don't know." We must keep our ego small enough to be able to take advice and direction from our brothers and sisters and from the Lord. In Proverbs 3:5-7, Solomon writes, *"Trust in the Lord will all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil."*

Let's all strive to be wise in the eyes of the one who sees us as we are. In Proverbs 5:21 he reminds us, *"For a man's ways are in full view of the Lord, and He examines all his paths."* —Rob Flynn

This Week's Highlight:

Ogles' March 2007 Report

Dear Friends,

We feel greatly encouraged by a number of things in our lives these days.

After a long hard battle we found the vehicle we needed! It is a 1999 Toyota station wagon with A/C and automatic transmission. It rides as smoothly as possible on Kenya roads and we can travel about 350-400 miles on a tank of gas! With the funds many of you contributed we were able to pay cash for the car and cover transfer fees and the insurance for the first year. We feel blessed! Thanks to all of you for your prayers and financial help in this matter. May God be glorified!

Next we have received sufficient funds to take care of all travel and medical expenses incurred while undergoing treatments necessary for my detached retina. My eye is almost normal...the total recovery is rather slow.

Our labors with Brookside church (had about 55-60 for worship today) continue as do the opportunities for teaching with World Bible School, World English Institute, and NationsUniversity. There have been 2 additional baptisms since our last report.

Martha is working very hard to get students prepared for the next NationsUniversity graduation ceremony in late November. Dick Ady, of World English Institute and one of the men who helped begin NationsUniversity, has agreed to come and be our guest speaker and observe our work first hand. We are all excited about that.

For myself I continue writing study materials and tracts but so far we are lacking funding to get them printed. On Tuesday and Thursday mornings I am leading the staff in studies and applications of spiritual leadership of the church.

Personal note: Peter and Judith Milimo have a new baby son born March 7, 2007. (Peter handles our World Bible School program and works with the church.)

God bless you each one and we thank you for your support and prayers.

Our love in the Lord,
Ted and Martha

"Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land." Proverbs 25:25

*And the work of righteousness will be peace,
And the service of righteousness, quietness and confidence forever.
Then my people will live in a peaceful habitation,
And in secure dwellings and in undisturbed resting places. . .*

Isaiah 32:17-18