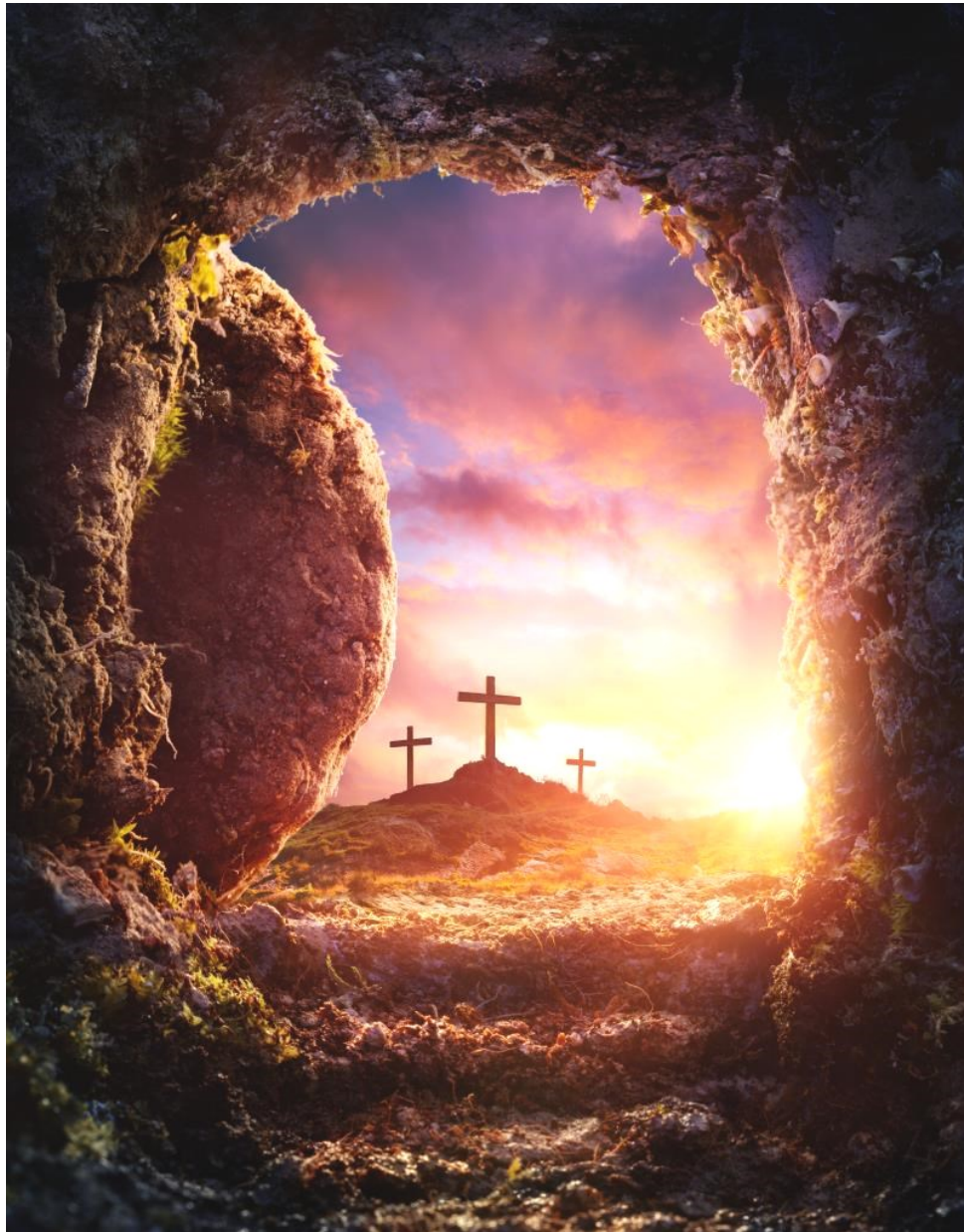
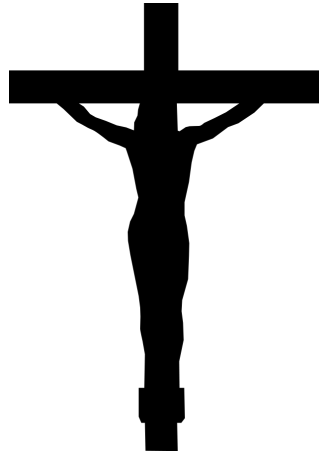


St. Timothy's Banner

Easter 2023



Isaiah 53:6b and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

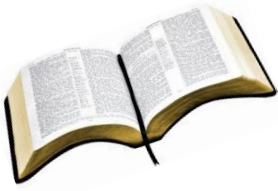


Isaiah 53:6b and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

The Atonement

By Do Fox

It took my Divinity
To swallow up your sins, My child.
Sin had threatened to destroy My Creation
Casting a dark shadow on the earth.
When the time was right, I stepped in
And dealt with its very heart.
Sin is rebellion against My just rule
And can only be diffused by My Love.
That Love was made visible on the cross.
Faith in My Son is the doorway
Through which My Hand can reach
To touch your inmost self.
Trust the tug in your heart
Towards His selfless offering of Himself.
In Him all is made new in the depths
Of your spirit and soul.
My Love, which is Life giving, flows in
As you open your being to My Reality.
Death has been conquered,
And the dancing lights of My Kingdom
Are yours to enjoy, now and eternally!



My God and Your God

By Rev. Dan Endresen

Can you imagine the emotions of this scene? The emotions of Jesus' disciples whose own lives had been categorically destroyed as they watch Jesus' life being destroyed on the cross just two days before. The person who they had been convinced was anointed by God to be king – this love filled miracle worker and friend who they had pinned all their hopes in life on was nailed to the cross as a criminal. They had staked and intertwined their own lives on the hope that they would rule with the anointed King Jesus – as his closest friends and confidants. But that rug was pulled out from under them – and in part by Jesus himself.

Can you imagine the confusion of emotions the preceding week, first, in Jesus foretelling his impending death, then, at the last supper where Jesus said so much that they didn't understand about his going away, and then knelt to serve them, washing their feet. Later on, it was the chaos of his betrayal and arrest in the darkness of the garden and their abandonment of him on that torchlit night out of fear and helplessness. That was followed by the abusive, fake trials of their Lord, and finally his public crucifixion on Friday. ... Where were his thousands of supporters then? His burial on Friday night they had watched from a distance.

Then came the Sabbath. Can you imagine the fear, grief, and hopelessness of that came over them that Sabbath morning? Can you imagine them awakening with the memory of the horror they had witnessed on Friday – that it was actually true – and how their hearts sank in grief with the dawn of that day?

I doubt if Mary Magdalene had even slept at all. Mary, who Jesus had cast seven demons out of (Mark 16:9) and given her new life with love and meaning, must have been the most devastated of all. Her Jesus was dead. Her world had been completely crushed. The others would have their brothers, families and livelihoods to go back to and occupy them. Not Mary. How would Jesus' death affect her? How could she possibly rebuild? On what foundation? With Jesus dead, I imagine that she would have wanted to be dead with him.

Mary went in the darkness to the last place that she saw Jesus' dead corpse brought to, entombed, and sealed with a stone. When she got there, she saw the stone had been moved. Jesus' body was not there. Of

course, since the time she had met Jesus, she had developed friendships with his other followers who loved him too, and had gone to meet with them to mourn. When she found the empty tomb, she didn't know what else to do, but run and tell the others.

More confusion. They listened to her and two of them ran to see. And as they ran, different possible scenarios must have played out in their minds. You would think that at some point, Jesus' words about rising from the dead would have risen in their memories. Jesus had believed in, and spoke about the resurrection of the dead – even his own – but what were the “three days” significant of? His disciples had no idea. As our gospel said, “as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead”. The fact is, there are plenty of Old Testament passages about the suffering servant making atonement for his people – Psalm 22, 55, 69, Isaiah 53, but not many that spoke of his rising from the dead – Psalm 16 and a few other vague scriptures being the exceptions.

Stooping down and looking in, the first disciple to arrive at the tomb after Mary had called him, saw the linen cloths lying *there*; yet he did not go in. “Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying *there* and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed”. Apparently, he then saw the handkerchief and that caused him to believe that Jesus was alive. I wonder if he told Peter and Mary that? Hope was dawning in his heart, and yet he and Peter left Mary there and returned to the homes where they were staying – probably to inform the others of their findings – but in bewilderment and fear. They still had fear from the trauma of being on the “losing side” and the possible repercussions of being followers of Jesus. And even if Jesus had risen from the dead, what would that mean for them? How would he look, or act toward them – his disciples who had abandoned him?

Mary remained at the tomb weeping, so I doubt if the disciple who believed Jesus had risen had told her so. But Mary had no fear. She had reached the end of herself even before this. She had no personal ambitions like Jesus' male disciples had. No one could do anything to her that would affect her more negatively

than what she was currently experiencing with Jesus gone. She was in effect dead along with Jesus.

And looking 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. Then they said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’” Two of Jesus’ disciples had just been in the tomb. They had not seen any such thing. But Mary, familiar with the spirit world, saw the angels and even conversed with them. We cannot argue or criticize those who’ve experienced things which we have not. It’s their experience – not ours.

She answered their question, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.” But they had asked her that because Jesus was there. He was standing right behind her. ¹⁴ Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing *there*, and did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?”

He obviously had a human appearance which the angels did not have. So, supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, “Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away.” That’s how badly she sought to be with Jesus – even if it was just his dead body. And that’s why Jesus was there to reveal himself to Mary. No fear, no hesitation, even darkness and death could not stop her from seeking to be with Jesus. There was nothing else of value in this world for her but him.

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary!” He addressed her by name as he had so many times before. And she recognized him. She turned and said to Him, “Rabboni!” (which is to say, Teacher). She obviously embraced him unashamedly. How great a scene. How great an embrace – so great that Jesus had to restrain her with his words, “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father”; He enjoyed her sign of affection, for sure, but he had been thirty years without being with his Father in Heaven. Then he said, “...but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God’ ”.

What did Jesus’ resurrection mean to Mary? It meant everything, because Jesus meant everything to her. He was her only reason in life. He was her life. Without him she was dead. He was her only source for life. Communion with Jesus – interaction with him was life. His life gives us, who believe in him, eternal, spiritual life. It gives us meaning. It gives us the right

to be children of God (John 1:12) as Jesus was raised, not alone. Being a raised human, he was raised with us, with spiritual brothers and sisters, who like Mary, have died with him to ourselves, and worldly ambitions. Because of his resurrection we will one day have glorified bodies like his as well. But even now, because he lives, we can experience the power of his risen life through His Holy Spirit who is in us who believe. When we choose to submit to God and do what we know is his will, relying on him – his Holy Spirit supplies the power for us to do it.

With his “Go...” to Mary, Jesus basically told her to go with the Gospel and tell the others. And tell those boys, who had not come like her – to the dark place of death to seek him – that it is not over for them. All that had to be done could only have been done by him. All that had to be done to make Jesus’ heavenly Father their heavenly Father was done by Jesus. And his Father God – was now their Father God.

Jesus would meet them too, as he had met Mary. He would bring them to the end of their prideful selves and ambitions, and give them his Spirit, teaching them those things about himself that they had not understood. He would teach them, from Psalm 110 and other scriptures that he was a priest according to the power of endless life, and therefore God could not allow him – his Holy One – to see corruption (Psalm 16:10) (John 20:22, Luke 24:45, Acts 2:27). He would teach them what Isaiah 53 says, “though he was cut off from the land of the living, he shall see his seed and prolong his days and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hands. He shall see the labor of his soul and be satisfied” – Mary Magdalene, and all of Jesus’ disciples – even you – were the labor of Jesus’ soul. All who have put their faith in him are. We are the “why” that he did what he did. What a sacrifice he made for our reconciliation and life! He died so that we might receive remission of sins and be made able to live with him forever – even ascend with him to his Father. He made peace for us with God. And he goes on healing all those who are oppressed by the devil while still in this world. He lives to make intercession for us even now (Heb. 7:25). So, see him, where he is.

As the Apostle Paul wrote, “If you have been raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory” (Col. 3:1"-4).

The beauty of community | Psalm 133:1-3

Excerpts from a sermon written in German Translated by Debbie Meier

Psalm 133 is often quoted as an "ideal state" of the Christian community. It's also sung cheerfully in several upbeat songs. But as the grey everyday life of the congregation shows often enough, the communal life turns out to be a bit more complicated and not always quite as harmonious as we imagine it to be. Unfortunately, this is especially true in the Christian community. But, why is community important? What can we say about the beauty of community?

Psalm 133 focuses on this very subject, "the beauty of community." So, let's take a closer look at the source of this concept. We may even be surprised at how the beauty of community presents itself and is supposed to manifest itself within our congregations. By God's grace, it is displayed without embellishment or hypocrisy.

Let's read Psalm 133:

Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when brothers dwell in unity!^[a]

² It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down on the beard,

on the beard of Aaron,
running down on the collar of his robes!

³ It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion!

For there the LORD has commanded the blessing,
life forevermore.

For a little bit of context, this was a pilgrimage song. Meaning, when one travelled to the temple in Jerusalem on the days of the great feasts to offer sacrifices (like Passover or the Feast of Tabernacles), Psalm 133 would have been a song the people would sing along the way. In those days, they travelled with their whole families or clans. They would travel all together as one family unit. One great big caravan.

Community was also common in the way the people lived. An individual would not often live alone, but would live with either friends, relatives, or in communal living establishments such as inns – always in community. Deut. 25:5 refers to the law of inheritance of land. Land was not to be divided but overseen by the sons together. Because of this, the common way of living was entire clans living all together on the inherited plot of land. In community.

Now, let's dive into this short Psalm, looking at it verse by verse. The goal is to determine how we can apply this type of beauty of community into our lives and into our congregations today.

With three verses, we see three main points. One, Christian fellowship is a great privilege. Two, the community of believers is precious. And three, there is breath-taking blessing in Christian fellowship.

So, if the Christian community is not "good and beautiful" be-

cause of its harmony, or more accurately its rarely existing harmony, why is it "good and beautiful"? The Christian community is good and beautiful because of its founder; because God, the Creator, is good and beautiful. The community in the church owes its existence to God alone.

The most common word in the New Testament for community or church is "ekklesia." And this Greek word means "gathering of those summoned". We see this of course already in the Old Testament through the election of Abraham and Israel which is then extended to the Gentile nations through the Great Commission in Matthew 28. This is later clarified by Paul in his letters to the New Testament churches. The great privilege of Christian fellowship consists in the saving by grace for eternal salvation from the wrath of God. That is, from the righteous judgment of God. God has called us out of the lost world and set us before Him as His people. We won't go into detail here with what all that this entails, but you can find this topic covered in the first three chapters of Ephesians.

Another term sometimes used in reference to the church is "the holy ones". Holy has two basic meanings in the biblical context. First, "holy" or "sanctified" means that God has set apart something or someone for Himself - or, regarding His people, He has called them out. God thus lays direct claim to them, they are consecrated to Him. What He has set apart belongs fully and completely to Him alone and He uses it for a specific purpose. Ultimately, it is used for His glorification. And through this singling out, the second basic meaning is added. Holy can also be used in the sense of "purification". In other words, as we are sanctified, we are freed more and more from sin and transformed more and more into a Christ-like nature.

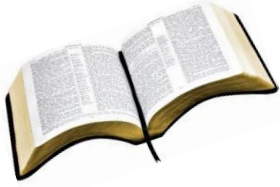
For as long as we live in this fallen creation, we live in a field of tension. On the one hand, we are already set apart, we have been born again. On the other hand, we still must be made perfectly holy, and we are still on the journey of sanctification.

The advantage to being part of a congregation is that we cannot choose for ourselves who should belong to the congregation and who should not. But God, in his wisdom, calls people into the community who serve our growth in faith and our sanctification. Be it through their love and kindness (which we get to enjoy) or through their weaknesses and sins, God uses the people and situations around us to grow us in our faith. Once again, the point is not primarily about having a nice fellowship with each other, but a fellowship that purposefully strives for sanctification and wants to make progress in it. For here, we find the greatest blessing.

In conclusion, we must ask ourselves:

What am I willing to invest, let go of, and endure to promote the blessing of the community for myself and others?

Submitted by Maria Endresen



How Easter Reminds Us That God Is Faithful

By Ruth Clemence

Easter is God's faithfulness on display for a jubilant church and a world longing for hope and good news. If we ever find ourselves doubting if God is faithful, we just need to come back to the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ. On the cross, we see prophecies from the Old Testament being fulfilled, the greatest rescue mission of a suffering Savior, and the purest act of love that the world has ever known.

There are many ways to see how God was faithful at the very first Easter, how He is faithful now, and how He will continue to be faithful forever.

God Is Faithful in Keeping His Promises from Beginning to End.

From the very beginning, God had a plan to save His people. God was faithful to His word to Adam and Eve that if they disobeyed His command by eating the fruit, they would die (**Genesis 2:17**). His justice and mercy were both clearly displayed right from the start. They did not die right away, and God would be the one to cover their nakedness and shame with animal skin (**Genesis 3:21**). This pointed to a greater covering that Jesus would provide by His blood on the cross for the sin of His people.

After the fall of Adam and Eve, God dealt firstly with the accuser, Satan. In **Genesis 3:15**, God said to the serpent who had tempted Eve to disobey, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

The offspring from Eve that would crush the serpent would be Jesus. Right from the start there was a Savior who would come into the world. It was the cross that struck the Son of God, yet on the cross it was where Jesus gained the victory over sin and death. The time of the evil one is running out and God's fire will consume him forever

(**Revelation 20:10**). Jesus will be faithful to deal once and for all with evil, and restore all creation where there will be a new **heaven** and new earth (**Isaiah 65:17**, 66:22; **2 Peter 3:13**).

God the Father Is Faithful to Jesus the Son
The resurrection shows God's faithfulness to not let His Son Jesus see decay. Although Jesus was in the tomb, three days later He rose from the grave. **Psalm 16:10** points to this wonderful promise saying: "You will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay." Jesus was not left to rot, but triumphed victoriously over the power of death.

The Father was faithful to exalt the Son after He humbled Himself to die on the cross. He exalted Him to the highest place, giving Him the name above every name, where at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, in heaven, on earth and under the earth, and "every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (**Philippians 2:9-11**).

The Cross Is the Ultimate Display of God's Faithfulness to Us.

One of the most well-known verses of God's faithfulness is: "For **God so loved the world** that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (**John 3:16**). It was because of God's love for us that He came in the person of Jesus Christ to take our sin upon Himself. **1 John 1:9** says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." He is faithful to forgive our sin, and Easter is a time to reflect upon this free gift of grace bestowed on us. Even in our unfaithfulness, He remains faithful.

Submitted by Barrie Fox

WITNESSING FOR CHRIST

By Harn Yawnghwe

– 1: Three Women and a Man.

I am not very good at witnessing for Christ. I tend to say it is not my gift and leave it to others. But recently on a train journey from Frankfurt to Brussels, a German lady got on at Köln (Cologne), came to sit next to me and started a conversation wanting to know what I did, etc., so I started talking about God in my life. To my surprise, she was interested and asked questions. All too soon, we had arrived at our destination. Some days later, I was in the dining room of a small hotel in Brussels, eating dinner before my flight back to Montreal the next day. Since the room was rather small and there was nobody else, I got into a conversation with a French gentleman seated at the next table. He was returning to Somalia where his Somalian wife was waiting. Again, we touched on the subject of God, something that has never happened before in any of my conversations with Frenchmen who are mostly atheists. Then on the flight back to Montreal, my seatmate was a chatty German-Canadian woman who started asking me all sorts of questions which led to God and His purposes.

Encouraged by my three encounters, I prayed for more opportunities to witness for Christ. After that, I visited my dentist for a routine cleaning and check-up. The dental hygienist started asking if I was a Buddhist. I said, no and we started talking about God. She was so interested she stopped working. I had to stop talking to get her going again. She eventually told me that she was Russian and a Christian. She said she had been praying but nothing happened. So, I told her that she needed to get to know God instead of praying to someone she did not know. I also told her that if she asked God to reveal Himself, He would. Then as I was leaving, she said that she was praying last night for God to send someone to help her, and that He had sent me. Wow, that nearly floored me although I should not have been surprised.

God is really working and we should be more open

to His leading, willing to leave our comfort zones. The field is white for the harvest, people are hungry for God, and there are no workers. I am not an evangelist by any means but I am open to God using me. Are you?

- 2: Mistaken Identity

Two friendly guys who were in the neighbourhood visited me a few days ago. I thought they were from the Catholic St Michael's Journal whom I had had good conversations with in the past. It was a nice day but cold outside, so I almost invited the two men in. Just then I was reminded of 2 John 1:9-11 – *Anyone who goes ahead and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God; he who abides in the doctrine has both the Father and the Son.*¹⁰ *If any one comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into the house or give him any greeting;*¹¹ *for he who greets him shares his wicked work.* So, I asked who they were with. They said, JW – so I said sorry, we do not believe in the same God.

They said they did, and everything I mentioned they agreed with – God, Scripture, Saviour, etc. – until I said that Jesus Christ is God. They would not admit to that and left. I found that to be very interesting and looked deeper into what John was saying. What I found showed that I need to be more discerning about those who say they are believers: *For many deceivers have gone out into the world, men who will not acknowledge the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh; such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist,* 2 John 1:7. So saying that I believe in Jesus Christ is not enough. Do I truly believe that Jesus is God incarnate who became a human being in order to save us from the consequence of our sin? If Jesus is not God, He cannot die in the place of all mankind. He cannot be our Saviour.

But praise be to God. Jesus Christ became flesh, was crucified and has saved us. Amen.

Nat-shin-naung (1579–1613): a Myanmar King who was Crucified

By Harn Yawnghwe

Nat-Shin-naung was the grandson of King Bayinnaung (1550-1581 AD), one of the three most famous kings of Myanmar. In those days, Myanmar was divided into many kingdoms. His father was the Viceroy of Toungoo. As a teenager, Nat-Shin-naung took part in the Myanmar invasion of Siam (Thailand) in the 1590s. He later became an able military commander as well as a noted poet and an accomplished musician. His poems were dedicated to his lifelong love, a princess, who died seven months after they were married. Known for her great beauty, the princess was also a noted poet, and the subject of some of the most beautiful poems in Burmese literature by Nat-shin-naung. He is considered by many to be the greatest *yadu* (a classical genre of poetry) poet in Burmese history.

Nat-Shin-naung became King of Toungoo in 1609. But a year later, one of his cousins, the King of Ava, a neighbouring kingdom, attacked Toungoo and captured it. Nat-shin-naung then made an alliance with Portuguese adventurer and mercenary Filipe de Brito e Nicote, the ruler of Than-Lyin, to regain his kingdom. It failed and they retreated to Than-Lyin. Three years later, the King of Ava, also captured Than-Lyin. His cousin offered to pardon Nat-shin-naung if he would take an oath of allegiance to him. This involved swearing on a 'Book of Oaths' (Buddhist mantras and prophecies), calling on Buddha, demons and evil spirits to bring untold calamities on the oath-breaker and to kill the oath-breaker in the most horrible ways imaginable.

Nat-shin-naung refused, saying that he had already taken baptism, and that he was ready to die with de Brito. To be baptized meant that he was now under the authority of the Eternal God, not any earthly king. Therefore, Nat-shin-naung and Filipe De Brito were crucified in the middle of the city, and were executed by being impaled.

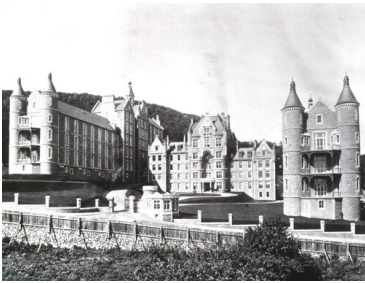
Nothing more is known about his conversion to Christianity. It is interesting to note that the current Catholic Cardinal of Myanmar, Charles Bo, is of Portuguese-Myanmar descent.



Memories

By Do Fox

Happy memories are fun to recall, especially as one gets older. I was remembering my days at McGill the other day, and thought of the time I was studying Histology. We were looking at human skin cells under the microscope. We looked at various shades of skin, and saw that some skin cells had more little brown dots in them than others. In our days these were called chromatophores. At one point, as we were finishing our drawings of these cells, the professor said regarding the different skin cell types, "and that's the only difference", regarding skin colour. I was so pleased when he said that. How true that is, and what a beautiful lesson to end that lab session with. I've always remembered that lab. Perhaps God's love was released somehow through that professor. He wasn't just teaching facts; he was teaching attitudes to young people. It touched my heart, and although I forget the professor's name, I will always remember that moment when he told us, with authority in his voice, "and that's the only difference." God bless him!



The Goodness of God

By Joy Scott

"I might have a what!" I struggled to sit up in the hospital bed, staring at the Doctor in disbelief. I was just finishing a five-day work week when I felt the pain in my back.

Working as a care giver, pain was a given and as I had just finished lifting two heavy cases, I thought I had pulled a muscle, I had two days to recover. I took two Tylenol tablets before going to bed that Friday night. At about four thirty Saturday morning I suddenly woke up feeling like an elephant was sitting on me. "My God," I cried, "what is this?" Maybe I did hurt myself with the last heavy cases. Sitting on the side of my bed, I prayed, "God, Father, help me." I decided that I would take two more Tylenol and go back to bed. As I attempted to stand, I heard a calm, but firm and soft voice coming from the doorway, "GO TO THE LAKESHORE." Shocked, I flopped back unto the bed, staring at my doorway. Silence. "Go to the Hospital on a weekend for a sprained muscle?" I said. Silence. I was not frightened, so I said, "Father, if you are telling me to go, I'll go." I got up and slowly walked to the kitchen. I turned on the kettle, walked to the living room and started to clean everywhere, even the bird cage. I then went back to my bedroom, made the bed, took out a bathrobe and nightgown and other necessities and left them on the bed. I emptied my handbag leaving just medical and hospital cards, some cash, a book and phone. I made a list of phone numbers of relatives and friends and put them in my bag. Before I left the house, I decided to take two more Tylenol, and as I reached for the bottle, I hesitated and reached for the bottle of aspirin instead and took two. Walking to the bus stop I prayed, "Holy Spirit go with me, but why are you telling me to go to the hospital, that place would be so crowded, I'll have to wait 10 hours before being seen for a pulled muscle." The bus going to Fairview, came and I got on, then took another to the Hospital.

I went to emergency. "See," I told the Holy Spirit, "crowded," I went to the triage nurse and explained my pulled muscle and the pain in my back. She sent me to register, I did and was told to sit. I took off my hat and was unbuttoning my jacket when my number was called. I walked into the room wondering why they called my number so fast. The triage nurse took my BP and ECG, I asked, "why," and she said, "just ruling every out." She took off running with the papers, and within two minutes I was on a bed in Cardiology. After hours of blood tests and x-rays and CT scans, the Cardiologist came. We talked and I told him of my pulled muscle. He then said, "all of your tests have come back normal, your heart is fine, but you might have a compromised artery, so we are going to keep you here, give you meds for the pain so you can sleep, and on Monday we will take you to the Royal Vic, for more tests, and if we find anything we'll take care of it and you'll be good to go! "Doctor," I said, "the pain is in my back not my chest area." "That," he said, "is why it is called the Silent Killer and especially for women, because women work with pain all the time ignoring their own health. Don't worry, we'll take care of you."

Lying there and going through all that he said, I began humming one of my favorite songs. Then the words, 'we're keeping you here,' came back to me. I sat up in bed frantically reaching for my bag. "My God," I cried out, "no one knows I'm in the hospital." I was able to call three persons before the staff came back, and boy, the tongue lashing I got is one for the history books, but I was soon forgiven. On Monday I was taken to the RV for more tests and there it was, a partially blocked artery. The Cardiologist came to tell me what was found and what they were going to do and that I'll be good to go after. I said to him, "May God go with you." Within twenty minutes he was finished, and I was on my way back to the Lakeshore. Recuperating, I began to go over the events of the last three days, and I thank God

for the gift of the Holy Spirit, my constant companion. I felt so grateful that I was able to recognize His voice and to obey. Had I not gone to the hospital that morning, what would have happened? GOD, I THANK YOU. I didn't have any complications and was sent home the next day.

THE GOODNESS OF GOD

I LOVE YOU LORD FOR YOUR MERCY NEVER FAILS ME

FOR YOUR MERCY NEVER FAILS ME

ALL MY LIFE I'VE BEEN HELD IN YOUR HANDS

FROM THE MOMENT THAT I WAKE UP

UNTILL, I LAY MY HEAD

OH I WILL SING OF THE GOODNESS

ALL MY LIFE YOU HAVE BEEN FAITHFUL

ALL MY LIFE YOU HAVE BEEN SO GOOD

WITH EVERY BREATH THAT I AM ABLE

OH, I WILL SING OF THE GOODNESS OF GOD

GOD'S BELOVED SON

By Joy Scott

I recently attended a three-day conference sponsored by Isaiah 40. There were many topics for discussion, but two of them really touched and encouraged me in my Christian walk.

When Jesus was baptized, and as he came up out of the water, the voice of God was heard to say; This is my Beloved Son. God's proclamation of Jesus for all the world to hear, that this is a child that was loved, cherished, that he belonged and had a Father. I imagined the people at the river, there was John the Baptizer his disciples, the people who were being baptized, their relatives and friends, and of course the spectators, some of them believers and follow-

ers of John, and of course the nonbelievers. Hearing that voice coming from the heavens must have caused quite a stir, and then The Holy Spirit coming down to rest on Jesus, a visible sign of God's love, and I am reminded that Jesus is that visible sign of God's love for us. He suffered and died for us. We are loved, cherished, cared for and protected, so we as Christians must be bold in our actions, in our faith, in the way we love and care for each other, because in Christ we are all his cherished children. We are Beloved.

I AM THE RESURRECTION

He had been dead four days. Mary and Martha waited and prayed that Jesus would come before their brother died, but it was not to be. he was gone. When Jesus finally arrived, Martha

said to Jesus; if you had been here my brother would be alive. Jesus said to her your brother will rise again, and Martha said yes at the resurrection at the last day. Jesus replied strongly

and affirmatively I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE. there was no maybe, or I think. He spoke with confidence I AM. God the Father also used that same name to Moses and the Israelites, I AM WHO I AM, the God who is ever present, constant and unchangeable. In him there is life, health and healing. So Let us like Martha say yes Lord I believe. Our Savior

Our Redeemer, The Resurrection and the life, The I AM.

A BLESSED EASTER TO EVERYONE

Joy Scott



The Movie THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST:

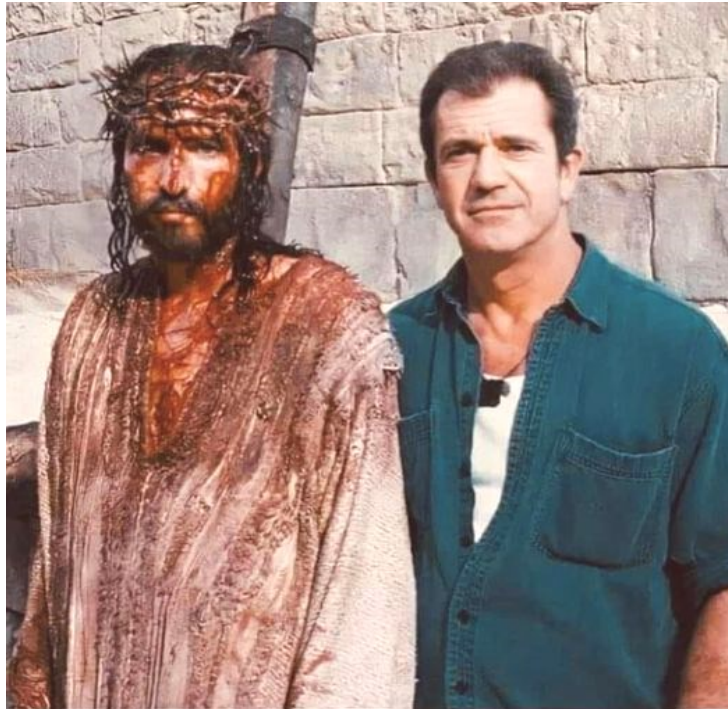
“Mel Gibson warned actor Jim Caviezel that playing the character of Christ was going to be very difficult and that if he accepted, he most likely would be marginalized by Hollywood.

Caviezel asked for a day to think about it and his response to Mel who was funding and directing the movie was: "I think we have to make it, even if it is difficult." And something else, my initials are J.C., and I am 33 years old. "I didn't realize that until now."

Mel responded with “You're really scaring me you know.”

During filming, Jim Caviezel who plays the part of Jesus lost 45 pounds, he was struck by lightning, he was accidentally struck twice during the scourging scene leaving a deep 14-inch scar, he dislocated his shoulder when the cross was dropped into the hole with him on the cross. He then suffered pneumonia and hypothermia from being nearly naked with only a loin cloth on the cross for endless hours. The crucifixion scene alone took 5 weeks of the 2 months of shooting. His body was so stressed and exhausted from playing the role that he had to undergo two open heart surgeries after the filming production. Jim explained, “I didn't want people to see me. I just want them to see Jesus. Conversions will happen through that.”

Almost like a clairvoyant prediction many amazing things happened. Pedro Sarubbi, who played Barabbas, felt that it was not Caviezel who was looking at him, but Jesus Christ himself, as he played that role



he said of Caviezel, “His eyes had no hatred or resentment towards me, only mercy and love.”

Luca Lionello, the artist who played Judas, was an avowed atheist before shooting began. He eventually converted, and baptized his children.

One of the main technicians working on the film was a Muslim converted to Christianity.

Some producers said they saw actors dressed in white they didn't recognize during one of the filming sessions, and when they reviewed the recordings they realized they couldn't see them in that footage. The Passion of the Christ is the highest grossing US religious as well as the highest R-rated film of all time, with \$370.8 million! Worldwide, it grossed \$611 million.

More importantly, it has reached 100's of millions of people around the world.

Mel Gibson paid \$30 million out of his own pocket for the production of the film because no studio would take on the project.

Today Jim Caviezel simply and boldly proclaims his faith in Christ, and the miracle it was for him to represent Christ as an actor and a greater believer of Christ because of this experience.

Submitted by Barrie Fox

Apple Cake

Here is the recipe for the Apple Cake I made for the January potluck that everyone liked so much.

GERMAN APPLE CAKE (from Apple Sampler, A Collection of Fresh Apple Recipes by Jan Siegrist.(New England Press 1986.)

6 medium apples, peeled and thinly sliced
¼ cup white sugar
2 teaspoons cinnamon
Toss the apple slices with the ¼ cup sugar and cinnamon and set aside.
3 cups all purpose flour
1 ½ cups white sugar
4 eggs
1 cup cooking oil
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1/3 cup orange juice
1 ½ teaspoons baking soda
1 ½ teaspoons baking powder

Mix flour, 1 ½ cups sugar, eggs, oil, vanilla, orange juice, baking soda and baking powder. Beat with an electric mixer at medium speed until smooth.. (batter will be very thick). Spread a third of the batter in a greased and floured 10 in tube or Bundt pan. Top with half of the apple mixture. Repeat the layers, ending with batter. Bake in preheated 350F oven for 1 hour. (mine took a little longer). Stick a knife or cake tester in-if it comes out clean its done. Remove pan to a wire rack, cool for 10 minutes. Remove cake from pan. Cool completely before icing. Serves 12-16.

CONFECTIONERS SUGAR GLAZE

Beat together 1 ½ cups confectioners sugar, 2 Tablespoons softened butter, 1 ½ teaspoons vanilla extract and 1-2 Tablespoons water until smooth. Drizzle over cake.

NOTE: You can use any homemade or store bought icing you like. For the January potluck I used a store

bought cinnamon icing I bought in the States.

Enjoy,

Submitted by Wendy Pingree

Mini Banana Muffins

These are great to bring to church on Sundays, for coffee time.

24 Mini Muffins

Wisk together

2 cups whole wheat flour

2 tsp baking powder

1 tsp cinnamon

1/8 tsp nutmeg

In another bowl mix

1 egg

6 Tbs vegetable oil

1 tsp vanilla

1/4 cup brown sugar

3 ripe bananas (Mashed)

Mix the two bowls of ingredients.

Bake 375 degrees for 15 minutes, or until done.

Submitted by Do Fox





Humour



Let's laugh away our stress with ants.

1. 5 ants + 5 ants = Tenants.
2. To bring an ant from another country into your country = Important.
3. Ant that goes to school = Brilliant.
4. Ant that's looking for a job = Applicant.
5. A spy ant = Informant.
6. A very little ant = Infant.
7. Ant that has a gun = Militant
8. Ant that is fat = Abundant.
9. A proud ant = Arrogant??
10. Ant that is cruel and oppressive = Tyrant
11. Ant that is friendly and lovely = Coolant
12. Ant that changed from evil to good deeds = Repentant
13. Ant that accumulated so much food in winter for summer = Abundant
14. Ant that doesn't need a change: Reluctant
15. An ant that keeps financial account = Accountant
16. Ant that occupies a flat = Occupant.
17. Very big ant = Giant
18. The best ant = Excellent??
19. Big ant = Elephant
20. Ant that is important = Significant
21. A sarcastic Ant = Mordant
22. An extremely fast ant = Instant
23. Shouting Ant = Rant
24. An ant that doesn't change = Constant.
25. A dirty Ant = Pollutant
26. An ant that keeps bothering people = Irritant
27. Ant that is a specialist = Consultant??

Submitted by Barrie Fox

-Never thought orthopedic shoes would really work for me. But I stand corrected.

Once upon a time there was a king who was only 12 inches tall. He was a terrible king but he made a great ruler.

A Mexican magician says he will disappear on the count of 3. He says: "Uno, dos ..." Poof. He disappeared without a tres.

I wrote a book on how to fall down the stairs. It's a step by step guide.

My son was chewing on electric cords, so I had to ground him. It's OK, though. He's doing better and conducting himself properly.

My friend claims that he "accidentally" glued himself to his autobiography, but I don't believe him. But that's his story and he's sticking to it.

An armed man ran into a real estate agency and shouted: "Nobody move."

I asked the surgeon if I could administer my own anesthetic. He said, "Sure. Knock yourself out!"

I got into a fight today with 1,3,5,7 and 9. The odds were really against me.

In Britain it's called a lift but Americans call it an elevator. I guess we were just raised differently.

97% of people are stupid. Glad I'm in the other 5%.

The Lord said to John, "Come forth and ye shall receive eternal life." But John came fifth and got a toaster instead.

AND FINALLY,
I have 2 unwritten rules:

- 1.
- 2.

HOLY WEEK WORD SEARCH

Words may be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal,
Forward or backward, and may overlap.

X N E N A M E S H T E G D P U
I A H D I I X R O O S T E R N
R X U O O S N P C H Z T I E F
P E F T S N U H F E E V E X V
P R S U H A K S A R L B G R L
P H A U K O N E E R S P E I R
L P A Y R L R N Y J R V M F F
I H L R E R U I A N O E G E B
S U I F I R E V T S S E S R T
I P N S D S Z C S Y L A A T L
G I R E P S E A T B N N D J F
N L B E Y D P E A I C B H U G
S A D C G B H R S H O E V S J
N T E U R U A W E D L N W W A
R E I D H P I S R I N O M I S
O X R D A N O I N T E D N O R
H T U A Q A L D Y N A H T E B
T Z B S A F G L A Y A R T E B

ANOINTED
ARREST
AUTHORITY
BETHANY
BETRAYAL
BRANCHES
BURIED
DONKEY
FIG

GETHSEMANE
HOSANNA
JESUS
JUDAS
PARABLE
PASSOVER
PETER
PHARISEES
PILATE

PRAYER
RESURRECTION
ROOSTER
SADDUCEES
SIGN
SIMON
TEMPLE
THORNS