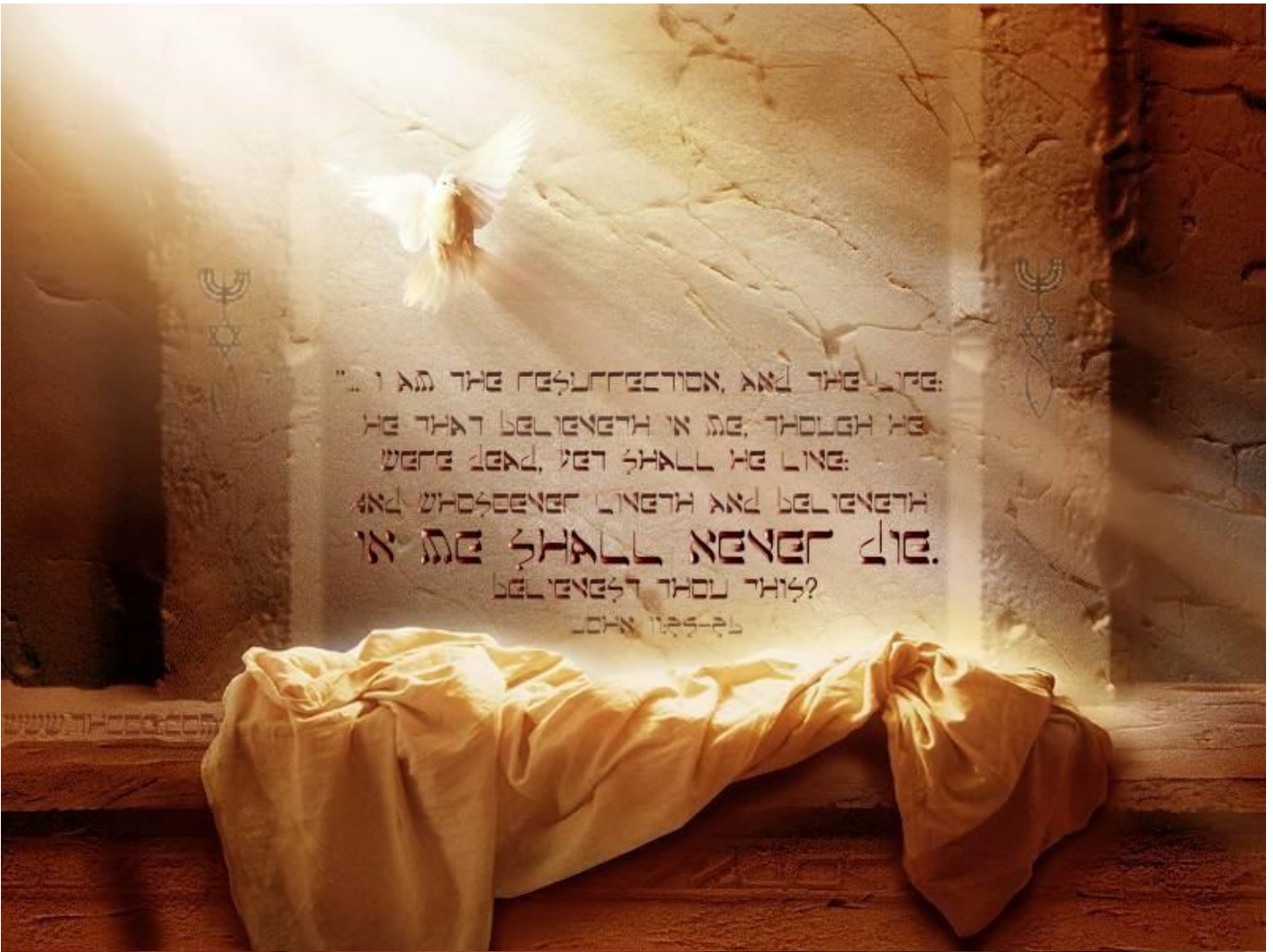


A wedding is a day, a marriage is a lifetime



**JESUS' RESURRECTION
CHANGES EVERYTHING**

A blessed Easter to all!

Hello to all our friends and colleagues in CEETT

Some of you may have received the news by now that Bernard and I have had to back away from our position as IET due to Bernard's failing battle with cancer. We thank you for your prayers in the past and ask for them to continue.....



On a more personal basis we are living a true Lenten journey of prayer, sacrifice, and soul searching bearing each other's sorrow, yet surrendering to God's will for our changing lives. Always we give thanks for the journey we have had and continue to have together and for the blessings of family, great friends and this ministry that have put meaning and purpose to our matrimonial vocation. Through these people is often where we have experienced God's love and comforting. We may not always understand God's ways but we do trust in His plan for us all.

We thank you for your confidence in us to serve you ...we did it to the best of our ability, listening to our members, sharing with the executive and asking the Holy Spirit for guidance.

Please take the time to tell the ones you cherish how important they are to you. It is a message that needs to be said and heard often.

Have a prayerful lent/Easter session. Our Love, His Peace
Bernard and Ginette.



Hello to all our friends and family of ICEE in Trinidad & Tobago.

It is with great sorrow that we are again your International Executive Team for ICEE. Our good friends Bernard and Ginette Charbonneau have gone through a struggle and Bernard has joined the saints in Heaven to help look out of all of us there. Due to his failing health we were asked to step back into the position of coordinating team for the remainder of the current term, which will end at the meeting in Panama in October of 2015.

We heard last weekend that most people think of Lent as a time of preparation for Easter but it is actually a time to prepare for Good Friday. As we go through Lent, keep our Lord's agony in mind, and pray for all those in our family of ICEE that are suffering due to health reasons.

We pray you will have a blessed Easter celebration and rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord.

We thank you for your continued commitment to our important ministry and to the engaged couples preparing for the sacrament of marriage.

God bless you and know that T&T has a special place in our hearts.

Steve, Claudia Schulz & Fr. Kevin Maloney, International Executive Team

Hello to all our EE family,

As we continue on the final leg of our Lenten Journey, the fifth (5th) week of Lent and into Palm Sunday, which begins Holy Week, we pray that Jesus will give us the strength and courage to walk the final road with Him. We remember how He, Jesus, remained calm throughout that sorrowful ordeal; He was faithful to His father and obedient to the point of Death - imagine a shameful one.



Similarly, with Jesus, we too are invited to remain unwavering in our devotion to God, especially in the midst of painful and difficult circumstances. We pray that you, our EE families, internationally, in the Caribbean and at home in T&T, be filled with the joy of Easter and truly experience the Resurrection in your lives.

A Suggestion: Create a physical space in your homes, so as to assist you in developing the spiritual space within your hearts.

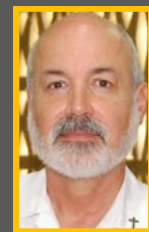
God Bless and do have a wonderful Easter vacation with your families.

Lester & Aura Victor , Caribbean Coordinators, CEE Caribbean

Hopefully, during the Lenten season we have been emptying ourselves of our selfishness, of our "self-love", to allow ourselves to be filled by love of God and one another. As we enter into this Easter season, when we celebrate that Christ brings us to new life out of death, let us ask him to help us to take family life out of "spiritual death" so that once again our families may be life-giving to all members of the family.

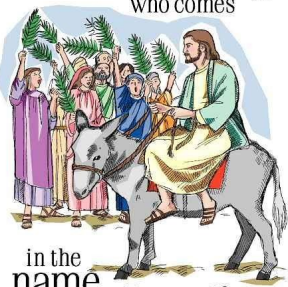
May God continue to bless the work of all those who labour in the vineyard of preparing couples for marriage and family life. And may we all grow into a deeper appreciation of the urgent need for renewal of our families in these times.

Fr. Derek Anton, Spiritual Director CEETT



See What the End Will be- A Palm Sunday Sermon by Msgr. Charles Pope <http://blog.adw.org/>

"Blessed is the king
who comes



in the
name
of the Lord!
LUKE 19:38

The Passion which we read in Palm Sunday's liturgy is too long to comment on in detail. We are only able to take a portion and examine it.

It may be of some value to examine the "middle range" of problems and personalities. The usual villains such as the Temple leaders, Judas, and the recruited crowd

which shouted "Crucify him!" are fairly obvious in displaying their sinfulness and are unambiguously wicked. But there are others who participate in the Passion accounts whose sinfulness, struggles and neglect are more subtle, but still real. It is perhaps in these figures that we can learn a great deal about ourselves who, like them, may not overtly shout "crucify," but who are often not as unambiguously holy and heroic as the persecutors are unambiguously wicked and bold.

As these behaviours are noted, we must understand that WE do these things. For the Passion accounts are not merely portraits of people long gone, they are portraits of you and me. We do these things.

So, let's look at this middle range group in three stages.

I. The Perception that is Partial - Near the beginning of today's passion account the apostles, who are at the Last Supper with Jesus are reminded of what the next days will hold. Jesus says, *This night all of you will have your faith in me shaken, for it is written: 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be dispersed;' but after I have been raised up, I shall go before you to Galilee.*

Note that the apostles are reminded of these facts since Jesus has said them before on a few occasions (e.g., Matt 16:21, Matt 17:22-23, Matt 20:19)

Thus we see that the Lord has consistently tried to teach and prepare them for the difficulties ahead. He has told them exactly what is going to happen and how it will end, NOT in death, but rising to new life. But though he has told them over and over, they still do not understand or see. Thus he predicts that their faith in in will be shaken.

Their perception is partial. They will see only the negative and forget that He has promised to rise. Since they cannot see beyond the apparent defeat of the moment they will retreat into fear and not boldly and confidently accompany him to his passion and glorification (for his passion IS lifting up, his glorification). Instead they will flee. He has shown the "what the end shall be." But they cannot see or accept it. Thus fear overwhelms them and draw back into a sinful fear and disassociation from Jesus. Only a few, Mary his Mother, John, Magdalene, and a few other women would see him through to the end.

But as for the rest they see only what is gory and awful and miss what is glory and awesome. Their perception is quite partial and their blindness comes, paradoxically, from not hearing or listening to what Jesus has been telling them all along.

*"Yes, I love the cross, the cross alone, because I always see it behind Jesus' shoulders."
~ St. Pio of Pietrelcina~*

We too can easily suffer from a blindness caused by poor hearing. For the Lord has often told us, that if we trust, our struggles will end in glory and new life. But, blind and forgetful we give way to our fears and fail to boldly walk the way of Christ's passion. We draw back and disassociate ourselves from Jesus, and exhibit some of the same tendencies and problems we will now observe in the people of that day.

So let's examine some of the problems that emerge from the Partial perception and forgetful fear of many of the disciples and others.

II. The Problems Presented - The problems that emerge are at least five. They are unhealthy and sinful patterns that emerge from the fear generated in not trusting Jesus vision and refusing to see it. We can consider them one by one. The word "we" used here is short hand and does not mean that every single person does this. Rather, it means that collectively we have these tendencies.

A. They Become Drowsy - One of the common human techniques for dealing with stress and the hardships of life is to just go numb and drowsy. We can just doze off into a moral sleep. Being vigilant to threats posed to our souls by sin, or the harm caused by injustice, (whether to ourselves or others) is just too stressful. So we just tune out. We stop noting or really even caring, about critically important matters. We anesthetize ourselves with

things like creature comforts, meaningless distractions, alcohol or drugs. We go into a kind of moral sleep and we begin to lack a prayerful vigilance. Prayer and spirituality pose too many uncomfortable questions. So we just tune out and day dream about meaningless things like what a certain Hollywood star is doing, or what the latest sports stats are.

In the passions accounts, Peter, James and John are personally asked by the Lord to pray with him. But they doze. Perhaps it is the wine. Surely it is the flesh (for the Lord speaks of it). But unwilling or unable to deal with the stress the Lord is clearly under, they just tune out, go numb, and drowse away. Grave evil is at the very door. But they sleep on. The Lord warns them to stay awake, lest they give way to temptation. But still they sleep. Some one they know and love is in grave danger, but it is too much, so they just tune out, much as we tune out at the overwhelming suffering of Christ in the poor and needy. We just stop noticing. It's too painful, so we tune out. The Lord had often warned them to be vigilant, sober and alert (Mk 13:34, Matt 25:13, Mk 13:37; Matt 24:42; Luke 21:36, *inter al*). Other scriptures would later pick up the theme ([Romans 13:11](#); 1 Peter 5:8; 1 Thess 5:6, *inter al*). For drowsiness is a significant and serious spiritual problem.

Sadly God described us well when he remarked to Isaiah: *Israel's watchmen are blind, they all lack knowledge; they are all mute dogs, they cannot bark; they lie around and dream, they love to sleep.* (Is 56:10)

We do this, not only because we might be lazy, but also because we fear. And one strategy is to try and not notice, to tune out. But, despite the sleepiness of the disciples, the wicked are still awake, and the threat does not go away by a drowsy inattentiveness to it. Thus we ought to be confident and sober. Life's challenges are nothing to fear, for the Lord has told us we have already won, if we trust him. But the disciples have forgotten Jesus promise to rise after three days. And so, often, have we. So they, and we just give way to stress and tune out.

In Jesus and for Him, enemies and friends alike are to be loved ~Thomas A Kempis~



B. They Seek to Destroy - It is said in the text when Peter finally does come awake that he lashes out with a sword and wounds Malchus, the servant of the High priest. The Lord rebukes Peter and reminds him of the vision: *Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?* (John 18:11). He goes on to heal Malchus who, tradition says later became a follower.

We too, in our fear can often lash out and even seek to destroy our opponents. We usually act in this way because of fear. But if we are already certain of our victory, as the Lord has promised, why do we fear and why do we need to ruthlessly suppress our opponents and enemies? It is one thing to speak the truth in love, boldly and confidently. But too often we aggressively lash out and seek to win a debate. In so doing we may lose a soul. The Lord healed Malchus and saw in him a future disciple. The Lord saw what the end shall be. Peter did not, and in fear, lashed out with an aggression that did not bespeak a confidence in final victory.

It is true that we are required to confront evil, resist injustice and speak to a confused world with clarity. But above all we are to love those whom we address. There is little place for fear in our conversation with the world. The truth will out, the truth will prevail. We may not win every encounter. But we do not have to, all we have to do is plant seeds. God will water them and others may well harvest them. But in Christ we have already won. And this confidence should give us a serenity.

But Peter has forgotten Jesus promise to rise after three days. And so, often, have we. So Peter, and we just give way to fear and lash out, or attack and have a need to win, when we already have won.

C. They Deny - Peter, confronted with the fearful prospect of being condemned with Jesus denies that he knows him or is one of his followers. He disassociates himself from Christ. We too, confronted with the possibility of far lesser things like ridicule, will often deny a connection with the Lord or with the Church.

WHAT GOD GAVE UP FOR LENT

HIMSELF

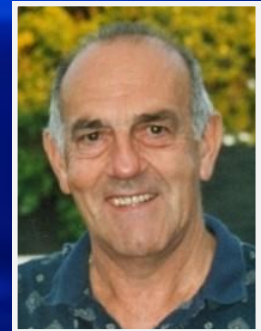
©nakedpastor

"As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus' thirst...'Repent and believe' Jesus tells us. What are we to repent? Our indifference, our hardness of heart. What are we to believe? Jesus thirsts even now, in your heart and in the poor -- He knows your weakness. He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you."

~ Blessed Teresa of Calcutta ~

"Do you fast? Give me proof of it by your works. By what kind of works? If you see a poor man, take pity on him. If you see an enemy, be reconciled with him. If you see a friend gaining honor, do not be jealous of him. If you see a beautiful woman, pass her by. And let not only the mouth fast, but also the eye and the ear and the feet and the hands and all members of your bodies."

~ St. John Chrysostom ~



In Memoriam

"What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others, and the world, remains... immortal."

-- Albert Pike

Bernard Charbonneau left us on 30th March 2014, after 46 years of marriage to Ginette. Bernard was a great mentor to many, whose lives have been irrevocably changed for the better, having encountered him. He (and Ginette) laboured for the development of family life and young persons, being involved in COR, Marriage Encounter and Engaged Encounter, taking over as the head of the latter in Dec/Jan 2012. His sense of humour, his ability to motivate, organize and sacrifice so that others benefitted, have left the indelible touch of our Saviour on the hearts of many, and was a testimony to Jesus alive in a human being. His final sufferings were his last sacrifice to Jesus. May our Father welcome him home with His loving greeting... "Well done good and faithful servant..." (Mt. 25:23)

Philippians 3:20-21 *But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.*

Psalm 116:15 *Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints*



Someone might say of one of the more controversial passages of scripture (such as prohibitions on divorces, fornication, homosexual activity, commands to tithe, etc), "Oh, you don't really believe that, do you?" And it's too easy to give way to fear and either say "no" or to qualify our belief. Why suffer ridicule, endure further questioning, or experience the unpleasantness of debate? So we just disassociate, compromise, or qualify our faith to avoid the stress. We even congratulate ourselves for being tolerant, etc. when we do it.

Faith activates God - Fear
activates the Enemy

~Joel Osteen~

Jesus says, *If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man*

will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels. (Mat 16:21). But too easily we ARE ashamed. And so, like Peter, we engage in some form of denial. Peter was afraid because he has forgotten to "see what the end shall be." He has forgotten that Jesus will rise after three days. So too do we often forget that. So we lack confidence and give way to fear, and we deny, so as to avoid suffering with Jesus.

D. They Dodge - Simply put, when Jesus is arrested, all the disciples except John split. They are nowhere to be found. After Jesus' arrest, it is said that Peter, prior to his own denials had followed the Lord, "at a distance" (Mk 14:54) but as soon as trouble rose, he scrambled.

And we too can run. Sometimes it's persecutions from the world. But sometimes its just our own self-generated fear that following the Lord is too hard, and involves too many sacrifices we are just not willing to make. Maybe it will endanger our money since the Lord insists that we tithe and be generous to the poor. Maybe it will endanger our playboy lifestyle since the Lord insists on chastity and respect. Maybe we are doing something we have no business doing, that is unjust, excessive or sinful. But, rather than face our fears, whether from within or without, we just high-tail it out.

The disciples forgot that Jesus has shown them what the end shall be. In three days he would win the victory. But, this forgotten, their fears emerged and they ran. We too, must see what the end shall be to resist and confront our many fears.

We owed a debt we could not pay; Jesus paid a debt he did not owe.

E. They Deflect - Now in this case our example is Pontius Pilate, not one of the disciples. But the fact is that Pilate was summoned to faith, just like anyone else. Are you a King? he asked Jesus. And Jesus responds by putting Pilate on trial: Are you saying this on your own, or have others been telling you about me?" The fact is, Pilate has a choice to make. Either he will accept what Jesus is saying as true, or he will give way to fear and commit a terrible sin of injustice. Now the text all make it clear that Pilate knew Jesus was innocent. But, because he feared the crowds he handed Jesus over.

Now, note PILATE did this. The crowds tempted



him through fear, but HE did the condemning. Yet note that he tries to deflect his choice. The text says, *he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!"* (Mat 16:21). Well, actually Pilate it is also YOUR responsibility. You had a choice and you made your own career and hide more important that justice. And, though you wanted to do what was right and were sympathetic with Jesus, merely wanting to do what is right is not enough.

So too for us. We also will favor our career or hide over what is right. And in so doing we will often blame others for what we freely choose. "I am not responsible, my mother dropped me on my head when I was two"etc.

In effect we are often willing to say, "Look Jesus, I love you. You get my Sundays, and my tithe and, generally I obey you. But you have to understand, I have a career, I need to make money for my family. If I really stand up for what is right, I might not make it in this world. You understand, don't you? ...I know the company is doing some things that are unjust, I know the world needs a clearer witness from me....and I'll do all that, after I retire. But for now.....well, you know.

It's really my boss who is to blame. It's this old hell bound sin soaked world that's to blame. Not me!" And we wash our hands and excuse our silence and inaction in the face of injustice and sin.

And all this is done in fear. We forget what the end shall be and get focused on the fearful present. We lack the vision Jesus is trying to give us that in three days we will rise with him. But we stay blind to that and only see the threat of now.

III. The Path that is Prescribed - OK, by now you ought to know the path that is prescribed: See what the end shall be! In three days we rise! Why are we afraid? Jesus has already won the victory. It is true, we get there through the cross. But, never forget what the end shall be! Today we read the Gospel of Friday, but wait till Sunday morning! I'll rise!

Yes, after he has been raised, he goes before us into Galilee. And for us, Galilee is heaven. Whatever our sorrows, if we are faithful we will see Jesus in the Galilee of heaven. Never forget this vision. After three days we will rise with him and be reunited in Galilee.

So take courage, see what the end shall be! The end for those who are faithful is total victory. We don't need to drowse, destroy, deny, dodge and deflect. We've already won. All we need to do is hold out.

An old Gospel songs says, I promise the Lord that I would hold out! He said he's meet me in Galilee! So hold out, Galilee is not far, in three days we rise with Him.

Saint John of Damascus

Now let the heavens be joyful,
Let earth her song begin:
Let the round world keep triumph,
And all that is therein;
Invisible and visible,
Their notes let all things blend,
For Christ the Lord is risen
Our joy that hath no end

SCARECROW A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. — LUKE 12:32 KJV

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



The curtain of the temple split from top to bottom. **Mt 27:51** Larry and Roy were two priests living in denial of the signs of the day.



Family Life and Fatherhood – “It real easy”.

Fr. Derek Anton

Family Life under attack

There is little doubt that marriage and family life are under attack and have been for some time now. One only has to look at the stress in marital relationships, the divorce rate and the disunity in families to confirm this position. We live in an age where the individual is considered to be supreme and in our change-oriented culture, hardly anyone is willing to become or remain committed to anything or anyone for too long.

We live in an era when the pervasive attitude is one of “self-love”. This strikes at the heart of what marriage is supposed to be: where each spouse gives themselves selflessly for the good of the other. Modern technology also encourages us to live in our own “cyber world”.

A quick look at movies and sitcoms will confirm that modern culture portrays marriage as something less than desirable, even unworkable. Family life is portrayed in an upside-down fashion where fathers are clueless and the children rule the parents. More recently, alternatives are proposed to challenge the traditional view of marriage as between one man and one woman.



It is a spiritual attack

Who else would want our families to be disunited but the Evil one? The Lord calls us to unity in love... the Evil one wants to bring brokenness and disunity. It has been so from the beginning: the harmony between Adam and

Eve is broken after the Fall through sin.

In the Book of Tobit there is an interesting story of a young man (Tobias) who goes on an adventurous journey to find his future bride. He meets the angel Raphael along the way. When he does find his future spouse, he is afraid because he learns that Sarah has had seven husbands before him. In each case, a demon had killed her husband on their wedding night. Tobias has no wish to die. The angel Raphael reassures him and advises him about performing a certain ritual to expel the demon and “then, before you sleep together, first stand up,

both of you, and pray. Ask the Lord of heaven to grant you his grace and protection.” He tells him not to be afraid, that she was destined for him, and that “it is you who will save her.” (Tb 6:18)

If the attack is spiritual in nature, the defense must entail a return and appeal to God. God must be at the centre of our families. And the men have to play their part. On their wedding night, Tobias invites his bride to pray with him. (cf. Tb 8:4-9)

Fatherless families

Men need to be more faithful to their role in shepherding their families in prayer and the spiritual life. Sons and daughters need to see their fathers as true Christian role models of father and husband. Last year I heard of a man I knew long ago who had died. At the time of his death, his daughter said that she would not marry anyone who was not “just like her father.” She found her father to be the best father and husband. His sons also praised him for treating their mother “like a queen.” What a legacy!

“The heart of a father is the masterpiece of nature.”
~Antoine Francois Prevost ~

Unfortunately, we have suffered from the wound of “fatherless-ness” for far too long. There are too many families with fathers either emotionally, or very often, physically absent, leaving single mothers to try their best to look after the children as best they can. This is usually done under great stress - financial and otherwise - working at more than one job, and the children left with little supervision to bring up themselves. This is a pain suffered by many families and healing is needed. We need to reverse this trend of “fatherless-ness”.

“It real easy”

I met a man earlier this year who told me about his approach to being a husband and father. Basically, when his wife became pregnant with their first child, he told her that their happy-go-lucky lifestyle would have to change. He would read the newspaper or a book loudly next to his wife, reading also for the child in her womb. Rather than toys, he bought his children books. He attends the PTA meetings at their schools. He usually would be one of only a few fathers who would attend. When he comes home from work he would ask his children about their day in school and they would speak volumes to him.

On the issue of bringing about a change in how we live to-

day, he believes the responsibility rests with parents, including the disciplining of their children. His whole life revolves around his family- he cannot fathom why other men would go somewhere to drink after work instead of going home.

His two children are doing well at school and people tell him that they are "bright". He tells them that his children are not "bright", they are "happy". Basically, he finds his happiness at home with his wife and children. His children are happy too, and they flourish.

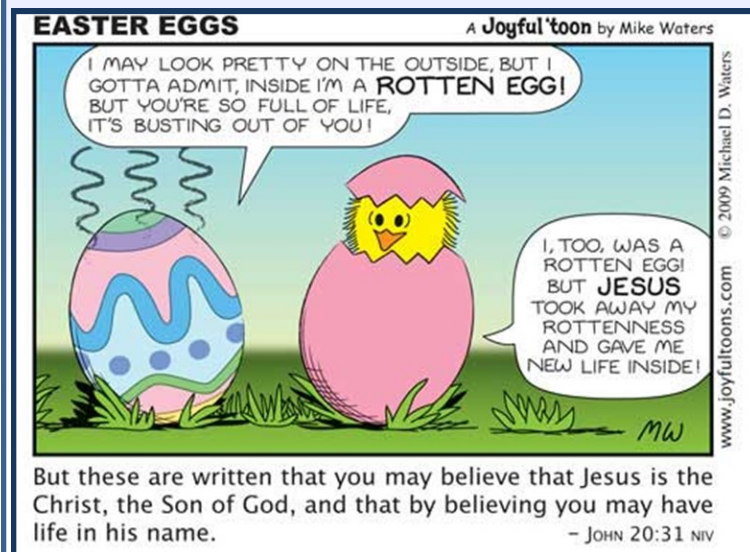
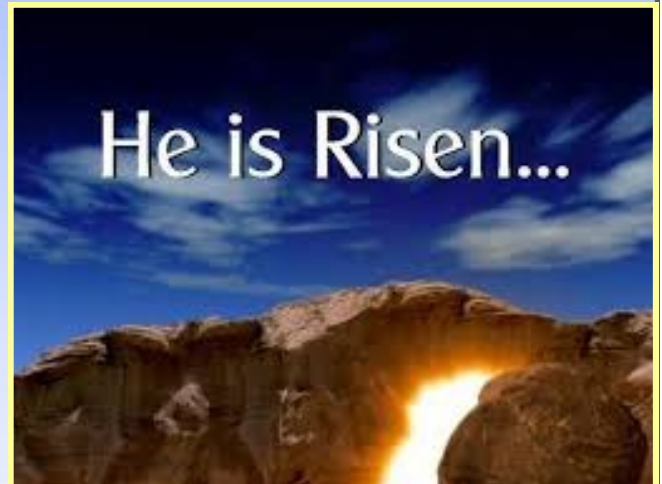
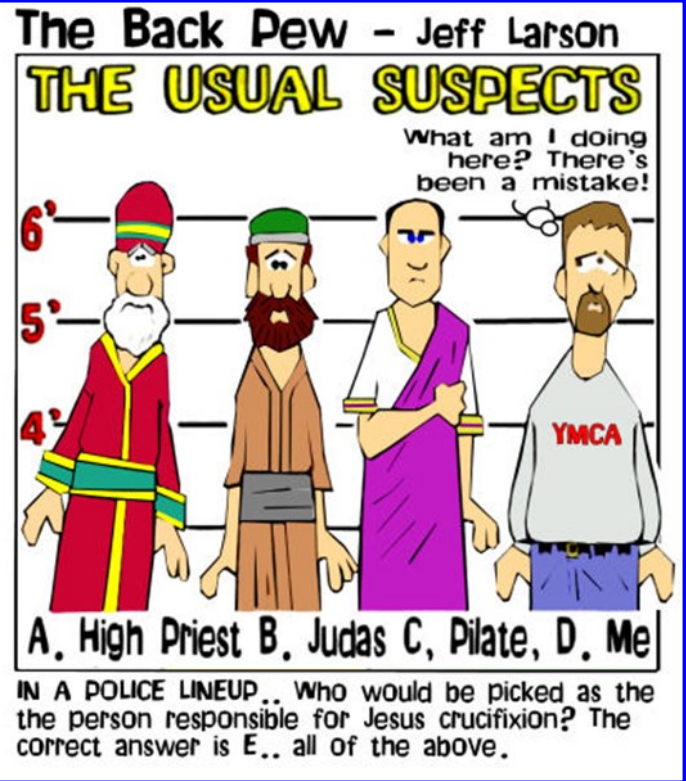
This man is a stranger to me. I do not know anything about him. But what struck me was his deep conviction that his family life was his happiness, and the commitment that he willingly gives to his family. We need more men like this. At the end of our conversation he said to me: "It real easy". Yes, if out of love, and in a spirit of sacrifice, we are willing do the simple things that are necessary for family life, we will have happy families, whatever difficulties come our way. So, why do we make it so hard for ourselves?

We need more men like St. Joseph who was not afraid: to listen to the Lord, to take Mary home as his wife (cf. Mt 1:20), or to be inconvenienced for the sake of his family and their safety (cf. Mt 2:13-14), and to lead his family in the practice of their faith (cf. Lk 2:41).

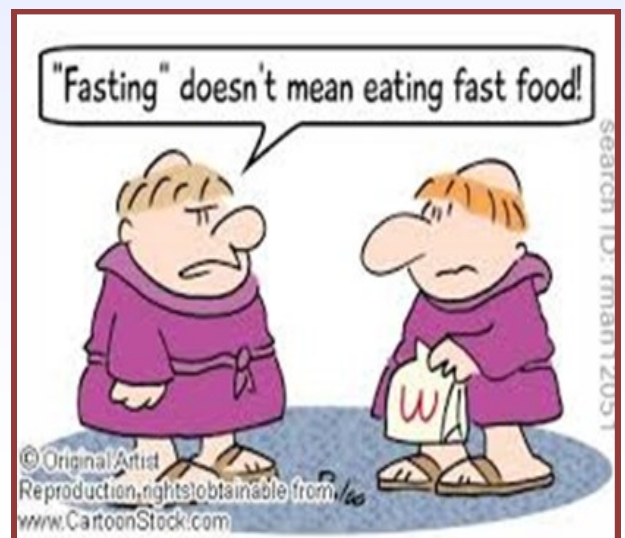
May God help our fathers and our families - for as the family goes, so goes the world .

"Original sin is not only the violation of a positive command ... but ... attempts ... to abolish fatherhood, destroying its rays which permeate the created world, placing in doubt the truth about God who is Love and leaving man with only a sense of the master-slave relationship."

~Pope John Paul II, *Crossing the Threshold of Hope* ~



But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
- JOHN 20:31 NIV



A God Who Still Moves Stones— An Easter Resurrection Message

There are so many people searching in this world. Searching for forgiveness, for hope, for meaning. And the good news of Easter is that the empty tomb provides that hope in a hopeless world.

Matthew 12:20-21 – says, A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In His name the nations will put their hope.

A bruised reed, a smoldering wick. That describes many people today. Perhaps you've been bruised by the trials of life. Perhaps you were bruised by harsh words or by a friend's anger or by a spouse's betrayal or by your own failure or the failures of those around you.

Perhaps, you feel like a smoldering wick. At one time your passion for God and for ministry and for life was flaming high, but the winds of life have blown and now you feel one step away from the flame going out all together.

There are many bruised reeds and smoldering wicks in the Bible. A woman standing before an angry crowd wanting to punish her for her sins. A leper, outcast, shunned from society. A Blind man on the side of the road. A paralytic lying on a stretcher, a woman with a long term illness.

Bruised reeds and smoldering wicks. And the world is so good at breaking those reeds in two and snuffing out those smoldering wicks. But what did Jesus say, He said, A bruised reed I will not break, and a smoldering wick I will not snuff out. In My name you will put your hope.

And the great message of Easter is that if Jesus Christ was powerful enough to move the stone and overcome the grave, then he is powerful enough to move the stones that are blocking my life.

The resurrection gives us hope in the face of the unfairness of the world. It gives us strength and courage in every situation that we face. And we need that. You need it, I need it.

In 2 Timothy 1:12 the apostle Paul wrote, "I know WHOM I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him for that day."

Now note that Paul did NOT say, "I know WHAT I have believed" Paul said: "I know WHOM I have believed..."

What a difference a day makes.

There are many of you that living in day one (Good Friday)... It's the day of the trial. And you are getting hit on all sides. It's here, it's now. Life is pouring in on you. And if you are there, if you are in the midst of day one, my encouragement to you is to maintain hope. Because what a difference a day

makes.

There are probably even more of you living in day two...Like the disciples on Saturday. The heat of the trial may be over but now is the time of confusion and frustration and discouragement. And perhaps your faith is weak. The future seems cloudy, the outcome uncertain. And if that's where you are, my encouragement to you is to maintain faith.

Because what a difference a day makes.

And if you aren't there now, be assured that it's coming, because Jesus Christ has won the victory.

And day three means hope. Day three means a change of fortune

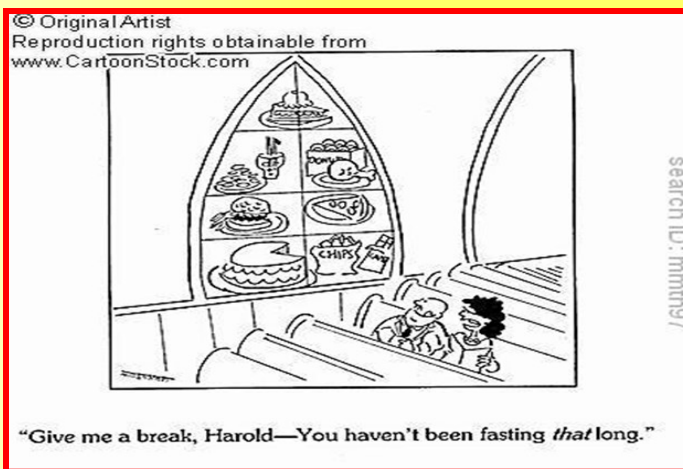
Day three means victory, now or in heaven.

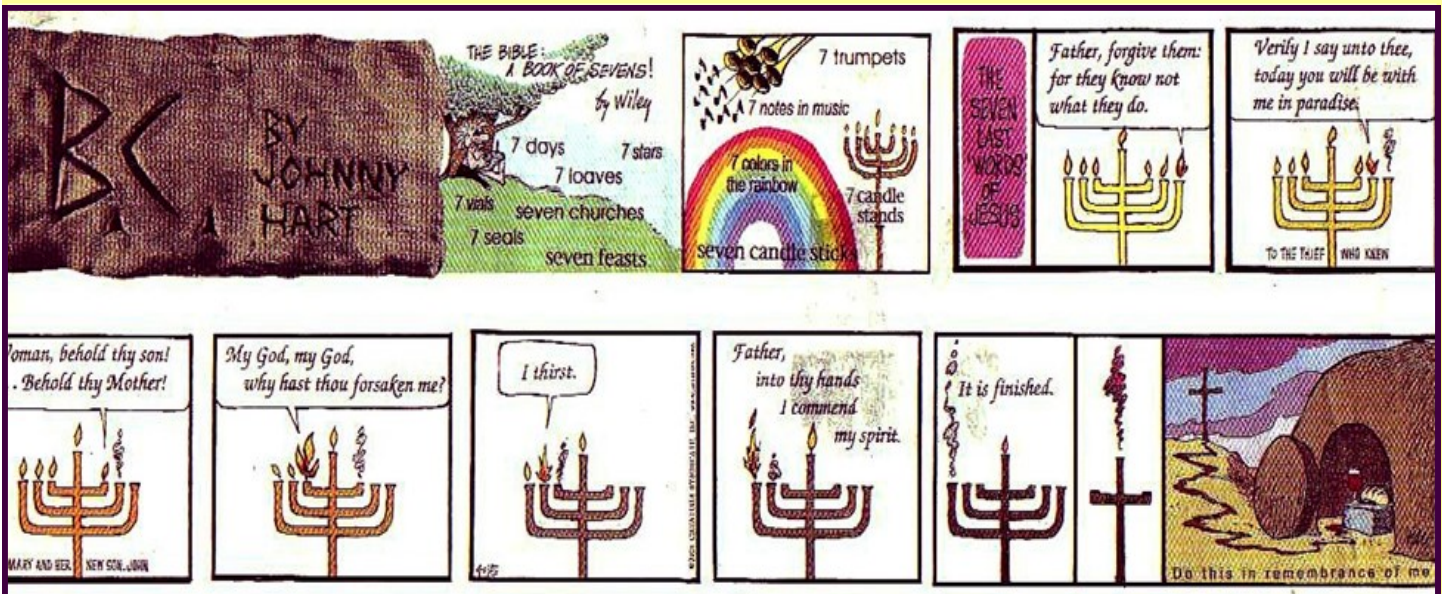
But what a difference a day makes. Maintain your hope. Maintain your faith and be encouraged and excited about day three.

A Sunday School teacher had just finished telling her third graders about how Jesus was crucified and placed in a tomb with a great stone sealing the opening. Then, wanting to share the excitement of the resurrection, she asked: "And what do you think were Jesus' first words when He came bursting out of that tomb alive?" A hand shot up into the air from the rear of the classroom. Attached to it was the arm of a little girl. Leaping out of her chair she shouted out excitedly "I know, I know!" "Good" said the teacher, "Tell us, what were Jesus first words." And Extending her arms high into the air she said: "TA-DA!"

The resurrected Lord is the central event of our faith. It's the "TA-DA!" of Christianity. And Because of Easter, we know that God in Christ Jesus is more powerful then anything in life, even death.

Excerpt of a sermon by Ken Kersten. <http://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/a-god-who-still-moves-stones--an-easter-resurrection-message-ken-kersten-sermon-on-easter-resurrection-65283.asp?Page=5>





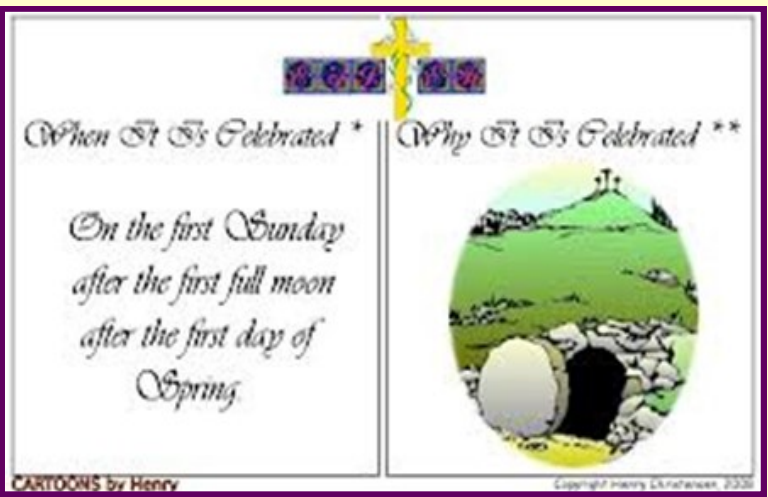
The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



FOR SALE - Single owner tomb. Only used three days, and still has that new tomb smell. Reason for sale.. resident was resurrected.

The joyful news that He is risen does not change the contemporary world. Still before us lie work, discipline, sacrifice. But the fact of Easter gives us the spiritual power to do the work, accept the discipline, and make the sacrifice.

~Henry Knox Sherrill~



Let the resurrection joy lift us from loneliness and weakness and despair, to strength and beauty and happiness

~Floyd W. Tomkins~