



MARCH 2024



## MORATTICO BAPTIST CHURCH

# THE HILL

### PASTOR'S CORNER

“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. And even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world.”

This familiar passage from the Gospel of John is the story of Lazarus. The New Testament teaches us that Jesus revived three souls from the grip of death; Jairus' daughter, the widow's son and Lazarus. In these stories, Jesus resurrects the dead back to mortal life, which is a very different event than the Easter Resurrection.

Interestingly, the Old Testament has very few references to resurrection. The dead are  
Continued on page 4

### EASTER REFLECTION

By Jordan Abbott

When I'm in the mood to listen to worship music, I generally have a choice to make: listen to my modern, upbeat playlist full of energetic Jesus music or classic hymns sung exclusively by Alan Jackson. I have some favorites in each playlist. From my modern playlist, *The Commission* by CAIN and *RATTLE!* by Elevation Worship. From my Alan Jackson playlist, it would have to be *He Lives* and *The Old Rugged Cross*.

All of these songs sound vastly different from each other but I realized recently they all share a common theme – they each are about various aspects of Holy Week. If you don't know *The Commission* by CAIN, I encourage you to give it a listen. The voices and melodies inexplicably beautiful, and it is centered around Matthew 28, the resurrection of Jesus and the commissioning of the disciples. One of my favorite lines this song says “My spirit is with you wherever you go,” a nod to Matthew 28:20. I think the reason I gravitate to these

Continue on page 3

# Prayer List



Margaret Ambrose  
Jennifer Amirault  
Jane Austin  
Billy Benson  
Page Carlson  
Marion Cockrell  
Eddie and Connie Dawson  
Eleanor Delano  
Alice Fallin  
Bill and Mary Fletcher  
Steve Garcia  
Lynn Carter Gordon  
Mary Herndon  
Cathy Kellum  
Ben Little  
Anke Longest  
Shirley McNeal  
Donald Morgan  
Sammy Newton  
Charlotte Pierson  
Richard, Rosie and Rich Pruett  
Jonell Robertson  
Sylvia Saunders  
Lewis and Mae Shelton  
William Scott Smith  
Pattie Ruark Sobieski  
Sue B. Staton  
Paul Stone  
Fran Stout  
Tommy Thompson

*Please give us updates on whether to keep praying or rejoice in being able to remove someone from this list.*

*When adding someone to our prayer list, please provide an address so we can send a card.*

*Prayer list contact  
Mae Shelton at 804-366-3817*

# MARCH

*Birthdays and Anniversaries*



1 Lewis Shelton  
5 Gavin Simpson  
6 Peggy Nolting  
9 William Taylor  
13 Terri Groh  
16 Logan Nonnemacker  
17 Rick Simpson  
26 Esther Glover  
28 Wayson Christopher  
31 Holly Saunders

March 2 Richard and Jan Abbott  
March 21 Jeems and Chris Love



*Campbell.*

"My whole family's giving up something for Lent. Mom's giving up cookies, Dad's giving up cake, and I'm giving up squash."

## EASTER REFLECTION

Continued from page 1

four songs is because they are a reminder that God *is* with us wherever we go. We serve a living God, which is a comforting thought in a world where Satan is also alive. We have heard many times of the pain and suffering Jesus endured on the cross in order for God to live within our hearts. However, the thing I love about *The Commission* by CAIN is that it is written as a conversation from Jesus to the disciples and it makes you feel how the disciples must have felt: a whole mess of emotions. Matthew 16-20 says some disciples worshipped and some doubted when they saw Jesus. Then Jesus called them to make disciples of all nations. I imagine some disciples felt overwhelmed, and some felt empowered ~ both are valid. This was a group of sinners hand-picked by God Himself to change the world. It must have been intimidating! But the same circumstances ring true for us today. We live in a messy world but *He Lives* within our hearts! When we truly cherish *The Old Rugged Cross*, no weapon formed against us shall prosper – not even death! How cool is that?

Let's remember this Easter season to do our part to fulfill the disciples commission. Jesus died for all of us, even those who make sharing God's word a challenge. If you need an extra boost, ask me for a link to my playlist, and I promise you you'll be fired up!

Jordan Abbott

## THE OLD RUGGED CROSS

Seldom can a song leader suggest a time for favorites without receiving a request for "The Old Rugged Cross". This gospel hymn, a sentimental favorite of Christians and unsaved alike, was written by George Bennard in 1913. It is considered to be the most popular of all twentieth century hymns.

George Bennard was born in Youngstown, Ohio, but soon moved to Iowa. It was here that young George made his personal acceptance of Christ as his Savior. Following the death of his father before George was sixteen years of age, he entered the ranks of the Salvation Army. Bennard and his first wife served as officers of this organization.

Consequently, Bennard was ordained by the Methodist Episcopal Church, where his devoted ministry was highly esteemed. For some time he was involved in conducting revival services throughout Michigan and New York. One time, after returning to Michigan, he passed through a trying experience which caused him to reflect seriously about the significance of the cross and what the Apostle Paul meant when he spoke of entering into the fellowship of Christ's suffering. As Bennard contemplated, he became convinced that the cross was more than just a religious symbol but rather the very heart of the gospel. He left the following account regarding the writing of the hymn:

The inspiration came to me one day in 1913. I began to write "The Old Rugged Cross". I composed the melody first. The words I first wrote were imperfect. The words of the finished hymn were put into my heart in answer to my own need. Shortly thereafter it was introduced and soon became extremely popular throughout the country.

Continued on page 5

## PASTOR'S CORNER

Continued from page 1

generally considered to be in Sheol, the name of a place that has no clear definition in Hebrew. It is either defined as the grave or as the place in the center of earth where the dead reside. But not hell as we think of it, rather a desolate place where souls remain in a state of suspension. Proverbs 15: 24 reads, "The wise man's path leads upward to life, that he may avoid Sheol beneath."

As Jesus did with all things, He changed the definition of life and death. Jesus healed the sick and raised the dead so that by their "re-birth," they could live a life in His Light. The blind were given sight and therefore the ability to share in the redeeming Light of Christ. The lame were made to walk so they could run to Jesus' loving embrace and live a complete life. Wouldn't it be interesting to know the life stories of the people Jesus healed? Did they embrace His teaching and become evangelists for Christ? Or did they go about a normal life and eventually forget the grace and mercy of Jesus?

Jesus taught that we are to live our life in loving kindness for everyone, that we are to take care of widows and orphans, and that we are to love our enemies and neighbors. This was a revolutionary shift in thinking for the Galileans of His era.

But it was in that last, great gesture of love for His creation, when God breathed life into the lifeless body of Jesus that the definition of death was changed. Jesus didn't emerge from the tomb and live among His people, rather, Jesus walked from the tomb to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to all who would believe. Paul stated the purpose and value of the Resurrection well in his letter to the

Continued right

## PASTOR'S CORNER

Continued from left

church in Rome, chapter 6 verses 5-9 " 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. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For he who has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him."

Easter is the holiest of Christian seasons. It is our time to reflect on the sacrifice of Christ who died on the cross as payment for our sin. And it is the time to celebrate His resurrection, which we will experience when our time comes. We who have given ourselves to Him in devotion and obedience, will one day emerge from the tomb of death and walk into the light of Gods' Kingdom. We will be united with Christ when we die and we will be united with Him in a resurrection like His. Jesus defeated death so that we can live with the joy of knowing that one day we will be with Him in the Kingdom of God. The story of Easter is the story of victory over sin and death. This Easter, pray that Jesus changes the definition of our lives, and like Jairus' daughter, the widow's son and Lazarus let's walk in the Light of Christ every day, grateful for His gift of salvation and eternal life. Be grateful that death no longer has dominion over us!

Happy Easter. Amen.

# THE OLD RUGGED CROSS

Continued from page 3

Shortly after writing this hymn, George Bennard sent a manuscript copy to Charles Gabriel, one of the leading gospel hymn composers of that era. Gabriel's prophecy, "You will certainly hear from this song," was soon realized as "The Old Rugged Cross" became one of the most widely published songs, either sacred or secular, in this country.

Bennard continued his evangelistic ministries for forty additional years following the writing of this hymn. He wrote other favorite gospel hymns, but none ever achieved the response of "The Old Rugged Cross". On October 9, 1958, at the age of eighty-five, Bennard exchanged his "cross for a crown." He spent the last years of his life near Reed City, Michigan. Near this home there still stands a twelve foot high cross with the words "The Old Rugged Cross ~ Home of George Bennard, composed this beloved hymn."

Although it has often been stated that we do not worship the cross as such but rather the Christ of the cross, one cannot ponder the truths of Christ's atonement without a keen awareness of the centrality of the cross in God's plan of redemption for lost mankind.

*101 Hymn Stories*  
By Kenneth W. Osbeck



## JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Starting on Ash Wednesday, the church traditionally observes Lent, a 40-day period of repentance and reflection. As we prepare for Easter, families can focus on Jesus' life and ministry, culminating in his death and resurrection.

Use this Lenten Bible Reading Plan, along with a kid-friendly version of the Bible, for family devotions. With older kids, you can expand the readings to the surrounding paragraph or chapter. Discuss how each reference to Christ ties into God's plan of salvation.



DAY 1 Genesis 3:15

DAY 2 Isaiah 7:14

DAY 3 Matthew 1:20-21

DAY 4 Luke 2:11

DAY 5 Luke 2:52

DAY 6 Mark 1:9-11

DAY 7 Matthew 4:10

DAY 8 Matthew 4:18-20

DAY 9 Luke 6:27-31

DAY 10 Matthew 11:28-30

DAY 11 Luke 4:40-41

DAY 12 Luke 8:24-25

DAY 13 Matthew 12:8

DAY 14 Mark 6:41-42

DAY 15 Luke 9:20-22

DAY 16 John 3:16-17

DAY 17 John 6:35

DAY 18 John 8:12

DAY 19 John 10:14-15

DAY 20 Mark 10:13-16

DAY 21 Mark 9:2-3

DAY 22 Matthew 20:17-19

DAY 23 Luke 19:9-10

DAY 24 Matthew 14:25-27

DAY 25 Luke 10:36-37

DAY 26 John 11:25-27, 43

DAY 27 John 12:3

DAY 28 Matthew 21:8-9

DAY 29 Mark 11:15-16

DAY 30 John 17:17-19

DAY 31 Luke 22:3-6

DAY 32 Mark 14:22-24

DAY 33 John 13:3-5

DAY 34 Matthew 26:39

DAY 35 Luke 22:63-65

DAY 36 Mark 15:22-26

DAY 37 Matthew 27:50-54

DAY 38 John 19:40-42

DAY 39 Luke 24:1-8

DAY 40 Matthew 28:19-20



**THE HILL**, Morattico Baptist Church newsletter is owned and operated by YOU. We want your input. If you have ideas, suggestions, family news, articles or photos, submit them to [newsletter@moratticobaptistchurch.org](mailto:newsletter@moratticobaptistchurch.org) or call Kathy Pittman at (804) 761-2441.

**Deadline:  
10<sup>th</sup> of each month**

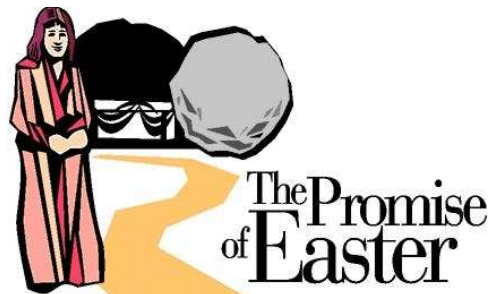


## **PENCIL IT IN**

Sunday: 8:45 am Sunday School (adult)  
10 am Sunday Service

### **Calendar events:**

**March 10<sup>th</sup> Special music Patricia Taylor**  
**March 21<sup>st</sup> Business meeting 7pm**  
**March 24<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday**  
**Special music**  
**March 31<sup>st</sup> Easter**  
**Special music**



## **Morattico Baptist Church**

**Richard C. Abbott, Pastor**  
924 Morattico Church Road  
Post Office Box 228  
Kilmarnock, Virginia 22482  
phone: 804-577-3043

e-mail: [pastor@moratticobaptistchurch.org](mailto:pastor@moratticobaptistchurch.org)  
website: [moratticobaptistchurch.org](http://moratticobaptistchurch.org)  
Facebook: The Morattico Baptist Church

### **NEWSLETTER DEPARTMENT:**

[newsletter@moratticobaptistchurch.org](mailto:newsletter@moratticobaptistchurch.org)  
Newsletter Editor: Kathy Pittman  
Proofreader: Patricia Taylor