



The Messenger



Michael L. Heim, Pastor

Volume 6, Number 4

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

LIVING OUT WHAT WE SAY WE BELIEVE IN

117 S. White Oak Rd. * White Oak, TX 75693 * (903) 759-4196 * WWW.WOBAPTIST.ORG

Easter Sunday or Resurrection Sunday?

Every year on the first Sunday on or after the first full moon after the vernal equinox, the mainstream Christian world celebrates a holiday called "Easter." Many assume that this holiday originated with the res-

urrection of Jesus Christ but as the information provided here will demonstrate that this spring tradition of men is actually an older and far less 'holy' tradition than one would imagine.

A.V.] Passover was substituted in all passages but this...The word Easter is of Saxon origin, the name is eastra, the goddess of spring in whose honor sacrifices were offered about Passover time each year. By the eighth century Anglo-Saxons had adopted the name to designate the celebration of Christ's resurrection." (*New Unger's Bible Dictionary, article: "Easter"*)

The following quotes have been derived from several valid and even scholarly sources. The purpose is to unveil the truth about the origins of this spring 'Christianized' holiday. When you have read though these I ask that you discern the truth and it is my hope that we will ask ourselves, what do we celebrate: **Easter Sunday or Resurrection Sunday?**

"The celebration of Lent has no basis in Scripture, but rather developed from the pagan celebration of Semiramis's mourning for 40 days over the death of Tammuz (cf. Ezek 8:14) before his alleged resurrection---another of Satan's mythical counterfeits." (*John MacArthur, Jr., The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: 1 Corinthians, Chicago: Moody, 1984*)

"The term 'Easter' is not of Christian origin. It is another form of Astarte, one of the titles of the Chaldean goddess, the queen of heaven. The festival of Pasch [Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread] was a continuation of the Jewish [that is, God's] feast...from this Pasch the pagan festival of 'Easter' was quite distinct and was introduced into the apostate Western religion, as part of the attempt to adapt pagan festivals to Christianity." (*W.E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, William White, Jr., Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, article: Easter, p.192*)

Tammuz: ancient nature deity worshiped in Babylonia. A god of agriculture and flocks, he personified the creative powers of spring. He was loved by the fertility goddess Ishtar, who, according to one legend, was so grief-stricken at his death that she contrived to enter the underworld to get him back. According to another legend, she killed him and later restored him to life. These legends and his festival, commemorating the yearly death and rebirth of vegetation, corresponded to the festivals of the Phoenician and Greek Adonis and of the Phrygian Attis. The Sumerian name of Tammuz was Dumuzi. In the Bible his disappearance is mourned by the women of Jerusalem (Ezek. 8.14). (*The Columbia Encyclopedia, Sixth Edition. 2001*)

"Easter. [Gk. pascha, from Heb. pesah] The Passover ..., and so translated in every passage except the KJV: 'intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people' [Acts 12:4]. In the earlier English versions Easter had been frequently used as the translation of pascha. At the last revision [1611

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun: Adult Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Children Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Worship Service	10:30 a.m.
AWANA	6:30 p.m.
Youth Bible Study	6:30 p.m.
Adult Bible Study	6:30 p.m.

Mon: Home Group: Young Adult... 7:00 p.m.

Wed: Youth Ministry	6:30 p.m.
Adult Bible Study	6:30 p.m.

Tues. Home Group: Mid-Adult ... 7:00 p.m.

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Easter Sunday or Resurrection Sunday?

(Continued from page 1)

I know for Christians, the origin of Easter is simply the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ about 2,000 years ago. According to the Gospel accounts, Jesus Christ, the true Messiah promised in the Old Testament, was crucified and resurrected at the time of the Jewish Passover. Since that awesome event took place, those who believe Christ is their Messiah have honored that day and often celebrated it with the traditional Passover. As the Gospel of Christ spread throughout non-Jewish nations, among people who did not have a history of celebrating the Passover, the pagan rites of Easter gradually became assimilated into what the Christian church called "**Resurrection Day.**"

What has happened throughout the years is we have compromised the commandments of God with the comfort of the world and this is as old as the nation of Israel itself. American history teaches us that Easter was dismissed as a pagan holiday by the nation's founding Puritans and did not begin to be widely observed until just after the Civil War.

So what do we conclude? If Easter is not biblical and its roots are pagan then why do we use the terms and practice the traditions in the church? As Christians shouldn't we be all about the truth? As Christians do we dismiss the truth about the origins of Easter and continue in the traditions? As Christians do we teach our children the truth of the resurrection only or do we contaminate that truth with worldly traditions? Or should the children of God separate from non-sanctioned and non-biblical holidays and bring back a purer observance of the resurrection? Do we dismiss this as being "too biblical and making something out of nothing" and turn

a blind eye and continue risking the discipline of God like the Israelites who forsook the commands of God to follow the traditions of men?

Definitely some tough questions to reason, but I point you to let the Word of God help you find your answers.

"Hear what the LORD says to you, O house of Israel. This is what the LORD says: "Do not learn the ways of the nations. . . For the customs of the peoples are worthless." (Jeremiah 10:2-3).

"But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you" (Galatians 4:9-11).

"He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: " 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men. You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men" (Mark 7:6-7).

God bless and invite our family and friends to come and worship with us this **Resurrection Sunday?**

Have a great week and hope to see you in church Sunday.

Something to Think About,

Bro. Michael

Monthly Mission Emphasis



The month of April we bring attention and emphasis to the *White Oak Temporary Assistance Program*. This program is administered by the Community Club of White Oak. Its purpose is to provide rent and utility payments once a year for WO residents who apply and are approved. This ministry is funded by the WO Community Fund and monetary donations from other churches, businesses and individuals.

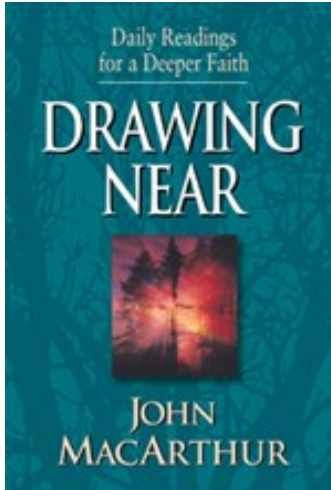
Easter Lilies



We are now taking orders for Easter Lilies to decorate our church in Recognition, Honor and Memory of our loved ones. You may take them home after the Easter morning service April 20th.

Cost \$8.00 each and money due by April 20th.

Understanding God's Will



Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen"
(Matt. 6:13)

The implications of the Disciples' Prayer are profound and far-reaching. An unknown author put it this way: I cannot say "our" if I live only for myself in a spiritual, watertight compartment. I cannot say "Father" if I do not endeavor each day to act like His child. I cannot say "who art in heaven" if I am laying up no treasure there.

I cannot say "hallowed be Thy name" if I am not striving for holiness. I cannot say "Thy kingdom come" if I am not doing all in my power to hasten that wonderful day. I cannot say "Thy will be done" if I am disobedient to His Word. I cannot say "in earth as it is in heaven" if I will not serve Him here and now.

I cannot say "give us . . . our daily bread" if I am dishonest or an "under the counter" shopper. I cannot

say "forgive us our debts" if I harbor a grudge against anyone. I cannot say "lead us not into temptation" if I deliberately place myself in its path. I cannot say "deliver us from evil" if I do not put on the whole armor of God.

I cannot say "thine is the kingdom" if I do not give to the King the loyalty due Him as a faithful subject. I cannot attribute to Him "the power" if I fear what men may do. I cannot ascribe to Him "the glory" if I am seeking honor only for myself. I cannot say "forever" if the horizon of my life is bounded completely by the things of time.

As you learn to apply to your own life the principles in this marvelous prayer, I pray that God's kingdom will be your focus, His glory your goal, and His power your strength. Only then will our Lord's doxology be the continual song of your heart: "Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen." (v. 13).

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May Birthdays

Jimmie Hatton May 4
Sue King May 5
Julia Rey May 7
Alyson Burks May 8
Bob Bohn May 11



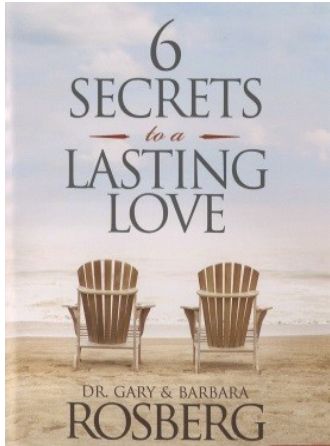
Aline Steele May 22
Lois Baird May 23
Lois Baird May 23
Gail Henson May 28
Lauryn Hamrick May 29

<h1 style="margin:0;">April</h1> <p style="margin:0;"><i>Mission Emphasis: Temporary Assistance Program</i></p>						
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Nora Heyland Mid Adult Home Group	4 Keyland Cook	5
6 Communion <i>Ms. Nora's Party</i> The Steele's 	7 Marriage Enrichment Class Young Adult Home Group	8	9	10	11 Stephen & Hope Heim Michael Heim	12 Journey to Jerusalem Practice @ 11 a.m. Church Work Day 8 a.m.—12 p.m.
13 	14 Marriage Enrichment Class	15	16	17 The King's Clay Hunter Mid Adult Home Group	18	19
20 Resurrection Sunday Easter Lily money due	21 Marriage Enrichment Class Young Adult Home Group	22	23	24 The Wallesch's	25 Lee Hatton Carolyn Tuttle Gunnar Freeman	26
27 Business Meeting	28 Sue Wallesch Marriage Enrichment Class	29	30			

Monthly Totals					
Accounts	March 2	March 9	March 16	March 23	March 30
GENERAL FUND	\$4,170.00	\$1,948.00	\$2,579.00	\$1,603.00	\$4,363.00
DESIGNATED FUND	\$198.78	\$50.00	—	\$825.00	\$360.00
GYM FLOOR PLEDGES	\$225.00	\$140.00	\$230.00	\$20.00	\$250.00
Services					
HOME GROUP	10	10	N/A	11	8
WEDNESDAY PM	48	49	50	55	50
SUNDAY SCHOOL	50	41	40	50	50
SUNDAY AM WORSHIP	94	88	92	94	109
SUNDAY PM	No Service	17	53	275	51

6 Secrets to a Lasting Love



Marriage Enrichment Class. *6 Secrets to a Lasting Love.* Thursday nights, March 17th - May 5th @ 6:30-8:00 p.m. Hosted by Bob and Mary Bohn. Supper provided. Sign-up sheet is on back foyer table. See Bob Bohn for more information.

Cookbook Fundraiser



Looking for a sweet treat for a sweetheart? “Keep Your Fork!”

Our church cookbooks are on sale for \$10 each and they are located on the table in the foyer. Pick one up and place \$10 cash in envelope and (denote “cookbook”) or write a check and (memo “cookbook”) and place in the tithe box or offering plate. All monies made from cookbook sales funds WOBC ministries.

AWANA News



- April 6th Regular Club Night
- April 13th Regular Club Night
- April 20th No Club - Resurrection Sunday
- April 27th No Club - Business Meeting

Faith Explosion Kid's Camp



July 25-28, 3rd – 5th Grade; Cost \$130; Sign-up is on the back foyer table. See Mike or Jackie for more information.

Youth Camp



Home Groups



Young Adults

Day: 2nd and 4th Monday

Next meeting: April 14th

Time: 7- 8:30 p.m.

Location: The Fenderson's

Mid Adults

Day: 1st and 3rd Thursday

Next meeting: April 3rd

Time: 7- 8:00 p.m.

Location: The Dulaney's

Look Who Is Turning 90!

Nora Lee “Francisco” Heyland and family invites you to be part of her “90th Birthday Celebration” on Sunday, April 6th from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. in the WOBC Parlor with “no gifts” requested. This gala, honoring a truly amazing lady, is hosted by her loving family.



“She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed.”

Proverbs 3:15-18