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The Beacon



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Its time to start thinking about Vacation Bible School! Our theme for this year is Boomerang Express - It All Comes Back to Jesus! We need teachers and helpers to sign up to work this amazing ministry. There will be a training clinic in Harrison to help teachers with ideas for

their class and for those who might be interested, but are unsure what VBS is all about. If you would like to attend this clinic on **Thursday, April 16 from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm** or want to commit to work, please sign-up on the bulletin board!

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt is **Saturday, April 11th @ 10 am** for birth - 6th grade. We need donations of: individually wrapped candy to fit in eggs, plastic eggs, Easter decorated cookies and cupcakes, fruit, veggies and dip. We also need volunteers to hide eggs, serve food and clean up. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board; so please sign up.



OUR RECORDS



	<u>March 1</u>	<u>March 8</u>	<u>March 15</u>	<u>March 22</u>	<u>March 29</u>
Sunday School:	117	113	11	119	112
9:00 am Worship:	56	45	61	71	47
11:00 am Worship:	140	124	126	145	116
Evening Worship:	47	41	52	55	40
Offering:	\$4,935.65	\$4,613.27	\$4,478.40	\$4,232.00	\$2,951.30



Easter... What a Wonderful Reminder

When I was a kid, every Easter morning I would wake up with a great anticipation, not because we were going to church and not because of what Easter means to me now, but because I was getting gifts!! The Easter bunny would visit every year and leave us toys and candy. Now all these years later I realize the presents always seemed to be left on the side of our parents bed...hahaha.

It was just normal on Easter mornings for us to run into our parents room and look at all the toys that we had received, then we would hug our parents and go off to eat our fill of candy and play with the new toys. I tell you this to share an Easter story that has forever shaped my life and ministry. It is a story that is so simple, but yet powerful at the same time. When I was a youth pastor in Oil City, La. I would give weekly children's sermons, something I really enjoyed, and this particular week actually fell on Easter Sunday. The church was packed; people from all walks of life were there that morning. As I got up to share the children's sermon I had no idea what God was about to do. I sat down and called all of the little kids to the front. Out of the 15 kids that came down that morning God used one to minister to the entire church. His name was Zach and he was 3 years old.

I asked the group what they got for Easter and Zach instantly blurted out, "A NEW FIRE TRUCK!!" He had such joy and resound in his voice because he had received a gift that he had greatly desired; you could see the joy on his face as he sat back down after his announcement. Then after all of the kids had shared I asked them one simple question, "What have you learned about Easter?" Before anyone could respond Zach had opened his mouth; I will admit I was afraid we were going to be talking about the new fire truck again, but instead what he said floored myself and the entire church. His response though so simple was so powerful. It was, "When Jesus died we died, and when Jesus lives we live." You could hear a pin drop after the last word left his mouth. The next thing you heard was sniffing, as parents, elderly, young and old reached for tissues. You see, this child had spoken a truth that rocked the church that morning. His voice was not loud or course, but yet small and beautiful. A small voice that God carried to the farthest corners of that room. You see, every knee bowed and every tongue confessed that morning that Jesus was Lord, and all because one little boy was not afraid to open his mouth.

Jesus said that the kingdom of God belongs to children such as these, so let us embrace those very children that will then in turn embrace Jesus and eventually the world. There is a voice crying out in the wilderness, calling all believers to Himself. What if one of the children we embrace this Easter is the next voice? What if you got to be a part of that child's life? What if God used you to lead that child to Himself? How great an Easter that would be!

-Bro. Hunter



From
the
Pastor's
Heart

“But the angel answered and said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead.’”

Matthew 28:5-7 (NKJV)

After one of the most horrifying events of their lives, one which dashed their hopes and plans for the future, the disciples received unexpected good news. Jesus wasn't dead but had risen from the grave! Their devastation turned into joy at the news!

That announcement is still one of joyous news today. Our country is headed in the wrong direction on so many levels, especially spiritually. Our economy is in trouble. People are losing their jobs. The outlook is bleak at best. But Jesus is risen! He gives us a hope and a future. He gives us eternal salvation if we will ask Him to be our Lord and Savior.

The women who went to the tomb received the good news that Jesus had risen from the dead just as He said. They also were given a commission to go and tell. We possess that same good news today and we have that same commission. We are to go and tell those who don't know Jesus. With all the problems our nation and world face, there is a spiritual hunger. People are looking for something beyond themselves. Our purpose in life should be to tell them about our risen Savior.

Sharing the Good News with you,
Bro. Gary