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TALES FROM THE OLE WEST

Easter

**QUICK
MESSAGES**

**LD/ALD
TRAINING**

Apr. 21

1:30 pm

Spring is in the air. Spring time is my favorite time of the year—the days are getting longer, the days are getting warmer and the beginning of baseball season. The brown of winter is giving way to the green of spring, and all things are new again. Hopefully no more snow or slick roads, but a time when all things become fresh and new. We can start thinking about cutting the grass, planting flowers and crops. Getting outside and enjoying God's creation.

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In the middle of this we celebrate Easter. It is the time for the Easter Bunny, Easter Baskets, Easter egg hunts and jelly beans. The girls will all have new dresses, new shoes and new hair styles for Easter Sunday. When I was young it was also the time for new shoes, a new tie, or maybe a new suit. I remember one year I had a new charcoal gray suit, pink and black tie and white buck shoes. Man, I was cool and on top of the world. Pat Boone would have been proud. You do remember Pat Boone? Everything would be new and

shiny and off to church we would go. Some of that has gone by the wayside, but there is still a Sunrise Service followed by breakfast at church and then regular church or maybe an Easter Cantata.

Lost in all of this is the real reason for Easter. I had heard the story of Mt. Calvary, but it really hadn't set in. I hadn't taken the time to listen, and I didn't realize the impact of what it was all about; that it was the key to eternal salvation for all to come. It opened the door to eternal life for all who would believe and accept. It brought the Old Testament prophecy to life. Christ had been crucified and buried, but then he arose from the dead. 1 Corinthians 15: 20-22 *"But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those (who) have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive."* Christ was not the first man to rise from the dead, He was the first however to never die again. Christ's work is to defeat all evil on earth. 1 Corinthians 15:25-26 *"For*

he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death."

So how important is Mt Calvary? How important is the empty tomb? In 1 Corinthians 15: 13-14: *"If there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ been raised. And if Christ has not been raised our preaching is useless and so is your faith."* It would be all for not if it weren't for Easter.

So, how appropriate is it that we celebrate Christ's death and resurrection this time of year? The rebirth of a fresh new season is all around us, with the smell of fresh cut grass, flowers and birds singing. A time when we celebrate the most important rebirth of all: Christ's rebirth and resurrection. This was the beginning of our eternal salvation and a means of eternal life with the author of Easter. Do we see Easter as a time of Easter candy, and new clothes or a time rebirth, a time of salvation and eternal life?

DeColores! Happy Trails!

Jim

TABOR TALK

What's the explanation for your life?

One of the most difficult things for a guy to do is to stop and ask for directions. I don't have to explain what I mean by that. Every woman knows what that is all about. Guys would rather drive around for hours than to stop and inquire of someone else how to get to the destination. I am convinced that what is true for following physical directions is also true for finding our way through the maze called life. In a talk called "Money and the Disciple", author Randy Alcorn recalled a two-month missions trip that he and his family took some years ago that included a visit to Egypt. While in Egypt, Alcorn's hosts took him to visit an abandoned graveyard located at the end of a garbage-lined alley. The host pointed out one tombstone in particular—that of William Borden (1887-1913), heir to the Borden dairy estate. William was a millionaire by 21, but he renounced his fortune, giving nearly all his wealth to missions. His heart's desire was to take the gospel to Muslims in China. On his way to China, William stopped in Egypt to study Arabic, but four months later he contracted spinal meningitis and died at the age of 25.

Alcorn writes: "I dusted off the inscription on the headstone of Borden's grave. After describing his love for Christ and his commitment to and his love for the Muslim people; and his sacrifices for God's kingdom; the inscription ended with some words I wrote down on the spot—and I have never forgotten them to this day. The inscription ended with, "Apart from faith in Christ there is no explanation for such a life."

Then Alcorn wrote, "And I thought, *Lord, what's the expla-*

nation for my life?"

In preparation for the Easter season, we should be encouraged to examine the explanation for our lives. Why are we where we are today? Why are we in the predicament in which we find ourselves at this point in time? These questions, and others like them, are directional in nature. That is, they are similar to trying to locate a church conference in a new and unfamiliar city. And all too often, we fail to stop and ask for directions.

Enter Jesus Christ into the picture of our lives. In Him we have all of the reasons to believe and to live. In Him there is every explanation for our living. In Christ's death on the cross, and in Him alone, there is no explanation for life and living!

But may I also suggest that the significance of the Easter season is more than just the fact that Jesus died on the cross for our sins? The Easter season does not end on Good Friday! As one popular preacher said many years ago, "It's Friday... but Sunday's coming!"

It is extremely important that Jesus died on the cross for our sins. He paid the price that no one of us could ever pay. In so doing, He promised to all who believe in Him the gift of eternal life and an eternity in heaven.

But Easter is more than that. It is also the celebration of that Sunday morning miracle when the tomb in which Jesus was buried was found ... empty! He was raised from the dead! He is alive! His resurrection is an integral part of the Easter story, and has a most significant application to each of our lives. Because of the resurrection of Christ, God demonstrates that he wants to be involved with us. As Peter Larson

has said, "Despite our efforts to keep him out, God intrudes. The life of Jesus is bracketed by two impossibilities: a virgin's womb and an empty tomb. Jesus entered our world through a door marked 'No Entrance' and left through a door marked 'No Exit.'"

George Eldon Ladd, in his *A Theology of the New Testament* (p. 354) states: "God did not make himself known through a system of teaching nor a theology nor a book, but through a series of events recorded in the Bible. The coming of Jesus of Nazareth was the climax of this series of redemptive events; and his resurrection is the event that validates all that came before."

In 1 Corinthians 15, the Apostle Paul zeroes in on this very concept and challenges us to realize that "... in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died." (vs 20-26).

While driving to church one Easter Sunday, one mother decided to tell her children the Easter story. "This is the day we celebrate Jesus coming back to life," she explained. Right away, her 3-year-old son piped up from the back seat, "Will He be in church today?" That is a profound question aimed at getting us to consider the profound truth of the resurrection of Christ. William Borden was right: Apart from faith in Christ there is no explanation for such a life." What will you do with that today?

De Colores,

Chuck

What goes into an Emmaus Walk from the Music Directors' perspective? What do they do when they slip out of the conference room from time to time? From where comes all of the music that is used? Well, to use a musical term, let's "take it from the top!"

When asked to be on a team as a musician, the thoughts begin as to who should be asked to provide special music for the walk. Some Lay Directors have singers in mind for some of the special music slots; others leave it to the musicians to fill all slots. On my first team, the LD, Tom Ferris, had been music director several times himself and not only knew those he wanted to sing during each slot, he also had contacted each one. On my second team, the LD, Jeff Lockard, advised me that the solos were all up to the music guys.

Next comes the job of fitting the appropriate solos to the events of the weekend. Here are the themes:

Thursday night: Knowing one's self; where are you in your faith? Should be calming and intentional about the message of truth. I like to have the song, "WHO AM I?" at this position, but many others fit well also.

Friday morning: This follows time of silence at the end of chapel, closes the time of private examination.

Friday evening after the Emmaus Road Experience: that vivid account of meeting Jesus symbolizing our own journey and how we meet Him. The song, "EMMAUS" fits this slot perfectly, in my view.

Friday night: This song follows the clowns, the theme of which is "Christ Died for Us." The selection should show the importance of giving one's self wholly to the three day experience.

Saturday morning: Selection should reflect the theme of the meditation, "Four Responses to Christ."

Saturday noon: Following or sometimes in the middle of the Dying Moments Communion. Should reflect healing in Christ and giving God our burdens. There are many wonderful solos which fit. A couple I have used are "I WILL KEEP MY EYES

ON YOU" and "BLESSINGS."

Saturday night: After Candlelight, the selection should reflect Christ's love shown through others, time of prayer and commitment. A couple of my favorites for this slot are, "KNOWING YOU" and "I CAN ONLY IMAGINE."

Sunday morning, following chapel: The theme is Jesus' humanity. Songs about changing, turning or serving are effective and thought-provoking.

Sunday afternoon, during Closing: Songs should focus on events of the weekend or provide a call to service.

As you probably realize, singers drive in from near and far to provide two minutes or so of musical thought for the pilgrims. When I served as LD on a February walk, the weather turned nasty Thursday evening, even causing the walk to begin late as we waited for pilgrims to arrive. The Music Director called the singer scheduled for Friday morning, Ron Miller, who lives south of Chillicothe, advising him of the road conditions in the area and found the roads were just as bad in Ross County. Ron said he thought if he could get off the "mountain," he could make it, and Rusty (Staten) assured him that he could cover the slot and insisted Ron not take undue risk. Friday morning arrived and so did Ron. (I knew Ron would break his neck to get there to sing for the pilgrims!) That's what it means to "music people" to provide music for the pilgrims!

Musicians come in many forms: those with keyboard skills, those with guitar or similar instrumental skills and those who sing, but don't play. There are opportunities for all to serve. Guitar accompaniment is especially useful for traveling from one place to another, such as from the conference room to the dining hall whilst singing what we call the "Christian version of '99 Bottles of Beer,' 'DE COLORES!'" Keyboard players are especially useful in accompanying group singing because of the possibility of providing good volume of a percussive nature. Songs in the conference room are chosen for their suitability in matching the tone of a recent talk or a talk to come, but often just for fun! In addition, song choices

that are popular in a wide variety of churches assure that there will be something for everyone. Our song accompaniments range from full arrangements down to a sheet of the words with the chords written above.

Flexibility is key as pilgrims will frequently request a certain song. Sometimes this necessitates one of those times of slipping out of the conference room to get on the internet and track down the words and chords. Sometimes this is for their table to present during the poster party and sometimes just because they like the song. The musicians don't always do a top-notch, Grade A job on these requested songs, but it's not about the musicians. These moments are the musicians chance to provide their own bit of agape for the pilgrims and we do our best in these situations.

At other times when the musicians leave the conference room, they are going to meet a singer who is coming to provide music. If sufficient time, the singer will be taken to the sanctuary to run through their solo and get levels set for their accompaniment track. At other times, the musicians meet the soloist and takes their accompaniment track and prays that they can be successful operating "on the fly" without presetting the levels.

One of the responsibilities of the music directors is to introduce De Colores and provide the history of the song. I like to make it a skit starring the music guys as the mechanics who came to fix the broken-down bus. Lots of fun and lots of laughs. Then we sing the song and follow that up by the Lost Verse of De Colores, which has in the copyright information (the small print at the bottom of the Powerpoint screen), "Words & Music by Unknown—(Would you admit you wrote MORE verses?)"

Music people drag 1/4 of their music and equipment with them to a weekend—one must be prepared! Many pieces of music, books, extra strings, sound equipment, other instruments, hopefully not forgetting all of the usual sleeping gear, toiletries and clothing! Serving in this way is a great blessing; a lot of work, but a wonderful, great, awesome blessing!



Wilmington Area Walk to Emmaus—WUMC
 PO Box 191
 Wilmington, OH 45177

SEE YOU AT THE GATHERING!
APRIL 10
Singing starts at 6:45PM!
 Bring a snack to share after the Gathering
 Wear your name tag!

Watch your address label! In order to be fair to everyone, you will get one full year of the Emmaus Newsletter. The label clearly states the date of your last issue. To keep the newsletter coming in the mail, when your last issue comes, send \$6.00 to the address above, adding "Attention: Newsletter."

MUSIC FOR GATHERINGS

MUSIC FOR GATHERINGS

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>SPECIAL MUSIC</u>	<u>INSTRUMENTALIST</u>	<u>SONG LEADER</u>
April	Herma Current & Tony Harper	Amy Sexton	Sandie Wingo
May	Jerry Stanley	Mary Brown-Turner	Jennie Harner
Jun	Cindy Bloom	Judy Laycock	Julie Combs
Jul	Christy Mitchell	Jennie Harner	Bronwyn Jones
Aug	Nancymae Ogden	John Glaze	Christy Mitchell
Sep	Bronwyn Jones	John Glaze	Peggy Larkin
Oct	Peggy Larkin	John Glaze	Cindy Bloom
Nov	TBA	TBA	TBA
Dec	Community	John Glaze/Lynn Lowell	Bronwyn Jones

To volunteer to provide music for a monthly Gathering contact JENNIE HARNER at 937-987-2518 or harnersewing@yahoo.com.