

To encourage and equip Christian business and professional women to reflect Christ in their world.

January/February 2004

Jonah: Disobedience Among the Ranks

By Dr. Paul Wegner, edited by Kristen Wehrli

A New Beginning

Jonah: Disobedience Among the Ranks

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By Norma Joy Hart

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CBWA News

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We believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of God, without error, and the final authority in our lives. We believe in one God eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died as a sacrifice for our sins, was raised from the dead, and that all who receive Him by faith are born of the Holy Spirit and enter into a relationship in which they are eternally secure.

Have you ever attended an event with a child who did not want to be there? It can dampen the entire experience and make the experience miserable. Or maybe it's an uncooperative coworker who makes it hard for other members of the department to get anything done. Bad attitudes can lead to bad choices—this was Jonah's problem. Let's look at his life and learn from it.

Jonah appears to have lived during the reign of Jeroboam II (793-753 B.C.) according to *2 Kings 14:25*. This was a prosperous time as well as a time of great rebellion against God. The Israelites, especially the Northern Kingdom, worshiped Baal. The events of the Book of Jonah must have taken place before 612 B.C., when Nineveh was destroyed by the Babylonians and was no longer a "great city" (*Jonah 1:2; 3:2-3*). Even though the events of the book took place some 3,000 years ago, we can still learn from Jonah's disobedience and see God's forgiving character.

God punishes disobedience, but He never gave up on Jonah. When God tells Jonah to go to Nineveh, he heads in the opposite direction to Tarshish. Did Jonah really think that he could run from Yahweh, the God of Heaven who made the sea and dry land? (*Jonah 1:9*) I wonder if Jonah thought that God would give up and send someone else. But God does not let Jonah get away with disobedience. Why? Just like a good parent, He disciplines disobedience. A child who is not disciplined by a parent will act out more and more. God loves us too much to let us get away with disobedience. In

fact, God uses Jonah's disobedience to teach the pagan sailors about Him. The pagan sailors ask Jonah, "What have you done?" (*Jonah 1:10*). Even they knew not to knowingly disobey the gods.

Discipline is painful. Jonah knew better than to disobey God, but he did it anyway. Jonah is the only one in this story that is not afraid of the pagan gods. Jonah says, "I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and dry land." (*Jonah 1: 9*). He should have known better than to disobey, for he served the only true God who could actually punish him for his disobedience. If Jonah really did fear God, how could he disobey Him so blatantly? What is comforting is that God was at work even in Jonah's disobedience, for the sailors learned to reverence Jonah's God. "At this the men greatly feared the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows to him." (*Jonah 1:16*) Maybe some of them turned to the Lord since they had never seen such a display of a God's power as they saw that day. There are times when I willfully disobey God and I wonder if it makes me just as bad a witness for God as Jonah. When we are disobedient, who is harmed? We'd like to think it is only ourselves. But others near to our lives are affected as well. Jonah suffered greatly for his disobedience, and the sailors lost most of their worldly possessions and almost their own lives.

God is gracious. Why does God warn the Ninevites? The Lord's grace extends to everyone, to all people. This story is not just about a wayward prophet—it is also

CBWA MEMBER NEWS

CHRISTIAN BUSINESS NETWORKING is a Christian association that promotes networking opportunities for business owners and professionals. The weekly group meetings highlight the products and services provided by each member and provide the opportunity for members to refer clients to one another. Meetings are held weekly at various chapter locations valley-wide.

The main advantage of membership in Christian Business Networking is the opportunity to build your business by gaining referrals from other members. Most individuals who start a business exhaust their personal network within one year. Christian Business Networking provides a way to actively increase your network to the 20+ people in the chapter and to all of the people that they know. One member commented: "Being a member of Christian Business Networking is like having 10-15 salespeople working for you."

An additional and very important benefit of membership: by joining Christian Business Networking you are aligning yourself with other believers to lift each other up in faith and friendship, as you grow each other's businesses. Just as our tag line says—"Building God's kingdom one business at a time."

If you'd like to find out how to join Christian Business Networking just email Maia at mwright@christianbusinessnetworking.com.

CBWA NOON-TIME BIBLE STUDY
Come join CBWA Members in a short term (seven week) study of *The Purpose Driven Life*. We're meeting over lunch once a week in a central location. You'll receive a teaching/learning environment that promotes opportunities to share and interact with other women. This is an opportunity to study what is important to God, and to apply these truths to our daily lives.

DATES AND TIME: Tuesdays, 11:45-1pm, January 13-February 24

LOCATION: Deb McBride's office @ 3402 E. Camelback

(Park on access road in front of house)

BRING: Your own lunch, a drink and your own copy of *The Purpose Driven Life*

Any questions, please contact Laurie Ficarra at lficarra@cox.net

CBWA SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Here's a great way to promote your business and provide financial assistance to CBWA — a CBWA luncheon sponsorship! This sponsorship includes your company's name on table signs stating that your company is the lunch sponsor for the day. The MC will give a promotional word on your generous sponsorship with information that you provide. A representative from your company can request a display table for additional product and company information including the ability to sell your products! Consider all this for just a \$100 tax deductible contribution and a raffle prize for that day.

CBWA NEWS

CBWA WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

We have three new Board Members!! We are so excited to have Maia Wright, Diann Mullen and Joy Cervantes join our board. Here's some information for you to get to know our new board members:

Maia Wright is continuing her service to CBWA as a new board member for a three-year term. She has two companies specializing in marketing for Christian businesses and professionals. Four years ago, she started the Christian Resource Guide, which is like a Christian yellow pages. Just this year she launched Christian Business Networking where Christians gather to promote their businesses. Maia lives in Scottsdale; she is "single but prayerful" and volunteers with the children's ministry at her church, Highlands Community Church.

Please welcome Diann Mullen as a new

Board member. She has been attending CBWA gatherings for over two years. Diann is a licensed Realtor (23 years) and works with John Hall & Associates' Luxury Homes Division. Diann has been married to Ted for 30 years. Ted has just left behind 30+ years in the restaurant business to pursue his Masters Degree in Christian Counseling. They have three sons: Kent, Travis, and Brendan and one daughter, Alanna. Ted and Diann are active members of Scottsdale Bible Church, both involved in the Lay Counseling program there. In their "spare" time, they love to run away to their Payson cabin up under the Mogollon Rim.

Joy Cervantes, our current CBWA Newsletter Editor, is enlarging her role with CBWA as a new board member. She is a Certified Public Accountant - with a Masters in Taxation and additional specialization in Estate and Financial Planning. She is a Partner at Mansperger Patterson & McMullin, PLC in Tempe.

Joy is married to Rodney and has three young children; Megan age 9, Cassandra age 6 and Kirk age 4 that keep them going. They live in Scottsdale and attend Scottsdale Bible Church and Committed Christians, a small group study.

CBWA WINTER RETREAT

Sign up today - a flyer is inserted in this month's newsletter for registration for the upcoming CBWA Winter Retreat January 30, January 31st, and February 1st, 2004 at SpringHill Suites by Marriott, Prescott, Arizona. Come join us for a wonderful program at this beautiful facility within walking distance of downtown Prescott. Special Guest Speaker - Bethany Bice Helm — is coming to share her wisdom and encouragement. There will be plenty of opportunity for fun, fellowship and relaxation. To find out more, contact the CBWA Events' line #3, 480-948-2292. Space is limited - please sign up as soon as possible!

PHOENIX LUNCHEON MEETINGS

CBWA luncheons are held at North Phoenix Baptist Church
Located at 5757 N. Central Ave (Bethany Home and Central Avenue)
Lunch Price is \$13 - or \$18 no RSVP - or \$5 Program only

■ **Monday, January 12, 2004** 12:00-1:15 p.m.

RSVP by Wed., January 7, 480-948-2292, line #1 OR
cbwa@globalcrossing.net or online at www.cbwa-az.org

2004 Economic Forecast - Dr. Barry Asmus

If you haven't heard from an enthusiastic economist - please come hear from Dr. Barry Asmus! Here's a prologue from his most recent book *The Best is Yet to Come*: "It is mainly an economic journey—because I am an economist. It is partly an American journey—because I am an American. It is mostly a hopeful journey—because I am an optimist. It is also a spiritual journey—because I am a Christian." Dr. Asmus' presentation will contain elements of an economic forecast for the year 2004 with spiritual truths tied in.

Dr. Barry Asmus is the Senior Economist with the National Center for Policy Analysis. He has been on the Board of Elders at Scottsdale Bible Church for multiple terms. He is a nationally prominent speaker.

■ **Monday, January 26, 2004** 12:00-1:15 p.m.

RSVP by Wed., January 21, 480-948-2292, line #1 OR
cbwa@globalcrossing.net or online at www.cbwa-az.org

Finding Your Mission in Life - Janine Finney & Kathy Marcil

God created each of us to bring forth a unique message to others. Come and learn how to identify your "gifts" in order to honor God and achieve greater significance in every aspect of your life. We will begin to identify our special talents in order to use them as a yardstick for measuring, initiating, evaluating, and refining all of life's activities.

Janine Finney and Kathy Marcil are licensed Path Facilitators, and co-facilitate workshops based on the book, *The Path, Creating Your Mission Statement For Work and For Life* by author Laurie Beth Jones. Ms. Jones is also the author of other national best selling books, including, *Jesus, CEO*.

Kathy Marcil has a master's degree in counseling and guidance, with over twenty years of professional experience specializing in addiction therapy. Kathy founded and ran The Path Retreat in Minnesota before moving to Arizona. Janine Finney has spent the past twenty years in the valley with a career in corporate sales. Janine's quest to discover how to achieve true authenticity in the workplace lead her to "The Path", and to a passion that both she and Kathy share which is to bring this message to others.

■ **Monday, February 9, 2004** 12:00-1:15 p.m.

RSVP by Wed., February 4, 480-948-2292, line #1 OR
cbwa@globalcrossing.net or online at www.cbwa-az.org

Standing for Righteousness in Public Policy - Cathi Herrod

Decisions made in state and national capitols impact our lives each and every day. Cathi Herrod will provide an update on contemporary cultural issues such as abortion, pornography, homosexuality, marriage, education. Learn how you can pray and take actions on issues that impact your family and your church.

Come hear Cathi Herrod who is the

Director of Policy and Legislative Counsel for The Center for Arizona Policy, a non-profit public policy organization associated with Focus on the Family. Cathi has degrees from the University of Texas including a B.A. and J.D.

■ **Monday, February 23, 2004** 12:00-1:15 p.m.

RSVP by Wed., February 18, 480-948-2292, line #1 OR
cbwa@globalcrossing.net or online at www.cbwa-az.org

Heart to Heart With God - Dr. Sandy Wilson

From the familiar parable of the lost son in *Luke 15*, Sandy Wilson will challenge us to draw close to our Almighty Abba and hear His Heart of love. Whether we have been "younger" daughters out in the world or "older" daughters who have remained home without really knowing our Father's Heart, we will discover transforming truths about ourselves and about our passionate, pursuing God. Who would want to miss that?

Dr. Sandy Wilson is a retired family therapist, an adjunct professor at Phoenix Seminary, a frequent conference and retreat speaker and the author of six books. She and her husband of 45 years live in Scottsdale.

The CBWA Connection is a bi-monthly newsletter published by the Christian Business Women's Association, a nonprofit organization based in metro Phoenix area, Arizona. Newsletter ideas and comments, and editorial contributions supporting CBWA's statement of faith are welcome. *The CBWA Connection* is an outreach of CBWA and donations are tax deductible. To help underwrite newsletter expenses, a suggested donation of \$25 would cover the annual cost of preparing and mailing each newsletter. Editor: Joy Cervantes, cervantes@mpmcpa.com; Copy Editor: Kristen Wehrli; Newsletter Advisor: Diane Lippard; Newsletter Layout: DreamCreek Design; Printed on recycled paper by Techniprint. **CBWA 24-hour Phone 480-948-CBWA (2292) www.cbwa-az.org Email: cbwa@globalcrossing.net**


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