

From Pastor Greg's Heart ~ Reflecting on Christ's Victory this Past Easter

Once again Easter came and went quickly! I thank the LORD that we were able to have two Easter Sunday services after our Premier imposed another lockdown order on Saturday, April 3. We went to two services because of the new 15% capacity restriction. There was also an added blessing. Our Leeds, Grenville, Lanark Health Officer Dr. Paula Stewart lifted her Section 22 Order allowing for us to assemble a worship team to praise our risen Saviour. It was such a blessing to hear Olivia Coker sing a beautiful Easter rendition of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah."

When I reflect on last year's Easter zoom service, I am so grateful that this year we could actually meet in person and rejoice together in Jesus's resurrection. However, I am hoping that next year (LORD willing) we will be able to have a full church on Easter Sunday without any restrictions especially the freedom not to wear any masks. If this were my only hope for Easter than I would have to admit that my hopes are shallow.

Easter is Jesus's victory over sin, death, and the devil in the power of His blood and His resurrection. The apostle Paul expressed Jesus's victory well in **1 Corinthians 15:55-58**, *"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."*

My hope in Christ needs to reflect His victory in how I live out my life every day. As Paul exhorts in verse 58, I need to stand firm in Jesus and His victory every day. I have been set free from the penalty and power of sin – Hallelujah! Nothing should move me from the victory of Jesus including fear, COVID or the instability of our world. I am standing on Christ as my Rock – Hallelujah! My response must be to give myself fully to the work of the LORD, which is sharing the Good news of Jesus, winning the lost and making disciples of Jesus Christ. Every effort toward this great labour will never be in vain – Hallelujah!

Are you living in Jesus's victory every day? Are you allowing Jesus to live through you in His resurrected power and victory? *"Stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain (v. 58)."* Live victoriously that the world may see that Jesus lives in you!

Bits and Bites:

- 1) Remember to RSVP for our Sunday services.** Our secretary Anne Ryan is sending out a weekly email to remind you to follow a link and reserve your spot for Sunday morning service. If you are not receiving this email, please send a note to her at secretarycalvarybible@gmail.com
- 2) Welcome Ruth Anne Hogan!** Luke and Kim Hogan welcomed their third child a baby girl into their family on Good Friday, April 2. Thank you for your prayers for Ruth's safe arrival. Luke and Kim also appreciate all the meals that were dropped off.
- 3) Camp this Summer!** The Province of Ontario and the Ontario Camping Association have been working hard to ensure a safe plan to allow campers to come back to camp this summer. Please checkout these camp website links for more information. Also, our church has a Camp Fund to assist each camper. We have a camp fund form with more information. Ask our Secretary Anne for this form for your family.

<https://www.galileebiblecamp.ca/>

<https://www.cherith.ca/>

<https://iawah.com/>

<https://www.joycamp.ca/>

<https://www.csranchbigclearlake.ca/>

Camp Cherith needs your help... Positions we are looking for (8-week full time and shorter volunteer positions): Cooks, Cabin leaders, Skill instructors, Maintenance workers, Lifeguards, Health care (Standard First Aid or higher - we can certify). Contact Lisa Donald at 613-322-6250.

- 4) Kids Church** continues during our 15% capacity restriction. The ages are 4 to Grade 6. They are the Kinders four- and five-year-old; Grade 1 to Grade 3, and Grade 4 to Grade 6. The lead teachers are Marion and Hannah Ryan. The helpers are Heidi, Kelly, Sarah Woodall and Melanie Doornekamp and Youth. If you have any more questions have a chat with our Children's Ministry stewards Heidi Wills or Kelly Reynolds.
- 5) Have you been doing COVID 19 research?** Here is a lengthy and thorough article from Creation.com that can help educate you on vaccines – "CMI, vaccines, and vaccination" by Dr. Jonathan Sarfati <https://creation.com/cmi-vaccination>

Prayer Corner

- 1) Pray for our elders and stewards as we continue to adjust to COVID restrictions and keep our church open and operating for God's glory. Pray that our church will thrive in this time and that we will continue to reach people for Christ and make disciples.
- 2) Pray for the passing of Bill C-233. This is a private member's bill that would ban sex selective abortion. It was introduced by MP Cathay Wagantall on February 26, 2020, and reintroduced Sept. 23, 2020. The bill would make changes to the Criminal Code to prohibit medical practitioners from performing an abortion knowing that the abortion is solely due to the child's genetic sex. Visit the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada website for information on how to send a note to your MP - <https://www.evangelicalfellowship.ca/C-233>
- 3) Emmett Morrison – the month-old little grandson to Roger and Colleen was on our prayer chain not long ago about having tests for his heart. Please continue to keep him in your prayers and ask God to help this precious boy to develop and grow in good health and strength.
- 4) Thank the LORD for Francine Hill. In a few more months, she will know how her cancer has been responding to her medication. Please keep her in your prayers.
- 5) Beth Laming is still waiting for her shoulder surgery. Pray that she will have her surgery sooner than later.
- 6) Pray for COVID cases to decrease in our county, province, and nation so that we can enjoy the warmer weather with less restrictions.