

BY GEORGE

154 Years

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Christ is Risen	p.1
A Reflection	p.3
Church of Messiah	p.4
St. Paul A.B.C.	P. 6
Conference follow up	p.8
Resurrection is Key	p.9

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!



I do a great deal of my study and prayerful sermon preparation in William's Coffee

Pub. It is just one small missional choice that I make. While preparing for Easter, I struck up a great conversation with one of the girls who pours my coffee. Her question was natural and honest. "How can you believe that Jesus rose from the dead?" Immediately I turned the conversation to a testimony of what the risen Christ had done in my life. I know Jesus rose from the dead because He is alive and at work in my life, in my family, in His church and in the world. He sustains all things by the word of His power. A dead man can't do that.

After our conversation I did a search to see how others view the resurrection. John Charles Ryle, Bishop of Liverpool, was one of my heroes. Known as a vigorous preacher, his biblical ministry has been a blessing to many. His writing encourages preachers to this day. According to Bishop Ryle "[The resurrection of Jesus] is the seal and headstone of the great work of redemption, which He came to do. It is the crowning proof that He has paid the debt which He undertook to pay on our behalf, won the battle which He fought to deliver us from hell, and is accepted as our Surety and our Substitute by our Father in heaven. Had He never come forth from the prison of the grave, how could we ever have been sure that our ransom had been paid in full? (1 Cor 15:7) Had He never risen from His conflict with the last enemy, how

(Continued on page 2)



He is not
here; He
has risen!



(Continued from page 1)

could we have felt confident, that He has overcome death, and him that had the power of death, that is the devil (Heb 2:14) But thanks be to God, we are not left in doubt. The Lord Jesus really rose again for our justification.” J. C. Ryle, Expository Thoughts on the Gospels. 1856.

When commenting on Easter, Ryle used these words: seal, crowning proof, Surety and Substitute.

More than being just a moment in time, Jesus’ resurrection is loaded with meaning for the Christian. When God works the miracle of faith and belief in your heart, your response to the empty tomb is repentance and joy. Jesus’ triumph over the grave seals your redemption. Easter is not a season of doubt and questioning, but of faith and certainty.

When Jesus rose from the grave, God vindicated Him. The Christian looks at Jesus’ resurrection and is assured that Christ REALLY accomplished salvation on the cross. That is why Ryle calls the resurrection of Jesus the “crowning proof that He has paid the debt which He undertook to pay on our behalf”. In Jesus’ victory over the grave we see a strong Saviour, one who has defeated the final enemy. He has accomplished what He set out to do - defeat sin, hell, death and the devil. In so doing, he set us free to be a people Holy to God.

Jesus, the one who defeated sin and death is the one we trust as our Saviour, Redeemer and Friend. No more doubt.

Dear St. George’s, I pray that this Easter season will bring you confidence and certainty that your salvation has been sealed by the death and resurrection of Jesus. I pray that you will confidently celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. I pray that the resurrected Jesus would, Himself, grip your heart giving you joy and hope in the certain knowledge that by His death and resurrection He has cancelled your sins and defeated your final enemy.

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

Ray David Glenn

How can you believe that Jesus rose from the dead?

John Piper, a contemporary author, pastor at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota, answers this question online in an article with the title,

“Eight Reasons Why I Believe that Jesus Rose from the Dead”

You can find this at:

www.crosswalk.com/spirituallife/11530966/page0

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

A Reflection

Today dear Lord I learned again of your power and might to save us if we turn to you and repent of any wrongdoing or omission.

You allow us to come boldly and confidently into your presence, by the might of your saving love and mercy.

All you did for us at Calvary, the blows you protected us from, your spilt blood to make us clean, the nails and the cross; the world was dark, we were lost and shamed. You went to hell for us, you held it back for us, so we might enter a far better place, with the Father in heaven.

No sin can enter that Holy place, so we had to be forgiven. One came for us to offer the cleansing necessary. The ransom for 'many' had to be made... and the Son was given for that very task.

You rose again, death was defeated, you broke the chains that held us. What love, what 'mercy'! The giver and the gift...

The might of our God came down to us and delivered us... He is with us still as Holy Spirit, keeping, holding, loving, blessing. So mighty, so true.

What assurance we have, what comfort for all who believe. Happy Easter indeed!

Annette Harris



The Garden Tomb

Some believe that this might have been the site of Joseph of Arimathea's grave where Jesus was buried and where He rose again. As well as the tomb, there is evidence of a garden that existed at the time of the crucifixion, and evidence of an ancient church, showing that not only some modern Christians but also some ancient ones thought that this could be the special tomb.



"O death, where is your sting?"



Church of the Messiah News

Let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

1 John 3:18 NKJV

Easter is upon us, and we are looking forward to celebrating the resurrection of our Lord. In Sunday school we have been explaining Lent to the children. What a joy it has been to see what God has done in their lives over the past weeks. They have opened up to us, and as we gather every week, Peter also emphasizes to them the love of Jesus. Before we head into Sunday school each week we sing 'Jesus loves me'. Peter felt that if they got nothing else from Sunday school they needed to know the love of Jesus. God has opened many opportunities for us as we witness to them. For the first time in their lives they are learning some of the familiar stories from the Bible and they continue to have a love for God's word as they memorize Bible verses. We are planning an Easter egg hunt for Easter Sunday and we look forward to the joy it will bring them and hopefully an opportunity to witness to more children in the community of Norwich.

I have been reading "Living Beyond the Limits" by Franklin Graham, and it is really speaking to me about what God has called us to be. He wrote, "That means reaching out beyond our church walls; beyond our race, perhaps; certainly our close circle of friends. We'll have to learn how to take the love of God to those who count themselves our enemies, to those who even wish us harm." As I read this, it became clear that God is calling us all to reach beyond the walls of our church.

One of our members who does just that is Debby; she has the heart of an evangelist. Over the past months God has been leading us into the community to welcome strangers, and so we have taken to the streets to invite them to meet Jesus. On our regular Saturday morning visits to the Salvation Army store, I witness the love of Christ in Debby as she invites all she meets to join us on Sunday mornings. One Sunday morning, one of the men we had spoken to actually came to church, showing us what God can do when we step out in faith. On another occasion we met an older lady whose husband was not well; right on the main street of Norwich, Debby asked if we could pray for her. God calls us all to reach out to the hurting and the lost. I'm reminded of the disciples who left everything to follow Jesus when he called them to be fishers of men not just sitters in a comfortable fishing boat.

The past few weeks have been busy ones, but especially for Barbara. Barb has made the difficult decision to move from her current home into an apartment, yet she has joyfully watched God moving mountains in her life. She has shown us much hospitality over

"Death is swallowed up in victory."

the past two years as we met at her home for our Bible studies on Wednesday nights. Not long ago, Barb broke the news that she would be moving; through prayer God had revealed to her that this was His will for her. But, it means changes for the Bible Study group. We have been together for over two years, and while we have formed spiritual bonds, we know God is calling us to move on. We have now decided that it is time to divide into two home groups, enabling us to be witnesses in the communities of Delhi and Norwich. This has been a difficult decision for us, but once again we must step out in faith and go where God leads us. This is an opportunity for us to reach the lost in both communities and to witness to the gospel. God is indeed building His bride. That very first Bible study at Barb's started us on a journey which has led to the Church of the Messiah. God knows this next chapter and we can follow Jesus with confidence, trusting in Him, because God is Good!

Church of the Messiah has been meeting at the Upper Deck in Norwich for over a year now. Once a year the Upper Deck has a fundraising Bowl-a-thon in which we have participated for the second year in a row. It is important to partner with them and to get to know the leaders and the children. Debby, her daughter Chloe and I, along with three others formed a team and spent the afternoon bowling. The money from 'sponsors' helps cover operating costs of the Upper Deck in Norwich. We had the opportunity to meet some of the volunteers and more of the children. As many of you know, we have been blessed with some of these kids joining us for Sunday school. We went representing Church of the Messiah and I had the 'honour' of the lowest score overall. Jackie, Director of the Upper Deck, presented me with my 'prize', (a little package of bowling pins and a plastic ball) and told me to go home and practice for next year. God gives us many gifts and I am afraid bowling is not one of mine.

In closing, thank you, members of St. George's for your prayers and support. I would ask you to continue lifting us up in prayer. Please pray for God's anointing on our Bible studies, for boldness in our witness in Norwich and Delhi, for our children to understand that Jesus does love them. Pray for an outpouring of God's Holy Spirit across this nation; pray for all the church plants remembering especially the Toronto Project and St. Paul Anglican Bible Church. Thank you for sending Peter; he is such a blessing to us all!

Sheilagh Roloson



"You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" Acts 1: 8



"O death, where is your sting?"



St Paul Anglican Bible Church News

What a busy Lent it has been for the leadership of St Paul ABC!

The big news is that Jim, John and Zandra attended the Anglican 1000 Church Planting Summit in Plano, Texas at the end of February. They were blessed by the many informational workshops, and particularly by the opportunity to share and fellowship with other planters: some with lots of experience and advice, and others, newbies like us, with stories of successes and struggles. They returned home full of information, ideas, encouragement and renewed zeal for the St Paul project. God revealed to each of them during the summit that we need to take a step or two back and look at how we are doing ministry in Stoney Creek.



We started this adventure with over a year of prayer, study, and discernment before beginning worship services in the carport last summer. At that time we all knew that the Lord was leading us to be more active and present in the community; we see now that weekly Sunday services perhaps shouldn't have been the first step.

With the support of Rev. Ray David and Rev. Keith Stodart we continue to pray, listen, and explore ways to serve Christ in Stoney Creek. We feel God is telling us it is time to get formal church plant training and coaching to help us identify the next steps for our ministry. So, in early May, the Pennylegions and the Carrieres will travel to Chantilly, Virginia for 3 days of intensive training with Rev. Tom Herrick at the Titus Institute. The Titus Institute (www.tituschurchplanting.org) is "dedicated to recruiting, assessing, training, coaching and supporting the catalytic leaders who will plant the new churches in the 21st Century. It is our belief that new churches are the most effective means of seeking out those who are estranged from God and bringing them into a Spirit-filled, life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ that will impact not only their lives but their communities as well". That's just what we want to do! Please pray with and for us as they help us develop a ministry model and strategic plan for the Stoney Creek project.

In the meantime we have decided to simplify our services on lay-led Sundays. We have started using the Church of Ireland liturgy for worship, as we find it more familiar than the Kenyan Rite we had been using, while still offering more contemporary language.

We anticipate with excitement having Bishop Charlie celebrate the Eucharist with us on Palm Sunday, and we are looking forward to our first Easter together with Father Keith.

www.stpaulabc.ca

(Continued on page 7)

"Death is swallowed up in victory."

(Continued from page 6)

Besides Church Planting...

Jim was very blessed by the opportunity to attend the annual Clergy Retreat in Sumas Washington in mid-March. He is wrapping up another semester of study at McMaster Divinity College and a pastoral placement with the Church of the Good Shepherd, St Catharines.

Zandra gives thanks and praise to God (as she tries to catch her breath and rest her feet) from a very busy March marketing and launching her new Postpartum Doula business, New Mom Care. What's a doula? See her website www.newmomcare.ca.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise Him all creatures here below, praise Him above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.


Kaelyn London Kerr
St. George's newest member, daughter of Angela and Derek, and sister to Chris, Brayden, Timothy, and Jordyn.



**Thank you
to St. George's:**

We felt so blessed and warmly received into your 'family' when Ian's mom died. Thank you for your prayers and everything everyone did to help. God bless you. We pray for you too.

Love,
Anne, Ian and the family
on behalf of Sylvia Jones.



"O death, where is your sting?"



Conference follow up

Are You Healed?

During Bishop Malcolm Harding's visit for the "Leaning into the Spirit" conference there was a significant moving of the Holy Spirit amongst us at St. George's, and among the people who came from other parts of the region. Praise be to God!

Many people were blessed in different ways, and God was gracious to heal people of both spiritual and bodily ills. I can testify that at least two people have told me of their physical healing. We would like to know if there are more people that have been healed so that God may be further praised and glorified.

If you feel comfortable in doing so, you are invited to let one of the clergy know how you have been blessed and/or healed. We will abide in strict confidentiality, and your anonymity and privacy will be maintained.

To God be the glory!

Rev. Keith

Greetings to all,

At this time may I extend my deepest thanks to all of you for the varied roles you played led by God's Spirit in the recent parish renewal weekend. I sensed the winds of the Holy Spirit blowing in some mighty ways during the weekend and may the Lord now lead you into new and exciting areas of ministry. My flight was delayed three hours in Toronto due to mechanical problems which caused me to miss the 5.30 p.m. Shuttle to Brandon and I finally arrived home at around 11.00 p.m. As in times past I found the airport a great place to have an extended nap.

Once again dear brothers and sisters in Christ my deepest thanks to all of you and all those who served with you for such prayerful and detailed pre-conference planning, so warmly welcoming me into your faith community and providing throughout such gracious hospitality and a most generous honorarium

Please convey my love in the Lord to all the saints and servants of St. George's.

In Jesus,
Bishop Malcolm

"Death is swallowed up in victory."

THE RESURRECTION IS KEY

Studying the Book of Acts we find that from the very first moment that they stood up to preach, the apostles proclaimed the resurrection [see Acts 2, 3, 4, 7, 10, 13, 17, 23, 24, 26]. From the very first they connected everything to it. The resurrection is central to the Gospel. From the very birth of the church at Pentecost, the apostles gave bold and clear witness to the resurrection and to the essential truths that follow from it.

Jesus is the hope of Israel

Everything connects. The resurrection is key to the hope of Israel. Paul said in defence before the council of the Jews, “*It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial.*” [Acts 23: 6], and to the local leaders of the Jews in Rome, “*It is because of the hope of Israel that I am wearing this chain*” [Acts 28:20]. From the very first moment after the Spirit came, the apostles read the Old Testament Scripture with new eyes, new understanding. They read the Scriptures the way that Jesus did. Jesus himself had said: “*Thus it is written that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things*” [Luke 24: 46 – 48].

This gives us great riches from the Old Testament Scriptures. Indeed we should not abandon the Old Testament Scriptures as some of our contemporaries do. They are our riches: Psalm 16, and Psalm 110 that Peter cites with reference to the resurrection; Isaiah 25: 7 – 9 “*And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, ‘Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation’*”; also Isaiah 53, and many other Scriptures as well. They are our riches. The Scriptures are from one Author and should be read that way. They declare one hope, one Lord, one Messiah and Saviour. They declare the resurrection!

Jesus is Lord

*“He is Lord! He is Lord!
He is risen from the dead and He is Lord!
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess,
that Jesus Christ is Lord!”*

(Continued on page 10)



“O death, where is your sting?”



Our worship song is actually the message of the apostles from the first moment they took up their witness at the coming of the Holy Spirit. Jesus rose from the dead demonstrating in power that He is Lord. It is as Paul said: “Concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh, and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, . . .” [Romans 1: 3 – 4]. This message rang out to those who gathered to witness the uproar of Spirit-filled praises: “*Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified* [Acts 2:36]; and to those who gathered at Cornelius’ house: “*He is Lord of all*” [Acts 10:36]. It is written that Paul too, when he came to Thessalonica, went into the synagogue “*and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying ‘This Jesus whom I proclaim to you is the Christ’*” [Acts 17:2, 3].

Jesus forgives sin

Jesus had said “*Thus it is written that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things*” [Luke 24: 46 – 48]. That is exactly what the apostles were. They were witnesses of the death and resurrection of the Christ. And they proclaimed repentance and faith for the forgiveness of sins. From the very day of Pentecost, the apostles proclaimed repentance and forgiveness of sins by the name of the risen Lord Jesus Christ. “*Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit*” [Acts 2:38]. Not too long afterwards, Peter before the rulers and elders boldly declared: “*Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this [crippled] man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved*” [Acts 4: 10 – 12]. Jesus, risen from the dead, is the Saviour; He forgives sin.

Jesus is the Judge

But Jesus, the risen Lord, is also the Judge of the living and the dead. The Lord Jesus is not only the gracious Saviour; He is the righteous Judge. This was taught not as a threat; it was a statement of fact and truth, taught by Jesus himself, and taught by the apostles. The Gospel message requires this teaching. Peter teaching Cornelius and his household and friends said: “*But God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgive-*

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

ness of sins through his name” [Acts 10:40 -43]. Paul preached repentance to the men of Athens in the midst of the Areopagus, also declaring this same truth: “*But now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead*” [Acts 17:30, 31]. Without judgment there is no need for grace. The Gospel requires the clear preaching of judgment, not just grace alone. The Gospel requires repentance and faith in the risen Jesus.

Jesus is Life

The Lord Jesus is the first one, the first to rise from the dead, not the only one. “*You denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and you killed the Author of life whom God raised from the dead*” [Acts 3: 15], Peter said to the people when Jesus, the Author of life, had just given a lame beggar “perfect health.” Jesus is the Author of life for us, not just for himself. Paul also said in his passionate witness before Agrippa: “*And so I stand testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass: that Christ must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles*” [Acts 26: 22,23]. Jesus was the first to rise from the dead. His resurrection is the proof of his life-giving power, the proof of our resurrection to follow.

Jesus is coming

From the beginning, Jesus’ second coming was expected and taught. Even to the crowd that gathered after the miraculous healing of the blind beggar, Peter proclaimed: “*Repent therefore and turn again that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago*” [Acts 3: 19 - 21]. Jesus’ return follows from the resurrection. He must come again to restore “all the things about which God spoke through the prophets”. The Scriptures that speak of the death and the resurrection of Jesus also speak of the Lord’s Coming and of the “times of refreshing” and the “restoring of all things”.

Some might think that the apostles stood and spoke a few rambling thoughts of witness when they had the opportunity. Actually they were very direct and very clear. They gave clear witness to the resurrection and to the truths that follow from it. They gave this message which was the same message as the prophets of the Old Testament Scriptures, the same message as Jesus; they gave this message to Jew and Gentile alike, and they gave it in the power of the Holy Spirit. And there was a harvest, an amazing harvest.

In our day whether we speak to those with a church background or to those with no background at all, this must be our message too, and we must speak in the power of the Holy Spirit. There will be a harvest!

Mary Ann Masters



“O death, where is your sting?”

<p>St. George's Anglican Church, Lowville, member congregation of the Anglican Network in Canada and part of the Anglican Church in North America</p> <p>Rector: Rev. Ray David Glenn Pastoral Assistant: Rev. Ken Bombay Honorary Assistants: Rev. Deacon Garth Hunt Rev. Greg McVeigh Rev. Peter Parent Rev. Keith Stodart</p> <p>Worship Pastor: Bryan Hunt Ministry Coordinator: Naomi Neeb Church Secretary: Donna Rigo</p> <p>Crossroads Centre Chapel, 1295 North Service Road, Burlington 9:00 am Morning Prayer or Holy Communion, and Sunday school</p> <p>10: 45 family service, nursery and Sun- day school</p> <p>6:30 p.m., evening service at Milton Bible Church, Main Street, Milton</p> <p>church office: 1-905- 335 6222 email: office@stgchurch.ca Web Site: www. stgeorgeslowville.org By George editors: J. Masters, M. Masters email: mmasters@bserv.com</p>	<p><i>1 CORINTHIANS 15: 51-58</i></p> <p>Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.</p> <p>For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality,</p> <p>then shall come to pass the saying that is written:</p> <p>"Death is swallowed up in victory." "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"</p> <p>The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.</p>
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