



The No Complaining Challenge

Do everything without complaining or arguing...
~ Philippians 2:14

Let's face it. For the most part, most people (including myself) complain a lot. Our complaints may vary from person to person. The severity of our complaints may vary from person to person. But the fact of the matter is that we complain a lot, and find it fairly easy to do so.

A friend of mine who works in the school system recently told me that he avoids, at all cost, eating in the teacher's lounge. The reason? Because there is so much complaining and arguing going on in there, and usually the complaints are over some of the most simple things. It is easy to get sucked into the complaints and arguments, so my friend tries his best to avoid the teacher's lounge.

Churches are no different. We complain. We argue. And we find it fairly easy to do so. I am tempted to list some of the silly (*my own opinion!*) complaints I have heard recently, but that would only make things worse – not better. By listing them I would only be complaining. Wow! I can't even write an article about not complaining without being tempted to complain about silly complaints. This is tough.

What if we really took these words of Paul to heart? What if we really decided we were going to do everything without complaining or arguing? What would happen? I want to find out. Here is my challenge: For a full week, do everything without complaining and arguing. Is it possible? I want to know. Send me an email, or catch me on Sunday and tell me about your progress. I'll do the same. Let's all commit to "The *No Complaining* Challenge."
-Gilbert

Our vision: Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known.

Vision

The word vision has a few different meanings. It can mean eyesight, or it can mean something seen in a dream. Vision can also mean having the ability to see not what is but what might be. This is the sense that is vital to the growth of a company. It is one skill required in interior design or remodeling, and it is a skill that is necessary for personal, spiritual development.

We have a stated vision at Elmwood: "Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known." As a community, our actions should be held up to the vision statement and examined to see if our worship, our activities, and our ministries fulfill our vision of knowing Christ and making Christ known. This process is necessary to keep us focused on our goal, and continuing the path of our vision.

Vision is not only necessary for the community, it is vital to personal development as well. Many of us know the story of the rich young man found in Matthew 19:16-30. Jesus tells the young man that he must give away his possessions in order to follow him. Jesus has a vision for the young man's life: that he might be able to follow Christ and receive all that entails. Unfortunately, the young man was not able to accept that vision.

What is God's vision for your life? Do you have the courage to ask that question and to make the sacrifices necessary to follow the path that vision lays out?
-Phil

Jan Lucas had surgery on Friday to remove a malignant mass surrounding her spine to relieve pressure. She is doing amazingly well and went home on Tuesday. Jan and her daughter, Chris, will consult with an oncologist on Friday....After discovering cancer in her lymph nodes as well, doctors will begin a long and aggressive chemotherapy and radiation on **Diann Doty** soon....**Terry Spenard** had surgery on Monday morning to remove a plate and screws from surgery on his shoulder last year....**Herb Whiteman**, Vicki Henke's father, had angioplasty surgery on Friday....**Justin Thomas**, brother of Thelma Hoyt, suffered a heart attack last week. He is in St. Vincent's Hospital in Indianapolis....Continue praying for the following people who are recovering from surgeries or have chronic illness: **Pete Swank, Rose Hunt, Dick Mow, Myrtle Hale, Janet Achor, Joe Henn** (*Peter Tavana's grandfather*), **Mary Tavana, Landyn Martin** (*infant of Chris & Jesse*), **Ted Heitman, Annie Crowder, Delores Hill, Elizabeth Tinkle, Hattie Coffel** (*Rosewalk Village, room 227*), **Agnes Schubert** (*Hedi Devine's mother*), **Cherie Hanson** (*Kay Tavana's sister*), **Dick Stout, Eric Waltz** (*Bob's brother*), **Dorothy Walters, Eileen Richardson, Phyllis Gray, Irene Fox** (*George Davis Manor*), **Wanita White, Willie Batts, Ethel Cable & Edith McCoy** (*Digby House*), **Lance & Lane Pepper, Eugene Zinn, Kaden Koebecke, Margie Campbell, Valley Stockton** (*Regency Place*), **Irene Sims, Henrietta Frampton, Marie DeWoody, Paul & Argie Verett, Delpha Allen, and Minnie Scott.**

Shawn Wilson, nephew of Armilda & Bernie Follick, will be home this Saturday, February 21! Praise God!



New Sunday AM Class

In room 201, upstairs, **Wanita White** will be starting a study of Revelation with several women during Sunday morning class. If you would be interested in joining them, call 426-6325.

Snow Servants



The snow servant this week (2/8-14) for light snow removal is **David Weckerly, 765-564-4155.**

Wedding Shower at the Browns' home

On **March 15, 2-4 PM**, Betty Brown and hostesses, Mindy Hart and Vicky Martin, will host a wedding shower for **Courtney Buss and Craig Hodges** at Betty and Chuck's home, 3530 E. 200 N., Lafayette. Contribution for a group gift may be given to Betty, Mindy and/or Vicky. Come and extend your congratulations and best wishes to the newly-weds-to-be. Their wedding will be April 4 in Jeffersonville, Indiana.

Important Tax Reporting Information for 2009

Under current IRS regulations, any contributions made to the Elmwood Church of Christ must be documented if you intend to claim it as a charitable deduction on your Individual Federal Tax Return.

Elmwood has chosen to respond to this requirement as follows:

Contribution by check over \$250 - A dated receipt letter will be provided by Elmwood in January of the following year.

Contribution by check under \$250 - Your canceled check will be your receipt. No documentation is provided by Elmwood.

Cash Contributions - When received in the provided envelope with the contributors name, a dated receipt acknowledgment from Elmwood will be provided in January of the following year.

This is not a change from our past procedure but a confirmation reminder as we begin a new tax year. If you have any questions or comments please see the elders or treasurer, Bill Hodges.

On the Radio

Be sure to tell friends and family that **Gilbert Kerrigan** is heard on **WAZY, 96.5**, every **Sunday morning at 7:30**. They will enjoy his messages!

February 15, 2009
Class: 205 Worship: 297
Contribution: \$6,254

ELMWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST newsletter (USPS 758-630) is published weekly, except the week of Christmas, by the Elmwood Church of Christ, 2501 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette 47904. Periodical postage paid at Lafayette, IN. POSTMASTER: send address changes to ELMWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST, 2501 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette, IN 47904.



Winterfest 2009

Gatlinburg Convention Center – February 20-22

What to bring and other important info:

We plan to meet at the Elmwood building at 5:00 AM Friday the 20th. We will be staying at Riverside Motor Lodge, 715 Parkway, www.riversidehotels.com; we will probably have breakfast supplies for Sat. and Sun. and lunch on Saturday...this will help keep costs down. Cost of the room and travel is \$85 per person. Checks need to be made to Elmwood. Please eat breakfast before you come or bring it with you on Friday...also bring a sack lunch – this also helps hold down costs. We will have ice chests with us for your drinks. You will be responsible for dinner on Friday, dinner on Saturday and lunch on Sunday. The only other money you should need is for CD's (singing groups), miniature golf, attractions (Ripley's Believe It Or Not, etc.), and souvenirs, if you want them – this is where we have had fun photos made in the past. We will return some time Sunday afternoon/evening. Teen LIFE Groups will not meet on the 22nd. We will have a phone with us, so we will be able to call parents to let them know our approximate arrival time on Sunday. Any questions, give me a call. Lee's #'s are office: 447-2874, home: 463-6993, cell: 491-6483 (AT&T).

Bring:

1. Toiletry items
2. Comfortable clothes for two days, dress clothes not needed for Sunday
3. Comfortable walking shoes!
4. Bible
5. Permission slip (from e-mail or pick one up at the office)
6. \$85 for hotel and travel (cash preferred)
7. Personal, snack and meal money
8. Breakfast and sack lunch and drink for Friday
9. Drinks and snacks for the road if you want them
10. Christ-like attitude

The permission to treat forms and permission to miss school forms are in your e-mail or you may pick up copies at the church office.

Yep, I'm a Grandpa

Actually, I'm a GP...that's what they intend to teach Tildon to call me. Tildon Lee Hottmann was born Friday, February 13 at 10:13 pm. He weighed in at 5 lbs. and 4 oz. and is 17.75 inches long. Jessica and Nick are doing well; actually, Tildon is too...he just needs to get the hang of eating more before they will let him go home. Of course I have pictures...just ask me! Thanks for all your prayers.

– Lee

It's a Boy!



Tildon Lee was born to **Jessica & Nick Hottmann** on Friday, February 13, weighing 5 pounds 4 ounces, and measuring 17.75 inches long. Grandpa and Grandma, **Lee & Sharon Porter**, were there to welcome him. Born a few weeks early, he still has a little catching up to do before he comes home. Their address is 3585 Grafton St., Lake Orion, MI 48359. Congratulations to all!

Women's Retreat February 27-28 Lisa Crowe, speaking!

The **Women's Retreat** is **Friday, February 27 from 6:30 PM until 9:00 PM, and Saturday, February 28, from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM at Elmwood.** This will be the last weekend to sign up; please see Terri Miller between services in the Farris Foyer to register and pay \$10.00 for lunch, and pick up information if you haven't already. *(Extra lunches will be ordered for those with last minute change of plans.)*

We are so excited to have **Lisa Crowe** sharing "**Lessons from Luke and Acts.**" *Lisa encourages women to read both Luke and Acts between now and the time of the retreat. Focus on the themes of prayer, believing women, the Holy Spirit, and the rich and the poor. You may want to make notes during your study to enhance group discussions during the retreat.*

Please consider sharing Friday evening and all day Saturday with your sisters in Christ and enjoy the fellowship, singing, food, and fun!



February 18, 7 PM....Bible classes for all
February 20-22....Youth Winterfest in Gatlinburg
February 22, 6 PM....LIFE Groups meet
February 27-28....Women's Retreat at Elmwood,
Lisa Crowe, speaker. Call or sign up by this weekend.
April 10-12....Leadership Training for Christ
June 8-12, 6-8 PM....Vacation Bible School

Read:
Numbers 1-15;
Acts 9:1-13:23

2009 Spiritual Adventure

Week 10: March 2-8

His Spiritual family






The scriptures I was given for this week presented a daunting task. Numbers 1 – 15 is basically a census. How boring is that? As I read more closely the scriptures referred to the people as tribes or clans - or groupings of families. Reading of these scriptures began to spark an interest because of my recent encounters with family history through my leisure time readings as well as my exposure to a recent PBS documentary.

I noticed in my leisure reading that every book I've read in the past year was comprised of a lead character that was in some way separated from their family or clan, and they spent the duration of the story trying to get back to the family. The PBS special I referred to was about a handful of famous African Americans who were studying genealogy. They were trying to find out about their family histories and where they came from in Africa. It was interesting to me that though the characters in question may have initially left their families to escape poverty, alcoholism, etc., they still have a longing to reconnect with family.

Among the verses in Acts 9 – 13, God seeks to bring the spiritual family of God together through Christ. Paul is converted on the road to Damascus; Peter is converted to the idea of bringing God to every tribe/clan/family. Additionally I found in **Ephesians 2:19-22 (NIV)** the writer states "*fellow citizens you are not aliens but fellow citizens of God's household*" and in **Colossians 2:2 (NIV)** a more sentimental statement: "*This is what I have asked of God for you: that you will be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love, and that you will have the rich experience of knowing Christ*".....

In the end God tries to make clear to us in both the Old and New Testament, whether writing for the purpose of census keeping or writing with the emphasis on forming spiritual ties, family is important. God seeks to accept every clan or tribe into His spiritual family.

-Susie Swensen

 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  Staff 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.		



2501 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette, IN 47904
 (765) 447-2874 (765) 447-0878 FAX
 E-mail: office@elmwood-church.org
 www.elmwood-church.org

Christian Student Center
 PURDUE UNIVERSITY
 115 Waldron Street
 W. Lafayette, IN 47906

