



Totally Inadequate

I love to try to imagine the scene described in the David and Goliath story. This great giant of a warrior, Goliath, is decked out in the finest and most sophisticated military apparel of the time. He holds the largest and deadliest of weapons. His muscles try to break through the material on his body. He is a fierce fighting machine.

David, on the other hand, is a mere boy. Saul told him, *“There’s no way you can fight this Philistine and possibly win! You’re only a boy, and he’s been a man of war since his youth”* (1 Sam. 17:33). David refuses to let that get him down. So, Saul dresses David up in his own bronze helmet and coat of mail, and then gives him his sword. We are told that David tried to walk but couldn’t even make it a couple of steps.

I am reminded of the times Cole and Beau have tried to walk through the house in my shoes or with my hat on. I’m sure you have seen children trying to wear their mother’s dress, or their father’s coat. The sleeves are dragging the ground. The hat is over their eyes. They trip over the skirt of the dress. This is how I imagine David wearing Saul’s military gear.

Finally, David throws off all of that gear. He picks up his sling and a few smooth stones, and then makes his way to the battlefield. Now, here stands two men... or one man and one boy. The man is totally equipped for the task at hand. The boy is totally ill-equipped for the task at hand. Can you see them standing there, facing one another?

So often I feel ill-equipped to do what God has called me to do. I feel inadequate. Surely, there are much more qualified people than me who can do what I am doing. The longer I stay in ministry the more I understand that most people feel that way when it comes to doing the things God calls us all to do. Most people feel inadequate and ill-equipped. Most people think there is someone else more suited for the ministry God calls his people to. Most of us feel as inadequate as David looks on that battlefield.

Thankfully, David did not feel as ill-equipped as I often picture him. He remembered something that I forget when it comes to God’s work: it is not about me and it was not about David. It is about God. Listen to David’s language: *“the Lord has rescued me”* (37), *“the Lord will conquer you”* (46), *“this is the Lord’s battle”* (47).

Remember, it is not about your battle gear. It is about God, and He can do a lot with a sling and five smooth stones.

-Gilbert

You’re my Brother, You’re my Sister

I was once assigned a report on Paul’s letter to Philemon. Since that time it has intrigued me quite a bit. At first it is a little odd to think that such a personal letter written to just one man at the church in (probably) Colossae can have any significance for the church.

In this short letter, Paul steps away from his trademark explication of the intersection of theology and Christian living. Instead he just reminds Philemon exactly what he signed up for when he became a Christian.

The subject matter and style make one question the reason for its inclusion in the canon, but Paul’s insistence on Philemon’s action based in love rather than law gives us a glimpse at how Paul understands the nature of relationships in light of God’s work on the cross.

Onesimus, a runaway slave of Philemon, meets up with Paul and is subsequently converted to Christianity. Paul finds himself in a tough spot as he is legally obligated to return Onesimus to Philemon. Paul recognizes that while he is bound by the local law, both he and Philemon are bound by a greater law. Paul sends Onesimus back to Philemon, but with a strong reminder that though a master may legally treat his slave in any manner he wishes, Philemon should consider Onesimus not as a runaway slave to be punished, but as a returning brother to be cherished. Paul even requests that Philemon welcome Onesimus in a similar manner as he would welcome Paul himself.

Our relationships with others should be defined by the sacrifice of Christ, not how the world would define them!

-Phil Travis



The next women's game night is Monday, **August 29**, from 7–9 PM in A2. Bring a snack. Questions? Call Barb Newberry or Hedi Devine.

Melissa Willison
Javaling Station, # 125
1300 W. Corral Avenue
Kingsville, TX 78363



All Church Picnic



Mark your calendars for the All-Church Picnic at Columbian Park on Sunday, September 11, about noon (following second service). This is a pitch-in meal. Come and enjoy good food, great fellowship and tons of fun!



We wanted to thank everyone for all the prayers, encouraging words, gifts for Kaden while hospitalized, and just being there for us over these difficult five years. It means so much to us! We also wanted to thank the Pitt children, Annabelle, Spencer, Evie and Carrie, for gathering gifts and other goodies for Kaden. He still talks about how nice that was. Thank you for cheering him up and making him feel special!! Much love to all.
The Koebecke's (Travis, Cami, Kaden and Karina)

August 14, 2011
Class: 144 Worship: 211
Contribution: \$5,604

Jan Lucas is in St. Mary's—cards and phone calls are welcomed, but please limit personal visits....**Patty Vice** is recuperating at home....**Armilda Follick** is home but receiving treatments for an infection as an outpatient....**Christian Coats**, Diann Doty's nephew, had surgery on August 16th for scoliosis. It was expected to be a very long and complicated surgery. He will be in the hospital for two weeks and homebound for two months....**Sherry Risley** will have a biopsy on her thyroid on August 31....Continue praying for **Louise Jones, Mark Andrews (lung transplant), Bill Farris, Seth Ratcliff, Jeanette Gibson, Rick Daniels, Sandy Reaves, Shawn Robbins, Andrew Cable, David Black, Mayra Medrano, Mary Lou Baugh, Marceena Miller, Tammy Beaver, Linda Weeks, Kaden Koebecke, Mickey & Carolyn Rigdon, Marie DeWoody, Wanita White, Max Raines, and Jan Swensen.**



In the military: **Praise God! Josh Martin** comes home from Iraq this week. **Matthew Kauffman** is in Germany. **Evan Slaughter (Bill & Carol Bell's nephew)** is in Afghanistan.

Continue to remember the following people who are home-bound or in a nursing care facility: **Ruth Carter, Irene Sims, Dorothy Walters, Paul Marks, Ethel Cable, Hattie Coffel, Willie & Calvin Batts, Argie Verett, Dovie Hurst, Phyllis Gray, Valley Stockton, Delores Hill, Henrietta Frampton, Mary Walker, Linda Bilyeu, Janet Achor, Clifford Farner, Eugene Zinn, Charles & Carolyn Moore, and Annie & Elaine Crowder.**



Our sincere sympathies to **Sherry Marks** and to **Larry Gibson** whose aunt, **Mary Bol**, 92, died Saturday morning. Her funeral was Tuesday, August 16. Mary is the sister of Jeanette Gibson, Sherry and Larry's mother.

Our sincere sympathies to **Vicki Vaught and family** whose grandmother, **Rosetta Emmert**, passed away August 7. Her funeral was Wednesday, August 10.



College students will be arriving at Purdue soon. That means lots of activities at Elmwood's Christian Student Center (CSC) at 115 Waldron St., West Lafayette. Phil and Katy are organizing a "CSC Cleaning Day" on **August 20, from 9:00 until 11:00 AM.**

This Sunday, we will greet familiar faces and new faces among the college group. Phil Travis, Campus Minister, will be giving the lesson from the pulpit. Also, this Sunday, the College Class will begin their study about pitfalls to the Christian walk using **The Screwtape Letters**. There is still time to donate a copy of C.S. Lewis' book for this class. Talk to Phil if you can help with this project.

Sunday Evening Worship & Meal

During the Sunday evening worship time we will hear a report from the college students who went on a mission trip this summer. Following this worship and praise time, we will have a potluck dinner in A-2. This is a planned potluck—in other words, there is a sign-up sheet posted on the CSC bulletin board in the education wing of the building. Everyone is invited to join us for the Sunday evening dinner, whether you bring food or not. To see what is needed, or how you can help in other ways, contact Katy Travis by email or phone.

Least of These

Near the end of Matthew 25, Jesus tells the people around him a story about the future. It is about the time when God is going to identify those who are in Christ and those who are outside of relationship with Him. Christ is cast as part judge, part shepherd, separating his sheep from those who aren't His. The decisive factor of faithfulness in this story, it seems, is compassion and aid for the poor.

Jesus amazes us first by identifying himself with the poor. To those who are faithful, it is not just because they fed, clothed, visited, gave drink to, or encouraged someone who was in need. Instead, it is because they saw that person for who they really were, the image of Christ, and served them accordingly. In the same way, it is not a lack of action that condemns those who fail to serve, it is because of a lack of vision. Their self-focus blinds them to seeing the reality of the nature of the people around them.

Where this gets even more interesting is when we add in the idea that we take in Christ's nature when we serve others. Throughout Paul's, and other New Testament letters, the idea of the church being the Body of Christ is stated over and over again. Now his hands are our hands, His feet our feet, His voice our voice. The least of these are Jesus, and we get to be Jesus to Jesus. It's an amazingly intimate portrait.

I'm really mindful of this because right now I'm sharing a table with Jesus. Sure, he goes by Steve right now, but I know who he is. Jesus got asked to leave the Barnes and Noble in Utica because he didn't look right, smelled funny and had not bought anything. So Jesus was out in the rain and cold, and asked me for some change to get a coffee. Now Jesus and I are sharing Americanos and brownies and talking about his life growing up in Manhattan. I may get some weird looks, but I don't care, because I get to share my table and coffee with Jesus.

I'm not saying this to prop myself up or make you say, "Wow, what a servant!" I just want to remind us of a simple fact. I can't remember how many times I've asked Jesus to be closer to me in my life and circumstances, or show up in my day. I bet you have too. But when He shows up, do you recognize Him, or do you just see Steve? Don't miss all the times that Jesus is right there to share your coffee and your life with you.

In His Grip, Travis

L.I.F.E. Group

Our L.I.F.E. Groups are what we call our small group ministry. L.I.F.E. Groups meet each Sunday evening around 6:00 in someone's home for a time of fellowship and Bible study. On the L.I.F.E. Group sign-up sheet, make your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices, and we will plug you in!



Joshua Robson, son of Ed and Michelle Robson, made the decision to put on the Lord in baptism, and was baptized by his father, Sunday, August 14. Joshua has been a part of the Elmwood congregation since he was born. He is beginning the sixth grade at Otterbein Elementary. We welcome our new brother in Christ and rejoice with his family on his commitment to the Lord.

Thanks for your kindness

Thanks to you all who have sent an abundance of cards, called, sent flowers, and visited us at the funeral home at the death of our father. Your hugs, words, prayers and love have meant so much to us. Having a Christian family for support means everything.

Love, Jeanette Gibson, Sherry Marks, Larry & Kevin Gibson

Youth Group Events

End of Summer Bash, Saturday, August 27, 5-10 PM at Elmwood building. Come join us for some great games, a video scavenger hunt, and some cosmic bowling! Dinner will be included. Cost is \$5/person. We would love to have parents and sponsors join us. Please contact Travis if you are interested in helping out!

2011-2012 Calendar of Events Meeting, Wednesday, September 7, 6-7 PM in A-2. Open to all families, teens and sponsors. Come meet with us as we set our dates and details for our youth events for the next year. We want your input and feedback to make this a great year, so if you have something you want to see us do or take part in, come join us!



- August 20, 9-11 AM**....CSC workday, 115 Waldron , WL
- August 21, 6 PM**....Evening worship and Sunday Night Supper
- August 27, 5-10 PM**....End of Summer Bash
- August 28**....Guest Speaker: David Fleer, Lipscomb University
- August 29, 7-9 PM**....Women's Game Night, A-2
- September 7, 6-7 PM**....2011-2012 Youth Calendar of Events Mtg
- September 11**....All-Church Picnic at Columbian Park

Read:
Job 13-30;
1 Corinthians 9-13

2011 Spiritual Adventures

Week 34: August 21-27

Frustration and Consolation

There are few things in life more aggravating than being accused of something you didn't do. Regardless of the outcome and the truth, your character is forever tarnished and you are faced with the reality that some people will always doubt your integrity as a result of the accusation.

This week's passage, Job 13-30, is hard to read (especially if you pick it up at chapter 4 from last week's passage). Job is going through an unimaginably devastating time. And at this worst possible moment, the accusations start flying from his close friends. As you read what they say and think about the circumstances under which they are saying it, it's hard not to get a little bit angry. After reading chapter after chapter after chapter of it (in fact, it starts before and continues beyond this week's passage), it's hard not to feel a little bit of the frustration that prompted Job to say, "How long will you torment me and crush me with words?" and "Let this be the consolation you give me: bear with me while I speak, and after I have spoken, mock on."

It is interesting to me that almost all of the terrible things that happened to Job are described in a few paragraphs in the first two chapters of the book but then 34 chapters are devoted to the false accusations of his friends. If this last hardship were summarized like the others it would probably be easy to fail to recognize how significant it must have been. But since it's recorded in such detail that it takes an hour to read through it, you really get an appreciation for the fact that this wasn't just a minor inconvenience on top of all of the catastrophes Satan threw at Job. It was itself devastating.

— Jim and Vicki Vaught

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
	Staff	
	Ministers Gilbert Kerrigan 418-3652 Phil Travis 743-0954 Travis Hutchinson 447-2874 Office Sherry Marks, Manager 447-2874 Carol Bell, Secretary 447-2874	

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

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