



## Children, Gangs, and VBS

I can remember a mission trip I took one year to the inner city of Mobile, Alabama. Working in this inner city may not sound as dangerous as working in the inner cities of St. Louis, Houston, or Detroit. But Mobile was still a dangerous place to be. A stereo system was stolen out of one of our vehicles. We were surrounded by gangs. And we were warned to never be alone.

One of the craziest memories I have of this trip happened on one of our street movie nights. During the day we would canvas the inner city in groups and pray for people. We would knock on doors and see if they had any prayer needs and ask if they would like to read the Bible. At night we would offer what we called a street movie. We would load up a projector and a big screen, take them to one of the basketball courts, and set everything up to show a movie to all of the kids. The kids loved it.

On one of the first nights doing this one of my friends, Wes, noticed that there were some pretty rough looking men surrounding the basketball courts during our movie. As he was watching these men he got a glimpse of a gun. Obviously this frightened Wes so he went to the inner city minister to share his shocking news.

To Wes' surprise, the minister was not all that alarmed. He very calmly said, *"These are local gang members who have come to protect us and the children. Anytime we do something for the children they come to protect us."* As strange as it may sound, we all felt pretty secure the rest of the week with these gang members in our midst.

There is something amazing and special about children. For the most part even violent gang members acknowledge how special little children are. Jesus spent a lot of time blessing children. He even rebuked his disciples when they interfered with this special ministry. He basically says, *"This is what heaven is all about."* This is why I love VBS so much. It reflects the ministry of Jesus.

Thanks for praying for this great event. It has been a blessing.

-Gilbert

## Fear Not!

The theme for Monday night at Crocodile Dock this year was *Fear Not*. From Genesis to Revelation, God or one of his messengers continually tells His people to not be afraid. Many times the words, *Do not be afraid*, are the first words uttered in a conversation between God's messenger and God's people. Out of fear, people in the Bible tend to freeze up when they see an angel of the Lord.

It is understandable why that might happen. God is so great, so far beyond our ability to understand how He functions, that even His messengers are terrifying to his creation. And yet, there is great hope in those words, *Do not be afraid*. When those words are uttered we know that we are invited into relationship with the Almighty Creator and do not need to be afraid because He loves us!

One powerful story in the New Testament is the story of Jesus calming the storm. The disciples are afraid of the storm, and Jesus is sleeping. After He was awakened, Jesus rebuked the wind and the storm settled. Then Jesus says, *Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?*

This is an amazing story. It reminds us that though the God of the universe is terribly frightening, we are called into relationship with Him. We need not fear God, nor fear other things, for God is taking care of us.

Our God is so good!

-Phil

**Ginger Maxwell-Spenard** had surgery on Monday at Clarian Arnett Hospital. It went well and she may be able to go home by mid-week....**Oscar Miller** is getting along really well. He was moved to the therapy floor on Thursday. He is very upbeat and looks forward to coming home....**Lorraine Weckerly** had successful outpatient knee surgery on Thursday ....**Kaden Koebcke**, Jack & Sue McCoy's 2-year-old grandson, will begin a new chemotherapy treatment on Monday, June 15. It will be once a week for 4 weeks. They hope this experimental drug will put his disease in remission....Continue praying for **Ann Vaught, Dick Waterstraat, Diann Doty, Jan Lucas, David Fulkerson, David Brutans, Charles Moore, Eloise Shank, Hattie Coffel, Mary Tavana, Ted Heitman, Annie Crowder, Dorothy Walters, Irene Fox, Edith McCoy, Eugene Zinn, Valley Stockton, Irene Sims, Marie DeWoody, Paul & Argie Verett, and Minnie Scott.**



In the military: **Josh Martin** (Phyllis Simmerman's nephew), **Brent Kaufman**, and **Matt Kaufman** (nephews of Ronda Tidrick) are serving in Iraq.

## Women's Ministry News

- Please remember to sign up on yellow cards during services this Sunday for the Ladies' Tea to be held on June 27, from 1:00-2:30 PM. Please indicate whether you want to be a hostess or attendee. You will receive a phone call confirming your attendance soon afterwards. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> summer tea will be held on July 25; the third tea will be held on August 29.
- The entire congregation is invited to bingo Night at Tippecanoe Villa on Tuesday, June 23, at 6:30 PM, and again on Tuesday, July 21 at 6:30 PM. This activity is being organized by the Women's Ministry Committee. We need to provide Bingo prizes for the 86 residents (half of which will play Bingo). Please consider donating either used or new items such as: socks, clothes (size large and up for men and women); shoes/slippers; watches; cologne/perfume (used bottles are fine); Kleenex; toiletries, knick-knacks; coffee cups/mugs; lanyards for keys; flashlights, sports stuff (hats, license plate covers, posters, etc.); snack foods (crackers, granola bars, etc.); stuffed animals; or any other white elephant type gifts you might have around the house. Items to avoid would be candles/lighters, jams or jellies (due to diabetic conditions). Please put any donated items in the women's classroom. We also need to provide snacks for the residents. If you would be interested in contributing snacks, please contact Stephanie Curwick at 523-2452
- As an extension to the existing library housed in room 13, we have added a ladies' lending library in the back of the ladies' classroom.
- You will also find a coupon corner in the back of the classroom. Please feel free to both donate and partake of both opportunities.
- Watch for the appearance of the Women's Ministry bulletin board and check it regularly for updates on activities and ministry opportunities.



Marsha Moore's father, **Charles Carter, 80**, died last Tuesday, June 2. He battled stomach cancer for the last 3 months. His funeral was Saturday in Brookston. Charles served as an elder at the Brookston Church of Christ for 38 years. Our sincere sympathies to Marsha and her extended family.



Dear Elmwood family,  
I want to thank you all so much for your love and support of me and my family during this difficult time. The outpouring from so many has lifted my spirits daily and given me an appreciation of you all that is beyond words. Thank you for seeing a need and filling a need, just as Jesus did. Chad has been blessed with part time work now and both of us look forward to full time work in the fall. Thank you again from the bottom of my heart.  
Love, Becky Pitt

## Parents:

There will be **NO Children's Church** (grades 1-5) this summer. Children's church is taking a break, though will resume the first Sunday in September.



The **food pantry** is always in need of personal items: **soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste & toothbrushes, and especially toilet paper.** We appreciate any donations you make.

**June 7, 2009**

**Class: 172 Worship: 290**

**Contribution: \$8,023**



## Vacation Bible School

It's that time of year again. That time of year when the church building is turned into a desert or another planet or, in the case of Elmwood, a bayou. The time of year when adults start doing silly things and start singing silly songs. That's right, Vacation Bible School time!

I remember a story about this one church that was putting together a Vacation Bible School. They were doing the whole week on "The Miracles of Jesus." The main visual aid that they were most excited about was "Jesus walking on water." This church had a pond nearby and they were going to recreate the miracle of Jesus walking on water. Of course nobody was actually going to walk on water so they had to create a way that it could look like it. So they put together a pier that would sit just about an inch under the murky water. They had a boat on the end of the pier for the apostles to be in. The kids were going to sit on a hill about 50 yards from the pond. Everything was set up just the way they wanted.

So the time came for the miracle to happen. The kids were set up on the hill and they were told who Jesus was and who the apostles were. And, with the kids looking on, the man playing Jesus starts his long walk across the pond towards the boat. Little did he know that the people who made the pier probably put it in the pond a little too soon because some pond scum started forming on it. Right in the middle of saying "Don't be afraid," the man slips on some pond scum and falls into the pond. The man playing Peter had to run onto the pond and help Jesus out of the water. I'm sure after this disaster of recreating a miracle of Jesus (a lesson in itself) the children had to be re-taught the whole story again and told how it really went.

Let's remember that children are watching us at all times. They are looking to us to see who Jesus is. They hear the stories and learn the lessons but it's going to be our actions that show how Christians act and who Jesus is. Let's remember that throughout the rest of Vacation Bible School and throughout our lives.

*Then Jesus called for the children and said to the disciples, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children" (Luke 18:16).*

*-Randy*

## Vacation Bible School June 8-12, 6-8 PM



**YOU MADE VBS HAPPEN! 103 children** participated in Vacation Bible School on Monday night! That was beyond the expectations of our VBS crew for the first night. Lots and lots of good stories to pass along. All will be shared on Sunday night at our VBS Recap at 6:00. As Gilbert reminds us on Sunday mornings....

*God is good...all the time.*

*All the time...God is good.*

## Weekly Prayer Focus

### June Prayer Focus: Elmwood Youth

Summer is CAMP season. Many of our youth will be attending camp (Spring Mill Bible Camp and Camp Wabashi) and/or mission trips in the coming weeks. Camp and mission trips are important faith-shaping events in the lives of our young people. We hope children and their parents will choose to make camp a part of their summer plans. We appreciate your daily prayers for our youth during the month of June.



**June 10, 6-8 PM....Vacation Bible School**  
**NO ADULT CLASSES ON WEDNESDAY**

**June 14, 6 PM....VBS Recap**

Read:  
*II Kings 12-I Chronicles 5;*  
*Matthew 15-18*

# 2009 Spiritual Adventure






Week 26: June 22-28

## Matthew 15:10-14

*Jesus called the crowd to Him and said, "Listen and understand. What goes into a man's mouth does not make him unclean; but what comes out of his mouth, this is what makes him unclean." Then the disciples came to Him and asked, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?" He replied, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. Leave them; they are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit."* After reading the verses above, I was reminded of my growing up years on a small farm in southern Indiana and of being exposed to the pleasure of gardening. Metaphorically, Jesus uses plants and trees to represent people. In this verse "every plant" represents the Pharisees, but it also applies to each of us today.

I have memories of working side by side with my two brothers and my dad Albert Thomas, who was an avid, meticulous gardener. My Dad, in his methodical manner, made sure the lettuce was planted on Valentine's Day, even if he had to brush the freshly fallen snow off the garden patch. He delighted in the fact that when Fourth of July arrived, his family was enjoying fresh green beans, new potatoes and often ripe red tomatoes. He was proud of the work that we, as youngsters, had done by planting, watering and hoeing so that the plants would not be uprooted and in due season we reaped the harvest. As gardeners, let us not be mistaken about what we plant, let it be based only on the Word of God so that the plants will not be uprooted in the end. May we realize that there is only one plant which will not be uprooted and that Christ is the head of this plant, the church.

*-Thelma Hoyt*

 Weekly Schedule	 Elders	 World Missions
<b>Sunday</b> Worship 8:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Life Groups 6:00 p.m.  <b>Wednesday</b> Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	Bill Bell 463-1139 Joe Mathews 474-8369 Rick Swensen 463-6822 Don Vice 471-8653  <b> Staff</b> <b>Ministers</b> Gilbert Kerrigan 418-3652 Lee Porter 463-6993 Phil Travis 447-2874 <b>Office</b> 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
 <b>Our Vision:</b> Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known.		

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