



## Who is This Written to?

Do you ever find yourself skipping over that part of Paul's letter to the Romans that is nothing more than a list of people he wants to greet or encourage? I know I have. Just read Romans 16. There is nothing there for me in that long list of names. *Greet Priscilla and Aquila... Greet my dear friend Epenetus... Greet Mary... Greet Andronica and Junia...* Seriously, what am I supposed to do with this list of names?

I believe that, while there may not be any theological or doctrinal teaching found here, there is an important reminder that we can take away from this long list of names. The reminder is this: Paul was dealing with real people who have names.

That sounds so simple, but I believe it makes a difference. Paul was not sitting in a bubble, absent from people and distractions, writing about grand theological ideas that don't really work in the real world. He was not "*so heavenly minded that he was no earthly good,*" as one preacher used to say. He was writing to real people with real problems, and he knew their names. He was writing to Andronicus. He was writing to Persis. He was writing to Rufus.

We do not deal in the abstract of life. It is so easy to read the Bible in a bubble, but the gospel will not allow that to happen. The gospel calls for us to deal with real people in real situations. The Bible was written for Gina the teacher, Steve the factory worker, Delores the retiree, and Jim the engineer. The Bible was also written for those visitors who attended our Block Party, the monthly visitors to our food pantry, the children that will attend our VBS, and the Hispanics who worship in our building on Sunday evenings.

*Greet Apelles... Greet Ampliatus... Greet Hermes... Greet Nereus, and his sister...* Paul is not writing some theological treatise that is absent of practicality. He is writing to people who experience real successes and real failures; real pain and real joys; real doubts and real moments of confidence. The Bible is written for people just like you and me.

*-Gilbert*

## Forming Character

We often find ourselves stuck between two extremes when we answer what it means to be Christian. On one hand, you have people that say there are certain rules you must follow to be a Christian. On the other hand you have people that say that since God accepts us where we are our goal is to be authentic people, to be ourselves. This group may say, "As long as my heart is in the right place."

Neither of these positions are satisfying. If we are only following rules, we are missing something. If I give a gift because it is a rule to give, then I am missing out on the most important part. Giving is good because it is part of God's nature. On the other hand, what if the "authentic me" or "my heart" is not good or moral? If I subscribe to the idea that I simply need to be authentic, I commit criminal and amoral acts.

Instead, what I think God calls us to is to be authentically Him. In other words, we allow ourselves to be transformed into His image so that we naturally, authentically follow the rules, not because the rules are there but because the rules are informed by the nature of God. Because we have taken on the nature of God (i.e. put on Christ), we have become (or are becoming) a people whose natural inclination is to do right things. In other words, we form Christian character.

**-Phil**



On Monday **Carolyn Rigdon** was sent to Creasy Springs for rehab following successful heart surgery last Wednesday. She was taken back to Clarian Hospital on Tuesday but hopes to be back at Creasy Springs as soon as doctors can regulate her heartbeat....**Sara Postlethwait** is in St. Elizabeth Central, room 2144. She was sent to University Place Healthcare for a few days, but began experiencing much pain....**Dorothy Walters** is back at Westminster's rehab center....**Mike Shirley** had heart ablation surgery at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis on Tuesday....**James Thomas**, Carol Bell's brother, had knee replacement surgery on Tuesday....**Cecil Koons**, former Elmwood member, will have bilateral knee replacement surgery this Thursday, May 27, in Indianapolis....**Argie Verett** is still recovering from a fall....**Delores Hill** has had several falls recently that have sent her to the emergency room....Continue praying for **Pete Swank, Diann Doty, Wanita White, Ernie Kirk, Elaine Crowder, Steve Cable, Valley Stockton, Willie & Calvin Batts, Connie & Ken Nicholson, Niel Postlethwait, Kaden Koebeke, Vickie Sanders, Annie Crowder, Jan Lucas, Clifford & Betty Farner, Charles Moore, Hattie Coffel, Eugene Zinn, Henrietta Frampton, Irene Sims, Marie DeWoody, and Paul Verett.**

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

## Focus on the Family Upcoming Programs

Upcoming *Focus on the Family* programs are heard on local radio, WHPL-FM 89.9 at 2:00 PM Monday-Friday.

- May 26 & 27* **Exploring God's Enduring Story.** Historian Ray Vander Laan introduces the latest installments of the popular *Faith Lessons* video series which helps bring the Bible to life through fascinating historical, cultural and spiritual insights. (Parts 1 & 2)
- May 28* **When Your Parents Need Your Care.** Authors Julie-Allyson Ieron and Terry Hargrave offer advice and encouragement to adult children who are caring for their ailing parents.
- May 31* **Softening a Crusty Heart.** Don Coble describes his former life as a hardened military man who was addicted to work and alcoholism, and explains how he was transformed by God's love and grace.
- June 1 & 2* **Building a Marriage That Will Go the Distance.** In a discussion based on their book, *The Six Secrets to Lasting Love*, Gary and Barbara Rosberg explain how couples can strengthen their marriage by rekindling intimacy and improving communication. (Parts 1 & 2)
- June 3 & 4* **Parenting for Fun and Profit.** Comedian Ken Davis shares humorous stories about his parenting experiences and the lessons he's learned as a father. (Parts 1 & 2)



## This Sunday Night-May 30 VBS Prayer Night

Come at 6:00 this Sunday night, as we lift in prayer our 2010 Vacation Bible School. Many, many people have been working very hard to make this year's event a memorable time of singing praises to God, learning Bible lessons, having fun with crafts, and making new friends—all to glorify God.

## Can You Help?



Cindy Hubbert, Bonnie Ryves' daughter, is making blankets for 30 orphans in India. She needs 4 ply yarn for the project and would appreciate any donations you could make. For more information, you can contact her at 414-7807.



### A Note of Thanks

**Greg Sutherland, Jim Markle and Richard Kinzer** spent a good part of their weekend removing tree stumps from our Elmwood property. Thanks guys for your work.

**May 23, 2010**  
Class: 180 Worship: 284  
Contribution: \$5,193



## Youth Events

### Weekly Schedule

Sundays, 9:00 Bible Classes  
Wed., 7:00 PM Inner Mission

### Upcoming Events

Friday, 5/28 Year-End Shebang!



**Andrew Simmerman** is graduating from Jefferson High School in Lafayette. His family is hosting a graduation open house for him this **Sunday, May 30, from 11 AM until 2 PM**, at their home, 415 Oaklawn Dr., Lafayette. They are serving brunch!

**Jason Levick** is graduating from Frontier High School. His open house is at the Brookston Methodist Church (at the corner of 4th & Wood Streets) in Brookston. It is a cookout from **1:00 until 4:00 in the afternoon on Monday, May 31**.

The following note is from former members Susan & Mark Gray regarding their daughter, Melissa, who recently graduated from Harris County High School in Hamilton, Georgia.

*Dear Elmwood family,  
Just wanted to share Melissa's graduation news with you! You all will always be very special to us. God has been very good to Melissa. He's answered many, many prayers to get us to this point. Thank you to those of you who have lifted her up! In case you've forgotten....Melissa arrived 12 weeks early and weighed 1 pound 10 ounces. She'll be celebrating her 20th birthday on June 5th. Again, thank you for the part many of you have played in Melissa's life thus far!  
We love you,  
Mark, Susan, Melissa & Adam Gray*

*If you would like to send Melissa a message via email, the address is [sgray357@bellsouth.net](mailto:sgray357@bellsouth.net)*



## Vacation Bible School, June 7-11

Be praying for the week

- This **Wednesday night, May 26, from 6:00-9:00 PM** we will be decorating classrooms. Again, on **Tuesday and Wednesday night, June 1 & 2, from 6:00-9:00 PM**, we will be decorating classrooms. Please try to make it for all or some of the time.
- **VBS Crew Guides** are still needed to lead children around to their stations each night. It is a fun time with the kids!
- Check out the bulletin board by the Teachers' Workroom for a **listing of props you can bring for decor**.
- Also, on the bulletin board by the Teachers' Workroom are the **VBS Registration forms**. Take what you need—one for each child.



**Chelsea Jones Barnett** married **Steve Santy** at 2:30 on Saturday afternoon, May 15, at the Fowler House in Lafayette. They are on a cruise to Cozumel and the Caribbean for their honeymoon. Congratulations to Steve and Chelsea.



**Rob Smith's** father, **Robert Smith, Sr., 95**, died Saturday in San Antonio, Texas. The funeral is Friday in Texas. Rob and Pauletta leave Wednesday to attend the funeral. He had been in failing health in recent weeks. Our sincere sympathies to the Smiths.



- May 26, 6:00-9:00 PM**....Decorating classrooms for VBS
- May 26, 7 PM**....Bible classes
- May 30, 11 AM-2 PM**.... Andrew Simmerman's Graduation Open House, 415 Oaklawn Dr., Lafayette
- May 30, 6 PM**.... VBS Prayer night
- May 31, 1:00-4:00 PM**....Jason Levick's Open House at Brookston Methodist church (this is a cookout)
- June 1 & 2, 6:00-9:00 PM**....Decorating classrooms for VBS
- June 7-11, 6-8 PM**.... Vacation Bible School
- July 11**.... Wedding shower for Erin Simmerman & John Fyffe

Read:  
Galatians 4-6; Exodus 37-40;  
1 Kings 5-9; Ps. 66-68; Prov.  
2-3; Lamentations; Luke 9-10

# 2010 Spiritual Adventures

## Week 23: June 6-12

### You Are No Longer a Slave

I chose to read Galatians 4 – 6. These chapters always bring back a childhood memory. I had two older brothers that were always bossing me around. Upon their commands, I would reply back, “I’m not your slave,” and try to get out of whatever job they had in mind for me to do. Besides my brothers, I had two parents and numerous other adults that were telling me what to do and expecting obedience. I couldn’t wait to grow up and be “free.”

In the Roman custom, a son became a man, not at any particular age but when his father thought the boy was ready (appointed time by the father). This family festival was called “Liberalia” and was held annually on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Until the child became an adult, he had less day-to-day freedom and authority than some slaves in the household – yet – he was destined to inherit everything and the slave did not have that chance.

These chapters do not only apply to the Jews that received the promise through Abraham. Paul was talking to Gentiles when he said, “You are no longer a slave, but a son and also an heir.”

So to wrap this all up with a comparison to our own spiritual condition: We are sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus and we are heirs according to the promise. Jesus made it possible that the redeemed believers are no longer slaves but heirs....heirs of God through Christ.

Deuteronomy 15:15: You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God redeemed you.

-Jean Dilling

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  <b>Staff</b> 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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