

March-April, 2009

Volume 5, Issue 2

Tyland Baptist Church

2818 Silvercreek Drive Tyler 75702
Church Office: 903/592-6364

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David Mahfood, Pastor
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Services

- Sunday
9:30 a.m.-Prayer Time

9:40 a.m.-Sunday
School

10:40 a.m.-Worship

5:15 p.m.-Choir
Practice

6 p.m.-Worship
- Wednesday
6 p.m.-Bible Study:
Adult, Youth, RA, GA
7 p.m.-Women's
Ministry Meeting

Dates to Remember

Mar 6: Movie Night
7 pm

Mar 7: Daylight
Saving Time Begins

Mar 11: Business
Meeting 6 pm

Mar 15: Communion
Service

Mar 18: Soup & Salad
Meal 5 pm

Mar 24: Greenbrier
NH BD Party 2:30 pm

Mar 29: 5th Sunday
Singing 6 pm

Apr 5: Palm Sunday

Apr 8: Business
Meeting 6 pm

Apr 10: Good Friday

Apr 11: Easter Egg
Hunt 9:30 am

Apr 12: Easter

Apr 28: Greenbrier
NH BD Party 2:30 pm

THE KEYS TO CELEBRATION

As you well know, we are entering the most joyous time of the Christian year. We look forward with great anticipation to hearing the resurrection story and celebrating the fact that our Lord lives. I think it no coincidence that this time of celebration coincides with the seasonal transition into spring. Trees that looked dead bring forth new leaves. Flower beds that were previously colorless explode in the divine palette. Everywhere you look, new life abounds. For a brief, glimmering moment, Creation mirrors our theology.

I believe that Jesus is alive, as I know you do, also. For me, however, the definitive statement of His resurrection doesn't appear in the gospels. Rather, we find it in the Book of Revelation. In describing who He is to John the Revelator, Jesus employs a variety of terms. In Revelation 1:8, Jesus says that He is "the Alpha and the Omega, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." In Revelation 1:11, Jesus calls Himself "the First and the Last." Yet more telling than any of these descriptions (or any the magnificent ones that follow) is the one we find in Revelation 1:18. It's not really even a descriptive phrase, but more of a statement of fact.

"And I have the keys of Hades and of Death."

That single statement, to me, says volumes. It says that by virtue of His resurrection, Jesus has assumed mastery over man's two greatest enemies – death and the afterlife. He *owns* them. Not only does He *own* them, but we get the distinct impression that they have become like storage sheds containing things for which He no longer has a use. It's as if He is saying to us: *"Death and Hades? Yes, I have the keys to them, but it is of little matter. No one who knows Me will need them."*

This has huge implications for you and me. Hades, prior to Jesus, was where we were all heading. We lived under the Law, and the Law could not save us. It could not give life. This is why Paul writes in Galatians 3:23: *"But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for faith which would afterward be revealed."* The resurrection of Jesus revealed that faith. It opened up a new avenue of travel. No longer was our destination fixed. Hades was no longer our final option. Jesus took ownership over it, and He holds the keys. *(continued on p.2)*

Deepest sympathy to these families in their recent losses –

Minnie Moss, in the loss of her granddaughter.

Gene Bass, in the loss of his mother.

Peter Vernon, in the loss of his brother.

Adult Movie Night: "Fireproof" - Friday, March 6, 7 pm
Fellowship Hall (childcare provided for those who need it)



Congratulations to these new grandparents:

Lee and Brenda Nixon on the birth of Benjamin Logan Fazande on January 14.

Calvin Todd on the birth of Noel Isabella Johnson on January 20.

SPRING FORWARD - TURN YOUR CLOCKS UP ONE HOUR ON SATURDAY, MARCH 7

(continued from p. 1)

The same was true of death. Prior to the resurrection of Jesus, dead meant dead. Nobody recovered from death. Like a trip to Hades, the road to death was a one-way street. Death held sway, held charge over man. It was the definitive, final arbiter of our existence. You lived until such time as you died. The resurrection of Jesus changed all that, too. The change was so profound that it forced Paul write to Timothy that Jesus, as our Savior, "has abolished death" (2 Timothy 1:10).

If we stopped right there, we would have ample cause to kick up our heels in joy (in fact, the prophet Zephaniah anticipates this, admonishing Israel to sing, shout, be glad, and rejoice!) But you and I have even *more* reason to celebrate. Because not only did Jesus defeat Hades, He also *opened up Heaven*. Not only did Jesus break the hold death had on mankind, He also *brought life*. This wasn't something that happened by accident. This was the plan all along. This is why we read in Revelation 21:5 that He who sits on the throne says, "Behold, I make all things new."

The resurrection of Jesus doesn't just affect two things that already were. The resurrection of Jesus brings about two things that previously were not.

And that, my friends, is reason to celebrate!

God bless you all,
Brother David

SAGE Conference - April 3-4

For Girls 7-12 Grade

Green Acres Baptist Church

Theme for 2008-2009 is "Transparent: Living So the Light Shows" based on 2 Corinthians 4:6 (NIV): "For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."

The SAGE Ministry Team has been traveling and leading girls' weekends for the last ten years. Girls in grades 7-12 as well as moms and women sponsors are invited. Contact Peggye Mahfood for more information.

ANNUAL CHURCH-WIDE
EASTER EGG HUNT
Saturday, April 11, 10 am-Noon
Plantation Pines Christmas Tree Farm
(Nick & Nancy Wiggins' Home)
Egg dying contest at 9:30 - hot dogs for lunch.
Ya'll come - and bring somebody! Grown-ups allowed! (Watch for food sign-up sheet.)

"But about the resurrection of the dead—have you not read what God said to you, I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? He is not the God of the dead but of the living."

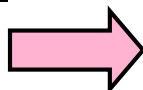
Matthew 22:31-32



THE WOMEN'S
MINISTRY INVITE
YOU TO A SOUP &
SALAD SUPPER ON
WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 18,
5-5:45 PM, PRIOR
TO WEDNESDAY
EVENING SERVICE.
COME, AND BRING
A FRIEND!



Making Valentines
for kids in hospital.



Wall-E Movie
Night



IT'S TIME TO
ORDER EASTER
LILIES IN HONOR
OF/MEMORY OF
LOVED ONES.
CONTACT NANCY
IN THE CHURCH
OFFICE.