



*Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church
Cumming, Georgia
Established 1881*

April, 2010 Pastor Randy Richards
Sunday School 9:45 ~ Worship Service 11:00

A Note From Our Pastor:

Happy Easter! What is the significance surrounding Easter? Is there more to Easter than the Easter Bunny, Easter Lilies, new outfits, egg hunts, and candy? What difference does Easter make anyway? It makes a lot of difference to those who are in touch enough with reality to take life and death seriously. It made a lot of difference to the disciples and the women that loved Jesus who watched him die an excruciating death. They witnessed his body hanging on the cross with nails driven through his hand and feet, body suspended on the cross like a common criminal. Jesus had made a great impact in each of these lives. He had changed their lives! They must have been in a state of emotional turmoil as they placed Jesus in the "borrowed" tomb and then rolled the massive stone across the entrance for security. Was all their hope for nothing? What about everyone that he had healed? The broken lives he had restored? The promises of the Kingdom of God? But early Sunday morning as these women went back at the tomb to finish anointing his body, they arrived and the tomb stood open with the stone pushed to the side. They were surely shocked at the uncertainty of what had happened and why the stone was rolled away. They may have thought that something cruel had transpired during the night. But it wasn't cruelty that rolled away the stone that Easter morning. It was the powerful hand of God as Jesus Christ stepped forth in resurrected Life!

Yes, Easter bunnies still capture the hearts of children and schools talk about Spring break, but you and I know what really happened on Easter. In an instant, history had been changed forever. Human mortality rate had always held steady at 100%, but now it had just skipped a beat as Jesus, Savior of all mankind, stepped out of the dead statistics into life. Death is no longer the last word for those who are saved and are followers of Jesus. "Life" has now got the eternal last "say"! "Believe in Buddha," some still declare among the religions of the world. "Confucius," say the Chinese. "Mohammed," cry the Muslims, and on it goes. The disciples, Mary Magdalene, and many others who knew him would tell us that it was Jesus who changed their lives. And millions of others around the world now echo, "Mine, too. He has touched my life, too." You see, these other religious leaders have come and gone, but the fact remains: only One stepped forth from the tomb. Only One has risen from the dead. Only One has conquered death. Only One offers the promise of eternal life to those who follow him. "I am the resurrection and the life," Jesus said. "He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." (John 11: 25,26) So why do Jesus' followers gather in churches on Easter morning? To just show off their Easter outfits? I certainly hope not, but surely to celebrate the victory of Life over death, to share their faith that Jesus is alive, and to declare that Jesus Christ is still Lord indeed! Easter makes all the difference in this Life and the Life to come! Hope you all have a great time celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour. Please keep VBS, Church camp, and Revival in our prayers, along with the sick and shut-ins! God Bless you all!
In Christ's Love,
Randy