



Happy Mother's Day!

Mother's Day will be here before you know it. As I was thinking about Mother's Day I started to reflect on Jesus' mother, Mary. There is not a lot of information in the Bible regarding this woman, but the little that we do know about her is special.

In Luke's gospel account we find an angel of the Lord saying to Mary, "*Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you*" (1:28). In this same conversation we find the angel trying to calm her fears by saying, "*Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God*" (1:30). In 1:45, as Mary is visiting family, Elizabeth tells her, "*Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill His promises to her!*"

We tend to have little to say about Mary, in reaction to Catholicism. But in order to distance ourselves from that high view of Mary does not mean we have to ignore the graceful words given to her. She was a woman in whom God found favor. The Lord was with her. She was blessed by God's grace because she believed the Lord would fulfill His promises. While I do not believe this sets her high above other mothers, I do believe that this sets an example for other mothers to follow.

All mothers should strive to be women in whom God finds favor. All mothers should be women who exemplify the Lord's presence. All mothers should be women who believe the Lord is faithful to His promises. Thankfully, Elmwood is full of mothers who can be described in such a way.

Mary also sets an example for mothers in a song she sang for the Lord: "*My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...*" (Luke 1:46-47). Mothers, may you continue to glorify the Lord, and may your spirit continue to rejoice in God. Your children will continue to be blessed because of this.

Have a happy Mother's Day!

-Gilbert

Liberty On The Abyss Of The Gospel

*"Stand fast therefore in the liberty
wherewith Christ hath made us free."*

Galatians 5:1

A spiritually minded man will never come to you with the demand - "Believe this and that;" but with the demand that you square your life with the standards of Jesus. We are not asked to believe the Bible, but to believe the One Whom the Bible reveals (cf. John 5:39-40). We are called to present liberty of conscience, not liberty of view. If we are free with the liberty of Christ, others will be brought into that same liberty - the liberty of realizing the dominance of Jesus Christ.

Always keep your life measured by the standards of Jesus. Bow your neck to His yoke alone, and to no other yoke whatever; and be careful to see that you never bind a yoke on others that is not placed by Jesus Christ. It takes God a long time to get us out of the way of thinking that unless everyone sees as we do, they must be wrong. That is never God's view. There is only one liberty, the liberty of Jesus at work in our conscience enabling us to do what is right.

Don't get impatient, remember how God dealt with you - with patience and with gentleness; but never water down the truth of God. Let it have its way and never apologize for it. Jesus said, "Go and make disciples," not "make converts to your opinions."

-From *My Utmost
for his Highest*
By Oswald Chambers

Cara Gamble had an emergency appendectomy last Friday. She is now at home recuperating....**Dick Waterstraat** is now recuperating at home!...**Harry Linback** is in Clarian Arnett Hospital, room 210. He will be there for at least another 4-5 days and then to a facility for rehab. Only immediate family allowed to visit....**Charles Carter** is now receiving hospice care. His condition is rapidly deteriorating....**Charles Moore**, Jim's father, is now at home. He has been diagnosed with a blood disorder....**Lorna Marshall**, Amy Colon's mother, is having surgery on Friday in West Virginia....**Robert Ruckh**, father of Sally Smith, is undergoing an angiogram on Friday....**Pete Swank**, will have more tests on May 20 as they monitor 2 different aneurysms....Continue praying for **Diann Doty, Jan Lucas, David Brutans, Rose Hunt, Linda Jetton, John Adams, Eloise Shank, Justin Thomas, Hattie Coffel, Mary Tavana, Ted Heitman, Annie Crowder, Dorothy Walters, Irene Fox, Willie Batts, Ethel Cable, Edith McCoy, Eugene Zinn, Kaden Koebecke, Valley Stockton, Irene Sims, Marie DeWoody, Paul & Arge Verett, and Minnie Scott.**

In the military: Phyllis Simmerman's nephew, **Josh Martin**, is serving in Iraq.



Weekly Prayer Focus

A new program is being developed to help us focus our prayer efforts each week. Each month we will try to focus on specific topics and each week we will have specific items that people should pray for. This month our main focus is "Outreach." Beginning May 9 our focus will be our "Let's Start Talking" team: Rebecca Kady and Elizabeth Avery. They are headed to Japan for 6 weeks, mid-June through July to teach English using the Bible as a text.

VBS-Crocodile Dock

VBS registration for children 3 years-incoming 6th graders is now open. Forms are available online at elmwood-church.org and on the bulletin board by the teachers' workroom. Invite those around you!

Remember that for the rest of May we will be creating VBS decor on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 PM before the regular Bible study. You are welcome to come any Wednesday night or all of them!

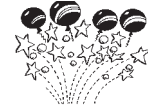
Women's Ministry Request

In an attempt to communicate more effectively with all women at Elmwood, the Women's Ministry committee is composing a newsletter and compiling a distribution list of all women's e-mail addresses. If you would like to receive an electronic copy of the newsletter, please send your preferred e-mail address to snuffyplum@comcast.net and you will receive a copy of the newsletter as soon as it is composed. Hard copies will also be available for pickup. Elmwood Women also have an interactive Facebook group. If you would like to participate in this online group, include the words "facebook group" in your e-mail and we will add you to the group. If you have any questions or comments, contact Dana Miller, Terri Miller, Doris Swensen, or Katy Travis.

May 3, 2009

Class: 158 Worship: 264 Contribution: \$11,598

Congratulations!



For long-term outstanding service to Pack 3337, the Sagamore Council District 3 of the Boy Scouts of America presented the Hall of Fame Award to **Dick Mullen**. The Award was presented to Dick at the Tecumseh District Annual Dinner held April 26 at Cary Camp. Dick has been a scouter for many years and his service to scouting extends beyond Cub Scouts. He has served at the district level, and with several Boy Scout troops. His son, Cody, is an Eagle Scout and son, Seth, will soon complete his District review for the same honor. Congratulations, Dick, for an honor well deserved.

Graduation Open House

Former Elmwood member, **Suzanne (Fournier) Macaluso** will graduate from Purdue with a Doctor of Philosophy. She now lives in California where her husband, Chris, works for Pepperdine University. Camilla Lawson is hosting an open house at her home, 422 Kittiwake, Lafayette, on Saturday, May 16, from 1:00 until 6:00 PM. They would **love** to visit with everyone.

Tom Miller has received the ROTC Award, Sword of Superior Leadership. This is a personal award from his commanding officer, Captain Terry S. Wichert. It is given to the senior with the highest military aptitude and highest leadership potential. Congratulations, Tom!

Congratulations, also, to **Sherry Risley**, who will graduate from Purdue with a teaching degree. And **Stephanie Curwick** receives her nursing degree from Ivy Tech Community College. Great job, Steph!



Josh Stafford, McCutcheon High School



T.J. Campbell, Attica High School



Bree Richards, Frontier High School



A prayerful send-off from the elders

(Rick Doty, Noah Merriman and Evan Ratcliff were unable to attend.)

BAPTISMS

Michelle Edmonds, mother of Heaven Welters, obeyed the Lord in baptism April 22. She was in Lafayette to await the birth of her granddaughter, Noelani. She is now back in Ohio. We applaud her decision and welcome her to the Lord's family.

Changes in Adult Bible Classes

The Adult Challenger Class that meets in A-2 on Sunday mornings began a new study of "Early Church" last week. Bob Waltz leads this study that begins with the book of Acts.

The Sunday morning women's class that meets in room 18, has begun a new study from the book, *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World* by Joanna Weaver. This 12-week study shows how all of us—Marys and Marthas alike—can draw closer to our Lord: deepening our devotion, strengthening our service, and doing both with less stress and greater joy.



Our sympathies to **Lisa Conrad** (Teri Richardson's daughter), and her son, **Cody**, on the death of Lisa's husband, **JJ Conrad**, in Arkansas. He was killed Thursday night in a motorcycle accident.

James Gibson, 85, uncle of Larry Gibson and Sherry Marks, died unexpectedly last Thursday. His funeral was Tuesday in Lafayette. We extend our sympathies to their father, Bill, and the rest of the family.



May 6, 6:00 PM...Creating VBS decor

May 6, 7 PM...Bible classes for all

May 7...National Day of Prayer

(various activities scheduled city-wide throughout the day)

May 10...Mother's Day & last Sunday for LIFE Groups

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

Read:
II Samuel 10-24;
Hebrews 1-7

2009 Spiritual Adventure

Week 21: May 18-24

Fairness

These fourteen chapters (II Samuel 10-24) are filled with so many events, many of which seem completely unfair by our modern day standards. These scriptures tell not only of suffering but undeserved suffering. In our minds, when discipline is connected to a wrongdoing, it seems to have a certain sense of justice to it. We understand consequences of sin. Our minds do not so easily understand the fairness of someone doing right and getting knocked down, doing right but being passed over or blindsided. Or even worse – when someone gets away with doing evil and being unpunished. How unfair, we say!!!





Painful events happen to us without any valid reason. Unjust things range from major events to the ordinary day to day things of feeling unfairly treated. It may seem like the imbalance of life happens only to “me” but it is common to us all.

There is a saying (not in the Bible), “Ten percent of life is what happens to you – the other 90 percent is how you respond to what happens to you.”

When we feel life is just so unfair that we can’t stand it – it is helpful to look at our blessings (the other side of the coin). Do we really believe we deserve all the good things that have been given to us? Probably no more than we deserved the unjust things. Throw fairness out the window. Do right anyway. See any situation as an opportunity to be Christ-like.

God is in control of everything through His power, wisdom and love. With this knowledge, we can be assured that Life is as God wills it to be. Place your trust in God, believing (as David did) that God is in total control no matter the circumstances.

-Gene and Jean Dilling

 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