



Extra Mile Love

The Bible speaks often about the topic of love. Numerous passages are dedicated to God's love for His people, His love for his Son, and our love for one another. As important as love is to the Christian life, it does not always come easy. Loving the way God intends is not the same kind of fun, feel-good romantic love that you feel when you first decide to be in a relationship with someone. Loving is difficult because it often requires more than we initially understand.

So many of us prepare to love others as Christians, but we do so sprint-style. That is to say that many of us love others (very self-sacrificially) but it often lasts for a short period of time. Then we either get burned out due to lack of response, or we get so busy with the pressures of life that we allow that love to die or get pushed to the bottom of our priority list.

To love God's way, however, is to love marathon-style. God calls us to love like Him; He loves long-term and without hesitation. His love for us does not burn out quickly when we do not respond to Him. His love continues and burns hotter and brighter. He does not become preoccupied with other priorities. We are his *only* priority . . . to redeem us and to make His glory shine through us. His love is long-term.

The question for many of us is not whether or not we will go the extra mile for someone. The question that hits most of us is *Will we go the extra mile today, tomorrow, 3 months from now, and 5 years from now?* It is not a question of intent for most of us, it is a question of longevity.

Are you willing to love someone with *that* kind of love, the kind that calls you to serve in a costly way for the long haul? Loving the way God intends for us to love is risky. Do you have what it takes to love *His* way? Loving marathon-style can be tough, but the rewards far outweigh the cost. See you at the finish line. . . *-Dan*

Our vision:
Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known

Welcome Back, Phil

Next Monday, May 14th, Phil Travis will be joining us as an Interim Associate Minister. Phil, who served as our summer youth intern last year, graduated from Rochester College last Friday with a degree in Youth and Family Ministry and Greek.

While Phil looks for a permanent position in his field of study, the Elders have asked him to come and work with Elmwood during the period of our search to fill our Senior Minister position. Our plans are for Phil to offer support to our current staff members as they try to pick up some of the work normally done by the Senior Minister while at the same time trying to maintain the level of work required in their own ministry area.

While Cody Sipe is more than adequately fulfilling the pulpit duties, other ministry areas must not be neglected or overlooked. Phil brings knowledge of our congregation with him from his work here last summer which should allow him to quickly become an effective and contributing member of our staff.

Phil's basic duties will be to provide support in the areas of Youth Ministry and Campus Ministry thus allowing Lee Porter and Dan Cooke more time to cover some of the ministry areas that might be neglected during this time of transition to a new Senior Minister.

Please join us in welcoming Phil and in offering him what ever support he needs to be effective in his ministry at Elmwood. *-Joe Mathews*



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.



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. These will be additions to the existing directory. The new pictures will be in black & white, similar to our old directories. We plan to continue taking new pictures **Sunday, May 20**. 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.

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 during the next two Sundays (5/13 and 5/20), 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.

Letter Carriers' Food Drive

The United States Postal Service and the National Association of Letter Carriers will be doing their 15th annual national food drive this **Saturday, May 12**. On this day the letter carriers ask that postal customers place bag(s) of non-perishable food items by their mailbox for their letter carrier to pick up and deliver to the local food bank. This activity will occur rain or shine and the food will all remain in our local area. Also, volunteers are needed to walk carrier routes and collect food as well as unload postal equipment at various locations. Transportation by an adult driver is required for volunteers going with carriers. Call Lesley Morgan at 765-491-6335 if you'd like to help. Last year the Letter Carriers' Food Drive in our area collected over 75,000 pounds of nutritious food!



Matrix Lifeline Volunteer Orientation

If God is calling you to protect and nurture babies and their families, learn more about the mission, history, services and volunteer opportunities at **Matrix Lifeline Pregnancy Center**. New volunteer orientation is **Wednesday, May 16, 9:30-11:00 AM or 7:00-8:30 PM**. Call **742-1533** to RSVP the session of your choice by Tuesday, May 15.

Spring Mill Bible Camp annual Rally Day, May 19, 1:00 PM

May 6, 2007
Class: 197 Worship: 272
Contribution: \$9,744
Budget: \$8,550

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Life Change

Many wonder and some even ask why I have stayed in youth ministry for so long. The short answer is that it is God's plan and calling for my life. Beyond that, I can give many answers: teenagers are fun. Teens are not completely set in their ways. They like challenges. Teens are curious. They are adventurous. I could go on and on, but I personally believe youth ministry is one of the most important missions the church has today. Did you know that 85% of the people who make a commitment to Christ do so before the age of 18? Jesus came to the earth, not to impart knowledge, but to change lives. Youth ministry is all about change. I tell people that I like youth ministry because I find myself in a new world every day. Teens' needs change, their philosophies change, their styles change and don't we all know...their moods change. Some things do not change, however: teens always need Jesus. They are open to God's call and challenge in their lives. Young people are the greatest asset the church has – today and tomorrow. One more thing that doesn't seem to change (actually two) is the place of Bible Camps and Mission Trips in the faith formation of adolescents. For many years, Abilene Christian University has surveyed thousands of students from churches of Christ and consistently, the events they noted as most positively influential in their faith development were camps and mission trips. Truth is, the two are so close in perceived importance, it is difficult to place one above the other...lives are changed! I won't apologize. This is a plug for your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews to be involved in camps and mission trips this year. These two events are at the top of the five things our elders encourage families to participate in each year. If camps and mission trips are so much of a sure thing, can we afford not to do all we can to be sure all of the young people have a chance to be involved in the age appropriate camps and mission trips this year?

This year, for mission trip (open to all entering 9th grade through college age) we will be going back to Camp CUMO...a camping experience for 50 inner-city adolescents. The trip will take place July 7-13 and will only cost \$75 total! July 15-21 is the Senior Session (completed grade 7-12) and July 22-27 is the Intermediate Session (completed grades 4-8) our group supports. Cost is only \$80 if you pay by July 1. Please know I am aware that these dates don't work for everyone and there are other camp experiences available, some even for 5-7 year olds...we have a few go to Camp Wabashi – I am in support of all camp and mission trip experiences. The bottom line is: please be sure your children go – it will change their lives and maybe yours, too! – Lee

Prayer Concerns...

Oscar Miller had knee replacement surgery Tuesday, May 8, at St. Vincent's in Indianapolis....Peter Bell will have heart surgery at Mayo Clinic on May 22....A co-worker of Jim Jones, Jo Gelfand, had surgery for breast cancer on Monday, May 7....Sheryl Willison's sister, Susan Shidler, is in St. Elizabeth Hospital, room 2148....Continue praying for Lynn Robinson (hospice care), Teresa Moffitt, 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), Willie Batts, Irene Sims, Candace Sinclair, Guyula Robinson, Willard Farmer, Annie & Elaine Crowder, Paul & Argie Verett, Kaden Koebecke, Ruth Marks, Delpha Allen, Anna Dale, Minnie Scott, Carrie High, Irene Fox, & Burnell Gulden. Mary Tavana, sister of Peter, hospitalized in Michigan, will be there for quite some time. She would appreciate any cards sent her way. The address there is: University of Michigan Hospital, room 4447; 1500 E. Medical Center Dr.; Ann Arbor, MI 48109.



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 Phyllis Simmerman's nephew, Chris Martin, in South Korea.

Men's Breakfast



The next Men's Breakfast will be 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 encouraged to attend. 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 May 19.



May 9, 6 PM... Good Sense class meets
 May 9, 7 PM...Bible classes for all
 May 13, AM services...Baby Day Recognition
 May 20, 6 PM...High School Senior Sunday

Read:
II Sam 10-24; Hebrews 1-7

2007 Spiritual Adventure

Week 21: May 21-27

Lessons from Hebrews

In his paraphrasing translation **The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language**, Eugene H. Peterson introduces the book of Hebrews by writing, "It seems odd to have to say so, but too much religion is a bad thing. We can't get too much of God, can't get too much faith and obedience, can't get too much love and worship. But *religion* – the well-intentioned efforts we make to 'get it all together' for God – can very well get in the way of what God is doing for us. The main and central action is everywhere and always *what God has done, is doing, and will do for us*. Jesus is the revelation of that action. Our main and central task is to live in responsive obedience to God's action revealed in Jesus. Our part in the action is the act of faith. But more often than not we become impatiently self-important along the way and decide to improve matters with our two cents worth. We add on, we supplement, we embellish. But instead of improving on the purity and simplicity of Jesus, we dilute the purity, clutter the simplicity. We become fussily religious or anxiously religious. We get in the way. That's when it's time to read and pray our way through the letter to the Hebrews again, written for 'too religious' Christians, for 'Jesus-and...' Christians. In the (Hebrew) letter, it is Jesus-and-angels, or Jesus-and-Moses, or Jesus-and-priesthood. In our time it is more likely to be Jesus-and-politics, or Jesus-and-education, or even Jesus-and-Buddha. This letter deletes the hyphens, the add-ons. The focus becomes clear and sharp again: God's action in Jesus. And we are free once more for the act of faith, the one human action in which we don't get *in* the way but *on* the Way."

–submitted by Betty Brown from Eugene H. Peterson's *The Message*