



"This is like kid heaven."

That quote came from one little fellow on the second day of Elgin Free Church's summer Holiday Club. We constantly pray for a plentiful harvest but often forget that harvesting is hard work. And it can also be an absolute joy! Last week we had 70+ children from all over Elgin - mostly from un-churched families - participate in our Holiday Bible Club. It was a series of blessings from start to finish.



A couple of scenes from our "circus", including Harry the Bear Bouncer and Kendo the elephant (no bears or elephants were harmed in the presentation of the Elgin Free Church Circus).



Watch what you pray for.

Many of you participated in our week of prayer where we prayed for many issues regarding Elgin Free Church. In particular we prayed that our Bible Club would be well attended and have sufficient helpers. We determined we had a capacity of about 50 children and prayed for a full house. We distributed flyers to the schools with which we are connected on a Friday. By Tuesday morning we had over 50 children signed up!! After some trans-Atlantic consultation with the team from Twin Oaks Church in St. Louis we opened up an afternoon session as well. By the time we closed out registration, we had over 90 children!. And plenty of helpers - two answers to prayer.

So for three days, morning and afternoon, we had drama, team activities, bible memory, and crafts centered on the theme of "***The Son of Man came to seek and save the lost. Luke 19:10.***" We illustrated this verse by teaching the feeding of the 5000, the saving of Zacchaeus, and ended with the crucifixion and resurrection.



A team activity. Build a circus tent out of marshmallows and dry spaghetti. ("Does a marshmallow create a moment-resisting connection? I should know this.")



Sheryl (our "Memory Verse Czar") helping children fish out the words for Luke 19:10.

We also had time dedicated to small group teaching with lively discussion. My groups were up-and-coming 2nd graders and the very first day, when we spoke about the original perfection of God's creation, one little boy insisted, "We all evolved from monkeys." I was about to deliver a flawless defense of divine creation when another little boy piped up, "Maybe you! I didn't come from monkeys!"

No time for debate - I had to step in to avoid a brawl. My reply of, "I don't believe we descended from monkeys and the Bible certainly doesn't say that," actually had a calming effect and brought the temperature down a bit. The best part - the little boy who declared

our descent from monkeys was one of the many who came back for the Sunday Worship service.

So go ahead and pray big.

As I said, we filled two sessions each day for three days (the actual count was around 70 every day with children coming and going). But our real concern was, would this translate into people actually coming to church on Sunday?

We continued to pray and the Lord continued to work. We printed extra bulletins, set up every chair the church owned, and the Lord brought over 90 people!! That may not sound like much to your average American church, but for a congregation that struggles to get 30 souls in a worship service it was a "capsize the boat" moment (John 21:6) - twice as many visitors as members! And my little evolution buddy came beaming, with his family.



A very full house last Sunday at Elgin Free Church!!

Thank you for your prayers.

This is no secret - God answers prayer. Not always as we want, almost never as we expect, but always for our good and His glory. Many of you have prayed with us for this event throughout the month of June. If you didn't receive any emails in June with prayer

requests, and would like to pray on specific occasions for Elgin Free Church please let me know and I'll put you on our special prayer list. There's a link to my email at the end of this email.

Our prayer now is for continued faithfulness to bring in this harvest.

- Praise for the team from Twin Oaks Church in St. Louis who helped push this event across the finish line. They were a literal God-send.
 - Praise for the dozen or so families that came to worship on Sunday.
 - Praise for the many who said they would like to come back.
 - Pray that they would return.
 - Pray that we would meet them "where they are" and that we could, with gentleness and respect, give them a reason for the hope that lies within us.
 - Pray that we could faithfully make disciples of them and their children through Christ-centered teaching for all ages.
 - Pray that God would raise up helpers for our children's Sunday School.
 - I am preaching all month in the Psalms. Pray for God to speak through me.
 - Pray that God would continue to use us in Elgin to call His people to Him - even those who don't yet know they are His.
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And don't forget social media.

Many of you have already connected with us on Facebook and YouTube. Thank you!! Below are the links to our Facebook, YouTube, and our website. You can listen to sermons and whole services on the Elgin Free Church Facebook page or on the Burghead & Elgin Free Church YouTube channel. We also put as much as we can on the Elgin Free Church website. Like, subscribe, ring the bell... you know the drill.





We reiterate a deep and sincere thank you to those of you who are partnering with us financially and in prayer. If you've been meaning to join us financially and haven't had the chance... here it is.

[To partner financially with Brian and Sheryl, click here.](#)

And of course if you have any questions, please contact us

[HERE \(Brian's email\)](#)

or

[HERE \(Sheryl's email\)](#)
