



As White As Snow

A few weeks ago I, and a few friends, decided to go hunting together. There was snow everywhere. We were hunting in a field so it was white as far as the eye could see. We decided that our camouflage was not going to do us much good in the white snow. We would look like big camouflage blobs, out of place in this white field. Our plan was to take a white king-sized sheet and just lay that sheet over us in order to blend in with the snow.

At first this sounded like a great idea. One of the guys was brave enough to take a brand new white sheet out of the linen closet without telling his wife about it (it was not me!). We got out into the field, opened up the sheet, threw it over us and laid there in the snow waiting for an unsuspecting goose to fly over. This is when we discovered that our idea was not as great as we first thought. We all started noticing that our sheet was not the pure white color of the snow, like we thought it would be. The sheet actually had a blue tint to it. It was almost a blue glow. We quickly discovered that this was more “out of place” than our camouflage would have been. Our man-made white was not as white as the snow God created.

I was thinking about this today as I was reading a couple of passages about Jesus. In Matthew 17 we find a story about the transfiguration. Jesus took Peter, James and John up on a mountain side to let them see his glory. The text says that “*his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light*” (v. 2). When Mark records this event he says it this way: “*His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them*” (9:3). Whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. I discovered firsthand that God’s white is whiter than anything man could ever make.

As you read through Revelation (which I’m sure you do all the time!), you will discover many references to the white clothing we will receive when the new heaven and new earth is set in place. John writes about those in Sardis “*who have not soiled their clothes.*” Jesus says, “*They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. And he who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white*” (3:4-5). Later, in Revelation, there is a discussion about the great multitude that surround the throne wearing white robes. A question is asked about these people and their white robes. The response is, “*These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb*” (7:14).

I look forward to the day that Christ hands us all pure white robes. I am quite confident that we will never experience anything quite like it, and I know that our eyes will have never seen anything so pure and so white.

-Gilbert

I Refuse

*Sometimes I, / I just want to close my
eyes/ And act like everyone’s alright /
When I know they’re not./
This world needs God/ But it’s easier to
stand and watch. / I could pray a prayer
and just move on
Like nothing’s wrong
But I refuse.
‘Cause I don’t want to live like I don’t
care./ I don’t want to say another empty
prayer./ Oh, I refuse to
Sit around and wait for someone else/ To
do what God has called me to do myself./
Oh, I could choose
Not to move but I refuse.*

These words, penned by Christian music artist Josh Wilson and his band, are part of a song titled “*I Refuse.*”

I think that these words are important. Sometimes we are tempted to take that easy path of pretending that everything is okay. Sometimes we are tempted to think that “someone else” will take care of that situation we see.

Josh’s strong words of refusal are, I think, encouragement for us all. What would the world look like if all Christians refused to wait for God to work through someone else, but instead insist on being God’s hands and feet on this earth? Let’s start refusing, and find out!

-Phil



A big congratulations to **Amos & Irene Miller** who celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on February 1. They are eagerly looking forward to a family reunion March 12 with family coming from Ohio, Tennessee, and Virginia as well as Indiana. Happy anniversary, Amos and Irene.



Madison Tilley's birthday on February 5, was accidentally left off the February calendar. She turns 13 on Saturday! Congratulations! We are sorry for the mistake.

Snow Servants

Ed Tilley's family is on call for light snow removal this week, January 30-February 5. You can reach them at 474-5161 if you need assistance.



January 30, 2011

Class: 176 Worship: 271

Contribution: \$6,773.22

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New Picture Directory

We've estimated about 170 families to be included in our new picture directory. Through this past Sunday, 73 families have scheduled times for getting their pictures taken. There has been limited use of the on-line sign-up option but available times are full or nearly full on some days on the hard copy schedule. Because of this demonstrated preference to hard copy scheduling, the last day for on-line sign up will be February 4. If on-line scheduling is your preference, please take advantage of this option by Friday. Also, we'll need at least a couple of volunteers each day when pictures are taken to help greet those who are getting their pictures taken and gather paperwork. Contact Farrell Simmerman (474-6277) or Bill Hodges (449-1255) if you have questions or are willing to volunteer to help on days when the pictures are being taken. Thanks for your help as we move forward with our new directory.



Parent's Night Out



Help the College Students raise money for their mission trip to Washington D.C. and enjoy a night without your kids. On **Saturday, February 12th, from 5pm- 9pm** the CSC students will be hosting a "**Parents Night Out.**" A meal will be provided as well as crafts and games for the kids. We are asking that parents bring a monetary donation that will help lower the cost for the students going to Washington D.C. over spring break. Please contact Phil or Katy Travis if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support of the ministry at Purdue University.

Women's Breakfast, February 12

The men will be serving the Elmwood women breakfast on **Saturday, February 12, at 9:00 AM** in the A2 fellowship room. Pamper yourself and share in the delightful conversation and fellowship! There is a sign up sheet in the Farris foyer. Deadline for sign up is February 9.



Women's Retreat, February 25-26

The women will be hosting their annual Spring Women's Retreat at the Elmwood building on February 25-26. Our speaker is **Jackie Halstead**, frequent women's events speaker from Lipscomb University. We eagerly look forward to hearing her messages as she speaks to us on the theme, "**Be Still and Know That I Am God,**" with emphasis on prayer. Activities will begin Friday night at 6:30 and run until approximately 9:00. Sessions will resume at 9:00 on Saturday morning with worship. A complete schedule will be given in next week's newsletter. Save the date—lots of good information and sharing time planned.

ELMWOOD YOUTH ministry

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 2.5	Open House @ Hutchinsons', 11a-2p
Sunday 2.6	Superbowl Party, 4p @ the Staffords'
Saturday 2.12	Common Ground, 7-10p @ casteel casa
February 18-20	WINTERFEST @ Gatlinburg, TN
March 18-20	ILLUMINATE @ Rochester, MI
March 25-26	REVOLVE @ Columbus, OH [girls only!]

IN HIS GRIP

Insults and Identity

On Friday I was challenged by some of our college students at the CSC to explore the Purdue campus and learn about the identity of the school through some landmarks. This included: finding a giant pencil, sitting in Neil Armstrong's lap, finding out why I shouldn't walk under the bell tower, and figuring out how to get to the student union from the CSC taking as few steps outside as possible, among other things.

One specific task really stood out for me, though: find out why we have the nickname "Boilermakers". I found my answer on a plaque connected to a statue of a man hammering iron on an anvil outside the football stadium. After a football game in 1891 where Purdue had thrashed rival Wabash College 44-0, the local paper in Crawfordville had responded with headlines that in essence labeled the team, and the college in general, a bunch of "burly boiler makers" that might play good football, but were, in essence, subpar with the "intellectuals" down the road at Wabash.

It was an insult, plain and simple. And yet the student body embraced that insult and made it a badge of triumph, to the point where it now is the official nickname and identity of the university.

In this I see a great parallel to you and I as followers of Christ. As people that are at odds with the conventional way of thinking with the world, we're going to (and should be striving to) look and live differently. And when we do, criticism will come. Paul said *"the message that points to Christ on the Cross looks like nonsense to those who are bent on destruction, but to those who are on the way of salvation it makes perfect sense"* (1 Cor. 1:18). If something looks silly, you're bound to call people who believe in it misguided, out of touch, or just plain stupid. So you shouldn't be surprised if you get flak when you stake your claim on a man who claimed to be God, or on someone who was killed as a criminal, yet, as the story goes, was filled with the power of God's Spirit to be raised to life and to God's right hand as the ultimate authority in the universe. Unless you really know the power of the resurrection in your life, it sounds silly.

Jesus took that idea even further. He said that criticism and insult was going to be one of the hallmarks of a life of a disciple. He said *"count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit Me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. Be glad in that – give a cheer even! – for though they don't like it, I do! And all heaven applauds. And know you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always seen this kind of trouble"* (Matthew 5: 11-12). For you and I, one of the ways we know we're following in Jesus' steps is when those around us shake their head and say, "You must be crazy to be willing to love like that, to make those kind of choices and priorities, to live and talk and care in a way that is so different." Don't shy away from it, Jesus says. Don't try to minimize your differences in order to avoid the insults. Revel in them, because it means you truly know Christ and are a disciple. *In His Grip, Travis*

Delores Nolan has been battling pneumonia at home. She is still feeling pretty rough....**Lorraine Weckerly** had outpatient knee surgery on Friday. She is doing well....**Patty Vice** resumed chemo treatments on Monday....**Bill Gibson**, Larry Gibson's and Sherry Marks' father, is in IU Health Arnett with pneumonia**Hattie Coffel** is back at Rosewalk Village....**Jan Lucas** is having good days and bad days, but improving some....**Joshua Nelson**, son of Vickie Donohue, had surgery in Indianapolis to remove his spleen. Heart surgery will follow in about 6 weeks....Continue praying for **Michelle Mullen**, **Annie Crowder**, **Steven Critser**, **Mike Kinsinger**, **Marceena Miller**, **Kaden Koebeke** and **Marie DeWoody**.



In the military: **Tim Beghtol** is in Afghanistan....**Josh Martin** is still in Iraq. **Matthew Kauffman** is now in Germany. **Joe Newman** is in Chicago.

Continue to remember the following people who are home-bound or in a nursing care facility: **Dovie Hurst & Dorothy Walters** (*Creasy Springs Healthcare*), **Argie Verett** (*Cumberland Point*), **Betty Lucas**, **Valley Stockton** (*Regency Place*), **Henrietta Frampton** (*Mulberry Health & Retirement*), **Mary Walker**, **Willie & Calvin Batts**, **Phyllis Gray**, **Carolyn Rigdon**, **Linda Bilyeu**, **Vickie Sanders**, **Janet Achor**, **Clifford Farner**, **Eugene Zinn**, **Irene Sims**, **Charles & Carolyn Moore**, **Delores Hill**, and **Wanita White** (*in Texas with her daughters*).



On Wednesday, **February 2, 7 PM**, Gina Boyd and Katy Travis will begin a new women's class, **"Glorifying God by Living and Eating: locally, mindfully and simply."** All women are welcome.

Hutchinson Open House

This Saturday, **February 5, from 11 AM–2:00 PM**, **Travis & Nicole Hutchinson** will host an open house (2506 Roselawn Avenue, behind the church building) to get better acquainted with Elmwood families. Please make the extra effort to come and give them a warm welcome to our church family and community.



February 5, 7:43 AM...Men's Breakfast
February 12, 9 AM...Women's Breakfast
February 12, 5-9 PM...Parents' Night Out hosted by college students to raise money for mission trip to Washington D.C. over Spring Break
February 25-26...Women's Spring Retreat! **Jackie Halstead**, of Lipscomb University, speaking; sign up in Farris foyer

Read:
Exodus 37-50; Leviticus 1-13;
Luke 18:18-21:38

2011 Spiritual Adventures

Week 6: Feb. 6-12

Good Enough?

“Mom, do you ever feel like you can’t do anything right or good enough for your boss?” was my question to my personal source of parental wisdom. My mother and I share many anxiety characteristics, so I knew her answer would minister to me... i.e. that she would say what I hoped, and that she knew exactly how I felt. And more importantly, she would agree with me... something the boss man hadn’t done all week! I had been given a brand spanking new concept! It would be something that would boost the company sales, excite morale of all, take us to the next level and rise above the competition! But no matter how hard I tried, the boss’s comments were interpreted in my head as, “That’s not good enough Eric, I would do it like this...”

Back up a few years. God’s people had quite the similar project in magnitude (well, perhaps universally somewhat larger) (Exodus 25-40). There was a lot of work to be done, and talk about something that had never been seen before! We’re not just talking about raising company profits; we are talking about setting up the sanctuary commanded by our God, for our God! Talk about anxiety in the workplace! Do you think the workers ever wondered if their handiwork was good enough? I mean, touch the wrong thing, and it may be the last thing you touch before hitting the ground! (2 Sam 6; 6-7) Things had to be done right in all the dealings of God’s tabernacle in the Old Testament, and frankly, I would have been too scared to do anything for fear of not being good enough!

Who is my *boss* anyway? My *real* boss? My real boss is the One who is worth the anxiety, but loves me too much to let me suffer through it! In my spiritual walk, in my work for God, in the things I really want to do to make a difference before my time runs out, I never feel like it’s enough. Complacency hasn’t much place in my demeanor, spiritually speaking. Simply put, we are not good enough; we can’t be, at least not on our own. When our *real* boss comes around to inspect our work, as Moses did the Tabernacle, we will fail. We have been given an important task, “making Christ known,” and it’s a big job! It will revolutionize the lives of those we touch! Nobody like Jesus has ever been heard of before by the lost! It’s brand spanking new to them, and talk about lifting personal morale! And thanks be to God, for He just wants us to be willing enough, He’ll take care of the ‘good enough’ part! In the end, as so many times before, Momma’s wisdom prevails, “Just do the best you can son, that’s all you can do.” You and I, well we will just let the blessings of Jesus take care of the rest. –Eric Clowds

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 463-7012</p> <p>Rick Swensen 463-6822</p> <p>Don Vice 471-8653</p> <p>Staff</p> <p>Ministers</p> <p>Gilbert Kerrigan 418-3652</p> <p>Phil Travis 743-0954</p> <p>Travis Hutchinson 447-2874</p> <p>Office</p> <p>Sherry Marks, Manager 447-2874</p> <p>Carol Bell, Secretary 447-2874</p>	<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>
<p>Our Vision: Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known.</p>		

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