

The Fragrance of Christ

There is no better time of year than springtime. The trees are budding, flowers are coming up, the grass is green, and it seems that everything is coming to life. Winter has now faded into the sunset, and a new season is upon us. With this new season we experience many wonderful things. Nothing compares with the fragrance we now enjoy. Even the grass has a special smell as it is being mowed. Smell is an important sense that God has given us, and we all need to savor every minute we can enjoy it.

In the Apostle Paul's second writing to the church at Corinth, II Corinthians, he shares about the burdens and difficulties of ministry. If anyone could identify with problems, Paul could. He, like most driven people, didn't want to dwell on bad things, or get to the place where he felt sorry for himself. He talked about a new covenant in ministry and



JUST A THOUGHT

Rev. Tom Mansbarger



Tom Mansbarger is senior pastor of Grace Community Church. He offers free counseling. Reach him at 765. 517. 1187 or tom@graceccmarion.org.

shared how triumphant it was. II Corinthians 2:14-17 says, "(14) Now thanks be unto God, who always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savor of his knowledge by us in every place. (15) For we are unto God a

sweet savor of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: (16) To the one we are the savor of death unto death; and to the other, the savor of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things? (17) For we are not as many, who corrupt the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ." Paul didn't want to miss an opportunity to share the glorious joy of sharing Christ in ministry. As ministers of Christ, we are called to service in His name.

It was a custom of the Romans when they would have a triumphal procession that the temples of Rome were filled with the fragrance of burning incense, and also ahead of the General. Much like the Romans, Paul says that we are bearers of the fragrance of Christ. What are the characteristics we are to have?

1. We are to be a pleasing

fragrance (verse 14). There is a beautiful picture of our sacrifice to God in Genesis 8:20. Noah sacrificed a burnt offering to God, and He (God) smelled the pleasing aroma. What does it mean to be a pleasing fragrance? It is simply offering oneself as a sacrifice to God, to yield yourself on the altar of commitment and service (Romans 12:1). God is not looking for us to put something on the altar, He wants us to crawl up on it.

2. We are to be a penetrating fragrance. In that Roman parade the incense made its way all along. We are to carry the knowledge

of God everywhere. How do we share? First, we share visually as a living witness, an epistle. Secondly, we show Christ's love in action, and share it. We do not know how God will use our witness, He simply asks us to be faithful in sharing the good news.

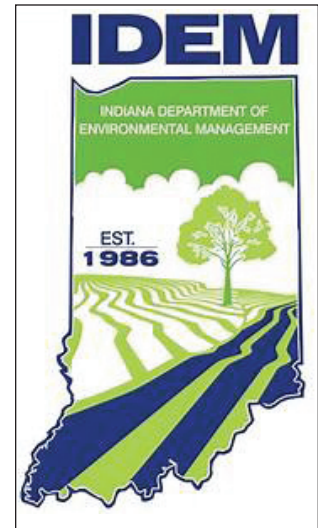
3. We are to be a powerful fragrance. As we carry the fragrance of Christ everywhere, we realize that some receive it and some don't (verse 16). The same message can be healing or poisoning depending on what people do with it. None of us are worthy of Christ's love and grace.

4. We are to be a pure fragrance. Because eternal destinies are in the balance, God calls us to be pure messengers of His Word. We should be serving in a spirit of sincerity and humility. Some had peddled the Word of God for profit (verse 17). They shared what people wanted to hear in a watered down version of the Gospel.

These thoughts truly give each of us much to think about. How do you smell? Are you putting out a fragrance that Paul talked about? My prayer is that we all smell the way that is pleasing and glorifying to Christ.

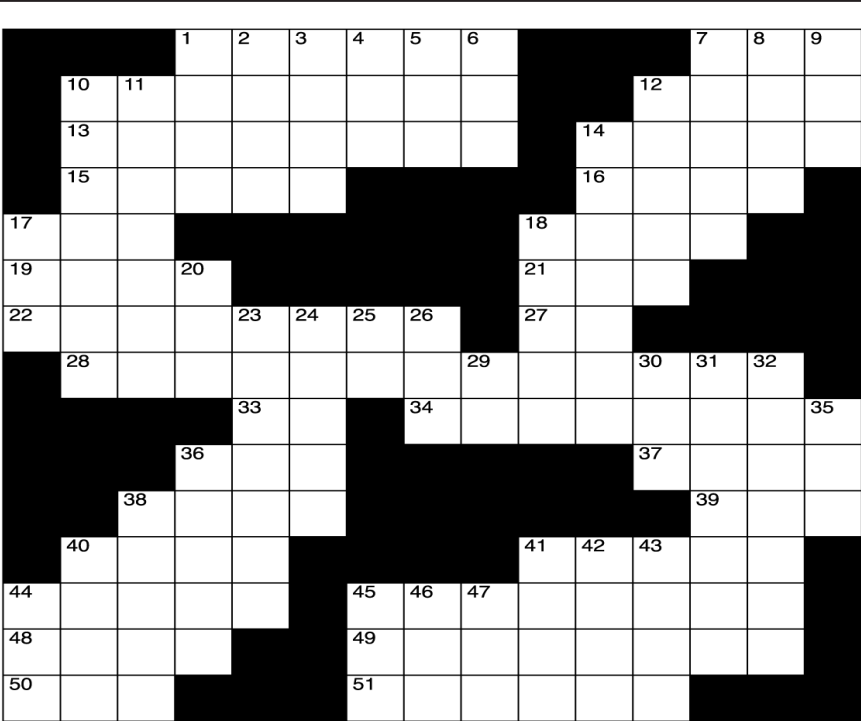
IDEM awards \$444,435 in community recycling grants

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) today announced the recipients of the agency's Community Recycling Grant Program. IDEM awarded \$444,435 to 21 applicants, including the Marion Municipal Utilities."The Community Recycling Grants are a great way for IDEM to promote and encourage recycling at the local level," said IDEM Commissioner Bruno Pigott. "IDEM is proud to work with communities to promote recycling throughout the state."Grant funding is intended to create success-



ful, cost-effective programs. Applicants must demonstrate a positive environmental impact within the project service area, an

increase in waste diversion as a result of the project, and show the sustainability of the project. For additional information, please contact 800-988-7901 or recycle@idem.IN.gov. Grants are funded through IDEM's Solid Waste Management Fund. Funds come from the solid waste management fee (IC 13-20-22-1). The fee consists of \$0.50 per ton charge on solid waste for final disposal at Indiana municipal solid waste landfills and incinerators. None of the funding comes from tax dollars.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Switches
7. Legal financial term (abbr.)
10. Sweeties
12. Competition
13. Measures electrical resistance
14. Psychotherapy researcher
15. Causes injury to
16. Open
17. Polish peninsula
18. Hebrew calendar month
19. Whale ship captain
21. Children's accessory
22. Unknown point
27. Exists
28. Extremely confident
33. Expression of disgust
34. The government has many
36. Small constellation
37. Northern Indian city
38. The best pitchers
39. Naturally occurring solid
40. Apple computers
41. Portuguese city
44. Ancient Greek war dance
45. More reliable
48. Sailboat
49. Newspapers
50. Frequently flooded area
51. They dig for coal

CLUES DOWN

1. Partial
2. "Mad Men" leading man
3. The __ of March
4. Healthy
5. Where golfers begin
6. Soviet Socialist Republic (abbr.)
7. Of the cheek
8. Injury reminder
9. Statesman Franklin
10. For an unknown reason
11. Brain parts
12. Islamic calendar month
14. Avenue where ad men work
17. Possesses
18. Accept
20. Stake
23. Former British PM May
24. US battleships circa 1939
25. Greek alphabet letter
26. When you hope to get there
29. Top lawyer
30. Fiddler crabs
31. Intolerant
32. Persons that cause extreme fear
35. Car mechanics group
36. Capital of Ghana
38. Famed ballplayer Hank
40. Emphasizes insignificance
41. Light-colored
42. Distinctive smell
43. Muckraking journalist Jacob
44. Sunscreen rating
45. Short-term memory
46. Japanese delicacy
47. One point north of due east

Answers to puzzle on Page 12

Answers to puzzles on Page 12

SUDOKU

6								
				9			8	
1		8				3	4	6
	2				6		5	
9			8					
				2		1		
	7				3			1
3	4				7	8		
			4		2		6	

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!