

The Englewood Christian

*“Seeking the city which hath foundations whose builder and maker is God”
(Hebrews 11:10)*

Volume 59 Number 5

August 1, 2010

THE BLESSING OF MEANINGFUL WORK

Every day, I am reminded of how critical good work is to all people and all communities, especially Christian communities (churches). Work is not only the primary means by which God provides for us our “daily bread”, it is also an important way for neighbors and citizens to be united together in common purpose. Deep relationships are often formed when folks do common work for a common purpose over an extended period of time.

I think much of the fragmentation we are witnessing in our culture today is a combination of simply too much idle/leisure/entertainment/recreation time and work which is done primarily for a paycheck in order to remain in good standing as a member of the consumer culture. Without common work for a common purpose, we become discontent with life in general. We seek to remedy our discontent by filling our time with any interesting form of distraction which comes our way; slowly but surely, our leisure becomes our work and real work becomes the unfortunate but necessary distraction. Too often, our leisure activities follow the “law of diminishing returns”... we need more and more of something to get the same amount of satisfaction from it.

This has become an aspect of the crisis of unemployment which no one will acknowledge. Beyond the obvious consequences of unemployment, both economic and emotional, there is the less obvious “schooling” in idleness. This is unacknowledged because our culture has been vigilantly guarding our front door against the encroachment of government control (the great fear expressed in George Orwell’s classic book, 1984) while our back door remains wide open to the marauding hordes of entertainment who come to rape and pillage (the fear expressed in Aldous Huxley’s classic book, Brave New World). Don’t worry if you haven’t recognized any of this yet; I am sure an upcoming reality show, maybe provocatively titled “Rape and Pillage”, is in production as I write this! Neil Postman warned us of this phenomenon 25 years ago in his book, Amusing Ourselves to Death; he could not have known how right he would be.

I could continue down this path of moaning, groaning and declaring, “ain’t it awful”, but let me offer some affirmative thoughts:

1. A community’s most essential need is that her members live according to the wisdom of Christ and hold as primary a trust in God’s sovereignty.
2. Within this framework, the community can then address the more material based needs of food, water, shelter, clothing and the incumbent meaningful work.
3. Meaningful work is work done in light of the wisdom of Christ, in full recognition and complete confidence that God is the primary actor in our daily provision.
4. Meaningful work ought to be connected to our basic needs.
5. Meaningful work is common work with common purpose.

(continued on page 3)

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but to the interests of others.” (Phil. 2:3)

Oh...those Facts & Figures

July's Attendance

	<u>6/6</u>	<u>6/13</u>	<u>6/20</u>	<u>6/27</u>
AM	157	161	146	168
PM	44	---	---	61

No Hospitality Supper for the month of August



Mark Your Calendar!

All-Church Picnic

Sunday, September 19

Beech Grove Park

Hilltop Shelter

2:00 - ??

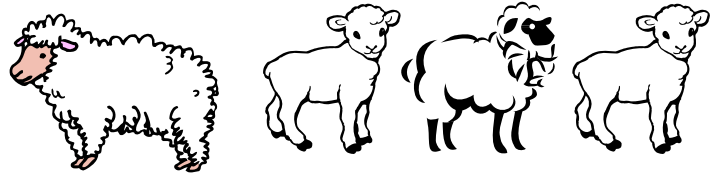
More Details will come later



We are planning on creating a new church directory this fall. We will begin putting together various work teams sometime in September. If you worked on our last directory and would be willing and able to help again, let us know.



Assemble with the flock...



... Sunday Mornings in August:

- Aug. 1: “Self-Employed?”
Ecc. 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23;
Lk. 12:13-21; Col. 3:1-11
Special Music: Be Irick
- Aug. 8: “Preparing for a Better Country”
Gen. 15:1-6; Lk. 12:32-40;
Heb. 11:1-3, 8-16
Special Music: Diana Tapp
- Aug. 15: “Through Fire and Water”
Jer. 23:23-39; Lk. 12:49-56
Heb. 11:29-12:2
Special Music: Susan Adams
- Aug. 22: “From Sinai to Zion”
Isaiah 58:9-14; Lk. 13:10-17
Heb. 12:18-29
Special Music: To be arranged
- Aug. 29: “Expanding Our Invitation”
Prov. 25:6-7; Lk. 14:1-14;
Heb. 13:1-16
Special Music: Children’s Choir

...Sunday Evenings in August

Our Sunday evening groups will meet during the month of August except for Ministry Team Meeting night on the 8th.

(continued from cover page)

6. Work done in light of the wisdom of Christ is work done for the sake of others.
7. Work done in light of the wisdom of Christ is work which does not exploit God's gift of creation.
8. Work done in light of the wisdom of Christ is work which promotes reconciliation between individuals, races and nations.
9. Work done in light of the wisdom of Christ is work which is life-giving instead of death-dealing.
10. Work done in light of the wisdom of Christ is work done always in the service of those things we discern to be God's purposes.

What does it mean to work in full trust and complete confidence in God's sovereignty? At the very least, it is work which calls us to God instead of the too customary calling God into our work. It is work done confidently because it is God's work. Of course, this means doing work always open to the possibility of new discernment. Our congregation is in agreement concerning most of these things, but "the devil is in the details". We disagree on how this is lived out among us as members of one another. There are tensions related to priorities of tasks, but the greatest tension surrounds our avoidance of issues surrounding the way we identify common work. Do we create common work which is our primary employment? Do we help our members prepare for and secure employment in the marketplace? Do we expand on an internal economy which employs some or most of our own folks but also makes room for the possibility of employing some of our neighbors? Until we resolve some of these questions (and many others); God's multi-dimensional wisdom will not be made evident through the church to the principalities and powers of this age. God waits for us to join Him in His work; when we do, we will then experience the joy of God's full salvation.

Mike

Our Next Conference . . . Friday & Saturday, October 29-30th

A Rooted People: Church, Place and Agriculture in an Urban World

Registration and more info: <http://englewoodcc.com/rooted/>

Ours is a world in which transportation is becoming extremely costly (as was highlighted by the massive costs of the BP Oil Spill) and yet at the same time is a world that is becoming increasingly urban. Common sense would seem to indicate that these trends will impact in a major way our food systems and the way we eat. Given these factors, what is the church's redemptive role in caring for the health and wholeness (shalom) of not just humanity, but all creation? Englewood Christian Church has invited several speakers with rich experiences in sustainable agriculture to lead a conversation reflecting on this question and related ones about church, place, food, community and agriculture, and we invite you to join us.

Speakers:

* **[Fred Bahnson](#)**: Writer and Co-founder of Anathoth Community Garden * **Martin Price**: Former Director of Educational Concerns For Hunger Organization (ECHO)

* **[Ragan Sutterfield](#)**:

Arkansas Farmer/Writer, Author of **FARMING AS A SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE**

Workshops Lead By : Main speakers and others TBA

Among Our Family



Thank You!

Thanks to everyone for all the prayers for our little Carter the past few weeks. He is home now and seems to be doing very well.

Betty Rehfus

Dear Englewood friends,

Thank you so much for your gracious hospitality in allowing us to stay in your Mission House. We are so thankful for our friendship. Even though we don't see you often, this always feels like home whenever come and you always seem like family. As part of the exchange of gifts among the body we brought you flour from Plow Creek, our sister community and squash from our garden and eggs from Plow Creek. May God bless your community with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms as you cultivate life, food, discipline and witness in this neighborhood. Though brief, we've been blessed by our visit to you. Please let us know if you are ever up at Reba Place.

God's Peace, Andy & Kristin Ross

Thank-you seems inadequate to express my gratefulness for all those who have been helping out in the office during my surgery and recovery and treatment time. So many have pitched in to do whatever needed to be done and are continuing to do so. Thanks, too, for all the cards and prayers....an incredible encouragement. It's great to be part of the Englewood family.

Laretta Benjamin

We thank God that our partnership with your community continues to deepen and develop! We specifically thank you today for the hospitality you have offered during recent outreach meetings and events! We thank God that we can partner in this way.

The Outreach, Inc. Staff

Congratulations

Robert & Nancy Plake are proud to announce that they are expecting their first grandchild in February of 2011. This will also be Edna Callahan's 12th great grandchild. Proud parents are Marie (Plake) and Eric Dishman (Robert's daughter and Nancy's step-daughter).

... to Tracy & Miriam Spurling on the birth of their new little girl, Isis Rain, born this past month. Little Isis was 21 inches long and weight 8 lb 13 oz. All are doing fine! Welcome to your Englewood family, Isis!

...we welcome little Kylie Raegan, born to Danielle Knoop this past month. Kylie weighed 5 lb 14 oz and was 19 inches long. She came into the world a little early and has some struggles but seems to be coming along. Keep them in your prayers.

In Loving Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers to Kendra Bowling and her family at the death of her father this past month after a long and lengthy illness. Please continue to remember them.

A Reminder

We are still experiencing a fairly large amount of personal items being left around the building -- on shelves, behind and on the Information Center, around Fellowship Hall as well as other places
(We find clothing, books, papers, shoes, socks, jackets, toys, mugs, bags...)

With all the groups using the building now and all the activities going on, we try really hard to keep the building looking nice. Please try to take all your stuff with you! Thanks....Laretta



Life Issues

This year the Life Centers Walk/Run for Life is scheduled for Sunday evening September 26. This change is due to comments from some churches that Saturday mornings are already busy and that many churches don't have Sunday evening activities. The churches that do have Sunday evening programs are encouraged to make the Walk/Run a special event for that one evening. This year the Walk/Run is not tied to raising money - everyone is invited to walk, run, or just listen to the testimonies and show your support of the ministry.

This is an excellent opportunity for the Englewood family to talk about what being pro-life means to us. We can continue the practices of our recent past, where we donate a generous amount of money to the cause; we can attend the Walk/Run and show our support for Life Centers; or we can delve deeper into how we show our commitment to life in all its forms. In August we'll start talking about this, so you can start thinking about it now.

In the meantime, we're gearing up for the fund-raising part. Please let Bev Irick or me know if you're interested in raising support, and we'll help you get started. It can be as easy and simple as you want, and every little bit helps. We greatly appreciate everyone who helps in this way.

Thank you all once again for your participation in the Baby Bottle campaign - Englewood raised over \$500!

The next counselor training session for Life Centers will take place August 23-25. These will be daytime sessions. If this is the time God is calling you to volunteer, this is an opportunity to get involved.

If you want to help but don't feel called to counseling, there are a myriad of other volunteer needs. You can see me for ideas or call 888-57-MERCY.

Shelley

Shelley Van Antwerp

shelley@bcibenefits.com

Direct Phone: (317) 284-5323

Notes from Andy & Jen . . .



We have been enjoying traveling around and visiting with our partnering churches over the past 3 months. In April we visited churches in Ohio and Pennsylvania, which included opportunities to preach and spend some time sharing with high-schoolers. In May, our travels took us to more Pittsburgh area churches. June was the biggest month for us. We traveled to Southeastern Ohio where we had an opportunity to cook some Thai food for our friends who partner with us in ministry. We got some authentic recipes from the restaurant across the street from where we lived in Thailand, and brought “real” Thai ingredients with us! We are really pleased (and surprised) at how well the dishes turned out. We then traveled on to Indianapolis for 2 weeks of VBS. We had lots of fun sharing with grade-schoolers. We shared our Thai snacks, some Thai worship music, Thai language, and of course, Thai dance. We are pretty sure the kids enjoyed most of it, minus maybe the dried fish snacks that are so popular in Thailand but probably would not sell well in the U.S.. We so enjoyed sharing with them a little taste of what it is like to live in Thailand. We wrapped June up by helping out at Camp Christian in Mill Run, PA. I (Andy) had an opportunity to spend some time with junior-highers for a week. This was my first time ever serving as staff at Camp Christian. However, I didn’t finish without leaving a legacy. It is a camp tradition to have an after dark staff hide-and-seek where the staff hides and the campers try to find each staff member. I set a new camp record for being the staff member found the fastest, in less than a minute. I guess I have a way of making an impact!

Furlough and Return

Furlough is still going well. Many have asked when we will return to Thailand. Our goal is to return sometime during October. However, it depends much on how our Friendhouse account is doing. We need to have enough money for emergency purposes before we return. So far, it is looking like we are on schedule. This is our target as we can see right now, it is possible it might change. We feel that October would be a good time to travel and would end our furlough at 10 months.

Thailand

The political struggles in Thailand seem to have settled down since the last conflict. According to the news reports I have seen, things seem back to normal again. However, I do not think the issues have been solved and more escalations and demonstrations could be in the future. So far, the political situation has not affected our plans to return. As always- it is Godwilling. Please continue to lift this country up with us and pray for peace.

Family

Jude and Reuben are doing great. Jude is learning how to properly say his words, and at the time of this writing, Reuben is on the verge of crawling. Reuben is also officially eating solid food and formula. He is getting much bigger and we are starting to see his personality develop. He is afraid of loud noises and he loves to cuddle. Jude loved VBS! This was his first time ever going and he did a good job of learning the songs and all the motions that come with them. He was a little young so we put him with kids that were a bit older than him, but he did fine. He also is really good at making friends and gets excited when he sees them. Jen and I have enjoyed taking the opportunity to read some good books that have been on our list.

We are thankful to have these kinds of resources available to us. Good books are hard to find in Thailand.

Thank You

We thank everyone for their generosity, hospitality, and for your help when we came to visit you. All of our partners and friends are a true blessing to us and we hope that we are a blessing to you as well.

What to Pray For:

Continue to pray for Thailand's political struggles, for the Church there, and for Thai Christians who will have an opportunity to witness for Christ through this. For our family, that the boys and us will continue to be safe and healthy. For our plans to return, and that the Thai Church will be ready to receive us. For the neighborhood we will be moving into, that the Holy Spirit will go before us. For our supporting partners, that we can continue to work together to impact the Kingdom.

Don't forget to check out our blog for more updates at: www.maymissions.com

*Andy & Jen May
Jude & Reuben*



Englewood Women's Ministry

We are in the process of taking inventory of all our kitchen items. If you have borrowed something from the kitchen recently – or a while back – please try and get it back to us as quickly as possible so it can be included in our inventory list.

In the future, we will be having fundraisers, kitchen “showers”, etc to help raise money to replace or purchase much needed items for our kitchen. This will help enable our cooks to have the necessary equipment to prepare the meals needed.

*Thanks,
Tracy Durcholz*

Mission House Fall Cleaning

We are planning a cleaning day for our Mission House. It has gotten lots of use over the summer and needs some heavy-duty cleaning...things like windows, window sills, baseboards, some wall washing. For those who are free and physically able to help, we will meet at the Mission House Saturday morning, Sept. 11th at 9:00 am. Bring rags and any cleaning supplies you can spare from home. Hopefully, there will be enough of us that we can finish up the work in a couple of hours. Questions? See Laretta.

Mano de Amistad / Hand of Friendship
June 2010

The Results of Unconditional Service

We've known the family for at least seven or eight years—from the time we first developed Hispanic outreach programs with the Wheeler Mission community center. The mother participated in English classes and the Ladies Club. Three of the children were regulars at our weekly Kids Club, summer VBS programs and members of our soccer teams. The whole family attended our Family Camps and the church's yearly Christmas celebrations.

In those early years, we often made personal contact with the parents and tried to help them with their family problems and issues relating to their kids. They were always busy doing other things, however, and over time, we lost touch.

You can imagine our surprise several months ago when—out of the blue—the mother started attending our English classes and Ladies Club. She even brought her sister along. In her words, one reason she returned was, “You've always taught us good things, so I wanted to bring my sister here as she doesn't have many friends.” Since that time, both ladies have come faithfully, often staying late after the meetings to seek help with family issues.

Several weeks later, we received another surprise. The father visited one of our Sunday services. After he'd been welcomed by the church members, many of whom already knew him, he publicly announced to the group, “I'm very happy to be here today. I always knew this is the place I should be, and now I'm ready to change my Sunday activities to make time to come more regularly. I like being here and I need to hear what's being taught.” He's been back several times since.

In a few weeks, Humberto will be taking the oldest son for the driving test to get his license. And so it goes. We've discovered that cultivating relationships and forming unconditional friendships are two of the key building blocks for evangelizing Hispanic families in Indianapolis. The process usually requires an abundance of time, energy and patience. Through it all, we strive to be a Christian influence as we plant seeds of God's love in the hearts of those we meet. And while our job is either to plant or water those seeds, we know it is God who will make them grow (I Corinthians 3:5-9).

At this point, it would be nice if we could report every member of the family we've talked about has made radical changes and turned his or her life over to Jesus. Unfortunately, that has yet to happen. So, please join us in praying this family will continue to seek God and discover His plan for their lives. And that God will help us find more ways to extend hands of friendship to this family and others.

As always, we appreciate your prayers and financial support.

Mano de Amistad / Hand of Friendship

Humberto & Becky Ramirez · 8311 Rumford Rd · Indianapolis, IN 46219

ramirez-ray@usa.net · Tel: H: 317-407-6235; B: 317-679-9410

To view previous ministry updates, visit us at <http://manodeamistad.blogspot.com/>.

Please remember we have an updated support address.

Checks—made payable to ***Mano de Amistad***—should be sent to:

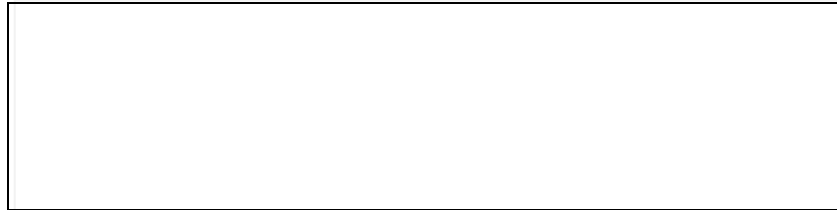
Mano de Amistad, c/o Englewood Christian Church, 57 N Rural St, Indianapolis, IN 46201

Gifts are tax deductible. Receipts will be issued. Thanks!

The Englewood Christian

57 N. Rural Street

Indianapolis, In 46201-3297



All-Church Breakfast



Sunday, August 8th

8:00 – 9:00 am

Adults \$3.00 Kids...\$2.00

Proceeds go toward renovation of

the School #3 Gym

(Our All-Church Breakfast is usually the 2nd Sunday of each month)