



From *Forgiven* to *Forgiving*

Followers of Jesus can be characterized many different ways. We have many different traits. I would hope that if someone outside of the church were to be asked to describe Christians that they would say things like, “*Christians are people who love, people who have hope, people of the Word, people of peace, etc...*” I know that if I were asked the same question that would be my response. I pray that we are known for our love, our hope, our peace, and our obedience to the Word.

As I look over that list, though, I realize that there is something missing. There is a characteristic that I often overlook when I am describing the traits of a Jesus follower. It is one that is often left off of my list, but is one that I believe is always on God’s list. What is that trait? I believe it is being people who forgive. Notice I did not say, “people who are forgiven,” as true as that is, rather I said, “people who forgive.”

One thing that Jesus makes crystal clear is that forgiven people forgive others. As a matter of fact, this is such an important characteristic of Jesus followers that Jesus says our own forgiveness is based on our ability, or inability to forgive others. Immediately following his model prayer in Matthew, Jesus says, “*For if you forgive others when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins*” (6:14-15).

In his book, ***A Community Called Atonement***, Scot McKnight comments on this passage by saying, “*Jesus connects our forgiveness from God and our forgiveness of others – and they are so connected that if we don’t forgive others, God won’t forgive us.*” A few sentences later he writes, “*The atoning God creates a community of atonement.*” Another way of putting that is by saying that the forgiving God creates a community (church) that forgives others.

Are we known as a people who forgive? I sure pray that is true of us. Is there someone in your life that you need to forgive today?

~Gilbert

Who Am I? by Casting Crowns

Who am I, that the Lord of all the earth

Would care to know my name

Would care to feel my hurt

Who am I, that the Bright and Morning Star

Would choose to light the way

For my ever wandering heart

Not because of who I am

But because of what You’ve done

Not because of what I’ve done

But because of who You are

I am a flower quickly fading

Here today and gone tomorrow

A wave tossed in the ocean

A vapor in the wind

Still You hear me when I’m calling

Lord, You catch me when I’m falling

And You’ve told me who I am

I am Yours, I am Yours

If you have seen the 1977 “Powers of Ten” short documentary you may have an understanding of how small we are compared to the rest of God’s creation. And yet, as the words of the song above say, “Still you hear me when I’m calling. Lord, you catch me when I’m falling. And You’ve told me who I am, I am Yours.” How great it is to be a treasured part of God’s creation!

-Phil

Diann Doty did not have surgery last week as planned. She will, however, begin chemotherapy in about 3 weeks....**Jan Lucas** is recovering at home. She sees her oncologist on Wednesday to learn the plan of treatment....**Ray Peden** is recovering at Seton (located in St. Elizabeth Hospital) from heart surgery last week....**David Brutans**, son-in-law of Shirley Farmer, will have surgery to remove a mass in his colon. Doctors don't know yet if it is malignant....**Mattie Bower**, a 6-year-old girl from West Point, has suffered numerous strokes from a blood clot in her brain....Continue praying for the following people who are recovering from surgeries or have chronic illness: **Mandy Doty** (*pneumonia*), **Terry Spenard**, **Justin Thomas**, **Pete Swank**, **Rose Hunt**, **Dick Mow**, **Joe Henn** (*Peter Tavana's grandfather*), **Mary Tavana**, **Landyn Martin** (*infant of Chris & Jesse*), **Ted Heitman**, **Annie Crowder**, **Elizabeth Tinkle**, **Hattie Coffel** (*Rosewalk Village, room 227*), **Cherie Hanson** (*Kay Tavana's sister*), **Dick Stout**, **Eric Waltz** (*Bob's brother*), **Dorothy Walters**, **Phyllis Gray**, **Irene Fox** (*George Davis Manor*), **Willie Batts**, **Ethel Cable & Edith McCoy** (*Digby House*), **Eugene Zinn**, **Kaden Koebecke**, **Margie Campbell**, **Valley Stockton** (*Regency Place*), **Irene Sims**, **Marie DeWoody**, **Paul & Argje Verett**, **Delpha Allen**, and **Minnie Scott**. Pauletta Smith writes (about her cousin and his son), "Thanks for the prayers on behalf of Lane and Lance Pepper. Lane's cancer is currently in remission, and he is back working. Lance is currently doing well also." Praise the Lord!



Shawn Wilson, nephew of Armilda & Bernie Follick, had his homecoming from Iraq delayed by a few days. His parents were picking him up on Tuesday, February 24, in Indianapolis!

Wedding Shower at the Browns' home

On **Sunday, March 15, 2:00 until 4:00 PM**, Betty Brown and hostesses, Mindy Hart and Vicky Martin, will host a wedding shower for **Courtney Buss and Craig Hodges** at the home of Betty and Chuck Brown, 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.



Eileen Richardson, Teri Richardson's mother, died Wednesday, February 18. She had been ill for some time and taking mild chemotherapy treatments for ovarian cancer. Teri was caregiver for her mother and father (before his death in 2006) for several years. Eileen's funeral was Saturday in Boswell, Indiana. Our sincere sympathies to Teri and her brother and sister, Gary and Jill.

Agnes Schubert, 81, Hedi Devine's mother, died Monday, February 23, in Germany. She had battled cancer for some time. Hedi, Philip and his wife, Loretta, visited her in January. Karen and her infant son, Kai, visited her mother in December. Her funeral will be Friday in Germany. Our sympathies to Hedi and her father and extended family.



The **food pantry** is always in need of personal items: **soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste & toothbrushes, and toilet paper.** We appreciate any donations you make.



Snow Servants



The snow servants this week (2/22-28) for light snow removal are **Jim & Carol Bailey, 447-6741.**

It's a Boy!

Former Elmwood members, **Butch & Beth Lewis**, have added to their family. Their baby boy, **Aydon**, was born February 18, weighing 7 lbs. 14 oz. and measured 21.5 inches long. They now live in Colorado where Beth has joined a veterinary practice as a surgeon.

*God is good...
all the time
All the time...
God is good*

February 22, 2009
Class: 176 Worship: 281
Contribution: \$\$4,951



MWLTC is Coming!

The annual Midwest Leadership Training for Christ convention, April 10-12, 2009 will be here before we know it. Please be reminded that: 1) everyone who is not a 3rd – 12th grade participant is an observer (ages 0 – 99) and you will need to register as such. You may do that online yourself at www.mwltc.org, or if you will let Carol Bell know at the office, we can take care of you, too. You may register at the convention, but it takes longer. 2) Students should have already registered to get their free T-shirts, but we have you covered...however, please register for your events – today! 3) The deadline for pre-convention events (Bible Class Teaching, Christian Website Design, Christian Writing, Radio Minute Message, and Video Bible Drama) is March 2. If you have done any of these events and want the church to submit them, please get them to me by Sunday March 1. 4) All Challenge Events (Leadership, Outreach, Scripture, and Service) are due by March 27. If you have any questions, please ask!

– Lee

Winterfest 2009 – Love God/Love Others



Women's Retreat

February 27-28

Lisa Crowe, speaking!

The **2009 Women's Retreat** will be held this weekend, **February 27 and 28**. The retreat will begin Friday evening at 6:30 pm sharp in the auditorium. Friday's session will conclude at 9:00 PM; however, women are encouraged to stay afterwards for fun and games. The retreat will reconvene at 8:00 AM Saturday morning. Women are encouraged to eat a light breakfast before they come; however, snacks will be available during breaks. Lunch will be brought to our building. The retreat should conclude around 4:00 PM. All women should bring a favorite snack food to share, a Bible, and a notebook and pen. Please read through the books of Luke and Acts in prayerful preparation for Lisa's teaching. Prayers are requested from everyone at Elmwood for a meaningful retreat this year. Currently there are 69 women registered for this retreat, but more are welcome. If you have any questions, or still need to register, call Terri Miller at 471-1045.



Dear Elmwood family,
 Thank you for your wonderful prayers and kind thoughts. I really appreciate those who came by and held my hand and prayed with and for me. A special thank you to those who visited with me, and those who cooked or baked for my family and myself. May God bless each of you for each of you is very special. You are wonderful,

Diann Doty & family



February 25, 7 PM....Bible classes for all
February 27-28....Women's Retreat at Elmwood,
March 1, 6 PM....Worship in song at Elmwood,
 Finger Foods to follow
March 15, 2-4 PM....Wedding shower for **Courtney Buss & Craig Hodges** at Betty & Chuck Brown's home
April 10-12....Leadership Training for Christ
June 8-12, 6-8 PM....Vacation Bible School

Read:
Numbers 16-31;
Acts 13:24-17:15






2009 Spiritual Adventure

Week 11: March 9-15

God's Goodness

Reading the stories of Israel's wanderings in the desert has always been a frustration for me. I cannot wrap my mind around how a people who have seen the power of God can continue to reject his commands and his servant Moses. They were witnesses to the plagues of Egypt; they were led by pillars of clouds and fire; they crossed the Red Sea; and throughout their wanderings in the desert they were provided with the miracle of the manna. Despite all that, we read this week about how the Israelites confronted Moses multiple times claiming that he had led them to their destruction. Even after Korah and his followers were swallowed up by the Earth, the Israelites despised Moses. Venomous snakes invaded the camp, but their hearts were still hard. The Lord delivered their enemies into their hands, yet the people sinned sexually with their enemies in worship to false gods.

It is very easy to read these passages and condemn the Israelites. Yet we are guilty of the same things in our own era. The Lord did deliver the Israelites from slavery and led them through the desert, but we were given a far greater miracle. We know that God sent Himself in His Son to Earth to suffer and to die for our sins. We have acknowledged this and have committed ourselves to a new life through baptism, yet we still reject him and continue to sin. We sit and wonder why bad things happen; we blame God, and when we pray and things do not go our way, we say that God has not answered our prayers. We forget that every good thing in our lives came from God in the first place. He has led us out of the slavery of sin, and He has sent His Spirit to lead us through the desert and hardships of this world. Let us not lose sight of God's goodness. Let us not make the same mistakes that the Israelites made. —Joshua Stafford

 <i>Weekly Schedule</i>	 <i>Elders</i>	 <i>World Missions</i>
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: #4F81BD; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 5px;"> <i>Staff</i></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.		

 **Elmwood**
 CHURCH OF CHRIST
 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

Periodical
 Postage
PAID
 at
 Lafayette, IN