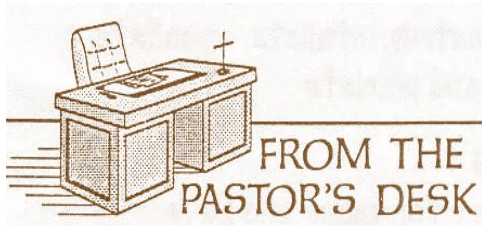


# ECHOES *from the Valley*

April 2021

Volume 47, No. 4



I am grateful for the people of Valley Brook. Of course, there are many reasons for this, but specifically I am encouraged by your faithful response to the annual Easter offering for North American Missions, a.k.a. Annie Armstrong. Together we exceeded our goal with an offering of \$815. Thanks to all who were able to contribute and to those who joined in prayer during the mission emphasis week.

In a recent issue of Wednesday Words, we talked about Holy Week, the last week of our Lord's earthly life, a time of intense suffering, including persecution, ridicule, beatings, personal insult and then the crucifixion where Christ paid the sin debt for all, and for all time. Yes, He died to secure forgiveness, then three days later He rose from the dead and in the process, validated His claims of victory over death . . .  
*"Because He lives, we too shall live."*  
- John 14:9

This historical event is an amazing work of God that is understood and received only

by faith. Of course, the Bible tells us in Hebrews 11, *"that without faith, it is impossible to please God."* Unbelievers often ridicule Christians concerning our belief in the resurrection of the dead, skeptics deny it, and scoffers try to explain it away but to those who believe by faith, it is further proof that God is indeed the true God, the Almighty, the One Who does *"great things and unsearchable; marvelous things without number..."* (Job 5:9).

Rather than try to explain the Resurrection away, it's much easier to accept the evidence, the biblical record. JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD. He didn't faint. There wasn't a clever plot to set him free. The disciples didn't hallucinate, imagine it, or start a rumor about a resurrection to get back at the religious leaders.

The resurrection of Christ is a historical reality and is supported by a series of personal testimonies and eyewitnesses. But one of the most convincing proofs of Jesus' resurrection is seen in the courage of the disciples as they began to openly declare the Good News about Christ. Of course, immediately following the Crucifixion they were obviously afraid and went  
(continued)

***Valley Brook is a place of grace, where everybody is somebody and Jesus is Lord.***

into hiding. Yet after experiencing the risen Savior the disciples begin to boldly declare that Jesus is alive. Most of them lost their lives because of that expressed faith. A good person may die for something they truly believe in, but who would die for a lie?

Jesus Christ is not a dead hero . . . or a legend . . . or a symbol . . . or a figurehead . . . or a religious guru . . . or an ideal. He is truly risen from the dead, just as he said He would. But Jesus Christ didn't rise from the dead just to create a new religion . . . or to give us something to celebrate each year . . . or an excuse to eat too much chocolate! It wasn't just to fulfil prophecy or spur the disciples into action or get in the face of the religious leaders of the day.

Christ rose to show that love is stronger than death . . .

That death has lost its sting . . . and the grave does have the final word.

It was to show that good will ultimately prevail over evil.

That we can trust God even when things are at their worst.

That He will never leave us or forsake us.

The resurrection means something even more . . .

Because Jesus is alive and will never die again, we have God's promise that we, too, can live forever. Easter is not only a time of new life in the world around us, but an opportunity for YOU and ME to have new life as well.

*Paster Mike*



## Thank You!



Thanks to each of you who gave to the 2021 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

Our goal was \$500. You have given \$815.

All of your gifts - 100% - support thousands of NAMB missionaries in church planting and compassion ministries across the U.S. and Canada.

## Attendance in Feb. & March


	A.M. Worship
Feb. 28	36
March 7	37
March 14	34
March 21	39





# VALLEY BROOK BAPTIST CHURCH

## April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<u>COUNTERS</u> Dennis Jackson Fred Guthrie			1 ALL FOOL'S DAY  MAUNDY THURSDAY	2  GOOD FRIDAY	3
4 <b>EASTER</b> Worship at 11:00 Inv. - Dennis Jackson Ben. - Becky Markert	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Baptist Doctrine Sunday Worship at 11:00 Inv. - Dan Warnock Ben. - Terry Markert	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 SBC Seminars Sunday Worship at 11:00 Inv. - Luther Lord Ben. - Jeannine Peevy	19	20	21	22 	23	24
25 Cooperative Program Sunday Worship at 11:00 Inv. - Tom Gibbs Ben. - Tom Barnett	26	27	28	29	30 	

### Birthdays:

Sonnia Aleman 4/6  
Nancy Warnock 4/16

Paulette Howard 4/10  
Susan Wooten 4/21

Sandy Mize 4/16  
Thom Martin 4/25

Cathy Jenkins 4/26

# Spring Cleaning for Your Soul

By Rachel Wojo of Dayspring

Each spring arrives in God's perfect timing and this year is no different. The signs of spring's arrival are promising progress! The refreshing sights and sounds of spring bring winter to a close and new life is ushered in. A spiritual spring cleaning is even more welcome in this season of renewal. By applying the methods of seasonal housekeeping, the following ideas for a spiritual spring cleaning emerge. Perhaps you could use one or two of these?

***Purge any old attitudes and allow yourself the freedom to move into a new season.***

***Ask Jesus to scrub your heart clean again as you request forgiveness and forgive yourself.***

***Clean out the cobwebs of negative thoughts such as "I can't do this" and "this will never work" and latch on to spiritual truths.***

***Take inventory of your spiritual routines and spruce them up as needed. Show love again!***

This spring, let's spend a little quiet time with God, maybe even while we're dusting, mopping and decluttering. Because, what better time to refresh your soul than during spring cleaning? Let's invite Him to show us what we might need to "clean up" in order to grow deeper in our faith and closer to our Father.

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## Quote of the Month

"Salvation is free, but discipleship will cost you your life."

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer



## Monthly Financial Report

(March 2021 - 4 Sundays)

Receipts - \$18,237.00

(March 2020 - 5 Sundays)

Receipts - \$17,979

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