



Volume 23 Issue 4

April 2007

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WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT EASTER?

A few years ago a few preachers were chatting and somebody asked if we'd all seen the (then) new movie, *The Passion of the Christ*. One guy blurted out that he didn't plan to view the Mel Gibson production because 'Easter has little to do with my faith'. Stunned, I listened to him blab on about why the resurrection wasn't a core teaching of his church. I didn't know whether to cry or execute a 'citizen's arrest' on the guy.

Let's make it perfectly clear Christianity is built on the mind-boggling events of a particular week-end we call Easter. On a certain Friday Jesus Christ was impaled on a wooden cross...amazingly, with his full permission. Did the angels hold their breath all Saturday? On Sunday an empty tomb became a megaphone in God's hand to declare a resounding "Yes" to Job's pressing question: 'If a man dies will he live again'?

My faith is all about Easter. Paul said if that story is not true we, of all people, are most to be pitied. If the resurrection story is true, then every other narrative pales in comparison.

Perhaps you have a friend or family member who has yet to see the significance of the cross and the empty tomb. Would you let me tell them those stories this Easter, April 8? Josh McDowell writes that one of the main reasons Christians don't share their



faith is this simple reality: they don't feel confident in telling the Jesus Story.

What do you think? Invite your friend(s) to worship with you that day. Offer to drive. Have them over for lunch or make reservations somewhere. Don't let anything keep you from attending and bringing somebody with you to hear this newscast, albeit 2000 years after the fact.

This story is what saves. Paul says the Gospel is what saves us. It is message of blood and guts and damning sin. Try to tell the story without ripped flesh and the suffocating work of the cross...well you won't have the gospel. It is a tale of love beyond any other love humanity has ever

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known. We are more likely to send chocolates or a bouquet of wild flowers. God sends his son and has him brutalized. There is nothing pretty about it except the abundance of love which brought it all about. But it is this amazing display of love that gets us looking inside ourselves, isn't it? After a harsh assessment of self and the price tag God puts on us at Calvary ("I love you *this* much") I have to drop to my knees in gratitude or shrug it all off and live another day devoted to self.

Salvation will have little appeal to us unless we know we are hell-bound without God's forgiveness extended to us at the cross. It's all part of the story that must be told. I'll be most happy to do the telling.

Here's something else you can do. Bring a card to church with you on April 1, Palm Sunday. Include on the card the names and addresses of folk we can invite to Easter worship. I'll write a letter telling about the Flowering Cross, special music and an interesting message. No pressure...just a bit of nudging.

So...let's not forget Paul's comments about glorying in the cross...or Jesus' talk of being lifted up and drawing all people to him. This is it. I'm a great sinner and Jesus is a great savior. The cross is God's solution to my heart's pollution. It's a dreary tale unless you include the main pieces of the puzzle: a willing sacrifice and a grave that wouldn't take 'no' for an answer.

Love to you,



"WALK WITH ME" CAMPAIGN... HOW'S IT GOING FOR YOU?

At the first of the year I invited you to take a high altitude walk with me. Many of our people jumped on board. The regimen is six-fold. Here's a little reminder:

- 1-Read a Gospel per week and two other New Testament books per month.
- 2-Have a rich conversation with God every day...perhaps using the prayer beads as I do.
- 3-Spend time with our church family, at least weekly if possible.
- 4-Be faithful in blending our finances with those of other church members...stewardship.
- 5-Developing genuine relationships with the intention of strengthening the kingdom.
- 6-Looking for 'God Experiences' in ordinary and unusual places...'OutSideTheWalls.com'

Generally such lofty plans peter out over time. By mid-summer we'd have trouble remembering much of what we promised way back yonder. So here I am, knocking at your door, offering you another chance to jump to your feet and join the parade.

I'll admit that several times I struggled to get a Gospel read, watched or listened to in a given week. But it wasn't failure. I made the promises to myself, not God. And the many, many chapters which were read were beyond what I did last year.

So I encourage you to not give up. Just remember: "We start today!"

Other congregations are walking with us. A young lady called from out of state to say that following this course has been the salvation of her devotional life. It gives her focus and has resulted in a personal and dynamic experience with God. Hallelujah!
Jim Larsen

ROGUE RIDERS...ON THE ROAD AGAIN!

Marie Hoffman and I were talking the other day about Rogue Riders. I had named the group back in 2001 intending for it to sound a bit like Rough Riders...but also wanting to convey that we make treks all over Rogue country. Marie noted that in six years the happy band of travelers has enjoyed 60 trips to interesting places...many more trips than any of us would take if we didn't have a plan.

I'm in hopes that nobody thinks of this as a closed



group. All available adults are invited. You may know that we've gone East to the big museum in Klamath Falls, north to Cottage Grove, west to the Pacific Ocean and south into California.

This year I'm in hopes that we'll offer a couple of overnights in addition to the monthly for-ays. What do you think? The coast is always inviting. That might be a good place to start. We've not participated in many of the events at Grove Camp. How about planning on attending the Seniors Camp late this summer? Come to 39PLUS or this month's edition of Rogue Riders and share your thoughts.

This month's outing will be on April 18. Helen Jane is currently trying to set up a Tour of Pholia Farm, a goat cheese farm on East Evans Creek road in Rogue River. Pholia Farm is new and has been recently featured in the news. We don't yet know if this will work out so be sure to watch the weekly bulletin for updates. Where ever we go should be a great adventure!

Jim Larsen & Helen Jane

THANK YOU

Karl Slack sends his Thanks everyone for their prayers and cards of encouragement during his recent surgery. It really helped to know people were thinking and praying for him. (HJ)

39PLUS...BRAVING THE FLAMES OF REVELATION!!

Jim is doing a great job (article written by Jim, of course) of walking us through the timeless truths of

the book of Revelation. Bring your Bible to this irregular study session at 11 a.m. on the first, second and fourth Wednesdays of April. Of course we start things off with a cut-throat game time at 10. Lunch follows at noon.

April Schedule:

- Wednesday, April 4 Meet at the Larsen's... 114 Autumn Ridge Drive, Talent
- Wednesday, April 11 Marie Hoffman's home 61 N Mountain, Ashland
- Wednesday, April 18 Rogue Riders hit the road watch the bulletin for details
- Wednesday, April 25 Fold the newsletter at 10, followed by Bible Study and potluck lunch

SAINTS ALIVE!

New jokes and older folks...that's the norm. Oh, what fun! No heavy agenda or lesson plan...just great fellowship, tall tales and a more-than-ample buffet.

- Saturday morning, April 7
- Iron Skillet Restaurant, Phoenix
- 9 a.m

ANNUAL MEETING/CONCERT, THURSDAY...APRIL 19

Shortest congregational meeting in the world! That's how we should bill it. On April 19 our congregation is invited to meet in Fellowship Hall for a very short annual meeting at 6:30 p.m. All budget matters were settled back in January so the main point of this assembly is that of selecting new officers, such as elder, deacon, treasurer, etc. Let's get started on time so we can move to the auditorium for the concert.

Michael Wing has accepted our earnest request to bring his St. Mary's Choir back (for the 4th year running) for an hour of inspiring music. This is always a terrific experience.

Pie and Ice Cream. After the meeting and concert everyone in attendance is invited back to Fellowship Hall for Pie and Ice Cream, thanks to our church ladies.

Schedule: Annual Meeting...6:30 pm
Concert...7ish Pie/Ice Cream...8ish

PALM SUNDAY...PLANNED BY JULIE

Julie Hamilton is the planner and designer of this special spring Sunday. Come one, come all...get in on a morning of worship, participation and fellowship. Hear a special message by Dr. Bob Harrison, Southern Oregon University professor and member of our church. What a grand collection of folk we have here. It'll be a fine day indeed!

FRIENDS OF FAITH

I have such a great time with those good people in Klamath Falls. Every other Sunday night we gather in a home to enjoy dinner, Bible memory work, 20-30 minutes of the Gospel Of John DVD and plenty of prayer and fellowship. I've been telling you how some of our Friends of Faith are preparing to be baptized. Others are ready to bring their little ones over to Ashland for a "Baby Presentation/Parent Dedication Day"...maybe on Easter Sunday!

I'm grateful to the Mission Committee for allocating fuel funds so I can meet with the brothers and sisters over the mountains without cost to them. Their weekly offerings are used to show love and assistance to others in need. I'm looking forward to getting you all acquainted. Won't that be a great day!

REAL MEN MEET MONDAYS

This doesn't imply that *all* real men gather at Annie's in Phoenix each Monday morning at 7:45. But these men are real. We discuss issues common to guys and matters that Christian men struggle with. So come on down to Annie's any Monday. Jerry Moore is back from his Snow Birding so he'll buy breakfast for first-timers.

POT LUCK DINNER

Due to the timing of events in the month of April. Potluck this month will be on **April 22, the 4th Sunday of the month**. Although Easter will be 2 weeks before, we will still be praising our Lord for salvation thru His Son Jesus!!!

If your last name begins with **A-K, please bring a main dish and a salad**. If your last name begins with **L-Z, please bring a main dish and des-**

sert. Single folks just bring one item to share.

Remember to bring hot dishes already cooked, the ovens are set to just keep food hot, not cook it.

See ya'll April 22,

Betty Tine Metcalf

ARBOR PLACE

Once in a great while I sub for Gene and Janice over at Arbor Place, an assisted living facility. I had the privilege just recently when the Stringers were in the Philippine Islands where Gene was teaching at a Christian College and delivering the commencement address. The fine residents at Arbor Place love Gene and Janice. Maybe it is because they lead them in singing great old hymns. Perhaps it is the genuine care and love they extend to each of these folk. I know they really appreciate having communion each month. Most people have Sunday afternoon to catch their breath, watch a game on TV or relax in some way. I'm grateful that these two head over to Medford every single Sunday to tend to a little flock that consider them their pastor and his wife.

Jim Larsen

OUR HOMEBOUND

It is a good thing that our Elders do, caring for those unable to assemble with us on Sundays. Whether they visit these dear church members each week or share such loving service with others from the church, our friends at home are served communion every week. If you anticipate a time of being homebound after hospitalization or the like, they would very much like to drop in with the Lord's Supper. Just call Brad at the church office (482-1561) or leave a message on his answering machine. We want to serve you, dear ones.

TAKE ME TO THE RIVER

Ready to take the plunge? We know of one lady who is eager to be baptized on Easter Sunday when her family will be in town. How about you? If that seems a little early maybe you'd want to join the group from Klamath Falls who are planning to be baptized in a river or lake as soon as the water temperature gets above 50 degrees. Some people are hesitant about doing something this public and im-

portant all alone. Here is an opportunity to be obedient to Christ in baptism with somebody else along side you.

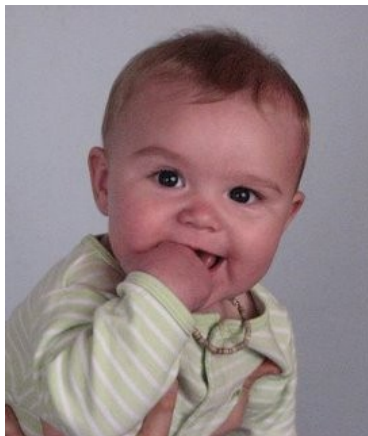
Give me a call and we'll talk it over.
Jim 890-3209

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH

Each month our ladies get together for a time of food and fellowship at a little event we like to call the Ladies Lunch Bunch. On Tuesday, April 10, Helen Jane Slack will be hostess. Watch the bulletin for details.

LORI JO AND BRIAN (& CIELO)

You ask about this little family every week so we'll keep you up-dated. When the Marlia-Larsens left us they went directly to Ecuador where Brian spent a year before graduating from Southern Oregon University with a major in Spanish. From there it was on to Chile to get established with their new team before heading up to Peru. In Tacna, Peru, they are digging in, making every day count. Their word to us is one of thanks for your support, both with prayers and finances. Cielo is growing and healthy. Keep praying for doors to open for sharing the Gospel and serving as God's loving hands.



CHRISTIAN COLLEGE OF ASHLAND

Oh, that is so true. You'd get this kind of Bible training at a Christian college...classes under Michael Wing and Gene Stringer.

Michael is walking his class through the deep water of Romans each Sunday. Join him in the church library at 9:30 a.m.

Gene Stringer has his group watching/listening to The Gospel Of John in Fellowship Hall. You'll learn bunches about Jesus and this lofty Gospel...also on Sunday mornings.

CHURCH AT LOUIE'S

Oh, we are erratic, aren't we? David Bruce works from early morning to late night tending www.HollywoodJesus.com. So often he is called by a radio station seeking an interview with him. Other times he flies off to Hollywood or New York City to pre-view an upcoming movie and meet with the stars. When we can manage to meet at Louie's Bar and Grill we make the most of the session and video tape commentary to accompany our PowerPoint sermons posted on www.OutsideTheWalls.com. I'm sorry I can't give you a more dependable schedule for those rich meetings. Usually we meet on Thursdays at 11 a.m. If you are interested in sitting in on one of these sessions give me a call and I can tell you how the schedule is holding up. Jim Larsen 890-3209

JIM INVITED TO SPEAK AT A PREACHERS CONFERENCE IN THE PHILIPPINES

As a result of OutSideTheWalls.com our preacher has been invited to speak to a conference of national pastors in the Philippines next April. Thanks to the Heritage Outreach Project, our White City Friends and David Bruce for making this global ministry a hit. Pray for Jim and the Elders as they consider this invitation from afar.

CHURCH FINANCES

Just a note to say that our congregation stepped out in faith this year, approving a budget beyond our present weekly giving. Perhaps the greatest need in this regard is consistency. It isn't so much a matter of everybody giving more...but all of us practicing consistency in our financial stewardship, whether we are in attendance every week or not.

Thanks for every step you take in faith.

FACING THE GIANTS STUDY

Brad will restart our Bible study using the film *Facing the Giants* as a conversation starter. We will start this time by watching the entire film in two parts beginning **Sunday, April 1**. After we watch the film we will spend the following 8 weeks looking into themes from the film.
Brad Fish

THE PAYOFF

A question that is always in the back of our minds when we attempt to do something for the Lord is does it make a difference. It nags at the mind of the pastor on a Monday morning. The Sunday school class teacher feels the same uncertainty. Go down the list of all who serve and you will find that at least now and then the same question comes up.

When we ask ourselves that question of course we really mean, did it make a difference for the people who we are trying to reach with the gospel. Are they any closer to God now than they were before the sermon, the SS class, the midweek Bible study or prayer we just said for them?

That is why we try to do a questionnaire at the end of each Alpha course. It is a simple thing with places for the respondent to give feedback on their experience. I particularly like questions 9 and 10. After asking the respondent to comment on their relationship with God prior to Alpha question 9 asks, "How would you describe yourself now in terms of the Christian faith?"

Here are some responses from a recent Alpha course. "More in touch." "Learning." "...the roles of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit better defined in my mind." "New and improved relationship with God."

Question 10 goes on to ask, "In what ways, if any, did you benefit from the Alpha Course?" Here are some responses to this question. "Meeting people and different ideas." "Enjoyed open discussions and new ideas." "A greater appreciation for the writings in the New Testament, an awareness of the significance of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit..." "Healing and miracles."

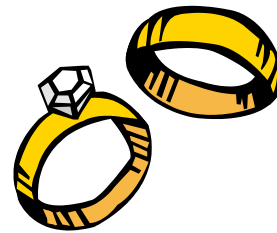
Alpha participants filled two tables at the November potluck. Many attended services with us for the first time. The warm welcome was much appreciated.

Alpha is one way to help us carry out the Great Commission. It is an easy way to do it. The next course starts with the invitation dinner at **6:00 p.m.** on **Wednesday April 18, 2007**. Consider inviting a friend to meet our Savior at Alpha. It makes a difference.
Gene Stringer



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Jim Larsen
- 2 - Marial Vellinga
- 5 - Tahnee Kent
- 7 - Doyle Cornwell
- 11 - April Macauley
- 11 - Gwen Jarrell
- 16 - Nellie Creel
- 21 - Mel Metcalf
- 25 - Chris McDonald
- 25 - Nathaniel Davis
- 26 - Alex Davis
- 26 - Olive Dooms
- 28 - Dalton Wilson
- 28 - Doug Fenning



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 - Brad and Ava Fish
- 16 - Nyla and Doug Fenning
- 17 - Dan and Ericha Tiller
- 30 - Antonio Wallace & Joyceann Catt

Editor's Note: If I have missed your birthday or anniversary please let me know so I can update my calendar and include them in the future. If I have included any that you would like removed please let me know that also. Just send corrections to the church office. Brad

"JESUS, LORD OF ALL"

"The Family of God"

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 April Fools Day Palm Sunday	2 7:45 AM Men Alive- Annie's Cafe 2:00 PM Ladies Bible Study-Ruby's home Jim Larsen, B'day Marial Vellinga, B'day	3 9:30 AM Piece Corps	4 10:00 AM 39 Plus - Madge Center's Home	5 2:00 PM Bible Study-Mt View Brad & Ava Fish, Ann Tahnee Kent, B'day	6	7 9:00 AM Saints Alive Breakfast - Iron Skillet Doyle Cornwell, B'day
8 Easter	9 7:45 AM Men Alive- Annie's Cafe 2:00 PM Ladies Bible Study-Ruby's home	10 9:30 AM Piece Corps 12:00 PM Ladies Lunch Bunch	11 10:00 AM 39 Plus - Fellowship ship Hall April Macauley, B'day Gwen Jarrell, B'day	12 2:00 PM Bible Study-Mt View	13	14
15 9:00 AM Ladies Ministry Mtg 12:30 PM Board Meeting	16 7:45 AM Men Alive- Annie's Cafe 2:00 PM Ladies Bible Study-Ruby's home Doug & Nyla Fenning, Ann Nellie Creel, B'day	17 9:30 AM Piece Corps Dan & Ericha Tiller, Ann	18 12:00 PM Rogue Riders 6:00 PM Alpha Invitation Dinner	19 2:00 PM Bible Study-Mt View	20	21 6:30 PM Old Time Movie Night Mel Metcal f, B'day
22 12:15 PM Potluck	23 7:45 AM Men Alive- Annie's Cafe 2:00 PM Ladies Bible Study-Ruby's home	24 9:30 AM Piece Corps	25 10:00 AM 39 Plus - Fellowship ship Hall 6:00 PM Alpha Dinner and Meeting Chris McDonald, B'day Nathaniel Davis, B'Day	26 2:00 PM Bible Study-Mt View Alex Davis, B'day Olive Dooms, B'day	27	28 Dalton Wilson, B'day Doug Fenning, B'day
29	30 7:45 AM Men Alive- Annie's Cafe 2:00 PM Ladies Bible Study-Ruby's home Antonio Wallace & Joycann Catt, Ann					

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APRIL 2007

CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF ASHLAND

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunday Service Schedule

9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Discovery Club
10:45 AM Worship

Faithful to God, Responsive to People

We're on the Web
www.cc-ashland.org



OLD TIME MOVIES

The word is out on this community treat, hosted by Greg Luce. June will mark the fifth anniversary of this superb ministry event. This month Greg plans to show another double feature, starting at 6:30 p.m. on **Saturday, April 21**. Here's the plan:

We will be treated to *Three on the Trail*, 1936, starring William Boyd and George 'Gabby' Hayes, with a running time of 67 minutes. Our second feature will be *The 300 Spartans*, 1962, starring Richard Egan and Ralph Richardson, with a running time of 114 minutes.

Snack bar opens at 6:00 p.m.

First movie starts promptly at 6:30 p.m.

