



He Is Not Finished!

As we open up to Luke's sequel, Acts, we find Luke writing, "*In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach...*" (1:1). Then, later in that opening chapter, we read the words of Jesus as he addresses his disciples, and he says, "*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth*" (1:8).

One thing that I take from this opening chapter of Acts is that Jesus is not finished doing and teaching. Luke simply wrote about what Jesus **began** to do and to teach in his gospel account. Acts is a continuation of that story. It continues to tell about what Jesus is doing and teaching. He is not finished!

The other thing that I take from this opening chapter is that what Jesus continues to do he does through his followers, and what he continues to teach he teaches through his followers. When they receive the gift of the Holy Spirit they will be his witnesses. They will continue to do and to teach what he began to do and to teach. He is not finished!

What we have traditionally called *The Acts of the Apostles* would be more accurately called *The Continuing Acts of Jesus*, or *The Acts of the Holy Spirit*. Jesus was not finished with what he began. He still wanted to do and to teach - through his followers. Acts shows this theme running throughout the book. Emphasis is heavily placed, not so much on Jesus' followers themselves, but on the Holy Spirit doing and teaching through Jesus' followers.

Guess what, church? He is not finished! What Jesus began to do and to teach he continued through his followers then, and he continues through his followers today. We are a continuation of that story. That is why Paul writes, "*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me*" (Gal. 2:20). In Romans he writes, "*I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me...*" (15:18). Those can be our words as well.

Jesus wants to continue to do and to teach. Are you allowing him to do so? Are you allowing him to do and to teach through you? Are you continuing the story of what he began?

-Gilbert

Contextual Messages

Katy and I went to Elliot Hall last Tuesday in order to watch the Blue Man Group (BMG) perform. If you haven't seen their show, it is part concert, part light show, part comedy act, and part audience participation. You may have heard that about twenty minutes into the show the fire alarm started going off. There were flashing lights and a voice notifying us that we should leave the building.

What you may not know is that almost no one even moved. Most people in the audience assumed it was a part of the show (particularly since the bit that the BMG were doing was all about multi-tasking and distraction!).

Now, had we been in a quiet play, or been watching an orchestra performance, we would have all understood the validity of the message immediately and would have vacated our seats (we did *eventually* do that on Tuesday... but it took awhile!).

This reminds me of the importance of context. Because of the context of the show, the important message was not heeded by the vast majority of the audience. I believe the same is true in our lives. The nature of the way we live our lives has a huge impact on how our Christian message is received. Paul encourages Timothy of this in 1 Timothy 4:11-12: "*Command and teach these things.... set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.*"

If our lives do not show the love we talk about, the message will be drowned out by the cacophony of our behavior!

-Phil



It's a Girl!

Charlotte Kelley was born (*sooner than expected*) to Burgess and Adam Brown last Tuesday, March 1. She weighed 6 pounds, 8 ounces and measured 19.5 inches long. Though she wasn't due until the middle of March, she is doing fine. Wyatt was excited to welcome his new baby sister!



Thank you for the prayers, cards, and show of love during Mom's passing.
ñGene & Jeannie Dilling

Snow Servants

Harold Riddle is on call for light snow removal this week, March 6-12. You can reach him at 538-3797 if you need assistance.



March 6, 2011

Class: 221 Worship: 261
Contribution: \$10,965.32

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Farewell Party

A "Farewell Party" is planned for **Sharon & Nichole Porter** this **Sunday, March 13, from 3:00 until 5:00 PM**. Hosted by Mandy Anderson, Kate Kerrigan, and Rachel Ravellette, it will be held at Mandy's home, 16 Haymarket Way, Lafayette. We hope you will make every effort to come and wish Sharon and Nichole a fond farewell and God's richest blessings.

Patty Vice is in St. Elizabeth East, room 3N40 following some complications after her recent chemo treatment....**Kaden Koebecke** will receive a kidney from his father, **Travis**, on Wednesday, March 9, 9:00 AM, at Riley Hospital/TU Medical. Surgeons have said it will be a long day for all concerned....**Emily Eberhart**, 5-year old daughter of Susan & Marc, received a new pacemaker on Wednesday at Riley Hospital....**Phyllis Gray** fell last week and broke her nose....**Nichole Porter** was hospitalized briefly with a staph infection....Continue praying for **Jan Lucas**, **Max Raines** (*chemo treatments*), **Marie DeWoody**, **Jan Swensen** (*melanoma*), **Betty Lucas**, **Joshua Nelson** (*heart surgery in the near future*), **Michelle Mullen**, **Mike Kinsinger**, and **Marceena Miller**.



In the military: **Tim Beghtol** is in Afghanistan. **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: **Dovie Hurst**, **Irene Sims**, **Dorothy Walters**, **Ethel Cable**, **Hattie Coffel**, **Argie Verett**, **Valley Stockton**, **Henrietta Frampton**, **Mary Walker**, **Bill Gibson**, **Carolyn Rigdon**, **Linda Bilyeu**, **Vickie Sanders**, **Janet Achor**, **Clifford Farner**, **Eugene Zinn**, **Charles & Carolyn Moore**, **Delores Hill**, **Wanita White** and **Annie Crowder**.

It's a Baby Shower!

A baby shower for **Alison & Will Wade** (daughter and son-in-law of **Joe & Gail Ruhl**), will be hosted by Seth Mullen at his home, 4418 Lakevilla Drive, West Lafayette, on **Sunday, March 27, from 2 o'clock until 4 o'clock** in the afternoon. Donations for a group gift will be accepted by Seth and hostesses, Carol Bell and Amy Hodges. Alison and Will are registered at Target and Babies 'R' Us.



A Note of Thanks

When I got the envelope from Jackie Halstead with all the tender messages from my dear Elmwood friends, I was quite taken with emotion. I am so touched with the very kind remarks, good wishes, and loving comments. I treasure 20 years of precious memories with God's people at Elmwood and have enjoyed making new friends among you since we were there. Thank you so much for writing to me during your retreat weekend. I am honored and feel blessed to share Jesus' love with you.

ñLisa Crowe

Whatever You Do

I had the privilege this past weekend of seeing a number of our teens hanging from the rafters pretending to fly, being pushed down garbage chutes, line dancing, and sporting green hair. No, this was not another lock-in.

As part of the Spring Musical at McCutcheon, “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory”, a number of our teens were able to showcase their gifts and talents for acting, singing, dance, and even improvisation (what happened to the car?). They also showcased something even more powerful: their faith. Reading the biographies of our students in the program, I was struck by how many gave thanks and glory to God in their statements. It was so encouraging to see you put that not only in print, but also in the way you conducted yourselves on and off stage.

I think we all have this notion that God wants our faith to trickle out into our daily actions and conduct, but then we get a bit fuzzy on what that should look like. How exactly *do* I mark myself as a Christian artist, athlete, employee, family member, friend, etc.? Paul says in numerous places that it is not only our responsibility, but our joy to actively portray Christ in our talents, gifts, skills and relationships.

Paul’s words to the disciples in Colossae were rooted in the reality that their identity had fundamentally been changed by Christ’s supremacy; His resurrection was resurrecting their lives, realigning their nature to look like His. As a result, their old way of looking at life should atrophy and die off, being replaced by this new, vibrant, resurrection-life. And this new life wasn’t going to stop internally, it was going to move out into every aspect of their life. Paul shows this great progression of resurrection-life moving from inside us to our church community, to our family relationships, to our relationships of work or authority, and eventually out to our most basic interactions with anyone. In it, he repeatedly makes statements like, “Let every detail in your lives - words, actions, whatever- be done in the name of your Master, Jesus, showing thanks to God every step of the way” (Col. 3:17). Later, he says, “Work from the heart for your real Master, for God, confident that you’ll receive His promise in full when you come into your inheritance from Him. Keep in mind the ultimate Master you live for is Christ” (3:22).

Simply put, God is calling us to use our work, talents, speech and relationships as windows to His Glory. We mark ourselves by the little things: letting God be in charge of the details of our life, putting the praise to Him instead of us, letting our wants and desires take a back seat to His priorities. It’s also about seeing people and situations through His reality instead of ours and letting that drive the thoughts in our head, the words from our mouth and the work from our hands. Most of all, every chance we get, we thank Him for the ability to showcase His goodness, whether that is in our moment of success or failure, triumph or tragedy. He rules it all.

My prayer for all of us this week is that we will embrace His reality and that in whatever we do, we will do it as people who live to magnify Him.

- *In His Grip,*
Travis

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 12, 7-10 PM	Common Grounds @ Casteels
March 18-20	ILLUMINATE @ Rochester, MI
March 25-26	REVOLVE @ Columbus, OH [girls only!]
April 18	Cubs game sponsored by Harding
April 20	Area-wide event with David Bowden
April 22-24	Midwest LTC Conference

Attention Women!



Thursday, March 14, at 6:30 PM, all women are invited to “**Game Night**” in A-2/fellowship room. Food will be provided. Wear something green in honor of St. Patrick’s Day—if possible! Questions? Call Barb Newberry or Hedi Devine.

Thanks from Elmwood’s Willie Wonka Musical Members

Thank you to all the members of Elmwood who supported us in the McCutcheon Spring Musical this past weekend! Your presence and your encouragement is greatly appreciated!

With Love in Christ,

Rachel Hopkins, Kaitlyn O’Donnell, Rachel Stafford, Brittany Starkweather, and Nelson Tilley

Pictures Being Taken



Pictures are being taken this week, March 10-12. If you need to change your time, contact Bill Hodges (449-1255) and he’ll attempt to get a time trade made. We also need a few more evening volunteers to greet people as they arrive to get their pictures taken. Thanks for all your help.



March 9, 7 PM....Bible classes for all

March 10-12....Picture-taking with Olan Mills

March 27, 2:00–4:00 PM....Baby shower for Alison & Will Wade at the Mullens’ home, 4418 Lakevilla Dr., WL

April 3....Ryan Richardson (former Elmwood campus minister) will be talking to the combined adult classes during the Bible class time about an upcoming mission he and Beth will be involved with.

Read:
Numbers 16-31; Acts 13:24-17:15

2011 Spiritual Adventures

Week 11: March 13-19

Balaam and his Donkey

Numbers 23 is one of those stories we remember from Sunday school as a child: Balaam and his donkey. We teach it to children because it is fun and memorable. The lesson from this story still applies when we get older, perhaps even more. God can use any means to get our attention and teach us a lesson, even something as humble [and humiliating!] as a donkey. Sometimes I wonder how many lessons I missed because I was too proud to listen to a “donkey” in my life. The virtue of gentleness, from the Greek word *praotes*, implies a quality of “teachability.” This means we are humble enough to be taught by any means God chooses to use in our lives. We believe that God teaches through His holy Scriptures, His Holy Spirit, and through the people and circumstances in our lives. We believe in accountability from each other within the Body. But we also feel that it matters how a message is delivered and by whom. Certainly it makes a difference in my life who gives me accountability! Is it a mature Christian with whom I have a strong relationship? Certainly it makes a difference how they hold me accountable! Is it done in love and kindness? Like most people, I definitely respond better under those conditions - it makes the medicine go down better. But I believe the story of Balaam and his donkey also demonstrates for me that in the end, it doesn't matter how or through whom God chooses to get my attention; if the message is consistent with God's Word, I need to accept it. It's not easy or enjoyable! But it's a mark of maturity and fruit of the Holy Spirit within us. Balaam and his donkey - not just a children's story.

-Danae Casteel

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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