

A Lasting Impression

By Jennifer Wetzel

“Wherever you go becomes a part of you somehow.” (Anita Desai)
Due to a love of traveling, my perspective changes with each new destination and the indelible memories they form. And though I know the lasting impact these journeys have on me, I did not expect a recent Mediterranean cruise to leave a lasting impression on my faith.

Sun-filled skies, clear blue waters, sea as smooth as glass, breathtaking panoramic views. That was the scenery I experienced while visiting Croatia, Turkey, and Greece on a cruise to celebrate my friend’s 40th birthday. And though those sites were remarkable, my favorite view was found on a well-trodden, dirt-covered path among the ruins of ancient Ephesus, one of our ports of call.



While entering the ruins of ancient Ephesus, our tour guide pointed out a circular symbol (see attached picture) carved into a short wall. Due to the devotion to pagan gods and goddesses in Ephesus, early Christians used the Greek letters of the ichthys, ΙΧΘΥΣ, as a symbol of their faith and identification of themselves as believers in Christ. When written one on top of another, the letters form the circular symbol used by these Christians.

The tour guide challenged us to search for additional ichthys symbols as we wandered among the ruins. Initially, I kept one eye peeled for the ichthys in a personal quest of “I Spy.” However, the beauty of the ruins, including the amphitheater where Paul preached, quickly captured my attention instead. Then, as I scurried down a former major thoroughfare in Ephesus, an ichthys symbol caught my eye. Carved into a former sidewalk, this ichthys symbol has endured dirt, gravel, time, weather, and the pounding of thousands of feet. Despite all of these eroding factors, the ichthys still shone out of the ground as plain as day. It was carved as a lasting impression.

This symbol gave me pause. How inspiring to stand and witness the faith of a believer from ancient times! It felt incomprehensible to know that through a common faith and love for Christ, I could feel a connection to an unknown person from the past. And, how appropriate that among the broken ruins of once mighty buildings, the symbol of Christ remains intact. It reminded me of Psalm 146:1, which states “*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever.*” (NIV)

This symbol also made me question my own walk with Christ. How do I express my faith today that might be a lasting impression for future generations? Not only do I want to make an impact on those around me today, I want my faith to shine for the future. What lasting mark am I making today?

Ancient Ephesus and the ichthys witnessed there have become a part of me. What symbols of faith or spiritual journeys have become a part of you?

- Jennifer Wetzel, 10-21-09

Our Deepest Sympathy & Love

CHARLES (BUD) JONES fell asleep in Christ at 10:07a.m., Oct.. 27th at age 90. He had a very strong faith that carried him through those 90 years. He was a faithful husband, father and Christian, and he loved his church. He served in many capacities through the years being an elder at the time of his death; everyone will miss him! Yet, he sleeps in the great hope of the soon return of Jesus and the glorious resurrection. “Come, Lord Jesus!”

BUD’S OBITUARY: Charles G. Jones age 90 of Bainbridge Township passed away peacefully October 27, 2009. Beloved Husband of Mary Ellen. Loving Father of Robert (Nola) Jones of Atlanta GA., Lorna K. (Wayne) Johnson of Hutchinson MN., and Lowell (Sara) Jones of Burton OH. Dear Grandfather of 7 and Great grandfather of 8. Charles proudly served in the Army Air Force during WWII. His wife, Mary Ellen and sister, Evelyn Pennington, survive. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Church of the Open Bible 689 Adams St. Bedford, OH. 44146. Interment Bainbridge Restland Cemetery.

IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE: *We still have not heard from the Immigration Department regarding our petition to teach international students at our McDonough campus. A recent contact with the Department confirmed that our petition is still in the queue of schools waiting for approval. Please continue to*

make this a matter of earnest prayer.
David Krogh, ABC News, 10-27-09

100 YEARS OLD!! Louise Lapp (widow of former pastor Clarence Lapp) will be 100 November 6th. You can send her a card: [Email me for the address, we don't put home addresses on the Internet.]

PHIL & SUSAN MAY are about 2 weeks away from the birth of their son. Susan has been ordered to bed rest requiring Phil to work overtime to meet their budget. They've also had the flu in their house. However, Susan wrote that she misses terribly being at church. She wrote, *"Say hello to all of the brethren. Please keep my family in your prayers; we'll keep praying for all of you."*

PRAY FOR: Jones Family, Tim Adams (by McCain), Gwyn Studebaker (by Rx), Rebecca Schroth, Skip Reed, Gene & Gloria Faehnrich, Karel (Michal Sittek's g-father), INS inspection approval of ABC campuses, Ralph Childs, W.C. Blankenship (heart), Susan May, Jean Szantes (cancer, by Arlene), Pastor Don Ward, Ken Cramer, Tammy (Koston) Lisiecki, Leslie & Stanley Hervert (by Grace), Ruth Schuld, Susan (Stine) Bradley, Edith Speer, Jack Hearp, Kathy Reed+3 children, Craig Blankenship, **College students:** Laura Schuld, Andrew Weaver, **Shut-ins:** Carol Reed, Evelyn Pennington, Amy Dunbar Puehler **Military:** Rodger Schuld, **Missionaries in other countries:** Gaston Ucanay-Peru, Mauro Apolos Gonzalez-Uruguay, Lupe Badillo-Mexico, Tracy Zhykhovich-Russia, Pastors in Malawi & Mozambique, Lesly Bertrand and the Pastors in Haiti. / **Churches:** Knightstown Family Fellowship IN, Korean Extension Steve & Sam An, RRCC, ABC, Golden Rule, Grace Brethren and for the peace of Jerusalem, Ps. 122:6; Isa. 62:6, 7

NOVEMBER 2009

- 01 Communion / Clocks should have been turned back one hour
- 06 Louise Lapp's 100th birthday (widow of Pastor Clarence Lapp)
- 26 Thanksgiving

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:45A.M.
WORSHIP 10:45A.M.

Musicians: Doris Schuld & Frank Roper
Welcome / Announcements / Prayer

Worship Hymns: Mark Cain

481 He Is Coming Again

470 Reach Out To Jesus

Prayer / Offering

Message: Days of Elijah

Key Texts: Acts 1-10,11; Heb 9:28; Rev 5:5; Matt 26:64; 24:40;
24:24-27; Mal 4:1,2; Matt 24:31; 1 Thess 4:16; Rev 11:15-18; Titus 2:11-15;

Communion: Elder Steve Weaver

219 Blest Be The Tie That Binds

Bud Jones' Hope!

⁵⁰I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— ⁵²in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. ⁵⁴When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" ⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. (1 Cor. 15)