



God's Image in Unexpected Places

The story of our beginnings tells us that we were created in the image of God. I believe that is true of all humanity. There is a bit of God's image in all people - believers, agnostics, atheist. Someone does not have to believe this truth for it to be truth. Our story, God's word, affirms this.

U2 is probably one of the greatest bands in the world. They are also known just as much for their faith and social activism as they are for their music. One little known fact though is that their bass player, Adam Clayton, does not share the rest of the band's faith. He never has. When the other three are gathered together for a prayer meeting or for Bible study, Adam is usually looking for a party.

There is an amazing story about U2 regarding a concert that took place in Tempe, AZ early in their career. U2 had started writing a lot of songs that expressed their faith and their stances on social justice issues. One of their songs, *Pride (In the Name of Love)*, had caused a stir with some people in Tempe. It was a song honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Bono (U2's lead singer) started receiving death threats. He was told that if he sang that song he would be shot.

The FBI apparently got involved. Bono was told by officials that they had gotten word that someone had threatened to bring a gun to the concert. They had no way of knowing if it was true or not, but they asked the band not to perform that night. The band decided to stay true to themselves and perform as planned.

Bono remembers being very scared. He remembers shaking on the stage. When it came time to sing *Pride* he remembers closing his eyes and singing. He held his eyes closed the entire song, not knowing what might happen to him. When he finished the song and realized nothing had happened, he opened his eyes. To his surprise Adam Clayton, the one band member who does not share the rest of band's faith, was standing in front of him playing his bass. Apparently, Adam stood in front of him through the whole song. Adam was his shield.

Adam Clayton may never agree with this, but I believe he was reflecting a bit of the image of God in that moment. We all have a choice, we can choose to reflect God's image, or we can choose not to. Sometimes the choice is not ours, the image just comes through. While man may be capable of denying God, man cannot separate himself from the image of God imbedded deep within.

Will you choose to reflect God's image this week?

-Gilbert

Living Life Together

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.... Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry)... But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator... As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. —Colossians 3:1-14

In this text Paul demonstrates what the New Life looks like in those who have died with Christ and have risen again. This ongoing process taking place in every Christian is a source of both challenge and joy. We are called to live out this life which Paul describes (the challenge!) but as we continue to move closer to that life, as a community we are able to experience the joy of experiencing life with a group of people that treat each other in this way... a great joy indeed!

—Phil Travis



Happy Anniversary and God's richest blessings to **Bernie & Armilda Follick** who will celebrate their 61st wedding anniversary on August 4. Congratulations!



To all those who helped me move recently—a BIG THANK YOU! I couldn't have done it without you. It really meant a lot to me.

—Marceena Miller



Cooper Findley was born to Guy and Alicia Walters on July 26. He weighed 9 pounds 8 ounces and was 21.5 inches long. His big sister, Parker Grace, along with grandparents, Marilyn and Kevin Walters, are so excited to welcome him to their family. Congratulations!

July 31, 2011

Class: 150 Worship: 234
Contribution: \$9,440

Bill Farris will receive another chemo treatment for lymphoma this week. His first one last week went well. He'll continue to receive the low dose treatments for some weeks....**Seth Ratcliff** is now home continuing to recuperate from his injuries....**Jan Lucas** is receiving rehab at Creasy Springs....**Jeanette Gibson** was able to go home at the end of last week....**Rick Daniels**, 29 year old son of Debbie Daniels, has stage 3 brain cancer. He will begin chemo and radiation treatments soon....**Sandy Reaves**, Sue Adams' sister, is dealing with chronic health issues....**Shawn Robbins**, son of former Elmwood members, Rick and Mary, is in ICU at St. Elizabeth East after suffering a seizure and fall a couple of weeks ago....Continue praying for **Armilda Follick, Andrew Cable, David Black, Mayra Medrano, Mark Andrews (awaiting lung transplant), Mary Lou Baugh, Cecil Thomas, Patty Vice, Marceena Miller, Tammy Beaver, Linda Weeks, Kaden Koebecke, Mickey & Carolyn Rigdon, Marie DeWoody, Wanita White, Max Raines, and Jan Swensen.**



In the military: **Josh Martin** is in Iraq. **Matthew Kauffman** is in Germany. **Evan Slaughter** (*Bill & Carol Bell's nephew*) is in Afghanistan. **Joe Newman** has finished his training in Chicago.

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** (*Calvin is having skin cancer removed frequently and having problems walking*), **Argie Verett, Dovie Hurst, Bill Gibson, Valley Stockton, Delores Hill, Henrietta Frampton, Mary Walker, Linda Bilyeu, Janet Achor, Clifford Farner, Eugene Zinn, Charles & Carolyn Moore, and Annie & Elaine Crowder.**



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. If you can help, please have your sleeves rolled up and be ready to jump in! They will appreciate it!

I thank you wonderful people for all the birthday cards and wishes. They made my 97th birthday so special. I also thank everyone who came with Wanita White to celebrate my birthday. I love you all.

—Dovie Hurst



A Note of Thanks

Food Pantry Needs



Our food pantry has been very busy this summer. With joblessness still on the rise, there have been more visitors than usual. Our food pantry is always in need of personal items: **shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes, and especially toilet paper.** Our friends at Prairie Farms (from the Battle Ground area) have once again donated fresh vegetables and fruit. Praise God for their generosity. Thanks to you who have generously donated items to our food pantry.

Through Valleys

We had quite a week of trials last week, didn't we? Between Seth ending up in the ICU and our church being broken into, it's been a bit hard to find the rhythm for ministry even now. I was reminded in a daily devotional I read online of a simple fact to remember when we face trials, small or large:

"Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; your rod and staff are a comfort to me." -Psalm 23:4

Notice the direction of the walk; through the valley. Not over or around it, through it. Sometimes I think we wonder, and I myself question, why *through* the valley, God? What kind of Shepherd is this, if David is talking about Yahweh? Couldn't he just remove us from the valley, or pierce through the shadow and darkness in an instant? Why do we have this image of the valley?

The simplest way I know to put it is that our God is the God who walks with us through the darkness. That's how He has chosen to relate to us, in trials great or small. The beauty of this is in the intimacy that comes with this image. We might have some gratitude for the God that miraculously us out of pain, or delivers us *from* a trial; but we have intimacy and love for the God who, in delivering us *through* the valleys, walks beside us. Close enough to be touched. Near enough to be heard. At a moment's notice able to touch us, speak to us, and say, "I am with you here."

While the comfort-oriented side of me might say I still want the obstacle or pain removed, the deeper part of my heart knows that what I really need is the closeness of God and the intimacy that comes with it. I don't need to fear the valleys, for His close love drives out the fear. I don't need to distract myself from the pain or make feeble attempts to deny or avoid the valley, for He, and His tools that guard me, are my comfort.

We are dearly loved sheep. Our Shepherd is good. Really good. He proves it by walking as close to us as we will allow Him. That alone may be enough.

*In His Grip,
Travis*

The Screwtape Letters

Family,

This semester the college students and I are going to be using *The Screwtape Letters* as a basis to talk about pitfalls to the Christian walk. I think it would be beneficial for the students to have a copy to read along with as we go through the letters.

Since it is a relatively popular book, I thought rather than buying a copy for each of the students, I would ask you all if you had a copy you wouldn't mind lending to the Campus Ministry for the semester.

If you don't care if your book is returned to you, please put a sticky note on it letting me know that. That way, I can give those copies to students who like to underline and make notes in their books. Otherwise, please put a note on the book with your name so I can return it to you at the end of the semester.

I will make it very clear to the students to take care of your book and should damage occur, I will replace it with a current printing of the book (I don't recommend donating your antique copies! ☺)

All copies of *The Screwtape Letters* can be brought to me at church or the CSC. The semester starts on August 21st, so I need to have them before then!

Thanks for your consideration!
Phil Travis

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



August 3, 5:45 PM...."Freed Up Financial Living," taught by Janet Boston in media room

August 3, 7 PM....Bible classes for all

August 5-7....Church Campout at Warren Dunes State Park

August 7, 6 PM..Youth summer report

August 20, 9-11 AM....CSC workday, 115 Waldron , WL

September 11....All-Church Picnic at Columbian Park

Read:
Psalm 93-111; Romans 13-16;
I Corinthians 1-2

2011 Spiritual Adventures

Week 32: August 7-13

Psalm 93-95 — God the great King

You've probably heard the joke that you can tell a politician is lying if their lips are moving. In general, most don't like politicians. Just consider the recent news about politicians. Our country constantly changes government leaders regularly. Our president is replaced every four to eight years. Our Congressional representatives are replaced every two and six years. Anyone with enough votes can hold a political office in our country.

However, Psalms 93-95 show that God has always been enthroned. He is just and above all. Unlike our government He did not take office. He is the permanent king. He is described in Psalms 93:1-2 as being "robed in majesty," which refers to His glorious creation. He is a King mighty in strength; whose rule and the world he created are firmly established; whose power and might in Psalms 93:3-4 are described like a thundering sea. Psalms 94 shows us a just King who will avenge his loved ones. Psalms 94:18-19 shows us the great love of our King – "When I said, 'My foot is slipping,' your love, O Lord, supported me. When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought joy to my soul." And Psalms 95 shows us a King holy and worthy of honor, glory and worship. We sing a song based on Psalms 95:6-7 – "Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our God, our Maker; for He is our God and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His Hand."

While we may not always have the greatest confidence in our earthly government, we know from these three Psalms that we serve a mighty King. We serve the King of kings whose love has no comparison. We worship the King, the creator of all things and the giver of all. He is the King who's "statutes stand firm" (93:5), that's our fortress and our refuge (94:22), and is the Rock of our salvation (95:1). We need no other government. For we worship the permanent King. — Jim and Marsha Moore

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 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	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

 **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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