



Olivet Oasis

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OLIVET MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Bless YOU for making a difference!

The Pros & Cons of 'Being Nice'

by Pastor Steve

Here in the midwest, especially in small towns, Iowans have a well deserved reputation for being nice. There is much to admire in this. Folks are generally courteous, kind, patient with those they know, and they show mercy and compassion for those in need. An obvious example came during the aftermath of the massive tornado that hit Parkersburg in 2008. Strangers from towns near and far came to help sort through the rubble, feed and house the homeless, and work tirelessly for months during the rebuilding. That's more than nice - Iowans love their neighbors. Similarly, Iowa has a well-deserved national reputation of being a good home for foreign refugees and immigrants. We are kind and show patience and long-suffering as these new neighbors learn to live in this culture and speak the language. We overlook the many social/cultural mistakes that they make - especially in the early months. Iowans are also nice to the homeless, the addicted, the depressed, and all sorts of people who are "different" than us. And that is great - but only to a point.

There may come a time in a relationship or situation that we begin to want something to change and others may see things differently. That's when the downside of "Iowa nice" becomes apparent. Our midwest culture

does not teach us how to directly address situations or relationships in conflict. We try to continue "being nice", but inside we want something different. By definition, we have a conflict, but we are not sure how to address it without making somebody "mad at us". So we start to "fake peace" - we keep acting nice on the outside, but inside we really want them to change. We often get frustrated enough to begin talking to others about the problem. In fact sometimes we may talk to many others about the problem, often everybody EXCEPT the person directly involved in the situation! I have seen this happen in small town Iowa, and here in Des Moines too. It happens in families, in the workplace, at schools, and in churches. Iowa needs some Biblical lessons and principles to overcome our "peace-faking" culture. Because if you fake-peace long enough, the pressure builds to an explosion of anger. That's when words get rough, feelings get hurt, slander is likely, and relationships are damaged. When anger spills out, we often see sinful thoughts and attitudes displayed. This could be called "Peace-Breaking".

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The Pros & Cons of Being Nice

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For five weeks beginning February 14th, we will study "Shalom in the Home: Biblical Peacemaking". In sermons and through small group curriculum Olivet will have an opportunity to increase our peacemaking skills. This will help us in our homes, in our work, in our neighborhoods, and in our church during this year of transition. Please make an extra effort to put the weekly sermons in practice and find a small group or Sunday School class that is discussing the sermons and digging deeper into the related Scriptures. The goal? We will all continue to be very nice AND we will be better able to constructively work through our differences. Sometimes the nicest thing we can do is to go talk with and listen to the person/situation we disagree with. It is hard, but it is worth it and Scripture commands it. Let's not fake peace, let's not break peace, let's together learn how to make peace.

*Did You Know We Have
Three Worship Services?*

We began the more Contemporary Worship Service at 11 a.m. on September 18, 2009 and God appears to be blessing this new service and He continues to bless our regular Blended Worship Service at 8:30 am. (We will talk more about both of these in the next few months.) Did you know we also have a Karen (Burmese) Worship Service that meets every Sunday at 1 p.m.? Did you know the average attendance is 125 people?! Here is the scoop.

In the summer of 2007, Des Moines began to receive a relatively small number of immigrants directly from refugee camps in Thailand. These people were from a variety of ethnic groups, each with different languages, but all originally from the country of Burma. The military dictatorship has a 55 year history of brutal oppression of a large number of smaller ethnic groups. One of these ethnic groups are the Karen people (pronounced cur-WREN). The Karen people were evangelized by Baptist missionaries in the 1850s and most of those who came to Iowa wanted to come to a Baptist church. God had arranged, years in advance, that our dear friends and members - Ian & Lulu Loo would not

only speak the Karen language, but would already be involved in ministry here at Olivet. A couple of phone calls later, a few Karen immigrants began to attend our service, and then a few more. Before long we began a Sunday School class, following the English-speaking service, and Pastor Steve came in to briefly summarize the sermon while Ian or Lulu translated. Originally we saw folks from 3-4 different languages, but as time progressed those who spoke a language other than Karen formed their own house churches and began to meet elsewhere. In the Fall of 2008, the Burmese Sunday School class became the Karen (Burmese) Service and attendance averaged 40-45. They continued to meet during the Sunday School hour and Pastor Steve began preaching lessons that directly applied to this congregation while the rest of the songs and prayers were all in the Karen language. That lasted until August of 2009.

At that time, Steve could no longer preach with the Karen (because now we had two english services!) so they began to pray for God to raise up one of their own to be the Sunday teacher/preacher. God provided Mr. Hey Thaw and the group began meeting upstairs in the youth room. They quickly outgrew this space - Praise God - and asked the Overseers if they could begin meeting in the Sanctuary on Sunday afternoon.

Since November of 2009, the Karen Worship Service has been meeting each week at 1 p.m. What began as a trickle of immigrants has now grown to a congregation averaging 120-125 in attendance each week. The adults meet in the Sanctuary and they have a weekly Sunday School lesson for the children in the Fellowship Hall.

Praise God for this building He provides for all of us to Worship and Adore Him. Praise God for Ian and Lulu Loo. Praise God for the Karen and their desire to worship the Lord Jesus. Praise God for the Kachin and the Chin people groups that have formed their own house churches. And pray that God will continue to support, encourage, grow, and mature this Karen-speaking congregation at Olivet.

God's Favorite Worship Service Style

By Ryan Lenerz, Pastoral Intern

In working with a team of dedicated people to develop the 2nd service, we struggled to identify what to include in the service design and what we could omit. We wrestled with questions such as: What is the role of worship music, prayer, preaching, and communion? What should be most prominent? How should we dress? We wanted to honor God through our choices, but unfortunately, the Bible didn't give us a lot of clues about the best way to do that. It would have been nice if God had revealed through scripture his favorite worship style so we could just do that, but He didn't, and we're all better off for it.

You see Christianity cannot be lived out outside of culture. Everything we do to honor God, we do through the lens of our own culture. Sometimes we may forget that and think its imperative that the pastor preach a message each Sunday or we pass communion trays once a month during the playing of a solemn song. As I begin my seminary class on Early Church History, however, I realize that even those things were not normative in first century Christianity. For instance, did you know that communion was originally a time of great joy because of the triumph of Jesus? Or did you know that up until the era of the enlightenment, communion was the central act of every worship service and preaching was only secondary? Now this doesn't mean that a service more closely matching the services that took place shortly after the time of

Jesus's life are more sanctified, just culturally situated to best fit those people at that particular time in history.

We should rejoice that God has given us freedom in how we honor him weekly as a corporate body of believers. If we weren't given this freedom, and God had told us exactly how to worship him like he did with the Israelites, then our services would be very different today. We would meet in rooms lit by candles with no sound equipment because electricity was not available in the first century. Additionally, all people across the whole world would play one style of music, even though the style may not fit the local culture in any way. Imagine if God had chosen polka as his preferred music style, it sure would be hard to bring your friends to church! Last, God's bride, His church, would all look the same, and based on the variety within His creation, I think He prefers the beauty of diversity. So let's thank God that he gave us freedom in how we gather to worship Him corporately, and let's remember to give others, inside and outside Olivet, the freedom to worship the God of the Bible how they prefer.

*"Let us therefore make every effort
to do what leads to peace and to
mutual edification"*

Romans 14:19

Perfect Snowstorm for Winter Retreat

Cold weather and above average snow may be a drag, but not for those attending Sr. High Winter Retreat at Pine Lake Christian Camp. The wintery combination only perfected the atmosphere and fun for the sixty students that attended. Students woke up to frost left from the freezing fog, then spent the day playing on the ice and sipping hot cocoa. Also, making the weekend memorable and challenging was the speaker Nathan Gann (a BGC Church Planter to Mason City, IA), who



called students to carry out the kingdom of God as they live their lives in devotion to Christ. Rocking the chapel until late into the night was

worship leader Thaddeus Seydel and band. The fun isn't over yet! In February the Jr. High will have the opportunity to enjoy the same camp experience, build relationships, and retreat from the business of life. Pray for snow and sign-up now!

Crossfire
upper room
Olivet Baptist Church Student Ministries



Looking for a place to watch the Super Bowl?

It's the Saint's vs. the Colts in a battle to be this years super bowl champions. The party starts at 5 p.m. at Olivet. Pizza and pop are provided, students are asked to bring some chips or a snack to share. There will be a half time game and brief message, bring your friends. If your not a students but would like to help serve food, watch the game, or just hang out with us while we watch, it contact Pastor Ben and we will save you a spot on the couch with us.





February Birthdays

Mandy Torres	1
Darcie Kopischke	2
David Williamson	2
Jeff Scherer	3
Michael Curry	5
Aubree Osberg	5
Ethan Curry	7
Jules Gray	9
Jared Boatwright	12
Beverly Osberg	12
Sara Clinkscales	15
Hsar K"Tray Kyi	15
Now Bue Kyi	15
Margie Tabor	15
Michael Tweeten	15
Marie Wisecup	15
Don Anderson	17
Lin Logan	19
Cody Swensen	20
Kristine Nicewarner	21
Jayden Ziesman	21
Colten Swensen	25
Ryan Lenerz	26

church directory additions/changes...

Lonnie & Sherrie Silber

Home: 9298 NW Lakeridge Lane
Polk City, IA 50226

Marie Scherer

Cell Phone: 563-468-9333

Thank you...

On behalf of Pastors and their families, I would like to thank the church for the Christmas blessing that was gifted to us. After such a busy year it was quite an honor to receive a monetary gift, just another sign of the generous congregation that we serve. Thank you all for the opportunity that you have given each of us to serve you, and for supporting us the way you do not just in the holiday gift, but every day through your prayers, cards, and encouragement.

Thank you, Pastor Ben

January Contribution Report

General Fund – Needed Weekly: 5,350

1/3 – 3,168; 1/10 – 5,308; 1/17 – 4,341; 1/24 – 4,997

Actual	Budget	Over (Under)
17,814	21,400	(3,586)

Vision Olivet – Monthly Mortgage: 10,717

1/3 – 637; 1/10 – 665; 1/17 – 620; 1/24 – 7,570

9,492	10,717	(1,225)
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FEBRUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Feb.	Nursery (Worship)	Nursery (Sunday School)	Usher	Greeter	Audio/ Video	Special Music	Worship Team
7 8:30am	Sue Moyer Jodi Moyer	Michelle Gilbert Diane Boatwright	Harry Skaggs (H) Sonny/Lilly Johansen	Ken/Nancy Taylor Lori Hewitt	Video Jerry L Audio Eldon	Sherrie Silber	Michelle Chris, Ian Mark, Lonny Lulu, Sherrie Bryan, Tom
7 11am	Lori Hewitt Mike Tweeten Chris Mikkelson		Harry Skaggs (H) Sonny/Lilly Johansen		Video Dan Audio Eldon		
14 8:30am	Jackie/ Katelyn Foster	Marie Scherer Angie Mikkelson	Harry Skaggs (H) Sonny/Lilly Johansen	Ken/Nancy Taylor Lori Hewitt	Video Jerry M Audio Galen	Lonny Silber	Chris, Leanna Ian, Mark Lonny, Lulu, Sheila, Sherrie Bryan, Richard
14 11am	Robyn/ Jeff Lund Vicky Clinkscates		Harry Skaggs (H) Sonny/Lilly Johansen		Video Shane Audio Galen		
21 8:30am	Gretchen Fousek Mary Carlson	Barbara Reed, Brenda Massung	Harry Skaggs (H) Sonny/Lilly Johansen	Ken/Nancy Taylor Lori Hewitt	Video Jerry L Audio Eldon	Lin Logan	Michelle Chris, Ian Mark, Lonny Margie, Lin Jules, Tom Bryan
21 11am	Connie/ Tom Keller Yolanda Cintron		Harry Skaggs (H) Sonny/Lilly Johansen		Video Verne Audio Eldon		
28 8:30am	Heidi/ Aaron Acela	Nan Hahn, Issy Lemke	Harry Skaggs (H) Sonny/Lilly Johansen	Ken/Nancy Taylor Lori Hewitt	Video Jerry M Audio Galen	Bryan Osberg	Michelle, Chris, Ian, Mark, Lonny Margie, Lin Bryan, Jules Richard
28 11am	Steve/Sam Mackenzie Hocker Mary Bristow		Harry Skaggs (H) Sonny/Lilly Johansen		Video Shane Audio Galen		

February calendar of events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30pm Contemporary Worship Practice Women's Coffee @ Panera	2	3 5:45pm Family Dinner 6:15pm AWANA 6:30pm Revolution Adult Small Groups 7:45 Choir	4 Noon Seasoned Servants 6:45pm Blended Worship Practice	5	6 9:30am IBC Annual Meeting 7:30am Men's Breakfast @ WH HyVee
7 8:30am Worship 10am SS 11am Worship 1pm Karen (Burmese) Worship 5pm Youth Super Bowl Party	8 6:30pm Contemporary Worship Practice Women's Coffee @ Panera	9	10 5:45pm Family Dinner 6:15pm Sr Hi Small Group AWANA 6:30pm Adult Small Groups, Jr Hi Small Group 7:45 Choir	11 6:30pm Overseers Meet 6:45pm Blended Worship Practice	12	13 7:30am Men's Breakfast @ WH HyVee
14 8:30am Worship 10am SS 11am Worship Karen (Burmese) Worship 6:15pm Sr High Bible Study	15 6:30pm Contemporary Worship Practice Women's Coffee @ Panera Oasis Newsletter Deadline	16	17 5:45pm Family Dinner 6:15pm Sr Hi Small Group AWANA 6:30pm Adult Small Groups, Jr Hi Small Group 7:45 Choir	18 6:45pm Blended Worship Practice	19 5pm Jr Hi Winter Retreat Begins	20 7:30am Men's Breakfast @ WH HyVee Jr Hi Winter Retreat
21 Jr Hi Winter Retreat Ends 8:30am Worship 10am SS 11am Worship Karen (Burmese) Worship 6:15pm Sr High Bible Study	22 6:30pm Contemporary Worship Practice Women's Coffee @ Panera	23	24 5:45pm Family Dinner 6:15pm Sr Hi Small Group AWANA 6:30pm Adult Small Groups, Jr Hi Small Group 7:45 Choir	25 6:45pm Blended Worship Practice	26	27 7:30am Men's Breakfast @ WH HyVee
28 8:30am Worship 10am SS 11am Worship Karen (Burmese) Worship 6:15pm Sr High Bible Study						

Olivet makes a difference for earthquake refugees...



You prayed without ceasing.



You fueled the work of
Missionary Flights
International DC3 .



You helped bring doctors and supplies
to the Pignon Hospital.

Bless you for making a difference!

Olivet Church
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