

## ***E.Y.E. on God's Word—Is God Listening?***

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I have shared with you before some of the devotionals that I have received, this one came to me on July 31. With all that has and is going on in the lives of our church members, I felt led to share this with you. This devotional was written by Mike DeVries and was sent to me from [www.homeword.com](http://www.homeword.com).

*I was talking with someone recently about a family crisis he is going through, when he made this comment, "I just need God to hear me. I need to know that God is listening. Is that too much to ask for?"*

Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.  
-Isaiah 65:24

*Perhaps you've found yourself in the same situation. You've found yourself in a place where you are crying out to God, and the whole time you're wondering, is He even listening? Perhaps you've found yourself in a place along your journey where you are looking around and asking, "God, if you're supposed to be God, then why is \_\_\_\_\_*

*happening?"*

*If you have been there (or are at this moment), you're in good company. The Scriptures are filled with people who struggled with these exact questions. We encounter people who, in the face of tremendous doubt, have cried out to God, "Where are you?" The people of God have a term for these kinds of moments: lament. Lamenting is a deep cry of the soul, one that, in the face of present struggles, remembers the past goodness of God and cries out to Him to be faithful once again. It is a passionate plea, literally a "calling out" of God - "If you are who you say you are, and if you're the same God who has acted in the past... then where are you now?" Time and again in the Scriptures, we come across people who cried out to God. They cried out to God because they knew that He had been faithful in the past, and that they needed Him to be faithful once again in the present. "God, where are you? I thought you were a loving God. Where's this loving God that I thought you were?" Perhaps you've asked the same kinds of questions. Perhaps someone has told you that these kinds of questions were a "lack of faith." Yet the reality is this: When you and I ask hard questions of God, we are standing in the stream of this ancient tradition, one that is captured over and over in the Scriptures. It is in the asking of your honest, gut-wrenching questions - the ones filled with anger and frustration - that you are expressing a deep sense of faith. We cry out to God, in frustration and in anger, because we believe that He is the only One who can do something about it.*

*We believe ultimately that God is a God who hears. And it is this truth that gives us hope in the present.*

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:



- **BACK TO SCHOOL KICKOFF**– Sunday August 12th at Leslie Temple's House
- **EPWORTH SUMMER FESTIVAL**– Saturday August 18th, at the Historic Site starting at 3:30pm
- **EYE PARENT'S MEETING**– Sunday August 19th, in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30pm



### ***E.Y.E. on Mountain TOP***

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We had a great time at Mountain TOP this summer. It was a camp full of many people from several different churches. We met and worked with people from Indiana, Ohio, and Tennessee. It was an experience filled with memories of helping the people of the mountain with projects from cleaning up their yards, building sheds, wheelchair ramps and porches, as well as simply spending time interacting with them. Each time we go to the mountain we find a new experience and new memories to cherish.

It is amazing to see how quickly we all allowed ourselves to enter into community with people who we barely knew. I think that we quickly realized that we were all there for the same purpose, to serve others and seek God's presence in what we were doing and who each of us are. We developed a spiritual high while we were there that is difficult to match in our daily lives out of camp and off of the mountain, but our challenge, now, is to not lose sight of what that felt like and continue to seek it daily. If you allow yourself the opportunity in your busy schedule to devote some time each day in God's word and serving others, even in a small way, you will continue to fan that fire that is and was burning inside of you while on the mountain. It is easy after coming off of the mountain to experience a spiritual low or even question about how each of us fit into God's plan but seek daily to fellowship with other believers and reach out to those in need around you, you don't have to go to the mountain to serve or find that feeling again.

**You may think that it is too early to think about** next summer but for those of us planning budgets and schedules it is time to plan ahead. Please let Brad know if you want to go to **Mountain TOP in 2008**. Dawn Scott and Rachel Underwood are both going to Tanzania from June 28th-July 19th, 2008 and we would love for them to be able to go to Mountain TOP with us. In order to secure a week that they could do so, we need to lock in our week now. Please take a look at your schedules and talk with your families and determine which of the following dates would work well for you and them to be able to go with us:

YSM 1- June 8th-14th at Baker Mountain

YSM 2- June 15th- 21st at Baker Mountain or Cumberland Pines

YSM 7- July 20th -26th at Baker Mountain or Cumberland Pines

YSM 8- July 28th-Aug 2nd at Cumberland Pines

Other YSM weeks are available while they are in Tanzania, if we cannot come to a consensus on one of the weeks above, then we can take a look at those.

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### ***E.Y.E. on the Youth Group During the Summer- Give us your Input***

Please let us know your feelings about our summer schedule. Let us know what you liked and disliked about it. What did you think about meeting on Wednesdays? Did this work well for your families? Here is a list of some of the things we did:

Water Balloon War- , Helped with Vacation Bible School, Visited Nursing Home twice, Nashville Shores, Saw Evan Almighty, Youth Led Devotionals, Discussed Evan Almighty, Point Mallard, Planned for the Summer Festival

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***E.Y.E. on BACK TO SCHOOL KICKOFF***

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**CALLING ALL YOUTH!  
YOU ARE INVITED TO THE  
BACK TO SCHOOL KICKOFF CELEBRATION  
ON AUGUST 12th!**

We will head to Leslie Temple's house following the 2nd service. Bring your swimsuit, a towel, and an attitude of excitement as we kickoff another school year. We will have more details in an email coming about what else you may be asked to bring. The party will begin at about 1pm and you can leave as needed. Bring a friend and come have some fun!

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***E.Y.E. on the EYE after school!***

Adult members of the church who are looking for some afternoon excitement are encouraged to help with the EYE After School program. We want to make this available after school everyday for the kids in the community. If you are interested in helping supervise the EYE room after school, please let Brad know. Activities may include tutoring, internet research, bible studies, basketball, 9 square, ping pong, air hockey, and even playstation tournaments. This program can be an exciting outreach tool for Epworth as well as an opportunity to provide mentoring opportunities for you and the youth of our community. We plan to start this program after Labor Day.

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***E.Y.E. on the Parents Kickoff Meeting!***

There will be a Parent's Kickoff meeting on August 19th at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will use this time to talk about the upcoming school year, fill out new health and liability forms, as well as discuss how the youth program can better serve the families and the community. **THIS IS AN IMPORTANT MEETING, please do not miss it!!!**



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**EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH YOUTH FELLOWSHIP**

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Brad is in his office at Church on  
Mondays and Thursdays from 9:30 am  
to 2:00 pm but he is available if needed.

**Epworth  
UMYF  
Officers**

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We will be  
electing  
them in  
September

*The mission of Epworth United Methodist Youth Fellowship is to develop a strong Christian foundation based on the word of God in our youth. Through this development they will experience an atmosphere of nonjudgmental love and care that is based in the word of God. From this foundation, they will form the basis for future spiritual growth as well as the ability to base future life decisions on the application of the scriptures.*

**E.Y.E. on Upcoming Meetings and Activities**

August	Meet from 5:30p-7:30p on Wed., 4-6pm on Sundays
1st	Let your Conscience be your Guide
8th	Special Guest Speaker
Sunday 12th	Fall Kickoff at the Temples We will leave after 2nd service, 1p-end
18th	<b>EPWORTH SUMMER FESTIVAL</b>
19th	Meet at the EYE
19th	<b>EYE PARENT'S MEETING IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL @ 5:30 PM</b>
21st	Mountain TOP presentation at Bethesda United Methodist—more info to come
26th	Meet at the EYE

The **EYE after school**, will open in September!  
Any church member that would like to help is  
welcome to contact Brad about your availability!

Don't forget to check out our

website -[www.epworth-umc.com](http://www.epworth-umc.com)

for more info and pictures of activities