
Coffee Break

Happy Easter!



May the glory and the promise
of this joyous time of year
Bring peace and happiness to you
and those you hold most dear,

And may Christ, our Risen Saviour,
always be there by your side
To bless you most abundantly
and be your loving guide.

Quiet Time

Friends for Eternity

Shelia Walsh

A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice. -ISAIAH 42:3

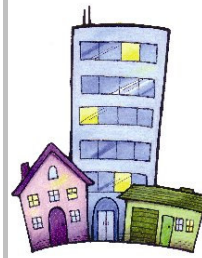
St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was born in Britain in the fourth century, the son of a local town councilman. He was raised in a religious home, but there is no historical indication that he had a relationship with Christ until he went through an unbelievable trial that transformed him.

When Patrick was sixteen years old he was kidnapped by Irish pirates and held captive for eight years. He escaped when he was twenty-four and returned to his family a changed man. He came back with a passion for God, with a deep commitment to Christ and a sense of divine calling on the rest of his life. He trained for ministry and spent himself in the cause of Christ. When he died at about seventy years of age, he left behind a moving account of his personal journey with God.

History bears witness to the countless ways in which even the harshest trials seem to carve God's initials on our souls and draw us close to his heart. I have talked to many people who acknowledge that they would never have chosen the path they found themselves on, but having walked that way they would never change it now.

God's love seeks out those whose hearts are breaking and whose faces are tear-streaked, and God our maker and his fragile human creations become friends for eternity.

Dear Father, thank you that even in the most painful moments of my life your love pursues us. Thank you that you know how fragile and bruised I am, and that you love me so tenderly. Amen.



News

from the Nest

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February 2008

He's Alive!

The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. (Luke 24:5 NRSV)

A family was watching a movie of the life of Jesus on television. Their six-year-old daughter was deeply moved as the movie maker realistically portrayed Jesus' crucifixion and death. Tears ran down the little girl's face as they took him from the cross and lay him in a borrowed tomb. She watched as a guard was placed outside the tomb. And then suddenly a big smile broke on her face. She bounced up on the arm of the chair and said with great anticipation, "Now comes the good part."

That's why we celebrate Easter, is it not? To celebrate the good part of the last days of Jesus' pilgrimage on earth. To give thanks for Christ's victory over sin and death. To join our voices with millions of his followers around the world this day to sing, "Jesus Christ is risen today!"

To complete our celebration I would ask us to focus on these words from John's Gospel, "Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark." John was simply reporting the facts. And yet, there is another way these words might be interpreted. After all, the writers of the New Testament as well as Jesus himself often used the imagery of darkness and light to signify something else. Mary Magdalene came to the tomb while it was still dark. Darkness could refer to a world without Christ, a world without hope, a world of sin and death, a world where God's promises had been forgotten and God's people felt forsaken. However, darkness is not the end of the story. The dawn broke. God's Son had risen.

Kids Room

RESURRECTION EGGS

What a terrific way to share the Easter story of Jesus' resurrection with your children. You will need 1 dozen plastic Easter eggs, an egg carton, construction paper to decorate the top of the carton and the items listed below. You can just cut out the individual messages or scripture. Each egg is to contain the item along with the paper describing the



verse. For example the first egg will have a piece of bread and the #1 verse that you see below. When you are all done filling the eggs you can decorate a piece of construction paper (pre measure it against the lid of the egg carton) and glue it to the cover. PLEASE NOTE: Some of these items are very small and adult supervision is necessary for the little ones.

1. **(Bread) Matthew 26:26** - While they were eating Jesus took a piece of bread, gave a prayer of thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples. "Take and eat it," He said, "This is My body."
2. **(Coins) Matthew 26: 14-15** - Then one of the twelve disciples, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and asked, "What will you give me if I betray Jesus to you?" They counted out thirty silver coins and gave them to him.
3. **(Purple cloth) Mark 15:17** - They put a purple robe on Jesus. . .
4. **(Thorns) Matthew 27:29** - Then they made a crown out of thorny branches and placed it on His head, and put a stick on His right hand; then they knelt before Him and made fun of Him. "Long live the King, of the Jews!" they said.
5. **(Scourge-a small piece of rope or thick string) Mark 15:15** - Pilate wanted to please the crowd, so he set Barabbas free for them. Then he had Jesus whipped and handed Him over to be crucified.
6. **(Cross) John 19: 17-18a** - He went out, carrying His cross, and came to "The Place of the Skull," as it is called. (In Hebrew it is called "Galgatha.") There they crucified Him.
7. **(Nails) John 20:25b** - Thomas said to them, "Unless I see the scars of the nails in His hands and put my finger on those scars and my hand in His side, I will not believe."
8. **(Sign) Luke 23:38** - Above Him were written these words: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.
9. **(Sponge) Matthew 27:48** - One of them ran up at once, took a sponge, soaked it in cheap wine, put it on the end of a stick, and tried to make Him drink it.
10. **(Spear) John 19:34** - One of the soldiers plunged his spear into Jesus' side, and at once blood and water poured out.
11. **(Rock) Matthew 27:59-60** - Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a new linen sheet, and placed it in his own new tomb, which he had just recently dug out of solid rock. Then he rolled a large stone across the entrance to the tomb and went away.
12. **(Empty) Matthew 28:6** - He is not here He has risen just as He said.

In the Library



Who are the "girls" in What These Girls Knew? You'll find some familiar names (Mary Magdalene, Bathsheba, and so on) and some you may not know so well. (Do Eunice and Zipporah ring a bell?) Some are heroines of the faith and some . . . not so much. But they all have something to teach us and Thelma helps bring those lessons to life.

What makes these girls special? Thelma tells us, "In most cases, they found themselves in situations they hadn't chosen—probably wouldn't have chosen if it had been left up to them. And they faced those dark or challenging situations in a way that set them apart."

Sound familiar? At some time in our lives all of us find ourselves in situations we didn't choose. That's when it's helpful to have an example to follow – like Esther, who spoke up even through her fear. Or an example of what to avoid, like Rachel, who never learned to be content.

Stories from Thelma's own life are woven through the book, reminding us that God is still teaching His girls a thing or two. It's never to late to learn!

Check out this resource at store.womenoffaith.com

Mom's Kitchen

We will post favorite recipes here. If you have one you would like to share, let Andrea Hale know.

EASY EASTER HAM

1 whole ham
1 can (20 oz.) crushed pineapple, undrained
1/3 cup maple syrup
aluminum foil

Directions:

Line crock pot with aluminum foil. Place ham in crock pot. Pour crushed pineapple over ham, and then pour maple syrup over the top. Cover and cook for 6 hours.

Serve with Cheesy Potatoes (recipe in September's Newsletter)

