



Who Knew I'd Preach?

Salvation can be spoken of in two tenses. We can talk about salvation in the past tense: *I was saved 20 years ago*. Paul writes in Ephesians 2:5, "...it is by grace that you have been saved." We can also talk about salvation as an ongoing experience, such as we find in 1 Corinthians 1:18, "*For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*" It is this latter sense of the word that I want to address.

If you ask anyone who knew me as a child, or even as a teenager, they would express to you the utter surprise they experienced when they found out I became a preacher. They were not surprised because I was such a bad kid (well, maybe some were surprised for that reason). Most were surprised because they knew that I would rather have taken a beating than have to get up before a crowd of people and speak. I could act in skits and dramas before groups. I could pray in front of groups. I could read scripture before groups. No one could convince me to preach a sermon or give a speech. I refused. Yet, here I am today preaching the gospel every Sunday.

That change in my life is called transformation. I didn't wake up one day totally different from the person who went to bed the night before. I did not go to bed one night determined to never speak before a crowd, and wake up the next morning eager to do so. It was not immediate. Rather, it was a slow ongoing process. Transformation.

I believe that when we are speaking of salvation in terms of an ongoing process that we are talking about transformation. I am not suggesting that my transformation from a kid who refused to preach into an adult who looks forward to every new sermon is part of my ongoing process of salvation, but I believe there are some parallels. Part of salvation is transformation, and transformation does not take place overnight. Transformation takes time, but realize that God is at work.

Hopefully you are not the same person you were on the day you were saved. You should be more mature in your faith. You should be a better person. Even so, you may still look in the mirror today and not see the person you think you should be. Know that you are being saved. You are being transformed. God's work is not done yet. The person you see today is not God's finished product.

And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. ~ 2 Corinthians 3:18

-Gilbert

Nashville

Well, we had quite the time in Nashville, Tennessee, this past week. Seven students joined Katy and me on a mission trip to the inner-city of Nashville. Along the way we got to know one another better, met some new friends, and had the van break down on us! Through it all God blessed us and enabled us to be a blessing to the home-less and underprivileged in Nashville. This Sunday, we will be giving a mission report during both services, so I don't want to spoil everything, but I would like to tell you a little about what we did in Nashville.

The organization we worked with while in Nashville is called Center for Student Missions (CSM), and they are located in 10 cities in North America. CSM partners with local ministries, as well as local branches of national ministries to reach out to the homeless and underprivileged.

We served at several locations in Nashville including:

- Samaritan Ministries: a soup kitchen for the homeless and working poor
- The Next Ministries: a bus that brings lunch to one of the worst parts of town
- Salvation Army: a bus that serves dinner under an overpass for all who come
- Adult Day Services: a ministry that cares for adults that need someone with them during the day
- CSM: the local CSM branch is moving and we helped clear and clean the new area
- Urban Exposure: a "scavenger hunt" of sorts in downtown Nashville

Please come on Sunday to hear how this trip affected our students' lives and what they learned from the experience!!

-Phil



Pete Swank visited with his heart doctor on Tuesday to determine when he can have surgery....**Bill Adams** had tests done on Monday. Initial prognosis is good....**Betty Lucas** is awaiting test results from her doctor to plan treatment.... **Connie Nicholson** suffered a light stroke (affecting her left side) last week....**Ken Nicholson** sees a doctor in Indianapolis on Thursday for test results on a chronic condition he has been struggling with....**Eric Clowdus'** father has been diagnosed with leukemia and is awaiting a decision on treatment....**Diann Doty** will have reconstructive surgery in Indianapolis on March 30....Pray for **Vera Frame**, a young girl who is battling leukemia in Riley Children's Hospital. She is the granddaughter of a friend of Elaine Baird....Continue praying for **Willie Batts, Margaret Gustafson, Niel Postlethwait, Mary Ford, Kaden Koebecke, Vickie Sanders, Sara Postlethwait, Delores Hill, Annie Crowder, Jan Lucas, Clifford & Betty Farner, Charles Moore, Hattie Coffel, Dorothy Walters, Eugene Zinn, Henrietta Frampton, Valley Stockton, Irene Sims, Marie DeWoody, and Paul & Argie Verett.**

In the military: **Matthew Kaufman & Michael Flynn** are serving in Iraq. **Joe Newman** is with the Navy in Chicago.



Women's Ministry Steering Committee meeting April 25

The Women's Ministry Steering Committee will be holding a prayerful planning session in room 18 on Sunday, April 25, during the 9:30 AM class period. We would like for all women to come and join in prayer for the women's ministry and brainstorm ideas for next year's events. This worked really well last year to help provide input for some very successful events: *Tippecanoe Villa Bingo Nights, Ladies' Teas, Prayer Shawl Ministry, the Women's Appreciation Luncheon* and the *Women's Retreats*. The new 2010-2011 Women's Ministry Steering Committee will also be introduced at this meeting. Please join us for a time of brainstorming and prayer for the Elmwood Women's Ministry.



Game Night at Hedi Devine's house, 715 Noble Ct., West Lafayette, is Monday evening, March 29, at 6:30. Hedi will provide chili; please bring a healthy snack item. Plan to play UNO.

Anyone interested in signing up for "Circle of Friends," please do so on the women's bulletin board where there are more details. This is a group of women who will meet monthly with the goal of helping to meet the needs of those around us. We hope to begin meeting in mid-April. There are details in the March issue of the women's newsletter.



Travina Napier delivered **Joshua Nathan Fletcher** on Tuesday morning, March 23. He weighed 9 pounds 12 ounces. Mom and baby are doing fine. He joins big brother, Jason. God's blessings on you and your family, Travina, and congratulations also to great grandmother, Bonnie Ryves!



The **food pantry** is especially in need of **cereal and soup**. Also, we are always in need of personal items: **soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste & toothbrushes, and especially toilet paper**. These items are not available at the Food Bank.



Dear Children & their teachers at Elmwood:
It is now March 14 and must take the beautiful Valentines off the refrigerator and counter. Your cards were so creative and thoughtful. What a joy you are and what a joy you gave me. God bless you as you continue your growth in Him.
Lovingly,
Camilla Lawson

March 21, 2010

Class: 186 Worship: 276
Contribution: \$6,187.33



Youth Events

Weekly Schedule

Sundays Coffee @9:30 AM, new class, "Be His Hands & Feet" combining the middle school and high school ages together in room 204 upstairs in the church building

Wednesdays InnerMission @ 7 PM, still meeting in the youth house, still having popcorn & sodas!

Upcoming Events

4/9-4/11 REFRESH youth rally @ Salem, IN
Sat. 4/17 Common Ground Coffeehouse - 80's night!
Sat. 4/24 English Tea Party (girls only)
Sat. 5/8 Common Ground Coffeehouse

Need to Know...

re: REFRESH Theme: "Drink Deeply" - a great weekend full of fun and fellowship, with worship led by Deeper Still, dynamic lessons by Patrick Mead, and lots of other fun activities. The cost is only \$25 which includes housing, and food all day Saturday, plus breakfast Sunday. Sign up by Sunday, March 28 if you want to go!

re: Common Ground - If you haven't checked this out yet, you need to come in April because we're having 80's night!!! We'll have the usual fun and food, but we'll be inviting the 20-Somethings group to join us since most of them were born in and actually remember the 80's! Don't forget to dress up - prizes to the best 80's style.

Shout Out!

NEED COFFEE CUPS. We're loving our monthly Common Ground coffeehouse! We have more teens attend each month, and we always have visitors! To make the atmosphere more authentic, we're asking if anyone has coffee mugs they're willing to donate. You know, that old IBM or random souvenir mug that you don't really like! Just make sure it's one that you won't be crushed if it breaks - it's teens plus a tile floor after all! If you have some you'd like to get rid of, you can leave them in the box marked "coffee-house mugs" in the Farris foyer. We appreciate it.



Prayer OF THE WEEK

Prayer Focus: Finances

Week of March 21: As we plan financial ministry needs to accomplish our mission statement, please pray that we are paying careful attention to ways in which God is speaking to us as He blesses each ministry area with resources - people, things and opportunities.

Job Opportunity! with Matrix Lifeline

Matrix Lifeline, a Christ-centered Pregnancy Center, is seeking a visionary Executive Director. Matrix offers alternatives to men and women considering abortion by providing education and support before, during and after pregnancy. Demonstrated development and management skills preferred. Salary negotiable. Direct questions and resumes to MatrixSearch@me.com by April 3.

Youth Lunch Sack

Thanks to everyone who has contributed so far to our "lunch sack." If you don't know what this is, ask us, we'd love to tell you! We're still collecting money to give to those less fortunate than us. The youth will be voting where the money will be used. And we're still challenging everyone to drink water when you go out to eat and save your dollars to add to the lunch sack. Our teens pooled \$25 on the first Sunday. One week later, we're at \$79.81! Praise God for the increase! -Danae & Shaun Casteel



- March 24, 5:50 PM...**Good Sense Budget Course
- March 24, 7 PM...**Bible classes & LTC events
- March 28, 6 PM...**LIFE Groups meet
- April 24, 7 PM...**Original Rootbeer Kegger at CSC, 115 Waldron, West Lafayette
- April 25...**Wedding shower for Lisa Baird & Brad Wilson at Carol & Bill Bell's home, 216 Jennings, WL
- April 30, 7 PM...**CSC Senior Banquet at Holiday Inn, 515 South Street, Lafayette
- May 16, 6:00 PM...**High School Senior Night at Elmwood
- May 23, 5 PM...**Block Party
- June 7-11...**Vacation Bible School

Read:
 I Cor, 11-12; Exodus 1-4;
 I Sam 16-20; Ps. 39-41; Job
 27-28; Jer. 7-11; Mark 7-8

2010 Spiritual Adventures

Week 14: April 4-10

Senseless Worship

The scripture readings suggested to me were chapters in Exodus, I Samuel, Psalms, Job and Jeremiah from the Old Testament. From the New Testament, I read chapters in I Corinthians and Mark. The authors were all giving God glory and thanks. They were also begging Him for help and salvation of some kind. We do get into stressful situations frequently. In the Old Testament God is condemning His people because they have turned away from Him and are worshipping idols. Some of the idols were pieces of wood covered with gold and/or silver. He pointed out to His people their idols which they were worshipping (IN HIS HOUSE) could not breathe, move, see or hear – they were SENSELESS. When we feel betrayed or hurt, what do we tend to do? What did our God do? He sent His only Son to us. Jesus breathed; He could see, hear, talk, heal, feel for the people, and offered all of us salvation. Are we even aware of the idols we worship?

Every opportunity we have to worship Him, whether in corporate worship or privately, should give us joy.
-Doris Swensen

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
		



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