



Wisdom from Above

James is a book in the Bible full of wisdom and sound advice. We would all do good to read through this letter a few times throughout the year. After reading this great letter, we would then be wise to heed James' advice to be doers of the things we read, not merely hearers (1:22).

Speaking of wisdom, James has a lot to say about that too. One of the many things we learn from James is that there can be no wisdom when there is jealousy or selfish ambition present. As a matter of fact, James says that where you find jealousy and selfish ambition present you will also find every evil practice (3:16). That is a scary thought because I know I struggle with jealousy in my own life.

If you want to know what wisdom looks like, again we go back to James' letter. He gives us the perfect picture of wisdom. He says that true wisdom is pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere (3:17). What a wonderful picture! This perfectly describes some of the people I have considered to be wise in my lifetime.

It is interesting that James says very little about knowledge when speaking of wisdom. So often we equate wisdom with knowledge. Wisdom, though, seems to have more to do with actions than with mere head knowledge. James tells his audience that if they think they are wise then they should show their wisdom by their good deeds and humility. They should sow peace.

Would you like more wisdom in your life – the type of wisdom James speaks of? Well, James has something to say about that as well. He writes, *“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you”* (1:5).

-Gilbert

A Resolution for the New Year

This year, let us remember who our fight is against, and be ready for it by wrapping ourselves in truth, righteousness, faith, salvation that God supplies, and his Spirit.

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints”
(Ephesians 6:10-18). **-Phil**



Ginger Maxwell-Spenard is in St. Elizabeth Hospital, room 3152. She has experienced another blockage... **Melissa Willison** has begun rehab therapy on her ankle following surgery a couple of weeks ago....**Kaden Koebecke** had a feeding tube put in on Wednesday at Riley Hospital. They will be able to use it for medication as well as nutrients that he needs. He will continue kidney dialysis at home....**Lloyd Layton** (*Carol Bell's uncle*) has begun chemotherapy for lung and bone cancer....Continue praying for **Mary Ford, Vickie Sanders,**

John Ruckh (*surgery this week for blockage in his leg*), **Bud Darby, Delores Hill, Roger Birky, Annie Crowder, Jan Lucas, Clifford & Betty Farner, Charles Moore, Hattie Coffel, Dorothy Walters, Eugene Zinn, Henrietta Frampton, Valley Stockton, Irene Sims, Marie DeWoody, and Paul & Argie Verett.**

In the military: **Matthew Kaufman & Michael Flynn** are serving in Iraq. **Joe Newman** is continuing his training with the Navy in Chicago.

H.O.P.E. Inc.

I am truly excited to let you in on a new development that I have been in prayer about for a few months. H.O.P.E. Inc. is a Hispanic outreach that was created back in the year 2000. The evangelist that leads this ministry is Rafael Tirado. H.O.P.E. Inc. is sponsored by Churches of Christ and Christian Churches in Logansport, Monticello, and Lafayette. Rafael has planted three different Hispanic churches in those cities, and preaches for all three each Sunday.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the church that meets in Lafayette needed to find a new place to worship. After much prayer and a few meetings with Rafael, our shepherds have agreed to open our building to this church. They will be meeting on Sunday evenings in A2 from 5:00pm until 6:30pm starting this Sunday. To avoid any conflicts the office needs to know at least two weeks in advance of any activities that will involve A2 during those times.

Praise God for this great opportunity to show our hospitality!



David Brutans, Shirley Farmer's son-in-law, died December 27, after a long battle with cancer which started in his colon, then to his liver. He was 49 years old. His funeral was December 31 in Lafayette. Our sincere sympathies to Shirley's daughter, Teresa, and her family.

A Few Good Men and Women

The church needs several men and women to help **WELCOME** visitors and members to each Sunday morning service. You can help in several different ways. If you're thinking, I've never served in this way before, we'll help you. If you're already involved in another area of service, that's great. But perhaps you may be able to do both. If you are interested in seeing how you can help, please complete a green information sheet and place it in the collection plate at one of the Sunday morning worship periods (sheets available in the Farris foyer). By completing this sheet, you are only indicating your interest in helping. Everyone completing a sheet will be invited to an information meeting before making a commitment.

If you have already completed a sheet previously and turned it in, you don't need to fill out another one. If you have any general questions, please contact Jim Moore or Chuck Brown.



EVERYONE is invited to attend **Sara Postlethwait's 90th** birthday celebration on January 10. The reception will begin at 2:30 in the afternoon at University Place. Come celebrate this special occasion and enjoy some cake and ice cream with us.
-Bob Postlethwait



Our sincere sympathies to **Charles Neville** on the death Sunday, of his grandmother, **Mary Brannon**, 84, in Alabama. Charles and Jennifer were able to go to Alabama for the funeral.

Women's Breakfast, January 30



Women, save the date! The Elmwood men will be serving breakfast to the women of Elmwood on **Saturday, January 30, 2010.**

January 3, 2010

Class: 166 Worship: 251

Contribution: \$11,332.60

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Youth Group News

We're hosting our first monthly "Common Ground" Coffeehouse on Saturday, January 9th, from 7-10 PM, at the Casteel Casa! This will be a recurring monthly devotional and night of fun that will take place EVERY SECOND SATURDAY! So you can go ahead and mark your calendars for the next couple of months.



After a short time of fellowship and food, we'll enjoy a dynamic devotional! Afterwards, we'll hang out, play card games, board games, ping-pong, etc. It is the perfect opportunity to invite friends!!



Elmwood Family:
Thank you for all your prayers, cards, concern, offers of help and flowers. Words cannot express our appreciation for all the support you have given. To have a church family is a blessing from God. Love to all.

Shirley Farmer, Teresa Brutans & family

Elmwood Church of Christ,
Thank you for giving our son a very nice Christmas by assisting us with buying his gifts. We are so blessed to have such a gracious church to help families. Thank you so very much.
Sincerely,

*Ben & Diane Jeffries & family
(Christmas for Everyone recipients)*

Important Tax Reporting Information for 2009 & 2010

Under current IRS regulations, any contributions made to the Elmwood Church of Christ must be documented if you intend to claim it as a charitable deduction on your Individual Federal Tax Return.

Elmwood has chosen to respond to this requirement as follows: contribution by check over \$250 - a dated receipt letter will be provided by Elmwood in January of the following year.

Contribution by check under \$250 - your canceled check will be your receipt. No documentation is provided by Elmwood.

Cash contributions - when received in the provided envelope with the contributor's name, a dated receipt acknowledgment from Elmwood will be provided in January of the following year.

This is not a change from our past procedure but a confirmation reminder as we begin a new tax year. Letters for 2009 contributors should be mailed as appropriate by the end of January. If you have any questions or comments please see the elders or the treasurer, Bill Hodges.

New Year Greetings!



As reported in the last newsletter in December, this year the money for Elmwood's Christmas card fund is designated for the **James Connection Orphanage** in India. Director Jan Swensen reported that they want to invest in some equipment to help them become more financially self-sufficient. This year \$1,257 will be sent to them. Those who contributed to this fund are: Bill & Sue Adams, Kenny & Mandy Anderson, Joy Batcha, Bill & Carol Bell, Janet Boston, Josh & Gina Boyd, Chuck & Betty Brown, Gayle & Lisa Crowe, Hedi Devine, Shirley Farmer, Bill Farris, Bernie & Armilda Follick, Margaret Gustafson, Gene & Nancy High, Thelma Hoyt, Jim & Marihelen Johnson, Jim & Teresa Jones, Camilla Lawson, John & Sherry Marks, Joe & Joyce Mathews, Delores Nolan, Mickey & Carolyn Rigdon, Joe & Gail Ruhl, Rob & Pauletta Smith, Greg & Chris Sutherlin, Rick & Doris Swensen, Susan Swensen, Cheri Vaughn, David & Lorraine Weckerly, Wanita White, and cash from an anonymous donation. *As always, when collecting money from a number of people, we run the risk of leaving someone's name off the list. We apologize if this has happened.*



New Year - Fresh Start: as we consider the start of a new year it gives us the chance to look both forward and back. We cannot change what is behind us. We can, however, pray for a fresh start. This week as you pray consider the events of the past year and the blessings that are ahead. Pray for forgiveness for our sins and for strength to live a life always founded on living "in Christ."



January 6, 7:00 PM....Bible classes for all
January 9, 7-10 PM....Coffeehouse, youth group at Shaun & Danae's, 1000 Potomac St., Lafayette
January 10, 2:30 PM....Sara Postlethwait's 90th birthday celebration at University Place. All are invited!
January 11, 7-9 PM....Prayer Shawl Ministry at Rose Hunt's home



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Read:
 Romans 5-6; Genesis 8-11;
 Joshua 11-15; Ps. 6-8; Job 5-6;
 Isaiah 12-17; Matthew 5-7

2010 Spiritual Adventures

Week 3: January 17-23

God's Grace

Whenever you feel crushed by the world's problems and are struggling to resolve certain sins in your life that weigh you down, read Romans, chapters 5 and 6. Romans 5 is summed up in one little phrase, God's grace. Grace is a gift from God through Jesus Christ. We did not earn grace, nor do we deserve grace from God, but God gave everyone grace because He loves us. There is hope, and if you believe in Jesus Christ and the hope He brings to us all, then you should be able to find peace and happiness, even when life seems to be too much to handle. God tells us this is not a cake walk, there is no Staples easy button to press to solve problems; there are hardships and there are and will be suffering. But that molds us into who we become. You can look suffering in the face and take it one of two directions, a path where it grinds you in the dirt, or a path where you persevere and grow to become a better person.

Chapter 6 tells us one thing that you should always remember: Sin is Dead. Humans have not conquered sin, but Jesus has conquered sin. If we become baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, all our sins that weigh us down will be washed away and we will be made anew. Verse 11-"In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus." Even when sin is still heavily present in your life, remember this passage; Romans 6:14: *"For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace."* Sin is Dead and through the help of your brothers and sisters and through God our Savior, those sins you struggle with, can be defeated. **-Peter Bell**

Weekly Schedule	Elders	World Missions
<p>Sunday</p> <p>Worship 8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Bible Study 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Worship 10:45 a.m.</p> <p>Life Groups 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday</p> <p>Bible Study 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Bill Bell 463-1139</p> <p>Joe Mathews 474-8369</p> <p>Joe Ruhl 463-7012</p> <p>Rick Swensen 463-6822</p> <p>Don Vice 471-8653</p> <p>Staff</p> <p>Ministers</p> <p>Gilbert Kerrigan 418-3652</p> <p>Phil Travis 743-0954</p> <p>Office</p> <p>Sherry Marks, Manager 447-2874</p> <p>Carol Bell, Secretary 447-2874</p>	<p>Kevin Chambers</p> <p>World Christian Broadcasting</p> <p>Anchor Point, Alaska 99536</p> <p>Loren and Penny Hollingsworth</p> <p>Phuket, Thailand 83000</p> <p>E-mail: lholly54@yahoo.com</p> <p>Bren and Cheryl White</p> <p>P.O. Box 245</p> <p>New Market, MD 21774</p>
<p>Our Vision: Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known.</p>		



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