

# The Light Online

## NGBC Newsletter Online Edition

### The Reality of Easter

When Paul reached the end of his first letter to the Corinthians, he boldly announced that the Gospel he believed was the same Gospel that he had preached to them. At the center of the statement he spoke these words, *1 Cor 15:17* **“And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.”**

The resurrection is the great truth at the heart of our hope. It is and will always be the exclamation point of the truth of the Cross. The truth of the resurrection - which is that Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day - is what the world finds so hard to accept. But it is the resurrection that is the greatness of the Gospel! On the cross, Jesus paid our sin debt, but it is in His resurrection that we receive new life; the new life of being declared right before God and a new life which makes our current life worth living.

This truth is so strong that it will take you through even the shadow of the valley of death. It will hold on to us, no matter how great the storms we face in this life!

The Philosopher J.P. Moreland said it best, “Those first followers of Christ were willing to spend the rest of their lives proclaiming this truth, without any payoff from a human point of view. They faced a life of hardship. They often went without food, slept exposed to the elements, were ridiculed, beaten, imprisoned. And finally, most of them were executed in torturous ways. For What? For good intentions? No, because they were convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt that they had seen Jesus Christ alive from the Dead.” For us who believe, **Easter is every day!**

### Dear Church Family,

Change is hard! Change means I have to stop what I am doing or the way I am doing it and adjust. Change may be a demand or expectation from someone else on my life that I either don't trust, don't understand, or just plain don't like. The longer this expectation for change is on me and my resistance grows, my moods change, my attitude sinks, and I get cranky! The only thing that seems to help is for me to remember that you are just like me and probably think and react just like me...I'm not alone!

I meet with many people who are confronted with desperate conditions in their lives that require change. Sometimes they want it, but are fearful; other times it is forced on them and they fight it. Funny thing is, either way, change still comes. It seems the harder we fight for “stability” and “predictability” the greater the predictability of instability becomes! Even when we don't like change and feel the need to react ‘fleshy’ about it, we must remember, as Christians we have the most to be grateful - for “While we were yet sinners Christ died for us” and that “No man comes to the Father lest he be drawn.” It is for this, we must demonstrate our gratitude before all people, even in times of change.

Being dead in my trespasses and sins (and loving it), the Holy Spirit of God reveals my ‘deadness’, provokes my attention to see the redemption offered only in Christ, and ignites in me an incurable, insatiable yearning for His gift of salvation! Confessing, agreeing with God I am dead in sin and guilty before Him, I ask for and receive what He has promised to give...and that is change! So I'm wondering...because of the great change He's made on my life, and because the eternal joy it offers is real and enduring, could not some others changes be opportunities to remember, renew, and/or return to the change salvation brings in my life? Could my attitude towards changes be revealing more about the worth of God's change on my life than I realize? Could the challenges of changes in my life be used as opportunities to tell others about the great changes through Christ on my life rather than just on the burdens of changes in the here and now? Just a thought.....

God Bless,  
Brother Keith

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# Discipleship Part 2

By David Horton

Matthew records Jesus' definition of discipleship (chapter 28:18-20) "***And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'***"

Jesus' authority originated from the plan of salvation, the plan that has been in motion since the beginning of creation. Salvation has always been of the Lord, and only through His mercy and grace is it achieved. God has always been the one that has had to reach out to save man's soul. In the garden, after Adam and Eve sinned, they tried to cover their sins, but it took God's provision to save them from their just wages. As the earth turned its back on its Creator, God reached out to Noah through the ark. God provided salvation for His creation in such a way man could not claim any part of his own sparing. When Israel cried out in their hell on earth, God provided the way for their salvation. Every step of the way God reached out His mighty hands of mercy and grace to deliver those who sought Him. There are many other instances of God reaching out to save the creation He loves so dearly.

Through the prophets, God foretold of the coming of the fulfilling and final act of salvation, a Redeemer who would make the ultimate sacrificial payment once for all time and for all peoples. He accomplished this through sending His willing Son, Jesus, who left His exalted glory, to be born of a virgin, to live a perfect life, to suffer humiliating rejection, and to die as the perfect payment for our sins. On the third day God raised Him from the dead, and to the Son in whom He was well pleased, He gave all authority in Heaven and on the earth.

*Holy and gracious Father may we recognize the authority You have given unto Your beloved Son. May this recognition burn into our soul to whom we belong. Give us this day the unquenchable desire to accept and complete the commission Jesus has called us all into. Amen*

**ATTENTION MEN: April Brotherhood Breakfast will be Sunday, April 19th at 8 a.m. with Brother Derrick Fielder giving devotional. Please come and join us in fellowship!**

## ***The Maker's Quilt***

By Chanda Hunton Minehart

I did not receive any submissions for "The Maker's Quilt" this month, but still felt lead to continue the feature, and in doing so, I found myself in the position of sharing my own reflections again. During my brainstorming process for this article, time and time again I found myself pondering the collective body of our church. So often, we have heard Pastor Jim state that we have been called together as the body of Christ, no one is in this fellowship by accident or by random circumstance, but rather by God's calling and by God's plan. When my husband and I joined New Georgia Baptist, I remember Pastor Jim emphasizing this to us. As I come to know more people in our church, and even as I work on this newsletter, it becomes clearer to me, that while God is calling us together as individuals, it is as a body that He is joining us together, and strengthening us in faith.

Last month, I wrote of God using personal experiences, or our "patches", to sew us into what He has called or desires us to be, but as Christians, our personal experiences are not ours alone. Those experiences become part of our personal testimony by shaping and molding us, and directing us to the places and path of God's will. Like the refiner's fire, our experiences strengthen our faith, draw us closer to Christ, and move us in our mission to share the Gospel with all the world.

In continuing "The Maker's Quilt", I would like to share with you a personal experience in which the Lord took my own self-doubts and naiveties, and sewed me into the fellowship with our church family, and me into fabric of service to Him.

For many years, I found myself caught and struggling between my soul's desire to serve the Lord and my human heart and mind's self-doubt. I would pray that God use me, but yet I would set a trap for myself by also thinking that I was too flawed, not good enough, or just not special enough to be called by the Lord. I was saved, but yet I was not submitting. I was caught somewhere between Saul and Paul. I took my sins to the altar and surrendered to Jesus, but then I tried to carry them back with me. It was like I was trying to play tug-of-war with the burden and weight of the Cross. I loved Jesus, and I wanted to praise Him in service, but my flesh would not let go. I can remember time after time comparing myself to others and thinking what better "Christians" they were than me. Those I knew that served in the church all seemed more scripturally versed, had more Biblical knowledge, were stronger in faith, and even seemed less sinful than me. Back and forth I went, see-sawing up and down - I wanted to serve God, but I just kept thinking, "why would God use me". Then unexpectedly, God called.....

Well, it was actually Stacie Cash who called on the phone, but a simple conversation became a call to my soul from God. Stacie asked me to consider serving as our Sunday morning nursery coordinator. I was shocked! I wasn't that well known at church, nor very involved, plus, I far from fit the self invented "cookie-cutter" idea of someone involved in church service and ministry. So how could anyone consider nominating me to serve in our church? And then even more shamefully, I thought surely this cannot be what I have been praying for - how insignificant is a nursery coordinator? I thought if God ever did call me, it would be for something bigger, grander, something more significant....

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Over a matter of days, through prayer, scripture, sermons, songs, and countless other, slight but divinely perfect ways, God spoke to my heart. God made me realize that I once and for all had to die to self - even the self-hating and self-loathing part. Holding on to guilt is not the same as conviction. Jesus willingly carried the cross so that I would not have to - it was time for me to truly realize that Jesus was more than enough! God also made it abundantly clear to me that having a true desire to serve Him must begin by being void of self pride and ego. God showed me that if I am to serve Him, I must decrease, so that He increases.

I now serve in our church as the nursery coordinator - it's not a glamorous, and admittedly, it is not the calling I had in mind, but I am still thankful and humbled, because it does allow me to serve my King. God has taught me there is no such thing as an insignificant calling because serving Him, and glorifying Him exceeds all definitions of significance. This opportunity has allowed me to grow in fellowship with my church family, and has allowed me to feel that I am truly a part of this congregation. I am still not anyone special or significant, but that's completely okay, because, praise God, I don't have to be, because He is! Sometimes my self-doubts still come creeping back, and I sometimes look around and see some of the members of our church family as bright, perfect, pretty patches, while I tend to think of myself more in the way of the dark green, not so perfect, paisley patches I mentioned last month. But now I have peace with that too, since I now know that our Maker's quilt is beautiful beyond comparison and made up of the vibrant, beautiful patches and the dark green paisley ones sewn side by side. We each are different, yet the same in that we are all His. It is truly no accident, but rather by His providence that He is sewing us all together.

If you want to serve the Lord, but feel somehow too insignificant, or unworthy, know that you are wrong. If you are His, He has purpose for your life - a purpose that glorifies Him. You, too, are a patch being sewn into the Maker's quilt.

*If you would like to share your story, or an experience, in "The Maker's Quilt", please send an email to [ngbcnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:ngbcnewsletter@yahoo.com).*

## **A Special "Thank You" from the Care Closet:**

The Care Closet would like to thank the Men's Wild Game Dinner Committee and all those who attended for the generous donation made to the Care Closet Ministry. This donation was such a blessing and enabled us to purchase a large amount of food to restock our food pantry. God has certainly blessed this ministry with compassion and generosity.

In another note of thanks and praise, the Care Closet received a donation of 2 refrigerators in excellent condition! These refrigerators are allowing us to store a wider variety of items. God's timing is always perfect...the Care Closet had actually been considering purchasing a refrigerator and in the same week we were given two! God has blessed us more abundantly than what we have asked!

Please remember to pray for the many families that are currently in need, or are facing great struggles.

God Bless!

Pam Hilderbrand

## **Tough Times**

By James Lossick

My wife tells me I need to stop worrying about the economy. You know, she is probably right. It tends to raise my blood pressure and make me feel helpless. I suppose that I get frustrated with the politicians and the leaders of our nation. I just feel that they may be spending too much, talking too much and taking over too much. This is a belt tightening time and we are just spending like there is no tomorrow.

So where did my faith go..... as a born again believer I know that we are not in control, God is the one in control. The Bible is full of stories of famine and pestilence which led God's people in a stronger faith.

Take Joseph for example, Joseph was chosen to be taken captive and enslaved, only to be elevated in a time of famine. To hear the story of Joseph step by step, but without faith, would read much differently. Consider if we found ourselves in Joseph's position, but without faith in God. If we were living Joseph's life, we would probably think our lives were pretty bad, we would probably even think that God had forsaken us. If we were tricked by our own brothers and thrown into a well, we would surely think that God was not on our side. If we were taken by slave traders, we would certainly think it was all over. If we were accused of raping our master's wife and put in a dungeon, we would probably find ourselves thinking this is definitely the end. When the pharaoh called us into his presence, we would think our life would never be spared. Then after our fate had seemed to turn, and we found ourselves in a great position of power, would we be putting back like Joseph did, or would we suck up all that we could? Or consider this, without faith could Joseph have had mercy on his brothers?

In these tough times, do not lean on your own understanding. God is in control and has a plan that will surely bring forth His glory. We may never know why the tough times come while we are living them, but our faith will always sustain us. **Matthew 7:7 "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."**

God can give you peace that transcends understanding, if you will let Him.

## ***NGBC Family Spotlight: Mrs. Madge Robinson and Mrs. Jane Robinson*** ***Sisters through marriage, in friendship, and by faith in Christ***

If you know Mrs. Madge and Mrs. Jane, then they need no introduction; but if you have not had the opportunity to get to know them, please take the time to now, you will quickly experience a blessing!

Mrs. Jane and Mrs. Madge married brothers Fred and Jerry Robinson. The women have had the wonderful and unique experience of sharing sisterhood through marriage, friendship, and faith. Both are active members of New Georgia Baptist, and have dedicated their time, talents and lives to Jesus Christ.

Mrs. Madge joined the NGBC family in 1996, but had attended the church for a brief time as a very small child. It was at New Georgia Baptist, that Mrs. Madge first sang before a congregation at the age of about 3. Mrs. Madge is best known for her precious, beautiful and heart-felt singing. When Mrs. Madge sings, you truly feel the presence of God. Along with her talented voice, Mrs. Madge also plays piano, and once served as church pianist. Mrs. Madge is currently an active member of the choir, the Victory Sunday school class, Lite & Lively, and the visitation and outreach ministry. The love Mrs. Madge has for Jesus can always be seen shining through her, and can especially be heard when she sings. Along with her love for praising and worshiping through song, Mrs. Madge greatly enjoys being a part of the visitation and outreach ministry. She says that this ministry not only blesses those she and the others visit, but also her own life. Mrs. Madge also loves and cherishes our pastors, and her friends and family here at New Georgia Baptist! Mrs. Madge says that since her retirement two years ago from a 23 year career of bookkeeping with Mac's Painting and Decorating, and following the passing of her husband, New Georgia Baptist has especially blessed her life. Mrs. Madge is blessed to be the mother of two grown children - Iris Kent, and Lee Robinson; and the grandmother of 5 wonderful grandchildren.

Mrs. Jane Robinson has attended New Georgia Baptist for over 72 years. Mrs. Jane's dedication to Christ and our church began with her parents who also attended and served at New Georgia, with her mother teaching Sunday school and her father serving as a deacon. Mrs. Jane was saved and baptized at the age of 13 during the New Georgia Baptist summer revival and was baptized in Legion Lake. In 1951, Mrs. Jane married Fred Robinson. Her husband began attending New Georgia following their marriage, and also lived a life of service and dedication to Christ, his church, and his wife. In addition to her 34 year career as a social worker with the Department of Family and Children Services, Mrs. Jane has served in the church as WMU President, a Sunday school teacher, and in the choir. Mr. Fred served as an ordained deacon, a member of the church building committee, and in many other capacities. Mr. Fred also helped to build the our first Sunday school classes, and helped to build the trim in the former church. It was also Mr. Fred that was first called on by the Lord, to build a steel cross to be placed in the church foundation at the head of the pulpit in the former church sanctuary. For many, many years, only Mr. Fred and Mrs. Jane knew of the cross. A few years ago, Mrs. Jane's sister shared with Pastor Jim the story of this cross; after speaking with Mrs. Jane and Mr. Fred, Pastor Jim had a cross placed at the head of the pulpit, in the foundation of our new sanctuary.

In 2005, New Georgia Baptist honored Mr. Fred and Mrs. Jane with a "Model Members" legacy recognition for their years of service and for the many contributions they made to our church and to the mission of sharing the Gospel message.

### **There's Still Time to Join Relay for Life:**

Relay for Life is more than just a fundraiser - it's a chance for caring people in our community to come together to remember and support those facing the battle with cancer. This support is crucial both for those who have lost a loved one and for those who are still battling cancer. At the American Cancer Society, the funds raised through Relay For Life® not only go to research, advocacy, and education, but also for vital programs and services that give people hope and answers. Thanks to help from volunteers and donors, the American Cancer Society is reaching out to patients and families to help them learn about cancer, make informed decisions about the disease, connect with others, and find help and support in their own community no matter where they are in their cancer journey. Relay For Life® is a time to remember the lives of those lost to cancer, but it is also an opportunity to spread hope for the future. By raising funds for the American Cancer Society and the important help and services it provides, those who take part in Relay are supporting the mission to save lives, diminish suffering, and once and for all eliminate cancer as a major health problem across the world

There is still time to join our Relay for Life Team just log onto [www.pauldingrelay.org](http://www.pauldingrelay.org) today. The cost is \$10, which helps pay for our team tee-shirts. If you are a cancer survivor join today and we will waive the \$10.00 fee. Many of our church members have had cancer, and are living longer lives because of your generosity. Lets make cancer a thing of the past. Join our team or make a donation today!

Thank you, and God Bless!  
Mark Puopolo  
Team Captain and Cancer Survivor