

Lessons from the Heart

The best laid plans...

By Pastor Chuck Compton

I was shocked! It was Saturday evening and, instead of finalizing my thoughts for the Sunday morning worship service, here I

was lying in a hospital bed talking to a surgeon about what he was going to do to remove my ruptured appendix. That wasn't what I had planned for this evening! Over the month follow-

ing I found out that a lot of things were going to happen that I had not planned.



Compton

My recent devotions had focused on how God's plan for our lives is perfect and for our blessing. In the days following surgery I struggled to understand how God's timing and purpose were perfect as I went from one complication to another. I know that it is supposed to be "fun" to take a long vacation, even in the hospital, but I wasn't finding a lot of humor in the month that followed.

As I struggled to understand what was happening, I remembered that many of the people who experienced Christ's birth, the fulfillment of God's perfect plan for all of us, were confused and were not able to understand how this event was Good News. I think especially of all the mothers and fathers who lost their baby sons at the hands of Herod's troops. Maybe the truth of an

event can only be evaluated when we have the distance and time needed for perspective.

I realized anew that some things can only be handled by faith. I could not prove in those days in the hospital that God's plan for my life was perfect and for my blessing. It certainly didn't feel like what was happening was a blessing. Because I have learned in many years of trusting God that He is faithful to His promises, I was able to accept what was happening as God's perfect plan for my life most of the time. Sometimes in the pain and very high fevers I struggled.

I have already started to see a few elements of how God worked everything not only for my blessing, but also for some wonderful people around me. I am no longer shocked. I am amazed to see how God worked through so many people in so many beautiful ways to nurture His worship and to reach out in ministry through the people at Flora Presbyterian Church.

Chuck Compton is pastor at the Flora Presbyterian Church.

DIRECTORY OF AREA CHURCHES

SS=Sunday School

SW=Sunday Worship

AMERICUS UNION NON-DENOMINATIONAL: Larry Williams, pastor. SW: 10 a.m.

BRINGHURST UNITED METHODIST: Larry DeVos, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.

BROOKSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST: 206 N. Prairie Street, Brookston. Ron Guzman, minister. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.

BUCK CREEK UNITED METHODIST: 4915 Ferret St., Buck Creek. Dwight Monical, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.

BURLINGTON FIRST BRETHREN: 205 W. 8th St., Rev. Dr. Peter Rousakis, pastor. SW: 10:00 a.m., SS: 9:00 a.m.

BURLINGTON CHURCH OF CHRIST: Tim Pohlman, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Children's Church: 10 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m., Youth Groups: 6 p.m.

BURLINGTON UNITED METHODIST: SS: 10:50 a.m., SW: 9:30 a.m.

BURNETTSVILLE FIRST BAPTIST: Second & Main, Burnettsville. SW: 10:00 a.m., SS: 11:15 a.m.

BURNETTSVILLE CHRISTIAN: Sixth & Washington, Burnettsville. John Wright, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.

BURNETTSVILLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: First & Main, Burnettsville. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.

BURROWS PRESBYTERIAN: SS: 11:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.

CALVARY CHAPEL CARROLL COUNTY: Wabash & Erie Canal Interpretive Center, Delphi. Eric Haley, pastor. SW: 10 a.m.

CAMDEN UNITED METHODIST: Dan Gottschalk, pastor. SS: 9-9:45 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.

CLYMERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: 4003 W 400S. Clymers Kevin Drane, pastor. SW: 10:30 a.m. SS: Same as worship.

COLBURN ROAD BAPTIST: Bill Cadle, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.

COLBURN UNITED METHODIST: Kasey Schnepf, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:20 a.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE MINISTRIES: 1/2 mile north of SR 22 on CR 1150W. Patrick Kamm, pastor. SS: 9 a.m. SW: 10:15 a.m.

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN: 3570 E 200S, Bringhurst, Dan C. Butcher, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m. SS: 10:30 a.m. Youth group 6:30 p.m., Bible study Wed. 6:30 p.m.

CUTLER PRESBYTERIAN: SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.

DEER CREEK UNITED PRESBYTERIAN: Highway 29 in Deer Creek. SW: 10:30 a.m. SS: 9:15 a.m.

DELPHI CHRISTIAN CHURCH: 315 E. Main St., Delphi. Andrew Paris, minister. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:45 a.m. Wed. Bible study: 7 p.m.

DELPHI CHURCH OF CHRIST: 405 Cottage Street, Delphi. Sunday Bible study: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 & 5 p.m., Wed. Night 7 p.m.

DELPHI COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GOD: 321 W. Main Street, Delphi. Rev. Virgil Moss. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.

DELPHI PENTECOSTAL: Hwy. 25 East, Delphi. Tim Stewart, pastor. Thurs. night Bible Study: 7:30p.m., SS: 12:45 p.m., SW: 2 p.m.

DELPHI UNITED METHODIST: Union & Monroe Streets, Delphi. SW: 8:45 & 11 a.m., SS: 10 a.m., Todd Ladd, pastor; Micah Hudson, youth pastor.

DELPHI WESLEYAN: North Union Street, Delphi. Dan Fisher, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.

EASTLAWN UNITED METHODIST: SR 24 & Logan Street, Idaville. Ernie D. Elder, Jr., Pastor. SW: 10 a.m., SS: 9 a.m.

FAITH CHURCH OF CHRIST: SR 29, Burlington. Steve Cole, minister. SW: 9:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. a.m., SS: 11 a.m., Wed. Bible study 7 p.m.

FAITH LUTHERAN: CR 800 N, west of Hwy. 29. Thomas J. McShannock & Sandy Hutchens, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:10 a.m.

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH: Hwys. 29 & 26, Middlefork. Jim Anderson, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.

FIRST APOSTOLIC CHURCH: U.S. 421 North, Tippecanoe Township. Gilbert R. Ingram, pastor. SW: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD: US 421N., Pittsburg. Brent Oliver, pastor. SW: 9:30 am, Wed. Family Night: 6:30pm, Adult & Youth Services Sun. Evenings 6pm.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CAMDEN: Paul Marcellino, interim-pastor. Tue. 9:30 a.m. Women's study, Wed. 6:30 p.m. WW, SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:45 a.m., Sun. Youth Service 5:30 p.m. Sun. Bible study: 7:30 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST: Indiana & Franklin Streets, Delphi. William Glenn, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN: Main & Indiana Streets, Delphi. Rev. Bill McLean. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.

FLORA FIRST BAPTIST: 115 W. Columbia Street, Flora. Interim pastors. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.

FLORA FIRST BRETHREN: 115 N. Washington Street, Flora. Dan Herendeen, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.

FLORA FIRST CHRISTIAN (Disciples of Christ) S. Center Street, Flora. Sam Davenport, interim pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.

FLORA GRACE BRETHREN: 103 S. Willow St., Flora. James Franklin, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m., Wed. Prayer Service: 7 p.m.

FLORA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 211 S. Center St., Flora. Charles Compton, pastor. SW: 10:15 a.m.

FLORA UNITED METHODIST: 107 E. Main Street, Flora. Larry DeVos, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:15 a.m.

FLORA VALLEY VIEW SOUTHERN BAPTIST: Route 2, Flora. Bill Godbey, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.

GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST: 1101 Dreifers Ave., Delphi. Joe Whitehead, pastor. SS: 10 a.m. SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.

HICKORY GROVE CHURCH: CR 700 W., Jefferson Township, Ken Smith, pastor SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.

HILLSIDE MISSIONARY BAPTIST: Hwy. 22, 2 miles E. of Burlington. Doyle Buckner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.

IDAVILLE CHURCH OF GOD: 11073 E 50 N, Idaville. Chris Murphy, pastor. SW 8:30 & 10:30 a.m., SS: 9:30 a.m.

JUBILEE FELLOWSHIP: CR 50 N, Flora. Scott Gamel, pastor. SS: 9:00 a.m., SW: 10:00 a.m.

LIVING FAITH CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: 310N 250W. Jeff Tomson, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.

LIVING STONE CHURCH: Meets at the Freedom Center in Delphi. Stan Williams, pastor. SS: 11 a.m., SW: 9:30 a.m. contact (765) 589-3771

LOCKPORT NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHURCH: East of Patton. Nord Zootman, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.

LOWER DEER CREEK CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN CR 300 N, SE of Camden. Guy Studebaker, pastor. SW 10:15 a.m., SS: 9:00 a.m.

MT. ZION INDEPENDENT BAPTIST: 102 N. Connelly Street, Delphi. Alfred Smith, pastor. SS: 10:15 a.m., SW: 9 a.m., & 6 p.m.

OAK GROVE CHRISTIAN: 11810 N & 900 W, Monticello. Interim pastor, Don Arterburn. SW: 10 a.m.

PINE GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH: Crooked Road, 1 mile E of Delphi. Justin Wagner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.

PITTSBURG MISSIONARY BAPTIST: John Wagner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m.; SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Bible Study: Thurs. 6:30 p.m

PLEASANT HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 5490 North SR 39, Frankfort. Donna Enerson, pastor. SS: 9:45 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. Everyone welcome.

PYRMONT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: Pastor. Howard Hendrickson SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.

RADNOR CHURCH: Ed Selvidge, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.

ROCKFIELD CHRISTIAN: Bob Cree, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.

ROCKFIELD PRESBYTERIAN: SW: 9:30 a.m.

ROSSVILLE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP: 16 Cason St., Judd Dickey, pastor. Sunday Corporate Prayer: 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship 9:30 a.m.; SW 10:00 a.m.

ROSSVILLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: 109 N. Plank Street, Rossville. Floyd Smith, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.

ROSSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 5434 W State Rd 26, Rossville, IN. Bob McAulay, interim pastor SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:20 a.m.

ROSSVILLE UNITED METHODIST: Main & Gaddis Streets, Rossville. Rick Jones, pastor. SS: 9:15 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.

SHARON AMERICAN BAPTIST: St. Rd. 29, Carrollton Township. James Lund, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC: 207 N. Washington Street, Delphi. Peter Vanderkolk, pastor. SW: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH: 1301 S. Washington St., Delphi. Dale Larson, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN: Church & Cumberland Sts., Camden, 2 blocks West & 1 block North of SR218 and SR75. Dale Larson, pastor. SW: 8:30 a.m.. SS: Same as Worship.

WHIRLWIND MINISTRIES: 869 N. 90 E., Burrows, Greg Britt, pastor. SW: 10 a.m. (574) 652-2280

YEOMAN UNITED METHODIST: Dave Inskip, pastor, SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

By Dr. James Dobson

Without time together, marriages can come apart quickly

QUESTION: You have said that the natural progression of a marriage is to become more distant rather than more intimate. Why is that true?

DR. DOBSON: The natural tendency of everything in the universe is to move from order to disorder. If you buy a new car, it will steadily deteriorate from the day you drive it home. Your body is slowly aging and dying. Your house has to be repainted and repaired every few summers. A business that is not managed carefully will unravel and collapse. A brick that is placed on a vacant lot and left there long enough will eventually turn to dust. Indeed, even the sun and all the stars are slowly burning themselves out. We are, in a manner of speaking, in a dying universe where everything that is not specifically being protected and upgraded is in a downward spiral.

The principle which governs this drift from order to disorder might be called "the law of disintegration." (Engineers and scientists sometimes call it the law of "entropy.") The only way to postpone or temporarily combat its influence is to invest creative energy and intelligent design into that which is to be

preserved. Not so surprisingly, human relationships also conform to the principle of disintegration. The natural tendency is for husbands and wives to drift away from each other unless they work at staying together. To provide another analogy, it is as though they were sitting in separate rowboats on a choppy lake. If they don't paddle vigorously to stay in the same neighborhood, one will drift to the north of the lake and the other to the south. That is exactly what happens when marital partners get too busy or distracted to maintain their love. If they don't take the time for romantic activities and experiences that draw them together, something precious begins to slip away. It doesn't have to be that way, of course, but the currents of life will separate them unless efforts are made to remain together.

I wish every newly married couple knew about the law of disintegration and would actively protect their relationship from it.

QUESTION: Some educators have said we should eliminate report cards and academic marks. Do you think this is a good idea?

DR. DOBSON: No, I believe academic marks are valuable for students in the third grade or higher. They reinforce and reward the child who has achieved in school and as a nudge to the youngster who hasn't. It is important, though, that grades be used properly. They have the power to create or to destroy motivation.

Through the elementary years, I've always felt that a child's grades should be based on what he does with what he has. In other words, I think we should grade according to ability. A slow child should be able to succeed in school just as certainly as a gifted youngster. If he struggles and sweats to achieve, he should somehow be rewarded—even if his work falls short of an absolute standard. By the same token, gifted children should not be given A's just because they are

serve a "God Is Love" banquet at 6 p.m. Feb. 10 at the church. Reservation deadline is Jan. 27.

WMS will meet Sunday following morning worship at the First Brethren Church.

Washington Twp.

Marilyn Hile
Deer Creek 859-4871

The youth of Faith Lutheran Church are going to go ice skating Feb. 4 after worship service. Everyone interested is to bring a sack lunch to eat at the church before they leave at 12 noon to go to Lafayette.

Special music was provided by Karen Robeson recently at the Deer Creek Presbyterian Church.

Curtis Robeson sang in the All State Honor Choir in Indianapolis recently. Attending were Kevin and Karen Robeson, Eldon and Wilma Robeson and Annalea Robeson. After the performances, the family all went to eat to celebrate Annalea's 45th birthday.

Dana and Tracy Hile recently took a seven-day cruise and then met Scott Hile in Orlando, Fla., and spent seven days together at Walt Disney World.



Dr. Dobson

smart enough to excel without working.

Again, the primary purpose in grading in the elementary school years should be to reward academic effort.

However, as the student goes into high school, the purpose of grading shifts. Those who take college preparatory courses must be graded on an absolute standard. An "A" in chemistry or calculus is accepted by college admission boards as a symbol of excellence, and secondary teachers must preserve that meaning. Students with lesser academic skill need not take those difficult courses.

To repeat, marks for children can be the teacher's most important motivational tool, provided they are used correctly. Therefore, the recommendation that schools eliminate grading is a move away from discipline in the classroom.

Pray for our nation to seek God

For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods. Psalms 96:4 Pd. Adv.

Send your questions to Dr. Dobson, c/o Focus on the Family, PO Box 444, Colorado Springs, CO 80903; or to his Web site at www.focus.org. These questions and answers are excerpted from books authored by Dr. James Dobson and published by Tyndale House Publishers. Dr. Dobson is the founder and chairman of the board of Focus on the Family, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of the home and Judeo-Christian values. Copyright 1997 James Dobson, Inc. All rights reserved. International copy secured.

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