



The Minimally Decent Samaritan

*For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works...
~ Eph. 2:10*

I am a huge Seinfeld fan. In the final two episodes ever created Jerry and the gang find themselves in pretty hot water. While taking a trip to Paris their private jet makes an emergency landing in Lathan, Massachusetts, for some much needed repairs. As they are waiting for their jet to be repaired they decide to tour the little town.

Walking down the sidewalk they notice a gentleman getting robbed across the street. Being from New York they find this quite humorous and Kramer even starts video taping the whole event. They all get a pretty good laugh at this poor victim's expense.

As the cop is interviewing the victim, Jerry notices the victim is pointing at them and the cop does not look happy. Next thing you know the gang is being approached by the cop. He pulls out his handcuffs and starts arresting all four of them.

Elaine says, "No. No. No. We didn't do anything." To which the officer says, "That is exactly right!" Apparently they had broken the Good Samaritan Law; a law that requires helping or assisting a victim if it poses no threat to the bystander.

I have become real good at not doing anything wrong, and the trap that I have fallen into is the belief that not doing anything wrong is the same as doing good. Truthfully, there is a huge difference. Not doing anything wrong is just that - not doing anything wrong. It does not mean that I am, therefore, doing something good.

I have heard this described as the difference between the *minimally decent Samaritan* and the *good Samaritan*. The former sees a guy on the shoulder of the interstate working on a flat tire, so he swerves to the outside lane to avoid hitting the stranded traveler. The latter pulls over to lend a hand. Neither of them did anything wrong, but only one of them actually did something good.

Many of us have become good at not doing anything wrong. But God does not call us to be people who do nothing wrong. He calls us to be people who do good works.
-Gilbert

Dangerous

"Salvation is free, ... but discipleship will cost you your life."
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

*"Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness... But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life"
(Romans 6:16-18;22).*

Bonhoeffer knew the cost of discipleship as he lived out a life of discipleship amidst the horrors of Nazi Germany. Bonhoeffer was one of the few Christian leaders that actively worked against the government in power and as a result, he was executed in April 1945, just weeks before the capture of Berlin.

Bonhoeffer believed that Christianity was dangerous for the Christian to live out. He believed that Christianity required more from people than just going to church. God calls his people to action, even when inaction may be a safer course.

The Christian life is a dangerous one. As slaves to God, we have given up our lives for righteousness. Are you living dangerously?
-Phil

Oscar Miller had knee surgery (the 7th surgery) at St. Vincent's Hospital on Monday. After a few days he will be transferred to rehab for about 10 days of therapy....**Ann Vaught** continues to recover from knee replacement surgery at home....**Charles Carter** continues to receive hospice care....**Barbara Lane** will see a doctor about her ankle problems this week.... **Ginger Maxwell-Spenard** will have surgery on Monday, June 8 ...Continue praying for **Pete Swank, Dick Waterstraat, Diann Doty, Jan Lucas, David Fulkerson, David Brutans, Charles Moore, Eloise Shank, Hattie Coffel, Mary Tavana, Ted Heitman, Annie Crowder, Dorothy Walters, Irene Fox, Edith McCoy, Eugene Zinn, Kaden Koebecke, Valley Stockton, Irene Sims, Marie DeWoody, Paul & Argie Verett, and Minnie Scott.**

Christi, Brent, Daniel, & Olivia Branstetter ask for our prayers as their family and a group of Christi's students travel through France, June 4-15.

In the military: **Josh Martin** (Phyllis Simmerman's nephew), **Brent Kaufman**, and **Matt Kaufman** (nephews of Ronda Tidrick) are serving in Iraq.



Thank you so much for keeping our brother, Justin Thomas, in your daily prayers. Justin, as well as all the family, appreciated all your personal prayers, thoughts and calls on his behalf. He is home now and doing much better.

-Thelma Hoyt for the Thomas family

Weekly Prayer Focus

June Prayer Focus: Elmwood Youth

Summer is not only a time of fun, it is a time of transition. As Josh and Phil mentioned last month, college students are making transitions (some graduated, some are home for the summer, etc.). Similarly, we have students who have graduated from high school and are now looking toward college, or work, or just what to do in life in general. We have students who will move from Jr. High or Middle School to High School--and that's a whole new world. We have students who will be moving from Elementary to Jr. High and they will be faced with lots of new things. We also have students who will be entering school for the first time ever. While these students will not be going to class for a couple of months, prayer for them to make a smooth transition is needed now. God has blessed us with some special young people here at Elmwood; thank you for making it a priority of taking them before the Father's throne.

Update from Women's Steering Committee

Our first Summer Tea will be held on Saturday, June 27 from 1:00 to 2:30. Please indicate on the yellow cards during services this Sunday, June 7 and June 14 if you would like to attend or be a hostess for this event. Ladies are encouraged to host 6 to 8 women in their homes and to keep preparations very simple; we want to keep the focus on fellowship and sharing. We are all busy women and do not want this to be stressful for those who are kind enough to open their homes to their Christian sisters. Hostesses will be asked to furnish drinks only, and will be given conversation topics that will help us to get to know each other and faith sharing. Hostesses will be notified of ladies who will come to their homes a week before the tea. Participants are encouraged to bring finger foods of some kind to share. Any questions, or if you cannot sign up during the next two weekends but want to host or attend, call Terri Miller at 471-1045 to be added to the list.

Upcoming events:

We will go to Tippecanoe Villa to play Bingo with the residents on June 23 and July 21. This will be one of our service projects this summer. Save the dates! More information will be forthcoming.

Thank You!

Our 5 year olds collect food for the pantry every week. When our basket is full, John meets us there and lets the kids put them away on the shelves. This is a highlight of our class.

-Susan Hodges, teacher

Pictured with John Stafford are Harris Collins, Rashelle Parson, Ethan Barrett, & Spencer Pitt.



May 31, 2009

Class: 183 Worship: 325

Contribution: \$9,159

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.



Weird

In the Wednesday Night Youth Class, I've started talking about "weird" stuff. Usually, when we think of "weird" we think of strange or unusual things. Like when you go to a county fair and you see the Bearded Lady or Lobster Boy... and that's just the people in line with you waiting for the next ride. But, if you look up the word "weird" in the dictionary you will find another definition of the word. You will find that it actually involves or suggests the supernatural. So, for the purpose of the Bible class, we defined it as, "suggestive or being influenced by God."

The Bible is full of "weird" stories. Lots and lots of stories that have God's fingerprints all over them. Have you read some of these stories before? There's Balaam and the talking Donkey; Ehad and the Fat King; Jael and the Tent Peg; Samson and the Donkey Jaw; Elisha and the Bears; the Valley of Dry Bones; and so many more. If you don't recognize some of these, then I encourage you to pick up your Bible and read them.

But, what about you? Are you weird? Has your life been weird? If you have allowed your life to be influenced by God then I would say you are pretty weird. If you have a problem and your first instinct is to pray, then I would say you are pretty weird. If something great happens to you and you automatically rejoice and thank God, then yes, you are weird. I bet you have some weird stories to tell. I thank God that He is in our lives and He is working through us. I thank God for being weird.

-Randy Kerrigan

***Our vision:
Knowing Christ,
Making Christ Known***

Vacation Bible School June 8-12, 6-8 PM



YOU make VBS happen! It's not too late to send post cards inviting your friends and neighbors to our VBS. They are available throughout the church building. Be sure to register your children as well as others you know who will be participating. The forms are here at the church building.

Your help is still needed as Michelle and Dana wind up the decoration preparations. There are 3 work sessions left: **this Wednesday, June 3, at 6:00 PM; Saturday, June 6, 9:30 AM; and Sunday, June 7, set up after the 2nd morning worship service.**

Matrix Lifeline Pregnancy Center thanks Elmwood

How exciting it is for us to see how the *Showers of Flowers* displays come back to us in full bloom! Thank you for helping us to honor and encourage young mothers. With your help, Matrix staff and volunteers can show them the love of Jesus. The circumstances of their pregnancy may be difficult, but all moms, dads and babies are precious and valuable in God's sight. Thank you for sharing to help keep babies in our community safe and healthy. Elmwood members generously gave \$1,055!

In His Service, Sallie Janowiak



June 3, 6:00 PM...Creating VBS decor
June 3, 7 PM...Bible classes for all
June 7, 6 PM...VBS Prayer Walk
June 8-12, 6-8 PM...Vacation Bible School

Read:
I Kings 16-II Kings 11;
Matthew 11-14

2009 Spiritual Adventure

Week 25: June 15-21

Faithful Servant

Our Spiritual Adventure journey this week is not only amazing, interesting and breath taking, but most importantly builds our Faith in God. Our God is just simply **indescribable** when it comes to **His children's well being**. In our reading this week taken from I Kings 17 - II Kings, we read about the incredible God-led journey of Elijah (name meaning "The Lord is my God").

As we read the text one thing is very clear, Elijah is an obedient servant of our Lord. God instructs Elijah where to go, who will take care of his needs and what to do. What continues to stand out to us is that Elijah moves from place to place without questioning our Lord's instructions, and most importantly serves and obeys our Lord without hesitation. In Chapter 19 we do read of a tired and frustrated servant (Elijah). But God shows again, that He cares for His servants in moments of triumph and defeat. He remains present with those who trust Him.

I would like to share some thoughts taken from Max Lucado. I hope this leads you in deeper thought about the love our God has for us. We serve the God who designed the universe and set our world in motion. But those hands that hung the stars in the heavens also wiped the tears of the widow and the leper, and they will wipe away your tears as well.

There has never been a time in the history of this globe when there was not a rain cloud somewhere on the earth. There may be blue skies for us occasionally, but the rain always comes. So, instead of looking for ways to escape problems look for methods to face them head on. From the inspirational Bible, "Sorrow," we read, "Father you are God and creator, but we come to you as children coming to their father, as children who would ask their father to hold and comfort them, hoping to receive words of wisdom." Our God wants us to Love and to Obey Him. He is always present, always listening, always providing, but we need to provide to him our love and faithfulness. Keep on reading God's word! He continues to smile on us. J
-Kevin and Marilyn Walters

Weekly Schedule

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.

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 Knowing Christ,
 Making Christ Known.

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