

The Newsletter

April 2023

***Glorify God in all we do,
Grow with Him daily &
Go with Him to share
His love.***

EASTER JOY

Jesus came to earth,
To show us how to live,
How to put others first,
How to love and how to give.

Then He set about His work,
That God sent Him to do;
He took our punishment on Himself;
He made us clean and new.

He could have saved Himself,
Calling angels from above,
But He chose to pay our price for sin;
He paid it out of love.

Our Lord died on Good Friday,
But the cross did not destroy
His resurrection on Easter morn
That fills our hearts with joy.

Now we know our earthly death,
Like His, is just a rest.
We'll be forever with Him
In heaven, where life is best.

So we live our lives for Jesus,
Think of Him in all we do.
Thank you Savior; Thank you Lord.
Help us love like you!

By Joanna Fuchs

April at a Glance

- 5: 2:00 pm FRC is in charge of Nursing Home Services
- 6: 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Service
- 9: 7 am Sunrise Service
7:45 am Resurrection Breakfast
9 am Easter Celebration Service
No Sunday School
No Children & Worship
- 10: 6:00pm Elder & Deacon Meetings
7:00pm Full Consistory will meet
- 14: 9:30 am Faith Bible Study
- 3:00 pm Patience Bible Study
- 26: Last Bible Class and MS Remnant for the 22-23 year
6 pm Family/Teacher meal
6:30 Family Movie Night
"Pilgrim's Progress"
- 30: Last Sunday School for 2022-2023

*Sundays:

- 9:00 am Praise and Worship Service
- 10:10 am Sunday School 4yrs - Adult
Coffee Fellowship Time

*Tuesdays:

- 8:30 am Quilting Chicks will meet

*Wednesday Evening Bible Classes and Youth Groups:

- 6:30 pm Bible Classes 1st-5th grades
- 6:30 pm MS Remnant Youth Group
- 7:30 pm HS Remnant Youth Group
- 7:30 pm Joyful Voices Choir

CONTACT INFORMATION:
712-754-2783

sibleyfrcoffice@gmail.com
www.sibleyfrc.org





Stewardship & Giving

Offering Summary through March 25:

- **General Fund: \$ 79,670.86**
Budget: \$340,984.97; 23% of budget
- **Benevolent Fund: \$6810.92**
Budget: \$70,205.23; 9% of budget
- **Building Fund offerings to date: \$410**

Special Offering for April FRC VBS Expenses!!



Faith In Action for April



Church Kitchen Items



We will be collecting items that will be put to use in our church kitchen. Items needed are: Pledge, Lemon Scented Pine-sol cleaner, Clorox Wipes, scouring pads, rubber scrapers, smaller knives for cutting pies, etc. Maybe you have worked in the kitchen and know of something that would be useful that you would like to donate. All items are appreciated!



Meeting Minutes

Consistory Meeting Highlights March 13, 2023

- MMSA to approve the request by Nick and Maria Mans to transfer their membership from Bethel Reformed Church in Sheldon.
- MMSA to approve the baptism of Nolan Nicholas Mans, son of Nick and Maria Mans. Baptism will be held on March 26, 2023.
- MMSA to approve the use of the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen on March 25 from 11:30-1:30 by Pam Vande Hoef for a shower.
- MMSA to approve the use of the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen on Sunday, April 9 (Easter) for a family gathering by Burt and Jan Henrichs.
- Maundy Thursday service with communion will be on April 6 at 6:30pm
- VBS directors would like to have the consistory members more involved with VBS
- Discernment teams gave an update with more information available next month
- MMSA to approve February's minutes as written.

GROWING IN THE WORD

BLAISE BIRD
WOMEN OF THE
OLD TESTAMENT



Faith Bible Study, will meet on **Monday, April 17 at 9:30 am**. We will be studying chapter #11 “Esther pt2” in our book *Women of the Old Testament*. Scripture will be Esther 5-8. Anita Ernst will be leader and Jan Harskamp will serve as hostess. All are invited! Hope to see you there!

BARB CORREY
SEVEN LETTERS TO
SEVEN CHURCHES



Patience Bible Study, will meet on **Monday, April 17 at 3:00 pm**. We will be studying lesson #6 “Reviving a Dead Church,” in our book *Seven Letters to Seven Churches*. Scripture for the lesson is Revelation 3:1-6. Barb will lead and serve as hostess. Come for a time of fellowship and learning. Hope to see you there!

Fellowship Bible Study Opportunities on Sundays at 6:30pm:

1. **Message Discussion and Application** *Clayton and Jodi Wagenaar’s home & *FRC Fellowship Hall
2. **Digging into God’s Word: Revelation** *Kevin and Laurel Klaassen’s home All ages, singles and couples are invited to attend.

Childcare can be arranged. Come, join a group and let’s grow together!



Young Adult Bible Study Opportunity

Beginning on April 23 at 6pm!! All young adult singles and married couples are invited to the Lucas farm to enjoy a time of Fellowship and Bible Study. For more information please contact Josh or Hannah Lucas.

Trivia Time!!

1. How many proverbs is King Solomon credited in knowing?
2. Who washed his steps with butter?
3. Jeremiah had a secretary. What was his name?
4. Who in the Bible is considered the father of all musicians?
5. What is the name of the dressmaker who was raised from the dead?
6. What Bible character’s hair stood up on end when he saw a ghost?
7. Naomi had two daughters-in-law. Ruth went with Naomi. What was the name of the woman who stayed in the country of Moab?
8. When Joshua destroyed Jericho he destroyed everyone in the city except for how many households?
9. In what book of the bible do you find a verse that contains every letter except the letter “J”?
10. Most young men smile when they kiss a girl, but what Bible character wept when he kissed his sweetheart?

Praise and Worship Greeters

- 2: E: Melissa Hisek/family
C: Cole and Kayla Hoekstra/family
W: Loren and Deb Hulstein
- 9: E: Dale and Karen Honken
C: Mark and Rosie Hulstein
W: Rod Hulstein
- 16: E: Scott and Jamie Hulstein/family
C: Chris and Teresa Hurlburt
W: Cody and Kristen Hurlburt/family
- 23: E: Mike and Mary Hustoft
C: Jeannette Juffer
W: John and Jan Juffer
- 30: E: Alan and Lacey Julius/family
C: Dennis and Dar Jurgens
W: Clint and Jamie Klaassen/family



Worship Service Nursery

- 2: Abby De Zeeuw and Chelsey Alexander
9: Anne and Kaylee Maxwell
16: Leona Meendering and Alexis Hulstein
23: Peg Van Kley and Sandy Heronimus
30: Ruth Ann Wiersma and Kathy Verdoorn

Fellowship Coffee Servers



- 2: Ron and Nancy Dykstra
9: Bert and Jan Henrichs
16: Bill and LaDonn Hartzell
23: Dwayne and Janice Heikes
30: Ed and Jan Harskamp

Children & Worship during the service



- 2: Leader: Deb Kusters
Helper:
- 9: Leader: Deb Kusters
Helper:
- 16: Leader: Deb Kusters
Helper:
- 23: Leader: Deb Kusters
Helper:
- 30: Leader: Deb Kusters
Helper:

Willing Hands Group



Willing Hands Group #4

will be responsible for services during the month.

Co-chairpersons are:

- Karen/Dale Honken
- Marcia/Dick Oldenkamp
- Pam/Duane Vande Hoef

Library Volunteers



- 2: Leanne Van Kley
9: Marcia Van Ruler
16: Alfreda Verdoorn
23: Kathy/Joel Verdoorn
30: Ruth Wiersma



Celebrations

~~*Birthday's*~~

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 Kailey Bruxvoort | 17 Margaret Calsbeek
LaDonn Hartzell | 24 Randy Vande Berg
Apiyo Harberts
Uchan Harberts |
| 3 Angela De Boer
Gary De Vries | 18 Sharalyn Tjaden | 26 Melissa Langstraat
Grant Brouwer |
| 4 Kyler Maxwell
Ger Van Diepen
Berkley Wielenga | 19 Grace Hoekstra | 27 Dennis Jurgens |
| 5 Wilma Leusink | 21 Michaela Block | 28 Janice Heikes
Madeline Sayler |
| 8 Pam Vande Hoef
Mary Hustoft
Randy Bremer | 22 Twila Heemstra | |
| 9 Lyle Peelen
Burdell Henrichs | 23 LeRoy De Boer | |
| 10 Marilyn De Boer
John Juffer | | |
| 12 Ellen Schram | | |
| 13 Steve Mulder | | |
| 14 Dave Lamfers
Bill Hartzell | | |
| 15 Sylvia Bosma | | |
| 16 Martha Krikke
Troy Block | | |

I have found
THE ONE
Whom my soul Loves
SONG OF SOLOMON 3:4

~~*Anniversaries*~~

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| 6 Chris & Teresa Hurlburt | 27 years |
| 7 Dave & Lesa Stofferan | 45 years |
| 19 John & Jan Juffer | 55 years |
| 22 Josh & Hannah Lucas | 6 years |
| 27 Roger & Carol Iedema | 50 years |
| 28 Dean & Amy Van Marel | 33 years |



If you would like to be included in our Birthday and Anniversary Calendar and do not see your name, please contact the office (sibleyfrcoffice@gmail.com or 754-2783) and let us know your dates! We would love to recognize YOU on your special day! Thanks



HAS GOD SAID?

This month I am presenting a bit of a mental ramble as I think through a new thought. I have been trying to figure out how we have come to the point that people find it entirely rational to ignore physical reality in favor of personal perceptions. Men claim to be women, and women are men, no matter the physical reality of their anatomy. While I can wander through the history of western Philosophy, I think I have come up with two points that may make sense to all of us.

First, have you ever heard someone say *perception is reality*? I have many times. It always makes me wince because perception isn't always correct.

Have you ever seen (or read) an experiment where a fake murder is intentionally committed before a group of strangers so that they can learn to be eyewitnesses? When the group is asked what they saw, the results are hilarious. Not only do people have different memories, they often contradict one another. Except on TV, eyewitness testimony is only sometimes helpful in a court of law.

Why do people use the *perception is reality* statement to justify what they want everyone else to think? Besides the fact that we have heard this for the past four decades, it is also easy and doesn't require anyone to justify their ideas. Your feelings are your feelings – and mine are mine. Who can argue with that? I hope we can.

The solution is both simple and complicated. The simple part is remembering that God created the physical world, which was good. (Genesis 1 &2). It also reflects his invisible nature to everyone (Romans 1:19-20) .

Second, I want to think about sin and the lie that lies underneath all of the lies we tell ourselves. Grab your Bible and look at Genesis 3:1. *Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'"*

Satan's question boils down to this – **Did God say?** When we sin, how often do we excuse our actions by saying that? Do I need to keep the Sabbath holy? No, I need to rest and play. Do I need to honor my parents? No, they weren't nice to me. Do I need to tell the truth, refrain from stealing, from being faithful in marriage? No, because..... *you fill in the blanks.*

Again, the solution is both simple and complicated. We need to know what God said, and we need to obey him. However, even in the church, we question God's words. However, in the church, we examine scripture all the time! *Surely, we need to modernize, or that was just a cultural thing that Paul wrote, or....* You know the excuses. So, what do we do? We must say sin is sin and stand by the truth of what God has said in his word.

.....

THEOLOGY 101 BELGIC & WESTMINSTER CONFESSIONS

THE FALL OF MAN, ORIGINAL SIN, AND PUNISHMENT

Both the Belgic and the Westminster Confessions spend a significant amount of time on the subject of the fall, original sin, God's justice, and God's plan of redemption. It is worth reading! *You can get a copy of each online if you don't have one at home.*

As modern human beings, we have become very, very, very good at saying that sin isn't sin. When we seem to do something *incorrect or less acceptable, it is the fault of our parents, friends, society, government, or anyone else. We also argue that it is our choice, so it is right for us—at least for us.*

But God seems to take sin very seriously. His righteousness demands death, if not ours, then that of His son. He is Holy.

The Westminster Shorter Catechism defines sin, and there are two sides to the definition to consider—active and passive sinning.

Q14. What is sin?

A. *Sin is any **want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God.***

•Passive sin

We don’t say *want* anymore; we might say **lack** of conformity. This refers to sinning when we don’t do what we ought to but sit back and ignore doing what we should do. For example, have you obeyed the commandment of Jesus in Mark 16:15, *“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation?”*

•Active Sin

This is easier for us to see, particularly in others. This is going out and breaking the law of God—deliberately or accidentally. Maybe you meant to tell a lie, or perhaps one seemed to pop out of your mouth, but you have broken the 8th commandment.

We are all guilty of not doing what God commands, and of doing what he commands us not to do!

Topic	Belgic Confession—1561	Westminster Confession—1647
Creation & Fall	Article 14 <i>The Creation and Fall of Man, and His Incapacity to Perform What is Truly Good</i>	VI <i>Of the Fall of Man, of Sin and of the Punishment Thereof</i>
God’s Covenant with Man	Article 17 <i>The Recovery of Fallen Man</i>	VII <i>Of God’s Covenant with Man</i>



The Osceola County Ministerial Association
Good Friday Passion Play
April 7th
37th Season!

There will be three performances
5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m.
at the Sibley-Ocheyedan High School Auditorium, Sibley, IA

FREE TICKETS
are available and may be reserved by calling
(712)754-2945
or by emailing ocmapassionplay@gmail.com

Church groups and organizations may request enough tickets for their entire group.
Please do not reserve more than you need.

Passion Play 2023 Schedule:

- **Saturday, April 1 @ 8:00 AM**
Setup at S-O School (Meet at the Sibley CRC church at 8:00 to load sets)
- **Sun, April 2 from 2:00-4:00 PM**
Rehearsal (including children)
costume pick up at 1:30pm
- **Mon, April 3 from 7:00-9:00 PM** Rehearsal (no children)
- **Tues, April 4 from 7:00-9:00 PM** Rehearsal (no children)
- **Wed, April 5 from 7:00-10:00 PM** Full dress rehearsal with children; Children will be dismissed at 8pm
- **Fri, April 7 from 3:00 PM**
Make-up for the entire cast
- **Sat, April 8 @ 8:00 AM**
Take down the sets

If you would like to participate, please call Peg or Curt Van Kley @ 754-2945, Keith Zylstra @ 712-261-2378 or Becky Krogman @ 754-2967 so that your name can be included in the program. We must know if you will be able to take part in or help with the passion play. Thanks!!!



PRAY FOR GOD’S PEOPLE

1. Pray for our College Students

2. Pray for our Church

3. Wilma Hatting

4. Kevin and Twila Heemstra

5. Dwayne and Janice Heikes

6. Dan and Maureen Heilman; Luke, Amelia

7. Burt and Jan Henrichs

8. Pray for our College Students

9. Pray for our Church

10. Clint Henrichs

11. Derek and Ashley Heronimus; Kalen, Brooks

12. Ken and Sandy Heronimus

13. Jo Hielkema

14. Melissa Hisek; Sofia, Georgia

15. Pray for our College Students

16. Pray for our Church
17. Cole and Kayla Hoekstra; Amelia, Grace

18. Dale and Karen Honken

19. Anita Hoting

20. Ken Huls

21. Loren and Deb Hulstein

22. Pray for our College Students

23. Pray for our Church

24. Mark and Rosie Hulstein

25. Michael and Chelsea Hulstein;
Addison, Aubrey, Bennett

26. Scott and Jamie Hulstein;
Ashilyn, Karissa and Alexis

27. Chris and Teresa Hurlburt

28. Cody and Kristen Hurlburt;
Braelyn, Adelyn, Caelyn

29. Pray for our College Students

30. Pray for our Church

College Students:

Mackenzie Beyer
Logan Bruxvoort
Kaden Maxwell
Teddy Van Gelder

Carter Brouwer
Andrea Leusink
Austin Wassman
Tyler Feldkamp

Dalten Bremer
Ashilyn Hulstein
Natalie Klaassen

Leah Ackerman
Grant Brouwer
Tanner Dykstra
Jaeger Johnson
Alex Mc Dougall

Ryan Van Marel

PRAYER LIST

BE A
Prayer
WARRIOR
John 21:36

PRAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

Assisted Living

Trudy Dykstra
Ethel Jurgens
Geneva Wissink
Larry & Alfreda Verdoorn
Margaret Calsbeek

The Nursing Homes

Marlys Brink
Donna Sterler

Our Missionaries

Dr. Bernadeth Kelly &
Adrian Bobb
Sayuri Kist—Okazaki
Brian & Donna Renes
J.J. & Tim TenClay
Rowland & Jan Van Es
Grace Covenant Ministries

Christian Retirement Home

Helen Vander Veen

PRAYER JOURNAL

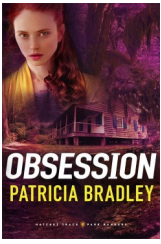
THE PASTOR STOLE OUR SPOON!

A pastor had dinner at the home of a couple in his church. After he left, the wife said to the husband, "I think he stole our spoon!" This bothered her for a whole year.

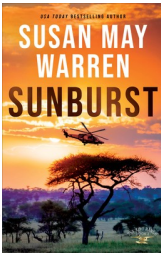


A year later the couple had the pastor for dinner again. Unable to resist, the wife asked, "Did you steal our spoon last year?" The pastor replied, "No, I put it inside your Bible."

From the library--



This month you will be reading synopsis from the second book in two different series. The first is *OBSESSION* by Patricia Bradley from “Natchez Trace Park Rangers” series. “Natchez Trace Ranger and historian Emma Winters hoped never to see Sam Ryker again after she broke off her engagement to him. But when shots are fired at her at a historical landmark just off the Natchez Trace, she’s forced to work alongside Sam as the Natchez Trace law enforcement district ranger in the ensuing investigation. To complicate matters, Emma has acquired a delusional secret admirer who is determined to have her as his own. Sam is merely an obstruction, one which must be removed. Sam knows that he has failed Emma in the past, and he doesn’t intend to let her down again, especially now that her life is on the line.”



The next series is “Sky King Ranch’s” book *SUNBURST* by Susan May Warren. “When former Navy SEAL and lifelong bachelor Ranger Kingston is called upon to take part in a rescue mission to save his brother Colt from terrorists in Nigeria, he is shocked to find among the hostages a woman he could never forget. Noemi Sutton was attempting to return a young girl to her family in Boko Haram territory when she and the girl found themselves taken hostage, along with several others. And while Ranger Kingston may be able to get the hostages away from their captors, he’ll need Noemi’s help if he ever hopes to get out of Nigeria alive. Her solution?? Pose as husband and wife. But when her uncle discovers the union, he insists on a traditional Nigerian wedding—which would bind Noemi to a man destined to break her heart. Worse, the trouble they’re fleeing has found them—again. It’s clear anyone around Noemi is bound to be caught in the crossfire, including her potential new husband.”



WHEN THE MEADOW BLOOMS by Ann H. Gabhart is a book that has a little intrigue, a little mystery and a little romance. “If any place on God’s earth was designed to help one heal, it is Meadowland. Surely here, at her brother’s-in-law Kentucky farm, Rose and her daughters can recover from the events of the recent past—the loss of her husband during the 1918 influenza epidemic, her struggle with tuberculosis that required a stay at a sanatorium, and her girls’ experience in an orphanage during her illness. At Meadowland, past troubles become rich soil in which faith can grow. Dirk Meadows may have opened his home to his later brother’s widow and her girls, but he keeps his heart tightly closed. The roots of his pain run deep and the evidence of it is written across his face badly scarred by a fire and abandoned by the woman he loved.”

Please visit the library soon, there are sooooo many good books just waiting to be taken home and read; but please, check them out first!!! When checking a book out, don’t forget to put YOUR NAME and the DATE DUE on the card. There is a calendar with large number hanging on the bulletin board above the desk to help you in seeing what the date will be in TWO WEEKS. Thank you for being diligence in keeping the library running smoothly!

Jeannette Juffer



"The King will reply, Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."
Matthew 25:40 (NIV)



Dear friend,

Thank you for helping us make a difference, one opportunity at a time, by sharing the love of God with those we have been called to serve in Appalachia. As times change, opportunities to share the love of God come in different ways. Recent opportunities include:

We heard of a widow who recently lost a son who was her caretaker. Her home is heated by wood and her wood pile was almost empty. Our staff brought her a load of firewood.



A family with a child with autism had some difficulties to overcome. They had lost a major portion of their income and needed an additional room to take care of a grandmother who needed to move in with them. Our staff was able to provide the labor to build an additional bedroom for their house.



We also are recipients of unexpected blessings. The parents of children attending the Christian Academy on campus raised funds and provided the labor to completely redo the playground on campus. It is a joy to interact with students during their time on campus. Hacker Gym is the home gym for Friendship Christian School's basketball and volleyball teams. Their time on campus also provides opportunities for our staff to share the love of Christ.

We ask that you pray for our team to have an openness to the opportunities that God makes available to us. You help to make these opportunities possible. May our Lord be glorified through our partnership.

Sincerely,

Jake Moss and Tommy Miracle



MS Remnant Students are selling Pizza Ranch Take and Bake Pizzas

March 29-April 19

All pizzas are \$15!!

Bronco, Buffalo Chicken, Pepperoni, Cheese, Breakfast Sausage and Breakfast Bacon/Sausage

Please contact a MS Remnant student, sponsor or Josh to place your orders!!!

Pizza pick up will be at Pizza Ranch from May 1st-5th from 11am-7:30 pm

If you need an alternate pick up option, please contact Josh to make arrangements.

****This is a MS Remnant Fund Raiser for the 2023 Ark Encounter/Creation Museum Trip****



Education Schedule:

Please remember the following Weather Cancellations Procedure: If there is NO school, or school is released early due to inclement weather, there will be NO WEDNESDAY Night activities.

Sunday School 3 yr - Adult:

Regular Classes: April 2, 16, 23

No Class on April 9 due to Easter

April 30 Last Sunday School Class

Wednesday Bible Classes (1st-5th grades) &

MS and HS Remnant Youth Groups:

Regular Classes: April 5, 12, 19

April 26: Last Bible Class and MS Remnant for the year

College Addresses

Hudson Feldkamp

825 Legacy Lane
Unit 61
Brookings, SD 57006

Ryan Van Marel

804 Medary Ave. South
Brookings, SD 57006

Alex Mc Dougall

2040 Hawthorn Ct. Drive
#7122
Ames, IA 50010-9169

Jagger Johnson

4709 Steinbeck Street
Apt 11
Ames, IA 50014

Tanner Dykstra

3029 N. 47th Street
Lincoln, NE 68504

Grant Brouwer

DU 2335
700 7th Street NE
Sioux Center, IA 51250

Leah Ackerman

5008 W. Equestrian Pl.
Apt 217
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

Ashilyn Hulstein

718 9th Ave
Brookings, SD 56007

Dalton Bremer

Rm# 612 A-2
1110 North Dubuque St.
Iowa City, IA 52245

Austin Wassman

1434 Tyler Ave
Ocheyedan, IA 51354

Andrea Leusink

BVU Box 2461
610 W. Fourth Street
Storm Lake, IA 50588

Carter Brouwer

SDSU
Room 421
Binnewies Hall
Box 2805
Brookings, SD 57007

Tyler Feldkamp

1188115 255 Drive
McKoy Road
Buies Creek, NC 27506

Ted Van Gelder

SDSU
Room #324-A1
Young Hall
Box 2807
Brookings, SD 57007

Kaden Maxwell

104 S. Harmon Drive
Mitchell, SD 57301

Logan Bruxvoort

405 5th Street
Sibley, IA 51249

MacKenzie Beyer

610 W. 4th Street
Storm Lake, IA 50588

If your student will have a different address for the 2022-2023 school year please let the office know.

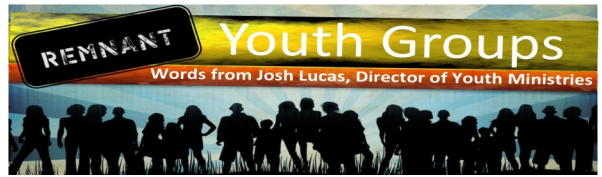
Hello First Reformed Church,

Something amazing happened in Sunday School on March 19th, 2023. I was teaching the high school class and we were covering the book of Judges. This specific week we studied Samson. If you don't know much about Samson here are some fun facts about him. He was very strong, had long wavy hair (for a short while), and as one of the high schoolers pointed out, he loved women. Not in the way of respect and honor, but lust. Not only did he love women, but he loved the Philistine women. This was a problem back in this day because the Philistines were considered to be "unclean" or "uncircumcised" people. The Philistines viewed the Israelites as fundamentally the same way, however Samson found some of them to be very appealing. It was a fun discussion. We read the account of when Samson killed 1,000 Philistines with a fresh donkey jawbone. It was interesting to read and as said to the students, "This is one of the baddest accounts in scripture in my opinion." Meaning that it was really cool, how many other men can you say killed 1,000 other men with just a jawbone? NONE! Then we started getting really deep into this study.

We discussed who judges were and what they were tasked to do. They were the ones who were appointed to save Israel and to turn Israel back to God. Samson was the coolest of all though, he was the action hero of the judges. Even though he was a complete knucklehead. We talked about his complete disregard for the Lord's ways and his call to God and to Israel. Many times, he fell into the same pit that we fall into. We give in to our desires, even though they are sinful. We don't follow what God tells us to do. Even though we do all of that God still uses us. Even though Samson was a knucklehead he was still a mighty warrior of God. The book of Hebrews even states that he is a "hero of the faith." That we may follow after his example of faith, not his sinfulness but his faithfulness after he repents of his wrongdoing. We should not look at Samson and think, "Well Samson was used by God so I will just sin and repent later." This is not what God is saying through the example of Samson. God is saying that even though we sin and fall short God is still going to use us.

Have you ever heard someone say, "I'm not good enough for that." Well there is truth to that, none of us are good enough for that. I myself do not have any right to be up on the pulpit, in front of youth group, or anywhere near a pulpit because of my sins, but God still uses me. I have repented and even though I still sin, I am forgiven. Even though I fall short God picks me back up. Don't let the enemy tell you that you're not good enough, because that's the beauty of the gospel. Even though none of us deserve it, God, being rich in mercy, sent Jesus into the world to die on the cross for our sins so that our debt would be paid, and our sins are forgiven. Samson did some amazing things through the Lord's help, what sort of things has God done in your life? Are we ready to move? Are we ready to do something?

Blessings,
Josh Lucas



Dad Jokes With Josh:

Q: What did the surgeon say when the man asked if he could do his own anesthetic?

A: Sure, knock yourself out!



What Was In Jeremy's Egg? The Lesson of Easter from an Unlikely Child



Ida Mae Kempel

Jeremy was born with a twisted body and slow mind. At the age of 12 he was still in second grade, seemingly unable to learn. His teacher, Doris Miller, often became exasperated with him. He would squirm in his seat, drool and make grunting noises. At other times, he spoke clearly and distinctly, as if a spot of light had penetrated the darkness of his brain. Most of the time, however, Jeremy irritated his teacher. One day, she called his parents to come to St. Theresa's for a consultation. As the Forresters sat quietly in the empty classroom, Doris said to them, "Jeremy really belongs in a special school. It isn't fair to him to be with younger children who don't have learning problems. Why, there is a five-year gap between his age and that of the other students!"

Mrs. Forrester cried softly into a tissue, while her husband spoke. "Miss Miller," he said, "there is no school of that kind nearby. It would be a terrible shock for Jeremy if we had to take him out of this school. We know he really likes it here."

Doris sat for a long time after they left, staring at the snow outside the window. Its coldness seemed to seep into her soul. She wanted to sympathize with the Forresters. After all, their only child had a terminal illness. But it wasn't fair to keep him in her class. She had 18 other youngsters to teach, and Jeremy was a distraction. Furthermore, he would never learn to read and write. Why waste any more time trying?

As she pondered the situation, guilt washed over her. "Oh God," she said aloud, "here I am complaining when my problems are nothing compared to that poor family! Please help me to be more patient with Jeremy!" From that day on, she tried hard to ignore Jeremy's noises and his blank stares. Then one day, he limped to her desk, dragging his bad leg behind him. "I love you, Miss Miller," he exclaimed, loud enough for the whole class to hear. The other students snickered, and Doris' face turned red. She stammered, "Wh-why that's very nice, Jeremy. N-now please take your seat."

Spring came, and the children talked excitedly about the coming of Easter. Doris told them the story of Jesus, and then to emphasize the idea of new life springing forth, she gave each of the children a large plastic egg. "Now," she said to them, "I want you to take this home and bring it back tomorrow with something inside that shows new life. Do you understand?" "Yes, Miss Miller!" the children responded enthusiastically - all except for Jeremy. He just listened intently; his eyes never left her face. He did not even make his usual noises.

Had he understood what she had said about Jesus' death and resurrection? Did he understand the assignment? Perhaps she should call his parents and explain the project to them. That evening, Doris' kitchen sink stopped up. She called the landlord and waited an hour for him to come by and unclog it. After that, she still had to shop for groceries, iron a blouse and prepare a vocabulary test for the next day. She completely forgot about phoning Jeremy's parents.

The next morning, 19 children came to school, laughing and talking as they placed their eggs in the large wicker basket on Miss Miller's desk. After they completed their math lesson, it was time to open the eggs.

In the first egg, Doris found a flower. "Oh yes, a flower is certainly a sign of new life," she said. "When plants peek through the ground we know that Spring is here." A small girl in the first row waved her arm. "That's my egg Miss Miller," she called out.

The next egg contained a plastic butterfly, which looked very real. Doris held it up. "We all know that a caterpillar changes and grows into a beautiful butterfly. Yes, that is new life, too." Little Judy smiled proudly and said, "Miss Miller, that one is mine!"

Next, Doris found a rock with moss on it. She explained that moss, too, showed life. Billy spoke up from the back of the classroom, "My Daddy helped me!" he beamed.

Then Doris opened the fourth egg. She gasped. The egg was empty! Surely it must be Jeremy's, she thought, and of course, he did not understand her instructions. If only she had not forgotten to phone his parents! Because she did not want to embarrass him, she quietly set the egg aside and reached for another.

Suddenly Jeremy spoke up. "Miss Miller, aren't you going to talk about my egg?" Flustered, Doris replied, "But Jeremy - your egg is empty!" He looked into her eyes and said softly, "Yes, but Jesus' tomb was empty, too!"

Time stopped. When she could speak again, Doris asked him, "Do you know why the tomb was empty?" "Oh yes!" Jeremy said, "Jesus was killed and put in there. Then His Father raised Him up!"

The recess bell rang. While the children excitedly ran out to the school yard, Doris cried. The cold inside her melted completely away.

Three months later, Jeremy died. Those who paid their respects at the mortuary were surprised to see 19 eggs on top of his casket, all of them empty.

This is a true story, the names have been changed for the sake of privacy.

Ida Mae Kempel is a free-lance writer from Alameda, California. This article appeared in Focus on the Family, April, 1988.

Sportsmen's Devotional



John 14:1-3

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."



Thoughts

In the upper room, while eating the Last Passover Seder with His disciples, Jesus made a very special promise to them. His words were puzzling, since He spoke the same words that a Jewish man said to his fiancée, as part of their engagement.

Right before leaving for his father's house for their time of waiting, the man promised to build her a bridal chamber, and then to return for her. Jesus made that same promise to them, and to us!

Action Point

My picture above, taken in February, shows the exact spot of General Douglas MacArthur's departure from the island of Corregidor, Philippines, on March 11th, 1942.

Similarities between MacArthur's and Jesus' departures:

- He made the same promise as Jesus - "I shall return." And he kept that promise on October 20, 1944
- Jesus will keep His promise someday.

Differences between the two:

- The MacArthur returned to a different island (Leyte), and announced, "People of the Philippines, I have returned - I'm a little late, but we finally came!"
- Jesus will return to the place of His departure (Mount of Olives), and "every eye shall see Him," Rev. 1:7. No announcement needed. And He will be exactly on time.

May we say to Him, as our Ukrainian friends always said to us, "We await your return."

Sportsmen's Tip Of The Day

If your gobbler gets distracted from you and led away by a nearby flock of hens, don't get discouraged. Just hang tight. Let him finish his AM activities. After an hour or so, purr and cluck lightly. Big Tom may return, like General MacArthur did! He may announce his return, or not. If he is silent, listen closely for a spitting sound, and watch for a head! Rustle leaves with a small stick, and get ready!

Trivia Time Answers!!!

1. 3000 - 1 Kings 4:30,32 **2. Job** - Job 29:1,6 **3. Baruch** - Jeremiah 36:10,17,18 **4. Jubal** - Genesis 4:21
5. Dorcas - Acts 9:36-40 **6. Eliphaz** - Job 4:1, 15, 16 **7. Orpha** - Ruth 1:4,14 **8. One** - Joshua 6:17 **9. Ezra** - Ezra 7:21 **10. Jacob** - Genesis 29:11, 18

Agape Meal and a Movie

Saturday, April 22 from 6-9pm

Celebrating a night of Christ's love, Agape!

**All are Invited!! Couples, Singles, Widows/Widowers,
Married, Dating, Friends, Family**

**STEAK SUPPER WITH MASHED POTATOES & GREEN BEANS
PLUS PIE & ICE CREAM FOR DESSERT**

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Following the meal and entertainment join us for a movie in the Sanctuary

Tickets are \$30 per person

Tip envelopes will be available on the tables.

**Call 712-754-2783, stop at the church office, or
talk to Josh Lucas to reserve your tickets**

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Sibley FRC Vacation Bible School 2023

Sunday, June 4: 4pm-8pm &

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5:30pm-8:30pm

Sign Up Today!!

(Registration will remain open through May 21)

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Chelsey Alexander (712-461-0536) or
Maureen Heilman (712-330-2451)

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