

"I'M LEAVING BUT, KNOW THIS, I'M COMING BACK!"

It was the first day of the week—totally unlike any other first day of the week they had experienced. The disciples of Jesus had watched him be cruelly beaten beyond recognition and then nailed to a cross, crucified! That was on Friday, day before yesterday.

Today they are huddled in a room with doors locked for fear that, were they discovered, they too would suffer the same fate. Jesus had warned them that if the world hated him it would hate them also.

Then the news came! Mary **Magdalene came running to Peter to let him know that "they have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"** [John 20:2]

Peter and John ran to the tomb and when Peter looked inside, **"He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen." They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.**" [John 20:6-9]

The story is told of a custom in the Mid-eastern culture where the servant would prepare and then place the master's food on the table for the meal. While the master of the house ate, the servant would keep a careful watch from an adjoining room in case his master needed anything.

When the master of the house had finished his meal, he would throw his used napkin on the table as a sign that he was finished and that the servant could come and clear off the table.

If, for some reason, the master decided to leave the table before he was finished eating and had plans to come back, he would carefully fold the napkin and place it beside his plate. This was a signal to the servant that he was not finished with his meal and planned to return.

This custom has been told many times in many ways, but, could it be possible that that is the purpose and meaning of that one item being included in Scripture in this one place? The cloth that had been around Jesus head was **"folded up by itself, separate from the linen."**

Who folded the cloth? Jesus was the only one in

the tomb. Perhaps he folded it as a way of telling all those who had been following him that they could believe what he had been telling them. **"The Son of Man will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him, spit on him, flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again."** [Luke 18:32,33]

He also promised and encouraged them, **"In my Father's house are many rooms, if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."** [John 14:2, 3]

Jesus made it very clear to his disciples, even though they did not understand it at the time, that he would be killed and he would be buried, **BUT**, that is not the end of it. He would rise again!

He knew with a certainty that he would rise again from the dead on the third day after his crucifixion. They had been with him when he raised the widow's son from the dead. [Luke 7:11-15] They were also with him when he raised Lazarus. [John 11:43,44] Now the one who raised people from the dead is dead himself.

Then came the news, delivered by the angel to the women at the tomb, **"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you while he was still with you in Galilee: The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified on the third day be raised again!"** Then they remembered his words.

BUT, that is not the end of it! God never puts a period on his works. He uses only exclamation points [!] to make a point, and commas [,] to let us know that there is more to come.

The folded napkin in the empty tomb is God's Comma. Jesus is not here! He is Risen! However, (comma), He is coming back again!

We celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, for we do, indeed, serve a Risen Savior. However, we live with the blessed hope that the One who rose up from the grave, appearing to his disciples and pouring out his Holy Spirit on them, is the very same One who will come again to receive into his eternal Kingdom all those who believe in him. He folded the napkin! He

GIVE BIG DAY, MAY 10

GIVE BIG DATE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Seattle Foundation's seventh annual **Give-BIG** will take place on **Wednesday, May 10, 2017.**

The Foundation states: "We will **"stretch"** all donations up to \$5,000 per donor, per organization." This means that Wind of the Spirit Ministries will participate in receiving additional funds, depending upon the amount of each donation to the Ministry and the "stretch" money that is available to the Foundation.

Donations to Wind of the Spirit Ministries **must be made online through The Seattle Foundation, to qualify for the Stretch Fund or the Challenge matching funds.**

You may make your donations through The Seattle Foundation Website:

<https://givebig.seattlefoundation.org/>.

The website can also be accessed through the donations tab at wosm-nw.org.

This is a great opportunity to see our donations **stretched and doubled** during this **GiveBIG** day.

Be sure to mark it on your calendar. **MAY 10th**, midnight to midnight.,

Thank you for participating in this GiveBIG event and helping to make our ministry dollars **STRETCH** in order to accomplish more in the work of our Lord's Kingdom.

JUNE HEALING SEMINAR

Be sure to mark the dates of June 22-24 on your calendar for the next Wind of the Spirit Ministries' Healing Seminar. You will not want to miss this event as it will bring together local leaders as well as the Ellingtons from India and the Sablans from the Philippines.

Wind of the Spirit Ministries has enjoyed a long and blessed relationship with both of these couples as we have been involved in their outreach work for over twenty years.

They bring fresh and anointed teachings as they share about the Lord Jesus Christ and the various levels of healings that he brings into our lives.

It is a great opportunity to bring leaders from your local church to be a part of an event that truly "equips the saints for works of ministry."

Call the Ministry Office today to register: 360-692-9813 Ext.14. Talk to Jean.

INVITATION TO RETURN TO ESTONIA

Wind of the Spirit Ministries has received an invitation from Thea Kant to return to Estonia to conduct a full four and one half day Healing Academy.

Our first trip to Estonia in October of 2016 was well received by those who were in attendance, including several pastors from local churches. At their request, and that of their District Superintendent, we have been invited to return with our team to provide more equipping for ministry in the area of healing and wholeness.

We are planning on making the trip and conducting the Academy on the following dates, though, at present, these are negotiable.

Augusts 19-, 20	Travel to Estonia
22-26	Healing Academy in Tallin
27	Minister in Local Churches
28, 29	Rest/Sightseeing
30	Return to the States

If you feel that the Spirit of the Lord is leading you to be a part of the team, please be in touch with Rev. Larry Eddings or Mr. Bob Martello, who is serving as Business Administrator for the trip. Both may be contacted through the Wind of the Spirit Ministries' office email or phone.

Total cost of the trip is yet to be determined, based on cost of airline tickets at the time when dates are settled and tickets purchased.

ALDERSGATE RENEWAL CONFERENCE

You are invited to join several of us from Wind of the Spirit Ministries as we gather with other Believers from across the nation for a conference on Spirit-filled living. It is an opportunity to experience the power of God as you are equipped to minister in the power of the Holy Spirit.

To quote the publicity materials from the Aldersgate staff: "We invite you to come and discover the exciting divine appointments that God is setting up through strategic ministry experiences for adults, youth and children. Our leadership team is specifically chosen because of the unique and proven gifts and graces that rest on their lives.

Worship, learn, discover, explore and feast as you are refreshed, restored, empowered and equipped to live and love like Jesus!"

The Conference will be held in the Lexington Convention Center, 430 West Vine Street, Lexington, KY 40507. You may make reservations by contacting info@aldersgaterenewal.org or 1 615-851-9192. ARM offices are located in Goodlettsville, TN

RESURRECTION DAY WORSHIP

Be sure to join in worship at your local church on Sunday, April 16, to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. He is Risen!

