

In the Barn!

Barney's Newsletter



No. 3 – April 10th



The Resurrection our Reason for Hope

One year at college, John Chapman came to teach the students about evangelism. He asked the students what they thought about the gospel. His words were laced with excitement and hope at the gospel and resurrection Christians have in Christ. As he spoke, even in old age, his love and passion for the gospel infected and inspired those willing to listen.

As a preacher I can sometimes think that I have heard this all before, until I listen again to the message of Jesus' death and resurrection for me! Then my pulse quickens and I turn and remember all that Christ has done for His people.

Easter reminds us of the hope Christ has won for His people. Jesus rising from the grave tells of the new creation God works in His people (2 Corinthians 5:17). Easter gives hope because it teaches all about the life that exists beyond the grave. No longer subject to the fear of death entangling this world, Christians hope for life beyond the grave – that is Christian hope.

This Easter Sunday David will be preaching on Ephesians 2:1-10 and the new life God has given us in Christ. As Paul says, 'We were all dead in trespasses and sin...but God made us alive with Christ.' This is Christian hope, not for eternal life in this world, but eternal life with Christ in the one to come. My prayer and desire this Easter is that we all have and cherish this hope.

In Christ, Adam.

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Easter - even when it doesn't feel like it.

By Nicky Gangemi



lead up, or has Easter kind of snuck up on you this year?

As we celebrate Easter from the confines of our home this year, I know for sure I will be missing the

It's Easter time... but for me this year, it hasn't really felt like it. As a family, we would normally be preparing to go to church on Friday AND Sunday. Church two times in a week! That's something we only do at Easter and Christmas. I think going to church two times in a week really marks in our calendar and our lives how special and important Easter is for our faith.

So how about you? How are you feeling about Easter? Do you have any special traditions you do to prepare? Have you been getting excited in the

fellowship of getting together with my brothers and sisters in Christ. I will miss that special feeling of getting together at church when it is not a Sunday.

Let me share a few of the things we are doing to remind us about the truth behind Easter this year.

- Every night we read a Bible story in bed with Reuben, at Easter we are pausing our regular working through the Bible and we jumping

to the stories leading up to Jesus death and resurrection. Could you do this too? Pause where you are with your Bible reading and start reading the accounts of Jesus' last week, His death and resurrection. (Matthew 26-28, Mark 14-16, Luke 22-24 or John 17-21)

- We've been talking about the new life that Jesus brings, we've been doing crafts that relate to this. Are you a crafty person and can do some

Easter themed craft too, or maybe you'd like to do a different kind of D I Y

I remember when it was exciting to get an email, but now I get so excited when I receive a letter!

project that reminds you of the new life that Jesus brings. And if craft isn't your thing,

maybe read a Christian book that helps you to think about Jesus' and what He achieves at Easter (Some suggestions: The Case for Christ: What's the evidence for the resurrection? By Lee Strobel. The Cross of Christ, by John Stott or Making the most of the Cross, by John Champman.)

- We would normally go and visit our immediate family and share a meal, instead this year we will video call them and spend some time talking to them. Maybe you don't feel comfortable with video calling, so you could just do a phone call instead. And if that's still not something you are able to do, write a loved one a letter and post it to them! I remember when it was exciting to get an email, but now I get so excited when I receive a letter! You can share with them what you've been learning this Easter and how amazing the new life and hope that Jesus offers is.

I hope you have a wonderful Easter despite it not being "normal" and that you can celebrate and reflect on Jesus and all He has done.

Socially Isolated

...not
from
God!

By Kathy Hansen

The last few weeks have been tough. I live alone, but interact with people at work, at church, family and friends. Now I'm home all the time. I miss people. I like chatting to, and exchanging banter with, living breathing people in front of me. Social isolation makes that impossible. Work is harder

- tech problems, teamwork. Keeping in touch with people is harder. Even mundane activities like shopping are an effort. It's exhausting, depressing and lonely.

There is one thing social isolation has made a lot easier for me - rattling along in my

own personal pity party train. Nothing to distract me from sitting around feeling sorry for myself. Until Joe's devotional on Philippians 3 made me see that my pity party train has left God at the station.

I have a lot to be thankful to God for. I've decided to stop feeling sorry for myself, put it behind me, and use the opportunities and resources I have, to press on and live the way God wants me to. There is no better time to reach out, to love our neighbour, to humbly depend on God. Cling to God, He is the only certainty we have. This truth is unchanging; Coronavirus merely throws it into sharp relief.

We are not socially isolated from God. He is as close and present as he has always been. He wants us to talk to him; not like a polite guest who says the right thing, but bluntly from the heart. This is the time to pray, earnestly, tearfully, desperately, joyously, but most of all trusting completely in God to answer our prayers. He has answered mine several times this week. He gives me that next step to go on with. This is the time to rejoice in reading His Word. When I am at my wits' end, it speaks to me the clearest and most beautifully.

My pity party train terminates here. All out, all change. I have plenty to do, plenty of time; and people to help. Best of all, I am not socially isolated from God. Today, I choose to move closer to Him.

Easter Find-A-Word

Atonement	Eggs	Jerusalem	Propitiation
Chocolate	Eschatology	Jesus	Redemption
Cross	Forgiveness	Justification	Resurrection
Disciples	Gethsemane	Life	Soldiers
Easter	Hope	Peter	

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