

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

EMILY ENGEL CONTRIBUTOR

"I'm really not much for words," the soft-spoken freshman said. "But actions speak louder than words, and that's why I do it."

When Chris Fales came to Taylor University to begin his freshman year, it only took a few weeks for other students to start noticing that there was something different about him.

"Every time I've seen Fales, he's always serving others," said junior Bethany Wilson. "Almost every meal I see him picking up dishes in the DC, and almost every chapel I see him holding the door until everyone gets in."

It is these simple acts of service that have captured the attention of much of Taylor's campus, but Fales began publicly serving others during high school band class in his hometown of Avon, Ind.

"I noticed a lot of people went through this door into the band room and a lot of people had a hard time opening it, so I just thought I'd do it for them," Fales said.

During this time, Fales also began looking for a small Christian school where he could spend his college years. After visiting Taylor for the first time, he knew he had found the right place.

"You can tell Taylor is a Christian university before someone actually tells you it is," Fales said. "People just act differently here, like we're called to do in the Bible."

A combination of the Taylor example, his Christian parents as role models, and some prompting from the Holy Spirit led Fales to start realizing his role of service in the kingdom of God.

"If I see something that needs to be done, that isn't being done . . . I just love to do it," Fales said.

And although his noticeable acts of service around campus — such as holding the door before every chapel or clearing dishes in the Dining Commons — may be what Fales is known for, he also revealed that he would much rather fly under the radar.

"I consider myself a secret admirer," Fales said. "And by that I mean an admirer of secrets."

Fales says he has the most fun when his acts of service can't be traced back to him, but he gets to watch people's reactions when they realize something nice has been done for them.

"When I can see people's reaction, I think it makes my day as much as it makes theirs," Fales said.

Although it may seem like it, Fales does not spend all his time performing random acts of kindness. Besides keeping busy with his schoolwork as a biology major, he also is a member of the Taylor Bell Choir and a resident of Penthouse.

Someday, Fales hopes to use his talents to work closely with and study the behavior of animals — a dream he's had

since he was very young.

These are the things to be uncovered for those willing to dig a little deeper, willing to go beyond the conveniently opened door or quickly cleared dishes.

Fales says the response of students to his service varies.

"Some people ask my name, some ask further questions, and some people just look at me like, 'What the heck is this guy doing?'" Fales said. "That one always makes me laugh."

But Fales doesn't do it to be noticed or even to get to know people, although he does enjoy that part. He says he does it all for three simple reasons: because he has fun doing it, because if he doesn't do it, not many people will, and because most importantly he wants to bring glory to God.

"Fales is an awesome guy that I think many people don't understand," said sophomore Chip Mironas, who also lives on Penthouse. "But if they took the time to, they would see a genuine Christian guy that is just doing what he thinks he's been called to do."

Fales' biggest fear in all this? That his actions will draw more attention to himself than to God.

"I refuse to let this be about me. It's all about God," Fales said.