



## Running from the Lord

You just have to love Jonah. His story is a little comical, don't you think? After hearing from the Lord that he needs to go to Nineveh the text says that Jonah *got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the Lord* (1:3). Do you find this scene as humorous as I do? Have you ever tried to get away from the Lord? I am almost positive that this never works out the way you want it to.

I believe that if I am real honest with myself I would have to admit that, in spite of the comical nature, I have tried to run from the Lord. I'm sure there are times in my life where I have wanted to hide and just get away from the Lord for a little while. It sounds odd just admitting that, but it is true.

Why did Jonah want to run away from the Lord anyway? Probably for the same reasons I have tried to do this. It is not out of anger or hate, or because I am ashamed of the Lord. It is not because I don't like Him hovering around. Honestly, I believe it has nothing to do with the Lord. I usually want to run from the Lord when I cannot face the truth about myself. It is not a matter of being ashamed of the Lord, but rather being ashamed of myself. I do not think Jonah is any different. I believe the Lord's call made Jonah see something in himself that he did not like.

To really get this story one must first realize that Jonah and his people despised the Ninevites. They did not get along. It was like the Cubs and Cardinals, or the Red Sox and Yankees. There was no love lost between the two, and one wanted to see the other fail. Jonah and Nineveh were foes.

Jonah also knew the truth about the Lord. He knew the Lord would be merciful and compassionate. He knew that his Lord was full of unflinching love (4:2). He knew the Lord was not like him. So instead of just outright saying "No!" to the Lord, Jonah decides to run. Rather than face the truth about himself before the Lord, Jonah decides to hide.

My experience has told me that running from the truth about myself does me no good in the long run. It is better to just be honest with myself before God. David found this to be true as he writes, *"Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, 'I will confess my rebellion to the Lord.' And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone."* Psalm 32:5. ~Gilbert Kerrigan

## Brotherly Kindness

I recently read Orson Scott Card's book, *Empire*. It was about a new civil war in the near-future America. Card said in his afterword that "sadly, it was all too easy to find a premise for a civil war in America." His premise was that the vicious rhetoric between the political left and right, combined with the polarizing mindset that if one disagrees with you then they are either "stupid, deceived or have some ulterior motive" degenerated from a verbal war into one involving literal weapons. Political divisiveness in America has created a battleground between many people.

We generally think about the issue of divisiveness as something that other people struggle with, but I think if we look at ourselves fairly we will realize that we can make a similar mistake. Haven't many of us at some point in our lives made the mistake of being upset over the fact that someone left "our church" to go to the "conservative one" or "the liberal one"? But is this really a Christian attitude? In reality shouldn't we be happy that someone has found a place where they can grow in their walk with Christ? I think Paul refers to a similar issue in Philippians 1:18 when he writes: *"But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice."*

This Easter week, let's try to extend a hand of brotherly kindness to all who celebrate the risen Christ along with us. ~Phil Travis

# A Change in Easter Sunday Schedule

This Sunday, Easter, there will be **NO SUNDAY BIBLE SCHOOL CLASSES AT 9:30**. Instead, there will be an extended period of fellowship and refreshments to share in A-2 between the morning worship hours. Please remember this as you are making your Easter Sunday plans.



Remember  
in  
Prayer

**Kaden Koebecke** is stable. He will have tests this week before undergoing a procedure to give him mega doses of prednisone by intravenous drip next week. Keep praying for him!...**Eugene Zinn** is having complications following his surgery on Friday. Monday he was moved to the cardiac care center at the IU Medical Center for observation after having a heart attack...**Kaidynn Peckinpaugh**, infant daughter of Kelly Peckinpaugh, is sick with RSV... **Joe Bailey** remains in Home Hospital, room 4312, with an infection following his knee replacement surgery and has shingles....After further tests, it was determined that Greg Sutherlin's brother, **Mike**, has stage two cancer which will require 4-6 months of chemotherapy.... **Amanda Martin Draughon** is suffering complications from malaria which she contracted while stationed in South Korea. She is currently in North Carolina.... Continue praying for those who have had recent surgeries and/or are struggling with chronic health problems: **Sara Postlethwait, Dovie Hurst, Elizabeth Tinkle, Kathy Reuzenaar, Emily Jaekel, Jarred Eckman, Wayne Richey, Max Houlton, Mandy Anderson, Henrietta Frampton, Carolyn & Charles Moore, Herb King, Eileen Richardson, Marie DeWoody, Hattie Coffel, Dottie Roberts, Irene Sims, Mary Tavana, Paul & Argie Verett, Delpha Allen, Ivan Ellis, Valley Stockton, Eagle Bailey, Minnie Scott, Anna Dale, Irene Fox, and Burnell Gulden.**

Serving in our military: **Steve Brady, Mark Wilson, Ti Draughon** in Iraq.

## Good \$ense Budgeting Class

Do you ever wonder where the money goes? Most people do. We cannot ignore the reality of the importance of money. Some view it as the root of all evil, because it has led to crime, suicide, divorce, worry, scheming and many other nightmares. This crucial matter has no shortage of information in the Bible. Some two thousand Scripture passages touch on the theme of money.

A six week DVD series will be facilitated by Janet Boston beginning Wednesday, **April 23, 2008**, in the Conference/Media room. The program will begin at 5:50 PM each Wednesday evening until 6:50 PM. You will discover tools and develop skills to help you to manage and control your finances. **THIS CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE!**

March 9, 2008

Class: 167 Worship: 260 Contribution: \$6,212 Budget: \$10,000/wk



Pauletta Smith's mom, **Argie Verett**, unexpectedly lost her only remaining sibling, **Gerry Richey**, of Galveston, Texas, on March 13. They had lived near each other for many years and were very close. Her memorial service will be this week. Our sympathies and prayers are with Argie, Paul, and Pauletta & Rob.

**NO SUNDAY  
SCHOOL BIBLE  
CLASSES ON  
EASTER.**

**No Preschool  
worship or  
Children's  
Church on  
Easter Sunday.**

**All will resume on  
March 30.**

**Save the Date:  
CSC Alumni  
Reunion  
(1989-1995)**

**July 25-27, 2008.**



### Busy Weekend!

No, I'm not talking about what is going on in Indy and many other locations all around the nation. I'm also not talking about what is going on here at Elmwood this weekend. I'll address both of those at the end of my thoughts. I'm talking about Jesus.

This weekend (like Christmas) is one of those times that even those who do not know Jesus personally will be acknowledging His death, burial, and resurrection. God is going to use this "holiday" to give us opportunities to share our faith and indeed to share our Lord.

Think about it: in a very short period of time, Jesus shares a very significant meal with His disciples and institutes a new meal – the Lord's Supper. He is soon betrayed as he prays in the garden...for of all people: you and me (see John 17). Jesus is falsely arrested, brought before a "judge" on false charges, beaten, charged, crucified, and was placed in a borrowed tomb. If that were the end of the story, Jesus would have faded into history with many others who claimed to be the Messiah. But as you and I know, that was not the end. JESUS ROSE FROM THE GRAVE ON THE THIRD DAY! Sorry I didn't mean to shout, but how can we not be excited about the fact that God let His son die on a tree so you and I and all mankind could be forgiven of our sins?

Friends, brothers and sisters, there are many in the world – some that we know personally who are headed to a death without Jesus. They are spiritually lost and we have the information and faith they need to be found. Let's not selfishly keep the truth to ourselves and watch the world continue to die without hope. Let's make the most of every opportunity and watch for the doors God is opening to us to let the world know – THE TOMB IS EMPTY, HE IS ALIVE!

### Elmwood

Here at Elmwood, there are some very special things being planned. I know that Gilbert and the worship committee have been working for some time to make sure the worship experience for all in attendance will be very special. The pulpit area will look very different. The style of the message may look a little different, but the Message will be the same and it will be boldly proclaimed. Watch for guests who may be looking for a relationship with a Messiah they have only heard about. Pray for the "easy ones" and ask God to work through you in a powerful way!

### Midwest Leadership Training for Christ

This weekend, we will once again be at the Marriott East in Indy. Due to several circumstances including being in the middle of most schools' spring breaks, our group is significantly smaller. Even so, our group needs and deserves your support. Our puppet teams will be performing sometime between 6 and 8:00 pm on Friday night and Rachel Stafford will be in Bible Bowl on Saturday morning. In addition, our students' art work, bulletin boards, and scrapbooks will be on display. Come on over and support our group: 7202 East 21st St., Indianapolis, IN 46219. I hope to see you all there! – Lee Porter



Welcome **Jennifer Petty** to the Elmwood family. Jennifer put the Lord on in baptism on Saturday, March 15 (her birthday!). She has been coming since December and has done some studying with Gilbert. She and her husband, Scott, have two children-Macenzie (5) and Ethan (3). Jennifer enjoys being a stay-at-home mom. They live at 2000 Charles St., Lafayette 47904. Phone: 742-1253.



Dear Elmwood family,

*What a surprise when we brought Kaden home from the hospital to find all the get-well cards, blue cards, and a large envelope with "hands" inside all with messages of care, concern and prayers for Kaden. Cami said it made her feel better to know that so many people are praying for him. We do so appreciate all your kind thoughts and prayers.*

*Kaden is still not responding to medication but he is stable so we are able to manage him at home. That in itself is a blessing. Please keep praying for us. It is comforting to be reminded that we are not alone.*

In Christian love, Sue & Jack McCoy

*Thank you for the calls, cards, visits and prayers during my recent hospital stay. "You are good people."*

-Sara Postlethwait

*Thanks to all those who prepared and brought food to my home after I suffered a sprained ankle from a fall. It was much appreciated. We have the **best church** with caring people!*

-Dovie Hurst



**March 19, 7 PM....Bible classes for everyone**

**March 21-23....Youth *Leadership Training for Christ* in Indianapolis**

**March 23, 9:30 AM....NO MORNING BIBLE CLASS ON EASTER**

**March 23, 6 PM....LIFE Groups meet**

**April 23, 5:50 PM....Good \$ense class**

**April 25....College Spring Banquet at the Outpost**

