



What Do You Have?

There seemed to have been only one smart person in the whole crowd of people. Think about it for a moment. Five thousand men, along with their families, followed Jesus out to the middle of nowhere and the only person who had the common sense to pack a lunch for such a long journey was a small boy who brought along five loaves of bread and two fish. John is the only gospel writer willing to admit that it was a small boy who brought these provisions.

Obviously he packed only for himself, and maybe his family. There was no way that little bit of food was going to feed everyone following Jesus. One of Jesus' disciples said it would take almost a full year's wages to provide just enough bread for each person to have a bite. A bite! What were they going to do with five small loaves of bread and two small fish? It would not have mattered how many ways the disciples sliced and diced it, there was no way they were ever going to be able to make that be enough to feed everyone that day.

There never seems to be enough for all that we know we should do and for all that we really want to do. It doesn't matter how many ways we slice it and dice it. There never seems to be enough. *"If only our yearly budget was higher we could... If only our weekly contribution was higher we could... If only I made more money then on Sunday I could give..."* We look out at the work that needs to be done and we think to ourselves, *"If only we had more to offer."*

The disciples were thinking those very same thoughts. *"We can't do this. We can't take care of them sufficiently. Jesus, please send them away so they can be taken care of properly."* Those words may have been spoken out of a lack of faith, but I believe they were spoken with compassion.

Jesus looked at the disciples and essentially asked, *"What do you have?"* We know the rest of the story. Jesus made sure it was enough, actually more than enough. All 5,000 plus ate until they were full. And there was more left over. Jesus asked a simple question: *"What do you have?"* The answer really didn't matter. Jesus made sure it was more than enough.

The question is still the same today. What do you have? Jesus will make sure that it is more than enough. When hearts are full of compassion and there is a desire to do the work of God, it is never a matter of how big or how little your offering is. Jesus simply says, *"Give me what you have."* He will make it more than enough.

-Gilbert

He Emptied Himself

Last week I wrote about how our relationship with God should be less of a chore and more of a joy. I wrote how we often discourage ourselves from enjoying the beauty of Christ and a relationship with him by discussing that relationship in negative terms. I also mentioned that being a Christian is difficult, and it is that upon which I would like to expound here.

The second chapter of Philippians displays for us what our lives should look like, and quite frankly, it's not a comfortable picture. Paul says, *"Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross"* (2:5-8).

What a tall order! While we are filled with life by our relationship with God, we are to continually empty ourselves, as Christ did, for the benefit of others. I often describe this as being willing to be worn out for the gospel. Often we are told that it should be our goal to be successful and live a long, happy life. But that is not the life to which we are called, and therein is the difficulty of being a Christian. This week, allow Christ's love to give you life, as you actively empty yourself for others!

-Phil



Pete Swank is still in Critical Care in Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis following delicate surgery to repair an aorta tear and remove an aorta aneurysm. Some additional problems have arisen, so he will remain there for at least several more days...**Sara Postlethwait** is being moved this week to the healthcare area of University Place, after being hospitalized last week....**Kaleb Anderson** was hospitalized last week with pneumonia. He is at home recuperating now....**Jeffrey Ravellette** is home after surgery last Friday....Continue praying for **Diann Doty, Armilda Follick,**

Chuck Brown, Dorothy Walters (in *Westminster*), **Carolyn Rigdon, Wanita White, Ernie Kirk, Elaine Crowder, Steve Cable, Valley Stockton, Laurence Clowdus, Greg Holdman's father, Willie & Calvin Batts, Connie & Ken Nicholson, Niel Postlethwait, Kaden Koebecke, Vickie Sanders, Delores Hill, Annie Crowder, Jan Lucas, Clifford & Betty Farner, Charles Moore, Hattie Coffel, Eugene Zinn, Henrietta Frampton, Irene Sims, Marie DeWoody, and Paul & Argie Verett.**

Our sympathies to the family of Steve Cable's friend, **Mike Courtney**, who died recently after a battle with cancer.

Melissa Willison left Monday for Haiti with Purdue Fellowship of Christian Athletes, to give their help to those left homeless by the earthquake. She returns May 17.

In the military: **Tim Beghtol** is in Afghanistan....**Matthew Kauffman & Michael Flynn** are serving in Iraq. **Joe Newman** is in Chicago.



A Note of Thanks

I want to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, food, phone calls and blue cards I received following my knee surgeries. Your expressions of concern were very much appreciated.

-Chuck Brown

Thank you to all who have sent cards, called with concern, and prayed for me. Physical therapy and steroid shots have helped tremendously.

-Armilda Follick

We would like to thank everyone for contributing to purchase gifts for our wedding shower. Thank you.

-Brad Wilson & Lisa Baird

Focus on the Family Upcoming Programs

Upcoming *Focus on the Family* programs are heard on local radio, WHPL-FM 89.9 at 2:00 PM Monday-Friday.

- May 12 **One Pitch From Humility.** Former pro baseball player Frank Pastore describes how God taught him about humility.
- May 13 **Issues Update: May 2010.** Public policy experts Tom Minnery and Bruce Hausknecht discuss several political issues including the latest U.S. Supreme Court nominee, the current ENDA bill moving through the House and the Senate's efforts to ratify the U.N. treaty on autonomy of children.
- May 14 **Col. Terry Virts: Mission to Outer Space.** Astronaut Col. Terry Virts discusses his fascinating experiences on a recent mission to the International Space Station aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavor.



May Sunday Night Schedule at Elmwood

- May 16 High School Graduation Celebration;
- May 23 Elmwood Block Party, 5:00 PM
- May 30 VBS Prayer Night



Showers of Flowers

Elmwood is participating in Matrix Lifeline Pregnancy Center's annual *Showers of Flowers* to create a bouquet of sharing that will encourage and support life. Here's how you can help: choose an envelope from the Showers display in the Farris foyer; enclose the cost of your selection and leave the envelope in the basket provided. Then add your flower from the envelope to the display. You may contribute to the Shower of Flowers through next Sunday, May 16.

Matrix Lifeline Pregnancy Center, a Christ-centered ministry, is located at 1824 Maple St., Lafayette.

May 9, 2010

*Class: 156 Worship: 251
Contribution: \$4,941*

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Youth Events

Weekly Schedule

Sundays, 9:00 Bible Classes
Wed., 7:00 PM Inner Mission

Upcoming Events

Sat., 5/15 Common Ground Coffeehouse
Sat., 5/22 Youth Yard Sale
Friday, 5/28 Year-End Shebang!

Yard Sale!

"One man's trash is another man's treasure."



Please donate any items you no longer want or need to the youth yard sale. We will be accepting small items at the church building starting Wednesday, May 12, and we will start accepting large items (furniture, etc.) Wednesday, May 19. Don't worry about the pricing, just save up and bring your stuff.

The proceeds of the yard sale will go straight into the youth's lunch sack. The teens talked a couple of weeks ago about being more proactive with increasing the lunch sack, and this is what they voted on doing. We are so excited to see how God is going to continue to grow this, both monetarily in the lunch sack, but also spiritually in our students!

L.U.M. Meal Providers

Many thanks to those at Elmwood who participate in this ministry to provide food for the homeless at Lafayette Urban Ministry. Elmwood provides the meal for 40+ people at L.U.M. the 4th Monday of every month. If you haven't participated before and would like to, see Mandy Anderson. She is signing up people for the next 6 months. There are spaces left for June, July, and August.

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



Our 2010 High School Graduates:
Tyler Lee - McCutcheon High School
Jason Levick - Frontier High School
Andrew Simmerman - Jefferson High School

We congratulate and wish to honor our 2010 High School graduates this Sunday evening, May 16, at 6:00. A special slide show and programs with details about their future plans will be presented. Bring your family and friends to help these young men celebrate their graduation. A reception will be provided in A-2.



Vacation Bible School, June 7-11
Be praying for the week

**You'll Be Glad
You Did!**



1. **VBS Crew Guides** are needed to lead children around to their stations each night. It is a fun time with the kids!
2. **May 22 beginning at 9:00 AM**, we will be meeting to work on decorations. Come join us.
3. Check out the bulletin board by the Teacher's Workroom for a **listing of props you can bring for decor**.
4. Thank you to all who have volunteered and helped so far. It is appreciated.
-Michelle Robson



May 12, 7 PM...Bible classes
May 16, 6:00 PM...High School Senior Night at Elmwood; reception to follow in A-2
May 22, 9 AM...Vacation Bible School workday
May 23, 5 PM...Block Party
May 30, 11 AM-2 PM... Andrew Simmerman's Graduation Open House, 415 Oaklawn Dr., Lafayette

Read:
 2 Cor. 11-13; Exodus 29-32;
 2 Sam 20-24; Ps. 60-62; Job
 41-42; Jer. 42-46; Luke 5-6

2010 Spiritual Adventures

Week 21: May 23-29

Who's the Boss?

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to do whatever you wanted? What would you do? Quit work? Travel? Buy a big house? Buy a castle! Patch the ozone hole? Settle all your debts? Collect from those who owe you? Collect from those who don't owe you!? What kind of sovereign lord would you be?

It must be kind of tempting to have all the power in the world and in the moment that you face someone who has done wrong to you to wipe them from the history of the universe. I guess I am glad the Sovereign Lord we do have is not so dispassionate and selfish. The Israelites got lucky, or rather blessed, in this regard. Remember the golden calf? Before Moses came down from the mountain God knew that they had become corrupt. He called them a stiff-necked people and said, *"Let me burn in my anger. Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation."* But Moses is able to change God's mind reminding Him of His original promise and the impact such an action, though justified, would have on His Name. The Israelites are spared though they are otherwise punished for their sin.

Perhaps this is the hallmark of the kind of Sovereign Lord we have. One who will not lose Himself in the anger and frustration we must cause Him from time to time but will continue to be the God we know Him to be. One who is trustworthy, compassionate, just, and merciful.

I am not sure I could be that kind of sovereign lord - one who can maintain his identity in the face of anger and frustration and nor do I know of anyone else who could. Or anyone else who has. Praise be to the Sovereign Lord of the Universe. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The One who brought His people out of the Land of Egypt.
-Bill Bell

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 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

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

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