



This month Christians around the world will observe the day of our Lord's victory over death and the grave on Resurrection Sunday. While some mark the day with Easter baskets, chocolate bunnies and egg hunts, for others it is a day of remembrance and celebration that will include special church services, family gatherings and festive meals. In the United States church attendance is reportedly at its highest on Easter Sunday; people who don't usually attend church throughout the year make a point to attend an Easter service. A poll¹ conducted this time last year showed that 86% of Americans correctly identify Easter with the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. An official involved with that poll stated the following: "In their celebration of Christ's Resurrection on Easter, Americans reconnect to the faith that has been handed down to them over thousands of years and continues today to be a source of great hope." By contrast, the results of a recent Barna survey² show that while 67% of Americans consider Easter to be a religious holiday, only 42% identify the Resurrection of Jesus as the underlying meaning. The difference highlights a disparity between the individuals who participated in the respective polls or a significant shift in views over the past year.

Christ's Resurrection was a watershed event that changed the course of humanity, and it continues to echo around the world over two thousand years later. However you choose to observe it, be sure to set aside some quiet time to reflect on the mystery and the wonder of our Lord's Resurrection – and what it means for *you* to be an heir of His victory.

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¹ Knights of Columbus-Marist Poll, April 2009 (www.kofc.org)

² The Barna Group: Most Americans Consider Easter a Religious Holiday, But Fewer Correctly Identify Its Meaning, March 2010 (www.barna.org)

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ



“...and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.” ~ 1 Corinthians 15:14-19 (NASB)

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ Holds a Unique Place in Christianity

Christianity is the only religion that bases its claim to acceptance upon the resurrection of its founder. For any other religion to base its claim on such a doctrine would be to court failure. Test all other religions by this claim and see.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is Fundamental to Christianity

In that wonderful chapter on the resurrection (1 Cor. 15) Paul makes Christianity answer with its life for the literal truth of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. That the body of the founder of the Christian religion did not lie in the grave after the third day is fundamental to the existence of the religion of Christ: “And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain” (v. 14). “If Christ be not raised . . . ye are yet in your sins” (v. 17). “Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished” (v.18). Remove the resurrection from Paul’s Gospel, and his message is gone. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is not an appendage to Paul’s Gospel; it is a constitutive part of it. The importance of this doctrine is very evident from the prominent part it played in the preaching of

the Apostles: **Peter** – Acts 2:24, 32; 3:15; 4:10; 5:30; 10:40; 1 Peter 1:21, 23. **Paul** – Acts 13:30, 34; 17:31; 1 Cor. 15; Phil. 3:21.

It was belief in such preaching that led to the establishment of the Christian church. Belief in the resurrection of Christ was the faith of the early church (Acts 4:33). The testimony to this great fact of Christian faith was borne in the midst of the fiercest opposition.

Nor was it controverted, although the grave was well known and could have been pointed out. It was in this fact that Christianity acquired a firm basis for its historical development. There was not only an “Easter Message,” there was also an “Easter Faith.”

Our Lord’s honor was, in a sense, staked upon the fact of His resurrection. So important did He regard it that He remained forty days upon the earth after His resurrection, giving many infallible proofs of the great fact. He appealed to it again and again as evidence of the truth of His claims: Matt. 12:39, 40; John 2:20-22. Both the friends and the enemies of Christianity admit that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is vital to the religion that bears His name. The Christian confidently appeals to it as an

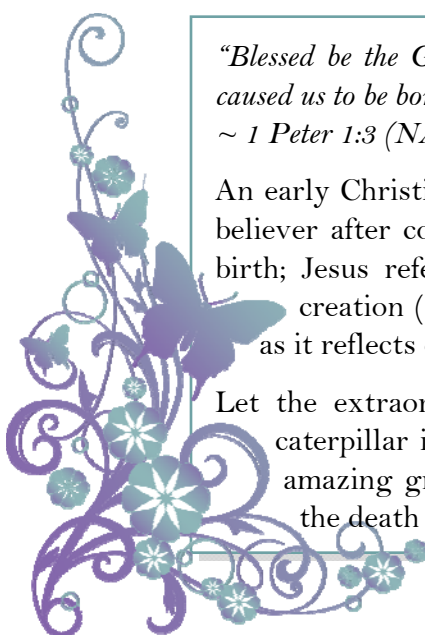
incontrovertible fact; the skeptic denies it altogether as a historical reality.

“If the resurrection really took place,” says an assailant of it, “then Christianity must be admitted to be what it claims to be—a direct revelation from God.” “If Christ be not risen,” says the Apostle Paul, “then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.”

The one tries all he can to do away with the proofs submitted for the accepted fact; the other plainly says that if the resurrection cannot be believed, then Christianity is nothing but a sham. If the resurrection of Christ can be successfully denied, if it can be proven to be absolutely untrue, then the whole fabric of the Gospel falls to pieces, the whole structure of the Christian religion is shaken at its foundation, and the very arch of Christianity crumbles into dust.

Then it has wrought only imaginary changes, deluded its most faithful adherents, deceived and disappointed the hopes of its most devoted disciples, and the finest moral achievements that adorn the pages of the history of the Christian church have been based upon a falsehood . . .

Butterflies, New Birth and The Resurrection



"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead..."
~ 1 Peter 1:3 (NASB)

An early Christian symbol of the resurrection, the butterfly illustrates the changed life of a believer after coming to saving faith in Jesus Christ. Scripture calls this change the new birth; Jesus referred to it as being *born again* in John 3. Everyone in Christ is a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17), making the butterfly a fitting image for our newsletter, as it reflects of the wonder, grace and beauty of the born again nature of a woman of God.

Let the extraordinary metamorphosis of the butterfly from an unattractive, destructive caterpillar into one of God's most beautiful creatures serve as a reminder to us of His amazing grace and the gift of salvation and new life He made possible to us through the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Praying Scripture

THANKSGIVING: Thank God for Christ's Resurrection

I thank you that as He was delivered up for my trespasses, so He was raised for my justification, (Romans 4:25) and was declared to be the Son of God in power by the resurrection from the dead. (Romans 1:4)

That though He was dead, yet He is alive and lives forevermore and has the keys of Death and Hades; (Revelation 1:18) and being raised from the dead, He will never die again, death no longer has dominion over Him. (Romans 6:9)

That in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep; (1 Corinthians 15:20) that as in Adam all died, so also in Christ all might be made alive, and each in his own order. (1 Corinthians 15:22-23)

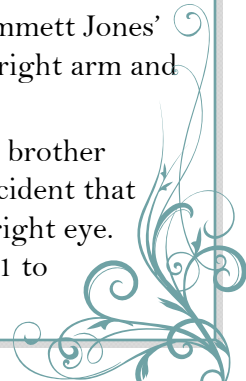
That God did not suffer His Holy One to see corruption, (Acts 2:27) but loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it; (Acts 2:24) and so, He declared to all the house of Israel that the same Jesus whom they crucified is both Lord and Christ. (Acts 2:36)

And that to this end Christ both died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living, (Romans 14:9) and that whether I am awake or asleep I might live with him. (1 Thessalonians 5:10)

Matthew Henry's *Method for Prayer*, (ESV). Chapter 4: Thanksgiving, Section 2.2.18 www.matthewhenry.org

NGBF Prayer Requests

- Sis. Chaine Whittle – health concerns
- Sis. Judy Fernandez – health concerns
- Sis. Deedra Jemison (Sis. Dacher Bradley's sister) – health and job concerns
- The Jemison & Bradley families – strength and support
- Donald & Monique Barnett and family – passing of 9m old daughter, Alexandria, from Leukemia
- Bro. Arthur Nickerson and family – Bro. Nickerson is the grand-uncle of Donald Barnett
- Sis. Charmaine Jones (Bro. Emmett Jones' wife) – bad muscle spasms in right arm and shoulder
- Sis. Tracy Cooper – youngest brother (Mark) involved in a home accident that caused serious trauma to his right eye. Scheduled for surgery on 5/11 to restore/save vision



"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words." ~ Romans 8:26 (ESV)

2nd Annual Young Women's Christian Pageant

"Many daughters have done nobly, but you excel them all. Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised." ~ Proverbs 31:29-30 (NASB)

We are pleased to present the 2nd Annual Young Women's Christian Pageant, on Sunday, April 18, 2010 at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

This pageant differs from traditional beauty pageants in that instead of focusing on outer beauty and competition, the emphasis was on cultivating and nurturing inner-beauty and Christ-like behavior. In a culture obsessed with celebrity, sex and self, it is commonplace for Christian young women to measure their worth by the world's yardstick. Our primary objective for this pageant is to instill a positive yet *godly* sense of self-esteem in the participants and to help them discover and use their God-given gifts and abilities to be a powerful influence for Christ on the young people within their sphere of influence. To help them achieve these goals we're conducting sessions for them on topics such as voice projection, walking and posture, modeling the behavior and attitude of a young woman in Christ and responsible Christian dating, in addition to a session that will address their particular season of life. We hope you will join us on April 18th to support and encourage these young women in their Christian walk.

Greeting Card Ministry

As a means of encouraging the women of NGBF, the Women's Committee started a greeting card ministry, but we need your help for it to be effective. Please contact Sis. Gloria Dukes regarding the illness, hospitalization or passing of a loved one and we will send an appropriate greeting card to them and/or their family.

Outreach Ministry

The ladies of NGBF visit the Center of Hope Shelter for Women and Children every 2nd Friday and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 7:00 – 8:00 PM to serve meals, minister to and pray for these families in need. If you've got a heart for service and want to participate in this important outreach opportunity, please contact Bro. Percy Singleton at the church office for more information.

*"Let each of us look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."
~ Philippians 2:4 (ESV)*

Potluck Fellowship Survey Results

A survey was conducted during the potluck fellowship dinner we held back in January to ask the women in attendance what types of studies, programs and activities they'd like the Women's Ministry to implement. The results were compiled and are as follows:

- A weekly women's study that will biblically address issues women face today (84% of respondents)
- Retreat and conference attendance (84% of respondents)
- Regular community outreach opportunities (68% of respondents)
- Regular prayer breakfasts and/or prayer meetings (60% of respondents)
- Mentoring opportunities and social activities with girls and young women (56% of respondents)

See UPCOMING EVENTS at the end of the newsletter for information on what we've initiated or have in the works in response to the survey. Our thanks go out to all the ladies who participated in the survey and for your prayers. Your input plays an important role in helping us make these events and activities possible. We value your feedback and encourage you to keep the suggestions coming.

Forgiven, Forgiving, and Free!

Everyone Gets Hurt

First, we need to realize that everyone will get hurt. It's inevitable. Hurt cannot be avoided. You may have been hurt by a trusted friend who lied about you. You may have been hurt by a teacher or professor who embarrassed you in front of a classroom. You may have been hurt by a parent who was harsh or abusive or who did not know how to express love. You may have been hurt by someone who wounded your children. You may have been hurt by a child who has rebelled and turned on you. You may have been hurt by an employer who wronged you or your mate. You may have been hurt by someone who stole your moral innocence and used you sexually in a way that was sinful and inappropriate. You may have been hurt by a husband who broke his wedding vows and has not been faithful to you. The list of potential hurts could go on and on.

In many cases, that pain comes out in anger. It's been said that the most dangerous animal in the forest is the one that's been wounded. I think that's a good picture of what we're seeing in our homes, in our communities, and in our schools today. People who have been wounded instinctively tend to wound others.

Women talk today about how angry they are – angry with their husband, their children, their parents, their pastor, and, ultimately, with God. Those harbored hurts, that smoldering bitterness, has turned to anger, hatred, revenge, and, at times, to violence.

Although we cannot avoid being hurt, the important thing to remember is that the outcome of our lives is not determined by what happens to us. Nothing that anyone has ever done to you or ever will do to you can determine who you become. What is done may affect your life, but it cannot determine the outcome of your life. The outcome of our lives is not determined by what happens to us, but rather by how we respond to what happens to us.

Two Ways To Respond To Hurt

The first way to respond, and the way that most people choose, is what I call becoming a debt collector. The mentality of the debt collector is, "This person wronged me; she owes me, so I'm going to hold her hostage and put her in debtor's prison until she pays me back." This way of responding ultimately leads to resentment, bitterness, and anger – it is the way of retaliation. That is where most people live much of their lives today. The way of retaliation is a subtle, secret desire for revenge. We may not retaliate with guns, but we do it with looks, attitudes, and words.

Ultimately, those seeds of bitterness and resentment are likely to grow up and produce a multiplied harvest, not only in your life, but also in your children and their children and the next generation.

The second way to respond is to choose to release the offender from prison. We choose to forgive, not because the offender deserves to be forgiven or has even asked for forgiveness, but because of God's grace that He has poured upon us, which we then are able to pour out upon others. This is the pathway of reconciliation.

Our God is a reconciling God. He took the initiative to be reconciled to us. We were His enemies, we were estranged, we were sinners. We hated God. We were not seeking Him. We were not searching for God, but He came searching for us as the Hound of Heaven, pursuing our hearts, pursuing reconciliation. And He calls us in His name to initiate reconciliation in our relationships . . .

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For full article visit www.reviveourhearts.com/topics/downloads/forgiveness

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." ~ Ephesians 4:32 (ESV)

Free From Lies: Truth for Young Women

We believe the vast majority of Christian young women (and not-so-young women, too, for that matter!) are suffering the consequences of believing lies. Those consequences include broken relationships, fear, depression, self-loathing, and guilt, to name a few. The results of believing a lie can be as numerous as the kinds of lies one can believe. But if there is a single word that sums up the results of believing any lie, it would be *bondage*.

Enslaved by Lies

Are there any areas of bondage in your life? You're in bondage if you can't seem to break free from harmful emotions or sinful patterns in your life. Jesus said, "*Everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin*" (John 8:34, ESV). You're in bondage if there is some consuming area of your life that you can't stop thinking about – like food, a guy, or your appearance. "*For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved*" (2 Peter 2:19). Maybe you're in bondage to your past, and you don't feel free to be used by God. Maybe you are in bondage to your body image and are not free to enjoy food in the way God intended.

Maybe you're in bondage to spending hour upon hour engrossed in the Internet or text messaging and are not free to be in solitude. Maybe you're in bondage to a performance-based faith and are not free to enjoy God, period. Maybe you are in bondage to worry, fear, anger, depression, or self-pity. We want you to know that you are not alone. Many other women have been there. We've been there ourselves. However, we, along with countless others, have learned how to find freedom from the lies Satan throws our way.

The Way of Freedom

True freedom is found in a vital, growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Jesus (the living Word of God) has revealed Himself in Scripture (the written Word of God). If we want to know Him, we must devote ourselves to reading, study, and meditation on the written Word. There is no substitute and there are no shortcuts. The Enemy is constantly confronting us with his lies. In order to defeat his deception, our minds and hearts must be filled with the Lord Jesus and saturated with His Word.

But it's not enough just to know the Truth. We must also surrender to it. That means we must be willing to change our thinking and our life-style in

any area that is inconsistent with the Truth as it is revealed in the Word of God.

Millions of teens who claim to be Christians and are active in their youth groups are nonetheless deceived; they are walking in ways that are not biblical. Their values, their responses, their relationships, their choices, and their priorities reveal that they have bought into the lies of the Enemy and have embraced the world's way of thinking.

Living according to the Truth requires a conscious choice to reject deception and to embrace the Truth. That is why one psalmist prayed, "Keep me from deceitful ways. . . . I have chosen the way of truth" (Psalm 119:29-30, NIV).

The Choice to Live Free

Would you ask God to deliver you and keep you from any lies that may have lodged in your mind and heart? And would you purpose in your heart to choose "the way of truth"? That will not always be easy – at times it will be really hard, in fact. But the way of Truth is the way of blessing and joy.

- ✿ *Our hearts plead with God to rescue you from the lies of this world*
- ✿ *We want you to embrace life – His life in you – to the fullest*
- ✿ *We want you enjoy the freedom He came to give you*
- ✿ *We want your life to fulfill every purpose for which He created you*
- ✿ *And we want to see God use your life to help others in your generation – and the next – experience the great freedom and joy of walking in the Truth.*

Making It Personal

Can you identify any lies that have taken hold in your heart and mind? How have they influenced your values, relationships, and behaviors? Ask God to deliver you from those lies and then purpose to walk in Truth.

Five Ways To Shed Fat And Have Fun!



Spend Time With Fido

Sure, having to walk your four-legged friend will get you moving and burning calories, but there's more to it than that. Studies show that having a pet helps relieve stress, a major contributor to your expanding waistline due to cortisol – the hormone released into your bloodstream in response to a fight-or-flight situation. Getting out with your furry companion is a great way to get a double dose of fat-fighting activity.

Sign Up For A Fundraiser

Committing to participate in an event that supports a worthy cause is a great way to get you training, fundraising and shedding fat all at once. Try a national event like the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, the world's largest 5K run/walk. This event, which runs locally in various cities across the US, raises funds for breast cancer research.

Enter A Fitness Event

It's all about setting goals. Consider training for a fitness competition in your city; that extra push could help you keep your eye on the prize. It could be just the motivation you need to shed those last 10 pounds. Check out local gyms or community centers for events in your area.

Have A Potluck Makeover

Host a potluck dinner and invite friends over to reinvent high-fat entrées into clean, nutritious versions. Need a little inspiration? Check out Tosca Reno's *Eat Clean Cookbook* (Robert Kennedy Publishing, 2009). The latest edition – in hardcover – is loaded with nutritious takes on classic favorites like burgers, chili, fajitas, pasta dishes and dessert (yes, even crème brûlée!).

Test A New Fitness Class

Most gyms include group fitness classes as part of your membership fee, so take advantage of what's available to you. Experts say trying new forms of exercise and varying your workouts will help keep you motivated to reach your weight-loss goals.

By Sandy Braz, contributing writer, and Canusa Products Inc. For more fitness tips, visit www.oxygenmag.com

For Those With Diabetes

Top Ten Benefits of Being Active

1. Improve blood glucose management
2. Lower blood pressure
3. Improve blood fats
4. Take less insulin or diabetes pills
5. Lose weight and keep it off
6. Lower risk for other health problems
7. Gain more energy and sleep better
8. Relieve stress
9. Build stronger bones and muscles
10. Be more flexible

For full article visit www.diabetes.org/food-and-fitness/fitness/fitness-management

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"Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers." ~ 3 John 2 (NASB)

Upcoming Events

- Mother & Daughter Tea: Saturday May 8, 2010. Details coming soon
- **OCBF Desperate for Jesus 2010 Women's Conference: Bruised but Not Broken**, July 23-24, 2010. Beth Moore and Tara Jenkins are the featured conference speakers. **Registration opens to the public on Wednesday, March 31. Early registration costs \$45.** For more information and to register, visit www.ocbfchurch.org. It would be great for the women of NGBF to go as a group so if you register to attend please let a committee member know
- **True Women '10 Conference** October 14-16, 2010 at the Ft. Worth Convention Center. Featuring Nancy Leigh DeMoss, Kay Arthur, Crawford & Karen Loritts, Dannah Gresh, Mary Kassian, Fern Nichols, Pastor James MacDonald, and Worship Leaders Keith & Kristyn Getty. Registration: Adults – \$129 by July 26, \$159 thereafter; High School or full-time college students ages 24 and under – \$94 by July 26, \$129 thereafter. For more information and to register, visit www.truewoman.com
- **Women's Retreat:** Fall, 2010. We are in the early planning stages and will announce details once the venue and program are finalized

The Reading Room: Recommended Reading

Confessions of an Adulterous Christian Woman: Lies That Got Me There; Truths That Brought Me Back

by Lyndell Hetrick Holtz

Author Lyndell Hetrick Holtz was a pastor's wife, Bible study leader, and women's retreat speaker who never believed she would cheat on her husband. She thought her evangelical background and involvement with ministry gave her extra protection from the temptation to have an affair. But, in her forties, her life began to crumble, and suddenly adultery seemed to be the solution for an unhappy life and marriage.

With emotion and conviction, Lyndell reflects on the disillusionment and faulty beliefs that led to several destructive decisions. She tells about the heartache and pain she experienced when her affair was discovered and the resulting consequences, including the loss of her 25 year marriage, her beautiful home, her witness in the community, her friends, and the respect of her four adult children. It seemed as if her life was over and her relationship with Christ forever ruined. But it was here, broken and alone and sprawled in the dust of shame and defeat, where Lyndell encountered love unlike any she had ever known. With worship and humility, she shares how God lovingly embraced her shattered life and began to redeem, restore, and rebuild it in miraculous ways.

Fine China Is for Single Women Too

by Lydia Brownback

"This is your life!" writes Brownback. "You will never find contentment in living for what you hope tomorrow may hold." Emphasizing God's sovereignty over marriage, the importance of thankfulness, and the unique advantages of a Christian single's lifestyle, she encourages you to make the most of every day for Christ. This book emphasizes living contentedly and fully in what God ordains in each season of life, specifically when his ordering is singleness.

No Other Gods: Confronting Our Modern-Day Idols

by Kelly Minter

Minter offers readers surprising depth and breadth in this book on modern-day idols. It would have been easy to focus on surface idols such as materialism, beauty and media, and Minter does touch on those things, but she digs deeper into the false gods we really worship, exploring what happens when good desires become objects of worship, and shows you how to exchange everyday gods for the one true God.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY COMMITTEE: