

Ministering God's Love



Cultivating Faith

THE KING'S VOICE

APRIL 2015

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YOU CAN'T GET TO HEAVEN ON MAMA'S APRON STRINGS!

By: Dorene Royal

First generation Christians are those who have had an "about face" encounter with God, coming out of a life of worldliness into the Church. They have a powerful testimony of the change that God made in their lives, they look at the Bible as a pearl of great price, and they are eager to serve the Lord with this 'first love.' If you are one, you know exactly what this is talking about!

On the other hand, second (and third and fourth!) generation Christians are those who have been raised in the church by parents who themselves came to church; it is an expected (and normal) way of life for them.

We rarely ever see a first generation Christian become complacent in their worship and devotion to God and His church because they have experienced such a contrast between sin and righteousness. On the other hand, those of us who are second generation Christians have not experienced that dramatic conversion, and sometimes it is not so easy to remain passionate about our faith.

In order for second generation Christians to have the same intensity of devotion to God, His Word and the church, they usually to come to

a point in their life when they have that 'ah ha' moment (some call it a 'power encounter') and feel His presence, and accept Christ for themselves; not because mom or dad told them to or because it is expected.

For some, that moment came at Confirmation. For others it was during Christian youth camp when they saw their peers accepting Christ. For some it was during family devotions when a parent encouraged them to believe. Some come to this realization in a Sunday School class. For others an invitation to accept Christ during a church service and they responded.

There are many second generation Christians at Christ the King who have had that moment with God. I would like to share some of their testimonies with you:

Leisa Hospedales: I accepted Jesus in my life around age nine, when everything is dramatic and there is so much that is overwhelming. I would pray and instantly feel comforted by a Friend, and I KNEW it was Jesus. It is amazing to be so sure of something!

Pam Sharrow: My great-grandfather was a minister. I have been in church all my

life. My 'ah ha' moment occurred when I was a young adult and I began to branch out into the big world on my own. I realized I could not do it on my own and I realized that I was not alone as Jesus is always there. From then on my beliefs and the church were not a 'holy day of obligation'. Through my life, many things have happened, and God has always been there.

Jessie Beck: I grew up in Maryland and since my mom was raised Catholic she raised us that way as well. I always felt safe at church. I loved the tradition, the choir music, the incense, the formalities. When we moved to Florida a friend we knew was at St. Stephens Episcopal Church, only 5 minutes from our house. We went and felt immediately welcome. I have always followed Christ. I have always prayed and felt my prayers to God would be heard.

Charisse Coney: The first time I was in elementary school and I (*was playing*) and preaching a 'sermon' to my invisible friends, at the time the Holy Spirit literally took over my mind, body and soul; it was an unexplainable event but at that moment I knew Jesus was real.

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James Royal: I grew up in the Episcopal Church. The preaching in the particular church that I grew up in was almost exclusively about God the Father, and even that was over my head as a teenager. I knew nothing about what Christ had done for me personally. During a renewal weekend I saw other teenagers that had a personal relationship with Jesus. I knew nothing about it and seeing them caused a deep hunger to well up in me. On that Sunday morning the leader of the renewal weekend explained that what I saw in those teenagers was available to anyone who would ask Christ into their life. I, along with the majority of the church, went forward that morning to ask Christ to come into my heart.

If you are a second generation Christian, how can you tell whether you are merely accepting the doctrines of the church because your parents believe them or because you truly adhere to them? Answer this question: If my family and best friends left the church would I stay and hold onto the doctrines of the church and follow Christ?

One of my sweetest memories is of an evening when a group of teens gathered around a bonfire and began to sing praise songs under the stars. I was a pastor

on staff at that church and brought my young daughter along to enjoy the evening (she was looking forward to the marshmallow roast that was to follow!). The presence of God was so strong, we sang for over an hour, teens with their hands raised to heaven, tears streaming down their face, genuinely worshipping the Lord. I looked down and saw my little girl doing the same thing – I looked closely and saw that it was not an imitation, it was real. Later, as we were getting ready for bed, she told me that she felt Jesus come in her heart by the campfire and she felt so clean inside. That was her ‘power encounter’ with God, and as a parent I realized the value of watching my child know Him, not because I did, but for herself. Parents, I cannot tell you enough the importance of being in places with your children where they can encounter God. Concerts, church, family devotions, Sunday School, Christian camp - use every opportunity to expose them to that opportunity for a personal encounter with Christ, you will never regret it!

Timothy was a third generation Christian. The Apostle Paul wrote to him in II Timothy chapter one to encourage him: “...I know how much you have confidence in His power, and wisdom - and you

First generation Christians, those of us who are second generation need you to show us what that “first love” is all about. Don’t be afraid to share your testimony and your passion for Christ

have faith, the same faith that lived in the heart of your mother Eunice and your grandmother Lois; I am fully persuaded this lives in you also. This being so, I want to remind you to stir into flame the strength and boldness (rekindle the embers) that is in you...”

First generation Christians, those of us who are second generation need you to show us what that “first love” is all about. Don’t be afraid to share your testimony and your passion for Christ, we need to hear it! Pass that devotion and commitment to God on to the next generation. Second, third and fourth generation Christians, ***we can’t get to heaven on mama’s apron strings, we must all meet Christ for ourselves.*** Let us stir up the inner fire that we found with our personal ‘power encounter’ with God, and pass it on to the third and fourth and fifth generations at Christ the King!

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

It is so wonderful to see our little church family grow!! I have said this many, many times... We have some of the best people in Lakeland right here at CTK. Financially speaking we are doing so much better. We have money left over at the end of the month after paying our bills. Everyone has stepped up their contributions and it really shows. Thank You!! Let’s keep it up so we can start saving for a new Rector.

If you ever have any questions or comments for me, please do not hesitate to call the office. I wanted to let you know that I am off most Fridays, but you can always call my cell phone (it is on the church recording). God Bless you everyday and Thank you for being a wonderful part of Christ the King!!! Chris Benton

MESSAGE FROM MARTHA, OUR SENIOR WARDEN

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ. I am happy to announce that our own precious Deacon Kate is finally, after four years of personal sacrifice, going to be doing her much deserved field work.

Every deacon is given a period of time prior to their ordination to be mentored at a parish other than their own. When Deacon Kate should have been allowed to leave our parish for her field work, the Bishop asked if she would forgo her needs and stay at Christ the King. She chose to stay thereby sacrificing her own needs for the needs of our parish. In 2011, Father Wally Reynolds, accepted our request to serve Christ the King as Priest in Charge, under his healing care CTK became a vibrant, healthy congregation ready to do the right thing for Kate.

I ask each of you to lift Deacon Kate in prayer as she embarks on this most wonderful time in her ministry. We will miss her, I'm sure, because she is such an integral part of CTK, but it's our turn to sacrifice. Most Deacons do field work for approximately six months. When doing field work the sponsoring parish (CTK) is not allowed to ask anything of their Deacon. This is designed to allow them to concentrate solely on their adopted parish and their ministry. We are in fact, not allowed to call on Deacon Kate for any reason. This is a diocesan requirement. It enables total immersion for her to enhance or start some sort of social service project.

I know each of you will join with me in complying and offering up our prayers for Deacon Kate during this special time. The months will fly by and Deacon Kate will return to us renewed and with a deeper sense of the calling in her life.

Go with God, Deacon Kate, and know that we will be praying for you continually during your absence and you will truly be missed.

Yours in Christ,

Martha Griggs, Senior Warden.

IT'S NOT ALWAYS GOING TO BE LIKE THIS!

By Dorene Royal

Have you ever been discouraged because of the unexpected 'hard knocks' that life sometimes brings? I have some comforting words for you taken from the last chapter of the first book of the Old Testament and the last chapter of the first book of the New Testament. There is an exciting correlation between these chapters.

Let's look at the last chapter of Genesis. You are familiar with the story of Joseph going to Egypt, and the famine that occurred over the land, and how Joseph's father and his brethren moved to Egypt to escape the famine. Joseph, with his dreams, had saved the entire nation of Egypt by storing up food during the seven years of plenty. Joseph became second in command to the king and lived in Egypt for the remainder of his life. At a ripe old age of 110 he gathered his family around him and blessed each child...then he made them promise that they would not bury him in Egypt, but when they returned to the land of Israel, the land of promise, that they would carry his bones with them and bury him there. After he died, they gave him a royal funeral and embalmed him, placing him in a coffin in Egypt. (Genesis 50:24-26)

Over four hundred years passed, the children of Israel grew and flourished in Egypt to become a mighty nation. The land of Goshen where they resided was a fruitful land, and they had many flocks and herds of animals (they were shepherds). The historian Josephus tells us when Joseph had been alive, the rulers of Egypt were called Hyksos, foreigners ruling over Egypt. The Hyksos were also called shepherd kings and looked favorably on the children of Israel. The Hyksos ruled for 108 years and were overthrown. Native Egyptians began to rule over Egypt and these rulers were known as Pharaohs. It was understandable that these native rulers would not want anything to threaten their security; this is why they made slaves of the Israelites, they feared them.

As you know, the Israelites were treated unfairly, beaten daily, and pushed to their physical limits. Can you picture them sitting around the fire, talking in low tones to their children, telling them the words that their great, great, great grandfather Joseph had spoken? He had assured them that one day they would return to the land of promise, to the land flowing with milk and honey, the land given to them by God, and when they went, they would take his bones with them. Can you picture these slaves, on their way home from work, backs bruised and beaten by the whip of the enemy, head bowed low with discouragement...passing by Joseph's burial place? Suddenly their step is a little lighter, their head is a little higher, their back is straighter, their burden is easier as they remember...Joseph said, ***"It is not always going to be like this, some day we are going to the promised land!"***

That was the last chapter of the first book of the Old Testament. If you look at the last chapter in the first book of the New Testament (Matthew), you will also find a tomb. But this grave is VERY different from Joseph's coffin - it is an empty tomb! After the resurrection, Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place for you and I will come again and bring you to this place." The old saints of God called heaven the "promised land." Sometimes we feel enslaved just like the children of Israel. Sometimes we are spiritually bruised and battered and we carry a heavy burden, sometimes life has twists and turns that we don't expect and painful situations come our way...but we can walk by that empty tomb and remember that it's not always going to be like this...our step is lighter, our head is held higher, our burden is easier...Jesus said, ***"It is not always going to be like this, some day we are going to the promised land!"***

I don't know about you, but that gives me a reason to shout "Alleluia" on Easter Sunday morning! The Apostle Paul echoed this in I Thessalonians chapter four: "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven, with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we that are alive, that are left, shall together with them be caught up in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. ***Wherefore comfort one another with these words.***" Here's a big heap of comfort for those who may be walking through a difficult valley: ***"It is not always going to be like this, some day we are going to the promised land!"***

Thank You

Do you ever wonder who maintains the messages on the sign out front? Or the flowers that surround it? Or how about the sprinkler system, or the many flowers in the flower beds along with the crape myrtles that line the driveway?

The gentleman that takes care of all that is Bob Springthorpe. Bob has been faithfully taking care of all that and more for years. **Every week** he comes here on his lunch time and days off.

I just wanted to take a moment to tell him "Thank You". Thank You Bob for your amazing loyalty to Christ the King!!!



Thank You to Ronnie Ready for mowing our huge lawn!!
You are such a blessing to CTK

Thank You to everyone who provided food for the Wednesday night Lenten series.

Thanks goes out to Debbie Dale for helping me each week with the bulletins and King's Voice.

Thank you Marilyn Springthorpe and Colleen Parrish for cleaning and re-organizing the Sunday School rooms

To Josh and Jessie Beck for taking over the Acolytes while Kate is away.

To June and Rose's dedication to the kitchen. June, we will miss you!

To all the Sunday School teachers, especially Pam Sharrow

Christ the King shows the true meaning of a "church family"



CELEBRATE THE PASSOVER WITH US!

Join us on Wednesday evening, April 1st at 6:00 p.m. for the Seder Supper, a meaningful, traditional Jewish Passover celebrating *freedom*. The Seder Supper is God’s object lesson for teaching families to remember the night that Israel escaped from the bondage of Egypt; it is named Passover because it is the night of the 10th Plague, the night that the death angel ‘passed over’ Egypt and Pharaoh finally relented and allowed the Israelites to go free from over 440 years of bondage. Jesus observed this celebration at the Last Supper. It will be a night of feasting, culture, fun, and celebration! Be sure to sign up to bring a side dish. **Here’s a good opportunity to invite a friend to church!**

Holy Week Schedule

Wednesday, April 1st—Seder Supper 6pm

Thursday, April 2nd—Maundy Thursday Service
6:30pm

Friday, April 3rd—Good Friday Service 6:30pm

Saturday, April 4th—Easter Vigil Service 6:30pm

Easter Sunday’s celebration of our risen Lord
April 5th @ 10:00am



Shamrock Trivia: Saint Patrick, a missionary to Ireland, was approached by a group of his followers that admitted that it was difficult for them to understand the Trinity. He thought about this and then plucked a shamrock and held it up to them, using the three leaves as an example of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit - the “Three-in-One.”



Treasurer’s report

03/01/2015 - Sunday
1 General Fund 2,664.00
2 Flowers 60.00
5 Facilities Rental 24.00
17 Missions 25.00
Total for 03/01/2015 \$2,773.00

03/08/2015 - Sunday
1 General Fund 1,596.50
2 Flowers 330.00
5 Facilities Rental 205.00
17 Missions 115.96
Total for 03/08/2015 \$2,247.46

03/15/2015 - Sunday
1 General Fund 2,248.00
12 Diocese Assistance 1,250.00
17 Missions 30.00
Total for 03/15/2015 \$3,528.00

03/22/2015 - Sunday
1 General Fund 1,973.00
17 Missions 50.00
Total for 03/22/2015 \$2,023.00

Total Contributions for March so far \$10,571.46

April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			Seder Dinner 6pm	Maundy Thursday Service 6:30pm	Good Friday Service 6:30pm	Easter Vigil 6:30pm
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Christian Ed & Adult class 9am Easter Celebra- tion			Bible Study 7pm		B – John Detringo	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Christian Ed & Adult class 9am Holy Communion 10am		B – Don Williams	Bible Study 7pm			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Christian Ed & Adult class 9am Holy Communion 10am B – Pam Schrader	A – Pam & Ray Sharrow B – Elizabeth Hospedales		Bible Study 7pm			
26	27	28	29	30		
Christian Ed & Adult class 9am Holy Communion 10am			Bible Study 7pm			

Don't forget to sign up for flowers

We are on the web
WWW.christthekinglakeland.com

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 CULTIVATING FAITH

CHRIST THE KING
 EPISCOPAL CHURCH

6400 North Socrum Loop Road
 Lakeland, FL 33809-4141
 Phone: 863-858-1948
 Fax: 863-858-7710
 E-mail: chris@ctklakeland.com



MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Ministry area	April 5, 2015	April 12, 2015	April 19, 2015	April 26, 2015
Celebrant	Rev Jon Davis, PHD.	Rev. Carolyn Biggs	Rev. Carolyn Biggs	Rev. Carolyn Biggs
Deacon	Kate Yotter	Kate Yotter	Kate Yotter	Kate Yotter
LEM2	Jim Royal	Isabel Detringo	Wade Griggs	Bob Springthorpe
Acolyte - Server	All Acolytes	Neila Heist	Sydney Sharrow	Elvon Hospedales
Acolyte - Cross/bells		Liam Borden	Mitchell Parrish	Clive Borden
Acolyte-Collection		Joey Beck	Alexander Parrish	Nathanial Heist
Old Testament	Isabel Detringo	Stacey May	Martha Griggs	Marilyn Springthorpe
New Testament	Jim Royal	Isabel Detringo	Wade Griggs	Bob Springthorpe
Prayers of the people	Kate Yotter	Kate Yotter	Kate Yotter	Kate Yotter
Greeters./ ushers	Jack & Debbie	Terry & Cheryl	Jack & Debbie	Betty & Susan
Pre k SS (paid)	Colleen	Debbie	Colleen	Debbie
Elementary SS	Pam Sharrow	Andrea Borden	Pam Sharrow	Andrea Borden
Prayer Team	Isabel & Wade	Lisa & Stacey	Kathy & Isabel	Meghan & Marilyn
Altar Guild	Claire	Lisa	Lisa	Claire
Vestry Counters	Martha & Mike	Martha & Mike	Martha & Mike	Martha & Mike

Please sign up for coffee hour and altar flowers