



tips for youth workers

MARCH 2008

EASTER MIRACLE!

I drove a young Jr. Soldier home today – she lives on the other side of the mountain. The trek up and over that hill reminds me every time of that old television show, “The Waltons”. Today I was reminded of one of their Easter episodes – the one where Olivia is stricken with Polio and is determined to walk on her own two feet to the Easter Sunrise Service. It’s a good episode and I love the miraculous healing and the fact that the show ends with the whole family singing hymns as they watch the sun rise early Easter Sunday morning. It reminds us clearly that Easter is a time for miracles.

Jesus is God’s great miracle! You see, it’s in the Easter Story that God’s plan of salvation comes together and every other religious tradition and new age philosophy, and self help book and new world gimmick is blown out of the water. It’s in the Easter Story that Jesus accomplishes the impossible and by doing so shows why He and He alone is the Saviour of the world! That’s good news for young and old alike!

Jesus, by offering himself up as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins, paid the penalty alright, but the biggest miracle comes every time a sinner kneels before Jesus and accepts this gift. It’s in that moment that He takes our life record – a list of every sin we’ve ever committed – and shreds it and tosses it into the sea of forgetfulness and replaces it with His record – His spotless, never sinned a moment in His life record. So that on the day we stand before God – Jesus will hand His Father in Heaven our record - there’s our name right on the front - and when God opens it he will see the life record of Jesus – and accept it as ours – and he will greet us **as if we have never sinned**. We’ll be justified before God!!! We are not welcomed into Heaven forgiven or found not guilty – we are welcomed as if we have never sinned. Because of what Jesus did on the cross we will be counted holy and righteous by God – treated as if we have never been marred by sin – welcomed into Heaven as a friend of God. I know that seems impossible because we never forget – do we – and there’s always lots of other people to remind us of our failings and weakness, but this impossibility was a possibility for God. That is the kind of Saviour that is ours. That is why Jesus stands out among everyone and everything else – because only Jesus could accomplish that.

If that were not amazing enough - JESUS DIDN’T STAY DEAD!!!! And not only did He not stay dead – but he came back to life on his own power! He conquered death!!!! No one – no thing – no power has ever done that (*don’t believe the movies – zombies are not real...*). By coming back to life He made it possible to send His Holy Spirit to live in us – giving us a chance to live sanctified lives, conquering our sinful natures here and now!!!!!! Wahoo!

I know that you’re already planning out your Easter lessons - making sure that your children and young people don’t get too distracted by bunnies and chocolate. That’s good – ‘cause what we remember about Easter is the very foundation of our faith. I know that helping them understand the significance of what Jesus accomplished can seem overwhelming – hard to take in. So let me encourage you – to show them what difference Jesus makes. The best way to do that is to live it out in front of them! How you live out your salvation – how you let the Holy Spirit work in and through you will be the strongest lesson they will ever learn. Live as a loved child of God. Live forgiven and redeemed. Live guided by the Holy Spirit. Live the miracle!!!!!! Happy Easter everyone.

Captain Denise Walker
Field Based Consultant for Children’s Outreach Ministries