



Good News: Jesus Died!

He arose! That's what Easter is about. Ah, but not so fast. Unless you've been living in a deep, dark cave, you know that there are some folks who question that Jesus really died the way the Scripture says he did. Thirteen centuries ago, in fact, the Koran stated flatly that Jesus did not die on a cross. Some Muslims believe that Jesus actually escaped to India and they mark his tomb in Srinagar, Kashmir.

Few, if any, Christians actually doubted the death of Jesus until the 18th century, when something called the "swoon" theory was advanced. Karl Friedrich Bahrdt, described by one as a "German theologian and adventurer," lived a life best and most discreetly described as "torturous." Because of his brilliant mind he was appointed to a number of prestigious teaching posts, but because of the scandals of his personal life—sexual, financial, and domestic—he was dismissed or suspended regularly. He published a translation of the New Testament that was ridiculed so universally by the scholarly community that what was left of his career was ended.

His theory about Jesus (as explained by Lee Strobel in *The Case for Easter*) was that Jesus only fainted from exhaustion on the cross, or that he had been given a drug that made him appear to die, and that he had been later revived by the cool, damp air of the tomb. Hence, Jesus' reappearance wasn't a miraculous resurrection but merely a "fortuitous resuscitation." This theory, dormant for decades, was revived by D. H. Lawrence in 1929 and later in Hugh Schonfield's 1965 book, *The Passover Plot*.

Fact: every signpost in the Gospels says that Jesus did actually die. His flogging (with a whip of braided leather thongs with metal balls woven into them which resulted in deep bruises and contusions), the nails driven through the median nerve in his wrists and his feet, the dislocation of his shoulders when the cross was hoisted into the air, and the respiratory acidosis which led to the irregular heartbeat that finally caused his death of cardiac arrest, all combine to make the swoon option "a fanciful theory without any possible basis in fact" (Alexander Metherell, M.D., Ph.D.). Jesus died. Jesus rose from the dead. Hallelujah!

G. Crowe

Highlights

Our spring retreat was really great. It was a little cold but still a lot of fun. The speaker was very good and spent most of the time talking about how to evaluate ourselves spiritually and the process of growing in maturity. He also gave the students practical methods to use to help them accomplish this task. On Saturday night, we had communion around a firepit and spent time worshipping through song. We finished out our time together on Sunday morning discussing the different pathways to God (e.g. the contemplative pathway, the intellectual pathway, the relational pathway, etc.). Find time to ask a student about it. I think they really enjoyed the weekend!

In a week and a half (April 21) we have our annual Root Beer Keg Party. We would love for you to help us by providing some baked goodies for that! If you can help with that, please feel free to drop them off at the CSC or Elmwood the day of the 21st.

On April 29 at 7:30 pm we will host a graduation banquet for the CSC and for anyone from Elmwood who would like to come. The cost will be \$10/person and we would love to have you all there! Mindy Hart will be available to sell tickets this Sunday after both services in the Farris Foyer. Please join us in celebrating the outstanding achievements of this year's seniors.

~Dan



Kaden Koebcke went home on Monday! Praise God! Though sent home with monitors, he'll not have to have a feeding tube. The McCoys thank God both of their grandsons are now home!...Test results for **A.J. Wilson**, 9-month old son of Leslie & Carl Wilson, were all good!...**Willie Batts** is in Home Hospital, room 3301....Continue praying for **Argie Verett, Tara Eby, Noah Powlen, Sarah Bird, Natasha Risley, Amber Tolle, Phyllis Gray, Ryan Woolard, Mark Eddy, Marie DeWoody, Anna Dale, Delpha Allen, Carrie High** (*Regency Place Nursing Home*), **Irene Fox** (*George Davis Manor Nursing Home*), **Paul & Ruth Marks, Minnie Scott,** and **Burnell Gulden** (*Rosewalk Village*).

Serving in Iraq: **Jon Kiefner, Loren Sniffen,** and **Brad King.** Serving in South Korea near the DMZ: **Amanda Martin** (Phyllis Simmerman's niece).

High School Senior Sunday

This **Sunday, April 16, 6:00 PM**, come enjoy an old-fashioned ice cream social in honor of this year's high school graduates. Contact Sarah Bird (e-mail: semclain82@yahoo.com or phone: 765-714-3552) ASAP if you can provide homemade ice cream or baked goods for this event. **Philip Devine** will be home on leave (having graduated mid-term from West Lafayette High School) to join the other graduating seniors. They include: **Audrey Barnett, Peter Bell, Jay Hodges, Danny Shields, Erin Simmerman, Heather Willison** and **Mallory Woody.** You will be treated to a video presentation.



for Mary McClain & Jared Fee

Everyone is invited to a come-n-go wedding shower for Mary McClain, bride-elect of Jared Fee, on **Sunday, April 30, from 3-5 PM**, in the fellowship room (A-2) of Elmwood Church of Christ. For contributions toward a gift, see Stephanie Barrett, Sherry Marks, Sharon Porter, or Sheryl Willison. Please come and offer your best wishes to Mary and Jared who will be married June 10.

Directory Pictures



The first photographs for Elmwood's new pictorial directory will be taken this **Friday, 3:00 until 9:30 PM; and Saturday, 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM.** Please check in at the hostess table 10-15 minutes before your scheduled appointment. If a change of appointment is necessary, call Farrell Simmerman at 474-6277 or 404-2779. He will try to accommodate your schedule. Though your 8 x 10 picture will be free, any **additional pictures you may wish to order** will need to be paid for at the time of your sitting. Your entire appointment will take approximately one hour of your time.



Gene & Nancy High will celebrate **51 years of marriage** on **April 17.** Congratulations!



I would like to thank everyone for your cards and prayers during my surgery and recovery.

-Phyllis Simmerman

I would like to thank all the snow servants that volunteered to help with snow removal. God did not bless us with much snow this winter, but your servants' hearts were ready and willing to serve. Philippians 2:4 comes to mind when I think of you all.

-David Weckerly



The food pantry is in need of **canned fruit and soup.**

April 9, 2006

Class: 238 Worship: 301

Contribution: \$7,617

Budget: \$8,100

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MWLTC 2006 Marriott East – Indianapolis–April 14-16

Friday

- 3:00 LTC Central Opens
- 3:00 – 5:00 Display Events Check-in (Liberty Hall)
- 4:45 – 6:00 **Bible Reading** (Salon 4, Salon 5, Salon 6, Salon A, and Salon B)
- 6:00 – 8:00 **Puppets** (Salon 4, Salon 5, and Salon 6)
- 8:00 – 8:45 **Welcome Assembly** (Liberty Hall)
- 8:45 – 10:00 **Puppets Session 2** (Salon 6)
- 8:45 – 10:15 **Live Modern Christian Drama** (Salon 4 and Salon 5)
- 10:15 – 11:45 **7th – 12th Grade Devo** (Liberty Hall)

Saturday

- 8:00 – 9:30 **Bible Bowl Session 1** (Jr. level in Salon 4-5-6) (Sr. level in Liberty Hall)
- 8:30 – 10:15 **Bible Reading** (Salon A, Salon B, Salon C, and Salon D)
- 9:00 - ?? Judging of Display Events (Liberty Hall)
- 9:30-9:45 – **Bible Bowl Break**
- 9:45 – 10:30 **Bible Bowl Session 2** (Jr. level in Salon 4-5-6) (Sr. level in Liberty Hall)
- 11:30 – 12:30 **Song Leading & Speeches** (Salon 4, Salon 5, Salon 6, Salon A, and Salon B)
- 12:30 – 1:45 **Lunch Break**
- 1:45 – 3:45 **Small Group Singing** (Salon 4, Salon 5, and Salon 6)
- 4:00 – 5:15 **Signing for the Deaf** (Salon 4, Salon 5, Salon 6, and Salon A)
- 5:15 – 6:30 **Large Group Singing** (Salon 4 and Salon 5)
- 6:30 – 7:30 **Dinner Break**
- 7:30 – 8:00 **Praise Concert** (Liberty Hall)
- 8:00 – 9:30 **Celebration Assembly** (Liberty Hall)

Sunday

- 8:00 **Worship Service** (Liberty Hall)



By now, many of you have met her, but **Cassandra King** and Natasha met in the hospital during Natasha's surgery and recovery. As you might imagine, Natasha made many friends while she was in St. Louis. Cassandra is one of those friends and she came to stay with the Risleys a while back. Since church life is part of who the Risleys are, Cassandra began to come to class and worship with Natasha. She began to ask questions and to study, and her faith began to grow. Just after midnight (Tuesday), before a group of friends, Cassandra confessed her faith in Christ and was baptized. Please welcome this special young lady to the family.

Men's Breakfast, April 22, 7:43 AM

The next Men's Breakfast is scheduled for **April 22, at 7:43 AM in A-2**. Men of all ages are welcome. If you plan to attend, please add your name to the sign-up sheet located in the Farris Foyer. The food is great and the fellowship is even better. Hope to see you there.



- April 12, 7 PM....**Bible classes for all
- April 14-16, 6 PM....**Leadership Training for Christ at Marriott East, Indianapolis
- April 16, 6 PM....**High School Graduation Night; old fashioned ice cream social to honor graduates in Elmwood fellowship room afterwards
- April 21....**Root Beer Keg Party at CSC
- April 22, 7:43 AM....**Men's Breakfast
- April 23 & 30, 6 PM....**LIFE Groups
- April 29, 8:30 AM....**Teacher Training Seminar at Yorktown Rd. Church of Christ in Logansport
- April 29, 7:30 PM....**College Spring Banquet, at the Seattle Beanery; Mindy Hart will be selling tickets after both services in the Farris foyer; cost \$10
- April 30, 3-5 PM....**Wedding Shower for Mary McClain & Jared Fee at Elmwood fellowship room

Read:
Judges 3-16; Psalms 70-76;

2006 Spiritual Adventure

Week 17: April 23-29

In this week's readings from Judges, we notice a recurring theme:

- 1) Israel does evil in the eyes of the Lord
- 2) The Lord gives the Israelites into the hands of their enemies
- 3) Israel cries out for mercy
- 4) The Lord gives Israel a deliverer (Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon and many others)

Now, replace "Israel" in steps 1-4 above with a first-person singular pronoun: *I* do evil, and the Lord allows trials into *my* life, but when *I* cry out for mercy, the Lord delivers *me*.

Do we know God's master plan for our lives? No, we don't. Are there consequences for sinful acts we commit? Yes, there are. But we know that we worship and serve a merciful God, and like the nation of Israel, no matter how often we turn away from God's path, He is always willing to listen and accept us back into the fold when we repent and turn back to Him. Let us always be thankful for the mercies God showers down upon His people.

-Farrell Simmerman