



The Power of Words

“Contradictory to slogan, talk is not cheap. Talk is the power of God; He spoke the world into existence. We have inherited His image and will not escape the trait of His power in our personal demeanor. What we form in words becomes. Do you wish to build up or tear down? Either will be accomplished by what? Words. Either route is developed by one steadfast and common denominator; verbal expression. Ours is the privilege to choose.

This is why it is so important we guard our tongues. The Bible says forests are set on fire by those who just cannot control what they say. Hope is developed by what? Words. Hope is lost by what? Words. The choice is ours. Once we punch the button as to our selection the results are sure; they are neither vague nor neutral. We will deliver construction or destruction; but we will not speak without consequence of good or of evil.”

What a powerful reminder of the strong effects that our words can have. I borrowed these two paragraphs from Terry Rush, Sr., minister for a church in Oklahoma. He does such a wonderful job, with his choice of words, reminding us all of the crucial role we play in the building up or tearing down of others merely using words. The words we choose to speak have more power in them than we often want to acknowledge.

The writer of Proverbs tells us that *“the tongue can bring death or life”* (18:21). James will tell the readers of his book that people all over the world have been able to tame and domesticate all sorts of wild animals, *“but no one can tame the tongue”* (3:8). Maybe this is why Paul writes often about our speech. He brings this up quite a few times in his letters. In Ephesians 4:29 he writes, *“Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.”*

Sticks and stones may break my bones. Yes, I agree with that. But I question the one who proclaims that words will never hurt me. If they are able to build up, the opposite has to be true also. They can hurt and they can tear down. Let us use words that seek to build up others.

-Gilbert

Judging Yourself Unworthy

“The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him. And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, ‘It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles” Acts 13:44-46.

I think at this point, we all know that the Jews and the Gentiles were not exactly best friends. The Jews, believing themselves to be an elite people because of their chosen status, refused to associate with the Gentiles. To be fair Gentiles had been getting the short end of the stick for quite a while.

The idea that God would be inviting Gentiles into his family, which was exactly what he was doing through Paul and Barnabas, would be an unwelcome and shocking revelation. I think that Paul and Barnabas' response to the Jews is particularly unnerving, *“It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold we are turning to the Gentiles.”*

Let us all be thankful that we have been offered an opportunity to have the word of God spoken to us and that we have not thrust it aside. Let us not judge ourselves unworthy, but hold firmly to the word of God!

-Phil

Adoptive Parents needed for College Students

Adoptive parents are needed for our college students! Mindy Hart is organizing a list of adoptive parents for college students for the campus ministry. It's not too late to sign up. Email Mindy by the end of the week at MINDY.L.HART@gmail.com if you can help. Suggested requirements: regular communication with your student (i.e. at church, via email, phone, etc.), an occasional place to do laundry, homework, or have a home-cooked meal. Treats are always welcomed at holidays, finals, and birthdays!

Hattie Coffel is in Home Hospital, room 2311
**Elaine Borie** had sinus surgery last week.... **Steve Cable** continues to rest and heal at home**Charles Willison**, Jim's father had successful gall bladder surgery last Wednesday....**Ty Anderson's** test results were good....**Bailey Anderson** will have tubes inserted in his ears on Monday, Sept. 15....**Janet LaMothe**, Joy Batcha's sister, had successful surgery last week....**Alberta Cagle** Lorraine Weckerly's mother, will have surgery soon to remove her gall bladder....**Courtney Clingenpeel**, a friend of Kelsey Sutherland at Lipscomb University, suffered a stroke last week. An update reports she is now conscious and talking with all life support removed....**Leon Johnson**, Kathy O'Donnell's father, spent most of last week in Home Hospital with complications from his surgery. He is recuperating at Kathy's until his next scheduled appointment....**John Tapscott**, father of TJ Campbell's friend, begins chemotherapy soon**Phyllis Kirby**, sister of Betty Lucas, is in hospice care following a stroke.... Continue praying for **Eugene Zinn, Randi Verett, Jean Stockberger, Lance & Lane Pepper, Valley Stockton** (now permanently at Regency Place), **Mandy Anderson, Christi Everett, Dale Kinser, Eileen Richardson, Kaden Koebecke, Amanda Powlen, Julie Lichty, Pat Johnson, Marge Campbell, Irene Sims, Henrietta Frampton, Marie DeWoody, Paul & Argie Verett, Delpha Allen, Eagle Bailey, Minnie Scott, and Irene Fox.**



Serving in our military: **Philip Devine, Mark Wilson, Shawn Wilson, and Ti Draughon.**

In addition, remember Elmwood's extended family members who have been affected by recent tropical storms and hurricanes in the southeastern United States.

Focus on the Family Programs

Upcoming **Focus on the Family** programs are heard on local radio, WHPL-FM 89.9 at **2:00 PM Monday-Friday.**

- September 11** **As the Towers Were Falling**—In commemoration of Patriot Day, Stanley Praitnath shares his story about his miraculous survival of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.
- September 12** **Lies We Tell Our Children**—Author Chuck Borsellino discusses the lies, cliches and half-truths parents often tell their children, and explains the negative impact this can have on a child's character and beliefs.
- Sept. 15 & 16** **A Father's Commitment to Purity**—Randy Wilson discusses the important role a father plays in his daughter's life, especially as it relates to teaching her about sexual purity. Randy's wife, Lisa, and three daughters join the discussion. (Parts 1 & 2)



Dear Friends,
 Thank you for the lovely potted plant given as a gesture of sympathy for us in the loss of my precious Maxine. Your care and thoughtfulness will not be forgotten.

Sincerely, Jerry Spencer

So many of you have called, prayed, sent cards or said encouraging words — I am humbled. My reports are all clear. I now have 6 more immunotherapy treatments to do and hope that is the end. The Commander-in-chief upstairs is still in charge! Thanks.

-Alan Dale

New addresses



Jan Lucas & Eugene Zinn
 609 Anchor Dr.
 Apt. 103
 Lafayette, 47905

Natasha Risley
 501 N. Jordan Ave.
 7-305
 Bloomington, 47406

September 7, 2008
 Class: 182 Worship: 281
 Contribution: \$9,674

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USING YOUR GIFTS TO HELP OTHERS

We've heard from a pretty reliable source that you're a gifted individual. The Bible makes it clear that God has given all of us special talents and abilities he hopes we'll use to encourage the people around us. Ask yourself a few questions: "What do I like? What am I good at? What types of things interest me?" Those are probably pretty easy questions for you to answer, but here's a tougher one: "How can I use my gifts, talents, and abilities to help others in my school?" Here's an even tougher question: "Am I willing to do it?" God didn't gift you so you'd leave those gifts unopened. He didn't gift you so you'd open the gifts and use them just for yourself. The truth is God gave you your gifts with the expectation that you'll use them to make a difference in the world around you. And it just might be that no place needs you to use your gifts more than your school does.

Are you good at math? Maybe you can tutor someone who's struggling. Are you a good athlete? What if you decided to ask the kid who always gets picked last to be on your team in P.E.? Are you good at encouraging others? How about finding the new kid or the loner and inviting him to eat lunch with you? Do other people look up to you? Think what could happen if you rallied a bunch of your classmates and started a new movement. Like a movement to treat substitute teachers with respect or treat others the way you want to be treated or make the janitor's job easier by picking up your own trash. What if you started a one-person movement? Like a movement to use your God-given gifts, talents, and abilities to make a difference on your campus. Taken from *My School* by Kurt Johnston and Mark Oestreicher.

SEE YOU AT THE POLE

Speaking of making a difference on your campus, *See You at the Pole™* is a great place to **connect with God**, **connect with other believers**, and **connect with your campus** in the name of Christ.

SYATP connects believers together at the beginning of the school year, so you can stand strong together throughout the year. *See You at the Pole™* is all about prayer. It's about you coming together and laying aside all the labels and groups for one day, to simply connect with God in prayer and connect with fellow Christians in unity around the flag pole—whether jocks, preps, geeks, sophomores, or seniors.

So are you ready to connect? Are you ready to say, Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening? Join your generation **Wednesday, September 24, at 7 a.m., GATHER** at your school flagpole. **PRAY** for your school, friends, families, and world. **CONNECT.** Listen as He speaks to you.

LIFE GROUPS

Life groups begin on this Sunday, September 14. As of this writing, we still have a few openings for host families. Would your family like to host a teen LIFE group one Sunday evening? You don't have to have teens; Barb Newberry and the Kerrigans are planning to host. Let me know!

-Lee



for Phil & Katy, September 21

Phil & Katy Travis were married August 30 in Michigan and are now back in Lafayette. To honor them and welcome Katy to Elmwood, Phyllis & Erin Simmerman and Chris & Kelsey Sutherlin are hosting a wedding shower for them at the Simmerman home, 415 Oaklawn Dr., Lafayette, on **Sunday, September 21, from 2:00 until 4:00.** Money for a group gift may be given to Phyllis, Erin, Chris or Kelsey.

Prayer Partners 2008

Do you want to help school-aged students (K-12) grow in Jesus and lean on Him throughout their lives? It's not too late to commit to being a Prayer Partner for one of Elmwood's students. Call Christi Branstetter at 423-5650 for more information.

Faith is...
thanking God when I am left with
shattered plans,
that He has better plans.

Pamela Reeve



- Sept. 10, 5:50 PM....Good \$ense Class with Janet Boston
- Sept. 10, 7 PM....Bible classes
- Sept. 14, 6 PM....LIFE Groups begin
- Sept. 21, 2-4 PM....Wedding shower for Phil & Katy at the Simmermans' home, 415 Oaklawn Dr.
- Sept. 23, 7 PM....Dynamic Marriage course introductory meeting. See Bill or Carol Bell for details.

Read:
 Isaiah 43-61
 Eph. 4-6; Philippians

2008 Spiritual Adventure

Week 39: September 22-28


Hallelujah! What a Savior!

I recently heard about someone who gave up on Christianity when he discovered that his new life didn't mean his troubles would disappear. I was reminded of this conversation when I completed this Spiritual Adventure.

Every time I read Isaiah 53, I experience a number of emotions—grief, joy, humility, awe. The lesson I gleaned from it this time is this: Christ doesn't require us to suffer anything that he hasn't himself experienced. Christ was the son of the Most High God! If anyone was going to be immune from troubles by following God's will, it should have been Him. But God wanted us to have a savior who could honestly say to us as we grieve, "Let me comfort you. I've been there too." Hallelujah!

Paul reminds us in his letter to the Ephesians that we are required to continue on, even in times of trial, *because of His suffering*. Will we have a hard time giving up past habits? Absolutely! Will we find ourselves feeling angry at times? Absolutely! Will we struggle with our tongue at times? Absolutely! Will we face tough relationships and struggle with Christ's approach to treating people? Of course we will! But our joy is in the fact that we're not in it alone, and we're not in it with a Savior who can't relate. Of course He can!

Eugene Peterson, author of *The Message*, believes Philippians, the final passage of the week's adventure, to be "Paul's happiest letter...[but] none of his circumstances contribute to his joy: He wrote from a jail cell, his work was under attack by competitors, and after twenty years or so of hard traveling in the service of Jesus, he was tired and would have welcomed some relief!" Paul shows us what it's like to face trials and struggles and to still be overflowing with joy. Christ never called us to a life free of hardships. What he did call us to is a life of joy in spite of hardship. "Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows²." In that, we can truly rejoice. -Kate Kerrigan

Weekly Schedule	Elders	World Missions
Sunday Worship 8:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Life Groups 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	Bill Bell 463-1139 Joe Mathews 474-8369 Rick Swensen 463-6822 Don Vice 471-8653 <div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 5px;"> Staff </div> Ministers Gilbert Kerrigan 418-3652 Lee Porter 463-6993 Phil Travis 447-2874 Office 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
 Our Vision: Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known.		

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