

The Gospel News

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*He Arose,
 Hallelujah,
 Christ Arose*



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Resurrection Stories

By Brother Joe Ignagni

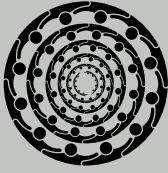
There is simply nothing more important since the creation of the world than the events that occurred the week Jesus was crucified and resurrected. When the Son of God died on the cross, He was the final sacrifice, and took the sins of the world upon Him. Due to this ultimate act of love, we can all be forgiven of every sin we commit when we sincerely repent. Yet what happened on the third day following His death is equally important. It was the greatest resurrection story, but there would be many more.

In Matthew the 28th chapter, it states that "In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulcher. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door..." It goes on to say that the angel told the women: "Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead..." (Matthew 28:1-7)

The words and message of the angel were and are extraordinary! There may be no greater words which have ever been uttered in terms of giving people eternal hope and joy. The tomb was empty and Jesus had risen. Jesus had conquered death and would live forever! The resurrection of Jesus Christ would now begin the resurrection of all human beings after death. As explained in Alma the 40th chapter, we now had the opportunity to spend eternity with God in a state of peace and happiness. God's Plan for man and womankind could not be defeated. Our God is greater, more powerful, forgiving, and loving than anything that attempts to defeat or destroy us.

While the resurrection story of Jesus is the greatest and clearly the most important resurrection story; there are others. His resurrection made others possible. I already have a resurrection story. It took place in this life. You have a resurrection story, if you have given your life to our Lord and Savior. On the day of my baptism, I went into a watery grave, and I arose. I resurrected! It is not the same type that will happen when I pass away, but I became a New Creature in Christ. The old man was dead and a new man was born. I was resurrected and reborn! With the reception of the Holy Ghost, I was a different person. The Gospel of John tells us in the 14th and 15th chapters that this Holy Spirit will teach us all things and it is the Spirit of Truth! As stated in John the third chapter: "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which born of the Spirit is spirit." I praise God for my resurrection story. I praise God for your resurrection story, if you have been baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ. Rely on this Spirit of Truth and Comfort and you will be a new, spiritually resurrected, person in this life!

Our Church is filled with resurrection stories. The centerpiece or cornerstone of our Church is Jesus Christ. So, of course, His resurrection story is central to everything we do. (Continued on page 6)



April 6 –10 is TCOJC's General Conference. Pray for those traveling, meeting, fellowshipping, rejoicing and traveling home again. Hope to see you there?

btw, Easter Sunday is April 17th



Movies & video games often carry secret games or bloopers called "easter eggs". Let's play our own version: Each scripture has at least one typo. To find them, you'll need to "crack" your books. (Write in your answers.)

Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
Psalm 85:12
1x _____

John 3:16
For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.
3x _____

And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every kindred, tongue and nation.
Revelation 14:6
4x+ _____

1 Peter 5:8
Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring tiger, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.
2x _____

Be anxious for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
Philippians 4:6
3x _____

Enos 1:6
And I, Enos, knew that God could not lie; therefore, my guilt was swept away.
1x _____

...wherefore, dispute not because you see not, for you receive no witness until after the trial of your faith.
Ether 12:6
2x _____

Mormon 9:9
For do we not read that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and in him there is no variableness neither shadow of turning?
1x _____

(For the children:)
And of every living thing of all flesh, three of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark...
Genesis 6:19
1x _____

Isaiah 55:9
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.
1x _____

(For the learned:)
And he will lift up a sign unto the nations from afar, and will hiss unto them from the ends of the earth: and, behold, they shall come with speed swiftly:
Isaiah 5:26
3x _____

And as often as they repented and sought forgiveness, with true intent, they were forgiven.
Moroni 6:8
3x _____

B-TIP Blast From The Past

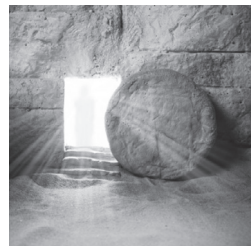
By Sister Kellie Speck

"The Grave Is No Longer A Prison", A Song of Zion, was given to Sister Arlene Buffington 37 years ago

The grave is no longer a prison. Why weep at his tomb? Christ has risen. The one that you seek, He is not here, and He'll never lie here again. No He'll never lie here again.

Tho' Judas for silver had sold him, No tomb and no gravestone could hold him. The heavens reached down to enfold him, and there He is living again. Yes, there He is living again.

The angels in heaven adore him, and thousands would gladly fight for him. His armies stand ready before him. And they'll never take him again. No, they'll never take him again.



On down thru the ages few sought him, and some said that God's Son was not Him. While some turned away and forgot him, but I know He's coming again. Yes, I know He's coming again.

The bride knows the groom will be coming, The wedding song softly she's humming. In all of her beauty she'll meet him, And He'll never leave her again. No He'll never leave her again.

Chorus: For He sits on his throne in the sky, where He never again has to die. Where the angels sing praises all day, and the crowd cannot lead him away. The crowd cannot lead him away.



Purpose Statement

- To fulfill the plan of God by bringing salvation through Christ to all people.

Mission Statement

- The Church of Jesus Christ will teach the Gospel to all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things commanded by Jesus Christ, while working to draw Israel to Christ through efforts focused on the indigenous peoples of North, Central, and South America



Vision Statement

- Living and worshipping in unity and righteousness will result in the fullness of God's Spirit and power among the Saints, culminating in continuous growth of the Church and fulfillment of Christ's promises concerning His Kingdom on Earth.



"He Never Quit!" By Brother Doug Obradovich

"For this cause came I into this hour" - John 12:27-28

believeth in me shall never die" (John 11:25). He was unwilling to break these promises and He never did. He understood mankind depended upon His dependability, "If Christ be not raised, your faith is in vain; ye are yet in your sins!" (I Corinthians 15:17).

weakening, "The spirit is indeed willing, but the flesh is weak" (v. 41). Ironically, both men had experienced similar variations of this. Peter stood down. Jesus stood up. The Son of God refused to quit.

The Savior endured the humiliation and horror of a false arrest, false accusations, false charges, false conviction, and wrongful death by crucifixion. Despite mankind's torturous physical and mental abuses, Jesus claimed victory for mankind just prior to taking His last breath, "It is finished" (John 19:30).

He was saying, "Father, you see I never quit!"

You see it is the same concerning you. He will never stop extending His mercy, His comfort, and His forgiveness to you, because He refuses to ever quit on you either! Honor His conviction, His strength, and His love by also never giving up on yourself. Avoid the mistake of questioning your calling in an "Oh-wretched-man-that-I-am" moment! When you do this, you question Him directly for choosing you. As Jesus fulfilled His father's purpose for Himself, you must fulfill His purpose for you. Never quit.

Because He certainly never did.

With pledges made, teachings nearly completed, Jesus returned to Jerusalem. As He entered the city, He confronted the looming temptation to abandon His purpose, "Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I into this hour (John 12:27-28). He acknowledged His humanness, knowing what only He knew was about to happen to Him. He could easily have chosen to avoid such suffering, as His first option included requesting His Father's rescue. Save Himself at the expense of all mankind. But He immediately overcame His flesh with fearlessness. He knew His crucifixion was the reason His Father sent Him to mankind and only He could save us from our fall. So, He refused to quit.

In His last moments of freedom, He faced His greatest temptation for one final time, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Matthew 26:39). Later He identified Peter's

Many started. Only one finished.

Buddha, Muhammed, Confucius, and Krishna were among those who introduced spiritual messages, attracting millions of followers. However, none claimed God's authority as the "only begotten son." None were authorized to provide direct access to their personal "Heavenly Father." None resurrected, nor offered mankind the needed transformation from earth to heaven after death. All were seemingly kind, well-intended, and focused upon mankind's betterment, but none possessed the power to finish with salvation.

Only Jesus, the Christ.

His resiliency resulted in accomplishing all God intended, completing His Father's "To-do" list. He iterated and reiterated His promise, "I am the resurrection and the life: He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall He live, and whosoever liveth and

Denying My Pride (to Gain Awe and Wonder)

By Sister Michelle Watson

[Quick note right off the bat] When I refer to “pride,” I don’t mean “self-regard” or “self-worth.” Those are good! We are God’s creation, and that makes every soul valuable. I’m talking about pride as self-exultation. Setting myself on a pedestal. Thinking more highly of myself than I do of my fellow humans and even of God. [End note]

Do you know someone who is always right?

They aren’t (truly) right all the time...but they think they are. Even when they’re not.

All of their opinions are facts. (Don’t argue.)

Bring up any random topic, and they’re an expert on it. (Don’t question.)

They say everything with a tone of absolute certainty. (Don’t doubt.)

If you do decide to argue, question, or doubt anything they say, then you quickly realize that this person isn’t interested in a two-way conversation. (Why bother listening to you? What could you possibly tell them that they don’t already know?)

I’ve known people like this. They can drive me crazy. But ya’ know what else is crazy? As much as I think know-it-all are crazy, I’ve been crazy like this before.

At certain points in my life (#teenyears) I knew it all. (Look at me! I’m 19 and I’m a genius in all things life!)

Even now, there are certain topics that I know a lot about. When I discuss them, I can’t help myself. I put on my pedantic pants and bestow a lesson upon anyone who is polite enough to not run away.

The root of this behavior is pride. There are scads of ways that pride shows up in our lives. This is just one example.

And the main point I want to get across is this: Pride makes me lose touch with reality.

I’ve set myself so high that everything else in the world is below me. (Not reality.)



I’ve made myself so big that everything else in the world is small. (Not reality.)

There’s nothing for me to look up to. Nothing to inspire awe and wonder.

Again...not reality.

Pride Makes Me Unteachable

Pride tosses self-awareness out the window. I’ve got an over-inflated view of myself. I’m the fount of all knowledge. (If only people would listen to me...)

The result?

I become unteachable.

Not only to my boss. Not only to my parents and family members who are looking out for me. Not only to my church family who cares about my spiritual welfare. But also...

...to God. (Eeeep!)

Scripture says that one of the hallmarks of a true disciple is having a teachable spirit.

“Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured.” (Proverbs 13:18)

Pride rejects this. It says, “I’m the teacher, not the student.” Pride tells me not to pray for wisdom. Not to read scripture for wisdom. It stands in direct contrast to Proverbs 2:6:

“For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.”

But who needs God when I have my own superior intellect?

That’s the primrose path that leads to Galatians 6:3:

“For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.”

By the time I get to this point, I’ve completely broken with reality.

God isn’t real.

God isn’t good.

God isn’t all-powerful.

God isn’t interested.

God isn’t competent.

Exalting myself and holding God in contempt...it narrows my vision and makes my world small and paltry.

If I’m the biggest and best thing in my world, then there’s nothing for me to look up to, nothing to inspire me with awe and wonder.

Sad, huh?

Check out these scriptures. They describe the nonsense that a pride-riddled heart proclaims.

“For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God ... I will be like the most High.” (Isaiah 14:13-14)

“Thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me.” (Isaiah 47:10)

“Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a God, I sit in the seat of God.” (Ezekiel 28:2-10)

“In the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud.” (2 Timothy 3:1-2)

Bottom line? I want to be my own God. I want to be the ultimate authority. I want to decide what’s good and bad. I don’t want anyone else telling me what to do because

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Ignominious

By Brother Mark Kovacic

Have you ever looked up the definition of ignominious? In case you are like me, you haven't. Here are some synonyms: humiliating, disgraceful, shameful, and reprehensible. Wow, that is some collection of foul and offensive words.

The word ignominious only appears once in the Scriptures, as does the word ignominy, but what does this have to do with Jesus? He was worshiped by thousands before His death. Apostle Nathanael said to Jesus, "Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel." Additionally, Apostle Peter said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

At the end of His ministry, Jesus was confronted by the rulers and teachers as to why He allowed His disciples to say, "Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest." These Pharisees said, "Master, rebuke thy disciples. And He answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out."

But upon Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion, most of these same people went their separate ways, back to their routines, acting like nothing occurred. Who put Jesus in this situation? The Romans?, the Pharisees?, the Sanhedrin?, the people? No, it was God himself. He knew that a great and infinite sacrifice had to be made to atone for the sins of all men and women, including me and you! To reconcile us to Himself.

Jesus' teachings were marvelous, melodies to the heart and mind. His healings shook the foundations of sickness and disease. His mercies showered the people with hope and a better tomorrow. But what about the price of such blessings? Who will mark the time of salvation and redemption from the fiery pit prepared for the wicked?

The people had a choice. Either they could stick with Jesus, since their souls finally found peace and tranquility, no longer at odds, out of favor, and cut off from God. Or they could accept the physical healings and miraculous feedings and go on their way. It doesn't matter which one, because the price was the same. He had to die an ignominious death, taking upon Himself the sins of all mankind who came before Him and would come after Him. As the Apostle Paul said, while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.

What makes me think that His death was ignominious? Because that is what the Law required for someone who blasphemed. The Prophet Isaiah saw that day and said, "As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men." Jesus did it all for you and for me and for all people. Our national constitution bans cruel and unusual punishment for crimes someone is found guilty of committing, but it was not so two thousand years ago. The Romans cruelly acted out the wishes of the Sanhedrin, abusing and then crucifying Jesus.

But to show God's wisdom and mercy, He brought forth the souls of the righteous and their bodies out of the grave, reunited them, beginning with Jesus, the first fruit of the resurrection. Where does that leave us? Jesus died an ignominious death for me and you, so that we could live life more abundantly, free from the terror that awaits the wicked. To be reconciled with God, through Jesus Christ, is, well, heaven!

HAPPY Easter



Favorite Easter Traditions

"We love to get together as a family and share dinner as we celebrate Christ rising from the dead. Then share Easter baskets with our grandsons like we did when our children were little. It's a day of rejoicing as a family." -Sister Kathy Natoli, Detroit, MI Branch #1.

"Every Easter we would get together with the Bologna family & Aunt Isabella would make me a bunny cake. Since her children were grown I was the only young one around, so I knew she made it, especially for

me. She was the grandmother I never had, I miss sharing time with her." -Sister KarenJo Pandone, Detroit, MI Branch #2.

"My parents would always buy me a new pair of patent leather shoes, a frilly dress, and a new Easter Bonnet, then we would be on our way to church to participate in our Easter Program." -Sister Flo Perri, Lake Worth, FL Branch

RISEN Continued from back cover

"Righteous Invitation SAVIOUR Everyone Necessary" -Brother Gary Thompson, Creekside, MI Branch

"Resurrection, irrepressible, sepulcher, exultation, newness"- Brother Kerry Carlini Farmington Hills, Mi Branch

"Resurrection. Immortal. Spring. Eternal Life. New Testament" -Sister Christina DiMelis, Farmington Hills, MI Branch

"Redemption | Intercession | Salvation | Exaltation | Necropolis." -Brother Anthony Scolaro, Mesa, AZ Branch

"R = Restored I = Incredible S = Saved E = Everything N = Nonpareil" -Sister Dianne Maddox, Lake Worth, FL Branch

"R-real Love I-Incredilbe Plan of God S-Sacrifice by the Lord E-Extraordinary Love- N-Never Forgets Us." -Sister Jan Bork, Detroit, MI Branch #2.

And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay (Matthew 28:5-6).

Resurrection Stories Continued from front cover

In addition, as just mentioned, all of our baptized members have resurrection stories. Our Church is also a Restoration Church. We believe that the Gospel was restored in the Latter Days. Therefore, there was a resurrection of the Full Gospel.

More understanding of God's teachings, promises, and prophecies came forward with the publication of the Book of Mormon. As given in the 85th Chapter of the Psalms, "Truth shall spring out of the earth..." It is easy to view the Restoration as a resurrection of God's Truth.

We also know that God's Chosen People will be gathered. The Gathering of Israel is a pivotal part of God's Plan and the beliefs of The Church of Jesus Christ. In Ezekiel the 37th Chapter, the prophet was given a vision of being in a valley of dry bones. In the fifth verse it states: "Thus saith the Lord God unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live." The bones represent the House of Israel. Very importantly, this vision points to God breathing life into them and they are resurrected! The bones come together, stand up, and become a great army. The Gathering of Israel is a resurrection story!

I thank God that our Church is filled with resurrection stories. For

those of you who have a resurrection story, are you sharing it? In the story of the resurrection of Jesus, the angel told the women at the tomb: Come and see, and now go and tell. If you have come and seen and felt the love and power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, you need to share it! The world needs this Gospel and our Church! Give your testimony to those you meet and know. In other words, tell them your resurrection story. It is your personal story, and no one can tell you that it is wrong. You are the world's greatest expert on your story. Please share it with the world, and give them a chance to have their own story and salvation and resurrection.

If you do not have your own resurrection story yet, God is waiting to write your story. The tomb is still empty; Jesus Christ lives! His Church is alive and well. Come and experience the power and beauty of all that our God has promised. Jesus died and resurrected so that we could live. In John the 10th chapter, Jesus tells us: "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." When we serve our God, our lives become more spiritually abundant and hopeful. We have the opportunity to resurrect and live with Him forever. He is knocking on your door. Won't you let Him come in? Won't you become a resurrection story in 2022?

Denying My Pride

Continued from page 4

I know best.

Pride leads me to despise God, my Creator, my Father.

Talk about out of touch with reality. That's it.

Stay Off the Pride Slide

[Kind-of a side note, here.] It's hard to have empathy for others when I'm fulla pride. After studying up on this, I found scriptures that connect pride to a slew of human-on-human crime. Here's just a sampling of what I found. Pride leads to...

Hard heart – Daniel 5:20

Malicious spirit – Psalms 119:85, Alma 4:8-9

Contempt for others – Psalms 123:4, Jacob 2:13-16

Quarrelling – Proverbs 13:10, Alma 4:8-9

Violence – Psalms 73:6

Injustice and inequality – Psalms 119:78, 3 Ne. 6:10-14

Oppression and persecution – Psalms 10:2, 2 Ne. 28:13

Materialism – Alma 31:28

Corruption and failure of the church – 2 Nephi 28:12, Alma 4:10

Yow! All that from pride...

Humility Is Reality

Here are some beautiful words of sanity.

"Acknowledge your unworthiness before God at all times." (Alma 38:14)

"He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:30)

"But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord." (Jeremiah 9:23-24)

Jesus is Lord above all. Amen and amen.

Humility is recognizing that God is God and I am not. One aspect of self-denial is giving up my inner throne to the One who truly deserves to sit there.

When I lose my grip on pride, then my hands are free to accept the gift of awe and wonder—the universe of God's mysteries, everything beyond the scope of my understanding, a bigger, braver world with an untamed lion as King.

Creating God's Serotonin *By Sister Jacqui King*

Have you ever experienced the "winter blues?" Are you one of those folks who find the sunny beach restorative? Have you felt stir-crazy after a few days of rain? If so, we have a lot in common. After visiting friends in Colorado, my son learned that a university had installed "sun lights" into the ceiling of their gymnasium to help students from California who were having the "blues" because they were accustomed to more sun. He bought me a little tabletop version to help me combat the winter blues and reduce my job-induced stress. It is amazing how much light that little thing throws off. Sunglasses are definitely needed, and it did help reduce my stress and made me feel better.

Plants also enjoy the sun. Did you know that sunflowers will follow the sun throughout the day? They instinctively know they need those rays of sunshine to be healthy! Like them, many of us are drawn to the sun, not even realizing the benefits of those fabulous rays to our mental health. God created us so that the sun stimulates the production of something called serotonin, which is instrumental in stabilizing our moods! It has been shown to help maintain a normal sleep cycle.

In the book of Habakkuk, the prophet writes that although things may be going terribly all around him, he would trust in God. Habakkuk 3:18, "Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation."

How can we be like Habakkuk and maintain a good spiritual "mood" even in times of trouble/darkness? Think about how impactful that artificial light was to me and how sunflowers naturally follow the sun. Connect that to times when you may have been "spiritually" blue, or when your faith was not strong. How can we use that to climb out of that low state?

We need HEAVENLY light from God; his "Son's" light! That special light given from our heavenly father produces "God's serotonin". It is vital for our very existence! God's light helps us to stand tall, weather the storms of life, and show God's love shining through us. It is necessary for us if we're to thrive spiritually.



(Continued on page 11)

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Why is the Tomb Empty? *By Brother Jerry Valenti*

The Jewish leaders of the time knew it was going to happen. Somehow, the body of Jesus was going to depart from the tomb. They demanded that guards be posted there (Matthew 27:62-66), but it happened anyway. On the third day, the tomb was empty! Multiple explanations have surfaced over the years as to why the tomb was empty. Here are 5 amazing facts that list five possible explanations—only one is the right one.

1 Conspiracy – One explanation is that the disciples conspired to steal the body of Jesus and then concocted a hoax that He had resurrected. In fact, the chief priests paid the soldiers at that time to say that was what happened (Matthew 28:11-15). Obviously, the chief priests knew this was not what happened, since they were willing to pay the soldiers to lie. Also, if the disciples had done this, it's unlikely they would have been willing to devote their lives and even be martyred for such a hoax.

2 Jesus wasn't really dead – Some people were willing to believe that Jesus was not really dead when He was put in the tomb such that He left on His own. First of all, the men who carried out the crucifixions were experienced at knowing when a person was dead. But beyond that, the idea that a man who had hung on a cross

and had his side pierced by a sword could then push aside a large stone, overpower soldiers, and escape unnoticed seems pretty ludicrous.

3 They looked in the wrong tomb – It has been suggested that the women who went to the tomb that morning got lost and wound up at the wrong tomb. It is noted that the man they met said, "He is not here". What is left out is the full statement of the man (actually an angel) was, "He is not here: for he is risen" (Matthew 28:6). Also, Peter and John, who knew the location, later came to the same tomb and confirmed that the body was gone.

4 Joseph changed the burial site – It has also been suggested that Joseph of Arimathea moved the body of Jesus from his tomb to a nearby criminal's graveyard. First of

all, it was against Jewish law to move a body after it had been buried. Second, Joseph surely would have corrected the disciples had this been an actual case of mistaken location.

5 Jesus Resurrected – The most credible explanation for the empty tomb is that Jesus resurrected, just as He said He would. Many people were witnesses to encountering the risen Christ—they saw Him, heard Him speak, ate with Him, and felt the nailprints in His hands. All other possible explanations (as described above) do not hold up. Jesus is risen, which gives us a lively hope for the future that we will also resurrect and reign with Him forever in the eternal kingdom of God.

Ladies' Uplift Circle News



Life Blood *By Sister Luann Carson*

After my friend's son donated a kidney to his father, he felt so blessed to give new life. I know several others who have given a kidney or segment of another organ to offer someone the hope of a new chance at life.



As a nurse, I've administered more blood transfusions than I can count. It's often like pumping life into patients' bodies. A blood transfusion can save a patient's life in minutes.

Whenever I donate blood I feel blessed to give. There is a need for new blood every day. Blood donations will always be used to help someone in need, such as a newborn fighting for life, a young child battling leukemia, a

teen in a car accident, a woman with anemia or a man having cardiac surgery. One blood donation may save several lives.

Both blood and organ donations seem like amazing accomplishments. They are done in love and give hope to the recipients. But neither is really enough. No matter what or how often we donate, there is a finite number of lives saved.

Only one gave His blood for all mankind. He gave it in love to offer hope, not just to a few but to every human being who ever lived and will live. Just one drop of His blood can save an entire world. The lifesaving power of the blood of Jesus Christ covers the ages of time from beginning to end. Unlike my blood donation, Christ's blood is offered to all, endlessly providing life.

When giving a blood transfusion, if I don't hook up the tubing to the patient's IV, the blood just hangs in the bag, accomplishing nothing. If we leave the blood of Christ just hanging instead of letting it fill us with life, it is useless to us. We need to let Christ pierce our hearts, just like a nurse pierces a vein to let life enter.

Helaman 5:9 "There is no other way nor means whereby man can be saved, only through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ, who shall come; yea, remember that he cometh to redeem the world."

What a wonderful hope is given to us by the blood of our Savior!

"O, what a Savior, oh, hallelujah... He gave His life's blood for even me" (O, What a Savior, Ernie Haase



Jesus Who Had All Power

Dear Boys, Girls, and Friends,

Sometimes we may see sad statues that remind people of Jesus on the cross, or pictures of Jesus suffering. While He did suffer greatly for our sins, it's important for us to understand that Jesus, the Son of God, was never trapped. He did not have to let them whip Him, hang Him on a cross, or mistreat Him in any way. At any time He could have stopped the enemy soldiers. He did not have to allow Himself to be sacrificed for all of mankind.

Jesus started His ministry at about thirty years old. He had come from heaven to earth to be raised by Mary and a good man named Joseph. At His birth Wise men from the East of Israel followed a new star in the heavens to find the baby Jesus who the prophets had told about ages before. They brought valuable gifts to the little family of gold, frankincense, and myrrh (expensive sap used to make perfume and medicine). Evil King Herod tried to kill the baby Jesus. He tried to trick the Wise men to find the baby.

But God warned them in a dream not to trust King Herod and to go home another way. God also sent an angel to Joseph in the night telling him the wicked king was sending soldiers across the land to kill every baby aged two and under. (See Matthew Chapter 2.) He told him to take the baby and flee to the country of Egypt and stay there until the angel told them it was safe to come home.

Wasn't it wonderful that they had the gifts from the wise men to live on when they had to move so far away? So baby Jesus was raised as a young child in a different country, around Egyptians. He had brothers and sisters. (See Matthew 13:55&56.) His family did not return from Egypt until the wicked King Herod was dead. An angel came and told them again it was safe now. And then, they were sent to another part of the country, Nazareth, to raise Jesus and His brothers and sisters.

We don't know much about His life until he was

about twelve. See (Luke 2:40-52.) And the Bible tells us Jesus went with his family to worship at the Temple during the holy days. He sat with the great teachers and leaders of their faith and talked about God. This young man's understanding astounded them! And the Bible tells us Jesus grew and was strong in spirit, filled with wisdom and the grace of God was on Him.

When Jesus was 30, He began His work. He began teaching people to love God and all others. He chose 12 good men to come and serve God. They taught everyone to have faith, to repent (be sorry) for their sins and be baptized as a witness to the world of their beliefs! We do this today too.

Jesus and His Apostles healed the sick, the blind, and the lame. They got rid of evil spirits from the devil. The devil hated Him, of course. He tried to tempt Jesus when He spent time fasting and praying on the mountain. But Jesus answered him quietly and used words from the Bible to tell him to quit, to go away, get behind Him. For about three years Jesus taught His wonderful way of life, love, and kindness.

But the plan of God was for Jesus to allow Himself to die and to come back afterwards (resurrect). Jesus would show us there is a heaven! He held a supper for His apostles. He broke bread and gave them sacrament and told them to do this in His memory. He taught them to lovingly pray and wash each other's feet. And He told them one of

them would betray Him. (He knew about Judas!)

This traitor, Judas, left the supper and went to get the soldiers to take Jesus to prison! Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane praying. He asked His followers to stay awake and pray with Him. But they fell asleep. Jesus, the Son of God who had all power in Earth asked God to not make this happen...and He asked again. (See Matthew 26:42) But He was willing to sacrifice Himself.

When He was finished praying, up rushed evil Judas followed by the Temple soldiers. Peter grabbed his sword, hit a guard and sliced off his ear! But Jesus put it back on and told Peter (and all of us) "Don't you know that I could pray to my Father (God) and He would give me more than twelve legions of angels? A legion of angels is 12,000. Twelve legions would mean an army of 144,000 angels would come immediately if Jesus only asked." "But all the scriptures and prophecies must be fulfilled." And they promised the Son of God would come to earth to teach us, love us, forgive us, and prove there is but one God and there is a heaven!

Through all of His suffering to come, Jesus loved us, and as He was dying He prayed to God and said, "Forgive them, they know not what they do." This is our wonderful, powerful, loving Savior. He cares for you! He will save us.

With love, Your friend, *Sister Jan*

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Atlantic Coast Region Conference

By Brother Michael Zaino

On September 11, 2021, the Atlantic Coast Region had its first conference in over a year.

Brother Jerry Valenti spoke on Luke 5:17 about the Lord's power to heal the body and the soul. He told the story of a paralyzed man who was brought by his friends to see Jesus. But when they got to the house where He was, the crowd was too great to get in. So the man got an idea. He asked his friends to lower him into the house through the roof. And they did. When he was placed in front of Jesus, He saw their faith and forgave their sins. Jesus saw that they did everything they could to see Him and not only healed them physically, He healed their broken hearts, too. Brother Jerry helped us see ourselves in this story by saying that that's what we should desire, too—to be where Jesus is. Because ultimately, the healing of our soul is so much more important than the healing of our body.

He went on to say that healings are still happening right where we are today. Stories of babies being healed, and those who couldn't walk before, walking again, prove that the Lord is alive and able.

The message we took away was to do our best to rise up and walk with Jesus as our strength, because the enemy will always be throwing distractions at us to keep us from what God wants us to do. God is still greater than this pandemic. He is greater than our worries. He is greater than our fears. And He is still in control. Brother Jerry grounded us in the fact that each healing is up to the Lord. Sometimes He will heal us immediately, sometimes it will take a while, or sometimes He won't remove our ailments at all. We don't know why or how He does what He does. But we have to trust that God does what's best for His children.

Brother Jim Crudup followed and spoke on the true vine, saying that everything will work out if we follow Jesus—if we take up our bed through Him. The Vine has the substance we need. So allow Christ to have His way and we will be blessed.

Just like Zaccheus, who had to climb up a tree to see Jesus, we have to put our faith into action, too. Even if our faith is as small as a mustard seed, be faithful, pray, and trust in Him because we are His Sons and daughters. He's here all the time, carrying us through. He allows us to do what we need to accomplish, and reminds us we are here on purpose, for a purpose. Be focused on Christ and if our faith is alive, He can help us move mountains. Never doubt that.

Brother Tom Liberto followed and spoke on 1 Corinthians 15 about abounding in the work of the Lord, and that it is our obligation to carry the ones who need the Lord most. That is our job for God.

He also brought forth Matthew 25—"I was hungry but you gave me meat." He reminded us that we must work for the Lord, no matter what it takes. Because we have so much to look forward to in heaven, and even here on Earth with what He has in store for us. Whatever we have to go through, never give up. Instead, do what you can with the Spirit of the Lord.

We fully enjoyed hearing these messages come forward at our first conference in over a year, and anxiously await what God will have for us at the next.

Creating God's Serotonin

Continued from page 8

We simply need to turn ourselves toward the light of God. Take time to regularly read God's word. Try studying the lyrics to those beautiful spiritual songs you sing. Understanding the message in those songs can build up your spiritual serotonin. Prioritize your time so you can attend meetings, in person or via Zoom, call others who are spiritually strong, visit the more seasoned saints learn their

testimonies, and of course find your quiet place to pray and talk to God. God, the most amazing creator, designed all his living things to thrive under the sunlight, but more importantly his Son's light. Once you build up your spiritual serotonin, you'll also be able to shine God's light to others.

Blessing Bits

April Blessing Bits

BB **GOD Is In Control** - My sister, Sister Cheryl Nnadi, became ill from COVID and pneumonia and was hospitalized shortly after the new year. After two weeks, she had been moved out of isolation but was still unable to return home. My sister Patty and I decided we'd go visit Cheryl that weekend to lift her spirits. On Saturday, we made our way to Cheryl's room and enjoyed several hours with our sister caring, encouraging, and loving on her. The very next day, our sister Alberta and her daughter tried visiting and were told the only person able to visit Cheryl was her daughter, Jennifer. GOD provided the way for Sister Patty and me to visit with Cheryl on Saturday evening! GOD made it possible for us to walk through the hospital doors unrestricted, to walk to her room without question, to visit for hours and to engage with her nursing attendants. We give God all the praise that He deserves as we serve a true and living God who is able to do all things! -Sister Sandy Brown-DeRamus, Columbus, OH Branch

BB **Better Than Football** - My husband Jody was watching a football game on a Saturday afternoon when he felt prompted

to get up and clean out the cabinet next to the clothes dryer. This surprised me because that cabinet had not been cleaned out in over 10 years and the timing seemed strange given he was watching a game. As he was working, the dryer caught on fire! He was able to unplug it quickly to avoid any further damage to our home. When they came to service the dryer, they confirmed how fortunate we were to be right there at that very moment it caught on fire because if not, the fire could have destroyed our home. I thank God He watched over us and prompted Jody that day. -Sister Carolynn O'Connor, Farmington Hills, MI Branch

BB **Testimony of Love and Healing** - My son Kevin had accompanied me several years ago on a missionary trip to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zambia, in Africa. He fell in love with the work and the many brothers and sisters. In turn, his involvement was a blessing to many. Brother Malama Chalwe, the President of our Church in Zambia, often asked about Kevin as we communicated over the years. Not long ago, Kevin and his wife, Thelma, contacted COVID with pneumonia. I received an email from Brother Chalwe during that time inquiring as to how Kevin was doing and I shared with him about Kevin's condition. In his reply, Brother Chalwe told me he was

calling the saints of his Chililabombwe Branch to enter into a 3-day fast for God's healing touch. Within a day, Kevin and Thelma saw noticeable improvement and in a few days, both were completely healed from this deadly disease and back to work. The incredible love of our brothers and sisters in times of need is wonderful to behold! -Brother Joe Perri, Mt. Laurel, NJ Branch

Send us your Blessing Bits by contacting Sister Elizabeth McDonnell at eksanchor@gmail.com. [in approximately 150 words].
Answers to Question of the Month to gospelnews@thechurchofjesuschrist.org.



Question for this month: What is one trait that your mother had that you try to emulate the most?



Answer from last month: Write one word that represents Easter for each letter in the word "RISEN." Turn to page 6 for answers to this question.

Deck thyself now with majesty and excellency and array thyself with glory and beauty. Job 40:10

