



## Today's Word: INTENTIONAL

Kate and I are in the process of buying a new house. We will be closing on the house in mid-September. We are really excited about being in a house that we can call home. But the problem is that just closing the deal in mid-September will not make that house feel like home. There is a lot of work - mainly minor work - that needs to be done to the house before it will feel like home. We need to get the carpets cleaned, paint some rooms, replace door knobs, etc... To make this house feel like a home we are going to have to put some work into it. We have to be intentional about making this our home.

I believe the same is true about churches. So often we assume that church just happens, that relationships in church just happen, and that oneness and unity in church just happens. I do not believe this to be true. I believe that is like saying you want to read your Bible more, but then never opening your Bible to make it happen. Church does not just happen. Relationships, really deep relationships, do not just happen. Unity does not just happen. We have to put work into those things.

The word for today is INTENTIONAL. This is one of the main points I have wanted to place emphasis on as I have gone through this L.I.F.E. Together series. Intentional. We can fool ourselves into thinking that we will just miraculously grow close to one another, confession will just miraculously take place, and unity will just happen. It is like closing on this house and just hoping that everything falls into place so that it will feel like home.

No, those things will not just happen. We have to be intentional about making them happen. Let's be intentional about building relationships. Let's be intentional about living L.I.F.E. Together. Again, the word for today is INTENTIONAL.

- Gilbert

## God's Alphabet Poem

I found this poem and thought I would share it (Yeah... they cheated on "x" but you have to give them points for trying!!)

-Phil

**A**lthough things are not perfect  
**B**ecause of trial or pain  
**C**ontinue in thanksgiving  
**D**o not begin to blame  
**E**ven when the times are hard  
**F**ierce winds are bound to blow  
**G**od is forever able  
**H**old on to what you know  
**I**magine life without His love  
**J**oy would cease to be  
**K**eep thanking Him for all the things  
**L**ove imparts to thee  
**M**ove out of "Camp Complaining"  
**N**o weapon that is known  
**O**n earth can yield the power  
**P**raise can do alone  
**Q**uit looking at the future  
**R**edeem the time at hand  
**S**tart every day with worship  
**T**o "thank" is a command  
**U**ntil we see Him coming  
**V**ictorious in the sky  
**W**e'll run the race with gratitude  
**X**alting God most high  
**Y**es, there will be good times and yes some will be bad, but...  
**Z**ion waits in glory...where none are ever sad!

-Author Unknown



**Steve Cable** had surgery to remove his gall bladder on Thursday. Doctors hoped it would improve his pancreatitis. He is still very sick and will remain in the hospital for another 2-3 weeks. The address there is Methodist Hospital, room 4014, Indianapolis, 46202....**Jean Stockberger**, friend of John & Sherry Marks, has been diagnosed with thyroid cancer.... Continue praying for **Eugene Zinn, Randi Verett, Lance & Lane Pepper, Valley Stockton, Mandy**

**Anderson, Beth Holt, John Adams, Christi Everett, Dale Kiniser, Eileen Richardson, Kaden Koebecke, Amanda Powlen, Julie Lichty, Hattie Coffel, Pat Johnson, Lois Powlen, 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.**

## Prayer Warriors Needed

Do you want to help school-aged students (K-12) grow in Jesus and lean on Him throughout their lives? The Prayer Partner sign-up sheet will be in the Farris Foyer this Sunday after first and second services. Please choose a student and sign your name on the sheet. Thank you for being a prayer warrior for our youth!

-Christi Branstetter

## Good \$ense Budget Course



"Good Sense Budgeting" is an experience that can be life-changing. This six-session (via DVD) Budgeting course will help you to help yourself in managing your money. The program is totally non-threatening, and you will receive a workbook to help you review the material and plan ahead for your future.

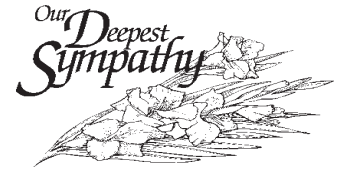
The first session will begin on September 3, 2008. It will continue weekly on Wednesday evenings at 5:50 PM-6:50 PM through October 8, 2008. Sessions will be held in the Conference Room at the church across the hall from the Food Pantry.

-Facilitator, Janet Boston



**for Phil & Katy,  
September 21**

Our campus minister, **Phil Travis**, and **Katy Dzwigalski** will be married August 30 in Michigan. They have already bought a home--3601 Golden Ln., Lafayette 47909. To honor them and welcome Katy to Elmwood, Phyllis & Erin Simmerman and Chris & Kelsey Sutherland 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.



A former longtime Elmwood member, **Maxine Spencer**, died Sunday evening, August 24. She had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2001. The family had a private funeral. Our sincere sympathies to Jerry, their son, John, and their daughter, Lynn, and her family.

**It's a Boy!**



Michelle & Eric Clowdus announce the arrival of **Evan Laurence**, born August 11, weighing 8 pounds, 13 ounces, and measuring 19.5 inches long. Congratulations Michelle and Eric!

## Attention Parents:

Our **Children's Church** program for children in kindergarten through 5th grade will resume on **September 7th** during second service.

**August 24, 2008**

**Class: 194 Worship: 302**

**Contribution: \$4,994**

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## L.I.F.E. Groups

I know that Gilbert has been preaching on the value of LIFE Groups (and doing a great job) and I pray that all of us have taken his lessons very seriously. We tend to place a huge premium on Sunday morning worship and Sunday morning and Wednesday night Bible class, but I am afraid we expect too much out of them sometimes. Don't get me wrong, I believe worship and Bible study are essential elements of healthy spiritual life, but honestly, people don't grow deeply in relationship to the body in those settings... there are just too many people present. In a LIFE group, you can "let your hair down" (yeah, I left myself open) and let others help you work through your challenges. LIFE group is an environment where you can get messy – and we all are!

Sunday night, as I listened to and watched Jeff Walling portray the gospel writer Matthew; I was reminded that life in general is messy. God knows that too and He invaded our mess in the form of Jesus and wants to transform our mess into perfection. All too often, we think that God (and the church) won't accept us until our mess is cleaned up. To the contrary, if we could clean up our mess on our own, we wouldn't need Jesus...and we wouldn't need the church. Jesus wants to come in, take over and clean up our lives. He died on the cross to shed His blood and cleanse our messes. In his book Messy Spirituality, Mike Yaconelli says, "*Messy Spirituality is the scandalous assertion that following Christ is anything but tidy and neat, balanced and orderly. Far from it. Spirituality is complex, complicated, and perplexing – the disorderly, sloppy, chaotic look of authentic faith in the real world.*"

*Spirituality is anything but a straight line; it is a mixed-up, topsy-turvy, helter-skelter godliness that turns our lives into an upside-down toboggan ride full of unexpected turns, surprise bumps, and bone-shattering crashes. In other words, messy spirituality is the delirious consequence of a life ruined by a Jesus who will love us right into His arms.*" Jesus never promised that following Him would be easy or smooth. We need to realize that there is another side and that Satan is going to do all he can to frustrate us. This life was not intended to be lived alone. God ordained the family. Jesus initiated the church. The Holy Spirit allows friendships (even deep ones) between people who otherwise would have nothing in common. LIFE groups are one place where the church can really be the church and grow together in love. If you haven't signed up yet, you still have time – you won't be sorry you did! Remember, the first century church met daily from house to house...no wonder they grew in every way.

**Adults: Don't just walk by!** I know that many of you adults have stopped by to see what the teens are going to be studying, but don't just walk by. One opportunity you have as adult members is to host the teen group – in your home or even at the youth house. If you would like to get to know this awesome group a little better, stop by and sign up to host!

– Lee

## Opportunities for Extra Giving

God has blessed all of us in many ways, and a commitment to weekly giving at Elmwood is one of our responses to those blessings. In addition to this regular giving, many people at Elmwood also provide some support to individual missionaries or ministries. In case some of you are looking for worthy causes to support over and above your usual Elmwood contribution, here are a couple that bear consideration.

**Bren White**, who grew up at Elmwood, has worked as a missionary with Operation French World for many years. Some Elmwood members have participated with him on short-term campaigns. He recently found a new sponsoring congregation, but that congregation has suffered serious financial setbacks. This leaves Bren in serious need for this calendar year. He asks for supporters willing to give him a monthly amount for a commitment of 12 months—any amount is welcome. If you're interested, you can send your letter and contribution to P.O. Box 245, New Market, MD 21774.

**Churches of Christ Disaster Relief** is another organization with which Elmwood has become familiar recently. This organization, based in Nashville, sent 2 trailers of relief supplies when the Tippecanoe River flooded in the winter, and it provides relief supplies all over the country as needed—from hurricanes in the Gulf to flooding in the midwest to fires in California. This organization has asked for support for its ongoing efforts in the name of Jesus—if you're interested, you can send donations to 410 Allied Drive, Nashville, TN 37211.

## Wednesday Men's Class

This Wednesday, August 27, the men's class will begin a new topic of study. We will examine the ever popular concept "looking out for number one." Finding our place in the sun. Making a name for ourselves. Virtually from infancy, we've been demanding what "I want." For example, I want a good job, make lots of money, have a nice home, have a spouse who makes me happy and coworkers who always ask my opinion. Now, contrast these thoughts with what it takes to be a disciple of Jesus. Class begins at 7 PM. Men of all ages are welcome. Be there!

-Chuck Brown



**August 27, 7 PM....**Bible classes

**August 31, 6 PM....**Joe Ruhl speaks

**Sept. 3, 5:50 PM....**Good \$ense Class begins

**Sept. 7, noon....**All-Church Picnic at Columbian Park

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

**Sept. 23, 7 PM....**Dynamic Marriage course introductory meeting. See Bill or Carol Bell for details.

Read:  
 Isaiah 7-26;  
 2 Cor. 11-Galatians 2

# 2008 Spiritual Adventure

## Week 37: September 8-14

### No Expiration Date

What am I getting out of life? That's a question often asked especially when we are focused on ourselves. As followers of Christ, we need to ask: What am I doing for others? Several years ago a medical doctor in the Detroit area went to a West African country with other medical professionals for a month. The doctor was promised hardship and discomfort. As a member of the medical team he would not be earning a salary, and he would be expected to pay all his own expenses. He was promised joy for having the time to be in service to others through Christ.


The medical team brought everything they would need mostly from donated supplies. Upon arrival in the West African nation, the government provided a place in a remote part of their nation for the medical team. How could one experience joy in a place like this and under these circumstances? The doctor felt compelled to go.

Upon the return of the medical team to the states from the many arduous but rewarding experiences, one of the team members wrote the doctor a note. She wrote, "I thought life was only good for what I could get out of it. I now know that life is really fun when I see how much I can put into the life of others." If we insert the words "a blessing" for the word "fun," we have the key to our Christian life.

We are at our best when we serve others. Take the apostle Paul's encouragement to do good to all (Galatians 6:9-10). Place yourself into the lives of others for Christ's sake. You will experience a fulfillment and joy beyond compare. There are opportunities at Elmwood, in your community, and even in your neighborhood to place yourself into the lives of others. The word opportunity also has Biblical implications such as "season" and "opportune times." There are many opportunities that "fit" your talents and spiritual gifts. Likewise, how we serve others in the name of Christ may differ based on season and locale. We can do winter things, do summer things, or help in areas as we see needs and situations arise. There is no expiration date on the opportunities that God provides us. "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." (Galatians 6:10)

-David Weckerly

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

 **Elmwood**  
 CHURCH OF CHRIST

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