



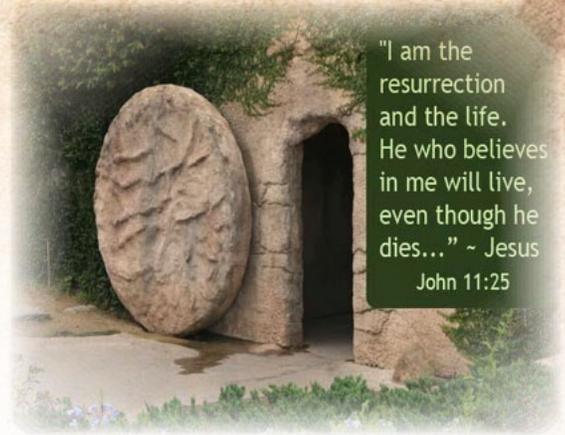
Happy Resurrection Day!

April 2012

Praying Friends and Family,  
**He's Risen!**  
**He's Risen, Indeed!**

Easter is a great time of the year. Christ-followers around the globe gather to celebrate the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! It's so true that Christ is alive, "...an empty grave is there to prove our Savior lives...!"

Comparatively, Easter is of more importance to us than Christmas; however, the two are inter-related. Though the love (mercy) and justice of God are evident in these two historical events, the birth of Jesus introduces them and we see their ultimate display on the cross. In other words, Christmas shows how much God loved the whole world by sending His one and only Son. Easter, on the other hand, demonstrates the price Jesus willingly and lovingly paid to make eternal life possible. As a result, if we believe in Him, we pass from death to life. John 3:16-18 captures the nature of the relationship between Christmas and Easter so well:



"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies..." ~ Jesus  
John 11:25

**"<sup>16</sup>God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world guilty, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup>People who believe in God's Son are not judged guilty. Those who do not believe have already been judged guilty, because they have not believed in God's one and only Son."** (New Century Version).

Additionally, the testimony of John the Baptist further clarifies the relationship between Christmas and Easter. In John 1:29, John had this to say about Jesus, "**Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!**" (NIV). When Jesus came, He came as the Lamb of God. Mary, therefore, "had a little lamb" that would later die for the sins of the whole world. The verse reveals three essential features about Jesus, THE LAMB OF GOD, namely: 1) The SOURCE of the Lamb (He is from God, cf. John 3:16); 2) The SIGNIFICANCE of the Lamb (He "takes away sin"); and 3) The SCOPE of the Lamb's ministry (Jesus atoned for "the sin of the world"). Bruce Milne presents a full discussion of the three points in *"The Message of John"* (a 1993 book published by Inter-Varsity Press, p. 53).

Thankfully, God's story of redemption does not stop at the Cross; it starts to become crystal clear at the Resurrection of Jesus. In fact, Jesus is the only founder of a major religion who claimed to be God and He could substantiate it. For example, in John 11:25, He said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies." After making this statement, He demonstrated the truthfulness of His claim by raising Lazarus from the dead, thus proving that He was God—the Life-Giver.



Last week, two students (pictured with me) returned to Japan. As far as I know, Ai and Tomoaki do not know Jesus as their personal Savior. Providentially, they attended our Friday Bible study while they were in Oklahoma City for a few weeks. We also interacted with them on several occasions and shared the love of Jesus with them. Pray with us that the seed planted would bear fruit for God's glory.



Also pray for our Bible study group to continue being responsive to God's Word as we meet every Friday in the home of Mike & Samantha Muller. The Mullers have tirelessly hosted our group and loved on the students. In fact Edison, who stays in their home, came to know the Lord last year. We are so thankful for the great witness he has been to other international students. Our weekly ministry is mostly to international students in Oklahoma City. We reach out to them in conjunction with Heritage Baptist Church and All Nations Church.

The Board Members of Barnabas Leadership Ministries (Mike & Leann McGee, Trey & Amy Dixon, and Dennis & Lisa McGee) and I wish to thank you for your continued prayers and support. Because of your partnership, we are able to encourage and equip under-resourced and under-trained pastors and lay leaders, including children ("leaders-in-the-making") to spread the Gospel in their spheres of influence.

We trust this letter finds you rejoicing in the Lord's blessings. Happy Resurrection Day to you and your family!

In His exciting steps and service,

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405.694.6717

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**Please let us know how to pray for you! Thank you!**

**: Praise & Prayer Requests :**

**"Expect Great Things from God; Attempt Great Things for God."** (William Carey)

**Praise Notes:**

1. A successful Annual Dinner for the Barnabas Leadership Ministries held on March 15, 2012. Approximately 58 guests came and the Lord was glorified in ministry reports. We are thankful for the generous giving, the love and appreciation of the Barnabas ministry!
2. Almost done with school—3 hours of coursework remaining next semester, and then start the dissertation!
3. The weekly Bibles studies are bearing fruit—two students have come to Christ recently. One of them is a former Muslim!
4. The worship team at All Nations Church is having an effective ministry!

**Prayer Requests:**

1. Discipline to study and stay on schedule in school.
2. Journey mercies and a great time as I attend my final residency at Regent University next month (May 7–12)
3. Good preparation and ability to pass comprehensive exams in July and guidance in writing the dissertation proposal.
4. Preparations for the trip to Kenya in September in partnership with Crossings Community and Water 4 Foundation.
5. Church leaders in Kenya, India, Peru, and Congo to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts (cf. Acts 11:23)
6. Wisdom in sharing God's Word with internationals in Oklahoma City and receptiveness to the Gospel.
7. Our ministry budget is now at 54.6%. Pray that we may reach 100% soon!