

Goodness Gracious Notes

April 2020

Issue #114

Things are not always as they seem.

Do not say, "Why were the old days better than these?" For it is not wise to ask such questions. Ecclesiastes 7:10



Elders for the month:

- 5 Pastor Don
- 12 Lou Blagg
- 19 Lou Blagg
- 26 Andy Jones

Scheduled meetings for the month:

- Monday, April 6,—6:00 pm — All Church Prayer
- Tuesdays at 9:30 am — Ladies Bible Study

- 4/2 Lissie Herzog
- 4/12 Robert Domina III
- 4/21 Katri Schepper
- 4/23 Kiara Lopez
- 4:24 John Hicks
- 4/29 Robert Domina Jr.



FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FEBRUARY, 2020:

Income—————\$7,670.00

Expenses—————\$7,549.13

If you have any questions you can ask any Board member and they will get you an answer.



Recipe for the month: Grand's Easter Bread

- 1/2 cup granulated sugar, 1 teaspoon cinnamon,
- 2 cans (16,3 oz. each) Pillsbury “Grands” Flaky Layers refrigerated Original biscuits
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts, if desired
- 1/2 cup raisins, if desired
- 1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 3/4 cup butter or margarine, melted



Heat oven to 350 degrees. Generously grease 12-cup fluted tube pan with shortening or cooking spray. In large 1-gallon plastic food storage bag, mix granulated sugar and cinnamon.

Separate dough into 16 biscuits; cut each into quarters. Shake in bag to coat. Arrange in pan, adding walnuts and raisins among the biscuit pieces. Sprinkle any remaining sugar over biscuits.

In a small bowl, mix brown sugar and butter; pour over biscuit pieces.

Bake 30 to 40 minutes or until golden brown and no longer doughy in center. Loosen edges of pan with metal spatula. Cool in pan 5 minutes. Turn upside down onto serving plate; replacing any biscuit pieces and caramel from pan. Perfect for Easter Sunday breakfast or brunch. Enjoy!

*Tip—work fairly quickly with the dough so it stays cold and stiff when you put it into the pan. You can refrigerate the first batch following cutting to help keep it cold.

Do you know who Malchus was?

(Fictional story based on Luke 22:49-51)

“You are my ear, boy,” says Caiaphas the High Priest to his servant Malchus. “Now go! Tell me what’s happening.” His words are sharp. Malchus hasn’t been a boy for years, but he is in no position to protest. In fact, Malchus takes pride in being servant to the most powerful Jew in Israel. When he ventures out of the temple into Jerusalem proper, people who know him treat him with respect. Lately, he has been dispatched to learn about Jesus, prophet of Nazareth, who is visiting for Passover. Malchus listens as Jesus teaches in the temple colonnade called Solomon’s Porch. “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life,” Jesus is saying. “No one comes to the Father, but by me.” What arrogance! thinks the servant. “Come to me, all you who are weak and heavy laden,” Jesus continues, “and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me. For I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls.” Strange thinks Malchus. How does arrogance fit with gentleness and humility? Malchus sees arrogance and pride up close every day. What is this? “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them,” Jesus is saying now. Not only Gentile rulers are like that! reflects Malchus. All rulers want to flex their muscles and make others jump — at least the rulers he’s familiar with. “Not so with you,” Jesus continues. “Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your slave and whoever wants to be first must be slave to all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Strange words! Amazing words to this slave. So Jesus sees himself as a servant, not a would-be dictator. So different from Caiaphas! “for the Son of Man came to seek and save what was lost,” Jesus concludes. Who’s lost? wonders Malchus. Gradually, he begins to recognize the Teacher’s followers. An astute observer of body language, Malchus focuses in on one man, Judas. Ambivalence is written all over him. So Malchus befriends him and arranges for a discreet meeting with Caiaphas. Now it is night, Passover night, and Malchus goes on a hush-hush mission with temple soldiers — and Judas. They move into the Garden of Gethsemane. Suddenly, they encounter someone and soldiers converge, their torches casting eerie dancing shadows among the gnarled olive trees. Malchus, breathing hard, catches up. Jesus is standing, somehow calm amidst the confusion. “Who are you looking for?” he asks. “Jesus of Nazareth,” is the retort. “I am he,” says Jesus. Now, with supreme hypocrisy, Judas kisses him to confirm the identification and the soldiers move in. One disciple flashes a sword and begins to brandish it wildly. Malchus is struck, blood gushing from his head. The blade sliced his ear clean off. He clutches at his head, drops to one knee, blackness is engulfing him. Then a sudden warmth. Pain ceases and the flickering light of the torches reappears. Jesus is kneeling before him, right hand covering his wound. All Malchus can see is the man’s eyes filled with a gentleness and love that melt all enmity. “You’ll be all right, now,” Jesus assures him. A soldier jerks Jesus to his feet and the spell of the moment is broken. Malchus reaches up to feel his head. The ear is there — all of it. His ear is whole, the bleeding stopped, only his blood-soaked cloak to indicate that there was ever a wound. All of a sudden Malchus hears, “You are my ear, boy.” Oh yes! He must run to report what had happened. He must get up and run. Somehow he cannot. The drive to please his master is gone. He cannot forget those gentle eyes boring into his soul. Malchus returns to his room and removes his stiffening cloak and tunic. He washes the caked blood from his shoulder, arm and face, and soaks his hair and beard to dissolve the remaining blood. All the time he stares at his ear in the mirror. It is whole, undamaged, without pain. What have I done to this kind, gentle man? Malchus asks himself. The rest of the day is a blur. By the time Malchus arrives on the hilltop, Jesus is hanging from a cross, his body and face mutilated almost beyond recognition. Malchus is aghast at what he has done, at his part in this ugly business. Jesus’ words flood back, “...To seek and save the lost.” Surely, I am lost, says Malchus. I have shed innocent blood. Now Caiaphas arrives, puffing, strutting, taunting. So vengeful, so petty, so filled with hatred. Malchus burns with shame. He kneels, but no one is watching as he pours out his agony and begs forgiveness. Thunder cracks. Wind blows. As Malchus strains his ear — his whole ear — he can hear Jesus’ unbelievably gracious answer to his cry: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” Malchus rises. The man they call “the ear of Caiaphas” is different, for this slave’s ear now listens for a new Master.





From Pastor's Pen

"Whoever lives and believes in me will never die". John 11:26

The word translated "destroyed" in II Timothy 1:10 means to render powerless. When Jesus rose from the dead, he broke the power of death forever. And one day death itself will die. Until then death has taken on a new meaning for the Christian. This is what Jesus meant when he said, "Whoever lives and believes in me will never die" (John 11:26). Death for the Christian is a temporary interruption, a passing from one stage of life to another. That is what Paul meant when he declared that to live is Christ, and to die is gain (Philippians 1:21).

Let's pause to consider the bare facts surrounding Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Did Jesus not die? Yes. Was he not buried? Yes. Did the women not weep? Yes. Where then is our hope? It rests not on Good Friday or in the long hours of that lonely Saturday. Our only hope may be found in what happened early on Easter Sunday morning. If Jesus was nothing more than a man, then we have no hope at all. And our dreams of immortality are just that — idle dreams. But there is good news from the graveyard — there's an empty tomb in the cemetery. It's the tomb of Jesus Christ. He died on Friday evening and by Sunday morning his tomb was empty. This is God's good news — that death could not hold him, that he is the Lord of life, the King immortal and eternal.

All of us will face death someday. But for those who know Jesus, death holds no fear. We're not afraid of the darkness for Jesus is the light of the world. We won't stay in the valley of the shadow of death for Jesus has said he will be our guide. We may die, but we won't stay dead. Jesus has the keys and one day he is going to come back for us. If your soul is hungry for something more than you have found, try Jesus. If Jesus is knocking on the door of your heart, make sure to open the door.

Each of us has an appointment with death sooner or later. But that is a cause for rejoicing — not for fear, provided we put our trust in the One who holds the keys of life and death.

Here is the final proof that death has been destroyed. When Jesus rose from the dead, he left the door to the tomb wide open. That means we won't have to fight our way out of the grave when he calls us to wake up. He left the door open 2000 years ago. That is God's guarantee that even though we die, we won't stay dead forever.

People of God rejoice. Easter has come again, death has been defeated, and someday will be destroyed completely. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. The day is coming when God will wipe all our tears away. Until then, let this thought fill you with hope. There is a light shining from the tomb, a light that leads us from the darkness to the Glorious Day that shall never end. Amen.

Pastor Don



HE IS
RISEN
INDEED!



Grace Christian's
Elder's Corner

Submitted by a servant of the Lord:

THE GREATEST MESSAGE

I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.

Matthew 28:5

On the third day after Christ's death, the Bible says, "And behold there came a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. His countenance was like lightening, and his clothing as white as snow. And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men" (Matthew 28:2-4).

As Mary looked into the tomb, she saw "two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain" (John 20:12). Then one of the angels who was sitting outside the tomb proclaimed the greatest message the world has ever heard: "He is not here; for He is risen" (Matthew 28:6). Those few words changed the history of the universe. Darkness and despair died; hope and anticipation were born in the hearts of men.

With those few words, joy and new life now dawn in the hearts of all who believe. Don't leave Jesus in the manger....or on the Cross...or in the tomb. HE IS ALIVE, and even now He wants to walk beside you every day.

Billy Graham



He is risen indeed!

Scripture of the month:

"I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for He is risen."

Matthew 28:5-6

A special "Thank You" to Don and Jean Palumbo for the amazing tomb constructed in the sanctuary for us. You two are amazing!

COVID - 1:9

H V I N I
R E R F S
I R U F E S
S S E C A S
T E S T I S
T O U S
& S

JOSHUA

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; Do not be discouraged, For the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."



GRACE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

630 BROADWAY 543-7430

Mission South Africa

with Maggie Moonsamy



January/February 2020

Dear Loved Ones in Christ,

Greetings in Jesus name! I hope that 2020 is going well for all of you.

After the team from Colorado Springs left last fall, the food that they made and packed in the freezer when they were here went like lightning. I think each person told another person. Even when the food was finished they were still lining up at my door.

I am training some ladies in three different rural areas to cook so they could do their own meals. It has taken the load off of me somewhat, especially during the holiday season. On the day of the Christmas programs, they cooked while Shirley, Robert and I went there just to preach. The response was fantastic and I wasn't tired! Now others from the rural areas are wanting to learn to cook so I am sending them to learn from the ones that I trained earlier.

I ran a little short of money for the rural areas at Christmas this year so I supplemented with my own funds. It affected my own Christmas shopping, but it was worth it all to see the joy on the faces of the poor in the rural communities.

We had a very successful Christmas play where we bussed in children from an area called Merlwood. The nativity scene made them all look so innocent! Getting the children involved helps us also reach the parents. They accept Jesus and we encourage them to be faithful. Some do backslide and that is discouraging, but we always go back and encourage

them to return to church.

We've been battling with load shedding lately throughout the area. (You in the U.S. call it "blackouts"—no electricity or water in alternating communities at certain times). Officials explain that our infrastructure is old and they have promised to work on it to get it working better. It is frustrating because at these times we cannot even get emails to go through.

Thank you so much for the support you send. I appreciate it very much. God bless each one of you. I am still thanking God for the Colorado Springs team. They were such a blessing. They treated me like a queen as they spoiled me – doing all the work. I would be so thrilled if they walked through the door as we prepare for Easter!

Maybe my hair may get gray or my body may wrinkle but something that has not grown old is preaching the gospel and trying to lead as many to Christ as I can.

Thank God for each one of you and your part in this work. May the Lord bless you all.

Love,

Maggie



TO SUPPORT MAGGIE
Make your check out to: CFFV
(or Calvary Fellowship Fountain Valley)

SEND IT TO:

Calvary Fellowship FV
4945 Cable Lane
Colorado Springs, CO 80911

Questions?

Call Paul at 719.382.3711 or email
office.calvaryfountain@gmail.com

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Matthew 28:19-20

