



## Talking With Mouths Wide Shut

The church has a problem. It is a bigger problem than any of us would like to admit or even discuss. It does not make for polite conversation, but it seems that most people outside the church are itching to discuss it. The fact is that the church suffers from an awful credibility problem. No matter how hard we try and no matter what we seem to do, it is there glaring us in the face. Non-believers point out hypocrisy as one of the number one reasons for non-belief. We can defend the church until we are blue in the face; we can discuss politely the topic; or we can point out that non-believers refer to the church's hypocrisy only as a way to rationalize their non-belief.

But there is only one way to combat this. We must simply let our lives be a testimony to God's goodness and righteousness. The Bible links good living with evangelism in a very direct way. Peter put it like this:

*... if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words ... (1 Peter 3:1 NIV). But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect ... (1 Peter 3:15).*

Sincere, authentic Christian living is the goal. Peter calls this winning over people "without words." It is the easiest, most authentic, and most productive way to evangelize. So this week, let's all remember to spread the gospel with our mouths shut. The message will be heard loud and clear . . . –Dan

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

## Moses Meets God Face to Face

Moses says to God, "Now show me your glory" (Exodus 33:18). "Show me what you've got! Show me what you're made of!" Being from New York and growing up with gangs, fights, drugs, and other violent things, I think of these statements as fighting words. When you face your challengers and want to see if they are bluffing, you tell them to reveal themselves.

However, Moses is not picking a fight with God when he says to God, "Now show me your glory" (Exodus 33:18). Moses was tired and discouraged. He had a heavy burden leading the Israelites to the Promised Land. The thousands of Israelites were pressuring him and continually complaining. The surrounding nations were against the Israelite nation. Moses needed some reassurance from God that he was going to be with Moses and carry out his mighty promises. He expressed his concern and worries to God and asked some questions. God's answer was, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest" (Exodus 33:14).

Even though Moses was growing impatient, God agreed to show some of his glory and power. This was going to happen on the mountaintop of Mount Sinai. However, it was close to 1,400 years later when Moses saw the long awaited promise of Jesus' heavenly glory on earth. Moses again witnessed God's glory, along with Elijah, when they were with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration. Sometimes the best things in life are worth waiting for.

–Dr. Anthony J. Fischetto,  
*Transformed: Intimacy with God*



Everyone is invited to a "come 'n go" bridal shower for **Jessica Porter & Nick Hottmann**. It will be in the home of Chris Sutherlin, 2805 Union St., Lafayette, on **Saturday evening, June 2, from 6:30-8:30**. Hostesses are Chris Sutherlin, Cheryl Woody, and Kelsey Sutherlin.

## Vacation Bible School 2007



We want to corral 70 kids at **Avalanche Ranch**. **YOU** can make it happen. If you'd like to help publicize this great adventure or assist in any other way contact Michelle Robson at 583-3106.



**Lynn Robinson**, 61 years old, Oka LeMaster's daughter, passed away on Thursday morning, May 10. Doctors discovered colon cancer last June. She was able to do some traveling and was surrounded by her loving family until her death at her own home. Her funeral was Saturday. Our deepest sympathies to Oka and her family.

Jan Lucas' mother, **Gladys Zinn**, 99 years old, died Saturday, May 12, in Altoona, Pennsylvania. Gladys had lived in the same home all her adult life and just recently was hospitalized. Jan is with her brother, Eugene. His address is 4029 5th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602.

## Haitian Bibles



Jimmy and Susan Huff are collecting funds to be used for the purchasing of Haitian Creole Bibles. These Bibles will be distributed by our brothers in the northern Haiti churches of Christ to those in need of one. The goal is to raise \$10,000, enough to purchase 1,000 Bibles. So far, we have raised \$4,500 towards this effort.

The Bible has only recently been published in the spoken language of Haiti, and satisfies a great need to those seeking God in Haiti who cannot afford to purchase a Bible. We are asking you to participate in this effort through prayer, and if you are able, through your funds. You can give a check to Jimmy or Susan after services this Sunday, May 20, or simply mail it to the church office. Please make the checks payable to Elmwood Church of Christ, and if you mail it to the church office, include a note saying that this check is for the Haitian Bible Fund. God bless.



## Graduating with Honors

**Erika Simmerman** graduated this spring from North Carolina State University, Summa Cum Laude, with degrees in Design and Chemistry. She will be attending Nova Southeastern School of Osteopathic Medicine in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, beginning in August. Congratulations, Erika!!

## Men's Breakfast



The next Men's Breakfast will be **this Saturday morning, May 19, at 7:43 AM** in A2. The breakfast concludes at 8:59 AM. A sign-up sheet is located in the Farris foyer. Men of all ages are welcome. Following the breakfast there will be a workday at the Wayne Terrace house. Please plan to stay—lots of help needed!

**May 13, 2007**

*Class: 175 Worship: 274*

*Contribution: \$8,653*

*Budget: \$8,550*

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## Open Houses, Everywhere!

It's High School Graduation time and we are getting hit hard again this year! Elmwood will be graduating eleven of our finest this year. Please remember that our Senior Sunday Presentation will be this Sunday night at 6:00 and finger foods will follow...cake will be provided, so focus on the other items, please.

Below you will find the dates and locations of the Open Houses we are aware of at this date. Please note one is this week.\*  
-Lee

### Open Houses

All are invited to join these graduates and their parents as they celebrate this joyous occasion.

**Jesse Jones** May 26, 3-7 PM his home  
10820 S. St. Rd. 43, Brookston

**Angela Levick** May 26, 4-7 PM her home  
501 Davis St., Brookston

**Seth & Cody Mullen** May 27, 12-4 PM  
their home, 4418 Lakevilla Dr.,  
West Lafayette

**\*Aaron Murray** May 20, 2-5 PM  
Chalmers American Legion Post  
110 E. Main St., Chalmers

**Ben Stafford** May 26, 4-7:30 PM his home  
408 Old Romney Dr., Lafayette

**Rebecca & Renea Vaughn** May 27, 1-4 PM  
their home, 436 N. County Line Rd. E.  
Lafayette

**Rachel Walters** June 9, 1-4 PM her home  
936 Brookridge Ct., Lafayette

**Melissa Willison** May 27, 2-6 PM her home  
7616 Posey Lane, Lafayette

## Prayer Concerns...

**Oscar Miller** is now on the rehab floor, room 3423, at St. Vincent's in Indianapolis. His phone number is 317-338-0424....**Peter Bell** will have heart surgery at Mayo Clinic this Tuesday, May 22....**Bill Adams** has surgery to replace a shunt in his head on Monday, May 21, at IU Medical Center....**Sheryl Willison's** sister, **Susan Shidler**, is in St. Elizabeth Hospital, room 4343....Continue praying for **Kathy Cirola** (*Mandy Anderson's mother, recovering from a stroke*), **Charles Carter** (*Marsha Moore's father, recovering from a stroke*), **Charles Moore** (*Jim's father, hospitalized in Texas*), **Jo Gelfand**, **Willie Batts**, **Irene Sims**, **Candace Sinclair**, **Mary Tavana**, **Guyula Robinson**, **Willard Farmer**, **Annie & Elaine Crowder**, **Paul & Argie Verett**, **Kaden Koebcke**, **Ruth Marks**, **Delpha Allen**, **Anna Dale**, **Minnie Scott**, **Carrie High**, **Irene Fox**, & **Burnell Gulden**.



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

## Picture Directory Update



It's been a year since we took the pictures for our directory. We are planning to take pictures of new families this **Sunday, May 20**. These will be additions to the existing directory. The new pictures will be in black & white, similar to our old directories. To minimize waiting in line, **Bill Hodges** will be attempting to contact new families about a time to have their picture taken. If you have questions or haven't heard from **Bill**, please call him at 449-1255.



**May 16, 6 PM...** Good Sense class meets  
**May 16, 7 PM...** Bible classes for all  
**May 20, 6 PM...** High School Senior Sunday  
Finger Foods and graduation cake to follow  
**June 2, 6:30-8:30 PM...** Bridal shower for **Jessica Porter** & **Nick Hottmann** at the **Sutherlins'** home

Read:  
Psalms 56-74;  
Hebrews 8-12

# 2007 Spiritual Adventure

## Week 22: May 28-June 3

Faith. We hear the word mentioned frequently, and not only in a church setting. In everyday situations, (e.g. work, school, social events, sports...) it is not uncommon to hear phrases like "Keep the faith," or "just have faith." It is so common a word, but with such **uncommon** meaning.

I really appreciate the way Hebrews 11:1 begins with a workable definition of faith. "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (NRSV). We are then given examples of people who acted in faith, according to **God's will**, not their own, and following God's commands with the hope and conviction that at some point God's promises would be fulfilled, even if not in **their** lifetime. Hebrews 11:13 states that these people who lived and acted in faith confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth; that is to say, they were not content to "settle" for the worldly things on earth, but they desired and were seeking for a better homeland, a heavenly one. They claimed not the world, therefore, God was not ashamed to claim them as His own people.

Where do we stand in regards to faith? Are we content to "fit in" by the world's standards, or are we hoping for and convicted in the truth of things unseen (our heavenly home) and of God's promises **already** received (Christ's sacrifice for the promise of salvation from a sinful, fallen world)? As expressed in one of our hymns:

*This world is not my home, I'm just a-passing thru. My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue;  
The angels beckon me from heaven's open door, and I can't feel at home in this world anymore.*

My hope and prayer for all of us, from this day one, is that we are "just a-passing thru" this worldly home, with faith and conviction that an infinitely superior heavenly home awaits us, indeed welcomes us with open arms. Praise God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen! and Amen!!

—Farrell Simmerman