

# WESTPORT WITNESS

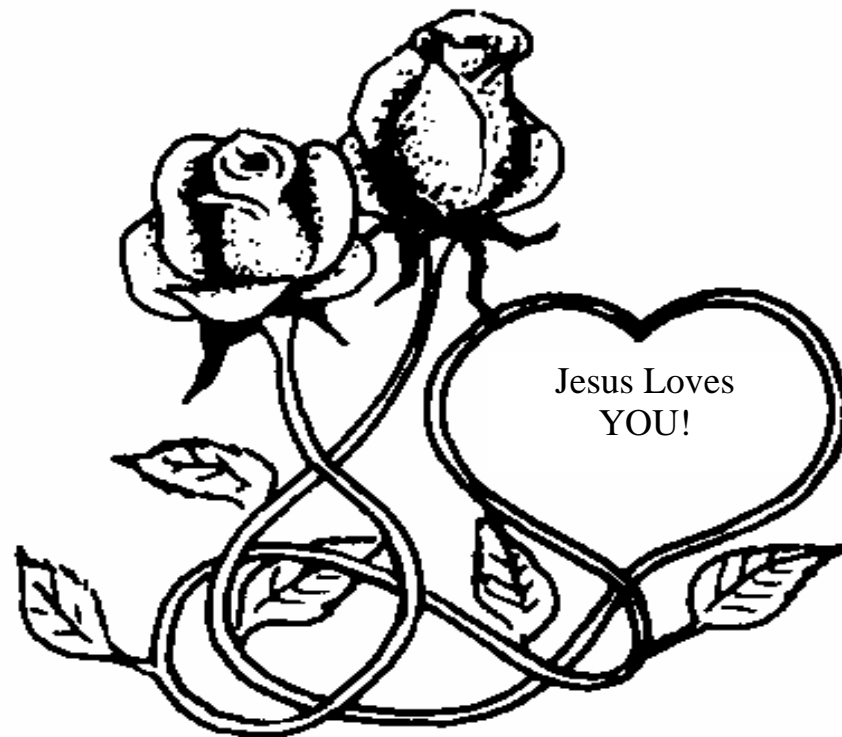
[www.westportchristianchurch.com](http://www.westportchristianchurch.com)

February, 2005

This month is known as the month of  
LOVE!

But God loves us all year round!!

Share **His** love with  
someone  
YOU know.



## Mike's Message...

Recently, I had to write a little paper for one of my classes. We were given a topic to write that, when I first saw it, I thought would be easy. Nothing to it! Until I started to write. Here is the topic: "Why I go to church." Sounds simple, does it not? I thought about going at it from some different angles. Such as, the congregation makes me because I am the preacher. Or, my wife says that I have to. Well, I knew that would not get me far. So I began to think. "Why do I go to church?" Before you read any more, why do YOU go to church? Take just a moment to seriously think "why." I feel that there are many reasons. So, I would just like to share with you what I wrote.

The day begins with a wonderful time of preparation looking forward to a time of celebration. Preparing one's mind in having the opportunity to come together with people of like faith. Praying, and studying the lesson from God's Word. Joining together with songs of praise and adoration to our Lord and Savior. Imagining what it will be like one day singing with the host of heavenly angels. Listening to the special music as the person sharing shares from the heart. Lifting their voices in praise to God for what He has done for them. Being challenged from God's Word to be the best possible servant, to live my life being all that I can be for Him. Being encouraged and lifted up by brothers and sisters in Christ. Meeting around the table for communion to reflect and remember that which Christ has done for me.

Now to some, this may sound boring or mundane, but for me it is a time that I look forward to each Lord's day. A time that I can look back and see how my life has been changed from a life of sin and despair to, now, a child of the King! These are just a few reasons why I go to church. But the biggest reason of all, to worship the One who died for me!

So, ask yourself, "Why do I go to church?"

Grow in His love,  
Mike

## "IF I WERE THE DEVIL" BY PAUL HARVEY

I would gain control of the most powerful nation in the world;  
I would delude their minds into thinking that they had come from man's effort, instead of God's blessings;  
I would promote an attitude of loving things and using people, instead of the other way around;  
I would dupe entire states into relying on gambling for their state revenue; I would convince people that character is not an issue when it comes to leadership; I would make it legal to take the life of unborn babies;  
I would make it socially acceptable to take one's own life, and invent machines to make it convenient;  
I would cheapen human life as much as possible so that life of animals are valued more than human beings;  
I would take God out of the schools, where even the mention of His name was grounds for a lawsuit;  
I would come up with drugs that sedate the mind and target the young, and I would get sports heroes to advertise them;  
I would get control of the media, so that every night I could pollute the minds of every family member for my agenda;  
I would attack the family, the backbone of any nation. I would make divorce acceptable and easy, even fashionable. If the family crumbles, so does the nation; I would compel people to express their most depraved fantasies on canvas and movies screens, and I would call it art;  
I would convince the world that people are born homosexuals, and that their lifestyles should be accepted and marveled;  
I would convince the people that right and wrong are determined by a few who call themselves authorities and refer to their agendas as politically correct; I would persuade people that the church is irrelevant and out of date, the Bible is for the naive;  
I would dull the minds of Christians, and make them believe that prayer is not important, and that faithfulness and obedience are optional;

**I GUESS I WOULD LEAVE THINGS PRETTY MUCH THE WAY THEY ARE!**

## It's a YOUTH Thing,

I know there's still snow on the ground but, have you thought about camp? The other day I received in the mail the camp schedule and the theme for 2005. The theme for this is year, "Go MAD." That stands for, "Go Make A Difference." I think that is a very good theme. Not just for camp but, for everyday life! It doesn't matter where you are, or, what you are doing, we should be striving to make a difference for Christ. The other day I read in the paper where someone at school was threaten with a knife, again. That's crazy!! Each of you must make a decision. Are you going to be content to live in that type of society or, are you going to make a difference? If you are planning on making a difference then be ready. People are going to talk about you. They will tell you things like, it won't do any good. Your wasting your time. Your weird. What makes you think your so different? And the list goes on and on. Making a difference is HARD! One of the reasons that its hard is, you have to be yourself. I am really surprised when I talk to some young person and they tell me they just want to be themself. Then I have to ask them, "why do you dress and act like everyone else?" You see if you want to make a difference, set a trend, set the pace or what ever you want to call it, YOU MUST BE YOUR-SELF!!

God doesn't call us to all be clones does He? He doesn't tell us in His Word that we must all eat the same food, drive the same car, (if He did it would be a Chevy) wear the same clothes...do you get my point? But He does tell us that we are **not** to be like the world, we **MUST** be different! That is why it is up to each of YOU to make a difference for Christ!

So, I would like to encourage each of you to, "GO MAD!" *Go make a difference for Christ!!*

If you are a student at South Elementary, then soon you will be able to make a difference. Starting Monday, February 28, you will be able to join the "Good News Club." This is an after school club that will meet on Mondays from 3:15-5:15. Ronda and I will be there helping out with all the students and we would love to see you there. If you need a ride home, then see Ronda or myself soon because we only have a small amount of room. Hope to see all of you there!

## What Ron Thinks...

Have you ever been to the doctors and got very bad news concerning your health? How did you feel? I get light headed and the room spins a bit. I can only think of the bad news for a while. I withdraw and get moody. I want to be left alone. I do not want to talk about it. I would assume you would have some of these same feelings.

But a couple days later the shock has gone away. The news is not the only thought in my head. My mood goes back to normal. I will talk a bit about the condition. The room has stop spinning. I will take what comes-I have no choice...

Remember when first you ran a stop sign-how nervous you were? Remember the first big whopper you told and never got caught? How you stole something and was on pins and needles? Remember how you missed services or work the first time for no good reason at all? Going over the speed limit-does that bring back memories? We keep doing all these things and now its common place and no problem, until you see the policeman watching you and then you get nervous again and your heart beats faster and you sweat-you live in fear till he is no longer watching and then you go back to normal. I have been going to this church for well going on 25 years plus. If everybody that has ever come here during my time here would come back for a service at the same time then I would expect 4 of our church's would not contain the whole. A lot of the people have died. A few have gone to another church, but the majority have fallen away from God. A few have treated us as a social club and we are no longer fun. I have seen people who have stolen, people who lie, some have taken up dirty habits, and a few have cheated on their spouses. Some decided they just really don't believe in God any more. T.V. has grabbed some. Work has taken its toll. And there is a list as long as your arm. One, all these things that take us from God, started little. We got use to it. Sin that once shocked us no longer does. We are complacent. Our friends chide us about our down falls and we have GOOD excuses-even reasons.

I keep thinking that our minister does not labor to just hear him self speak. He took a huge salary cut cause he thinks he can show the map to Heaven. He preaches blunt-tender-soft-doesn't point at you when he speaks our your sins and errors. He knows there a Hell-he knows the Word of God is not fiction and-he knows what temptations is. He room has spun and he has got dizzy-and has gotten moody and discourage. He has kept his eye on Jesus-kept his thoughts pure-turn his T.V.-and prayed and reads his Bible for his needs. Have you ever thought that if we would do likewise that a lot of sin in our lives wouldn't happen-Our church would be filled-have more true friends and our chances for Heaven is astronomical, and we would have peace of mind. Ron

## *Ladies for the Lord,*

Ladies, as this new year gets a good start, we need to make sure we're on the right track. Paul tells us in Colossians 3 the way to get our lives lined up with Jesus.

First, get your want-to (your heart) set on God. Remember, we were raised with Christ to new life. Then get your mind thinking of heavenly things not earthly things. Focus on eternal things.

Next, get rid of the baggage that holds us down-bad attitudes, bad language, anger, lies, greed and so on. Put on Christ as God chosen people, dearly loved-compassion, kindness, gentleness, patience-especially put on love.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your heart and be thankful.

Let the word of God dwell in you. Read the Word. Listen to the Word. Sing the Word.

Do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Think of how this will change our homes, our work places, our church, our town. They'll never be the same again.

Remember, every other month we put business aside and fellowship! This month we EAT!!

New officers take charge this month for our group:

President-Carolyn Blanton

Vice President-Peggy Combs

Co-Secretary's-Norma Rowe, Ronda Bartlett

Treasurer-Mary Lou Glover

Thanks to those who served before and to those willing to serve now.

Bless you!

## UP COMING EVENTS

1st	Ladies Night out	
10th	Board Meeting	6:00
13th	ALL Church Pitch-In	
19th	God's Men Breakfast	7:30
21st	Hour of Power	7:00



Westport Christian Church  
 Sunday School 9:30  
 Worship 10:30  
 Sunday night & Youth Group 6:00  
 Wednesday night 7:00

# February 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Ladies night out! Broad Acres NV	2 Supper & Study 6:00—7:00	3	4	5
6 Family Sunday No WEE-worship	7	8	9 Supper & Study 6:00—7:00	10 Board Meeting 6:00	11	12
13 ALL Church Pitch-In	14	15	16 Supper & Study 6:00—7:00	17	18	19 God's Men Break- fast
20	21 Hour of POWER Prayer meeting 7:00	22	23 Supper & Study 6:00—7:00	24	25	26
27 Morning Breeze 2:30	28					

### BIRTHDAYS

1st Ronda Bartlett  
 8th Donnie Sageser  
 10th Hagen Peele  
 14th Austin Catron  
 20th Mertie Saylor  
 28th George Cann

### ANNIVERSARIES

1st Mike & Jenny  
 Hardebeck