

PALM SUNDAY

It was Palm Sunday but because of a sore throat, 5-year-old Bobby stayed home from church with a baby-sitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds.

Bobby asked them what they were for.

'People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by,' his father told him.

'Wouldn't you know it,' Bobby fumed, 'the one Sunday I don't go and he shows up.'



DIVINE INTERVENTION

One Easter afternoon Jasper, a little boy, was playing outdoors. He used his mother's broom as a horse having a wonderful time until it was getting dark. Coming home, he left the broom on the back porch. That night his mother was cleaning up the kitchen when she realized that her broom was missing. She asked Jasper about the broom and he told her where it was.

She then asked him to please go get it. Jasper informed his mother that he was afraid of the dark and didn't want to go out to get the broom. His mother smiled and said, 'The Lord is out there too, don't be afraid.' Jasper then opened the back door a little and said, 'Lord, since you're out there, please pass me the broom.'

THE MIRACLE BUNNY!

Jimmy came home on the last day of the Easter term, and to his horror he found his German Shepherd, Rex, with the next door neighbours' bunny rabbit in its mouth. The rabbit was obviously dead.

Greatly upset, Jimmy panicked, thinking, 'If my neighbours find out Rex killed their bunny, they'll hate me forever.' Jimmy quickly took the rather large bunny, placed it in a paper bag, then deposited in the local incinerator. On his way home, Jimmy bought a rabbit from the local pet shop which he gauged was just like the deceased. Back home, Jimmy took the 'new' rabbit and placed it in the open hutch in his neighbours' garden.

Later that evening, Jimmy heard a knock on his door and opening it, found his next-door neighbours holding the 'new' rabbit in their arms. 'Look,' squeaked his neighbour, 'Yesterday Billy was dead and we buried him down in the garden. Today we come home and not only is he alive and well but he has grown several more teeth. It's a miracle.'



EASTER EGGS

- Why did the easter egg hide? He was a little chicken!
- Did you ever wonder why we paint Easter eggs? Because they're too hard to wallpaper, of course.



First Baptist Church Strathroy

Where Christ is cherished, family is loved and everyone is family!



GETTING CONNECTED

Publication of...

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"Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen." ~ Luke 24:5-6.

What's inside...

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"Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead...if we died with Him, we will also live with Him!"

~ 2 Timothy 8&11

Freedom in the Cross
There's something that occurred on that evening at Calvary that created such a lavish stir in all of history."

"Upon that old rugged cross our Saviour bared it all and offered Himself a sacrifice to overspread humanity's fall."

"The sacred blood that was spilled wiped clean the sinner's slate. Christ paid the price for everyone and carried our weight."

"A willing heart endured the pain, and purpose paved His way. He opened the eyes of every man To whom He came to save.

'Though the tragedy of that day will be mourned by those around, our joy is found three days later when He arose from the very ground."

"And through that selfless act of love, we were given new life in Him, set loose from our bondages to experience true freedom within."

By Olivia Lakis



Sunday, 11a.m. Services

20 Centre Street W., Strathroy, Ontario

Thot: "Christ the Lord is risen today, Sons of men and angels say. Raise your joys and triumphs high; Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply." ~ Charles Wesley

A WIFE'S ENTERPRISE

An old man who raised chickens happened across a mysterious box in his closet. The box contained three eggs and eight hundred dollars. Amazed, he asked his wife if she knew anything about the box.



Embarrassed, she admitted to having hidden the box their entire forty-five years of marriage. Curious, the man asked, "Why would you hid this from me?" "Oh, I never meant to hurt your feelings," his wife replied.

"What do you mean, hurt my feelings? How could this box hurt my feelings?" "Well," she responded, "every time I got angry with you over something you did, or didn't do, I would put an egg in the box."

The man thought that in forty-five years, three times was nothing to feel too bad about, so he asked her what the money was for.

His wife explained, "Every time I got a dozen eggs, I sold them for a dollar and put the money here in the box for a rainy day."



Something to Think About...

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him" ~ 1 Corinthians 2:9.

Perhaps, like me, you love the Gaither Homecoming videos, experiencing some of Southern Gospel's great music. One person who appears from time to time is Jim Hill who, in the 1940s started as a tenor singing with the Golden Keys Quartet. In 1955 he wrote and recorded a beautiful hymn we have in our hymn books today – "What a Day That Will Be". The song begins...

*"There is coming a day when no heartaches shall come –
No more clouds in the sky, no more tears to dim the eye.
All is peace forevermore on that happy golden shore.
What a day, glorious day that will be!"*

When his mother-in-law got gravely ill, Hill was a new Christian and asked God why this was happening to her. With the words flooding into his head, he started writing the words down, first singing the song to his mother-in-law.

Throughout God's Word we're instructed to remain diligent about the Lord's return: to watch faithfully; to work diligently; and to wait peacefully. As we draw close to our celebration of our Lord's sacrificial death to take away our sins, and to His resurrection in victory over death and sin, freed from the tyranny of Satan, we become increasingly conscious of the days drawing closer to His promised return. Songs like Jim Hill's "What a Day That Will Be" are heartily joined with "Soon and Very Soon" and "What If It Were Today?" as we wait with anticipation for Jesus to appear.

As we adhere to scripture's call to watch faithfully, we're reminded of Jesus' specific instruction: "Keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of

Man." (Luke 21:36). Dr. Charles Stanley writes, "We are to do more than pray as we watch. We are to stand fast in the faith with courage and strength (1 Corinthians 16:13). We are to watch soberly, arming ourselves with faith, love, and salvation (1 Thessalonians 5:8). As we watch, we are to remain especially aware of false prophets. We are to discern the spirits and to reject soundly all who do not confess that Jesus Christ is God in the flesh" (see 2 Peter 2:1; 1 John 4:2).

And we're not to remain idle as we watch for Jesus to return. I've often said the only believer whose work was finished at his confession of faith was the thief on the cross who that day was promised to be with Jesus in paradise. For the rest of us, God calls us to be His witnesses — telling of His love and the atoning death of Jesus Christ as well as to testify about what He's done in our own lives by our example and, where necessary, through words. So long as there remains a soul on earth who hasn't heard the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, we've work to do!

While we remain, watching faithfully, working diligently, we're to wait peacefully. Apart from having Jesus in our hearts, bond-slaves to our Lord and allowing the Holy Spirit to lead us, there is no peace – neither within the human heart nor amid our community or amongst the nations. We certainly can attest to that in our own lives and in our world. But with Jesus, "the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds" (Philippians 4:7) to indeed experience shalom – inner peace through God's graceful presence. God calls for us to seek, to discover this wonderful peace as we wait for our Lord's soon return.

This Easter, will you take time and prepare not only by looking back to the great gift of salvation our Lord Jesus has given to you, but in watching, working and waiting peacefully? And search your hearts and ask yourself, "When the Lord comes, will He find *me* among those who love Him and call Him Saviour and Lord? Will He find me ready and eager to see Him?

When the Lord calls with a shout from heaven, only if you have been watching faithfully, working diligently for His kingdom and waiting in the peace of Christ will you instantly rise to be with Him. The fact is, He is coming again!

This Easter, will you open your heart to Jesus; will you recognize that Jesus, God's own Son, went to the cross and bore its scorn, taking your shame upon Himself, and that He loves you and is calling to you to be ready when He returns? He wants to welcome you with open arms. More than anything, Easter offers a cross, a wounded saviour, a "man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief." But it also gives a risen Saviour who is coming again. Will you be ready? **Happy Easter!**

Mark Your Calendar!

April 2nd – Palm Sunday 11 a.m.

- Communion served

"Casting All Your Cares on Him"

April 7th – Good Friday 10:30 a.m.

"The Blessing...beyond His Suffering"

April 9th – **EASTER SUNDAY** 11 a.m.

"Is Anything too Hard for the Lord"

Wednesdays 1:30pm

Weekly Prayer (FBCS Godwinks' Café)

Message Series

Stumbling Blocks to Experiencing God

(Lessons Jesus Taught)

Begins Sunday April 16th 11 a.m.