



Blessed are the Un-cool

Rachel Held Evans is a well known author, speaker and blogger. Thousands of people visit her website on a daily basis. I recently ran across one of her blog posts titled, *Blessed are the Un-cool*. I want to share an excerpt from her post:

People sometimes assume that because I'm a progressive 30-year-old who enjoys Mumford and Sons and has no children, I must want a super-hip church—you know, the kind that's called "Thrive" or "Be" and which boasts "an awesome worship experience," a fair-trade coffee bar, its own iPhone app, and a pastor who looks like a Jonas Brother.

While none of these features are inherently wrong, (and can of course be used by good people to do good things), these days I find myself longing for a church with a cool factor of about 0.

That's right.

I want a church that includes fussy kids, old liturgy, bad sound, weird congregants, and...brace yourself...painfully amateur "special music" now and then.

Why?

Well, for one thing, when the gospel story is accompanied by a fog machine and light show, I always get this creeped-out feeling like someone's trying to sell me something. It's as though we're all compensating for the fact that Christianity's not good enough to stand on its own so we're adding snacks.

But more importantly, I want to be part of an un-cool church because I want to be part of a community that shares the reputation of Jesus, and like it or not, Jesus' favorite people in the world were not cool. They were mostly sinners, misfits, outcasts, weirdos, poor people, sick people, and crazy people.

Her words resonate with me and convict me. As someone who has some responsibility for Sunday morning services, I find myself being embarrassed by sloppiness. I often feel that it hinders the work of the Spirit when we are "not on top of our game." The real truth, though, is that professionalism can often become a substitute for the work of the Spirit. We can try to make things so perfect (and so cool!) that we make no room for the Spirit to work. This mentality led one preacher to suggest that you could take the Holy Spirit out of most churches in America and no one would ever tell the difference.

May our goal be not to have a cool church, but to have a church where Jesus and all his friends would fit right in.

-Gilbert

Don't Calculate Without God

Excerpted from: *"My Utmost For His Highest,"* by Oswald Chambers.

"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass" Ps.37:5.

Don't calculate without God.

God seems to have a delightful way of upsetting the things we have calculated on without taking Him into account. We get into circumstances which were not chosen by God, and suddenly we find we have been calculating without God; He has not entered in as a living factor. The one thing that keeps us from the possibility of worrying is bringing God in as the greatest factor in all our calculations.

In our religion it is customary to put God first, but we are apt to think it is an impertinence to put Him first in the practical issues of our lives. If we imagine we have to put on our Sunday moods before we come near to God, we will never come near Him. We must come as we are.

Don't calculate with the evil in view.

Does God really mean us to take no account of the evil? "Love...taketh no account of the evil." Love is not ignorant of the existence of the evil, but it does not take it in as a calculating factor. Apart from God, we do reckon with evil; we calculate with it in view and work all our reasonings from that standpoint.

How often do you "calculate with God in mind"? How often do we find that we have forgotten to take God into account?

-Phil Travis



It's a Girl!

Barb Newberry has another great-granddaughter born to granddaughter, **Jessica & her husband, Derek Dimmick**, in Jacksonville, Florida. **Addyson Dru** was born Sunday, July 3, weighing 8 pounds, 6 ounces and measuring 19.5 inches long. She was born on what would have been Barb's and Stan's 53rd wedding anniversary. Congratulations, Barb and family!

Senior Servants Meet Wednesday, July 6

The Senior Servants will meet this Wednesday, July 6, at 11:30 AM in the A2 fellowship room. Travis Hutchinson will lead a brief devotion. Bring a bag lunch, sign cards, and join with us in this special church project—no age limit! —*Sam Postlethwait*

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 3, 2011

Class: 107 Worship: 202

Contribution: \$8,064.00

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Darlene Emmert, Vicki Vaught's mother, is in hospice care in southern Indiana. Vicki, Jim and their children postponed vacation plans to be here with her...**Mayra Medrano**, sister of a close friend of Rebecca Hadar, lost her husband in a car accident on Saturday and her daughter is in Riley Hospital in Indianapolis ...**Joy Myers**, mother of Connie Brewer, is in the hospital. Connie hopes that after a blood transfusion she will be doing better soon....Continue praying for **David Black, Mark Andrews** (*awaiting lung transplant*), **Seren McWilliams, Ted Holderfield, Kevin Verett, Jan Lucas, Mary Lou Baugh, Cecil Thomas, Sherry Scoggin, Steve Curwick, Patty Vice, Marceena Miller, Armilda Follick, Kathleen Cable, Tammy Beaver, Linda Weeks, Kaden Koebeke, 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. **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, Ethel Cable, Hattie Coffel, 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.**

Wedding Shower for Whitney & Jeremy



Chris Sutherlin is hosting a wedding shower for **Whitney Wolpert and Jeremy Bartlett** this Sunday, **July 10, 2-4 PM**, at her home 2805 Union St., Lafayette. Hostesses, Betty Brown, Dorothy Miller, Joyce Mathews and Carol Bell will receive donations for a group gift.



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.

In Dependence

It's hard to write a bulletin article when your feet have to share the space beneath your desk with a cowering German Shepherd. Fireworks are not Bailey's friend, and we've been having regular "performances" in the neighborhood for about a week and a half now. So we've developed a routine that when they start, she finds her way to her "safe space", which is usually either in the shower or under my feet.

We've just celebrated our Independence Day, set on July 4th, the date that John Hancock and Charles Thomson first put their signatures on a document that declared the thirteen colonies no longer subject to Britain but "unanimously free and independent states." Independence was a big deal to these men, a concept they were willing to fight and die for. Independence is also a big deal to us, and I think we are as equally willing to fight and sacrifice for it today.

There are two questions, though, that I think we need to always ask when we consider the idea of independence. The word itself conveys the idea of release from relying on or being controlled by an outside source. It begs us to ask both what we are being released from and for what purpose we are pursuing the release. For the Founding Fathers, it was release from a system of government that had become oppressive in order to pursue dependence in a new government that would better represent and govern the people of the states in America.

I think it's important to realize that they weren't saying "we're free from everything, to do whatever we want." Many times I believe we equate independence in our personal lives, or even on a national level, with complete freedom with the purpose of doing whatever we desire. This wasn't the intent of our historical actions as a nation, nor would any government based on that idea survive for any reasonable period! It's the same on a personal level; freedom that exists only to pursue desire is actually enslaved and will not survive to become what it was intended to be.

Some of our faulty ideas about individualism and independence are actually hurting us because they are eroding a great need our Creator endowed us with; the need to be connected to and find purpose in something greater than ourselves. Paul reminds the Galatians in the beginning of chapter 5 that it is for freedom that Christ has set them free, but then strongly reminds them in vv. 13-14 that their freedom doesn't exist for their benefit, to indulge themselves, but so that they can exist to serve one another in love. Jesus gives the disciples amazing amounts of liberty in John 15, but frames it in the fact that their freedom to be rests in their continued dependence in Him, like a branch connected to a vine. As Christians, we believe that our independence from being enslaved to death was so that our freedom could find purpose in something better and higher in Christ Jesus.

This should fundamentally change the way we view independence as Christians, from freedom without purpose or value to an independence that seeks to be "in dependence" to Christ and the lifestyle He adopted as a model for us. I hope that as you celebrate the amazing gift and responsibility of political freedom this week, it will focus you on the responsibility that we share spiritually; using the gift of independence to seek a greater dependence in purpose and life in Christ. It is for *this* freedom that we were set free.

In His Grip, Travis

Upcoming Youth Events:

July 17-23, Spring Mill, open to all middle & high school: time is running out to register for this session. If you have already registered, let me know. If you need to register, you can go online to <http://www.springmillbiblecamp.org/> and download your form.

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.). Deadline for signup is **Sunday, July 24**, so please get your reservation and deposit to Travis as soon as possible.

Me? A LUM Camp Counselor?

Would you, or someone you know, make a good LUM Camp counselor? LUM Camp will take place the week of August 1-5. Volunteers must be 18 years old, enjoy working with children and be able to spend the entire week at camp from 11:00 AM on Monday, August 1, to 4:00 PM on Friday, August 5. Committed volunteer counselors are at the heart of a successful LUM Camp. They instill confidence, rejoice in accomplishment, help nurture self-esteem and support each child throughout the wonderful week that is LUM Camp. A comfy bunk in a rustic (air conditioned) cabin awaits you! All you need is the availability and willingness to have a fun week with a great group of children. Call Joe Micon for additional information (423-2691) or visit www.LafayetteUrbanMinistry.org.



July 6, 11:30 AM....Senior Servants meet at Elmwood

July 6, 5:45 PM....Budget Class in media room;
taught by Janet Boston

July 6, 7 PM....Bible classes for all

July 10, 2-4 PM....Chris Sutherlin is hosting a wedding shower
for Jeremy Bartlett and Whitney Wolpert

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

Read:
 I Chron. 26-29; Proverbs 15-24;
 Matt. 22:23-25:46

2011 Spiritual Adventures


Week 28: July 10-16


Keep Watch!

Matthew drops us in the middle of a duel with the Pharisees and Sadducees doing their best “to trap Him (Jesus) in His words.” However, Jesus foils their plans with His wisdom, turning their evil-spawned questions back on them such that they’re left trapped and speechless. At the end of the duel, Jesus shames the self-righteous, pompous, pious, hypocritical ways of the Pharisees and Sadducees, casting seven woes their way along with the responsibility of “all the righteous blood that has been shed on the earth;” all this soon after Jesus told the chief priests and Pharisees that the kingdom of God would be taken away from them to be given “to a people who will produce its fruit (Mt. 21:43).” How intense! Is something big about to happen? Is Jesus preparing to declare his Messiahship, to take away the kingdom from the Pharisees to begin His reign? I suspect the disciples might have been considering these questions.

Next, as Jesus and the disciples leave the temple, the disciples call Jesus’ attention to its beauty and splendor. Jesus tells them that “not one stone will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.” Really? The destruction of the temple and coming of the Messiah don’t quite go together. Of course the disciples ask Jesus, “When will this happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age?” They want to know when the temple will be destroyed and when Jesus’ rule will begin. These are good questions. So, Jesus answers them. He gives them the warning signs of the destruction of the temple and Jerusalem, which includes their being persecuted, killed, and hated. As for His coming, “No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father... Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.” This prophesy remains unfulfilled, and therefore applies to us today. Let’s together continue to be watchful, steadfast servants of our Lord, waiting for the day of “His coming.”

-Susan Huff

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
		



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