



I Want to Know Christ!

Why is knowing Christ so important? That is the question that was asked on Sunday night in our LIFE Groups. This was then followed with another very important question: *What does it mean to know Christ?* Both questions are vitally important.

The ultimate answer can be found in John's gospel. In 17:3 we read, *"Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."* I don't think it can be any more direct than that. Why is knowing Christ so important? Because knowing Christ is eternal life! All of the answers given in my group, and all the answers given in the other groups are probably correct. I would agree with all of them. What it really comes down to though is that knowing Christ is eternal life. There should be no greater reason than that!

If knowing Christ is eternal life, then the second question has to be answered. What does it mean to know Christ? I believe Paul gives us some wonderful insight into this when he writes in Philippians, *"I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead"* (3:10-11).

I want to key in on a few pieces of that text. He uses the word *"participation"* and the phrase *"becoming like him."* The consensus of my LIFE Group was that these are keys to understanding what it means to know Christ. It is a participation in his life so that we can become more like him, which ultimately is a relationship. I know my wife better than I know most people. Why? Because I participate in life with her. We are in a deeply committed relationship where we experience life together, and I make decisions based upon our participation in life together.

Paul wanted to experience all that Christ experienced so that he could participate in the life of Christ. That is how he describes knowing Christ. I want to know him, Paul says. How? By knowing the power of Christ's resurrection, through participating and experiencing the life of Christ (and, yes, that includes experiencing suffering!), becoming like him.

To know Christ is eternal life. To attain this eternal life through the knowledge of Christ is participate in the life of Christ - to be in a deeply committed relationship with him. According to Jesus, this knowledge is the basis of friendship:

*"I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not **know** his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made **known** to you."* ~ John 15:15

-Gilbert

Psalm 100

A Psalm of Giving Thanks

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all
the earth!
Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!
Know that the Lord, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we are
his;
we are his people, and the sheep of
his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!
For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all
generations.*

This psalm should remind you of a few songs that we sing at Elmwood. It has been a deep well of thanksgiving for many people throughout a long period of time. I like this psalm because it reminds us of the many qualities of God. God is good. God is God. God is creator. God cares for his people. God is loving, and God is faithful. As God's people, we are invited into God's presence to celebrate, worship and serve him. Let us joyfully bless God's name as we recognize God's greatness!

-Phil Travis



Budgeting Course to begin June 22

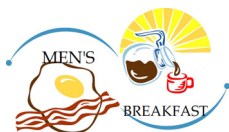


An updated version of the "Good Sense" budget program is scheduled to begin **Wednesday, June 22, 2011***, at the church. The time is 5:45 PM in the media/conference room. This will give us time to get to Bible class at 7:00. Please register through the church office by Friday, June 17th.

**Please note the date change from last week's newsletter.*



Thank you for all the cards, calls, prayers and encouragement from our Elmwood family following Betty's recent foot surgery. She is healing on schedule.
-Chuck & Betty Brown



The next men's Breakfast is scheduled for **June 25, 7:43-9:00 AM** in the A2 fellowship room. A sign-up sheet will be posted soon. Come enjoy the delicious food and watch the slide presentation of John Marks's return trip to Viet Nam in 2010.

June 5, 2011

*Class: 154 Worship: 260
Contribution: \$10,559.21*

Ted Holderfield had quadruple heart bypass surgery on Monday at St. Elizabeth East Hospital. He is in room 2S24 and doing well. He will be there until the end of the week....**Mary Lou Baugh** was hospitalized with respiratory problems last week. She was released on Tuesday and is now on oxygen....**Darlene Emmert**, Vicki Vaught's mother, has an appointment with a surgeon on Wednesday for colon surgery soon....Carol Bell requests prayers for her brother, **Cecil Thomas**, who is hospitalized with multiple health problems....**David Henke** will have surgery to repair his broken wrist on Wednesday....Continue praying for **Sherry Scoggin, Steve Curwick, Patty Vice, Marceena Miller (kidney dialysis), Armilda Follick, Jim Willison, Kathleen Cable, Cain Harris, Tammy Beaver (breast cancer), Linda Weeks, Kaden Koebecke, Mickey & Carolyn Rigdon, Jan Lucas, Marie DeWoody, Wanita White, Max Raines, and Jan Swensen (melanoma)**. Prayers also for our young men doing missionary work: **Ben Stafford (Africa), Alex Abston & Chris Manfred (Peru)**.



In the military: **Josh Martin** is in Iraq. **Matthew Kauffman** is in Germany. **Joe Newman** is in Chicago.

Continue to remember the following people who are home-bound or in a nursing care facility: **Ruth Carter, Irene Sims, Dorothy Walters, Ethel Cable, Hattie Coffel, Argie Verett, Dovie Hurst, Bill Gibson (now home), Valley Stockton, Delores Hill, Henrietta Frampton, Mary Walker, Linda Bilyeu, Janet Achor, Clifford Farner, Eugene Zinn, Charles & Carolyn Moore, and Annie Crowder.**

Elmwood Picture Directory

Some have asked about our picture directory. This is a multi-phase process. We are continuing to get information to Olan Mills in the form that they need it for publication. It will still be several weeks before the hard copies of the directory will be available. Contact Bill Hodges if you have questions. Thanks for your patience.



*Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Myer &
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Greenbank
request the honour of your presence
at the marriage of their children
Danielle Rene Myer to Michael Ryan Greenbank
on Saturday, June 18, 2011, 4:30 in the afternoon
Faith Baptist Church
5526 State Road 26 East, Lafayette
Reception to follow at Faith Community Center*

The Power of Wonder

Jenga is one of those games I have always had a difficult time playing. This is mostly because it requires coordination, which I don't have. If you're not familiar with it, the premise of the game is creating a stack of rectangular blocks and then taking turns slowly and precisely pulling pieces and creating holes in the structure without collapsing the tower. Eventually that critical piece is removed, the tower falls and the key is to see how far you can go without dropping the whole thing to the ground.

For many people I know (myself included) that would say we come from a "Fundamentalist" background, our faith seems at times like the Jenga tower. We build it up strong with logic, premise and fact; then cringe as experience, tragedy or circumstance removes pieces with abandon. Each hole of doubt or uncertainty might be viewed as a challenge to the entire structure, threatening to bring our carefully constructed set of beliefs crashing down around us.

Is that, I wonder, how God intended us to view the unknown parts of faith? The more I read of early Christians, the more convinced I am that for many of those who have gone before us, the mystery and doubt of humanity's interaction with the Divine weren't things that they feared. Instead, these things inspired a different emotion: Wonder.

There is a side of us that is fascinated by things we can't explain. From the time we are children, we are asked to imagine and accept things beyond the scope of our rationale and understanding, and for the most part we do it joyfully. Then somewhere along the way we are told that if we can't fully explain or provide unshakeable proof for our belief, that belief is invalid. The unknown, rather than being enticing, becomes dark and scary, and we try to avoid it altogether. There can be no holes in our towers.

Yet Jesus Himself claimed that there were things that even He, as the Son of God, did not know! In the Gospel of John he claims that even though He knows the mind of the Father, He doesn't know when the day or hour of His return will be. And Jesus seems just fine with this being left a mystery. It's a conundrum enough for me to just think about the fact that Jesus, as the Word, *is* God and yet God doesn't know all of God's mind, yet God exists in perfect unity with Himself(s) anyway. Is your brain in a pretzel yet?

The point is that not only are you and I wired to move in a primary relationship with God, we were also wired to be enticed by the wonder that comes from this otherworldly relationship. I'm not saying we shouldn't think, and think hard, about why we believe what we believe. I am saying that sometimes in our quest to be definitive or correct at all costs, we actually inhibit a God-given instinct that should draw us further into Him, and instead turn it into the fear of what is beyond us.

Are you willing to embrace the power of God's wonder? If you can understand everything about God, you'll never have a God that's bigger than your understanding. And who wants a God that small? I would rather allow the fascination of a magnificent Creation, miraculous stories, and the mysterious redemptive work of an infinite God entice me to move toward an authentic relationship with the one who authored them all. When I do, those holes no longer threaten to collapse my imperfect faith; instead they become the breeding ground of a deeper relationship with the One who is higher and greater than my understanding.

In His Grip, Travis

GOD IS WILD ABOUT YOU!

Elmwood's VBS, June 13-17



Registration forms are available on the bulletin board by the teachers' workroom, or you may register online at: www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/elmwoodkids. Questions? Talk to Michelle Robson.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

CREW LEADERS are needed for both elementary and preschool. This involves leading a group of 3-7 kids around to their stations each night and assisting them as needed.

AUDIO: volunteer needed to work sound system at opening and closing each night

DECORATIONS: we are looking for items to add to the scenery throughout the building (pandas, monkeys, snow leopards, greenery, bamboo).

Also, please pick up a "panda sheet" on the wall in the hallway. Consider what you might be able to furnish for VBS week. Items are needed at the building no later than June 12.

All VBS staff are asked to attend a meeting June 12, 5:00–6:00 PM in the media room with pizza following.

Upcoming VBS work dates

June 11: 10 AM until 3 PM; June 12: 2 PM until ?

This year we will have a hot dog supper—all food provided — for Elmwood members and VBS families on Friday night at 6:00, before the final program. Please plan to join us!



June 8, 7 PM....Bible classes & VBS decorating

June 12, 6 PM....LIFE Groups

June 13-17, 6-8 PM....Vacation Bible School; hot dog supper provided for all on the 17th at 6:00

June 25, 7:43-9:00 AM....Men's Breakfast in A2 fellowship room

Read:
I Kings 1-15; Matt. 6-10

2011 Spiritual Adventures

Week 24: June 12-18

When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a charge to Solomon his son. "I am about to go the way of all the earth," he said. "So be strong, show yourself a man, and observe what the Lord your God requires: Walk in his ways, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and requirements, as written in the Law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go, and that the Lord may keep his promise to me: 'If your descendants watch how they live, and if they walk faithfully before me with all their heart and soul, you will never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel'" 1 Kings 2: 1-4.

"Now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong..." 1 Kings 3:7-9.

God guided his people using different forms of leadership; judges, priests, prophets, kings. The success of each leader depended not on his position, leadership style, age, or strength, but upon these things:

- one's devotion to God.

- one's one-on-one relationships like the one between God, David, and Solomon.

- one's connection to God as expressed in Love, Devotion, and Accountability that is seen in the way David instructed Solomon about God's ways.

- one's ability to accept personal imperfections knowing that God will use you to build relationships in spite of them.

God is still seeking individuals that will accept his love and guidance in their journey through this life.

—Don & Patty Vice

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 Joe Ruhl 463-7012 Rick Swensen 463-6822 Don Vice 471-8653 Staff Ministers Gilbert Kerrigan 418-3652 Phil Travis 743-0954 Travis Hutchinson 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

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