



Saints Alive

April 2009

Pastor's Corner

by Jim Burdick

Do you ever wonder if there is more we know or don't know? It seems that there is a consistent history of mankind making discoveries and thus, coming to know more and more.

Whether you think previous history has amounted to a few thousand years or millions of years, I bet that you sense a continuous growth in the collective understanding.

Mankind looks back at the singular beginning of learning and probably views something fairly essential like harnessing fire as the beginning of learning as a discipline to be learned and taught with a certain exactitude. We look at the discovery and application of the wheel as a significant step in the process of mankind evolving to our present level.

There are not many (if any) instances where the loss of knowledge is recorded, although it may have happened. If we were to draw a figurative line representing the acquisition of knowledge over history, the slope of the line would be consistently a positive slope, inferring that the future will see even more knowledge gathered.

This is the nature of temporal or physical knowledge; it will grow and grow as long as time continues. It will never reach or exceed the infinite knowledge of God, or the light dispensed by the Holy Spirit. It never will.

I believe that there is another type of knowledge, unrelated to temporal or human knowledge, called spiritual knowledge. This knowledge is independent of historical time, meaning that in Joshua's day a spiritual decision was as valid as the decision in our enlightened days. It is independent of age, meaning that the decision of an eight year old is as valid as my own or that of an eighty year old.

We are experiencing the Easter season for 2009. Like thousands of years before and like the next thousand years to come, we can address this season and try to fit it into human, temporal

knowledge or we can try to fit our spiritual knowledge to wrap around the Easter message. Which will it be?

The message of Easter is a message of Sacrifice; Jesus sacrificed his own life for our forgiveness and to assure us of God's infinite Grace. It is a message of forgiveness; God forfeited His Son to prove His desire to bring us back to His presence. Easter is a story of living in spite of death; Jesus showed that the ultimate of mankind's judgments wilted in the face of God's power to resurrect.

Most, if not all of these stories do not relate well with the scale of mankind's temporal knowledge. And if they were meant to measure on that scale, we would have more 'Easter benefit' than people of Joshua's day two thousand years before Christ and people in the future would have more 'Easter benefit' than us. That does not sound like the way I have noted God operating.

So this Easter season, I invite you to do two things. First, experience, grasp, and enjoy exploring a Spiritual knowing that is different than human temporal knowing. Take time to think like Joshua and like an eight year old. Experience the spiritual for what it is and can be.

Second, make a conscious effort to look at things that you may have applied too closely to mankind's temporal knowledge. Let go of some of those and Let God. When we trust our human knowledge too much, we fit an infinite truth of God into a finite mind of a person, and we do a disservice to both.

Jesus lives! This I know. But I do not know this because we tamed fire or developed the wheel. I know this because some things that I learned as a child were so true, that I can never grow out of them.

Upcoming Sionito Work Party Dates

Don't miss another exciting week of fun, food and fellowship. Calendar these dates now:

April 17-19

May 15-17

our treasures from our house to your house, make some money, and send our kids to camp.



On April 5th, the Crafty Ladies will have a bake sale to help toward the expenses of their service projects. The ladies are making receiving blankets, jackets and bibs for newborns in a poverty stricken area of Democratic Republic of Congo, Africa. They are also making receiving blankets for hospitals in San Antonio to distribute.

Come satisfy your sweet tooth on the first Sunday on April and know also that you have blessed the little newborns.

News from the Pews

Carol and Jim Burdick worshiped with the Bandera Congregation on Sunday, March 22 as Jim spoke at the 10:30 am worship service. There were about 20 in attendance, and many were Winter Texans "parked" at Camp Sionito. We enjoyed Bob Riley's Sunday School class as well as lunching together afterwards at a nearby restaurant.

Invitation to the Church

As we prepare for the 2010 World Conference, the church faces many critical issues that could distract us from God's mission for Community of Christ.

Prophet-President Stephen M. Veazey will address these issues in a major address to the church on Sunday, April 5 at 7 p.m. CDT, at the Temple in Independence, Missouri. The church is urged to participate in person and via webcast. See www.CofChrist.org/broadcast/upcoming.asp for details.

WHITE ELEPHANT SALE

Bring that one thing in your house that you have loved for a long time, but maybe it's time to make a change. Support the white elephant sale at the May potluck as a fund raiser for Youth Camps. Let's move

Easter Brunch - April 12th at 9:00 a.m.

Please plan to attend and add your name to the sign-up sheet. We're planning on an egg casserole breakfast entrée, breads, juices and all kinds of good things to eat.

There will be no Sunday School so we'll have lots of time for fellowship. All youngsters should bring their Easter basket for the egg hunt that starts at 10:00 am.

(The normal monthly Pot Luck dinner will not be held in April.)



Women's Retreat

"Above all.... LOVE"

April 24, 25, 26 @

Camp Sionito

Theme Song for the Weekend

**"They will know we are
Christians by our Love"**

Guest Minister: Stassi Cramm

Why Go To Church?

A churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this... They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing.... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishments! (anonymous)

April Greeters

5th—Carol White

12th—Heather & Lucy Osterhaus

19th—Jim Burdick

26th—Dacia Farrell

Advancing in Scouts

John Patten received the highest award in Cub Scouting - The Arrow of Light on Monday, 3/23/09. The award was presented in a ceremony performed by the BSA Order of the Arrow. John also Crossed over into Boy Scouts. He joined Troop 17 out of St Brigid Catholic Church. John and Kelly are going camping with Troop 17 this weekend, 3/27-3/29, to Nolte Island.



John and the OA Scouts

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1—Sarah Talcott

9—Makani Marquez

10—Jim Walker

12—Lucy Osterhaus

Nancy Sixt

13—Stratton Callier

18—Patricia Clark

22—Jerry Higginson