



Pastor & First Lady Richardson

EMANUEL

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THE RESURRECTION: IT'S A PRETTY BIG DEAL



1 Cor 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. 20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. KJV

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FIRST THINGS FIRST 3

STATE WORKERS MEETING 4

MONTHLY INSPIRATION 7

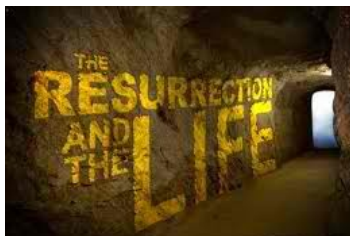
APRIL CALENDAR 8

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. (Eph 1:3). I trust that you and your family are doing well and that God's choice blessings are rich in your lives.

As we enter the month of April, our ministry theme is *Resurrection*. Though the subject of the Resurrection is very popular in the Christian church, often times we fail to promote it with the attention and enthusiasm that it deserves. I was impressed by a commercial campaign that aired sometime ago by Ford Motor Company that advertised their 2011 Fiesta. As the commercial opens a couple is sitting in the new 2011 Ford Fiesta, which is positioned in the middle of the street. The young lady sitting on the passenger's side of the car after noticing that the man sitting behind the steering wheel has no keys, looks at him and ask a brief question..No Keys?



And the driver says - no – watch this. He pushes the button to the ignition and at an instant; in the background celebratory music begins to play.



Continued on page 2

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

People acrobatically began jumping down from the tops of buildings, fire escapes and porches and running into the streets in celebration. Simultaneously airplanes flying overhead with men parachuting and sky diving from the air into the streets also joined in the celebration. Trucks were parked in strategic places with signs and banners that advertise the new features of the car. Streamers were draped across the street that bore the message that the “New Fiesta is Here”.

Men and women on unicycles also joined in the celebration by riding in the streets with umbrellas that had an alphabet printed on top of each umbrella that collectively spelled out “Hands Free Sync” short for Synchronization. By this time the men parachuting and sky diving at the beginning of the commercial have finally landed, and their parachutes strategically draped across the tops of the buildings and into the street and they also had words printed on the tops of their parachutes that collectively bore another message that simply read “The New Ford Fiesta”.

Suddenly manhole covers in the streets began ejecting into the air followed by people jumping out of them into the streets to join in the celebration. As the camera panned back onto the couple in the car, the man who was the proud driver of this new celebrated driving machine responds with four simple but profound words that described the essence of the moment, He said “it’s a pretty big deal”.



When I think of the Resurrection and all of the benefits and privileges that it provides, I can also say that the Resurrection is a pretty big deal!

When we gather in our churches this Easter there may not be any planes flying over our heads, but I can say without reservation that the Resurrection is a pretty big deal! There may not be anybody acrobatically jumping from roof tops, fire escapes, landings and porches, but it’s still pretty big deal! There may not be any trucks, streamers, or parachutes that bear signs to advertise what is in the center of the celebration, but it’s still a pretty a big deal! There may not be any people riding unicycles and carrying umbrellas bearing messages about our Lord and His finished work on the cross, but you can believe that the Resurrection is a pretty big deal!

There may not be any manhole covers being ejected from the streets followed by people jumping out of them, but this Easter Sunday morning, we will be coming from under our covers entering into his gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise and we will be leaping and rejoicing in unrestrained celebration, because the Resurrection is unequivocally a pretty big deal!

It’s bigger than the Easter Bunny, Easter Basket, Easter egg and the Easter Dinner. It’s bigger than a new hat, new suit, new dress or new shoes. It’s bigger than the Easter crowd or the Easter Flock.

Continued on page 6

res·ur·rec·tion [rez-uh-**rek**-shuhn]

1. the act of rising from the dead.
2. The rising of Christ after his death and burial.
3. The state of those risen from the dead.
4. A rising again, as from decay, disuse, etc, revival.

Source: dictionary.com

It's bigger than the Easter Bunny, Easter Basket, Easter egg and the Easter Dinner. It's bigger than a new hat, new suit, new dress or new shoes. It's bigger than the Easter crowd or the Easter Flock, the Resurrection, it's a pretty big deal.

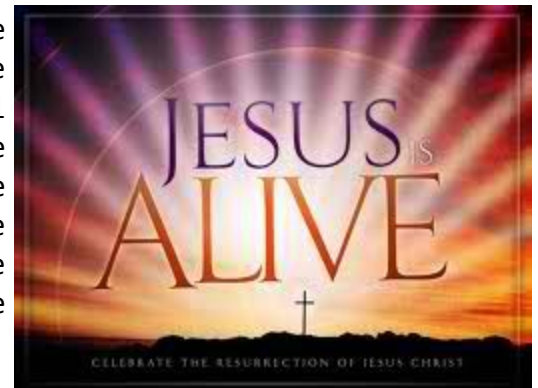
Pastor Richardson



Continued from page 2

But the Resurrection is a pretty big deal because while all other religious founders are sleeping in their graves, our Lord and Saviour Jesus the Christ is alive and well. It's a pretty big deal because God loved us so much, that while we were yet sinners, that He came to us in the form of man, died for our sins, took the sting out of death, snatched the victory from the grave and declared that all power has been given to Him in heaven and on earth! It's a pretty big deal because if we accept Him as our Lord and Saviour, we will not remain dead, but will be resurrected unto eternal life. Now that's a pretty big deal!

In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul explains in detail the importance of the resurrection of Christ and why we need to promote it with the attention and enthusiasm that it deserves. He writes in 1 Corinthians 15:19 "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. 20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."



As we gather this Easter to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, let's remember the driver of the Ford Fiesta who simply said "watch this" and pushed the button. Let's tell others to watch us as we praise Him and lift Him up and declare without reservation that Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour is alive forevermore! Let's push the button and tell the world that the Resurrection a pretty big deal! *That it's a new deal. It's a better deal. It's the best deal. It's the real deal. It seals the deal. It validates the deal and it guarantees the deal!*

Pastor Richardson