



## Taking Off the Old Self

Byron Widner and his wife were heavily involved in white supremacist groups, even founding their own white power gangs. Byron has been in and out of prisons throughout the country. His violent reputation followed him everywhere he went. FBI agents labeled Byron *“the pit bull of skinheads,”* because *“no one was more aggressive, more confrontational, more notorious.”* He was a symbol of hate.

Something inside Byron changed. He wanted to change. He wanted to rid himself of his hate-filled past. The only person he really hated was himself.

He cleaned up his act. The FBI helped his family escape the dangers of leaving the white power groups. They started attending a church together. He set out to start an honest career so that he could provide for his family. There was only one problem: his face was a constant reminder to himself and to others of his violent, hate-filled past. His face was covered in tattoos of swastikas, burning crosses, and the word HATE in large bold letters. Potential employers could not see past his tattooed face.

He became so desperate to remove the tattoos that he contemplated dousing his face in acid. Eventually he found a doctor willing to attempt his tattoo removal, and an anonymous donor provided the money for the surgeries. The doctor told him it would be a very long process and that it would be painful (*Byron later admitted it was probably the most painful thing he had ever experienced*). After nearly \$40,000 and 16 months of 25 extremely painful surgeries the tattoos have been totally removed.

The doctor that performed the surgeries was quoted as saying, *“Anyone who is prepared to put himself through this is bound to do something good with his life.”*

I love the connection that can be made between the anonymous donor willing to pay the high price for Byron’s chance at a new life and Christ doing the same for us. But what really caught my attention was the connection that can be found in Colossians where Paul talks about *“taking off your old self”* and *“putting on the new self.”* That doesn’t happen over night. It is often a long and painful process, but with the power of the Spirit it can be done.

I would like to close by slightly altering the doctor’s statement. *Anyone who is prepared to put himself through this, God is bound to do something good with his life!*

*-Gilbert*

## Ask and You Shall Receive

*“As he approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. They told him, ‘Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.’ Then he shouted, ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’ Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet; but he shouted even more loudly, ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’ Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ He said, ‘Lord, let me see again.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Receive your sight; your faith has saved you.’ Immediately he regained his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, praised God.”* Luke 18:35-43

This story has always struck me as interesting. We have a blind man calling out for Jesus insistently. There are many things we could look at in this story, but I want to focus on Jesus’ response. He asks the man, “What do you want me to do for you?”

We may think, “Come on Jesus, the guy is blind; of course he wants to see!” I think that Jesus’ response reminds us that though we may assume we know what someone wants (and perhaps, in this case, our assumption would be correct), in order to really serve someone, you must ASK them how they want to be served.

*-Phil Travis*



**Happy 90th  
Birthday  
to you**

**Irene Sims** celebrates her 90th birthday this Thursday, November 3! If you wish to send a card she is at Creasy Springs, 1750 S. Creasy Lane, Lafayette 47905.

## 2012 Spiritual Adventure Articles

*Authors  
Needed*



We need volunteers to write the (back page) Spiritual Adventure articles. We still have a number of open slots throughout the year. Please sign up using the yellow attendance cards on Sunday morning, email us at [office@elmwood-church.org](mailto:office@elmwood-church.org) or call the church office at 765-447-2874. You will be notified of your scripture assignment well in advance.   
—Carol Bell

## Our Sympathies

Our sympathies to Beth Holt whose step-mother's brother, **Bud Rose**, was killed in a dump truck accident on Monday. Pray for Bonnie and John Holt and family.

**October 30, 2011**

*Class: 122 Worship: 228*

*Contribution: \$6,572.17*

**George Kenworthy** is recuperating from back surgery at Rosewalk Village, room 133....**Steve Cable** is battling ongoing problems with his pancreas....**Cynthia Shattuck**, 3 year-old daughter of Krystal, will have a tonsilectomy later this month....**Mary Weaver**, mother of Vickie Donohue, had a stroke last week....Continue praying for **Sherry Scoggin, Lori Shirley, Herb King, Bill Adams, Annie Crowder, Samuel Nyannor, John Ruckh, Carly Bartley, Dave Hostetler (chemo treatments), Jeanette Tidrick (hospice care), Janet Achor, Max Raines, Bill Farris, Rick Daniels, Mary Lou Baugh, Marceena Miller, Tammy Beaver, Linda Weeks, Kaden Koebecke, Mickey & Carolyn Rigdon, Marie DeWoody, Wanita White, Phyllis Gray, and Jan Swensen.**



Continue to remember the following people who are home-bound or in a nursing care facility: **Paul Marks** is now back at Rosewalk Commons; **Irene Sims & Dorothy Walters** are in Creasy Springs; **Dovie Hurst** is in Bickford Cottage; **Ethel Cable** is in Digby House; **Hattie Coffel** is at Rosewalk Village; **Valley Stockton** is at Regency Place; **Henrietta Frampton** is in Mulberry Health & Retirement Center; **Ruth Carter** is at Cumberland Point; **Clifford Farner** is at Whispering Pines in Monticello; **Willie & Calvin Batts, Argie Verett, Delores Hill, Mary Walker, and Charles & Carolyn Moore** are all home-bound with various stages of health problems.



In the military: **Matthew Kauffman** is in Germany. **Evan Slaughter** is in Afghanistan. **Joe Newman** is being deployed in November. Vicki Henke's nephews (brothers), **Dustin & Zach Whiteman**, are being deployed in November and December to Afghanistan.



**Patty Vice, 71**, died at 5:57 AM on Saturday, October 29, 2011, in her home surrounded by her family. She recently ceased chemotherapy treatments and was receiving hospice care at home. Patty leaves her husband, Don, daughter and son-in-law, Susan and David Hardy, son and daughter-in-law, Bradley and Patricia Vice, six grandchildren and two great-granchildren. The family will receive friends from 9:30 AM until the service at 11:30 AM on Friday at Elmwood Church of Christ. Our sincerest sympathies to Don and his family.

## Prayer Shawl Meeting November 14



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The ongoing Prayer Shawl Ministry, hosted by Rose Hunt each month at her home, 5911 Bittersweet Dr., West Lafayette, will meet **November 14 from 7:00–9:00 PM.** Many have been blessed by this ministry! For more information contact Rose or drop in on their next meeting.

One of the things I firmly believe is that God has gifted all of us with abilities and skills to be used for the benefit of others, and youth are no exception. In a desire to give as many outlets for you to exercise those gifts as possible, we will periodically be featuring articles from our students as guest writers in this column. What you think about God and your relationship with Him is valuable, and worthy of the church's attention! This week's article is from Seth Ratcliff, and he takes on a great topic of how to have a proper perspective in the midst of trials or suffering. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I have.

- TRAVIS

When Gilbert spoke to us a couple of weeks ago, something that really resonated with me was when he said that we should find glory in our sufferings. After recently spending five days in the hospital with a broken back and losing two loved ones in my family, I felt this really related to me at this point in my life considering what my family had previously been through.

In Romans 5:1-5, it says, "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." This scripture helped me to have perseverance when it seemed that everything was going wrong. I believe that being in an accident has built my character as well as helped me to appreciate life and not take it for granted. Also, my advice to anyone who has lost a loved one is to do just as it says in Romans, and find glory in your sufferings. Losing a family member isn't easy, but I find it much easier to be happy that they are with God rather than being upset that they're no longer with us.

It is important as Christians to put our utmost trust in God during times of need. In James 1:2-6 we are told to, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind." It is easy as humans to think of how much better it could be when things aren't going our way, but we need to remember that this is ultimately God maturing us and, if we allow it, bringing us closer to Him.

- Seth

## women's retreat November 4-5

The Women's Fall Retreat is this **Friday and Saturday, November 4-5**, at Ross Camp. Friday's event will begin with a soup supper at 6:00 PM. Saturday's events will begin at 8:30 AM with breakfast and end at 2:00 PM. **Bring your Bible and a new or used mug or other beverage container for an exchange activity.** Overnight stay is encouraged, but there will also be some women willing to carpool for day trips. Cost for the weekend is \$20 though scholarships are available. Signup sheet is in the Farris foyer.



There will be no midweek service on November 23, but, there will be a Soup(er) Supper on Tuesday, November 22. Everyone is invited and asked to bring some soup/chili, crackers/bread, or dessert to share. We hope you'll come and share the meal and offer your thanks to God for another year of blessings. Questions? Contact Danae Casteel.

## Children's Christmas Musical, December 18, 6:00

Chris-Myth Busters' rehearsals continue at 6:25 PM on Wednesday evenings with the first Sunday rehearsal beginning this Sunday, November 6, following 2nd service. This year's program is to be given on **December 18 at 6:00.**

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



November 2, 7 PM....Bible classes for all  
November 4-5....Women's Fall Retreat at Ross Camp  
November 8, 6:30 PM....*Celebration of Life Banquet*, Purdue  
November 14, 7-9 PM.... Prayer Shawl meeting at Hunts' home  
November 22, 6 PM....Soup(er) Supper at Elmwood, A2  
December 10....Christmas for Everyone distribution day

Read:  
Ezekiel 1-21; John 9-11

# 2011 Spiritual Adventures

## Week 45: November 6-12

### Miracles and Doubt?

These chapters of John are filled with *miracles* and *doubt*, two concepts which are often mentioned together in the Bible. Jesus heals a blind man – and people doubt what He has done. Jesus tells the people (after they ask Him) that He is the Christ – yet the people remain divided about who He is. Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead with many people watching – still, the people debate about His identity. While the doubting of the people may be disappointing, it comes as no surprise to Jesus, who knows all men (John 2:24); consequently, He uses these miracles to demonstrate that He is who He claims to be. In verse 10:25, in response to the people’s request that He say He is the Christ, Jesus says, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father’s name speak for me.” And later, in verse 38, Jesus says, “Even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles.”

When you struggle with doubt, take comfort in knowing that, for thousands of years people have wrestled with unbelief. But don’t rest in that doubt! While we do not have Jesus in the flesh in front of us, healing the blind and raising the dead, we must not discount that God has equipped us with the authority of the written Word and the urgings of the Spirit! Jesus tells Martha plainly who He is in 11:25: “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.” Rely on the Holy Spirit and ask for your eyes to be opened to the miracles God is doing in your own life and the lives of those around you. Perhaps most importantly, when you are NOT in a season of doubt, be sure to share with your fellow Christians the miracles God is working in your life so that you can encourage them and lift them up!

—Dan & Vicky Martin

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><b>Staff</b></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><b>Our Vision:</b> Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known.</p>		



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