

BY GEORGE



A MEMBER CONGREGATION OF THE ANGLICAN NETWORK IN CANADA (ANIC)

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*He is not
here; He
has risen!*



Dear St. George's



Easter is an annual reminder of new life. Longer and sunnier days, tulips pushing up from the dirt, green buds form on otherwise dead-looking brown branches and the air springs to life with the sound of returning birds.

But have you considered that new life is impossible without dying?

In one sense we will all die. Every person is born with a countdown timer loaded with a particular number of seconds, minutes, hours and days; a number determined by our Sovereign Lord. From the moment we are born we are invested in the process of dying. This is partly, what Paul is referring to:

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. [Romans 6: 8,9 ESV].

We will die and we will rise to new life. Christians place their hope and trust in Jesus; in His dying and rising from the dead. Easter hope is founded on the simple truth that while we will all die, death will never be the final word for anyone who places his faith and hope in Jesus, the only person ever to defeat death. If we face our own death "with Christ", Scripture promises that "we will also live with Him".

There is, however, another layer of meaning in this passage from



Paul's letter to the church in Rome. Consider what Paul wrote four verses earlier:

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. [Romans 6: 4, 5 ESV].

There is a sense in which we “walk in newness of life” even now. Some day we will die and some day we will be raised to a new life, but Easter hope speaks to our daily reality right now, as well. The death we have died is a death to our old self. Paul points to the waters of baptism as a picture. Our new life in Christ begins with a clear moment of dying to our old self. In His letter to the Corinthian church, Paul refers to the Christian as a “new creation” declaring that “the old has passed away and the new has come”.

You don't have to wait until your last breath to begin walking in the hope and power of newness of life. Easter resurrections are happening all the time. They happen every time anyone knows himself to be a sinner and throws his hope upon Jesus (his perfect life, death, burial and res-

urrection). Paul says that our old self is buried as though going into a grave. The new life that emerges is an Easter miracle, loaded with a faith, hope and confidence as certain as the fact that Jesus rose from the grave on that first Easter morning.

You see, in some ways, dying is not a bad thing. Death of old sinful desires paves the way for a new life of freedom from self-destructive and God-offending sin. At the same time, it is this new Easter life today that gives us great hope and trust when we consider our own grave. When you place your hope and trust in Jesus and His Easter victory, your fate is tied to His.

This Easter season, I pray that you will take time to consider your own soul. Have you died to sin? Have you come to new life in Christ? Do you have deep, lasting and abiding hope that goes beyond the grave? If so, rejoice and let your gratitude erupt forth in loud Alleluias on Easter Sunday. If not, take time to pray. Ask that the Lord would make you truly sorry for your sin. Ask that He would cause your old self to die and that you would know the power of Easter today.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

In Easter joy,

Ray David Glenn

“We have seen the Lord.”

The Ebony Shroud

A Meditation on the Passiontide



. . . “the ebony shroud” The words are not mine. They come from the pen of Ellen Gunderson Traylor in her work titled “John, Son of Thunder”. What a fitting metaphor to describe the darkness that engulfed Golgotha where Jesus hung, dying.

The Lord Himself had referred to this power as “the power of darkness”. The inky night-time was ominous and terrifying because it happened in the middle of the day. Adding to the ordeal was the ground around the cross, convulsing in an earthquake intensifying the agony of the one suspended there.

Religious leaders taunted Him; the darkness of hatred.

Roman soldiers had a crap shoot for His clothing; the darkness of greed.

Agonizing shock and disbelief tearing at the souls who stood with John. More darkness.

Loud cries came from the Sorrowing Saviour, “My God, why have You forsaken Me?” The ebon night deepens. It was like the night in Egypt centuries before. It was palpable; darkness that could be felt. Tangible. Great darkness. Great darkness; like an ebony shroud.

Added to that was the darkness of the betrayer. Within the soul of Judas Iscariot was the ebony shroud of despair, desolation and shame. It was as if he were falling into a black hole of destruction. This was indeed a darkness with power. Unimaginable. Unprecedented. Unspeakable. Life and innocence were sealed in a tomb.

. . . Thinking darkness to be their friend to conceal them from spying eyes, to walk from Jerusalem to Emmaus. But the night within them was anything but friendly.



“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”



The darkness of abandonment. Their Messiah was dead.

The darkness of disillusionment. The King of Israel in a borrowed grave.

The darkness of dread. They were now possibly enemies of the state.

The darkness of confusion. How could they be so deceived?

The darkness of ignorance. Had they misunderstood the Scriptures?

The darkness of unbelief. The Stranger who had joined them said they were fools and slow of heart.

Hours later, the Stranger reclined at table with them as their Guest. As He lifted His eyes in blessing, their darkness was shattered with resurrection light. “. . . He was made known to them in the breaking of bread.” It wasn’t yet day in Emmaus but their souls were on fire. The shroud had given way to the shining – the shining of resurrection victory!

“. . . The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. . . .”

Hallelujah!

Ken Bombay

Jesus appeared. . .

1. *To Mary Magdalene alone. Mark 16; John 20:14*
2. *To the women returning from the sepulchre. Matt. 28: 9,10*
3. *To Simon Peter alone. Luke 24: 34*
4. *To the two disciples going to Emmaus. Luke 26:13 &c.*
5. *To the apostles at Jerusalem, excepting Thomas who was absent. John 20:19*
6. *To the apostles at Jerusalem, a second time when Thomas was present. John 20: 26, 29.*
7. *At the Sea of Tiberius, when seven disciples were fishing. John 21:1*
8. *To the eleven disciples, on a mountain in Galilee. Matt. 28:16*
9. *To above five hundred brethren at once. I Cor. 15:6*
10. *To James only. I Cor. 15:7*
11. *To all the apostles on mount Olivet at His ascension.*

Luke 24: 51

Three times we are told that His disciples “touched” Him after He rose. Matt. 28:9; Luke 24: 39; John 20:27. Twice we are told that He ate with them. Luke 24:42; John 21:12.13

Bishop John Ryle

“We have seen the Lord.”

Noreen



Dear Noreen – there is so much to say about her. I am just one of her many, many friends who could tell you story after story but to me, she was my best friend for the past 20 years and I'm just sharing how that friendship developed.

Noreen & I met at St. John's Church in Nassageway. Her family had recently moved to the area from Milton. We chatted during coffee hour and she invited us over for dinner. I said there are 5 of us and she said no worries, there are also 5 of us and I have a few more families invited. There was an instant bond and I felt she was a fellow “Newfie” ..the more the merrier. That was the way it was at the Culver household...whether sitting around the dining table, kitchen table or the backyard BBQ, there were always lots of family and friends gathered.

Another “Newfie” quality she had that cemented our friendship was the way she made time for you. If you dropped in and she was vacuuming, the vacuum cleaner would be dropped and the kettle was on for a cup of tea. She was never too busy to chat.

And the one thing that really made me think she was a “Newfie” was the fact that you didn't need to knock to enter her home. As a matter of fact, the door was often unlocked and sometimes her keys were left in the lock.

Noreen loved the farm and her animals. You never knew what you would find when you went there. She had a menagerie of animals including a few dogs, cats, horses and ponies, an entertaining goat, some turkeys and chickens. She may have been bottle feeding a baby lamb for someone else, or providing a home for someone's very large pet goose, minding someone's dogs while they were on vacation, going to someone else's farm to do chores while they were away. Whatever the job, she cared for all the animals with love and affection.



“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”



We became the “Thelma and Louise” of Alpha at St. George's after Charlie had encouraged us to attend a Conference.

We were an inseparable team and ran the Alpha course for those seeking to know more about the Christian Faith for at least 10 years. Noreen always led the worship by singing and playing her guitar and often led a small group discussion as well. We were actually leading an Alpha group together when she was diagnosed with kidney cancer but she kept it quiet and carried on.



Noreen had a beautiful voice and was in the church choir, singing even this past Christmas. She truly enjoyed singing for the Lord. She was often a part of the worship team for our Women's Conferences or days away. Rev. Jerry Salloum often asked her to sing at funerals because of her melodic voice. I told her we would make her sing for her but she vetoed that idea! She never took any Glory for this talent but gave all the Glory to God.

And speaking of God, this was where Noreen shone. She witnessed to Him with her voice and her deeds. She loved the Lord and she pointed people to Him often. She invited me to my first weekly Bible study in the neighbourhood and we loved studying Scripture together, often calling each other for clarification on something we read or just sharing something exciting that the Lord was doing in our lives. She had a Bible in the barn and would do some early morning reading there and after her chores, she would call me with such excitement and exclaim “guess what the Lord showed me this morning”. And that's often how our chats began. And they most often ended in prayer. Our long drives would be full of conversation and whether she was dropping me off or vice versa, we were another 10 or 15 minutes in the driveway with our heads bowed in prayer, holding all the things we'd discussed up to the Lord.

Noreen had a great sense of humour that I just loved. She was quick witted and it often got us through some difficult doctor visits. We joked a lot about and with her oncologist, Dr. Hotte...I'm sure he was used to it. I asked her to keep this sense of humour as then I would know she hadn't given up hope. Well, you know she had her sense of humour right up until

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she couldn't speak any more. One day in particular, when she was having difficulty making us understand something, I laughed out loud and she looked at me and clearly said "Haha, you got that one didn't you"? I got it...she still had her sense of humour.

Even in the face of kidney cancer and knowing there was no cure for this disease, she chose to bring Glory to the Father by praising Him in all circumstances, seeking Him daily and trusting Him always. She didn't know how He was going to work out her end days but she trusted Him to do it and He did!

I miss Noreen terribly but I take comfort in the fact that we will meet again!

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. [John 5: 24]

Donna Rigo



**St. George's Anglican ANiC
Women's Conference
May 3rd, 4th at Faith Mission**

**Speaker: Oryce Shantz
Topic: The Glory of God**

**"everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."**

Isaiah 43;7

**Do come! Friends, family and other ANiC churches are welcome.
email the office: office@stgeorgesonline.com**

"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."



The ANiC Eastern Assembly

Dear friends,



I invite you to join us April 17-20 2013 for the ANiC Eastern Assembly at the Crossroads Centre in Burlington, ON. Not only we are counting on all congregations of our Eastern Region being represented by their official delegates, but we invite all members of ANiC congregations in the east – as well as other friends – to join us for this important and exciting regional assembly. And for those who can't attend the entire event, the Wednesday and Friday evening services of Holy Communion are open to all.

We as a church are serious about gospel proclamation because Jesus, who is Lord and King, has called the church to preach the gospel to every person everywhere, making disciples of all nations, and in the power of the Holy Spirit to be a witness to Jesus in an ever-increasing circle of influence. It is our joy to join the apostle Paul who says: *“Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.”* Colossians 1:28 From this Scripture text, we've drawn our theme for the regional assemblies across Canada: **“Him we proclaim...presenting everyone mature in Christ.”**

In keeping with this theme, all aspects of our assembly will focus on gospel proclamation. In my Charge, I will share my vision and heart for gospel proclamation. There will be rich biblical teaching, workshops, worship, and discussion about how we can move forward together – as a region, as congregations and as individuals – in this great enterprise of gospel proclamation.

The regional assembly begins Wednesday evening, April 17 with a service of **Holy Communion**. Our diocesan and moderator Bishop Donald Harvey will be the celebrant and our preacher will be our special guest, the **Primate of the Southern Cone, the most Reverend Hector (Tito) Zavala**.

In our four **Bible teaching** times, the Reverends Keith Ganzer (Emmaus, Montreal) and Ray David Glenn (St George's, Burlington) will expound Old Testament passages which make known Jesus whom we are seeking to proclaim. We know the whole Bible is about

“We have seen the Lord.”

Jesus, from Genesis to Revelation. Walking on the road to Emmaus, on the day of His resurrection, Luke 24 tells us that Jesus “...beginning with Moses and all the prophets... explained the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.”

There will be an opportunity to learn from our guest Primate, Archbishop Zavala, who will be sharing what's happening in the Southern Cone and also reporting to us as a primate of the GAFCON movement.

Five workshops, each led by one of our regional archdeacons, on a theme which ultimately strengthens our gospel work, will be offered twice and so each person will have a chance to go to two of the five over the course of the Assembly. These workshops are:

1. **Prayer & fasting**, paving a way for effective gospel proclamation – Archdeacon Paul Crossland
2. **Diving deeper into God’s Word** (a necessity for effective gospel proclamation) – Archdeacon Paul Charbonneau
3. **Ministry to children and youth** (a central and strategic part of gospel proclamation) – Archdeacon Tim Parent
4. **Planting churches** (a platform for gospel proclamation) – Archdeacon Michael McKinnon
5. **Ministry to sexual brokenness** (all part of faithful gospel proclamation) – Archdeacon Darrell Critch

There also will time for **congregational sharing**, when the official delegates from each congregation will have an opportunity to

1. Report on what is happening in their congregation,
2. Share a prayer concern, and
3. Offer, on behalf of their congregation, a vision or a recommendation for how we can move forward together as a region in gospel proclamation.

Please check out the details of our assembly on ANiC’s website.

Your partner in proclaiming the gospel,

Bishop Charlie Masters

Bishop Coadjutor, Eastern Region



“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”



THE BEST NEWS EVER

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” [John 3:16].

Bless those sports figures who write John 3:16 on their shirts, their arms, or on their faces even, for the cameras to pick up. Bless them for their witness! As we all know, it is a witness that does not go unnoticed; it is offensive to the public even. Bless them for their boldness! It does not gain them much popularity.

Why would the world be so offended by this word? In a nutshell it gives the wonderful news of the Gospel. And it is wonderful news!

The word “perish” is a terrible word in Scripture. It conveys not just a moment of death but rather ruin that is eternal. I will always carry in my mind the dreadful flight of masses of panic-stricken people, fleeing imminent physical death on the morning of 9 – 11. A frightful picture! But imagine trying to flee imminent eternal ruin. To perish is forever, forever and ever. The great preacher Charles Spurgeon tells of the horror he felt even as a small boy at the graphic picture of hell as a bottomless pit in the book of Revelation.

Why would any thinking person be willing to be condemned? It is so unnecessary. The Gospel is good news. God loves the world. He loves the world so much that He sent His own Son Jesus as Saviour. To spare us from the just and certain condemnation that our sins deserve before God, God’s Son laid down His own life. Eternal life is the precious gift, unmerited and unearned, that He gives freely to any who will receive it by faith. And Jesus willingly gave up His life for us.

The saving is completely finished. Whoever believes in Him has eternal life. Put away every lingering shred of fear. It is a sure thing! Jesus said, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand” [John 10:27].

And us, what is our part? John 3: 16 says “whoever believes in him”. Believe in Jesus, that’s all, and receive from Him the priceless treasure of eternal life. It is a treasure, a gift freely given, a gift just to be received by faith.

But maybe it is just the simplistic faith of simple-minded people. Not so! Jesus’ resurrection demonstrates that it is all true! It has been demonstrated.

Jesus’ resurrection demonstrates beyond a shadow of a doubt that this life is not the end. There was an empty tomb, attested by even the chief priests who had Jesus put to death. There were many witnesses independent of one another; among them the hostile Saul of Tarsus, the bitter enemy of Jesus’ disciples and of Jesus Himself, the one who became Paul the apostle. This life is not the end. Jesus told the thief on the cross, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” Jesus spoke many times about His own resurrec-

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tion, but He spoke many times about ours also. [John 5: 25 – 29; John 6:39, 44, 54, 57; John 11:23 – 27]

Jesus' resurrection is a declaration of power, that Jesus is, as He himself declared, God the Son. It is a clear demonstration that every statement that Jesus made is truth. Jesus' resurrection demonstrates that Jesus has conquered death forever. It is evidence that Jesus has broken the hold of the evil one over us. It is evidence that Jesus has fully paid our ransom and satisfied God's justice. The veil of the temple was torn in two, top to bottom! We can live in confident assurance that this is a finished and final transaction before a holy God on our behalf. We can therefore come boldly to the throne of grace.

This Gospel nugget of John 3: 16 shapes our lives now. Where else would we go but to Jesus? He has the words of eternal life! This Gospel is our only comfort in life and in death.

This message of the Gospel is exactly the truth that we have for the world, the truth that this world desperately needs. This Gospel is demonstrated to be the truth by Jesus' resurrection. Boldly and shamelessly let us proclaim it!

Mary Ann Masters

DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF THE POOR AND NEEDY

As the season of Lent comes to a close, I would like to share with you the message I believe that the Lord has placed on my heart during this time of reflection. Lent is a special time of prayer, penitence, sacrifice and good works in preparation for the celebration of Easter. I love this season of the Church calendar even more than Christmas, if you can imagine!

Proverbs 31:9 says "defend the rights of the poor and needy." Those words jumped off the page as I read them during my Bible study and prayer during Lent. When Jesus calls, you answer, I thought to myself. But what can I do? What can St. George's do? Is this your message to me, Lord? Is it your message also to your Church. Pope Francis' message is resonating with me. The new Pope has said that the Church should remember that its mission is to serve the poor. He also wants a more austere Church and has said that unjust economic structures create great inequalities. His message is also appropriate for Anglicans too.

No one should have to wonder where the next meal is coming from. As Eli Khamarov has said "Poverty is like punishment for a crime you didn't commit." Currently in Ontario 383,000 children live in poverty. Alex Andreou who spent time homeless on the streets of London England, said "Poverty is another country. You have either lived there or you have not." WOW! What a powerful statement.

I believe that the Lord is calling us to help the poor. I believe that defending the rights of the poor would be a priority for Jesus if He were here with us now. Jesus spoke often about the poor and spent time with those who were considered outcasts in society. Let's commit to work on social justice issues over the next year. Volunteer your time at a local food bank or drop off used clothing at a homeless shelter. Prepare a meal for someone who is suffering financially or drop off groceries to them. You can also lobby your local politician for programs and services to help low-income individuals and families in your community.

Ask yourselves this: "Am I my brother's keeper?" Yes you are. And so am I. Happy Easter!

Derek Kerr



"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

**St. George's Anglican Church,
Lowville,
member congregation of the
Anglican Network in Canada
and part of
the Anglican Church in North America**

Rector: the Rev'd Ray David Glenn

Honorary Assistants:

the Rev'd Garth Hunt

the Rev'd Peter Parent

the Rev'd Keith Stodart

the Rev'd Deacon Ray Smith

Worship/Media Pastor: Bryan Hunt

Exec. Administrator: Gillian Fernie

Ministry Coordinator: Naomi Neeb

Church Secretary: Donna Rigo

**Crossroads Centre Chapel, 1295
North Service Road, Burlington**

**8:30 am Morning Prayer or Holy
Communion**

**10:15 family service, nursery and Sunday
school**

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*"Christ the Lord is risen today",
sons of men and angels say;
raise your joys and triumphs
high; sing, ye heavens; thou
earth reply.*

*Love's redeeming work is done;
Fought the fight, the battle won:
Lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er!
Lo, he sets in blood no more!*

*vain the stone, the watch, the
seal; Christ hath burst the gates
of hell; Death in vain forbids His
rise! Christ hath opened Paradise.*

*Hail the Lord of earth and
heaven! Praise to Thee by both be
given: Thee we greet triumphant
now; Hail, the Resurrection thou!*

Charles Wesley

1739