



## Reflections on Sunday

On Easter Sunday we focused on the newness that we find in the resurrection of Christ. We went through the New Testament and quickly pointed out all of the passages that speak of the new thing we can look forward to because of the resurrection. Here is a quick review: new life, new way of the Spirit, new covenant, new creation, new humanity, new self, new and living way, new birth, new heaven and earth, new commandment, new name, and new song.

I asked my LIFE Group which of these really stands out to them and connects with them right now? It was neat to hear the answers and to hear them explain why. One person said that they really connected with the new creation because it describes their life over the past month or so. Another person talked about how they have really been focusing on the new life for a few months and trying to get a better picture of what that looks like. Someone else they really liked the idea of a new and living way.

I really like the idea of a new command. The apostle John loves to write about the new command. In John 13:34 he records Jesus saying, "A new command I give you: Love one another." In the new covenant with God, the new command (THE command) is to love. Jesus said the greatest command is to love God and love neighbor (Mk. 12:28-31). In Romans, Paul says that whoever loves others has fulfilled the law of the new covenant (13:8,10). In Galatians, Paul says that the only thing that matters is faith expressing itself through love (5:6) and that the entire law is fulfilled by doing one thing - loving others (5:14). James tells us that if we are loving others then we are doing right (2:8). The new command is to love!

It is such a freeing feeling to understand how important love is, and to understand that it is the new command under the new covenant. So many people want the new covenant of grace, but they want to bind themselves and others to an old covenant system of rules and laws. We like "dos and don'ts" because they are easy to measure, and we can compare ourselves to others to see where we stand. But Scripture tells us that the only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. Understanding that has freed me from a life of legalism.

Which of the "new" statements connects with you?

*-Gilbert*

## Danger: God at Work

I wrote about danger last week, how a journey with God is dangerous, and I would like to take this time to flesh out what I mean by that a little bit.

In C.S. Lewis' book, *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*, the lion Aslan, who is Christ's representation in the fantasy land of Narnia, is described as this to the children who have found themselves in this strange land:

*"If there's anyone who can appear before Aslan without their knees knocking, they're either braver than most or else just silly."*

*"Then he isn't safe?" said Lucy.*

*"Safe?" said Mr. Beaver; "don't you hear what Mrs. Beaver tells you? Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the king I tell you."*

Jesus calls us to some very unsafe things. He gives what most would consider very dangerous financial advice, "Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor" (Mt. 19:21). He promises his followers the same sort of trouble that he faced: "No servant is greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also" (John 15:20).

We are told to humble ourselves and to consider others greater than ourselves, which means we are called to give up the things we want and need in order to take care of the needs of others. We are called to go to the entire world to share with others the story of Christ: a dangerous prospect.

When God is at work, it's not just uncomfortable, it's dangerous!

*-Phil Travis*



Today, **April 26**, is **Argie Verett's** birthday! She is 90 years young! We know she still struggles with some health problems, but are glad she is able to once again be with Pauletta and Rob. We hope your day is a glorious one!! May God bless you richly!



Save the date! The next Men's Breakfast at Elmwood is **Saturday, June 25, at 7:43 AM.**

## Personal Info for our Church Directory

If anyone hasn't submitted a bio for our new Olan Mills church directory and wants to, you will need to submit it by April 30. Blank bios will be available in the Farris foyer.

**April 24, 2011**

Class: 161 Worship: 294

Contribution: \$5,731.50

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**Irene Sims** fell and broke her elbow at Creasy Springs. She had surgery at St. Elizabeth East on Friday....**Jim Willison** fell and suffered a muscle strain—originally feared to be an ACL tear....**George Kenworthy** remains at IU Arnett, room 415....**Betty Brown's** foot is improving nicely. She is now in a (fashionable) walking boot! ...**Thelma Hoyt** is home after several days at IU Arnett and doing much better....**Armilda Follick** will have hip replacement surgery on May 2....Continue praying for **Linda Weeks** (*lung cancer*), **Kaden Koebecke**, **Mickey Rigdon**, **Oscar Miller**, **Vickie Sanders**, **Farrell Simmerman**, **Marie DeWoody**, **Joshua Nelson**, **Elaine Crowder**, **Patty Vice**, **Wanita White**, **Jan Lucas**, **Max Raines**, **Carolyn Rigdon**, **Phyllis Gray**, **Jan Swensen** (*melanoma*), **Betty Lucas**, and **Marceena Miller**.



In the military: **Josh Martin** is in Iraq. **Matthew Kauffman** is in Germany. **Joe Newman** is in Chicago.

Continue to remember the following people who are home-bound or in a nursing care facility: **Bill Gibson**, **Ruth Carter**, **Dovie Hurst**, **Dorothy Walters**, **Ethel Cable**, **Hattie Coffel**, **Argie Verett**, **Valley Stockton**, **Delores Hill**, **Henrietta Frampton**, **Mary Walker**, **Linda Bilyeu**, **Janet Achor**, **Clifford Farner**, **Eugene Zinn**, **Charles & Carolyn Moore**, and **Annie Crowder**.

## A Mighty Fortress Is Our God!



"I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust" (Psalm 91:2). This is the theme for the 60th National Day of Prayer on **Thursday, May 5**. The first Thursday of May each year is designated as a day for the people of our country to pray. It is a day to seek God's guidance regarding our nation's policies and actions, and pray for those in various positions of leadership and influence. You are invited to participate in the events being held in Lafayette: the Prayer Gathering at

Riehle Plaza, **12:10 PM**; and the City-wide Night of Worship at the historic Trinity United Methodist Church downtown, **7:00 PM**.

**Ben Stafford** will be leaving in 3 weeks for Zambia. He will be able to take an extra suitcase with him filled with items for the children in Zambia. Suggested items are baby & small children's used clothing, toothbrushes, & stickers. If you would like to send items please give them to John or Lynae Stafford by May 11th. Please keep Ben in your prayers.



Read the following from Ben about his upcoming trip: *I leave for Zambia on May 15th, and my trip will last for five weeks. During this time, I will work mainly with orphaned children ages 3 and younger at two shelters called The Havens. Due to the high ratio of children to caregivers at The Havens, many of these children go days without human interaction and crave things as simple as a human touch or a hug. Because of this, their language developmental skills have suffered greatly, and many of them also have difficulties with their sucking and swallowing reflexes due to HIV/AIDS. My job while in Namwianga will be to fulfill both of these needs, caring for the children as well as working with them on their speech and swallowing development. In addition, I will be instructing the caregivers on how to better provide for the children. I pray that the Lord will use me as His instrument and work through me in order to help these children as much as possible.*

God bless you, Ben. We will be praying for you.

## The After Easter

There were so many things I enjoyed about worshipping with all of you last Sunday. I enjoyed that we sang praise with energy and passion. I enjoyed that we were about celebrating the resurrection. I rejoiced as Julie Guthrie made her story part of the resurrection story and took on her Lord in baptism. But what I enjoyed the most was a single comment by Gilbert during his lesson; “We do this every week; celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. So come join us.”

What I loved about our time of worshipping together is that it wasn't “special” because it was Easter. To be sure, we were probably more intentional in our thought and participation. But the fact that our time together in worship was so powerful was a testament in my mind to the fact that we were open to the Spirit of God moving through the relationships and community of this church in worship, and that is something we have the opportunity to experience and participate in every week.

This isn't a rant against big Easter services or Christmas pageants or production oriented church. I have cherished special times of focus on Christ's birth, death and resurrection in midnight candlelight services, Christmas singing programs, and Resurrection Sunday events, among others. And they can hold great value. But there can be an inherent danger for us in placing too much emphasis on an Easter or Christmas, or any other service, in that it falsely places the expectation that who we are as church is primarily defined by that hour or so slot every week in that particular location we call the auditorium.

What I loved about Gilbert's comment was the honest insight that comes with it; this is just an outpouring of who we are. If you were touched and you felt like you connected at Elmwood last Sunday, there are 51 other chances this year that you will do the same. Yet that's just the beginning, because our worship is just one of the many expressions of our congregation's identity. I think that is the mark of any healthy church –what you see is what you get. Our worship speaks to who we are and what we are striving to become with increasing authenticity, whether we are focused on a specific chapter of God's story or not.

The real litmus test for Easter is what happens after in a church. Do we see this as an isolated event, or do we see it as one of many expressions of God's Spirit moving among us as the extension of His Body? If we are willing, times like these become the springboards that vault us away from the notion of church being a time frame or an event and move us into the deep and beautiful realizations of the resurrection being a living, actual force that has wrapped us up in a community, a purpose, and a relationship for and with Jesus Himself.

And that is so much larger of a service than any service. So I too will extend the After-Easter invitation to you. We do this every week. Every day even. We journey in this celebration of the resurrection of Christ Jesus. Come join us.

– In His Grip, Travis

### UPCOMING EVENTS

May 1, 6 PM	LTC Showcase at Elmwood
May 13-14	Refresh Youth Rally @ Salem, IN
May 15, 6 PM	High School Graduation Celebration
May 29-30	Year-End Shebang & Lock-in!

## LTC Showcase, May 1, 6 PM

The LTC Showcase will be on display this Sunday night, **May 1, 6 PM**. Projects will be on display and events will be performed and the kids will receive their plaques. Make plans to be there and support our kids for their hard work this year. You'll be pleasantly surprised at their projects.



The **Secret Sister** revealing is planned for **April 30, from 2:00-4:00** in the afternoon in the A2/fellowship room. Please bring your favorite dessert to share and a special gift for your secret sister. If you cannot attend please let Vicki Henke-574-943-3515 or Joyce Flynn-765-491-8159 know. For our revealing and fellowship we are in need of pictures of sisters. Please put your name on the back of the pictures and give them to Barb Newberry or Barb Tilley.

## Wedding Shower for Allison & Jonathan

Chuck and Betty Brown will host a wedding shower for **Allison Cummins and Jonathan Davidson** on Saturday, May 14, from 10:00 until noon. They are registered at Target, Macy's, and Bed, Bath & Beyond. Money for a group gift may be given to Vicky Martin or Katy Travis.



**April 30, 2:00-4:00 PM in A2**....Secret Sister revealing  
**April 30, 6 PM**....CSC Senior Banquet—Holiday Inn City Centre  
**May 14, 10:00-noon**....Wedding Shower for Allison Cummins & Jonathan Davidson at Chuck & Betty Brown's home  
**May 15, 6 PM**....High School Graduation Celebration  
**June 13-17, 6-8 PM**....Vacation Bible School—save the dates!  
**June 25, 7:43-9:00 AM**....Men's Breakfast in A2 fellowship room

Read:  
Judges 10-21, Ruth, I Samuel 1-3;  
Mark 9-12

# 2011 Spiritual Adventures

## Week 17: May 1-7

### Our Gift to God

**Mark 12:17(NIV)** Then Jesus said to them, *“Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.”* And they were amazed at him.

As I read the above passage I ask myself, “What can I give to God?” My thoughts immediately go to the weekly collection. “We return a portion that He has given us.” However, on further thought, I believe we have much more that we can give to God.

We give Him our Awe. (Heb.12:28) - Our God is God of the universe. He is the creator and sustainer of everything. What an awesome God he is!

We give Him our Respect. (Mal. 1:6) - Our God is due respect as our maker and defender. He is the controller over all things in our lives and is due the respect of one in that position.

We give Him our Love. (Mark 12:30). - Our God loved us enough to send his Son to die for us. There could be no better reason than this for returning our love to him.

We give Him Ourselves. (2Tim. 2:15) - Just as the image of Caesar was on the coin, as Christians, God’s image is on us. As such, should we not give our whole being to him?

“Give to God what is God’s.”

—*Joe Mathews*

Weekly Schedule	Elders	World Missions	
<p>Sunday</p> <p>Worship 8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Bible Study 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Worship 10:45 a.m.</p> <p>Life Groups 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday</p> <p>Bible Study 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Bill Bell 463-1139</p> <p>Joe Mathews 474-8369</p> <p>Joe Ruhl 463-7012</p> <p>Rick Swensen 463-6822</p> <p>Don Vice 471-8653</p> <tr> <th data-bbox="586 1213 1045 1268">Staff</th> </tr> <p>Ministers</p> <p>Gilbert Kerrigan 418-3652</p> <p>Phil Travis 743-0954</p> <p>Travis Hutchinson 447-2874</p> <p>Office</p> <p>Sherry Marks, Manager 447-2874</p> <p>Carol Bell, Secretary 447-2874</p>	Staff	<p>Kevin Chambers</p> <p>World Christian Broadcasting</p> <p>Anchor Point, Alaska 99536</p> <p>Loren and Penny Hollingsworth</p> <p>Phuket, Thailand 83000</p> <p>E-mail: lholly54@yahoo.com</p> <p>Bren and Cheryl White</p> <p>P.O. Box 245</p> <p>New Market, MD 21774</p>
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<p> Our Vision: Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known.</p>			

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