



PASTOR'S PAGE

Easter 2010

I don't often use long quotes, but thought this one most appropriate to highlight my reflection in this Easter newsletter. The quote is by Philip Yancey who wrote in his book *"The Jesus I never knew"* these words:

"Presumably [Jesus] could have had any resurrected body he wanted, and yet he chose one identifiable mainly by scars that could be seen and touched. Why?"

I believe the story of Easter would be incomplete without those scars on the hands, the feet, and the side of Jesus. When human beings fantasize, we dream of pearly straight teeth and wrinkle-free skin and sexy ideal shapes. We dream of an unnatural state: the perfect body. But for Jesus, being confined in a skeleton and human skin WAS the unnatural state. The scars are, to him, an emblem of life on our planet, a permanent reminder of those days of confinement and suffering.

I take hope in Jesus' scars. From the perspective of heaven, they represent the most horrible event that has ever happened in the history of the universe - the crucifixion - Easter turned into a memory. Because of Easter, I can hope that the tears we shed, the blows we receive, the emotional pain, the heartache over lost friends and loved ones, all these will become memories, like Jesus' scars. Scars never completely go away, but neither do they hurt any longer. We will have re-created bodies, a re-created heaven and earth. We will have a new start, an Easter start."

Truth be known, the very power of the Resurrection event revolves around the realities of what was seen on that Easter morning. Jesus did indeed reveal Himself in a way that was identifiable to all that saw Him; he was not a ghost, He was not a Spirit, He was not a grief hallucination! He dared Thomas to touch His wounds, sat down to a meal with the disciples, and walked with friends. It was if he were saying *"What you see is what you can hope for after death, but there will no longer be any more hurt."*

And though many of the aspects of the resurrection still remain part mystery, we can be sure of one thing and that is a bodily resurrection; no eerie scenes; no technologically altered appearances or images; just little old you and me; we will be recognizable- but not by our pain, suffering, and various other disfigurements!

However, there is something else most critical to be added here. The point of Easter is not just that there is life after death; yes, we need to take hope in that sure and certain hope. But we need to be reminded that as God came to dwell with us in the person of Jesus, taught us His desires and hopes directly, suffered with us, died for us and was resurrected on the third day – it all happened right here where we are! This was not an event that occurred in some far away galaxy where we know not its place or position – but right here where we are!

It was at the moment of His coming to us after the resurrection that something astonishing happened; heaven and earth finally converged. And though we could embrace a future after death, we are still bound to the fact that what we do with our life right now matters to God. We ARE living a part of our own resurrection and the renewal of this earth right now; we have a responsibility to be co-workers with God on the renewal of the earth He created and called "GOOD." Can anyone imagine God looking at the earth today and saying "Wow, I really blew it. Maybe it was not so good after all!" I think not.

In fact, we as God's Easter children hold a part of that new future in our hands; to hope for a better future; to work for justice; to feed the hungry, and care for the poor. This is all a part of the intermediate work that is ours to continue until Jesus returns. Remember what Paul said in I Corinthians 15: 58? *"Therefore my beloved ones, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."*

Yes, that day will come when God will raise everything to new life, but Easter also tells us that what we do in the present in response to what God has done for us and promises us truly matters.

Yours in Easter love,

Pastor Frank

Happy Birthday!!

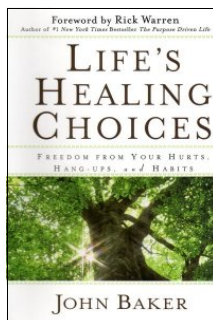
Cindy Mosher	Mar 3
Derek Park	Mar 5
Lena MacNeill	Mar 5
Fernanda Souza	Mar 5
Vanessa Souza	Mar 5
Hee Young Park	Mar 9
Barbara Sutherland	Mar 10
Bob Sutherland	Mar 11
Alicia Pouliot	Mar 19
Lanlan Chen	Mar 28



In Our Prayers

Please keep the following people in your prayers this month:
-Thank you

Millie Davis
Jack Williams
Dot Lilliot



Continuing Series

On the 21st of February we began another series following morning worship. This is an eight week series on “Life’s Healing Choices.” Please consider joining us as we continue to participate in this exciting and provocative series!



Upcoming Special Service **Dates and Times**

Third Sunday of Lent ~ March 7@ 10:00am
Fourth Sunday of Lent ~ March 14@ 10:00am
Fifth Sunday of Lent ~ March 21@ 10:00am
Palm Sunday ~ March 28 @ 10:00am
Maundy Thursday ~ April 1 @ 7:00pm
Good Friday ~ April 2 @ 7:00pm
Easter Sunday ~ April 4 @ 10:00am

Other Dates To Remember



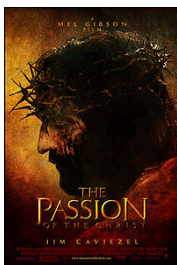
Saturday, March 13

6:00 Evening Service of
Praise and Worship



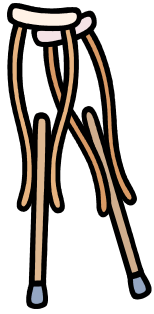
Saturday, March 27

10:00am Cleaning Day

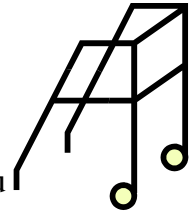


Saturday, April 3

6:45pm Movie Night
“The Passion Of
The Christ”



THE HAITI PROJECT For St. Damien's Hospital



One of the overwhelming effects of the deadly earthquake in the Port au Prince area of Haiti on January 12, 2010, is the huge number of amputations, including in children. An estimated 20,000 people of all ages in Haiti have had one or more limbs amputated or have other orthopedic injuries. New cases are being identified daily.

THE HAITI PROJECT FOR ST. DAMIEN'S HOSPITAL is an effort to collect necessary orthopedic equipment which is very scarce in Haiti. From mid-February until March 21, The Haiti Project will be collecting used CRUTCHES, WALKERS, CANES, WHEELCHAIRS, BRACES, AND PROSTHESES. Especially needed are pediatric sizes, but we are accepting any and all that are in clean, usable condition. They will be sent to St. Damien's at the end of March. This is a short turn-around time but the need is now.

Judy Mackenzie and Linda Curley of the Avon Baptist Church are inviting ALL AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES IN MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND to take part in The Haiti Project for St. Damien's Hospital. You will be able to drop off equipment for The Haiti Project at the MISSIONworks conference on March 5-6 in Fitchburg. Grotonwood will have a vehicle in the parking lot that will be taking items on Friday from 4pm to 6pm and again on Saturday from 3pm to 4 pm.

WE ARE INVITING ALL AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES IN MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND TO TAKE PART IN THE HAITI PROJECT FOR ST. DAMIEN'S HOSPITAL.

This project is simple: Have your members look in their attics, basements, garages, storage units, etc., for the crutches, canes, walkers etc. that they meant to give to a good cause a long time ago. Have them ask their neighbors, friends, co-workers. Gather them in a good place for a future collection or bring them with you to MISSIONworks!

In 2010, we may not be able to heal the lame as Jesus and his Disciples did, but we people of faith have an opportunity to help some of the lame to walk. Let's do it.

TABCOM genuinely appreciates your compassion and cooperation in this grass roots project.

Contact persons for further information are:
Judy Mackenzie, judeleven@aol.com or 781-871-2051 x 203
Linda Curley, lcurley@live.com or 508-584-1482
Avon Baptist Church at 508-583-8076



March 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 7:30 Boy Scouts	3 6:15 Bible Study 7:30 Choir	4	5 10:00am Mother's Group 7:30-10:30 Korean	6
7 3rd Sunday of Lent 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship "Life's Healing Choices" Group-3 1:00 Korean Church	8	9 7:30 Boy Scouts	10 6:15 Bible Study 7:30 Choir	11	12 10:00am Mother's Group 7:30-10:30 Korean	13 Evening Service of Worship and Praise
14 4th Sunday of Lent 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship "Life's Healing Choices" Group-4 1:00 Korean Church	15	16 7:30 Boy Scouts	17 6:15 Bible Study 7:30 Choir	18	19 10:00am Mother's Group 7:30-10:30 Korean	20
21 5th Sunday of Lent 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship "Life's Healing Choices" Group-5 1:00 Korean Church	22	23 7:30 Boy Scouts	24 6:15 Bible Study 7:30 Choir	25	26 10:00am Mother's Group 7:30-10:30 Korean	27 10:00am Cleaning Day
28 Palm Sunday 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship "Life's Healing Choices" Group-6 1:00 Korean Church	29	30 7:30 Boy Scouts	31 6:15 Bible Study 7:30 Choir			

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