



To Pray is to Change

I was once told that to pray is to change. Yes, prayer is supposed to change us, but that is not what this person was saying. He was saying that prayer put into motion changes the world. That is the power of prayer, and if we don't believe that then why pray at all? To pray is to change the world around us. Do you believe that?

Jim McGuiggan retells a rather humorous story that had been told to him. Whether true or not, this story teaches us a lesson about prayer. He says: *I've just recently been told (though I'm not sure it's to be taken as historical fact) that in a small mid-western conservative town in the USA, a newcomer decided to build a bar/tavern. A local church started a campaign to block the opening with petitions and prayers. The petitions failed, however, and so did the prayers and the work progressed right up to the week before opening; that's when lightning struck the bar and burned it to the ground.*

The church folks were all smiles ("Prayer works!" they told each other, "even if it takes a bit longer than expected!"). They congratulated one another until the bar owner sued the church on the grounds that it was ultimately responsible for the destruction of his property.

The church hired a lawyer and denied they had anything to do with the destruction of the building. The judge looked over the paperwork at the hearing and commented, "I don't know how I'm going to decide this, but as it appears from the paperwork, we have a bar owner that believes in the power of prayer and an entire church congregation that doesn't!"

We talked about prayer a few weeks ago in a sermon. The sermon was about the Rhodas in our lives that point out the work of God. We need those people in our lives because we don't often believe the things we pray for will actually come about. We desperately need to believe in the power of prayer to change the world. I love how McGuiggan closes out this story. He closes by saying, *"Now there's something about that little story that leaves me uneasy but I can't quite put my finger on it."*

-Gilbert

Being Thankful

As we near Thanksgiving, I, of course, am drawn to think about what I am thankful for. It is a yearly ritual in America that reminds us that we have been blessed.

As I think about being thankful, I am reminded that thankfulness is not just a reaction to a blessing. Our natural impulse is not necessarily to be thankful, instead we tend to feel entitled.

Being thankful is a decision, one that may be difficult for some of us, but one that is important. I have known some people who are continually thankful for the things they have in their lives and the things that they experience. I also know people who tend to complain about their situations rather than look for the good in them. Sometimes, I fit into both of those descriptions!

What I have found is that those who are thankful, even when it seems like there is nothing to be thankful for, move through this life with more grace and love for those around them. Those who decide not to be thankful tend to make life difficult for themselves and those they love.

In James 1:2-4 it says *"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."*

James implies that we should be thankful, even for hardships. What are you going to choose to be thankful for this week?

-Phil



David Brutans has had another setback and is in intensive care at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis....**Hardy Hunt**, uncle of Dave Hunt, is receiving hospice care in Tennessee....Continue praying for **Andrea Browell** (*will have treatment in coming weeks*), **Beth Holt**, **Vickie Sanders**, **Dick Waterstraat**, **Gene High**, **John Ruckh** (*has begun chemo treatments*), **Jim Kiefner**, **Bud Darby**, **Kaden Koebcke**, **Delores Hill**, **Sara Postlethwait**, **Roger Birky**, **Clifford & Betty Farner**, **Annie Crowder**, **Diann Doty**, **Jan Lucas**, **Charles Moore**, **Hattie**

Coffel, **Dorothy Walters**, **Eugene Zinn**, **Valley Stockton**, **Irene Sims**, **Marie DeWoody**, **Paul & Argie Verett**, and **Minnie Scott**.

In the military: **Joe Newman** (*Naval training*), and **Brent Kaufman** (*serving in Iraq*). **Josh Martin**, nephew of Phyllis Simmerman, is home from Iraq and in Texas! Praise God!!

Can You Help?

We are in need of a volunteer to teach the 2's & 3's class on Wednesday nights, and a volunteer for the 4's & 5's on Wednesday nights beginning with the first Wednesday in December. If interested, please contact Joe Ruhl (463-7012).



Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers you sent in memory of Dan and Vicky's Grandma Martin. Becky would be so proud in seeing how Dan and Vicky have grown in Christ and how they are serving God in your lovely church. Thank you for taking them under your wings!

Love in Christ, John & Terri Martin

Snow Servants Needed

Elmwood is in need of some volunteers for light snow removal this winter. You may be asked to assist a senior servant or some-one just home from the hospital. All you need is a snow shovel, a loving spirit, and some time to volunteer. Sign up on the back of your yellow attendance card or call the church office with a phone number where you can be reached.



**Prayer
OF THE WEEK**

November Prayer Focus:

Give Thanks!

Psalm 118:21: *I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.* Pray and give thanks for he is our salvation!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Eagle Scout Honors

Seth Mullen has his Eagle Scout ceremony at Elmwood on **December 5 at 3:00 PM.**



If you haven't picked up your child's name and Christmas gift list, you may pick it up this Sunday, November 29, between services and/or after second service. **The Christmas for Everyone** distribution day is December 12. Your bag of gifts may be brought to the church anytime during the week.

November 22, 2009

Class: 184 Worship: 305

Contribution: \$6,203.63



Saving Soles

Saving Soles is a ministry that many students, including our own **Ben Stafford**, have decided to support and are soliciting your help as well. This project is designed to bring shoes and bibles to Philippines. These church, many with will assist them in God's word in their is asking that you to donate to the Elmwood building by **class time this Sunday, November 29**. He will be heading back to school immediately after Bible class this Sunday and take the shoes with him.



needy Christians in the people walk miles to no shoes. The Bibles reaching out with own communities. Ben bring (to the Women's Classroom) any new or "gently used" shoes you might like



February 19-21, 2010

Christmas Hang-ups



To give people time to get home from their holiday destinations, we're going to have practice for the Christmas musical at **3:00 this Sunday afternoon, November 29**. It will be back to 12:45 PM on December 6, and at the usual 6:20 PM on December 2.

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



This Sunday, November 29, is the last date for **Pack the Pulpit**. This is an opportunity for you to contribute to the food pantry ministry. Bring all of your pantry contributions (foods and personal items) and place them on the stage.

Our number of food pantry visitors always seems to rise during the winter months. This is an opportunity for you to make sure our pantry does not go empty. (*Of course, you may bring donations at any time during the week as there is always a need.*)

MHA Holiday Gift Lift

The **Holiday Gift Lift** is a program of **Mental Health America** who serves Tippecanoe County residents in the following locations: • all local nursing homes; • group homes for the mentally ill; • MHA Day Shelter for the homeless; • MHA Compeer participants; • Logansport State Hospital. Most needed items include: tooth-brushes, toothpaste, body wash, deodorants, body lotions, disposable razors, sweatshirts/suits, flannel shirts, sleepwear, warm socks, hats/gloves, and sweaters (all in extra large and large adult sizes, please). A box is provided in the Farris Foyer. We hope you will have a little extra to help these people who otherwise would be forgotten during the holidays.

Write a 2010 Spiritual Adventure Article?



We have a tradition of printing a weekly article on the back of our newsletter titled, "*Spiritual Adventure*." To continue this tradition, we need volunteers to write these articles. Please sign up using the yellow attendance card on Sunday morning, e-mail office@elmwood-church.org or call the church office at 765-447-2874. You will be notified of your writing assignment well in advance. *-Carol Bell*



NO WEDNESDAY EVENING CLASSES NOV. 25
November 29, 3:00 PM...Christmas Musical rehearsal
December 2, 7 PM...Bible classes for all
December 12...Christmas For Everyone distribution day
December 13, 6 PM...Children's Musical
December 16, 7:00-9:00 PM...
 Prayer Shawl ministry meeting at
 Rose Hunt's home



Read:
Jonah-Zephaniah;
Revelation 1-11

2009 Spiritual Adventure

Week 50: December 7-13

Words of Hope

In the story of Jonah, we see a very reluctant servant. Jonah not only ignored God’s mission for him, Jonah tries to flee in the opposite direction. What Jonah soon learns is it is impossible to hide from the Creator of the universe. In the story we learn some insight into the nature of God. We see God’s intended judgment on Ninevah. However, when the Ninevites repented, God has compassion on them (Jonah 3:10).

In the story of Zephaniah, Zephaniah warns Judah and Jerusalem of impending doom. Chapter one is all about God’s judgment on the wicked. Chapters two and three have more of the same, but with words of hope for God’s holy remnant (Zephaniah 3:11-13). Then in the first three chapters of Revelation, we read about “goods and bads” of the seven Asian churches. God praises some of their practices and condemns others.

In the two Old Testament readings and in the reading from Revelation, it is plain to see that we serve a loving and compassionate God. We also serve a God that requires us to be obedient to His commands. It is up to us individually and collectively to do God’s will daily. I realize of course this is easier said than done. It requires repentance, Bible study, prayer and help from each other. We can rejoice in the relationship that we have with a loving, compassionate God that was willing to send His one and only Son, Jesus Christ, to make this all possible.

–John Marks

Weekly Schedule	Elders	World Missions	
<p>Sunday</p> <p>Worship 8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Bible Study 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Worship 10:45 a.m.</p> <p>Life Groups 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday</p> <p>Bible Study 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Bill Bell 463-1139</p> <p>Joe Mathews 474-8369</p> <p>Joe Ruhl 463-6822</p> <p>Rick Swensen 463-6822</p> <p>Don Vice 471-8653</p> <tr> <th data-bbox="553 1241 1062 1297">Staff</th> </tr> <p>Ministers</p> <p>Gilbert Kerrigan 418-3652</p> <p>Lee Porter 463-6993</p> <p>Phil Travis 447-2874</p> <p>Office</p> <p>Sherry Marks, Manager 447-2874</p> <p>Carol Bell, Secretary 447-2874</p>	Staff	<p>Kevin Chambers</p> <p>World Christian Broadcasting</p> <p>Anchor Point, Alaska 99536</p> <p>Loren and Penny Hollingsworth</p> <p>Phuket, Thailand 83000</p> <p>E-mail: lholly54@yahoo.com</p> <p>Bren and Cheryl White</p> <p>P.O. Box 245</p> <p>New Market, MD 21774</p>
Staff			

Our Vision:
 Knowing Christ,
 Making Christ Known.

 **Elmwood**
 CHURCH OF CHRIST

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 115 Waldron Street
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Periodical
 Postage
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 at
 Lafayette, IN

What If....

Ever wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone?

What if we carried it around in our purses or pickets?

What if we flipped through it several times a day?

What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?

What if we used it to receive messages from the text?

What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?

What if we gave it to kids as gifts?

What if we used it when we traveled?

What if we used it in case of emergency?

Oh, and one more thing:

Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill.

Makes you stop and think, "where are my priorities?" And no dropped calls!

**Have a great Thanksgiving holiday,
and safe travels for everyone!**