

The Importance of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

A DEVOTIONAL TOUR OF THE SCRIPTURES

by Pastor Scott Boerckel

Why is the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ important to Christians?

Some want to say that the physical fact of the resurrection of Jesus is not important and that what is truly important is the meaning that such an inspiring “myth” brings to us. The writers of the New Testament and the consistent witness of the early church shows that idea to be false. We Christians are not “inspired” by a story that is not factually true. Rather, we are transformed by an event which actually happened in space and time. Anyone who does not believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead cannot call himself a Christian in the biblical sense of that word. Let’s look at the biblical testimony about the resurrection and then the importance of the resurrection for believers in Christ.

(continued on page 2)



Gospel Resources

Materials to share the Good News of Jesus with your friends and family (page 5)



Renovation Update

Phase Two will begin soon! See all the latest updates, and what to expect in the coming months. (page 11)

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 19-21

Good Friday Service & Easter Celebration

April 26

**Women’s Ministry
Breath of Fresh Air Event**

May 1

AWANA Awards Night

June 2

**“Move Up” Sunday for
Children and Youth**

East White Oak Bible Church

11922 E 2000 North Rd. Carlock, IL 61725

309.454.3833 | www.ewo.org



THE OLD TESTAMENT PREDICTIONS OF JESUS' RESURRECTION

The resurrection of the Lord Jesus was predicted in the Old Testament. Then, the apostles used those Old Testament texts in their preaching of the resurrection of Jesus. Look at how Peter and Paul use David's Psalm 16 to preach the resurrection of Jesus:

David—"For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption." (Psalm 16:10)

Peter—"For David says concerning him, . . . For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. . . he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption." (Acts 2:25-28)

Paul—"Therefore he says also in another psalm, 'You will not let your Holy One see corruption.' For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption, but he whom God raised up did not see corruption." (Acts 13:35-37)

Paul also uses David's words in Psalm 2:7 in the same fashion: "I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you.'" (Psalm 2:7)

"This he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you.'" (Acts 13:33)

The author of Hebrews has a similar usage of Psalm 22:22: "I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." (Psalm 22:22) "For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying, 'I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.'" (Hebrews 2:11-12)

The point here is that the resurrection of Jesus was predicted in the Old Testament; the apostles used these scriptures to point to the bodily resurrection of Jesus; and the consistent preaching of the New Testament included the bodily resurrection of Jesus.

JESUS OWN TESTIMONY OF HIS RESURRECTION

Jesus predicted, not only his own death, but His resurrection from the dead.

Very early in His ministry: "So the Jews said to him, 'What sign do you show us for doing these things?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he

was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken." (John 2:18-22)

In His last year of ministry: "No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father." (John 10:18)

Three predictions in the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) from the last year of Jesus' ministry:

"From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised." (Matthew 16:21)

"And they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day. And they were greatly distressed." (Matthew 17:23)

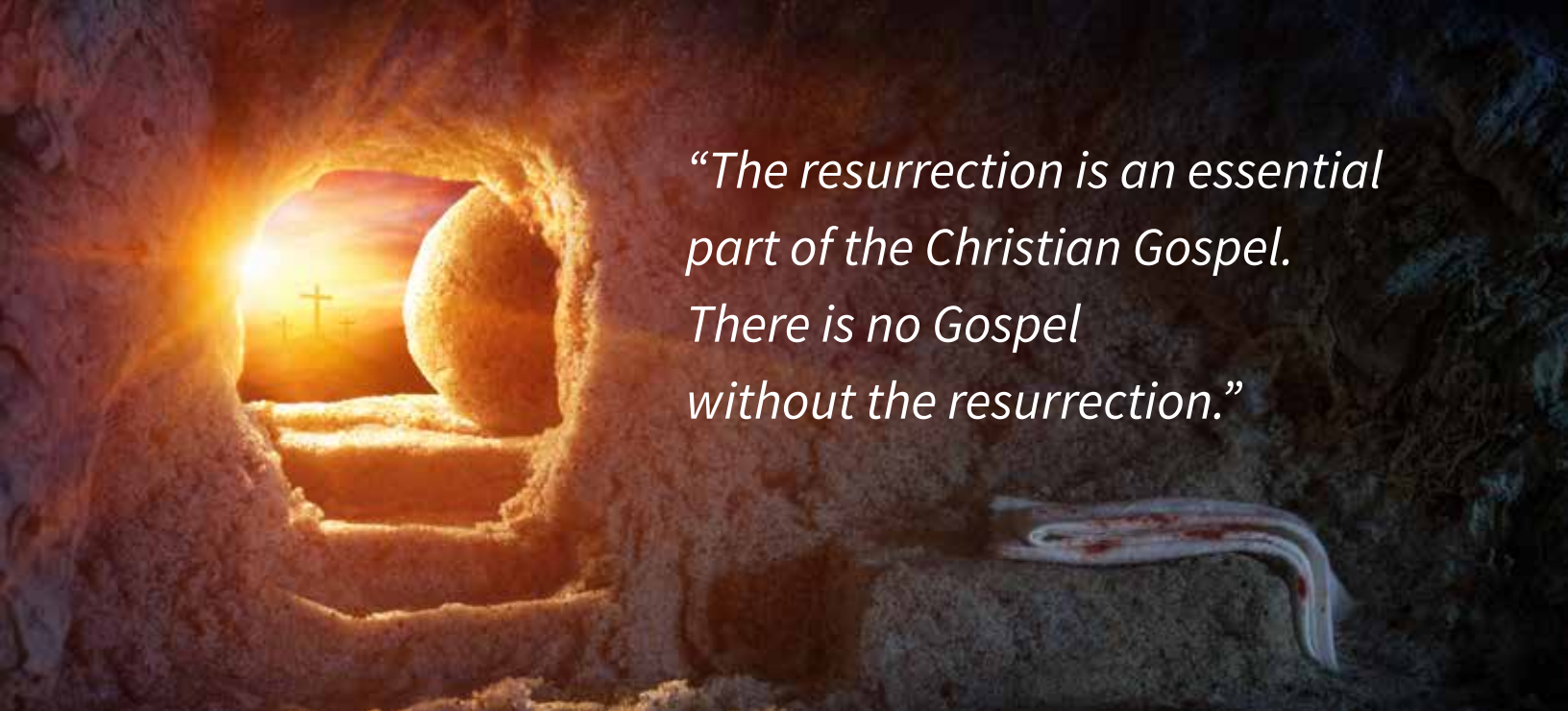
"And as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside, and on the way he said to them, 'See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day.'" (Matthew 20:17-19)

The point here is that the resurrection of Jesus was predicted multiple times on multiple occasions to multiple people. Ironically, the only people who thought deeply about this were Jesus' enemies. As you recall, they worried about Jesus' body, precisely because He had predicted His resurrection.

THE WRITERS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

The writers of the New Testament are clear and unequivocal in their proclamation that Jesus Christ bodily rose from the dead. The resurrection is explicitly declared in Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, each of Paul's epistles, 1 Peter, and Revelation. The idea that every single one of these documents was manipulated or written by people many, many years later to perpetuate a myth is preposterous. It takes more faith to believe the prevailing liberal scholarship on these documents than it does to take them at face value.

No one says it more clearly than the Apostle Paul as he describes the Christian Gospel: "Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of



“The resurrection is an essential part of the Christian Gospel. There is no Gospel without the resurrection.”

whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.” (1 Corinthians 15:1-8)

Note Paul’s language here. The resurrection is the cornerstone of what is of first importance. The resurrection is an essential part of the Christian Gospel. There is no Gospel without the resurrection. The resurrection was a bodily one, not a “spiritual” or “mythical” one, attested by many key witnesses. If you are seeking authoritative witnesses, look to the apostles like Peter, James, and Paul. If you are seeking quantity of witnesses, Paul says that over 500 people gathered at one time were eye witnesses of the bodily resurrected Messiah.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RESURRECTION

Why is the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead so important? Let me count the ways!

First, the resurrection is the foundation upon which Christianity rests. There is no true Christianity apart from the resurrection. Paul put it this way, “And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.” (1 Corinthians 15:17)

Note how Paul describes four problems for Christianity, if Jesus’ resurrection did not happen.

- Our faith in Him would be futile, worthless.
- We would remain in our sins under the wrath of God forever.
- Those who have already died as believers in Christ

have perished, which means that they are in eternal torment with no hope.

- And we who remain, are, of all people in the world, most to be pitied.

This is quite a statement. Basically, Paul is saying that there is no Christianity, no heaven, and no joy here on earth if the resurrection did not take place. This shatters the idea that the resurrection can be held as some inspiring mythical story which elevates us as we think about how true it is in our imaginations. No, a thousand times no! Jesus rose from the dead, and we have a real faith, our sins forgiven, an eternal home with God after we die, and a joy right here that is unspeakable. It is either that, or it is nothing.

Second, the bodily resurrection of Jesus means that all who believe in Him will experience eternal life with a resurrection body like His glorious body. Consider Jesus’ promise: “Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.” (John 14:19)

Consider Paul’s declaration that “Christ Jesus . . . abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.” (2 Timothy 1:10) This will be so real and substantial that it means that there is no true death for the believer in Christ; the believer never faces separation from God. “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?’” (John 11:25-26) Paul affirms that the bodily resurrection of Jesus from the dead means that we will have real bodies in heaven, just like the body of our Lord Jesus.

“But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, 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.” (Philippians 3:20-21)

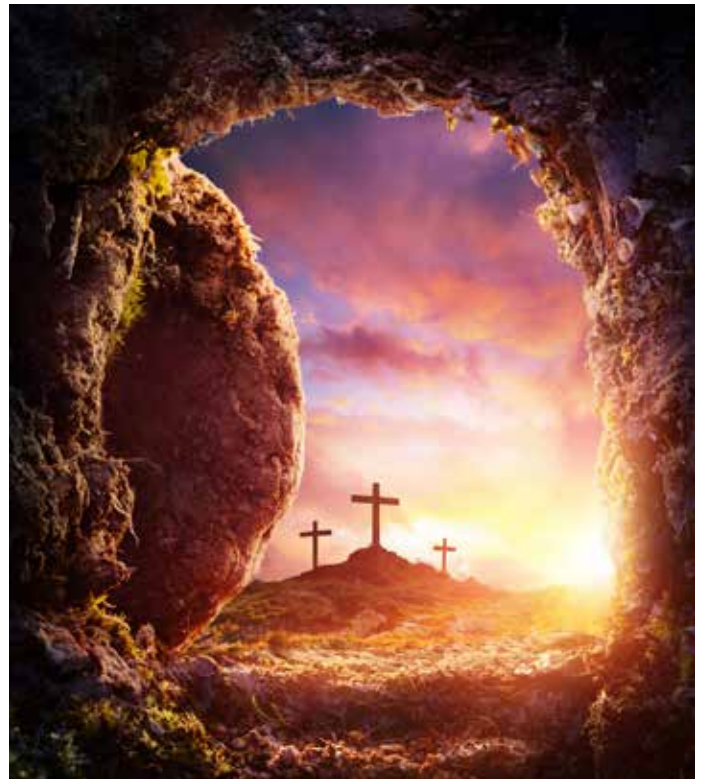
Third, the bodily resurrection of Jesus assures that sin has been paid for and that death has been completely defeated. Paul makes the point that Abraham was counted righteous by faith in a Savior future to Him. Then, he goes on to say that the same justification of being counted righteous applies to us, but only because the same Savior of Abraham and us was raised from the dead.

“That is why his faith was ‘counted to him as righteousness.’ But the words ‘it was counted to him’ were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.” (Romans 4:22-25)

The complete defeat of death was accomplished by Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection. “For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’ ‘O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?’ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15:53-57)

Fourth, the resurrection of Jesus Christ means that He is the Lord of everything, including me. I am not my own boss; I am not my own king; I do not have the right to craft my life apart from Him. He is Lord. That means that my work, my finances, my sexuality, my habits, my family, my mission in life, my everything belongs totally and completely to Him. Any failure to surrender any of these to Jesus is doomed to both failure and judgment. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords.

“The power and authority of Jesus Christ: and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.” (Ephesians 1:19-23)



Finally, the resurrection of Jesus Christ means that we have a message to declare to every people group in the world. Jesus is Alive!

God promised Good News, “through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name **among all the nations.**” (Romans 1:3-5)

Jesus declared after His resurrection, “‘Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name **to all nations**, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.’” (Luke 24:46-48)

No other “religious” leader died for our sins; no other “spiritual guide” rose from the dead; no other leader of any kind defeated death. Only Jesus, and He is the Savior of the world.

Hallelujah! He is risen!
He is risen indeed!

GOSPEL RESOURCES

Tracts / Bibles / Literature

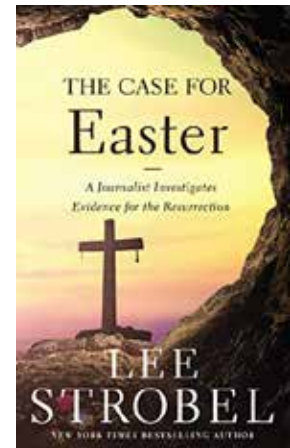
Through much prayer and creativity, The Oak has resurrected an oft neglected “church tract table” that will become a vital part of the church’s outreach to the community.

Many churches, if they have tracts at all, will only have a rack or table where people can help themselves. But here at The Oak, we go further and seek to build and maintain a Gospel Resource display. This display will have someone responsible for promoting the ministry on a monthly basis. In addition to a well-maintained display, The Oak will provide themed resources to make your personal outreach ministry more effective. Future Oak Leaf articles will contain inspiring information on the effectiveness of tracts, books, various literature and testimonies of people saved or brought under conviction by reading and giving out these resources. Be encouraged as Romans 1:16 says, “I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.” Please take advantage of these free Gospel Resources and join us in reaching out to your community! “Take what you need” is what the sign says! Don’t see your favorite resource? Email justin@ewo.org for a copy.

This Easter season you will notice various Easter themed tracts, *The Story Gospel* outline and *The Story Maker* materials. There is no better story to read and teach our children than God’s true story! We are also providing copies of *The Case for Easter* by Lee Strobel. Stop by and pick up a copy for yourself to read and give away.

Lee Strobel said that of the many world religions, only one claims that its founder returned from the grave. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the very cornerstone of Christianity. But a dead man coming back to life? In our sophisti-

EASTER RESOURCES



FREE booklets available at the Gospel Resource table.

cated age, when myth has given way to science, who can take such a claim seriously? Some argue that Jesus never died on the cross. Conflicting accounts make the empty tomb seem suspect. How credible is the evidence for the resurrection? Strobel, a legal journalist on history’s most compelling enigma, retraces the startling findings that led him from atheism to belief. Drawing on expert testimony first shared in his book *The Case for Christ*, Strobel examines the medical evidence, the evidence of the missing body and the evidence of appearances.

Please pick up these materials and share them with your family, friends and neighbors!

— Pastor Justin Waples

“Thank You!” to our Care Team

by Pastor Justin Waples

Connections, Hospitality, Assimilation, Welcome Center, Ushers and Greeters... do you know what all these things have in common? If you said “The Care Team” then you would be correct!

Here at East White Oak we have a committed and engaged group of men and women who are part of our Care Team. The members of the Care Team work closely with Pastor Justin to manage and support those serving in our Connections, Hospitality, Ushers, Greeters and Welcome Center teams. The Care Team’s desire is to make sure that every person who comes to East White Oak, whether brand new or a long time attendee, feels connected, poured into, and welcome. The Care Team meets monthly with Pastor Justin to discuss everything from coffee stations to making signs in the building easy to read. The Care team is constantly brainstorming ideas on how we can make everyone who enters our church feel the love of Christ. No matter who you are or what service you attend, you can help by engaging with those you don’t know and by sharing a smile with familiar or unfamiliar faces. The Care Team uses Romans 15:7 as their foundation for their ministry which says, “Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God”. We want The Oak to be a place where God can be glorified! What a great opportunity we have to welcome each other and make connections with one another, just as Christ has welcomed each one of us!

On Saturday, March 23 Pastor Justin hosted a “Thank You Brunch” for all the families that serve on the Care Team as well as all the Ushers, the Greeters, and the Welcome Center volun-

teers. What was the theme you ask? Have you ever been to Chick-fil-A? If you have, you’ll know that they are notorious for their dedicated and committed customer service! Our morning at the “Thank You Brunch” had a Chick-fil-A theme that included food catered from Chick-fil-A, cow print decorations, t-shirts, gift cards, and games! Pastor Justin shared some great videos from Chick-fil-A management on how they train their employees to make connections and be intentional about relationship building!



We might not be managing a restaurant here at The Oak, but we certainly desire intentional relationships! We were able to find out the core of why Chick-fil-A does what they do, even down to their famous “My Pleasure” tag line! These videos were fun, engaging and gave incredible ideas to our team who make it their mission to engage and build relationships with those who come to our church each week! Enjoy these pictures from our fun morning and talk to Pastor Justin if you want to serve on the Care Team or one of their many ministries here at The Oak!

An evening of Encouragement, Community, and Creativity

• FRIDAY, APRIL 26 •

Breath OF FRESH AIR



6:30-8:45PM • Banquet Room

Creative Workshops, Delicious Refreshments, Devotion by Emily Henard

CHOOSE TWO WORKSHOPS TO ATTEND:

Garden of Eden – OR – Garden of Weedin' with Georgia Steffen

Handmade & Heartfelt Cards with Anna Ziegler

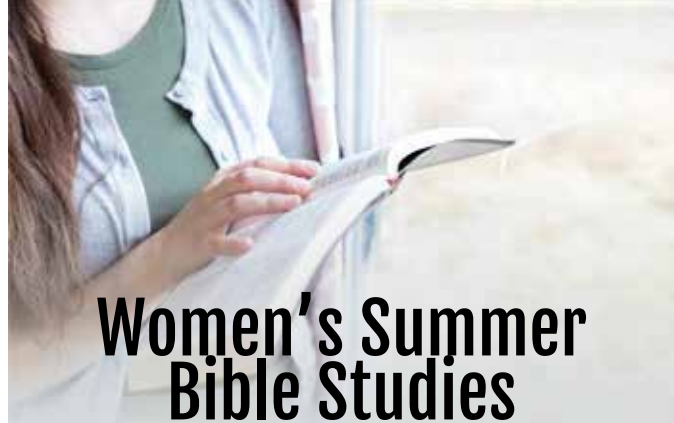
Menu Planning & Meal Prep Basics with Donna Osenga & Sue Daugherty

Scone Baking with Lisa Jackson

Register by April 21

www.ewo.org

EAST WHITE OAK WOMEN'S MINISTRY



Women's Summer Bible Studies

8 Week Studies

THURSDAYS, JUNE 6 – AUGUST 1

Thursday Mornings, 9:30am-11:30am

Childcare provided (\$2/child/week)

- Precept Upon Precept: Genesis Part 2
- Discover Together: Ecclesiastes
- The Book of Signs, Part 1, David Jeremiah

Thursday Evenings, 6:30pm-8:30pm

No childcare

- Precept Upon Precept: Genesis Part 2
- Discover Together: Ecclesiastes

Missionary Internship Report

by Pastor Scott Boerckel

For the past seven months, we have been blessed to have Amanda Pestka serve as a missionary intern here at The Oak. Some of the purposes of the missionary internship in Amanda's case were:

- For the missionary intern to become better equipped to discover a field of service and how to function highly independently while also serving in community.
- For East White Oak to be enriched by the missionary intern's presence and for the exposure and recruitment of future missionaries from within our own ranks.
- For the missionary intern to become better acquainted and equipped regarding the organization and administration of a local church.
- For the missionary intern and East White Oak leadership to discern the direction of the Lord in future lifelong missionary service by the intern.

All of these purposes were fulfilled in our internship with Amanda. There are many ways that she has been a blessing to our church body. However, the end result of this internship was that Amanda determined that lifelong missionary service in an unreached people group is not her calling. While this can "feel" disappointing when the trajectory of the internship is for equipping for missionary service, this is a good and God-honoring result. We do not and should not send people to the missionary field ill-equipped, ill-prepared, or uncertain. Over one-third of first term missionaries never make it to their second term. One primary reason for this is a lack of preparation on the part of the local sending church to determine how ready and/or fit the missionary candidate is. So, for Amanda to determine as part of our internship that she is not called at present to be a missionary in an unreached people group is a success for our internship process.

The missionary sending enterprise is a difficult venture that must be bathed in much prayer with open hearts to discern the voice of God. Would you pray that God will raise up an army of such missionaries from here at The Oak that the nations, tribes, peoples, and languages of the world may know of Jesus Christ? Over 2 billion people on this planet have virtually NO Gospel witness. The urgency and the difficulties are real, but our God is a missionary God, and He will call as He determines those who will serve Him in this, the most important Gospel work that human beings can do.



HIS BLOOD AND OUR JOY

A brief reflection based on Andrew Murray's “The Power of the Blood of Jesus”

Compiled by Eric Rhodes

What would you consider your greatest joy? Would it be a close friendship or relationship, your family, a satisfying job, possessions or a comfortable lifestyle? I think we often place our joy in earthly, temporary things that don't last. What about your spiritual joy? Would it be your relationship with God and how that was accomplished? Would it be dwelling in His presence both now and in heaven for all eternity?

This week leading up to Easter can give us an invitation to reflect upon the death of Jesus and all that it accomplished. Different aspects of our looking upon the life, death, resurrection and eternal life can encourage our hearts, minds and souls to see all that He is. A specific element is the blood of Christ that was shed and what means for our life now and into eternity. Let's consider the greatness of Christ's blood for our joy.

First, Christ's blood is for our joy in drawing near to God. How is our fellowship with God made possible and how is it maintained? Hebrews 10:19-22 “Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.” and Ephesians 2:13 “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.” helps with insight into the answer. Here we see Christ's blood alone has so perfectly atoned for and conquered sin that nothing can hold the believer back from free admission to God. Joy is found in a full, free and continuous access to God that is not based on our works, abilities or strength. Since God was fully pleased with the blood of Christ, he rests our access on Christ.

Next, Christ's Blood is for our joy in victory over sin. Revelation 12:10-11: “And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.” And Hebrews 9:12 “he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption”. Therefore, Christ's blood alone gives us a sure victory over the power of sin, death and hell.

Those in heaven are given a right to be there by the blood of Christ and are forever free from sin.

Lastly, Christ's Blood is our heavenly joy. What is the distinguishing characteristic of those in heaven? Revelation 1:5-6 “To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen”. Those in heaven are given a right to be there by the blood of Christ and are forever free from sin. They are also forever before the throne of God fully satisfied (See Revelation 7:13-17).

Christ has done everything FOR us. Will you not find assurance, confidence, and joy in his blood?!

“There is a Fountain” is a helpful hymn for further contemplation of the sacrifice of Christ.

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April 24

Jr. High Preview Night

Current 6th Graders—come and see what Jr High Youth Ministry is all about on PREVIEW NIGHT, designed just for you! Remember, we don't take the summer off, so plan to join us each Wednesday starting May 8.



Wednesdays, May 8–29

6th–8th grade Crosstrainers

Sixth–Eighth graders will stay combined until the end of May. This is an exciting time to help welcome our new soon-to-be seventh graders.

May 12

Senior Steak Night

This is a fun evening where we get to honor our seniors. As a senior, come enjoy a steak dinner! Everyone else will enjoy brats and burgers.



June 2

Freshman Welcome

Senior High is excited to welcome our incoming freshman. Come out for a fun night of activities!

SUMMER TRIPS

June 19

Junior High Water Park Trip

June 22–30

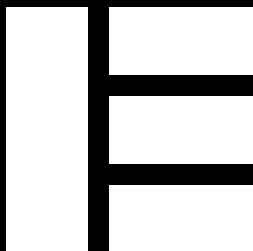
**Senior High
Colorado Discipleship
Adventure Camp**

July 9

Senior High Water Park Trip

July 13–18

**Junior High Mission
to Michigan**



E4 MEN'S MINISTRY

EQUIP, ENCOURAGE, ENGAGE, ENJOY

OUR MISSION IS SIMPLE. To **Equip** and **Encourage** men to **Engage** in their family, church, and community and to **Enjoy** the journey together.

SAVE THE DATE

Men's Board Game Night | May 18, 6:00–9:00pm

Do you like to play Catan, Ticket to Ride, or other board games? This is a great night to get to know other men at The Oak. Invite a friend to join you!

Men's Breakfast | June 1, 8:00am

Get connected to the E4 Men's Ministry at our next men's breakfast. Join us for hearty food, spiritual encouragement, and a whole lot of fellowship!

Chalk Talk Grille Men's Steak Fry

Tuesday, August 6

Plan to join us for a night of food, fun, and fellowship at our annual steak fry. Our speaker will be Jim Gruenwald, head wrestling coach for the Wheaton Thunder Wrestling.





Meet Janna Gott

Kindergarten Children's Ministry Volunteer

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

One of many blessings found in the Kindergarten class at 9:00 AM on Sunday mornings at The Oak is Janna Gott! Janna co-teaches this large class of 5 and 6 year olds with Brenda Howerton, Janine Novy and Amy Nussbaum.

These ladies work so well as a team, providing a time of digging into God's truth through the Bible lesson, memory verses, prayer, and some extremely creative activities!

Janna is married to Dan and has two children, Tyler and Clare. Her family recently brought a sweet puppy named Charlie into their home and he is providing them with lots of love and fun! A former elementary school teacher, Janna finds much joy in sharing Jesus with kindergartners!

The gospel is a central focus in kindergarten, as in each Sunday morning program at The Oak. Janna's own trust in Jesus came as a child, herself. "As a young girl, I grew up going to church camp at Camp Good News in Washington, Illinois," Janna shares. It was at that camp that she dedicated her life to Jesus. "I knew that I was a sinner and needed Jesus to save me from my sins. The Bible affirms this to me in Ephesians 2:8-9 'For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-not by works, so that no one can boast.'"

Janna brings great enthusiasm, a compassionate heart and a joy for



learning to her ministry to kindergartners. She writes, "I love teaching the kindergarten class at The Oak. This is the 4th year that I have been teaching with Brenda Howerton (a cool tidbit-she was my daughter, Clare's, kindergarten teacher!)."

"The best part about teaching these sweet little ones," Janna continues, "is their excitement for learning about Jesus. They come with eager hearts and it amazes me every week how quickly they are able to learn new verses and Bible stories."

Prayer is a big part of the kindergarten class time and Janna finds joy in this. "They are always so willing to pray for one another. Their prayers are very well thought out, even at this young age, and are filled with compassion. I often go home on Sundays and find myself thinking about how wonderful it is that these little ones have been taught to pray in their homes and how it will forever serve as a blessing to them."

Janna shared a quote from Corrie Ten Boom that has great meaning to her: "The

best learning I had came from teaching."

"God allows me to learn immeasurably from teaching the kindergarten class," Janna adds.

How can YOU pray for the kindergarten class at The Oak? Janna suggests, "Please pray that we, as teachers, would listen to God and prepare the lessons He wants us to teach."

Fun Facts about Janna!

- She loves little kids and spending time with elderly people.
- She has a MAJOR sweet tooth!
- She loves to run.
- Her favorite thing to do is spend time with her family.

East White Oak Bible Church



Renovation Update: *Phase Two Coming Soon!*



Welcome Center &
Office Space



Library



Resource Room

We are celebrating the completion of PHASE ONE of our remodel project!

The new office space is complete, and the staff will spend the next few days moving in. The library and new Resource Room have also been completed. Not only is the library still a place for you to find a book, magazine, or DVD, it's now the perfect place for you to linger with a friend (old or new) over a cup of coffee. Furnishings will be installed sometime in the coming weeks. We think that you will find the comfy chairs a great place to curl up with a good book too. Stop by and see the new Resource Room! We are so happy to provide our wonderful resource room volunteers with this extraordinary space in which they will serve the Lord by serving our children's ministry staff.

COMING SOON! Phase Two of the project, including a remodel of our main foyer and restrooms, will begin the week after Easter. Though we are looking forward to the new area being completed, we want to fully prepare you for the inconvenience you may experience over the next few months. We appreciate your patience and extra grace during this time. We hope to be able to keep the main foyer open to "through" traffic on Sundays, but be aware that you will be enter-

ing a construction zone. The canopied entrance/exit will be blocked off for a number of weeks, and we will lose access to bathrooms located off the foyer of the worship center. Please plan to enter and exit the building through an alternative door. All three of the doors on the north side of the long hallway will be available for your use on Sundays. For those of you who are accustomed to using the restrooms in the foyer, please allow time to walk to the restrooms in the Children's Ministry area or the Gym Entrance. In addition, there is a small chance that we will have to gather in the gymnasium for our worship services during the height of the construction. We will keep you informed through each step of the process. Thank you to everyone who has given sacrificially, volunteered your time, or shared your talents to make this renovation possible. We appreciate you!

As the construction continues, we need your help! If we all work together our church will remain a welcoming place despite the chaos that comes with renovation. If you see anyone who seems lost, would you please help them find their way? If someone needs assistance which you can provide, will you help them? If you find that someone has a need with which you cannot help, will you please locate someone with a green lanyard? Let's all extend extra grace and find joy in the midst of the process. The inconvenience will not last long, and soon we'll be able to enjoy the finished result.

Elder/Deacon Notes

Dave Osenga, Elder Chairman

1. How are you doing in your own growth in the areas of Growing in Christ, the Bible and Prayer, Obedience and Christian Living, and Mission and Outreach? Read more about our "Our Destination: Maturity in Christ" at ewo.org (click "New to The Oak", then "Growing At the Oak"). Be sure to read and get familiar with these destinations. They can really help you focus on ways to grow in Christ.

2. It's been fun and encouraging to hear from many people about their journey through the reading of the whole Bible in 2019. Continue to pray that God will reveal Himself to us in new ways as we take in His word to us.

3. We are glad to know that the renovation work is proceeding very well! Thanks for the patience as this work goes on. Please continue to pray for the workers for safety and that they will see Christ in us as they work for us.

4. Thanks for a good time of reporting on what has been going on and what is planned for the next year here at The Oak during our Annual Meeting. We are thankful for the approval of the budget and for the approval of the new elders and deacons. Continue to pray for the church leadership that we will walk close to God and do His will.

Easter

SUNDAY APRIL 21

THE POWER OF CHRIST IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Good Friday Potluck 5:30pm, Communion Service 7:00pm

Easter Worship Services 7:30, 9:00, 10:30am

Easter Breakfast Served 8:00–11:00am

Invite someone to join you Easter weekend

SUMMER
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

MAKE THE SUMMER COUNT

INVEST IN KIDS!

We have a great summer program planned, and you're invited to be part of it! We're looking for volunteers to staff our Children's Ministry from June 2–September 1.

Serve all or part of the summer, based on your availability. Whether you enjoy toddlers, preschool, or elementary kids, we have a place for you! Visit ewo.org for more information, or stop by the table in the hallway. *Summer Volunteer Training will be May 19 at 9:00 or 10:30am.*



EXPERIENCE
the **WORD** *together*

We're reading
through the Bible
together in 2019.

We've been reading for over
100 DAYS!

Have you had trouble keeping up with the reading plan? Don't stress! There's no need to catch up. Now is a great time to re-join the reading.

Are you ready to join us for the first time? GREAT! You're invited to jump in anytime during the year. You can join a reading group in progress or simply start the plan on your own. Need help getting in sync with the rest of us? E-mail info@ewo.org with your questions.

Learn more at ewo.org