



Spiritual Awkwardness

Richard Mouw, president of Fuller Theological Seminary, wrote a humorous little book full of mini-essays called, *Praying at Burger King*. In one essay titled, **Spiritual Awkwardness**, he writes:

The Book of Revelation isn't one of those places we think to go for humor, but there is a scene right at the end of that book that I do find amusingly touching. As Revelation comes to an end, John has just been given a wonderful vision of the New Jerusalem, with an angel-guide as his companion. John confesses that, having seen and heard all of these marvelous things, "I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me." And the angel immediately admonishes him: "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant... Worship God!" (Revelation 22:8)

Strictly speaking, John's actions look for all the world like idolatry. He is bowing down to someone who is not God. But my hunch is that the reprimand here comes with a twinkle in the angel's eye. John is no idolater. He does not mean to be instituting an angel-worship cult. He is just momentarily disoriented. And his confusion is understandable. He has seen a lot of worship going on in his visions. Heavenly choirs have been regularly breaking into songs of praise and elders have been falling down on their faces in adoration. It makes some sense, then, that John, overwhelmed by the glories he has been shown, should drop to his knees in the presence of the nearest celestial citizen. His instinct was to worship, but he aimed his worship in the wrong direction.

I find it comforting that the Holy Spirit would inject this picture of apostolic awkwardness right at the end of the Bible.

Comforting indeed! I, too, often feel spiritually awkward. I know I don't have everything figured out when it comes to worshipping our God. I'm sure I have given many wrong answers to theological questions. For me, "spiritually awkward" may be an understatement. It is comforting to know that an apostle of Jesus could make such a mistake.

-Gilbert

Trusting God

From "**My Utmost For His Highest**"
by Oswald Chambers:

Mt 8:26 He replied, "You of little faith,
why are you so afraid?"

When we are in fear we can do nothing less than pray to God, but Our Lord has a right to expect that those who name His Name should have an understanding confidence in Him. God expects His children to be so confident in Him that in any crisis they are the reliable ones. Our trust is in God up to a certain point, then we go back to the elementary panic prayers of those who do not know God. We get to our wits' end, showing that we have not the slightest confidence in Him and His government of the world; He seems to be asleep, and we see nothing but breakers ahead.

"O ye of little faith!" What a pang must have shot through the disciples - 'Missed it again!' And what a pang will go through us when we suddenly realize that we might have produced down right joy in the heart of Jesus by remaining absolutely confident in Him, no matter what was ahead.

There are stages in life when there is no storm, no crisis, when we do our human best; it is when a crisis arises that we instantly reveal upon whom we rely. If we have been learning to worship God and to trust Him, the crisis will reveal that we will go to the breaking point and not break in our confidence in Him.

-Phil



Steve Cable is in Methodist Hospital, room 4014, in Indianapolis. He slightly better. Surgery to remove his gall bladder will be done later...**John Adams** father of Bill Adams, had a heart attack on Monday. Doctors have put a temporary hold on other surgery**Sharon Porter** is recuperating at home....**Valley Stockton** is at Regency Place, room 214, for 2 weeks of rehab....**Beth Holt** received good news from an MRI this week. She continues to experience back

and hip pain....Judy Campbell's father, **Dale Kiniser**, recently had surgery for colon cancer....Jennifer Petty's grandma, **Eva Brown**, sprained her ankle on Saturday.... Continue praying for **Mandy Anderson, Eileen Richardson, Kaden Koebecke, Amanda Powlen, Randi Verett, Lance & Lane Pepper, Julie Lichty, Christi Everett, Hattie Coffel, Pat Johnson, Lois Powlen, Eugene Zinn, Marge Campbell, Irene Sims, Henrietta Frampton, Marie DeWoody, Paul & Argie Verett, Delpha Allen, Eagle Bailey, Minnie Scott, and Irene Fox.**

Serving in our military: **Philip Devine, Mark Wilson, Shawn Wilson, and Ti Draughon.**

Women's Creativity Night August 22, 7 PM



Learn how to turn trash into treasures! Take advantage of all your junk mail, boxes from groceries and household items, and make scrapbooking fun! Bring any items you are willing to share: markers, scissors of all types, stamps and ink pads, hole punches, ribbon, card stock, pencils, stencils, colored pencils, etc. If you scrapbook on your own, bring any paper or stencils you wish. The reason for this evening--**August 22, 7 PM**--is to put your creative caps on and have fun with things you already have and make a lighter load of your recycle bins. Examples of items to save: pretty tissue boxes, junk mail that had a fancy attachment or box/envelope, etc. Clip images from old magazines or save cards you have received in the mail. We will be making post cards, journals, and anything your creative mind can ponder! Questions? See Dana Miller or Beth Miller. *-Dana Miller*



Good \$ense Budget Course

"Good Sense Budgeting" is an experience that can be life-changing. If you are concerned about where in the world your money goes, find out where it goes and plan where you would like it to go, with the help of Biblical scriptures....more than two thousand passages in the Bible.

This six-session (via DVD) Budgeting course will help you to help yourself in managing your money, and encourage you to invite others to attend also. The program is totally non-threatening, and you will receive a workbook to help you review the material and plan ahead for your future.

The first session will begin on September 3, 2008. It will continue weekly on Wednesday evenings at 5:50 PM-6:50 PM through October 8, 2008. Sessions will be held in the Conference Room at the church across the hall from the Food Pantry.

If you have participated in the "Good Sense Budgeting Course" before, and would like to see the DVD's again, please do! Just bring your workbook and attend the sessions with the other participants. Some have already attended the course two or three times to confirm their budgeting plans.

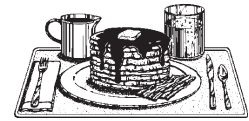
Facilitator, Janet Boston



Happy 50th Anniversary!

Perry & Janet Achor will celebrate 50 years of marriage on Sunday, August 17. Congratulations, Perry and Janet!

Men's Breakfast, Aug. 23, 7:43 AM



The Elmwood men (males of all ages) and friends will be treated to a breakfast on **Saturday, August 23, at 7:43 AM.** Invite friends and family members to a great time of food and fellowship.

Wedding Shower, September 21

Our campus minister, **Phil Travis**, and **Katie Dzwigalski** will be married August 30 in Michigan. They have already bought a home--3601 Golden Ln., Lafayette 47909. To honor them and welcome Katie to Elmwood, Phyllis & Erin Simmerman and Chris & Kelsey Sutherlin are hosting a wedding shower for them at the Simmerman home, 415 Oaklawn Dr., Lafayette, on **Sunday, September 21, from 2:00 until 4:00.** Money for a group gift may be given to Phyllis, Erin, Chris or Kelsey.

August 10, 2008

Class: 150 Worship: 256
Contribution: \$8,763



Pray for China!

I don't see any problem with you praying for how our athletes will do in the Olympics in China, but that isn't what I am talking about. Some of you may not be aware, but for most Christians in China, it is illegal to worship publicly. China does have some state recognized churches, run by...the state. The government has also recently released information stating they recognize 21 million Protestants and Catholics, which represents five percent of the population. That is a 50% increase over the past 10 years; but there is more to the story. Because of the fear of persecution and government control over the state recognized churches, most Christians worship "underground," in house churches. I'm not sure how they gather the information, but sources say that there are nearly 70 million Christians in China. These Christ followers need our prayers! I just read of a preacher who was arrested this week for trying to attend a state recognized church where President Bush was attending. This man has had the locks hammered off his doors, has been welded in his home, imprisoned, and was detained before entering the church where the President was because the government has labeled him as a trouble maker. This is just one man... there are many, many more who are being persecuted by the government. During the Olympics, it appears that China is trying to look a little more "church friendly." Here is one for Gilbert: One preacher asked his members to leave before the second service started. Evidently, many of the Chinese Christians stay for multiple services and the preacher knew that more people would be coming and would not be able to fit in if the people who had already attended did not leave...what a great problem to have – overzealous worshippers! Please join me and many others in praying that the small opening the Chinese government has made to look politically correct will be ripped wide open by God. Pray also that as God opens the doors in China that He will also open our hearts to greater levels of devotion and service to Him. If you need reminders, like I do, I have a couple more "Pray for China" wristbands – let me know if you would like to have one.

Youth in Action

Youth in Action at the Okolona church of Christ in Louisville, KY, has been a great blessing to our group for some time now. This year, the keynote speakers were Rich Little; preacher from Naperville by way of Australia, and David Skidmore, a youth minister friend of Gilbert's and mine. Both of these guys did a great job, as did the teachers of the classes offered during the weekend. The theme for the weekend was "Go Deep" and was based on Romans 8:38, 39; the encouragement was to boldly go where God leads with no fear of the Enemy. This year, we had the blessing of staying in homes of members of the Westport Road church of Christ (they do Senior Week at Spring Mill with us), so it cost us a little less and we had great fellowship. One note of special thanks goes to Lynae Stafford for helping chaperone and to Heather and Melissa Willison for staffing the Christian Student Center table.

- Lee

Kelly's Baptism



Praise God for **Kelly Peckinpaugh's** decision to obey God in baptism on Sunday morning. Kelly has been very much a part of Elmwood since coming to our Vacation Bible School last summer with her daughter. Kelly is a Special Ed teacher at Southwestern Middle School. She and her husband, Chad, have two daughters, Kennedy and Kaidynn. They live at 1363 Priscilla Dr., West Lafayette 47906. Congratulations, Kelly!

Taste & See, August 16

This **Saturday, August 16**, Elmwood will participate in Trinity Mission's annual **Taste & See**. This is a great event where local churches have the opportunity to meet with people from all over the Lafayette community. We get to share our story with them, talk about our church, and pass out some tasty food.

Dorothy Miller has come up with a trail mix type snack that we will be distributing. We need to make enough to pass out to about 450 people. **Please** help her prepare these snack bags **this Wednesday night during and after Bible class**.

Also, I need a few people who would like to attend this event with me and greet people that day. Contact me ASAP.

-Gilbert



August 13, 7 PM....Bible classes

August 16....Taste & See at Trinity Mission

August 17, 6 PM....Presentation of Elmwood's summer camp activities: Camp Cumo, Spring Mill Bible Camp, and Camp Wabashi

August 24....Youth Group, "Back to School Bash"

Sept. 3, 5:50 PM....Good Sense Class begins

Sept. 7, noon....Elmwood's annual All-Church Picnic at Columbian Park

Sept. 21, 2-4 PM....Wedding shower for Phil & Katie at the Simmermans' home, 415 Oaklawn Dr.

On Tuesday mornings at 9:30, Wanita White teaches a women's Bible class. Next week they are beginning a 6-month journey through the New Testament. Class meets in the Elders' conference room.

Read:
Job 31-42; Eccl. 1-6
I Cor. 14-II Cor. 2

2008 Spiritual Adventure

Week 35: August 25-31

Job Remixed



What do you think about when you consider Job? Many of us turn to this book when we are downcast or experiencing rough times. We find comfort in Job's persistence and empathy in his suffering. We find disappointment in his friends' disbelief and horror in the abandonment of his family. But I want to challenge you to look outside the traditional reading of this book and consider another angle.

Our tendency is to make this book about Job. (Ok, it **IS** the title of the book, so I guess that is a natural connection. I'll give you that.) However, the latter part of this book is more about the splendor, majesty, and omnipotence of the power of God than it is about Job. The examples start with Elihu's discourse about the sovereignty and justice of God. Granted, it was all being said as a reprimand toward Job, but it is an accurate description of what God can do and has done. He reminds us how God speaks to people and how God will serve justice to the unjust. He even notes how God controls the weather!

But that's not where the examples end. God himself gets in the picture and starts to delineate his supremacy as a challenge to Job. There is such great imagery in chapters 38 and 39 that even in considering one example, you cannot help but to be humbled by the grandeur present. (I do suspect that some of you would not be bothered if you never got to see the 'storehouses of snow', or perhaps you feel as if you have seen them the past two winters! All that aside, it's still pretty awesome!)

So the challenge to you as you read these chapters this week is to consider the book of Job as a list of God's power and meditate on the examples of His splendor, majesty, and omnipotence in your life as you look at the book in a different light.

-Mindy Hart

 <i>Weekly Schedule</i>	 <i>Elders</i>	 <i>World Missions</i>
<p>Sunday Worship 8:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Life Groups 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Bill Bell 463-1139 Joe Mathews 474-8369 Rick Swensen 463-6822 Don Vice 471-8653</p>	<p>Kevin Chambers World Christian Broadcasting Anchor Point, Alaska 99536</p> <p>Loren and Penny Hollingsworth Phuket, Thailand 83000 E-mail: lholly54@yahoo.com</p> <p>Bren and Cheryl White P.O. Box 245 New Market, MD 21774</p>
<p> Our Vision: Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known.</p>	<p> <i>Staff</i></p> <p>Ministers Gilbert Kerrigan 418-3652 Lee Porter 463-6993 Phil Travis 447-2874</p> <p>Office Sherry Marks, Manager 447-2874 Carol Bell, Secretary 447-2874</p>	

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