

He is Risen...

VOLUME 27

April 2010

ISSUE 313

PROVERBS 25:13

As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him, for he refresheth the soul of his masters . . .



Sunday School	10:00 AM
Morning Worship	11:00 AM
Evening Worship	6:00 PM
Wednesday Service	7:00 PM

- NURSERY PROVIDED -

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*The
Messenger*



April

Christ Cursed for Us

“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:” – Galatians 3:13

The sufferings of Christ upon the cross involved suffering from the hand of God beyond human understanding. Though His physical sufferings were overwhelming, His spiritual sufferings were incomprehensible “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.” (II Cor.5:21) Jesus became a sin substitute for the sin of all sinners and, in fact, tasted death for all mankind. (ref. Heb.2:9)

God dealt with His Son in judgment and the full wrath of God fell upon this, the spotless Lamb of God. He was cursed in the sinners’ stead and paid the sin debt in full.

The only answer to the sin problem inherent in Adam’s entire race is to, by faith, place trust where God placed our sins! The sinner has to embrace the finished work of Christ upon that cross.

Only those who looked to that elevated serpent of brass in the wilderness were healed of the deadly serpent bite. Jesus was lifted upon a cross. He was made sin and was cursed on our behalf. Salvation, or deliverance from the deadly serpent bite of sin, is only made possible when the sinner recognizes the fact of their sin and then by faith trust the One Who died as their substitute. “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” – John 3:14-16

Pastor Chuck Peters

The Johnsons in China

We hear from the news that the U.S. has received its share of winter weather along with us here in Northeastern China. It still snows once or twice a week, but for the first time in months the temperature has risen above freezing! That means the streets are less icy and all of our city's famous ice-sculptures are beginning to melt.

We had some wonderful opportunities to share the gospel last month. Catherine was able to share with our School Director's daughter Jennifer. She told Catherine she knew how important it was to trust Christ, and that she needed to, but wanted to think about it some more. Please pray for her. She has returned to school in the south. We plan to keep up with her via email. (There is an accompanying picture of her parents with this update. *See notebook in the church sanctuary.*).

Jonathan was able to finish two of his projects. A counseling guide in Mandarin for Pastors, which is being proofed by Pastors in the U.S., and a gospel tract using the Chinese New Year's theme for its cover. (On picture page) If you could use the Chinese tract to possibly reach someone in your area please let us know. We had asked for your prayers concerning changes to be made in our ministry and they are upon us. ***Dr. Reese, our Board President, has sent an enclosed letter specifying our new role and responsibilities with E.O.T.E.M.***

Our cultural training and language study have progressed well to this point. We still have much to learn but Jonathan is able to travel throughout the city without difficulty and carry on conversations with almost all he meets. Living in a "non-gated" community in the oldest neighborhood of Harbin, and daily interacting with the locals, has greatly facilitated our adaptation.

We have shopped daily, taken Steven to the hospital, been in minor traffic accidents, avoided an altercation with one of the town drunks, and a million other humorous and not so humorous adventures. Most importantly we have been able to share the gospel. Please pray for the seeds we have sown to bear fruit.

Our Board Director now desires that Jonathan do more traveling to other areas of China to look for additional ways to reach into regions which we have not had prior access and to also become familiar with E.O.T.E.'s work in the Philippines. To accomplish all of this there are new visas to acquire for China and some administrative duties to be taken care of at the Home Office in Texas.

This necessitates our coming back to the Home Office. We will arrive in Texas later this month and receive training until April. Jonathan will be flying to the Philippines in May and then back to China to seek out cultural exchanges that will give us more freedom to move about the country. There are many ethnic groups spread across China that are not part of the main well known groups. They have their own customs, cultures, and language, and many have never heard the gospel. It is the burden of our hearts to reach these lesser known people.
Yours in Christ, Jonathan, Catherine, Steven & Lucy

~ Ladies Fellowship ~

The Ladies Fellowship met on March 9 with seven ladies present. Our theme for Ladies Fellowship this year is "hospitality" and Sister Carol brought our lesson this month on kindness. Ephesians 4:32 says, "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." We should seek to sow seeds of kindness:

1. Remember who we are – "elect of God"
2. Follow Christ's example – kindness, meekness, long-suffering
3. Develop compassion – Matthew 9:36
4. Determine to do at least one kind thing per week – Galatians 6:10

HOLD THE DATE: Please be sure to mark Saturday, May 15, on your calendar as our annual ladies event. In keeping with our theme on hospitality, we are calling this year's event "Be a Friend Brunch." Look for more details to follow in the May *Messenger*.

The mission of the Smith Grove Ladies Fellowship is to promote spiritual growth of the ladies in our church family, proclaim the love of Christ in every activity in which we participate, and provide benevolent support to our church family and surrounding community.



*Congratulations Sam & Sherrill Crater -
~ Great-Grandparents ~*

Dakota Connor Crews ~ March 6, 2010 ~ 6 lbs. 10 oz.

April Birthdays.....

01 Joseph Barham	12 Lawrence Jones	Jo Beeson
02 Steve Holt	12 Beverly Sechler	Charles Cook
02 Carol Nuckles	12 Wesley Smith	Beelinn Damazio
03 Wanda Holt	16 Myles Pitts	Moises Damazio
03 Lisa Pitts	19 Mary Allen	Torrey Donnell
05 Marilyn Payne	19 Shelby Crump	Lynn Holland
06 Bud McCurdy	24 Charlene Tester	Austin McCormick
07 Pat George	26 Chase Ramey	Erin Mros
07 Larry Tucker	28 Juleen J. Hayes	Dustin Shields
08 Walter Tate	28 Donise Tucker	
11 Brandy Ramer	29 Erma Lee Nuckles	
	30 Ashley Sechler	



May Birthdays.....

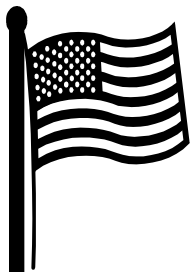
02 Ann Dean	16 Amanda Clark	Lucas Damazio
03 Robert Cisom	16 Christopher McCollum	Joanna Dillon
07 Jacob Clodfelter	18 Ryan William Lowe	Jonathan Dillon
09 Sherrill Crater	26 Eloise McCollum	Steve Dillon
09 Logan Kennedy	31 Jacob Payne	Jesse Holt
11 Wilma Farrington	Chris Bame	Casey Mros
11 Nora Smith	Colter Bame	Elaine Stephens
14 Dovie Dull	Randy Beeson	Peggy Vaughn
14 Samantha Tucker	Timothy Cromer	Duain Whittemore

April Anniversaries

Charles & Janice Cook	Tommy & Karen Holt
Mark & Lynn Holland	Mike & Becky McCollum
C.H. & Wanda Holt	Marvin & Debra Pitts
Walter & Gail Tate	



Pray for those In the Service of our Country



Matthew Bennett (new recruit in Jacksonville, SC)
 A1C William Holt, US Air Force
 Sheppard AFB, TX
 CW2 Jonathan Harless (Iraq)
 Cpt. Robert Harless (Savannah, GA)
 Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael Maine, US Army
 [stationed stateside]
 Corporal Mel Wright, US Marines, stateside
 (Nephews of Clarence Redmon)

The Carpenter

Once upon a time, two brothers who lived on adjoining farms fell into conflict. It was the first serious rift in 40 years of farming side-by-side, sharing machinery and trading labor and goods as needed without a hitch.

Then the long collaboration fell apart. It began with a small misunderstanding and it grew into a major difference and finally, it exploded into an exchange of bitter words followed by weeks of silence.

One morning there was a knock on John's door. He opened it to find a man with a carpenter's toolbox. "I'm looking for a few days' work," he said. "Perhaps you would have a few small jobs here and there I could help with? Could I help you?"

"Yes," said the older brother. "I do have a job for you. Look across the creek at that farm. That's my neighbor. In fact, it's my younger brother! Last week there was a meadow between us. He recently took his bulldozer to the river levee and now there is a creek between us. Well, he may have done this to spite me, but I'll do him one better. See that pile of lumber by the barn? I want you to build me a fence an 8-foot fence so I won't need to see his place or his face anymore."

The carpenter said, "I think I understand the situation. Show me the nails and the post-hole digger and I'll be able to do a job that pleases you."

The older brother had to go to town, so he helped the carpenter get the materials ready and then he was off for the day. The carpenter worked hard all that day – measuring, sawing and nailing. About sunset when the farmer returned, the carpenter had just finished his job.

The farmer's eyes opened wide, his jaw dropped. There was no fence there at all. It was a bridge . . . a bridge that stretched from one side of the creek to the other! A fine piece of work, handrails and all! And his younger brother was coming toward them, his hand outstretched.

"You are quite a fellow to build this bridge after all I've said and done!" The two brothers stood at each end of the bridge, and then they met in middle, taking each other's hand. They turned to see the carpenter hoist his toolbox onto his shoulder.

"No, wait! Stay a few days. I've a lot of other projects for you," said the older brother. "I'd love to stay on," the carpenter said, "but I have many more bridges to build."

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Smith Grove Seniors

Louise Byrd	Cleo Holt	J. D. Shields
Gordon Crouch	Reva Holt	Raynelle Shields
Shirley Crouch	Helen Jones	Wade Shields
Louise Davenport*	Lawrence Jones	Louise Smith
Iris Farrington	Neva Long	Glenn Tedder
Wilma Farrington	Curney Matthews	Clarence Tucker
June Freeman	Rose Matthews	Forrest Tucker
Ernest Fulk	Bud McCurdy	Hettie Westmoreland
Pat George	Laura Nuckles	

Others in Need of Prayer

(In alphabetical order)

***Special Needs**

Marilyn Alston	Debbie Harden	Miranda Petkis
Dorothy Alley Avant*	Kay Haynes	Norma Pilchett*
Fred Bame	Ronnie Holcomb	Harvey Pitts
Merl Blake	Alice & Barry Holman	Clarence Redmon
Roy Boody	Garland Holt	Claude Royal
Mazalean Byerly	Raleigh Hunt	Jamie Shell
John Carter	Daniel Idol	Eddie Thomason
Robert Cison*	Pam Johnson	Melissa Thomason
Bonnie Clark	Roscoe Johnson	Barbara Tucker
Cody (13-yr old in Thomasville)	Leighann Kincade	Clara Ward
Aaron Cole	Napha Klepper	Kenneth Westmoreland
Alice Covington	Richie McCormick	Gordon Wilkey*
Tom Covington	Mark Midkiff	Gerry Williams*
Jimmy Dillon	John & Dolly Miller	Arry Wilson
David Gindelsberger	Darius Moore	Jessi Wright
Clyde Gray, Sr.*	John Pearl	New Converts
	Don Peterson	The Unsaved

Note: If there are names that you know could be removed from the prayer list, please let someone on the newsletter committee know. Also, let us know if you have someone you wish to add to the prayer list.

Special Prayer Requests

- Those on our Youth Prayer List
- Pastor Chuck Peters
- Wade and Nora Smith (Virginia Beach, VA)
- All the missions & missionaries we support.
- Youth Directors
- Preachers, teachers, singers, & workers of our church & Discovery Clubs.

Services Each Week

Sunday School	10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Service	11:00 a.m.
<i>Children's Church</i>	11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Services:	
Discovery Bible Clubs	7:00 p.m.
Prayer Service	7:00 p.m.
Thursday Visitation	7:00 p.m.



April 2010



Sun., April 4th, 7:00 a.m. - Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast in the Fellowship Building

Tues., April 6, 7:00 p.m. Men's and Ladies' Fellowship meetings in the Fellowship Building.

May 2 - 5 Spring Revival Meeting with Brother Robbie Mullinax (Beginning Sunday morning through Wednesday evening.)

Save the Date:

Sat., May 15

“Be a Friend Brunch” sponsored by the Ladies' Fellowship

Sun., May 16, 6:00 p.m. Speaker: Andy Messer

Smith Grove Outreach Effort: *What can we do?*

- Pray . . . that God will move in a great way.
- Invite family, friends, and neighbors to our church.
- Share visitation requests with the Pastor (in writing).

I Cor. 7:22-24



Gary & Friends Missionary Outreach Ministry

Greetings from all of us, as we go for Christ, telling seniors about Jesus – *the way, the truth, and the life* (John14:6).

This month we had our first service at Clapps Assisted Living in Pleasant Garden, NC and hope to have many more. Please pray for us as we get started in teen and youth ministries in the Triad area – outreach to the whole family.

In Christ and happy,

Gary Smith

I Peter 5:7 “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”



“Our Honour Roll”

Smith Grove’s ministry to our widows and widowers

“Honour widows that are widows indeed.”

(I Timothy 5:3)

Listed below are April and May Honour Roll Gang members. Please take a moment to send a card, make a telephone call, or do something extra special for our special saints.

Bud McCurdy
1624 Mellon Dr.
Kernersville, NC 27284
993-4173 ~ April 06

Patricia George
8415 Endicott Rd.
Colfax, NC 27235
996-1606 ~ April 07

Ann Dean
4632 Kendale Road
High Point, NC 27284
668-9875 ~ May 02

Robert Cisom
125 Varner Rd.
Kernersville, NC 27284
993-4900 ~ May 03

Alta Key
4454 Peace Rd
Trinity, NC 27370
431-0079 ~ May 03

Wilma Farrington
572 D Piney Grove Rd
Kernersville, NC 27284
993-8576 ~ May 11

Dovie Dull
1026 Madison Place Circle
Kernersville, NC 27284
996-6330 ~ May 14

Eloise McCollum
8626 Bull Road
Colfax, NC 27235
996-6320 ~ May 26



The Three Nails

This is a story of long ago – of a man who owned a little store. As he would tell it, “I was proud to have my name above the door.” This took place, oh, about two thousand years ago, as I recall, I was located in Jerusalem, just across the street from Pilate's hall.

And I had everything anyone would ever need;

Why, folks would come from miles around, regardless of their creed.

But there was only thing I had I thought would never sell,

So I placed it in a corner on a shelf – three old rusty spike nails.

Then one day a Roman soldier came through the door,

And as he walked up to me, it seemed he shook the floor.

I said, “Can I help you, Sir?” in a voice I’m sure seemed frail.

He looked at me with a sneering grin and said,

“I’d like to buy some nails - some big, big nails.”

“Well, you see, Sir, three’s all I have.”

“Oh, That’ll do. For the job I have, three’s enough . . .

Now how much do I owe you?”

He placed the money in my hand, and I was glad to make the sale.

Then I began to wonder, and I asked,

“Sir, what can you do with just three spike nails?”

“Did you ever hear of a man called Jesus the Nazarene?”

“You mean the one they call the Son of God?”

“Yes, that’s the one. Today I intend to show the world who’s boss,

For with these three nails I'm going to nail that man Jesus to a cross.”

You’ll never know how numb I felt - as on my knees I fell.

“Please sir, don’t do that!” - but he just turned and walked away

I said, “Please, let me buy them back!”

But he just looked at me and grinned.

And in the distance, I could see the howling mob

Through the tears that filled my eyes.

“Away with him!” “Crucify him!” I could hear their angry cries.

But over the top of all the noise and groans of agony,

I can still hear the sound of a hammer as that big Roman soldier

Nailed my Jesus to a tree.”

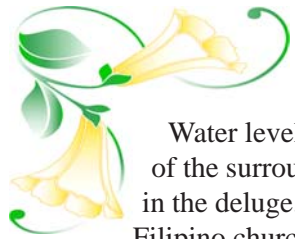
With three rusty nails, they nailed Jesus to a tree;

And His blood washed my sins away.

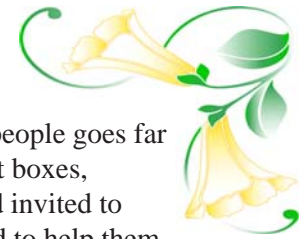


Written and published by Jimmie Davis Music Co., Inc.

Words adapted for use by David Zimmerman



Operation Christmas Child



Water levels in Laguna Lake rose by 10 feet, and dozens of the surrounding towns and villages were swallowed up in the deluge. Samaritan's Purse quickly mobilized the Filipino church partners who distribute shoe box gifts through our Operation Christmas Child project. As the waters slowly receded, our staff worked with local believers to provide food, clean water, blankets, mosquito nets, and other aid to families who lost homes and possessions.

Then in December, over 300,000 gift boxes began arriving in the Philippines to brighten the lives of poor and suffering children, many of them victims of the flooding. Months after the typhoon devastated the town of Santa Rosa, there was still six feet of brown water standing in the home of the Bugay family. Edna, her husband, and five children had to live at a temporary shelter set up in a school building, where they shared a classroom with four other families. The Bugay children were among 200 boys and girls who received shoe box gifts at the local church that had been used to store emergency supplies following the storm. The room erupted in happy pandemonium as children opened their boxes and marveled at the toys and other treasures inside. Caring Christians working with Operation Christmas Child also handed out Gospel storybooks in the Tagalog language. "I am very happy for my children to receive these gifts because I cannot afford to buy them," Edna said. "I know that God is taking care of us and giving us what we need."

In nearby Los Baños, the Rabulan family had taken up residence in a small but clean concrete stall that once served as a pigpen. Church workers supplied them with sleeping mats and mosquito nets provided by Samaritan's Purse. The Rabulan children joined about 150 others when shoe box gifts were distributed at the local church. Their mother, Maria, wept tears of joy to see the boxes, including much-needed school supplies and hygiene items.

Later, one of our local Operation Christmas Child volunteers walked with Maria and her children back to their makeshift shelter. The volunteer had lost her own home to Typhoon Ketsana. "I know losing your home was difficult," she told Maria. "Where you live now is only temporary. But God has a place planned for you that is nicer than any house here on earth. He loves you and wants you to be with Him one day in heaven — in His house that won't ever be washed away or destroyed." Right then, Maria prayed to receive Jesus Christ into her heart.



The outpouring of love for the Filipino people goes far beyond shoe box gifts. After receiving gift boxes, children are offered Gospel storybooks and invited to enroll in our discipleship program, designed to help them know Jesus and live for Him. After completing the Bible study course, they receive a personalized certificate and a special New Testament in their local language.

"Operation Christmas Child enables our pastors to go beyond the four walls of their churches," said James Tioco, the volunteer coordinator of our national team in the Philippines. "Because of the discipleship program, many children will know the truth of God's Word and experience His love. We are especially excited to see boys and girls come to Christ and then reach out to other children."

Kenya - A Family Comes to Christ

The sprawling Kibera slum outside Nairobi, Kenya, is a place of crushing poverty and despair. Families there live in a world without electricity, running water, or sanitation. Children scamper barefoot through festering heaps of garbage. In these desperate circumstances, God used a five-year-old girl named Roseline and a gift-filled shoe box to help an entire family find new life and eternal hope in Jesus Christ.

Roseline was thrilled to receive an Operation Christmas Child shoe box gift from the little tin-roofed church near her home. She loved the presents, but she was just as excited to receive the Gospel storybook, written in Swahili, that explained God's plan of salvation. As Roseline read *The Greatest Gift of All* booklet, the colorful illustrations brought the story of the Savior to life for her. God touched her young heart, and she eagerly accepted Christ. The little girl was so excited that she shared her new faith and the Gospel booklet with her next oldest sister—and a chain reaction of faith began. One by one, all five children in the family heard the Good News and received God's gift of forgiveness and eternal life.

Then they helped lead their widowed father to the Lord. Today, Roseline and her family attend the tiny church that helped bring the transforming power of Jesus Christ to their home by giving a little child a simple shoe box and the life-changing Gospel.