

Journey News

A publication of Journey Church of Clinton, Iowa

Alive!

BY SENIOR PASTOR TOM LOYOLA

In this month we celebrate the defining moment of Christianity: the resurrection of the Messiah, Jesus, from the dead. Not just a spiritual resurrection or “the rising of Jesus in our hearts,” but the actual coming back to life of Jesus physically. He came out bodily from the tomb, triumphant over death!

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Apostle Paul tells us that the Resurrection is the event upon which the reality of the Christian faith is based. Notice his strong words: “And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.” (1 Corinthians 15:14) Without the Resurrection, faith in Jesus would be empty, meaningless.

But Jesus *was* raised from the dead, and the Resurrection is full of meaning.

The Resurrection proves the deity of Jesus. Paul makes this clear in Romans 1:3-4, “regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.” Jesus is fully man and fully God. As God, Jesus is worthy of worship and is surely

able to save. The Resurrection proved Jesus of Nazareth to indeed be God.

The Resurrection points to a day of judgment. In the sermon Paul preached in Athens he made this point: “For he [God] has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.” (Acts 17:31) One day God will judge the world—there will be a day of reckoning. The Resurrection is proof that this day is coming and it also reveals who the Judge will be—the crucified and *resurrected* Jesus of Nazareth!

The Resurrection shows that God can be trusted no matter what. Paul drew this encouragement from the Resurrection. “We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, *who raises the dead.*” (2 Corinthians 1:8-9, emphasis added) Because God

continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

Alive!	Page 1
Calendar	Page 1
Alive! cont.	Page 2
UNITE Work Camp	Page 2
Summer Camp	Page 3
M&Ms: 50's & Up	Page 3
Holy Week	Page 3
Ladies' Spring Luncheon	Page 3
Missions: Pastor James Mumo	Page 4
Celebrate	Page 4
Central District EFCA	Page 5
Walk STRONG for Life	Page 5
April's family-friendly spotlight	Page 6
The Passion Experience	Page 7
Easter	Page 7

CALENDAR

April

- 1 Sign Language Class is back!
- 7 Communion Sunday
Child/Student Training
- 12 Life Group Leaders Meeting
- 13 Ladies' Spring Luncheon
- 14 Palm Sunday
- 19 The Passion Experience
- 21 Easter: Breakfast, Egg Hunt Challenge, & Worship Service
- 25 M&Ms—50's & Up!
Missions Hosts Pastor James
- 28 Pastor James Mumo Presents

May

- 1 Awana Awards Night
- 5 Communion Sunday
Business Meeting

May to be continued

Alive! continued

raised Jesus from the dead, Paul knew he could trust God even when he faced death. The Resurrection proves that God is absolutely trustworthy.

The Resurrection assures us that one day we, too, will be raised from the dead. In the great Resurrection chapter, 1 Corinthians 15, Paul gives this truth: “But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep” (verse 20). He goes on to say “For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him” (verses 21-23). Jesus was the first to be raised back to life in an immortal body. Because He was, believers in Jesus, too, will be. The Resurrection guarantees our resurrection.

The resurrection of our Lord Jesus is worth celebrating! “Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!”

STUDENTS

UNITE Work Camp 2019

FROM NATE JOHNSON, DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES

Last summer on a Tuesday night several of our youth all gathered out at Kingdom Life Community Church (formerly Open Bible Fellowship) outside of Morrison, IL. What began that evening was several days of passionate worship, powerful biblical teaching, and a lot of painting! During the day we were stationed at several different in Clinton, Fulton, and Morrison. We painted houses, garages, even a shack! While we worked at the houses we got



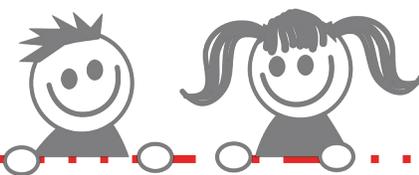
to meet the homeowners and witness to them not just by sharing the gospel but our hard work. At night we would gather at the barn for a time of worship and teaching. After that we would spend time together as a youth group bonding (my favorite part). A highlight of the week for our group was getting to play outdoor laser tag. At the end of the week while we packed up our stuff I talked with each of our students and the resounding comment was, “I cannot wait to go next year.”

This summer we are headed back to UNITE on June 18. We hope to take a larger group so more of our students get to experience the joy and honor to serve others. As well as witness to folks in our community about God and why were so happy to paint their house. Please be praying for our students to make the decision to go and live out the mission of UNITE Work Camp. LOVE, SERVE, UNITE!



shine

UNITE Work Camp
June 18-21, 2019



Journey Kids



Summer Camp is Coming!

BY JOY LOWER, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Summer is just around the corner, and that means it's time to start planning for Summer Camp! This year we will be offering Mega Sports Camp on July 15th-19th from 6:00-8:30 pm. We will have the opportunity to demonstrate Jesus' love to many children from our church and community, share the Gospel with them, and build bridges to their families as well.

Children get to choose an activity to focus on for the week; possible options include archery, soccer, art, basketball, cheerleading, volleyball, and baseball. The theme verse for the week is 1 Corinthians 16:13 and devotions are from the book of Nehemiah. It is going to be an amazing week connecting with kids through fun activities and guiding them to grow in their relationship with Jesus, and you can be part of it! Whether you're more comfortable leading sports drills, preparing snacks, loving on a group of kids, or just willing to help where needed, this one-week investment can change a child's life. Put it in your calendar, tell your friends, and plan to join the fun!



ATTENTION M&Ms: 50's & Up!

FROM M&Ms MINISTRY LEADER

Yes we are meeting! Come join us (M&M's) on April 25 at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Due to The Passion Experience and Holy Week we are meeting the 25th!

Feel free to join us and the office staff for good food, fantastic fellowship, and meaningful prayer. Come one, come all!

Holy Week

During Holy Week there will be no ministries meeting! The Passion Experience Team will be setting up for The Passion Experience that whole week. Please be praying for them and the event!



Ladies' Spring Luncheon

\$10 TICKETS



APRIL 13, 2019

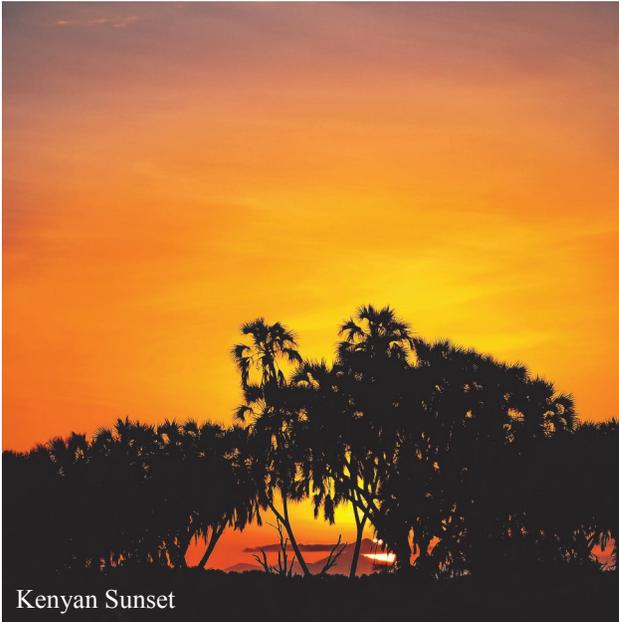
Tickets available at the Connection Point. Deadline to sign up is Sunday, April 7.

Pastor James Mumo, Brook of Hope Director, Visits Clinton

Journey Church's Mission Lead Team will host a presentation Thursday, April 25 at 6:00 pm in the overflow classroom (Rooms B & C).

Yadah Yada Life Group will host Pastor James Sunday, April 28 at 9:15 am in the Fellowship Hall (kitchen side).

All are welcomed to both events!



Kenyan Sunset

Watching the sun setting over the African plane is enticing, but not a possible prospect from Clinton. However, having Pastor James of Maai Mahiu, Kenya visit to share his experience rescuing vulnerable boys from the streets is a real opportunity. Brook of Hope, established in 2012, is a home for boys who have been abandoned to fend for themselves on the streets. Pastor James founded the Christian community-based organization to support these boys physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Come and hear his story how children have responded to the love and nurture he and his wife, Susan, have given these boys and his hopes for the future. Brook of Hope is one our church's supported missionaries. Pastor James will also be speaking at Awana Wednesday, April 24 and with the students Sunday evening, April 28.

CELEBRATE OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Happy Birthday!

- 1 Bryan Witt
Dick Witt
Linda Decker
- 3 Corrine Sheets
- 6 Larry Wilkins
- 7 Sidney Smith
- 8 Rhonda Mussmann
- 10 Audrina Gordon
- 11 Todd Schmoll
- 12 Arlene Langrehr
Rebekah Lower
Dexter Kelley

- 14 Tove Witt
- 16 Sandi Von Thun
Sterling Graves
- 17 Eric Brown
- 20 Earl McBride
Hannah Hansen
- 22 Dan Nelson
Jacquelyn (Jackie) Haas
- 24 Gayle Sparks
- 26 Bob Logan
Kelli Overberg
Noah Von Holten
- 30 Linda Blount

Happy Anniversary!

- 3 Dick & Shirley Carpenter
- 4 Todd & Kathy Schmoll
- 14 Dan & Pat Phipps
- 19 Bill & Marybeth Giddings
- 22 Lyle & Chris Buis

Central District EFCA

BY SENIOR PASTOR TOM LOYOLA

At the annual conference of our district, the Central District of the Evangelical Free Church of America, which took place on March 4-5, two significant things took place: one, a personal milestone was reached; the other, a district decision was announced, one which calls us to prayer.

First, the personal milestone: this last conference marked the completion of 10 consecutive years of my serving on the Board of Directors. For the first four years, I served as one of the general directors. For the last six years, I served as the Board and District secretary. It was truly a privilege to serve in this way. In addition to using my giftings to help further the cause of the gospel in our district, I gained a lot. Having the opportunity to work and fellowship with the other men on the board was a great learning experience. I was blessed and influenced by their godliness and wisdom.

One of those men is our District Superintendent, Cal Swan. And that leads to the second significant aspect of this past conference, the decision that calls us to prayer. Superintendent Cal Swan announced that he would not seek another 3-year term of service when his current term concludes in March of 2020. At that point he will have served as our district as superintendent for 20 years. He has done an outstanding job in leading our district forward in the gospel in many specific and strategic ways. It's hard for me to imagine our district without Cal at the helm. However, he clearly senses from the Lord that it is time for him to step out of the superintendent role.

So please pray along two lines. One, pray that God would guide Cal and Sue Swan in this significant transition into what He has for the next. It will be a very big change in their lives. They will continue to serve the Lord; they are just not sure yet in what capacity.

Second, pray that God will provide the right man to serve as our next District Superintendent. The Board of Directors has established a search process and has appointed a search team. Pray for this team as they pray and seek to discern God's leading in this very important matter of finding our next District Superintendent.

God is faithful. He will provide. And by His grace His gospel work in the Central District will continue to flourish and advance, even as it has under Cal's leadership. And you can have a part in that by praying. Please pray!



Walk **STRONG** for Life

Saturday, April 27, 2019 Registration at 8:15 am • Walk at 9:00 am

The walk is a two mile, family friendly walk that starts at the Riverview Bandshell. The money raised goes towards The Pregnancy Center of Clinton, Iowa and helps provide accurate information and compassionate assistance to many men, women, and students every year. It's easy! There's four steps: Register, ask people to sponsor you and fill out the Pledge Form, collect the pledges, and of course walk! If you have any questions on pledging or walking please contact Gary Fier (563-243-9107 or fiergary@gmail.com)

New film 'Breakthrough' leads April's family-friendly spotlight

BY MICHAEL FOUST

Editor's note: This monthly series, "5 Family-Friendly Things," spotlights five family-friendly entertainment choices on film, DVDs, streaming or television.

Labeling a film "the best faith-based movie" you've seen doesn't always help.

On one hand, some skeptics of faith films might pay attention and watch it. On the other hand, skeptics also might consider it a backhanded compliment -- sort of like calling a restaurant "the best Taco Bell around."

A new faith-based film, *Breakthrough* (PG), opens in theaters April 17. And while it does rank among the best faith-based movies I've seen (it's in my Top 5) it's also simply a great movie -- *period* -- and would hold its own against the leading inspirational mainstream films ever made.

It tells the true-life story of a Missouri teenage boy named John Smith who falls through an icy pond and is under water for 15 minutes before he is pulled to the surface. Without a pulse, he is taken to the hospital and considered dead when his mother begins praying over his body. He regains a heartbeat -- 45 minutes after he fell in the pond -- and recovers.

It stars Chrissy Metz (*This Is Us*) as the mother, Joyce Smith, and Topher Grace (*Spider-Man 3*) as her pastor, Jason Noble. DeVon Franklin produced it, with NBA star Steph Curry and Samuel Rodriguez of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference serving as executive producers. Fox 2000 Pictures is releasing it. Metz, not surprisingly, is outstanding.

***Breakthrough* leads this month's list of "5 Family-Friendly Things."**

The movie's miraculous plot will have its doubters, but it has the medical documentation to support it. Mainstream newspapers and television stations covered the real-life story when it took place in 2015.

Breakthrough shows the mother struggling to build a close relationship with her son, who was adopted from Guatemala.

"The number one takeaway is that prayer works [and that] love wins," Franklin told a panel of Christian media members in March. "When you think about it, why would Joyce pray that hard? It's because of her love. And I think that's just so powerful."

The movie has no sexuality and only minor language (two instances of h-ll and a couple of OMGs.) It is rated PG for thematic content including peril.

Also worth watching this month:

'The Pilgrim's Progress' -- This animated film re-tells the famous story by John Bunyan of a man named Christian who journeys from the City of Destruction to the Celestial City. It stars John Rhys-Davies (*Raiders of the Lost Ark*, the *Lord of the Rings* series), Ben Price and singer Kristyn Getty as the narrator. It is in theaters for two nights only: April 18 and 20.

'Jesus: His Life' -- This eight-part, four-week History Channel series examines the life of Christ through the eyes of people who knew him: Joseph, John the Baptist, Mary the mother of Jesus, Caiaphas, Judas, Pontius Pilate, Mary Magdalene and Peter. It mixes drama with interviews from 20-plus religious leaders. Unfortunately, a couple of the experts question the biblical account, but -- thankfully -- the evangelical voice is represented. Among the evangelical scholars: Asbury Seminary's Ben Witherington, who sides with Scripture every time. *Jesus: His Life* concludes the Monday before Easter.

'An Interview with God' -- A depressed journalist named Paul Asher lands the interview of a lifetime with God, who agrees to three one-on-one sessions, 30 minutes apiece. Now on Netflix, *An Interview with God* was one of the best and most thought-provoking faith-themed films of 2018. It's not a perfect movie, but it stands out with its acting and plot. Brenton Thwaites (*Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales*) plays the journalist and David Strathairn (*Lincoln*) plays the role of God. It is unrated.

'Popular Mechanics for Kids' -- Two teenagers travel the world to explain science and technology to children. Topics covered include the Arctic, the space station and slime (*of course!*). More than 40 episodes of this entertaining and educational series are now streaming on PureFlix.com.

Michael Foust has covered the intersection of faith and entertainment more than a decade. He is the husband of an amazing wife named Julie and the father of four children.

The Passion Experience

COME, walk where Jesus walked, follow His footsteps;
FEEL the excitement along the palm-laden path of His Triumphal Entry;
OBSERVE our Lord and the disciples at the Last Supper;
WANDER through the Garden of Gethsemane;
HEAR Peter's denial;
VIEW the throne of judgment;
AGONIZE with Him carrying His cross;
REPENT where He bore your sins;
REFLECT on His sacrifice;
TREMBLE at the tomb;
EXPERIENCE THE PASSION!

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 19
COME ANYTIME 6:00-8:00 PM

Easter Sunday, April 21
Breakfast 9:00-10:30 am
Kids' Egg Hunt Challenge anytime 9:15-10:00 am
Worship Service at 10:30 am



Get ready for some Easter fun! The Children's Egg Hunt Challenge is for kids up through age 12. Anytime between 9:15-10:00 am on Easter Sunday. For any questions, contact Joy Lower, Director of Children's Ministry (Journey Kids).



Journey Church

1010 13th Avenue N., Clinton, Iowa 52732

563-243-4164 • Fax: 563-243-0255

www.journeyclinton.org

Forming followers of Jesus who impact their world

Volume 4, April 2019



Journey News

A publication of Journey Church of Clinton, Iowa