



Tips on Being Miserable

A few years ago I asked a good friend of mine to come speak at the church in Bowling Green. He spoke three different times and one of his sermon titles was, *Top 10 Tips on Finding Misery*. I liked the list so much that I saved it for future use. Here was his top 10 tips on finding misery:

10. *Make little things bother. Don't just let them bother you; make them bother you.*
9. *Lose your perspective of things and keep it lost. Don't put first things first.*
8. *Get yourself a good worry; one about which you can do nothing about, except worry.*
7. *Be a perfectionist. Condemn yourself and others for not achieving perfection.*
6. *Be right. Always be right; perfectly right all the time. Be the only one who is right and be very rigid about your rightness.*
5. *Don't trust or accept people at anything other than their worst and weakest. Be suspicious. Always assume ulterior motives in others.*
4. *Always compare yourself unfavorably to others, which is a guarantee for instant misery.*
3. *Take personally, with a chip on your shoulder, everything that happens to you that you don't like or agree with.*
2. *Don't give yourself wholeheartedly or enthusiastically to anyone or anything.*
1. *Make the negative view the aim of your life, instead of bracing for life's barbs through a bitter-with-the-sweet philosophy.*

If you will make even the smallest effort at living by these principles you are assured great success in being totally miserable.

-Gilbert

God, Our Shepherd

In Sunday morning class, as we were talking about the birth narrative of Christ, someone asked "I wonder why the angels appeared to the shepherds on the night Jesus was born?"

I think that two reasons might apply (then again, I could be completely wrong!) We talked about both of these things during class. Firstly, it is evident throughout scripture that God often works through the low people of the world. 1 Cor. 1:27-29 says, "But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things – and the things that are not- to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him." Shepherds were the untrustworthy types during that time, and certainly fit the bill for being a people with little social stature.

A second reason that I think God might have sent the angels to the shepherds is because he likes the analogy. In Ezekiel 34:2 God is angry with the leaders of Israel, saying "Woe to the shepherds of Israel who only take care of themselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock?" In 34:11,12 he tells them his plan: "I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep."

We are blessed to belong to a God that not only works through people even when others consider them low, but also is a shepherd to us!

-Phil



Don Vice had eye surgery on Monday for macular degeneration....**Sara Postlethwait** is home after having surgery last Friday in Indianapolis to remove her gall bladder.... **Addison Smith** (infant daughter of Doug & Kristi) had tubes inserted in her ears on Tuesday....**David Black** had successful surgery last week. Though his surgery was to require 5 days in the hospital, he was able to be released in just 3 days. Praise the Lord!.... **Kaden Koebcke** is

receiving treatment with a new drug for his kidney condition at Riley Children's Hospital**Julie Lichty**, a longtime friend of Lynae Stafford who lives in Nebraska, began kidney dialysis this weekContinue praying for **Rick Swensen, Michelle Foor, Amanda Powlen, David Henke, Hattie Coffel, Colin Wilson, Phyllis Mow, Lois Powlen, Anna Dale, Barbara Scott, Chris Vice, Kenneth Clubb, Marge Campbell, Eugene Zinn, Alan Dale, Eileen Richardson, Irene Sims, Henrietta Frampton, Marie DeWoody, Paul & Argie Verett, Delpha Allen, Valley Stockton, Eagle Bailey, Minnie Scott, Irene Fox, & Burnell Gulden.**

Serving in our military: **Philip Devine, Mark Wilson, Shawn Wilson, and Ti Draughon. Steve Brady** (the Swensens' son-in-law) will return to the states soon!

Please remember our LST team in Thailand: **Josh, Gina, Kinley, & Knox Boyd, Farrell Simmerman, Mandy Anderson, and Steve & Lanita Boyd** (Josh's parents). Be praying for God's blessings as they share the gospel there.

The **Panama LST team** will have a presentation this **Sunday night, July 6,** at the **6:00 service.** They will give a report on their time there including slides of their readers. Come hear how God is blessing and changing lives in Panama.

Summer Celebration July 2-4, 2008

Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee, hosts **Summer Celebration**, a festival of faith and fellowship. Titled, "**Bringing Stones to Life - Nehemiah's Call for Courage, Passion and Revival,**" it will feature keynote speakers Randy Harris, Prentice Meador, Don McLaughlin, Jerry Taylor and Jeff Walling. The following excerpts are from people who attended last year's conference:

"Very uplifting and educational, renewed my hope in our fellowship – renewed my vision for personal holiness and for serving within the church. The affordable housing and children's programs made it possible for us to come."

"The classes were great. I'm very excited about the Hispanic classes. The low cost of housing and meals combined with the children's programs made the conference perfect for large families."

"I enjoyed the different speakers and all the variety. This is the 3rd year I have attended and it was the best this year!"

"The Keynote Speakers were fantastic! The evening activities and concerts were also great! Staying in the dorms allowed my family to make a (financially) reasonable getaway out of the week."

"Wonderful! I am leaving feeling uplifted, closer to God and more open to His transforming power."

"This weekend feeds my soul with the love of Christ. Each year my family brings something home with us that we try to implement in our home church, community, family, and individual relationships with the Lord."



It's a Girl!



Congratulations to Kevin & Marilyn Walters on the birth of their granddaughter, **Parker Grace Walters**, born to **Guy & Alicia** on Monday, June 30. She weighed 9 pounds 4 ounces, and measured 21.25 inches. Congratulations to Guy & Alicia too!

Widow's Peek Service Opportunity

James 1:27 (NIV) "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress..." Calling all "good people": please check the "Widow's Peek" bulletin board in the education wing for opportunities to help with handyman tasks, yardwork, errands, and other items of need. **Widows**, please call Barb Newberry at 474-7231 to have your need put on the "Widow's Peek" list.



June 29, 2008

**Class: 159 Worship: 251
Contribution: \$7,173**

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Time Flies!

By the time you read this, the Porters will have begun their 11th year of ministry with the Elmwood family. In so many ways, it really doesn't seem that long, but a lot has happened in those ten years. We are very thankful to have found this special family and we have been very blessed – it is our hope that the blessings have been mutual. The past year or so has been very eventful as Gayle and Dan left and we went through the process of determining that Gilbert and Phil were the right guys to step in and continue the ministry with our family here. I am very pleased with the committees' work and with the choices made; I truly feel that God was leading the selection process. Of course, I shouldn't be surprised, we asked Him to take charge.

The question is of course, where do we go from here? I am once again thankful we are here with you and am very excited about what God may have in mind for the future of Elmwood. There are lots of opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. Each week, we seem to have more and more families visiting with us and more are staying as well. I know Phil and the committee is gearing up as the new semester at Purdue is just around the corner and once again, we will be blessed by the presence of new students at the CSC and here at Elmwood as well. In the past couple years; we have graduated out far more students than we have had move up into the youth ministry (6th graders) that we find ourselves in a rebuilding stage. Having said that, our students continue to reach out to their friends and some have chosen to stay with us. Please continue to pray that God will lead and be glorified by all of the ministries here at Elmwood. Also please continue to love and support the Porter family as we seek to provide ministry to the young people and their families that God has placed here and will continue to send our way. We love you all!

July is Here!

I have mentioned before that July will be full and it will be just that for many of us. July 10 and 11, many of us will make our way to Cedar Point for our annual trip. This is always a time filled with fun and it gives us an opportunity to get to know one another even more. Cost of the trip this year for a ticket, travel, and lodging will be about \$75. Food and souvenirs is all that will not be covered. A few of our people have already made treks to camp, but another group will head for Spring Mill and Camp Wabashi, July 13-19. Camp CUMO will follow immediately, July 20-25. If you need information about any of these events, please let me know. – Lee



Thanks to all at Elmwood who helped make our 70th anniversary so very special. The cards, calls and visits added so much to the day. **And** we do appreciate the Senior Servants group who keep reminding us that they care. God bless!
-Paul & Argie Verett

Thank you all so much for your prayers, your cards, and your expressions of concern during my recent back problem and surgery. You are, as Sam Postlethwait always says, good people and good family. Doris and I thank God daily for you all and prayer that we may be a blessing to you.
-Rick Swensen

Dearly Beloved,
As we prepare to move to North Carolina, we realize who greatly blessed we have been to be a part of such a loving Christian fellowship! Words could not express our emotions as you honored us so beautifully and graciously with last Sunday evening's program and reception. We thank all who prepared the beautiful reception and all who honored us with your presence. We thank everyone in the congregation for your generous expressions of good will. Through you, we have received God's loving Spirit in "abundance, pressed down and overflowing." We will miss you! Remember, "We be brethren" no matter where we live. We thank you. We love you.
-Earl & Janet Nelson

New address: 6234 Meadow Glen Lane, Harrisburg, NC 28075. Cell phone: 765-404-1704.

"Sweet Remembrances"

On **July 3rd Barb Newberry** is going to remember what would have been her and Stan's **50th wedding anniversary**. Calling it "**Sweet Remembrances**," she invites everyone to drop by her home (1058 Southernview Dr. S., Lafayette) anytime between 5:00 until 9:00 PM. She will serve dessert.



July 2, 7 PM....Bible classes
July 3, 5:00-9:00 PM...."Sweet Remembrances" dessert at Barb Newberry's home; remembering what would have been Barb & Stan's 50th anniversary
July 6, 6 PM....Panama LST team mission report

