

# Family Focus

FROM ERIC

## A Stone No Longer: A Tribute to Forest Widel

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep,  
but we will all be changed-- I Cor. 15: 51

What is the measure of a man? How do we sum up a life well lived? There is much to focus on when thinking of Forest: his years in Blackwater; his time here in Columbia; the basket making and flower gardening; the fact that he never knew a stranger; the fact that he and Marie raised four children in a Christian home; or that he was more faithful in worship attendance at 95 years old than most are their entire lives. There are many things we could look at in Forest's life. But I would like to draw your attention to one: Forest was an artist. He created wonderful pieces of art.

He made Christmas ornaments out of stone. Just like thousands and thousands of rocks that one passes without a moment of regard. Stones with no real redeeming value. Stones not found in any prestigious place or warranting any real attention. But Forest took simple stone and with the meticulous hands of a craftsman he began to change this stone into something more. He would take stones and paint on them images with shadow, and shade, and tone and detail: lighthouses, shorelines, cardinals on snow covered pine branches. With time, with care, with an artist's eye, Forest took stone and made something more of it. He would make ornaments celebrating the birth of a King. They are stones no longer.



What a picture of what God does for us. God takes people - just like thousands and thousands of other people who are passed by without a moment of regard; castaways; not found in places of prestige. No, on the contrary, we were found wallowing in our sin.

But scripture says in God's hands, "We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed. The dead will be raised imperishable". We will be changed, Forest will be changed, and if you have committed your life to Christ - you, too, will be forever changed. So we find comfort in this: We will be stone no longer.

Excerpted from the eulogy of Forest Widel--November 9th, 2009



We are delighted to announce the baptism of Jason Schenewark last Wednesday and that Roselyn Gard and David and Angela Gay have also placed membership.

## New Bible Classes...Coming December 6 and 9

|           |   |                 |                  |
|-----------|---|-----------------|------------------|
| Sunday    | How Our Faith Works   | W3              | Brian Hajicek    |
|           | The Sacred Way: <i>Spiritual Disciplines for Everyday Life</i>                    | Fellowship Hall | Eric Wilson      |
|           | Engage! <i>Christianity and Popular Culture</i><br>21 Weeks - College/Young Adult | W2              | John Mark Dennis |
| Wednesday | James   | Parlor          | Brent Carpenter  |
|           | Decisions that Shape Destiny:<br><i>A Study of Daniel</i>                         | Auditorium      | Kurt Huhtanen    |
|           | Redefining Life: <i>My Relationships</i><br>21 Weeks - College/Young Adult        | W2              | Eric Wilson      |