



## Adorning the Gospel

How many people in the world view me directly affects how they will also view the gospel message. The same is true for you. The way that you are viewed by others may have a direct affect on how they also view the gospel.

While Paul was writing to Titus he thought he would address those Christians who find themselves in a position of slavery. He writes, *“Slaves must always obey their masters and do their best to please them. They must not talk back or steal, but must show themselves to be entirely trustworthy and good. Then they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive in every way”* (2:9-10). For Paul, how owners viewed their Christian slaves had a direct affect on how they also viewed the gospel. Slaves were to live lives that made the gospel message *“attractive in every way.”* The English Standard Version says they are to *“adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.”*

This charge to the slaves is not applicable only to those who found themselves in slavery during Paul’s day. This charge is applicable to all of us - to everyone everywhere who wears the name of Christ. We are called to live lives that make the gospel of Christ *“attractive in every way.”* So I go back to my original statement: *how many people in the world view me directly affects how they will also view the gospel message.*

I am constantly amazed by the tremendous trust that God puts into clay pots like myself. I do not claim to be strong and unfazed by temptation, but rather I am weak and susceptible to many temptations. Yet, God trusts me. God trusts you. How encouraging! Despite our downfalls and goofs, God still says, *“I trust you with my gospel.”* Do not let this frighten you. Be encouraged because God would not give you this great responsibility if He did not believe you were capable. You are capable!

Let’s adorn the gospel of Christ!

-Gilbert

## All Things Created for Him

*“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross”* (Col. 1:15-20).

This text holds for us a profound mystery and delight. The whole earth was created in Christ, everything created by him and for him. This idea in itself is a powerful and life-giving idea. Within this idea is contained the concept that we were not created by random chance, nor are we here, on the Earth, by mere happenstance. Instead we were created through Christ, and for Christ, giving us both purpose and direction.

The text continues reminding us that God is wanting to bring this world (us included) back into harmony with Christ - the one through whom the whole world was created and by whom the whole world was reconciled.

This understanding not only gives us purpose and direction, but the experience of true love and devotion as exemplified by Christ.

-Phil

**Isabella Beeler**, granddaughter of Ronda & Harry Tidrick, will have surgery to repair a hernia on Friday, Dec. 5....**Eileen Richardson**, Teri's mother, spent time in the hospital last week. Now home, she is still not doing well...**Beth Holt** is experiencing increased pain from arthritis....**Gloria Holderfield**, Ted's wife, will have surgery for cancer on December 9....Continue praying for **Eric Waltz** (still in IU Medical Center), **David Henke**, **Dorothy Walters**, **Hattie Coffel**, **Irene Fox**, **Wanita White**, **Steve Cable**, **Eva Wilson**, **Willie Batts**, **Edith McCoy**, **Randi Verett**, **Jean Stockberger**, **Lance & Lane Pepper**, **Eugene Zinn**, **Kaden Koebcke**, **Julie Lichty**, **Pat Johnson**, **Marge Campbell**, **Valley Stockton**, **Irene Sims**, **Henrietta Frampton**, **Marie DeWoody**, **Paul & Argie Verett**, **Delpha Allen**, **Eagle Bailey**, & **Minnie Scott**.

Serving in our military: **Shawn Wilson**. Armilda reports that **Mark Wilson** is now at home! Praise God! "We wish to thank our Elmwood family for all the prayers for Mark and for their continued prayers for Shawn." -Armilda Follick



*Elmwood members:  
Thank you to all for the thoughts and prayers for our family.  
Thanks also for the flowers and especially to those who came to the viewing. It helped to ease the pain in the loss of my father-in-law, Richard Doty. May God bless each and every one of you.*  
-Diann Doty & family

**The final contribution sent to Shults-Lewis was \$4,619.65. Thanks to all who contributed.**

## Men's Breakfast, December 6



The men's breakfast is this Saturday morning, **December 6, 7:43-8:59 AM**. All men are encouraged to come. There will be a discussion of the recent Men's Retreat.

## Christmas for Everyone, Dec. 13



If you haven't already picked up your child's name, see Gilbert or Mandy on Sunday to receive your bag for the gifts. The name and wish list will be attached.

**Please keep the paper attached when you turn the gifts in (UN-WRAPPED) to Gilbert or Mandy by December 7.** On December 13th we will distribute the gifts. Your commitment is no more than \$30 per child.

**PLEASE NOTE:** items needed for wrapping of "CFE"

**gifts:** wrapping paper, bows, ribbon, gift labels, stickers, tissue paper, shirt/sweater gift boxes, Christmas gift bags (all sizes), and tape. We will be delighted with part-rolls of leftover wrapping paper, gift boxes, gift bags, tissue paper, bows and ribbon that are in good shape. Please bring your donations to A-2 by Wednesday night, December 10th. Thank you very much.

## Midnight Breakfast at CSC

This year at the CSC we are going to host a Superhero "Midnight" breakfast! This event will be on the evening of **December 15** (the Monday of final week). While traditionally a midnight breakfast happens at midnight, we are going to host it a little earlier at 10:00 PM.

There are many ways you can volunteer to help with the event. We need people to help set up, cook, serve the food, and clean up. We also need a collection of electric griddles for cooking the food.

Finally, any muffins, bagels, and breads you would like to donate would be greatly appreciated! We encourage you to come dressed up as your favorite superhero! Any questions should be directed to Phil Travis.



Every few years we need to "purge" our newsletter list. Years pass, people move, situations change, and you may not feel the need to receive our newsletter. If you wish to continue to be on our mailing list, please send us your request by a phone call (765-447-2874), email (office@elmwood-church.org), or regular mail. We will delete those we don't hear from after the first of the new year. **PLEASE NOTE! If you attend Elmwood regularly you will continue to receive the weekly newsletter. This affects only those who don't attend Elmwood and/or have moved away.**

**November 30, 2008**  
Class: 168 Worship: 281  
Contribution: \$5,344



### Thank You!

*If anyone thinks he is religious, without controlling his tongue but deceiving his heart, his religion is useless. Pure and undefiled religion before our God and Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world (James 1:26-27).*

We just finished the time we designate as "Thanksgiving." If you are like me, you had much to be thankful for...getting uninterrupted time with family is a premium these days. We also just finished up a food drive for the food pantry at church, "Pack the Pulpit and Fill the Pantry." Many, many people will be able to be even more thankful for what we have been able to provide them through the ministry of the food pantry because of your efforts. You need to know that the pantry is better stocked right now than it has been in a long time...maybe ever. You need to know that a generous Elmwood member saw to it that over 60 families were able to enjoy some turkey for Thanksgiving. You need to know that our pantry serves over 100 families each week (families can only come once a month) if you do the math, that's over 400 different families each month. I don't know how many families we served last Wednesday, but I know we served 48 on Tuesday. The food we brought in and the money we donated won't last long. Many children and families will be able to be thankful at Christmas because of your efforts in providing gifts through Christmas For Everyone. I believe we are providing gifts for 75 children this year.

I believe that these efforts are a very real way for us to live out James 1:27 above, **BUT** we can't stop now. Things are not getting economically better anytime soon. Let's keep being the church and do all we can to minister to a lost and dying community, many of whom are very near to the building where we meet. If you are interested in knowing how you can best support the food pantry, see John Stafford. Christmas is still a month away and I am sure that service opportunities still abound between now and then. Let's be Jesus' hands and feet! – Lee

## CHRISTMAS CARDS



In lieu of sending cards, all who wish to contribute to our annual **Christmas Card Fund** may do so this Sunday, **November 30, December 7 and 14**. You may hand your check to one of the elders, ministers, and/or Sherry Marks or Carol Bell, drop it into the collection plate (with Christmas Card Fund designated) or send it to the church via regular mail by December 15. *If you give cash, be sure to attach your name on a piece of paper.* In the December 16 newsletter we will include a list of all who have contributed to this fund.

This year Christmas card money will go to Bren & Cheryl White and the Operation French World Missions. As always, they deeply appreciate any contribution for their continuing work with French-speaking people.

## Holiday Gift Lift



**The Holiday Gift Lift Program** of Mental Health America distributes new essential items to adults who might not otherwise receive a gift over the holiday season. Suggested gifts (leave them unwrapped) include: sweatshirts, sweaters, warm socks, nightwear, hats, gloves, sweatpants, flannel shirts, men's wallets, jewelry, purses (all clothing in xl-xxl adult sizes please). Gifts may be placed in the collection box located in the Farris foyer. These donations, for adults only, provide gifts to Tippecanoe County residents who are experiencing mental health challenges. They are residents of local nursing homes, Logansport State Hospital, Tippecanoe Villa, MHA Day Shelter, and MHA Supportive Housing.



**December 3, 6:30 PM....**Rehearsal for **"It's a Wonder-FULL Life"**

**December 3, 7 PM....**Bible classes for all

**December 6, 7:43 AM....**Men's Breakfast

**December 7, 4:00 PM....**Rehearsal for **"It's a Wonder-FULL Life"**

**December 7, 6 PM....**Worship/singing at Elmwood

**Dec. 13....** **Christmas for Everyone,**  
distribution of gifts

**December 14, 6:00 PM....**"It's a Wonder-FULL Life"  
**Children's program**

Read:  
*Haggai-Malachi*  
*Revelation 12-22*

# 2008 Spiritual Adventure

## Week 51: December 22-28

### 2008 - What a Year!

2008 has been a glorious year for the people of God. It has helped us return to our center. It has forced us to realize that our trust cannot be in governments, or our nation's economic system, or even in the peaceful regularities of nature. It has forced us (against our will, but that's not unusual for God's blessings) to realize that the only certainty—the ONLY certainty in this life—is God.

People of Haggai's day were existing at a standard of living—just trying to recoup from years of exile—that would horrify most of us. "You have planted much, but have harvested little." Why? Because they weren't putting God first. (1:6)






People in Zechariah's day were fasting and mourning. The way out? "This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow . . .'" (7:9)


People in Malachi's day had left the Lord, "turned from the way . . . violated the covenant . . ." His solution: "Return to me, and I will return to you." (2:8; 3:7)

Two false rumors have been spread through the land: (1) the halls of government can be counted on to be righteous, holy, moral and godly, and (2) those who pray, read their Bibles, go to church, and back up their hard drives every day will always find their stock equities going up, up, up. Events of 2008 have done us the wonderful favor of reminding us that both of these rumors are false. Who spread the notion that our happiness, well-being and hope have anything to do with whatever government we live under or the state of our national or personal finances?

Our mission is to live successfully in an unstable world in which Christ is not honored, lighting up this dark and decadent world with the joy that comes only from a vibrant, intimate relationship with God. He will bless us on the journey with a peace that passes understanding.

-Gayle Crowe

 <i>Weekly Schedule</i>	 <i>Elders</i>	 <i>World Missions</i>
<b>Sunday</b> Worship 8:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Life Groups 6:00 p.m.  <b>Wednesday</b> Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	Bill Bell 463-1139 Joe Mathews 474-8369 Rick Swensen 463-6822 Don Vice 471-8653  <b> Staff</b> <b>Ministers</b> Gilbert Kerrigan 418-3652 Lee Porter 463-6993 Phil Travis 447-2874 <b>Office</b> 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
 <b>Our Vision:</b> <b>Knowing Christ,            Making Christ Known.</b>		

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