



Newsletter

Volume 27 // Issue 2 // April 2024

They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

Luke 24:2&3

From Death to Resurrection

Isaiah 53:4-6

4 "Surely, He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

Roughly 2000 years ago, an amazing event took place in a city named Jerusalem. A man named Jesus defeated death as He resurrected from an earthly grave. A grave that was guarded and sealed. A grave that would have held any ordinary man. Jesus was no ordinary man. He was, and is, the Son of God.

The resurrection of Jesus was an amazing event and one that is rightly celebrated by Christians today. We should feel extreme joy when we consider the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In that moment, death, hell and our enemy, satan, were all defeated. God's plan for redeeming each one of us was in place. The free gift of salvation and an opportunity for eternal life with Jesus' victory over death, was now ours. Life for the human race would never ever be the same.

As amazing as the resurrection is, it relied on another event to take place first. That event was the suffering and death, by crucifixion, of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Without death, there is no resurrection. Without the pain, the suffering, the agony, the loneliness and the humiliation, there is no resurrection. Today we memorialize, discuss and admire the life of Jesus. We celebrate His birth and resurrection. Yet maybe the single most important aspect of his life, was His death. When Jesus died, He died an innocent, blameless man. In centuries past, many have died deserving to lose their lives. Many have died with regrets, burdens and unpaid debts. I believe that we can safely say that in the history of the world, not



one other person has died blameless and sinless. Jesus did. He walked to the cross perfect, blameless and right. When He surrendered to the cross, something changed. Isaiah 53:6 says that God placed on Jesus all our iniquities. It was for our guilt, our shame, our sins, our wrongs that Jesus died. Satan wanted Jesus to die. Sin, guilt, shame, and wrong should destroy us. Satan said take their guilt and their shame and die. He thought the death of Jesus would be the end. What he did not understand, is that for resurrection to occur, death needed to happen first. With resurrection comes new life. The debt is paid. In the resurrection lies our redemption and new life. Death=redemption and new life. In John 13:34, Jesus instructs us to love like He loves. How do you and I do that in real life? Jesus walked to a cross, laid down and gave His life for you and I. That is how He loves. Can we do the same? We do not have the ability to forgive sins, but we can forgive people. We cannot resurrect from the dead, but we can die to ourselves and resurrect in Christ. I know that sounds kind of scary. We don't really want to die. Yet Jesus said "love like I do." And then He died. What if you and I, by dying, would create new life? What if our death would help bring resurrection and redemption? Can we walk to our cross and give ourselves up, even though we are right, accepting the wrongs of someone else? Jesus did, and He asked us to do the same. Jesus has never asked us to do bad things, so this must be a good thing. Dying for someone else, must be the right thing to do.

We want to do the right thing. We are, after all, followers of Christ.

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Upcoming Events

Heart Encounter for Couples

May 21 - 23, 2024
at Freedom Hills Ministries

BBQ Meal & Auction Fundraiser

June 14, 2024
at the Heritage Center

Banquet Celebration

October 22 & 23, 2024
at the Heritage Center

Marriage Retreat

Winter of 2024
Comfort Suites in Berlin

If you are in need of lodging for any of the local events listed, the Comfort Suites in Berlin will give discounted rates when you mention you are coming for a Freedom Hills event. Their phone number is 330.893.7400

Helping Hearts Thrift Store

located at; Valley Plaza Center 1120 N Wooster Ave. Strasburg, Ohio

We are excited to introduce and welcome our new manager,

Dylan Troyer!

Many changes are in process... A new warehouse is located at 2425 US 62 Winesburg, Ohio. Donated items can be dropped off at this location, where all the sorting and pricing will get done. This will allow us to have a more spacious retail store!

With the expansion we are seeking a panel truck to transport from warehouse to the retail store,

and seeking volunteers for multiple positions, including day shift positions of cashier and shelf stocking personnel at the retail store. We are also looking for groups and individuals interested in spending a fun day or evening together sorting goods at our new warehouse location. We are also in need for volunteer drivers to haul volunteers. For any inquires call 330.878.4093.

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Dying however, seems extreme. Are other people really worth dying for? Of course, today we are probably not talking about physical death. We are talking about dying to self. Giving ourselves up for the benefit of another person, another child of God. What happens to the heart of a person when they experience love like Jesus gave? Will it help open their hearts to resurrection, redemption and new life? Would that be worth dying for? Absolutely. Jesus thought so. What He did for us, we should do for each other. We are not Jesus, and we will not be perfect all the time. What if each one of us would die, just once a day for 1 person around us? What would that do to the world around us? What if the person we die for, feels that love in their

heart, then in turn decides to die for someone in their life and then that person..... well, you get the idea. Jesus knew that dying to self, giving up our right to be right would work well for us. We often wish we could change the world. Jesus gave us the roadmap toward that change and it starts in our hearts. Imagine the Church of Jesus Christ rising up and loving/dying like Jesus. Jesus asked us to do just that. What is our answer?

Trying to die daily,

Kevin Troyer



Believe in Him

The sky was covered with twinkling stars as Mary, the mother of Jesus walked the familiar dirt packed road to her friend's wedding festival. As she walked along, her mind drifted to the era before she and Joseph were married, reflecting on her unexpected visit from Angel Gabriel. She remembered his words to her, "Greetings, you are highly favored! The Lord is with you!" Mary was confused and questioned, what could he mean by that? Gabriel reassured her, "Don't be afraid Mary, you have found favor with God." Gabriel went on to explain that Mary would become pregnant through the Holy Spirit and would have a son named Jesus, who would reign over Israel. Gabriel told her these things with such a humble confidence saying, "nothing is impossible with God." Mary was trying to comprehend all the information Gabriel told her, and even though it did not make sense, peace flooded her heart and she said, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." Gabriel left her as suddenly as he had appeared. Mary pondered all of this in her heart, believing but not knowing.

As the eastern sky began to lighten, Mary turned her mind to the event at hand: the wedding festival. She thought of all the preparations that had taken place and hoped all would go smoothly. It was a special wedding since the Bride and Groom were dear friends to them. Joseph and Mary's family were invited along with the disciples, close friends and all the town folks. It would be a joyous event.

By the time she came to the place of the wedding, the horizon was etched in beautiful pastel colors, promising a beautiful day!

The guests began to arrive and her heart flooded with joy when she saw her sons and the disciples. She sighed silently at the memory of their trip to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival, when on the way home they discovered their son Jesus, 12 years old, was not with them. It took 3 days till they found Jesus again. What surprised them was finding Jesus in the temple, sitting among the religious teachers listening to them and asking questions. The teachers were amazed at this young boy's understanding and the answers He gave. Mary still thought of Jesus' words to them. "Why were you searching for me, didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" After they came home Jesus was their usual happy, obedient boy. It was almost as if nothing out of the ordinary had happened.

Her reverie was broken when one of the servants came to her asking about the grapes and olives that needed to be taken care of, for the upcoming meals. Mary was so glad for all the willing servants helping with the wedding feast! It would be a tiring event, that was for sure.

As the week went on, Mary was busy among the rest of the servants serving food and wine to the many guests, when much to the embarrassment of hosts, the wine ran out before the festival was over! Mary sought Jesus and explained the dilemma, Jesus replied, "Dear woman, that's not our problem. My time has not come yet" not knowing what Jesus meant by that, she remembered what Gabriel had said so long ago, "with God all things are possible." Trusting her Lord in this moment, she looked at the servants and said, "do whatever Jesus tells you." Mary's heart fluttered with excitement as she resumed her duties of serving. She had no idea what Jesus was going to do, however, somehow, she knew Jesus would take care of the matter. *(And Jesus did!)*

Jesus told the servants to fill the 6 stone water jars with water. When the jars had been filled, Jesus said, "now fill this cup and take it to the Master of the ceremonies." The servants followed Jesus' instructions. The Master not knowing where it had come from, tasted the wine, and called the Bridegroom to come over, and said, "usually the best wine is served first, but you have kept the best till last!" The bridegroom was puzzled at that statement, because by now they would surely be serving the last of the wine, however taking a sample from the Master's cup, the Bridegroom was surprised, "where did this come from? It is amazing!" Soon guests were tasting the wine and declaring; "Why didn't they serve this first?" "This is the best wine I have ever had!" "Wow this is good!"

The Disciples took a drink of the wine and were astonished at how good it was. They knew Mary had come to Jesus saying, "the wine is all gone." They discussed among themselves how and where did Jesus get this wine? They simply did not have an answer.

After the wedding festival, Jesus, along with His Mother, Brother's and Disciples went to Capernaum for a few days. It felt so good to be away from the crowd and to rest and discuss the wedding. After questioning Jesus how He got such good tasting wine, Jesus shared that the wine was a gift from God.

It was the first miracle Jesus did.

It was the first time Jesus revealed his glory.

Upon realizing Jesus performed a miracle that day, the Disciples belief was strengthened! The miracle was a foreshadowing of things to come. It was a confirmation that Jesus is the Messiah! The Disciple's believed Jesus is Lord and King of Kings! They wanted to follow Jesus in His Ministry! They knew they had found what their heart and soul had been searching for!

Thank you Jesus!
Nelson & Betty Mader

Thank you!

To all who supported our Annual Fundraiser Breakfast. Your attendance along with all the incredible volunteers, and our food committee, led to an amazing morning of food and fellowship!



WHEN YOU PRAY, GOD LISTENS. WHEN YOU LISTEN, GOD TALKS. WHEN YOU BELIEVE, GOD WORKS.

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE
A GODLY MARRIAGE
MAY 21, 22 & 23, 2024



This event is for couples who have gone through a Caring for the Heart program.

Heart Encounter for couples

located at

FREEDOM HILLS MINISTRIES
5510 TR 419 SUGARCREEK, OH
EACH DAY FROM 9:00 AM - 4 PM WITH LUNCH,
SNACKS AND DRINKS PROVIDED BY THE STAFF.
FOR RESERVATIONS CALL THE OFFICE AT 330.893.3857

Testimonies

What an awesome 3 days, our marriage feels renewed again!
It was such an inspiring 3 days. I would encourage anyone to attend and let God renew your marriage and relationship with others.

These 3 days were very uplifting and so worth our time! Praise God!

2024 Conference

RECORDINGS AND
CD'S AVAILABLE FROM
UNDERSTANDING
THE HEART RELATIONSHIP CONFERENCE

NEW PICTURES & BOOK MARKERS

CALL JOANNA AT 330.893.3857
TO PLACE YOUR ORDER.



BBQ Meal &

Friday
June 14, 2024

Auction

Heritage Center 3558 US 62 Millersburg, OH
Meal starts serving at 4:30 • Auction begins at 5:30

- Monitored entertainment for the kids all evening! Includes: jump house, face painting, raffles, basket ball games and much more!!



- Buy a Freedom Hills coffee mug and enjoy a Gourmet Steak Dinner for 2 with the staff, and an opportunity to win a catered weekend stay at one of the Freedom Hills cabins!

RAFFLE TICKETS

\$20.00 EACH OR 6 FOR \$100.00



An assortment of 8 guns for the gun raffle!
and



5 items for the ladies raffle:

Jura Coffee Maker, \$1000.00 Cash, Bernina Serger,
Samsung Washer & Dryer and Sirena Sweeper

Tickets will be at the auction or you may call the office
330.893.3857. Need not be present to win!



Watch for more info in next newsletter!

AUCTION SPONSORSHIP

Freedom Hills is currently raising funds to fund our yearly budget. We would like to secure as much funding and pledges as possible prior to the auction! We greatly appreciate your participation!

I would like to donate an item _____ I would like to give a donation \$ _____

I pledge to match the dollar amount raised at the 2024 FHM Auction by the following amount
 \$0.05 \$0.10 \$0.15 \$0.25 Other amount \$ _____

Respond with enclosed envelope or contact Jason at 330.600.8521 with questions or commitments.

WHAT REALLY MATTERS IS WHAT GOD THINKS OF YOU.



5510 Township Road 419
Sugar creek, OH 44681
Return Service Requested

He is
NOT
here
HE HAS RISEN
just
like
HE
said

Executive Board

Chairman- Leroy Yutzy, Winesburg, OH
Vice Chairman- Ron Miller, Killbuck, OH
Secretary- Allen Raber, Killbuck, OH
Treasurer- Philip Yoder, Sugar creek, OH
Administrator- Kevin Troyer Beach City, OH

Secretary

Joanna Schlabach
Sugar creek, OH

Part Time Secretary

Graphic Designer
Betty Yoder
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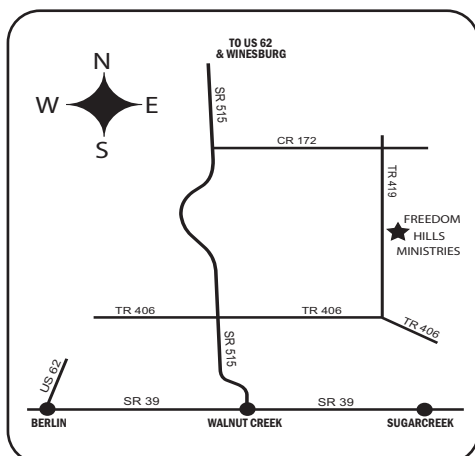
Counselors

Kevin & Carolyn Troyer
Dylan
Beach City, OH

Mary Herschberger
Walnut Creek, OH

Harlan & Mandy Miller
Adam & Hannah
Walnut Creek, OH

Directions
to
Freedom
Hills



Freedom Hills Ministries is a non profit organization and exists as an arm of the church of Jesus Christ to glorify God in all things through Him. Our purpose is to equip believers through biblically based counseling and training so they might stand firm in the faith in the midst of the spiritual battles of life.

Freedom Hills Ministries

5510 Township Road 419 Sugar creek, OH 44681

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Fax: 330.893.4044

Email: office@freedomhillsministries.com

Website: freedomhillsministriesohio.com

You can follow us on Facebook

Monetary donations may be send to:

PO Box 102 Berlin, OH 44610