



God is good...All the time?

Every Sunday morning when I stand before my Elmwood family I say, "God is good!" That is usually followed by you responding, "All the time!" On the Sundays that I don't do that I usually hear about it from someone. It has sort of become part of our Sunday morning worship practices.

Have you ever wrestled with God's goodness? Or better yet, have you ever found it difficult to say, "All the time," in response? I know some of you have because we have talked about it together.

Francis Chan talks about an article he read about a family that found out during their pregnancy that the child had an abnormal heart and would probably not survive birth, even if he were to make it that far. It was terrible news to hear. The parents wrestled with God over this. How could He let this happen?

They prayed and prayed over this baby. They prayed for survival. They prayed for a miracle. They prayed that the God of all compassion would give this child the breath of life.

The day of birth came and the child was still alive. Better yet, the child made it through the delivery. *God is good! God is so good!* He was healthy and he was breathing. But that only lasted for a few minutes. Eventually he quit breathing and turned blue. The child died. A miracle was followed by devastation. They were heart broken.

The nurse asked the family if they had a name for the child. The mother responded, "Toby. It's short for a biblical name, Tobiah, which means 'God is good.'"

How in the world could they follow through with that name? God is good? In that moment? Everything that just happened seemed to indicate otherwise.

Talking about it later, the parents explained, "The name is what we believed about God, not what we felt. It was what we wanted to feel again someday." They went on to say that God is good, not just when it makes sense to us, but even when it doesn't make any sense. God is good because that is all God knows - goodness. They needed to affirm that even in this tragedy.

Why do I get up before you every Sunday morning and proclaim that God is good? I certainly don't feel that way every Sunday. I do it because I believe it to be true. I have to affirm it even when I don't necessarily feel it. You help me with this every Sunday.

-Gilbert

Adopt a Student Today!

The school year is quickly approaching! The beginning of a new school year always reminds me of renewed hope and energy. Students at the beginning of the semester have not yet been worn down by late nights and early mornings, test, quizzes, and homework, and are generally pretty excited to be back.

Leaving home presents some dangers as well though. A recent survey found that 95 percent of twenty- to twenty-nine-year-old evangelicals attended church regularly during their elementary and middle school years. By the time they reached college only 11 percent were still attending church.

The body of Christ seems to be losing people when they go to college. But there is hope. That same study shows that of those who stayed in church during their college-aged years, only 6 percent do not currently attend church.

This is why I believe that the adopted student program is so important. College students experience a time of great transition when they go to college. Most of them are living alone for the first time, experiencing freedoms previously restricted from them.

I believe that this time offers excellent opportunities for adult members of the church to offer acceptance and encouragement to students. Not to tell them what to do or turn them into miniature versions of themselves, but to offer them a place to connect and belong.

I believe that the adopt-a-student program that we have at Elmwood is incredibly important in the faith and lives of our college students. If you would like to be a part of that ministry, or would like more information, please contact me! It's easier than you think!

-Phil Travis



Thank you for your kindness and sympathy at a time when it was deeply appreciated. Thank you for the flowers, support, and especially prayers during this stressful time.

~Vicki, Jim, James & Sarah Vaught,
Charles & Gregg Emmert



It's a Girl!

Ann McConnell's daughter, **Lindsay Grubbs**, gave birth to Ann's first grandchild, **Angelee**, on Thursday, July 14. Ann's mother, Joan, too, is excited by the new addition to their family. Congratulations to all!

Food Pantry Needs

The food pantry is in need of cereal, soup, vegetables and personal items.



...I was hungry and you gave me something to eat" (Matthew 25:35).

July 24, 2011

Class: 150 Worship: 234

Contribution: \$6,036

Seth Ratcliff is in St. Elizabeth Hospital following an accident Monday night. He suffered several broken ribs, five broken vertebrae, and cuts and abrasions**Jan Lucas** will be transferred to Creasy Springs for rehab this week....**Jeanette Gibson**, Sherry Marks and Larry Gibson's mother, had surgery last week and is now at St. Anthony's Nursing Home recuperating....

Armilda Follick, had surgery on her right hand and arm and is recuperating at home...**Rick Daniels**, the son of Debbie Daniels, a friend of several Elmwood people, had a large tumor removed last week. They are awaiting the biopsy results....Continue praying for **Andrew Cable, David Black, Mayra Medrano, Mark Andrews (awaiting lung transplant), Mary Lou Baugh, Cecil Thomas, Patty Vice, Marceena Miller, Kathleen Cable, 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** is 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!

You can help area students with school supplies



Once again Elmwood will be a collection site for Salvation Army's "Tools for Schools." If you would like to help children in the community with school supplies for the upcoming school year, a box has been placed in the Farris foyer for your donations and will be there until the first of August. This year they are joining with WLFI-Channel 18 for the give-away on August 13. Some suggested items: glue sticks, Fiskars scissors (5 in. pointed), zippered pencil packs, 1 inch 3-ring binders, new backpacks, plain pocket folders (no prongs), highlighter markers (yellow), colored pencils (12 count/24 count), solar powered calculators, 8 count large crayons, 8 count regular crayons, Prang oval paints (3 pan), washable markers. Also, this year they are collecting new and/or gently used children's clothing for K to 12 graders. Your generosity is much appreciated.

The Cost

There is a story in the Old Testament about a time where King David gets a bit full of himself, and when an adversary shows up, he decides to count his army to see how he stacks up against them. God is rather upset by this turn of events; every battle up to this point that Israel has ever engaged in, they've been outnumbered. God has been the source of their success, but David has become self-focused instead of placing his trust in God.

God takes David and Israel down a notch, and David has to come to terms with the fact that instead of counting the cost for God, he counted the cost for his own well being. God has sent a plague on Israel, and has stopped the plague at the threshold of a local man. David decides it is time to make amends, so he asks to buy the land and buildings from the man. The man responds that he is willing to give him the land, the buildings, even the oxen for a sacrifice of repentance to God free of cost. Note David's response: "No, I insist on paying full price for all of it. *I refuse to offer sacrifices to the LORD that cost me nothing*" (1 Chronicles 21:24).

I have often meditated on this story, and the significance to us in the Christian life. It truly exhibits why David was called a man after God's own heart. It also challenges our mindset on how we approach our lives. At the beginning of the story, David's selfishness leads him to worry about upcoming adversity, and his focus is only on how much it will cost him to fight the battle ahead of him. Contrast this with the end of the story, where David not only doesn't care about the cost of the sacrifice, but is selflessly convicted that a sacrifice to God without cost is meaningless.

I wonder what attitude our pursuit of Christianity most often reflects? Is our pattern of following Jesus one of selfish cost-counting; trying to figure out what the bare minimum of time, energy or priority is required to satisfy our requirements as Christians? Or are we willing to embrace a different mindset that better reflects the One we follow? Jesus sets the bar fairly clear; "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, brother or sister, or even his own life, he is not ready to be my disciple. And if anyone is not willing to carry his cross, he is not worthy of me" (Luke 14:26-27). Simply put, Jesus is saying that if our discipleship is measured on what we must give up rather than on what cost we willingly, even recklessly abandon for him, we are failing to grasp the nature of discipleship.

I hope God will use this story to convict us the way he did David, to give us a heart after Him as well. Sacrifice is the fullest expression of love, and the One we follow displayed it recklessly in His steps to the Cross. May we have the heart to count the cost not in what we must give, but what we would gladly give up to follow Him to eternal and full life.

In His Grip, Travis



Anthony Barrett, son of Stephanie & Steve Curwick, made the decision to put on the Lord in baptism on Friday, July 22, while at Camp Wabashi. Anthony has been a part of the Elmwood congregation since he was born. He is also the grandson of Pam & Max Houlton. Anthony will be a sixth grader at Southwestern Middle School. We welcome our new brother in Christ and rejoice with his family on his commitment to the Lord.

Church Campout at Warren Dunes State Park, Aug. 5-7



The church campout at Warren Dunes State Park is coming up soon—August 5-7. We have limited space and are trying to organize the campsites we have for

maximum occupancy, so we need your deposits to hold your spaces. Cost per family is \$30 for the weekend for shared sites, \$60 for the weekend if you are taking up a whole site. Maximum occupancy for a site is 8 adults in 2 structures (tent, popup, etc.). See Travis Hutchinson about a reservation.

God is good all the time...

All the time God is good



July 27, 5:45 PM..."Freed Up Financial Living," taught by Janet Boston in media room

July 27, 7 PM...Bible classes for all

July 31, 6 PM...LIFE Group at Elmwood and around the community

August 5-7...Church Campout at Warren Dunes State Park
During August at 6 PM...Meet at Elmwood and enjoy mission reports and other activities

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

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

Read:
Ezra 6–Nehemiah; Romans 8-12

2011 Spiritual Adventures

Week 31: July 31-August 6


Know God

In Romans 10:18-21, Paul quotes from Psalms 19: 4 and from other passages in Deuteronomy and Isaiah, to make a point he had made earlier in Romans 1:19-21 - that is, God can be known simply through His creation and on that basis alone God can be worshipped and thanked. He reminds the Jews in Romans 10 that many, although hearing the message, had failed to understand the core message. Paul, quoting Isaiah, even refers to the Jews as “a disobedient and obstinate people” although they knew the law, they had had not recognized God for who He is and for what he does, and had not lived in response.

For all the complexities of the Roman letter and even complexities found in the section for this week’s reading in Romans, in our reading of this passage, Nan and I are totally humbled by what we believe is Paul’s most basic message, that is, to see God as The Creator and the One who sustains us, the One who communicates His love to us through everything He has done, and the One to whom we provide our thanks with all of our being. As believers immersed in the word, we can miss the acknowledgement of God’s magnificence. We can fail to give thanks by failing to live lives of thankfulness and service. Knowing Christ is to also know God; to make Christ known, is to live as Christ lived. We quote an Old Testament passage from the New Jerusalem Bible: “This, however, you must know: I find that God made man simple; man’s complex problems are of his own devising” (Ecclesiastes 7: 29-30). Faith can be as “simple” as, for example, knowing that we are created by a loving God and living each day in response to Him. Our simple response to God’s Being, regardless of the complexity of the doctrine, is to serve God and others. In reading Paul, our hope as a couple is that we should more often focus on the WHO and less often on the HOW - and give/live thanks.

–*Bob and Nan Waltz*

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> <hr/> <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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