



Time to Get Serious

The point of a hospital labor room is not just a very ready mother-to-be and a competent physician; the point is the new life that comes as a result of the moment of birth. The point of baptism is the new life that comes as a result of the baptism event.

When Paul wrote words about baptism in Romans 6, his point was not “do it”! His point was, “Now that you’ve done it, what does it mean?” Baptism means new life...a crucified old self...a changed and transformed new life...being alive to God...death to the evil in us...offering the various parts of our bodies to God as instruments for Him to use to accomplish His purposes.

Baptism, in other words, does not look backward to what we have done; it looks forward to what we will do as redeemed, changed transformed people. And it’s a good thing, because our unredeemed, unchanged, pre-transformed state was pretty pitiful.

In the latest *U.S. News*, Mortimer Zuckerman does a reality check of who people are. Lots of our fellow Americans, he says, are cheating, lying, greedy creatures. Corporations regularly overstate earnings. College coaches bend the rules for talented athletes. Athletes believe that performance-enhancing drugs are the open door to future success. More than 70% of one college’s students admit to having cheated at least once on exams in the previous year. Tax cheaters cost the US treasury \$500 billion a year. Insurance fraud, cable-TV theft, and software piracy are regularly done by “decent, law-abiding.” And last weekend the career of one of the most visible evangelical pastors in the world came crashing down when he admitted he was “a deceiver and a liar.”

The last item above pinpoints a painful reality: statistics show that Christians—whose conversion and baptism were supposed to have transformed them—are often unchanged from the rest of the world. There’s no time for hand-wringing. In a contrite spirit we must acknowledge that we have not taken seriously Paul’s words, “count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God.” Grace means living free from the bondage of sin, not enmeshed in it. Baptism means it’s time to get serious about our faith.

reprinted from November 7, 2006 Elmwood Newsletter — G. Crowe

The Account With Purity

From Oswald Chamber’s, *My Utmost for His Highest*

“But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles” Matthew 15:18.

We begin by trusting our ignorance and calling it innocence, by trusting our innocence and calling it purity; and when we hear these rugged statements of our Lord’s, we shrink and say—but I never felt any of those awful things in my heart. We resent what Jesus Christ reveals. Either Jesus Christ is the supreme authority on the human heart, or He is not worth paying any attention to.

Am I prepared to trust His penetration, or do I prefer to trust my innocent ignorance? If I make conscious innocence the test, I am likely to come to a place where I find with a shuddering awakening that what Jesus Christ said is true, and I shall be appalled at the possibility of evil and wrong in me. As long as I remain under the refuge of innocence I am living in a fool’s paradise. If I have never been a blackguard, the reason is a mixture of cowardice and the protection of civilized life; but when I am undressed before God, I find that Jesus Christ is right in His diagnosis. The only thing that safeguards is the Redemption of Jesus Christ. If I will hand myself over to Him, I need never experience the terrible possibilities that are in my heart.

EYI



Our sincere sympathies to **Mindy Hart**, her sister, **Amy**, and mother, **Marilyn**, on the death of her father, **Mike**. He had just recently been diagnosed with cancer and had recurring heart problems as well. The family will receive friends on Thursday at Boersma Funeral Home in Wheatfield, IN (90 E. Grove St.), from 3-9 pm EDT. The funeral is Friday at Wheatfield Church of Christ at 11 am EDT.

Financial Report Available



The financial results for the fiscal year just ended and the budget for this year has been compiled. Copies are available in the Farris foyer. See one of the elders or Bill Hodges if you have questions.

Thanks for your donations



The **food pantry** is always in need of personal items: **shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes, and especially toilet paper.** Anything you donate is such a big help and much appreciated.

July 25, 2010

Class: 148 Worship: 290

Contribution: \$6,715.16

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Want to Help Welcome new college students?



To welcome approximately 40 new college students to their church home at Elmwood, the women's ministry group is planning to prepare welcome gift "baskets" for each of our new students. The baskets are much like Mom would send from home—treats to sustain weary college students through their hours of studying for exams and a personal note of encouragement with information about Elmwood. We are looking for 4-6 women to lead and work in this ministry as we seek to ensure that our students experience God's love from our church family. If you are interested in leading or volunteering to work in this ministry, please contact Lyn Freeman at ljfreema@purdue.edu or one of the members of the steering committee.

Many thanks!

The whole time Cheryl and I were growing up at Elmwood Sam & Sara were always a key part of everything good going on at church! I can still remember as a little boy (maybe 6 yrs. old) watching Sara & Ruth Hoggatt (and sometimes Maxine Spencer) preparing communion trays and talking in that tiny little room right off the podium at the front of the auditorium. She even taught my class some during that time period. (She and Ruth both taught me in first grade I think.) I can still hear her very distinctive, lovely voice explaining something so beautifully, carefully and lovingly.

We praise God for Sara's amazing life and the impact she had on us and so many others over the years! We have been lifting up Sam and Bob and John and their families in prayer during these difficult days. Sam is such a hero in the faith and a great strength and encouragement to us! We are very honored that Sam and Sara and family chose to provide a special memorial fund for our mission work during this time in Sara's honor. What a wonderful blessing! We are thankful for everyone who contributed in this very special way. God bless you! God bless Sam and the whole Postlethwait family! With much love, *Bren & Cheryl White*

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

Sitting here watching God bathe the sky in shades of pink, I am reminded of how awesome our Lord is. How He continuously and lovingly provides for His children. A little over year ago Charles and I were beginning our search for a new church family when we received a flyer inviting us to a block party. That flyer led us to your church family. The love and welcome we received at the block party was so genuine that we decided to attend a worship service. I am firmly convinced that once again God saw our need and provided.

Over the past year we have come to know and love many of you, and we feel truly blessed by our fellowship with you. Our one regret is that we didn't get the chance to meet more of you than we did. However, we still feel close because of the mutual bond we share in Christ. I want to take a moment to say thank you for everything you have done for us. Your prayers have gotten us through some difficult times. Please know that even though we will no longer be worshipping with you, you will be in our prayers always. May God bless you always. God is good all the time! All the time God is good!

Love always in Christ, *Jennifer & Charles Neville*



We hope you will consider helping area students with school supplies through Salvation Army's "Tools for School." Box will be in the foyer until August 1.

UPCOMING EVENTS

8.13-8.15 YOUTH IN ACTION Conference
Sat. 8.21 Back-to-School Bash!

THINGS PONDERED

Assets for Healthy Youth Development, Part 5

“On one level, the 40 developmental assets represent common wisdom about the kinds of positive experiences and characteristics that young people need and deserve. But their value extends further. Surveys of more than 200,000 students in grades 6-12 reveal that assets are powerful influences on adolescent behavior. Regardless of gender, ethnic heritage, economic situation, or geographic location, these assets both promote positive behaviors and attitudes *and* help protect young people from many different problem behaviors.”

The more assets a young person has, the more likely they are to exhibit patterns of thriving behavior. Below are a few examples:

Exhibits Leadership

has been a leader of an organization or group in the past 12 months

0-10 assets: 50%
11-20 assets: 65%
21-30 assets: 77%
31-40 assets: 85%

Maintains Good Health

takes good care of body by eating healthy foods & exercising regularly

0-10 assets: 26%
11-20 assets: 47%
21-30 assets: 69%
31-40 assets: 89%

Values Diversity

thinks it important to get to know people of other racial/ethnic groups

0-10 assets: 36%
11-20 assets: 57%
21-30 assets: 74%
31-40 assets: 88%

Succeeds in School

gets mostly As on report card [admittedly a high standard]

0-10 assets: 8%
11-20 assets: 17%
21-30 assets: 30%
31-40 assets: 47%

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May we come to a deep conviction of giving our youth everything they need to be healthy individuals and examples of Christ in this world!

-danae



Gilbert's grandfather, C.M.

Gilbert, is in serious condition and in the hospital in Monroe, Louisiana. He had a bad fall, and have found a blood clot in his lung, as well as a brain bleed. Gilbert left Tuesday morning to be with his family....Sue Adams'

parents, **Clifford and Betty Farner**, are both experiencing serious health problems. Clifford has been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease and was to be transferred to St.

Elizabeth Nursing Home in Delphi on Tuesday. Betty is receiving hospice care at home....**Sue Adams** is having medical tests for some current health problems....Continue praying for **Kaden Koebecke, Charles & Carolyn Moore** (*Jim's parents in Texas—Jim is there taking care of them for the next*

4 weeks), **John Ruckh, Barney Smith, Carolyn Rigdon, Sheryl Willison, Dorothy Walters, Phyllis Gray, Jan Lucas, Sandy Towle, Wanita White, Joe Erwin, Steve Cable, Valley Stockton, Delores Hill, Willie & Calvin Batts, Connie & Ken Nicholson, Annie & Elaine Crowder, Hattie Coffel, Henrietta Frampton, Eugene Zinn, Irene Sims, Marie DeWoody, and Paul & Argie Verett.**

In the military: **Tim Beghtol** is in Afghanistan....**Matthew Kauffman & Michael Flynn** are serving in Iraq. **Joe Newman** is in Chicago in Naval training.



Ladies' Breakfast

The next **Ladies' Breakfast** will be **Saturday, August 28**, at **9:00 AM**. Ladies, save the date, this is a great time to enjoy fellowship with each other while enjoying another delicious breakfast served by our men.



July 28, 7 PM....Bible classes for all
August 1, 6:00 PM....Worship at Elmwood—we'll break up into focus groups after singing & sharing of communion
August 13-15....YOUTH IN ACTION Conference

Read:
 II Thessalonians; Lev. 25-27;
 I Chronicles 1-4; Ps. 93-95;
 Prov. 16; Daniel 1-6; John 3-4

2010 Spiritual Adventures

Week 32: August 8-14

Simplicity

Simple. A simple task. A simple solution. A simple recipe. Many things in life are simple. Many are not. As I was reading the assigned scriptures for this week's Spiritual Adventure, I was struck by the simplicity of perhaps the most well known, most frequently quoted, most beloved verse in the entire Bible:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who *believes* in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (John 3:16 NRAV).

The gospel of John was written *so that we may believe!* Once we *believe*, truly *believe*, in the *one and only* Son of God, life becomes much more *simple* right? It should be *simple* to witness our faith to others when we believe and trust, not in our own words and understanding, but *believe* in the words of the One who sent us (The Great Commission: "*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...*" Matthew 28:19 NRSV). It should be *simple* to part with some of our earthly resources when we *believe* and trust in the One who owns and is in control of everything. It should be *simple* to love our neighbor as ourselves when we *believe* in the transforming power and love of the One we proclaim as our Savior and Redeemer, Jesus, the Christ.

Of course, we still have to deal with the myriad details of daily life, but I challenge all of us to see if we can *simplify* life by following His example of witnessing to others, as He came to earth to serve us and teach us, to give as He gave of Himself, and to love others, as He first loved us.

In modern lingo, let's remind ourselves to Just do it!

- Farrell Simmerman

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 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
 Our Vision: Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known.		



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