



## The Best THING in Life is Free!

*Is anyone thirsty? Come drink - even if you have no money!  
Come, take your choice of wine or milk - it's all free!~ Isaiah 55:1*

There is something about the word “free” that makes many people a little hesitant. If offered a free vacation our immediate thought is, “*What’s the catch?*” If someone offers us something that belongs to them for free we might think, “*What is wrong with it?*” While it might make for a good quote, “*The best things in life are free,*” does not really describe most people’s view of things that are free. Most of us, if we are honest, live by the other quote about free stuff: “*Nothing in life is free.*”

I can remember living in Miami for a summer and doing a summer internship for Miami-Dade Church of Christ. We were trying to come up with ways to serve the community so we decided to offer a free car wash. I had been a part of many successful free car washes in Alabama. Miami is not Alabama! We learned very quickly that offering a free car wash was not the way to serve a community in Miami, Florida. The word “free” scared people. They would drive up, crack their window, ask how much for the car wash, and then quickly drive off as soon as we told them it was free.

After nearly two hours of the same response we finally decided to charge, but we only charged a dollar. We washed more cars in the first thirty minutes of charging a dollar than we did the whole time we offered to wash cars for free. It was amazing.

Perhaps this is why legalism and the belief in works-based salvation is so attractive. We have bought into this idea that nothing in life is free. If it is free, then there must be a catch or there must be something wrong with it. We’ve come to believe that there can be no value in something that is offered for free. So salvation must be based in being right, or at least being more right than the next person. Or it must be earned through certain actions or rituals. Even when it comes to salvation the word “free” makes us a little hesitant.

God’s salvation is free for you and me because he paid the price that we could never pay! He invites us to his banquet free of charge because He paid our cover charge. *Come, take your choice of wine or milk - it's all free!*

*-Gilbert*

## Invade!

Last weekend the CSC went on our annual Fall Retreat at Camp Tecumseh. The theme for this weekend was “Greater than Fiction.” We talked about a number of things, most of which focused on understanding our lives as a story God is writing. If we understand God’s work in this world as a narrative, we begin to understand the purpose for not only ourselves, but for our unique position in the world. We talked about how Esther was uniquely positioned to act, even though her life wasn’t easy up to, or after that point in time in which she worked to save all the Jewish people

We also talked about how God’s Epic Story is a six part narrative stretching from Creation and The Fall, all the way to the end of all things. God’s intent as the story of the world progresses is to redeem the whole world to himself.

If we take these two propositions together, it then follows that as Christians, as people of Kingdom, we have an opportunity to partner with God in bringing the Epic Narrative of the world to its proper conclusion- the redemption of the world.

This means that we have the awesome power and responsibility of changing the world around us to be more in line with the Kingdom of Heaven. Or, to say it another way, it is our responsibility to continue the Kingdom of Heaven’s invasion into this world that started in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ!

*-Phil Travis*



### A Note of Thanks

Thank you for your cards, visits, and prayers during my recent hip surgery and convalescence. —Janet Achor

### A Gift of Love

Former Elmwood members, Tom and Beth Miller, who are now stationed in Port Orchard, WA, are expecting their first baby. We want to shower them with a gift of love from their Elmwood family! If you wish to donate please see Gina Boyd or Katy Travis on Wednesday or Sunday. Thanks.

### Recently Engaged



Kevin and Marilyn Walters are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, **Rachel**, to **Brandon Huffer**, of Mulberry, Indiana. They are planning a June 2012 wedding.

**September 25, 2011**

Class: 159 Worship: 283

Contribution: \$6,753.55

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**Patty Vice** is home now. She is still in very weakened condition....  
**Sherry Risley** had surgery to remove her thyroid on Friday at IU Health...**Paul Marks** has been moved to Generations/St. Clare Hospital in Crawfordsville....**Annie Crowder** is in the hospital in Galveston, Texas....Continue praying for **Dave Hostetler, Jeanette Tidrick, Janet Achor, Max Raines, Ken Nicholson, Armilda Follick, Louise Jones, Bill Farris, Rick Daniels, Sandy Reaves, 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: **Dovie Hurst, Ruth Carter, Irene Sims, Dorothy Walters, Ethel Cable, Hattie Coffel, Willie & Calvin Batts, Argie Verett, Valley Stockton, Delores Hill, Henrietta Frampton, Mary Walker, Clifford Farner, Eugene Zinn, Charles & Carolyn Moore.**



In the military: **Matthew Kauffman** is in Germany. **Evan Slaughter** is in Afghanistan. **Joe Newman** will be deployed in November.

*Great Communion will be at the Long Center on October 9. No Bible classes or 2nd service.*

### Be a Prayer partner for an Elmwood student



There will be a **Prayer Partner** sign-up for students (K-12) for the next few weeks in the Farris foyer before and after church services. Please be a "prayer warrior" for one of our children throughout the year.

**Prayer Warriors** (partners): please let your prayer partner know that you are praying for him/her by sending a card or talking to them personally. Also connect with them throughout the year to let them know that you are lifting them up (Eph. 3:16-19). Thanks for your partnership and concern for our children. —Christi Branstetter

### Celebration of Life Banquet, November 8

On November 8, 2011, Tippecanoe County Right to Life will host the annual Celebration of Life Banquet. The event will be held at the Purdue Memorial Union Ballrooms at 6:30 PM. The keynote speaker will be Pam Tebow. The notoriety of the Tebow family has increased over the past number of years since their youngest son, Tim, won the Heisman trophy. A homeschool parent and missionary to the Philippines, Pam enjoys numerous writing and speaking opportunities and is passionate about encouraging women to trust the Lord with all their hearts and lives. Reservations can be made by contacting the banquet chairman, Dr. Joel Mulder at 765-413-2748 or contacting TCRTL at [tippcortl@gmail.com](mailto:tippcortl@gmail.com).

## Friend of Sinners

One of the most interesting labels that gets pinned on Jesus in the Gospels is “a friend of sinners” (Matt. 11:19). I know the religious crowd of the day intended it as an insult, a way to discredit Jesus and His ministry, but I actually find it to be one of the most attractive things ever said about Him.

To say that Jesus was a friend of sinners implies that He was just that: their friend. He didn't just tolerate them, or make an allowance for them to be around Him. He went to their houses. He ate and hung out with them, He knew their names, probably their kids' names, knew their dreams and desires, what they were interested in. He was a trusted audience to their story, a solid part of their lives, even if they weren't interested in living a religious or holy life.

We talk a lot about wanting to be more like Jesus. We want to walk like Him, follow Him, and be holy like Him. But how many of us, I wonder, really want to be a friend of sinners like He is? I think lack of desire for this is rooted in a couple of things.

First, we are unsure of our holiness, how we keep it and use it. We want to make sure our lives are unpolluted by sin, which is a good thing, but we think that the way to do that is to separate ourselves from any influence that isn't holy. When we look at Jesus, we see His holiness is rooted in His relationship with the Father, grounding Him in a solid identity of who He is and why He exists. His holiness actually drove Him to reach out to those who lacked that identity, to love them, know them, and help them see who they really are.

The second reason is that often we tend to view any relationship outside of “church” ones as evangelistic outreach. Is it evangelism and outreach to spend time with people who don't know God? Of course it is! But that's not why you have the relationship. Jesus spent time with them because He loved them, not because He was trying to convert them. In fact, one of His greatest criticisms of the religious community of the day was that their only interest in those they called “sinners” was trying to convert them, make them look right, act right and be right. (Matthew 23:15).

The question is simple; are the “sinners” around you projects, or people? If they're projects, you will treat them that way; something to fix up or leave alone. If they're people, they're God's children, and you will be free to love them as such. When you look at your life, could someone make the same accusation of you, that you befriended the outcasts and “sinners” as much as the Jesus you want to be like? I hope so!

*In His Grip, Travis*



We are so pleased to announce that **Emily Collins**, daughter of Bart and Melanie, made the decision to make Jesus Lord of her life last Wednesday evening after Bible class. Emily is a seventh grader at Faith Christian School and is involved in Elmwood's youth activities and annual Christmas program. If you'd like to send her a note of encouragement and congratulations you may mail it to 2143 Ironbridge Ct., Lafayette 47905. Congratulations, Emily, and welcome to our family at Elmwood!

## Attention Women!

Ladies, make plans to join us for three upcoming events. On **Saturday, October 8 from noon until 2:00** we will have our **Ladies Appreciation Lunch** in A-2. Plan to bring a small salad or dessert to share. Registration sheet is in the Farris foyer.

On **Saturday, October 15**, the men will serve breakfast to the women in the A-2 fellowship room at 9:00 AM. Sign up sheet is posted in the Farris foyer.



**Friday and Saturday, November 4-5** will be our Fall Retreat 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 ladies willing to carpool for day trips. Cost for this event is \$20 though scholarships are available.

## Children's Christmas Musical

**Chris-Myth Busters** is the name of our children's Christmas musical this year. Our first rehearsal will be Wednesday, October 19, at 6:25 PM. Sunday rehearsals will begin on November 6.

—Lynae Stafford



**September 28, 7 PM**....Bible classes for all  
**October 2, evening**....LIFE Groups  
**October 8, 12-2 PM**....Ladies Appreciation Lunch, A-2  
**October 9, 10:30 AM**....Great Communion at Long Center  
**October 15, 9:00 AM**....Women's Breakfast in A-2  
**November 4-5**....Women's Fall Retreat at Ross Camp  
**November 8, 6:30 PM**....*Celebration of Life Banquet*, Purdue

Read:  
Isaiah 62-66 Psalm 112-119;  
Colossians 1-4; 1 Timothy 1-3

# 2011 Spiritual Adventures

## Week 40: October 2-8

### Everyone is a Warrior

The reason I believe every one is a warrior, is because it seems to me, just living from day to day can offer many challenges. Students struggle for higher grades. Businessmen struggle to stay profitable. Parents are constantly challenged, raising and providing for their children. These may not seem like big battles to you, but it takes a warrior's mentality to get a higher grade or to stay profitable and to do what's best for our children. All of these things are important, but when we are talking about life-and-death, we have to really raise the bar on our efforts. I have heard people say we should choose our battles wisely, but many times we find ourselves in a battle that was not of our choosing. In wartime when a soldier is under attack by the enemy, all the soldiers fight with every fiber of their being to survive. I believe this instinct is given to us by God when we are in our mother's womb (Psalm 51:6).

Abby Johnson was in charge of a very large Planned Parenthood business in Houston, Texas. She didn't see anything wrong with abortion, or the abortion industry. One day, however, the physician's assistant called in sick so Abby had to help with the abortion procedure. What she observed in the operating room changed Abby's life forever! With the use of ultra-sound equipment, she observed this little baby in his mother's womb swimming away from the forceps of the doctor—the tiny unborn child was fighting for his life in his mother's womb! Everything was going smoothly for Abby Johnson when she was sitting behind a desk, far removed from the actual act of aborting a young innocent life. When Abby got a first-hand look, she was horrified. Her attitude about human life did a complete 180 degree turn that day. After this experience Abby quit her job, and is now a powerful spokesperson and a warrior (Zephaniah 3:17), for the "Right to Life" organization. Abby has seen both sides of this issue, and knows we need to show compassion for all young mothers in crisis (1 Timothy 2:1-7).

That is the way life is sometimes. One day everything is going along smoothly, and suddenly an unplanned pregnancy, a lost job, a tumor is found or an oncoming automobile crosses the center lane. These misfortunes can dramatically change the rest of our lives. We have always been a warrior, but now we are sent to the front lines. We must stiffen our resolve. We must increase our efforts, or depression, financial ruin, physical health, and sometimes life itself may be at risk. There is a better way to increase our chances of overcoming our day to day challenges. We must call on the name of the Lord our God and our Redeemer (Psalm 118:5-29)!  
—John Marks

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><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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