



The Aroma of Christ

Jim McGuiggan tells the story of a soldier who lay dying and the preacher who came to attend to him. "Can I help you in any way?" the young preacher asked. "I'm cold," snapped the dying man. "You don't have a blanket, do you?" In silence the minister took off his overcoat and spread it over him. The dying one glared at him a while. "My neck is hurting," he snarled in pain, and off came the minister's other coat to become a pillow. A few more moments of glaring and then a softer tone: "What about a cigarette?" The man lit him a cigarette and put it in his mouth – more moments of silence and a softening of heart despite the cold and the pain. Finally the soldier said to the conscientious, and obviously sad, young preacher, "Mister, if you've got anything in that Bible that makes you act like this, read it to me."

The preacher had a message to share, but sometimes words alone are not welcome. The problem with so many of us religious people is we spend more time "selling" than "smelling." We try to sell the gospel by packaging it up in nice wrapping paper and sticking a bow on top. We use a lot of nice sounding words to get the attention of our possible customers. Sadly, the gospel becomes nothing more than a sales pitch.

Paul tells Christians in Corinth that they should be "the aroma of Christ." For Paul, it is not just about selling the gospel. It is also about smelling like the gospel. There is a time for preaching the message, but more often than not it is living the message that grabs the world's attention. That is what it means to smell like the gospel. Our very lives become the aroma of Christ. The young preacher obviously smelled like the gospel. He became the aroma of Christ to this dying soldier. Here is a funny question to think about: *What do you smell like?*

- Gilbert Kerrigan

Why do we sing?

Singing is one of my favorite parts of the corporate worship time on Sundays. The singing of songs allows the community of God to tell the story of God's interaction with his people in an important, evocative way. We sing to retell the story of redemption and salvation, and through the retelling enter again into the story.

We don't have just one song to sing--we have many. Each song brings to the community conscience another aspect of the story of God on the Earth or another aspect of our praise to him. Many of our songs teach us theology, many are an avenue of praise, and some call us to become that which God has called us to be. All of these are important aspects in our songs.

We sing old songs--enjoyable because, while the text and the tune remain the same, our relative position to them changes. Thus, we travel more deeply into the story which it tells, experiencing the familiar, yet in a whole new way.

We also learn new songs, not simply because we want to change things up, but because just like as individuals we change over time, and our community changes over time as well. We need new songs to convey the new particulars of the story that we are exploring in our community. God has blessed us with the opportunity to praise him, to teach one another and to encourage one another through the singing of songs.

-Phil Travis



Doug & Kristi Smith wish to be identified with Elmwood. No strangers to Elmwood, they have already been involved in activities here: Vacation Bible School last year and LIFE Groups. They come to us from Texas for Doug's work with the U.S Department of Agriculture at Purdue University. Doug works in the research department on how agriculture affects water quality. Kristi works at Trinitas Ventures in West Lafayette. They have two children: Drew, 4 years old, and Addison, born in November. They live at 2100 Wright Ct., West Lafayette. Ph: 497-1662. Welcome to the Smith family!



Sara Postlethwait was hospitalized over the weekend. After a procedure on Monday, she is resting well and hopes to be able to go home on Wednesday.... **Kaden Koebecke** remains in Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis. Symptoms from the flu have subsided, but doctors are still trying to determine the correct treatment for his kidney problems. If you'd like to send cards to Cami and

Travis, their address is: 1158 Spring Meadow Ct., Franklin, IN 46131....Phyllis McQuisten's daughter, **Kathy**, is to have heart-related tests on Thursday....**Mike Sutherlin**, Greg's brother, consults with an oncologist soon for treatment of non-Hodgkin lymphoma...**Jarred Eckman**, Lynae Stafford's nephew, was training for a bike race and was hit by a car. He suffered a broken hip and concussion....

Continue praying for those who have had recent surgeries and/or are struggling with chronic health problems: **Joe Bailey, Emily Jaekel, Wayne Richey, Max Houlton, Mandy Anderson, Henrietta Frampton, Carolyn & Charles Moore, Charlie Penn, Herb King, Eileen Richardson, Marie DeWoody, Hattie Coffel, Dottie Roberts, Irene Sims, Mary Tavana, Paul & Argie Verett, Delpha Allen, Ivan Ellis, Valley Stockton, Eagle Bailey, Minnie Scott, Anna Dale, Irene Fox, and Burnell Gulden.**

Serving in our military: **Steve Brady, Mark Wilson, Ti Draughon** in Iraq; and **Chris Martin**, in South Korea. We rejoice that **Michael Farris**, (Bill's grandson) is now home in Germany with his wife and daughter until his next deployment.

Men's Breakfast, March 15, 7:43 AM



Men of all ages are invited to attend the men's breakfast Saturday, March 15, at 7:43 AM, at Elmwood in A-2. If you haven't had the opportunity to attend you are missing out on a great time of Christian fellowship.

We will have a great breakfast prepared by Bob Evans and we will be spiritually motivated by one of our brothers. Please plan to join your brothers in Christ for a special time together shared in song, prayer, and fellowship. **This is a great opportunity to bring a guest.** Put your name on the sign-up sheet in the Farris foyer. This will enable us to order the correct amount of food. God is smiling!

-Kevin Walters



Save the Date: CSC Alumni Reunion (1989-1995)

Come join us to rekindle with old friends July 25-27, 2008. Activities for all ages! Further details to come. For more information contact Donna Porter at danddport@comcast.net and stay tuned for further announcements.

**Faith is...committing
loved ones' problems to
God to solve.**

-Pamela Reeve



The food pantry is always in need of personal items: **soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste & toothbrushes, & toilet paper.**

March 2, 2008

Class: 189 Worship: 278

Contribution: \$12,653

Budget: \$10,000/wk

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WHAT'S YOUR PLATFORM?

I'm not political and I don't really care for politics. I honestly wish the elections were over and that we were able to be done with all the campaign ads, rhetoric, etc. I do know that what the politicians are trying to tell us is what they stand for...their platform. Each of us has a platform. Have you considered what your platform is? The following is borrowed from "Confessions of a Not-So-Super Model" by Brooklyn Lindsey.

Each of us must decide what we stand for. What we say and do in life reflects who we are deep inside, and maybe more importantly whose we are. If God's fruit and God's nature dwells deep, that's what is going to come forth in our actions and in our speech.

Mother Teresa had a platform of love. She spent her life caring for those who were lost and lonely. Her book includes a prayer that reflects the spirit of her work: "Shine through me, and be in me, so that every soul I come in contact with may feel your presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me, but only you, O Lord!"

Rahab had a platform of faith. In the book of Joshua, we learn that Rahab had been living a life of sin as a prostitute. But she realized her need for redemption and hid Israelite spies who were being pursued by the King of Jericho (Joshua 2:1-21). She did not let her past or her pride get in the way of her belief in God.

Learning was central to the platform of Jesus' friend Mary. When Jesus visited the house of sisters Mary and Martha, Mary sat at Jesus' feet, setting her heart on every word that came from his mouth (Luke 10:38-42). Her sister, Martha, scurried around the house cleaning up, jealous that Mary was getting to spend time with Jesus and angry that she wasn't helping out. Mary's platform was to be a learner; Martha's was to be a pleaser. Each of them chose what she would be about that day when Jesus came to their home.

Bethany Hamilton's platform is focused on God's saving love. In 2003, at the age of 13, Bethany was attacked by a 14-foot tiger shark while surfing in Hawaii. Bethany lost her arm in the attack but chose to resume her professional surfing career and use this tragic experience as a platform to share what God had done in her life.

We could list many other examples, the greatest of these being Christ, who never gave up his platform of love and forgiveness. His dream comes true every time one of his children turns to him for forgiveness and decides to live out the calling given to each of them. What does your life say about what is most important to you? What message do people hear when they listen to the platform of your life?

What's your platform?

– Lee Porter



After some study and conversation with Lee Porter, **Chantilly Marchant** made the decision to make Jesus Lord of her life and was baptized on Wednesday night, February 20. Chantilly recently moved back to the Lafayette area from Florida and is currently looking for a job. She lives at 119 S. 7th St. Apt. 1, Lafayette 47901. Her phone number is 430-2232. Welcome, Chantilly, to the Elmwood family of believers!

VBS, June 2-6, 6-8 PM POWER LAB!

Be a part of the solution! We need someone to lead pre-school stations, Bible adventures, and games. We also need crew leaders – someone who guides a group of 5-7 children around to the VBS stations. See Michelle Robson or sign up on the bulletin board near the teachers' workroom.

Also, compliments and a BIG thank you to Dana Miller for her excellent ideas and work on the bulletin board outside the teachers' workroom.



I have really appreciated all the prayers, blue encouragement cards, phone calls, get-well cards, and visits during my recent surgery and recovery. All of these wonderful gestures have reminded me that "you are good people." I am sincerely thankful for my Elmwood church family!

-Joe Ruhl



- March 5, 7 PM**....Bible classes for everyone
- March 5, 5:50-6:50 PM**....Good \$ense Budget Class
- March 9, 6 PM**....LIFE Groups meet
- March 21-23**....Youth **Leadership Training for Christ** in Indianapolis

