



Our Hope

As I sit in my office and type away on my laptop, hurrying to get an article to Sherry for the newsletter, many around our nation are feeling great anxiety. Maybe some of you are that way. You are very anxious to know the outcome of the election (which you will know by the time this article gets to you). Many are nervous that the wrong candidate will win, therefore bringing about the end of the world. Many are hopeful that the right candidate (their candidate) will win, and therefore all of the world's problems will be solved.

Scot McKnight, a great writer and scholar, suggests that many Christians today practice what he calls an *eschatology of politics*. McKnight asks, *"Where is our hope? To be sure, I hope our country solves its international conflicts and I hope we resolve poverty and dissolve our educational problems and racism. But where does my hope turn when I think of war or poverty or education or racism? Does it focus on November 4? Does it gain its energy from thinking that if we get the right candidate elected our problems will be dissolved? If so, I submit that our eschatology has become empire-shaped, Constantinian, and political."* He goes on to say that an eschatology of politics is a misguided eschatology.

McKnight is not suggesting that Christians abstain from the political process, and neither am I. But I do want you to remember where our hope lies. We are God's people and we place our hope in Him. We are shaped by the Good News of Jesus. No matter who wins this election, our hope is still in God. No matter what effects this election has on the future, we are still shaped by the Good News of Jesus.

I ask that you pray for our new president, no matter who that is. He will need the prayers of God's people. But ultimately, as people shaped by the Good News of Jesus, we should believe that God can and will continue with His mission of redeeming His creation, no matter who is in office. *"Our hope,"* writes McKnight, *"is in God's mission in this world, and that mission transcends what happens November 4th."*

-Gilbert

Shower Curtains and Unity

I was a Resident Advisor at Rochester College. Towards the end of one semester we had a meeting so that the Resident Director could go over the things that we needed to do in order to check students out of their room.

One of our tasks was to make sure that the residents opened the shower curtain so that there would not be any mold growth. This quickly caused an argument. Some in the group said, "You have to close the shower curtain, or mold will grow." Others agreed with the Resident Director. After about five minutes of arguments about the nature of mold growth and shower liners, one person stated, "You are all saying the same thing."

Everyone in the room had the same goal- to minimize mold growth over the holidays. But that goal was being hampered because everyone assumed a single view on shower curtains. However, those who said the curtain needed to be closed viewed shower curtains as doors- when its open you go through it. Those who said it needed to be opened viewed the curtain as a separate entity- when its open; it is stretched out as far as possible.

Sometimes our arguments fall into a similar problem. We tend to assume that everyone views things the way we do, which is not necessarily the case. While as Christians we have the same goals, we approach them in different ways. This kind of cross-talk can hamper our goals- especially our goal to be a unified body! That is why it is important to have open dialogs- even with people we disagree with! While we may still disagree, we will have dropped our assumptions, which is a large step towards unity.

-Phil

After another surgery, it was learned that **David Henke** has pneumonia. He remains in St. Elizabeth Hospital, room 3108....**Cassidy Root**, 22-year old granddaughter of Connie & Ken Nicholson, has been hospitalized in Cincinnati with pneumonia and kidney problems...**Hattie Coffel** is now at Seton Specialty Hospital, room 2315 (located in St. Elizabeth Hospital) ...Continue praying for **Irene Fox** (hospice care), **Grace Reel, Wanita White, Steve Cable, Steve High, Eva Wilson, Willie Batts, Edith McCoy, Mike Sutherlin, Leon Johnson, Bernie Ciota, Randi Verett, Jean Stockberger, Lance & Lane Pepper, Eugene Zinn, Eileen Richardson, Kaden Koebecke, Amanda Powlen, Julie Lichty, Pat Johnson, Marge Campbell, Valley Stockton, Irene Sims, Henrietta Frampton, Marie DeWoody, Paul & Argie Verett, Delpha Allen, Eagle Bailey, & Minnie Scott.**

Serving in our military: **Mark Wilson and Shawn Wilson.**



We extend our sympathies to **Ed Robson** on the death of his father, **Glenn Robson** of Whiteland, Indiana. He had been battling cancer for a number of years. He is at the Jessen Funeral Home in Whiteland and friends may visit on Wednesday from 4:00 until 8:00 with the funeral on Thursday at the United Methodist Church in Whiteland.

Pack the Pulpit and Fill the Pantry on November 23



The pantry cupboards are nearly bare again, we are seeing new people every week, and according to the Christmas Musical crew, it is time to fill the pantry again by packing the pulpit. If you want to start shopping now, we have included a suggested list here:

Suggested Items – canned fruits and vegetables (10 oz. & 16 oz. cans); Soups – all kinds; pasta – macaroni & cheese, spaghetti; rice; canned tuna

or other meats – beef stew, chili, chicken and dumplings, Spam, spaghetti sauce; paper products – toilet paper, paper towels, tissues; cereal – all kinds; boxed meals – Hamburger Helper, scalloped potatoes, stuffing mix; PERSONAL ITEMS (always needed!) – shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, wash cloths, soap, band-aids, disposable razors, etc.

Cash contributions are also acceptable and appreciated.

Christmas for Everyone, Dec. 13

Christmas will be here soon and we have another great opportunity to take part in the **Christmas for Everyone** program. CFE is a program that allows church members to sponsor low income children in the community so that you can provide them with to a special Christmas that would not be possible on their own. You volunteer to sponsor a child, we provide you with a Christmas wish-list from that child, and on December 13th we distribute the gifts. Your commitment is no more than \$30 per child.

Will you help a child experience the joys of Christmas this year? Sign-up list will be in the Farris Foyer between services this Sunday.



Dearest Elmwood Church:
I am so sorry that this card is so overdue. We are so thankful to everyone at Elmwood for the shower last October. The grocery shower was such a blessing to us. Thank you so much to everyone! I am so grateful to everyone at Elmwood for being such an important part of my journey to Christ and growth in my relationship with Him. I miss you all very much and love you very much!

With love and gratitude,
Tom & Sonja (Meador) Pritchett

November 2, 2008

Class: 185 Worship: 300
Contribution: \$12,713



Shults-Lewis Milk
Money Contribution:
\$4,519 - thank you to
everyone who contributed!



Perspective

I've been thinking about perspective a lot lately. The theme for the National Conference on Youth Ministries for 2009 is Perspective. The president of NCYM, Mike Brown shares the following thoughts: *"Youth Ministry has a way of coming at us from all different directions. Youth ministry is not what we do - it is what we are. Therefore everything we do in our personal lives affects our ministry. The things we do in ministry affect our spiritual lives. Our spiritual lives get out of balance and it affects our ability to be a good spouse or parent. Trouble in our home life can be an indicator of deeper issues in our walk with Christ. Trying to balance personal spiritual growth, study, other ministry duties, unrealistic expectations, activities director, parent facilitator, janitor duties, van coordinator and mechanic, office computer techie, summer schedules, parenting, being a good spouse, ball games, mowing your own lawn as well as engaging teens to mow all the lawns of the shut-ins...you get the idea. Everything we are is intertwined with what we do."*

I am confident that all of you realize this is true of all of us—not just us youth minister types. Sunday night, Gilbert challenged us with the need to have our eyes opened. The prophet prayed to God that He would open his servant's eyes. To that point, the servant thought they were outnumbered. When God let him see, everything changed—he saw the vast army. The main perspective all of us should pray for is just that—to see things the way God does. That was Gilbert's challenge for us and it is my prayer for us as well. I think the chorus to an old Amy Grant song is a fitting reminder here:

My Father's Eyes

*"She's got her Father's eyes, her Father's eyes
Eyes that find the good in things, When good is not around.
Eyes that find the source of help, when help just
can't be found.*

*Eyes full of compassion, seeing every pain.
Knowin' what you're going through, and feeling it the same.
Just like my Father's eyes."*

For a practical application, I don't know if the election turned out the way you wanted or not, but here is what scripture says about the situation: *"Everyone must submit to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those that exist are instituted by God."* (Romans 13:1) and *"First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all those who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity."* (1 Timothy 2:1, 2)

Let's ask God to let us see things His way and live the Word!
— Lee

Men's Retreat: November 7-9

FAITH is the theme for this year's men's retreat this weekend, **November 7-9**, at **Ross Camp**. Cost is \$20 for student; \$30 for single; and \$40 for a family. Registration is Friday evening from 5:00 until 6:00. Chili will be served before the first session at 7:00. The study will be taken from the book of James. Jason Cochran will speak on **Faith: the Test**. The two Saturday sessions will start with Bob Waltz, **Faith: the Evidence**; and end with Tom Miller, **Faith: the Prayer**. Rooms are available for those who want to stay Friday night and Saturday night. Sunday morning there will be a short wrap up and conclude with the Lord's Supper before heading back to the church building for second service.

Open House!



Please help warm the Kerrigan's new home at 5605 Lux Boulevard by attending an open house event on **Sunday, November 16**, from **1:00-4:00 PM**. Dessert will be served.

It's a Wonder-Full LIFE

Christmas Program

Rehearsal for the children's Christmas program, *"It's a Wonder-Full Life,"* is this Wednesday, 6:45 PM for all children.



November 5, 6:30 PM....Rehearsal for *"It's a Wonder-Full Life,"* 1st graders thru high school & preschool through kindergarten
November 7-9....Men's Retreat at Ross Camp
November 9, 3:00 PM....Rehearsal for *"It's a Wonder-FULL Life"*
November 9, 6 PM....LIFE Groups
Dec. 13.... Christmas for Everyone

Read:
Ezekiel 38-Daniel 2
John 17-21






2008 Spiritual Adventure

Week 47: November 17-23

God Has a Plan!

The last chapters of Luke cover, in detail, Jesus Christ's last days of His earthly journey. The chapters are full of powerful and awesome moments. As I was reading these chapters, Luke 23:46 truly jumped out and grabbed at my heart: "And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost." (King James version) In Jesus' last earth-bound moment, He confirms His utter and complete trust in God and His plan. Jesus knew God was waiting for Him and that though His earthly life had ended; He had a glorious place in heaven at God's right hand. God's plan for Jesus, and our redemption, was in place from the beginning. But God has also thought of us since the beginning. His grace and love for us has existed since before we existed. He loved us so much that He gave up His son so that we may live freely. And He has a plan for his spiritual children as well. Our walk on earth can be challenging at times. It may make us wonder what God has planned for us; but our trust in God and His plan will carry us through those challenging times, as well as bring us joyful times.

-Michelle Foor

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

 **Elmwood**
 CHURCH OF CHRIST
 2501 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette, IN 47904
 (765) 447-2874 (765) 447-0878 FAX
 E-mail: office@elmwood-church.org
 www.elmwood-church.org

Christian Student Center
 PURDUE UNIVERSITY
 115 Waldron Street
 W. Lafayette, IN 47906

Periodical
 Postage
PAID
 at
 Lafayette, IN