

# FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN



March 2010



## The Prodigal God

## Faith In Action

For the next five weeks our church will be engaged in an in-depth discussion of Luke chapter 15. Luke 15 is more commonly known as the chapter that contains the story of the "Prodigal Son." Our sermon series will be entitled "The Prodigal God" based off of Pastor Tim Keller's excellent book of the same title. As we proceed, we will see the depth of the parable as we consider the radical nature of the Gospel itself. This parable, and the book, has caused many people, including many prominent pastors, to see the glory of the Gospel in ways that are both humbling and uplifting.

prod-i-gal—adjective

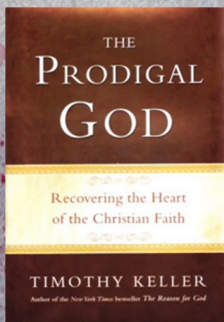
1. recklessly extravagant
2. having spent everything

Our sermon series will look at Luke Chapter 15 with an eye towards how the definition of "prodigal" applies marvelously to the love and the grace of the Father, not merely the sin of the younger brother. Even more so, we will see the way in which the parable is a more pointed challenge to the older brother in the story - the obedient, the good, the religious older brother. As we will see, this discussion will be a challenge to the church to question whether or not we have truly understood the heart of the Gospel, and in so doing, lead us to have a deeper understanding of the love of God the Father.

Our Escalon Ministerial Association has set May 1 as our second "Faith In Action" day, a day in which our community churches partner together for a couple of projects - typically an outdoor service project benefitting the community and an indoor mission project benefitting the world. Faith in Action weekend is a program sponsored by World Vision, and for the second time our indoor project will be a partnership with World Vision as our team assembles CareGiver kits. Our outdoor project is still being finalized and will be announced shortly



This year, the Ministerial Association is encouraging each family in our churches to donate a CareGiver Kit at the cost of \$28. Our first Faith in Action Day enabled us to assemble and send around 100 CareGiver kits to Africa. We hope to assemble and send many more this year. If you are led to donate a CareGiver Kit (or more), and I hope you will, please send a check to the church or put it in the offering plate with "CareGiver Kit" in the Memo Line. All donations need to be received by the beginning of April. More information will follow, but you can see a contents list of the CareGiver kits on the back of the newsletter.



- February 28 – The People Around Jesus  
(Luke 15:1-10)
- March 7 – The Two Lost Sons  
(Luke 15:11-32)
- March 14 – The Elder Brother  
(Luke 15:25-32)
- March 21 – Everything I Have Is Yours  
(Luke 15:1-6, 25-32)
- March 28 – We Had To Celebrate  
(Luke 15:11-32)

