

# Christian Church of God Magazine

Spring Issue 2014

*Hello My Brothers & Sisters in Christ,*

As we usher in the spring Holy Days we are bathed in the spiritual water of life as we observe the New Testament Passover. We will come together Passover Sunday, April the 13<sup>th</sup>, to partake of the sacraments of bread and wine, grateful for the gift of grace offered through the death of our Passover Lamb and thankful for the gift of eternal life made possible through our Messiah's resurrection. Following this we will celebrate the first Day of Unleavened Bread, Tuesday, April 15, and the last Day of Unleavened Bread, Monday, April 21, giving thanks for the replacement of the spiritual leavening of sin in our lives with the bread, made without hands, that came down from Heaven, the one and only Jesus Christ!

Think back to the resurrection miracle Jesus performed during His 3½ year ministry on this earth; the

unbelievable moment when He raised His friend Lazarus from the dead (John 11:1-19). When Lazarus died, his sisters were hurt and angry for they had sent for Jesus, but after delaying His departure, their brother was dead by the time He arrived. Martha's first words to Jesus revealed her disappointment and anger. "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died!"

*The Pastor's Pen*

The Messiah shared her sorrow, was moved, wept and more... He showed He is the LORD of life, of the grave, of eternity. He raised Lazarus' cold, lifeless body from the grave and restored him to life! Note what Jesus told His disciples upon word of Lazarus' illness. "Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up." And then He told them why, "This sickness is not unto death, but **for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.**" ➡ pg.4



Let Christ himself be your example as to what your attitude should be. For he, who had always been God by nature, did not cling to his prerogatives as God's equal, but stripped himself of all privilege by consenting to be a slave by nature and being born as mortal man. And, having become man, he humbled himself by living a life of utter obedience, even to the extent of dying, and the death he died was the death of a common criminal. That is why God has now lifted him so high, and has given him the name beyond all names, so that at the name of Jesus "every knee shall bow", whether in Heaven or earth or under the earth. And that is why, in the end, "every tongue shall confess" that Jesus Christ is the Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Phil 2:5-11, Phillips NT)

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## MEDIA

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# Prayer Requests

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" . . . The prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up; . . . Pray for one another that you may be healed." — James 5:15-16. / "You've kept track of my every toss and turn through the sleepless nights, Each tear entered in your ledger, each ache written in your book." —Psalms 56:8 MSG)

**Linda Booth:** Underwent a lumpectomy, February 25th. She will know later this month if radiation is required.

**Francis Carlson:** Has been diagnosed with Chiari Malformation (portion of brain protrudes into spine).

**Amber & Dylan Clark:** Grandchildren of Betty Clark, cerebral palsy.

**Betty Clark:** She experiences pulmonary difficulty.

**Jon Clark:** Son of Betty, is experiencing health issues including Mersa.

**Vickie Crevoj:** Sister of Linda Booth, Chronic Progressive MS.

**Elisabeth & Simon Desmond:** Health & family issues.

**Velvet Green:** Suffers from schizophrenia and is responding sporadically to medications.

**Harry Gonzales:** Diagnosed with Lupus.

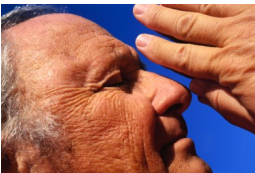
**Martha McClenagan:** Paralysis of her vocal cord is causing difficulty speaking

**Dollie Meil:** She suffers with cerebral palsy and lung problems.

**Regina O'Quinn:** Niece of Reba Bailey, was diagnosed with uterine cancer. She will be undergoing further tests & consults to determine protocol.

**Lewis Trammel:** Weldon McAlister's brother-in-law, has been hospitalized with a severe infection following complications from heart surgery.

IF YOU HAVE UPDATES OR NEW REQUESTS PLEASE INFORM THE EDITOR.



# Celebrations

MARCH			
<u>Birthdays:</u>		<u>Anniversaries:</u>	
Linda Booth	3-11	Glennis & Weldon McAlister	4/24
Dollie Meil	3-12	MAY	
Jerry McClenagan	3-23	<u>Birthdays:</u>	
Betty Clark	3-25	Glennis McAlister	5-4
Lydia Salazar	3-25	Linda Sehorn	5-16
Weldon McAlister	3-27	Jeff Booth	5-19
Martha McClenagan	3-31	Joe Kirkpatrick	5-19
<u>Anniversaries:</u>		Thomas Vines	5-19
Manual & Lydia Salazar	3-17	<u>Anniversaries:</u>	
APRIL		Shannon & Russ Stephens	5-20
<u>Birthdays:</u>		Bill & Jackie Ballew	5-24
James Vines	4/26		
Damaris Green	4/29		

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His purpose was not to just add a few more years to Lazarus' life in the flesh, for that is but a vapor according to James. No, His purpose was to give to Mary, Martha, the Apostles and all of us who have followed tangible assurance of His power over death!

Lazarus had been dead for four days when Jesus told Martha, *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die."* He then rolled the stone away from the tomb commanding Lazarus to rise and come forth. When His friend did indeed rise and walk out of that tomb to the joy and amazement of Mary, Martha and the disciples, Jesus had demonstrably proved His point. This precursor to His own resurrection must not be lost upon us.

*"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death."* (1 Cor 15:22-26)

At Passover, a memorial of our Savior's death, we shall partake of the sacraments of our Lord, the bread and wine of His broken body and shed blood. Anew we accept His sacrifice of death for our sins, but the story does not end with His death. Forgiveness for sins is not the end, but rather a means to the end.

His enemies thought they had vanquished Him. As they saw His cold, lifeless body wrapped in a shroud, they thought they had heard the last from this troublesome prophet, but three days later, their joy was gone, their "victory" fleeting, for

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they could not prevent Jesus, the Son of God, rising from the dead as promised. Just as Lazarus' tomb stone was rolled away, so to had our Savior's stone rolled away from the garden tomb where He had been placed after the crucifixion. It was His final testimony to His eternal victory over the power of death and the grave... the chains of death and the prison of the grave had been rolled away with that stone.

Mary Magdalene, Peter and John were astounded when they peered into that empty tomb early that Sunday morning after the Passover. Christ was risen... risen indeed! And because Jesus is risen, the dead in Christ shall be raised. So while all of us have lost loved ones, and all of us face our own mortality, we are not without hope as the Godless are, for Jesus put His life on the line, so that death could not, would not have the last word. When the God of creation who had the first word, walked out of that stony tomb, He showed to all that He has the last word. He is the Alpha and the Omega.

*"So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"*(1 Cor 15:54-55 KJV)  
He who lives again fulfills the hope of the dead and will make us live again... indeed we are not without hope.

*In His Service,*

*Jeff Booth*



## **Christian Passover/Lord's Supper**

**Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>**

Footwashing Ceremony = 7:30 pm.  
Sacrament Service = 8:00 p.m.

**First Day of Unleavened Bread**  
**Tues., April 15<sup>th</sup>**

Holyday Worship Service = 11:45 a.m.

**Last Day of Unleavened Bread**  
**Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>**

Holyday Worship Service = 11:45 a.m.

**Pentecost**  
**Sunday, June 8th**

Holyday Worship Service = 11:45 a.m.

To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever! "Rev

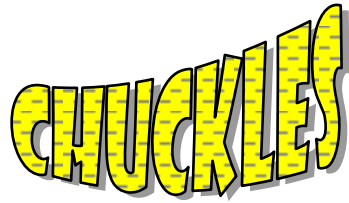


### **THE PSALM OF THE CROSS/22<sup>ND</sup>**

It may have been actually repeated word by word by our Lord when hanging on the tree; it would be too bold to say that it was so, but even a casual reader may see that it might have been. It begins with, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" and ends, according to some, in the original with "It is finished." For plaintive expressions uprising from unutterable depths of woe we may say of this psalm, "there is none like it." It is the photograph of our Lord's saddest hours, the record of his dying words, the lachrymatory of his last tears, the memorial of his expiring joys. David and his afflictions may be here in a very modified sense, but, as the star is concealed by the light of the sun, he who sees Jesus will probably neither see nor care to see David. Before us we have a description both of the darkness and of the glory of the cross, the sufferings of Christ and the glory which shall follow. Oh for grace to draw near and see this great sight! We should read reverently, putting off our shoes from off our feet, as Moses did at the burning bush, for if there be holy ground anywhere in Scripture it is in this psalm.—Treasury of David, The

READ THE ENTIRE 22ND PSALM AND MEDITATE ON EVERY PHRASE. IT IS A VITAL PROPHETIC PSALM THAT REVEALS THE HUMANITY OF JESUS, SHOWING IN DEPTH HIS SUFFERING AND DEATH. INDEED, IT IS THE TWIN PASSAGE OF ISAIAH 53.





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A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit saps a person’s strength. (Proverbs 17:22,NLT)



Heartbeats<sup>8</sup>  
Editorial  
Jerry McClenagan

Guard your heart more than anything else, because the source of your life flows from it. ~Proverbs 4:23 (GW)

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40 years of ministry prepared Pastor Lou for his retirement years.

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"Blog unto others as you would have them blog unto you. Spam not, lest ye be spammed! Though I surf through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no virus..."

**GOD WITH US:** INCARNATION: God become flesh/IMMANUEL: God with us.

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14, NKJV) / *"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,"* which is translated, 'God with us.' (Matt 1:23, NKJV).

**GOD WITHIN US:**

As Jesus finalized his ministry on earth in the flesh, he said this to his followers (John 16, NIV):

"I did not tell you this at first because I was with you. . . . **5** Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' **6** Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief. **7** But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. **8** When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: **9** in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; **10** in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; **11** and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. **12** "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. **13** But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. **14** He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. **15** All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you. . . .<sup>24</sup> Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. **25** "Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father. **26** In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. **27** No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. **28** I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father."

Now, the Resurrected, 'alive forevermore' Christ, soon to ascend back to his Father, would be within the Believers, who would later be called Christians. The first two chapters of Acts show the powerful and dramatic experience of the disciples as they were baptized with the Holy Spirit, filled to overflowing as God's Spirit was poured out on them. Thereafter, the inspired writers of the New Testament would frequently express the truth about Christ's indwelling their bodies, the temple of the Holy Spirit. They would become the Church, infused with power, walking in grace, spreading the Gospel. Acts 1:<sup>6</sup> When they were together for the last time they asked, "Master, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now? Is this the time?" <sup>7</sup> He told them, "You don't get to know the time. Timing is the Father's business. <sup>8</sup> What you'll get is the Holy Spirit. And when the Holy Spirit comes on you, you will be able to be my witnesses. . . .even unto the ends of the world."

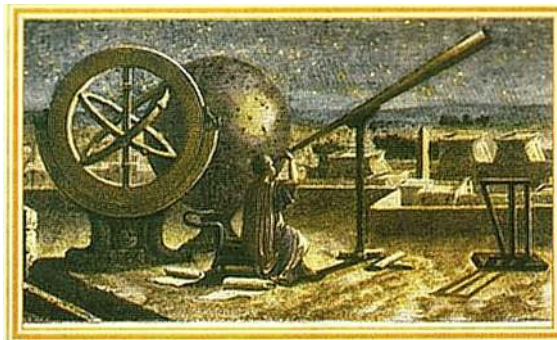
# Perspective

The Incarnation of [Christ](#) is a central Christian doctrine that God became flesh, assumed a human nature, and became a man in the form of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. . . . This foundational Christian position holds that the divine nature of the Son of God was perfectly united with human nature in one divine Person, [Jesus](#), making him both truly God and truly man. . . . The Son, became flesh when he was miraculously conceived in the womb of [the Virgin Mary](#).<sup>[6]</sup> Biblical passages traditionally referenced in connection with the doctrine of the Incarnation include [John 1:14](#), Colossians 2:9, and [Philippians 2:7-8](#). ~Wikipedia

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. John 1:1-3 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. John 17:5 (NKJV)

<sup>37</sup> "I know that you are Abraham's descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. <sup>38</sup> I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father." <sup>39</sup> They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. <sup>40</sup> But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. <sup>41</sup> You do the deeds of your father." Then they said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father--God." <sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. John 8:37-42 (NKJV)



# Door Openers



NO OPEN DOOR, BUT FAITH AND EFFORT FOUND A WAY

<sup>17</sup> Now it happened on a certain day, as He was teaching, that there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come out of every town of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was *present* to heal them. <sup>18</sup> Then behold, men brought on a bed a man who was paralyzed, whom they sought to bring in and lay before Him. <sup>19</sup> And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with *his* bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus. <sup>20</sup> When He saw their faith, He said to him, "Man, your sins are forgiven you." <sup>21</sup> And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" <sup>22</sup> But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, "Why are you reasoning in your hearts? <sup>23</sup> Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise up and walk'? <sup>24</sup> But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"--He said to the man who was paralyzed, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." <sup>25</sup> Immediately he rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. <sup>26</sup> And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen strange things today!" Luke 5:17-26 (NKJV)

It was James that declared, "Faith without works is dead." There is an element of action required in the exercise of faith. Three things stand out here:

1. They were Amazed
2. They Glorified God
3. They were Filled with Fear (awe)

They weren't focused on their faith, but Jesus recognized their actions of faith and acknowledged it by blessing the paralytic with forgiveness and healing.

... when the  
fullness of the  
time had come,

God sent forth His Son, born of a woman,  
born under the law, <sup>s</sup> to redeem those who  
were under the law, that we might receive  
the adoption as sons. Gal 4:4-5 (NKJV)



*In Christ there is all of God in a human body (Colossians 2:9, TLB).*

Jesus was not a godlike man, nor a manlike God. He was God-man.

Midwifed by a carpenter.

Bathed by a peasant girl.

The maker of the world with a bellybutton.

The author of the Torah being taught the Torah.

Heaven's human. And because he was, we are left with scratch-  
your-head, double-blink, what's-wrong-with-this-picture? moments like  
these:

A cripple sponsoring the town dance.

A sack lunch satisfying five thousand tummies.

What do we do with such moments?

What do we do with such a person? We applaud men for doing  
good things. We enshrine God for doing great things. But when a man does  
God things?

One thing is certain, we can't ignore him.

~Next Door Savior, Max Lucado

God became man to turn creatures into sons; not simply  
to produce better men of the old kind but to produce  
a new kind of man. ~ C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

## Christian Church of God

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