



Encouraging Good Drivers and Good Disciples

In 1979 Singapore launched a campaign called *National Courtesy Campaign*. The purpose was to encourage citizens of Singapore to be more kind and considerate to each other, in hopes that it would improve the overall social environment of Singapore. Throughout the campaign they have focused on different areas of their culture. In 2009 they chose to focus their attention on the transportation of Singapore. They called this particular endeavor *The Road Courtesy Campaign*.

The idea behind this was to encourage polite drivers with various awards and prizes. Instead of just ticketing the inconsiderate motorist - those with road rage - they decided to also add encouragement to the mix. If officials saw drivers waving to other drivers, allowing other drivers to merge into heavy traffic, or using proper turn signals, that official would take note of their license plate in order to send them a prize or souvenir to commemorate their kindness.

Most reports suggest that driving in Singapore has vastly improved. Why?

I believe they have tapped into something we often miss: encouragement goes a lot further than criticism. Don't get me wrong, we all need a healthy dose of criticism, especially constructive criticism, but encouragement is needed in greater doses. This is something Kate and I have discovered with Cole. He is much more apt to change behavior in response to encouragement, or positive reinforcement, than in response to our constant nagging and corrections.

Is it any wonder that encouragement is such a big part of a disciple's walk? The New Testament is constantly reminding us to be encouraging people. We are to speak words of encouragement to one another. We are to consider how to spur one another on toward good deeds. We are to encourage one another in the face of difficulties. Encourage. Encourage. Encourage.

Scripture nowhere talks about the gift of criticism, but it does speak of the gift of encouragement (Rom. 12:8).

Be intentional this week about encouraging someone in your life. When you feel the need to criticize, swing the pendulum in the other direction and find a way to say something encouraging.

-Gilbert

Being Active

In church circles, it's common to be pushed to become more active. There are always volunteer activities, possibilities and options for the church to be a part of. While I believe there is great value in having many different ways that people can use their gifts in order to serve God, I think it is important to remember the words of the Scottish theologian, P.T. Forsyth: *"It is possible to be so active in the service of Christ as to forget to love him."*

As a minister, I am always looking for more involvement from people, but that can easily turn into a misapplication of focus. I believe that everything we do, on all contexts, ought to be done in light of the work of the cross and the effect it has on our lives, though action, for the sake of action, can lead to the problem that Forsyth is talking about.

I think the problem is misplaced focus. The danger comes in forgetting the purpose of the actions. Often we do things because they are "good," or because we know that we "should." But in doing things for those reasons we forget the true purpose for serving God and serving others: because we love Jesus, have been saved by Him, and show our love and appreciation by serving those whom he calls us to serve.

We often make the mistake of turning actions into the focus of our religion, instead of focusing on Christ, and allowing our actions to flow out of that. Take time this week to focus on Christ and what he has done for you.

-Phil Travis



Shults-Lewis Milk Money Contribution

As always Elmwood members have been generous in their giving to the Shults-Lewis children. Sunday's contribution was \$4,887.25. You may still donate as Bill Hodges will not be sending the check for a couple of weeks. Thanks to all for your generosity.



Food Pantry Needs

Our food pantry is always in need of personal items: **shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes, and especially toilet paper.** A special thanks to the people who faithfully serve those who come to our food pantry and generously supply items each time they work.



Christmas for Everyone

Once again Elmwood will be a distribution center for Christmas for Everyone. This year Rachel Ravellette, Danae Casteel and Carol Bell will be coordinating our efforts. Be looking for more information in future newsletters.

October 23, 2011

Class: 187 Worship: 291

Contribution: \$8,213.26

Patty Vice continues with hospice care at home....**George Kenworthy** had back surgery on Thursday at IU Arnett. He is in room 406....**Lori Shirley's** surgery last Friday went well. She is recuperating at home....**Sherry Scoggin** will have surgery this Thursday, October 27, at IU Arnett....Former Elmwood member, **Herb King**, was hospitalized for several days recently. Tests were inconclusive. He is currently under hospice care. Please keep him and Mary Ella and Jason in your prayers....Continue praying for **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.**



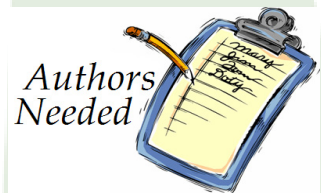
Continue to remember the following people who are home-bound or in a nursing care facility: **Paul Marks, Irene Sims, & Dorothy Walters** are in Creasy Springs; **Dovie Hurst** is in Bickford Cottage; **Ethel Cable** is in Digby House; **Hattie Coffel** is at Rosewalk Village; **Valley Stockton** is 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** will be deployed in November.

2012 Spiritual Adventure Articles

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 or call the church office at 765-447-2874. You will be notified of your scripture assignment well in advance. Thank you.
-Carol Bell



Authors Needed

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.

Singing Lies in Church

"Christians don't tell lies; they just go to church and sing them."
— A.W. Tozer

If the above quote offends you, I'm sorry. A little. But maybe not much. It might be easy to dismiss if it was from some angry atheist or Muslim oppositional group. But A.W. Tozer was a minister of the Gospel for his entire life, and he's talking from an insider perspective. Since I read this quote a couple of weeks ago, it's been banging around in my brain, begging me to address it the way it deserves; with a sober and realistic attitude.

Worship may be *the* most important thing we engage in as both individuals and the community of believers. We know it is a command, we know it is an expectation. We even know it provides benefits for the worshipper as well as doing what God desires of us. We come expecting to worship, and expecting God to approve of our worship. That last attitude, though, may be more dangerous than we think.

How often do we consider what we are actually singing when we worship? Reflecting on Gilbert's sermon about embracing our calling, he asked us to consider the words that we sang in "Change My Heart." We literally prayed, *"Change my heart, O God. Make it ever true. Change my heart O God, may I be like you. You are the potter, I am the clay. Mold me and shape me, this is what I pray."* Did you actually want God to do that to you? Did I really say that wanting God to do it to me? Or did we just say it because we were in the middle of worship?

I'm not trying to aggravate or provoke you, but I do want to challenge us with this simple, yet disturbing fact: God has vocally expressed His hate of an act of worship that is thoughtlessly presented before Him many times in the Word. In Amos 5, God levels His most inflammatory language at Israel for their lack of sincerity in worship, because their hearts aren't engaged and don't reflect any of the things they are saying. To God, their worship has become "noise" that He wishes would be shut off. It's a scary thought that God would rather have nothing than the worship we bring, if it doesn't reflect our hearts.

The challenge is simple: are you sincere about the worship you offer? Do you mean the words you sing, the prayers you pray, the offerings you bring? I think as Christians we may have become very good at bringing worship we may not mean. Do we sing about God being exalted high above everything, then exalt meaningless things like work, entertainment, or people (or ourselves!) the rest of our life? Do we sing about loving to be in God's presence, then surround ourselves with things that aren't of Him the rest of our life? Do we sing about how much He loves us, then act as though He could never love us? Do we sing about desires to be changed, molded, and transformed into His image, but mostly we would like things to stay pretty much the same in our lives? These are questions every Christian has to wrestle with as they come to worship God.

One of my favorite worship songs is Matt Redman's, "Heart of Worship," because it puts this idea back in my face and makes me humble and open myself up in worship. I pray these lyrics will be a blessing and become your heart as you seek to be a true worshipper that pleases God:

"I'll bring You more than a song, for a song in itself is not what You have required. You search much deeper within through the way things appear; You're looking into my heart. I'm coming back to the heart of worship, and it's all about you, Jesus. I'm sorry, Lord, for the things I've made it, when it's all about you, Jesus."
In His Grip, Travis

 **women's**
retreat
November 4-5

It's not too late to sign up for the upcoming Women's Fall Retreat on **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 8:00 AM with breakfast and end at 2:00 PM. 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.

 **Soup**
Supper **6:00** **November 22**

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' first rehearsal went well finding the children excited for this year's program to be given on **December 18 at 6:00**. Wednesday rehearsals will continue at 6:25 PM with Sunday rehearsals starting November 6.

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

 **COMING SOON!**

October 19, 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

Read:
Lamentations 1-3; Proverbs 25-31
John 6:25-8:59

2011 Spiritual Adventures

Week 44: October 30-November 5

When I was at Purdue, I enjoyed getting to meet students from many different religious backgrounds. When the subject of religion came up, many students would like to say that they're "spiritual," but not "religious." This normally meant that they believe in God just as an idea; or, that they think God watches over us but can't believe in Jesus. Surprisingly, this kind of viewpoint seemed to be popular among all kinds of people - whether they went to church all their life, had never even been to a Bible study, or had grown up reading the Koran.

In this week's reading from John, Jesus makes his message clear: "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to my will but to do the will of him who sent me" (John 6:37-38). In every passage from John 6-8 Jesus' role as the Son of God is proclaimed. Jesus constantly speaks of God as his Father and the true source of his teachings. He acts as God by forgiving the adulterous woman who was about to be stoned. He even claims God as a witness to his testimony in John 8:18. Claiming to be the Son of God is bold by any standards, except the Son of God's. Jesus backed it up by walking out of the tomb three days after he died on the cross. Of course, even Jesus' own disciples were hard pressed to believe until they knew he rose from the grave. People understandably thought he was crazy for saying things like, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life" (John 6:56).

In much the same way, people today don't believe Jesus because they're missing the full picture. But today, people can't witness him rising from the dead again. They need to see Christ living through you and me, by sharing his truth with both our words and our actions.

—Ryan Middleton

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>Kevin Chambers World Christian Broadcasting Anchor Point, Alaska 99536</p> <p>Loren and Penny Hollingsworth Phuket, Thailand 83000 E-mail: lholly54@yahoo.com</p> <p>Bren and Cheryl White P.O. Box 245 New Market, MD 21774</p>
<p> Our Vision: Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known.</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>	



2501 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette, IN 47904
(765) 447-2874 (765) 447-0878 FAX
E-mail: office@elmwood-church.org
www.elmwood-church.org

Christian Student Center
PURDUE UNIVERSITY
115 Waldron Street
W. Lafayette, IN 47906

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