



He Came to Save

For the past month we have been looking at the songs surrounding the Christmas story. The series has been an eye-opening experience for me. I have not spent much time in these songs. This might actually be a first for me. I loved looking at the overflow of joy and excitement that poured out of each song.

With each new song it became clearer - this is the Messiah! The baby boy, Jesus, was the one so many had been looking forward to. He was going to rescue, protect, forgive, grant mercy, and provide peace. He was going to save! He is the savior. He is the messiah.

As I was thinking about this amazing testimony, I reflected back to Romans 10 where Paul was reminding the church of the great prophecy spoken many years before. He quotes Joel, saying, *"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved"* (10:13). What an amazing promise. What a simple promise.

We can really complicate things with our questions. Again, that is a simple promise, but I read that prophecy—that promise—and I automatically start asking questions. You may have done the same thing.

What does he mean when he says calls on the name of the Lord?

What does it look like to call on the name of the Lord?

Does he really mean everyone who calls on the name, or does he mean only those who call on the name of the Lord in a certain way?

All of those questions may be valid questions to ask at some point, but it sure takes away from the simplicity of the promise. For a moment, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, let's just bask in the simplicity of promise—*Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved*. It really is an amazing promise.

God loves us. He sent his son to show us his love (John 3:16). He is being extremely patient because he loves us (2 Peter 3:9). His birth really is meant to be good news for everyone (Luke 2:10). He is the Messiah! He is the Lord! He is the Savior!

-Gilbert

Peace

We are now well into the last week of Advent. We are quickly approaching the day of Christmas. As we come closer and closer to Christmas, I believe it is increasingly important to refresh in our minds the importance, purpose, and meaning of Christmas.

We have spent the last month surrounding Christmas in its proper context and theology. The last week of Advent is primarily focused on the concept of peace as it relates to the coming of Christ. In these hectic weeks leading up to Christmas day, all the parties, presents, and parades, we could all benefit from experiencing the peace that God has to offer us.

Of course the peace which God brings is more than a few quiet moments in the midst of a busy season, but a life of peace characterized by a radical change from the life of the world around us. It is this same peace which is spread in the sharing of the gospel. As Christians we are tasked with spreading the peace of God in others' lives in order to bring about peace within individual human lives and peace on earth.

This week, make sure you take time not only to find peace for yourself, but also to make sure you give peace to just one other person. It may mean helping clean up or set up for a holiday party. It may mean bringing a gift to someone who may not receive any this year, or it may look differently. Let's be peacemakers this day!

-Phil



Thank You
to...

A sincere thanks to all for your thoughts and prayers at the death of my stepfather, **Rick Strieling**. A special thanks to Gilbert Kerrigan for doing the service.

—Dan & Vicki Donohue



Joe & Sandy Seele sold their home and have moved to a duplex at 22 Windy Hill Drive, Lafayette 47905.

As you know, **Annie & Elaine Crowder** moved to Texas to live with Annie's son, Tom. Annie has been in the hospital since going there, and will be there a while longer as she receives physical therapy. Their address there: c/o Tom & Paula Crowder, 5514 Chisholm Trail, Dickinson, TX 77539.

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

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

December 19, 2010

Class: 148 Worship: 260

Contribution: \$4,997.43

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Christmas Card Donations for Bren & Cheryl White and Operation French World Missions



This year the Christmas card money will be given to Bren White of Operation French World Missions and will supplement the regular support we already provide. The additional funds will help significantly with the planning of two upcoming campaigns. Bren will use most of the money for this, though he will likely share some with an evangelist in Ghana, West Africa, with whom Bren and Wanita have worked and who has an emergency need. A big thank you to those whose names are listed below as they wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Bill & Sue Adams

Bill, Carol, Peter Bell

Andrea Browell

Mary Kay Ciesielski

Bernie & Armilda Follick

Gene & Nancy High

Jim & Marihelen Johnson

Lori & Terry Miller

Sharon Porter

Sherry Risley

Bob & Penny Stafford

Phil & Katy Travis

David & Lorraine Weckerly

Tommy & Ramona Bartlett

Janet Boston

Chuck & Betty Brown

Gene & Jean Dilling

Margaret Gustafson

Bill & Amy Hodges

John & Sherry Marks

Jim & Marsha Moore

Jeffrey & Rachel Ravellette

Rob & Pauletta Smith

Greg & Chris Sutherlin

Cheri Vaughn

Patty Wenning

Joy Batcha

Josh & Gina Boyd

Ethel Cable

Bill Farris

David & Vicki Henke

Max & Pam Houlton

Joe & Joyce Mathews

Delores Nolan

Micky & Carolyn Rigdon

Sally Smith

Rick & Doris Swensen

Joy Walker

Snow Servants Needed

Elmwood is once again asking for volunteers for light snow removal this winter. You may be asked to assist a senior servant or someone just home from the hospital. Sign up on the back of your yellow attendance card this Sunday with a telephone number where you can be reached.



*A Note
of Thanks*

Dear Friends at Elmwood:

On behalf of everyone at the YWCA domestic Violence Intervention and Prevention Progra, I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to your for the incredible number of items you donated to our program.

We are always grateful to be the recipient of such a thoughtful expression of kindness and generosity. Our clients may not be lucky enough to be safe in their own homes but they can be thankful that there are individuals in the community like you that care enough to make a positive difference in their lives.

Sincerely, Danielle Gaylord, Program Director,
YWCA Domestic Violence Program

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 1.08 Common Ground, 7-10p @ casteel casa
 Sunday 1.16 Area-Wide HS Devo, 3-7p @ kokomo
 February 18-20 Winterfest @ Gatlinburg, TN

THINGS PONDERED

I Could Never

One of the tale tell signs of the holidays is those little red buckets outside of all the stores accompanied by jingle bell chimes. I like how the Salvation Army sets these up every year - it gets me into the holiday spirit when I'm out doing errands. It's also an easy way to give to others from all I've been so blessed with.

If you don't already know how this Southern girl feels about winter, I'll tell you that I'm less than fond of it. To me, 40 degrees is winter weather; what we experience here in Lafayette is insane! So when I was passing by one of those jolly bell-ringing volunteers on Saturday, I thought, "I could never stand out in this cold to do that."

Then I wondered: *how many times do we use the phrase "I could never"?* It struck me Saturday that I say it far too often, and usually about things that I could indeed do but simply don't want to do. I don't want to experience the unpleasantness or sacrifice that would accompany the "I could never." Here are some more of mine: I could never live without air conditioning. I could never go without television or internet or my cell phone for very long. I could never travel anywhere without indoor plumbing [and all that goes along with that here in America]. I could never live anywhere without a Target. I could never live without being able to drink Dr. Pepper! Some of these are just silly, but isn't that what we often do? Joke about what we "could never" or more honestly "would never" do?

When I look at Scripture, I find this is no laughing matter. As Christians, we are called to sacrifice as a consuming lifestyle. "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship" [Romans 12:1]. We refer to our weekly corporate meeting on Sundays as worship, and it certainly is. But Paul says our *true* worship is living our lives sacrificially every day. He goes on in chapter 12 with several instructions on what those sacrificial lives can include: "Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited" [Romans 12:13-16].

One of my goals for the new year is to stop saying "I could never" and do those very things. I pray God will grow me through the experience. I hope each of you join me in this as we strive to be more like Christ together. And next year, you can look for me standing next to a red bucket with a bell, jingling all the way!

— *danae*

Christmas Eve Service

Please make plans to join us for our Christmas Eve service this Friday, December 24, at 7 o'clock in the evening.



Patty Vice will continue with chemotherapy treatments next month....**Frank Holderfield**, is recovering from quintuple bypass heart surgery....**Annie Crowder** remains in the hospital in Texas and is now receiving physical therapy**Calvin Batts**, Willie's husband, has surgery to remove cancer on his ear on Wednesday in Indianapolis.... Continue praying for **Argie Verett, Robert Kinzer, Mandy Anderson, Steve Critser (room 527, Clarian Arnett Hospital), James Walker, Cain Harris, Graeme Van Matre, Haley Gort, Mike Hamilton, Mike Kinsinger, Dorothy Walters, Marceena Miller, Dovie Hurst, Phyllis Gray, Carolyn Rigdon, Linda Bilyeu, Henrietta Frampton, Vickie Sanders, Janet Achor, Kaden Koebecke, Charles & Carolyn Moore, Clifford Farner, Jan Lucas, Hattie Coffel, Wanita White (in Texas with daughters, Ronna & Janiel), Valley Stockton, Delores Hill, Eugene Zinn, Irene Sims, and Marie DeWoody.**



In the military: **Tim Beghtol** is in Afghanistan....**Josh Martin** and **Matthew Kauffman** are serving in Iraq. **Joe Newman** is home on leave for two weeks!

***No newsletter next week.
 The office will be closed
 next week.***



December 22, 7 PM....Bible classes for all
December 24, 7 PM....Christmas Eve service
February 25-26....**Save the Date** for the Women's Spring Retreat! **Jackie Halstead**, from Lipscomb University is the featured speaker.

Read:
Genesis 1-19;
Luke 1-4

2011 Spiritual Adventures

Week 1: January 2-8

Spiritual Adventure

That is what we hope you find in the articles that appear here. A multi-faceted adventure that is composed of your reading the selected passages from the Word, your letting the Word speak to you so that it impacts our life, and your reading of a related experience written by one of your brothers or sisters. This week's readings are all too familiar and you may be tempted to just glaze over them. Take caution.

To get the full benefit from this adventure I recommend the following.

Read all the recommended passages. There is something from the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Be deliberate about setting aside time for reading so that you can be free of distractions.

Read a few verses before and after the selected passage to get the context of the writing.

Read the passage two or three times and reflect on what the key themes arise.

Use a Bible dictionary to look up words or phrases that may be unfamiliar.

Consider how you will respond to the passage, whether it is demanding some life change or identifying something for which you should praise God.

Read the companion essay for insight on how these passages have affected another.

Pray about your response and share your experience with a brother or sister. Or better yet, write about your reflection and share it with others by letting us publish it in this space!

Usually the notion of an adventure implies something unknown. Like Bilbo Baggins says, "It's a dangerous thing going out your door, my boy. You never know quite where you will end up." But let's go out the door anyway. Let's have faith that wherever this adventure takes us, God is leading the way. And along the way we will be changed. How we will be changed we do not know. Perhaps we cannot know. After all, it's an adventure.

—Bill Bell

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 Joe Ruhl 463-7012 Rick Swensen 463-6822 Don Vice 471-8653	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
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 Our Vision:
Knowing Christ,
Making Christ Known.

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