

*The purpose of MMI is to disciple people for evangelism and service.*

### MMI CALENDAR

April 9	Palm Sunday
April 10	Holy Monday
April 11	Holy Tuesday
April 12	Holy Wednesday
April 13	Maundy Thursday
April 14	Good Friday
April 15	Holy Saturday
April 16	Resurrection Sunday
April 17	Easter Monday

## DEATH AND RESURRECTION

In the past few months I have spent fair amount of time pondering death and resurrection. On February 2, 2017, my son shot himself in the head with a 22-rifle because he felt shame and hurt from cyber-bullying at school. The Shawnee police department reported seven suspects, over a three day period, who used their smart phones and social media against my son.

On that day at 4:00PM I was waiting at home for my son when the middle school called and said he had been a victim of bullying and that they wanted to see us right away. My wife and I went to the middle school and they told us some of the events that had happened. When we were finished I noticed I had two missed phone calls from my son and as I walked out to my Jeep I tried to call him back but no answer. I knew then that something had happened and I raced home to find him near the back yard shed wounded and semi-conscious. I called 911 and they arrived in six minutes, and within an hour he was at the trauma center in Oklahoma City where they performed two surgeries that kept him alive.

God showed his mercy and answered our prayers, but it was not an easy miracle. We had days without food or sleep. We were angry. We were desperate. Yet, each day God revealed himself in both little and big ways – through prophetic messages, prayer filled emails, letters, cards, texts, phone calls and about 40 Free Methodist pastors who kept vigil with us. Later, when my son was in the rehab hospital, whose chaplain is a Free Methodist elder, he told the chaplain what he remembered about the event. He said, “I remember feeling anxious, afraid and in great pain, but when I saw my dad I knew everything would be okay.”

I think the resurrection is mostly about seeing the love of God in Christ Jesus and knowing everything will



be okay. During this process Superintendent Dr. Matt Whitehead, called me and we talked about the “new reality” that my family and I were facing. In the past few months it was the most helpful conversation for my walk of faith. The resurrection was a new reality. Conversion to Christ is a new reality. Living by faith in the grace of God produces new realities every day.

I believe in miracles. I believe in the grace of God. I believe in the resurrection.

## **DEATH AND RESURRECTION IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

### **A. The Gospels**

1. Matthew 27:62-28:20 – guards at the tomb
2. Mark 16:1-8 – women at the tomb
3. Mark 16:9-20 – three appearances of Jesus
4. Luke 24:1-53 – emptied tomb; Emmaus Walk; Jerusalem appearance
5. Acts 1:1-12 – last words and ascension
6. John 20 – Peter; John; Mary Magdalene; Disciples; Thomas
7. John 21 – miraculous catch of fish; meal; mission

### **B. The Writings of Paul**

1. Resurrection and Light – Ephesians 5:8-14
  - a. Light produces fruit: goodness, righteousness, truth – growth
  - b. Light helps to discern what is pleasing to God – knowledge
  - c. Light exposes that which is evil – revelation
  - d. Light begets light – transformation
  - e. Jesus Christ is the light of the world
    1. Wake up, o sleeper – awakening of our souls – we turn toward God
    2. Rise from the dead – justification of our lives – we commit to God
    3. Christ will shine on you – affirmation of our faith – we receive from God

## 2. Resurrection and Life – I Corinthians 15:1-58

- a. It is the centerpiece of the gospel – vv.1-11
- b. It is the beginning of the end – vv.12-28
- c. It is the hope we have in this world – vv.29-31
- d. It is the recreation of humanity – vv.35-44
- e. It is the Christlikeness we bear – vv.45-49
- f. It is the way we enter the next world – v.50
- g. It is the great mystery of faith – v.51
- h. It is the part of the second coming – Christ/Dead/Raised/New Body – vv.52-53
- i. It is the victory of death and the grave – vv.54-57
- j. It is the reason we stand firm – v.58

### C. Other New Testament Writings

#### 1. Acts – written by Luke; connected to Peter and Paul

- a. Peter preaching in Jerusalem – Acts 2:31-32
- b. Peter preaching at the Temple – Acts 3:14-15
- c. Peter and John at the Sanhedrin – Acts 4:10-11
- d. Stephen at the Sanhedrin – Acts 7:54-56
- e. Paul's conversion – Acts 9:1-9
- f. Ananias and Jesus – Acts 9:10-18
- g. Peter and Cornelius – Acts 10:39-43
- h. Paul in Pisidias – Acts 13:30
- i. Paul in Thessalonica – Acts 17:2-4
- j. Paul in Athens – Acts 22:31-32
- k. Paul in Jerusalem – Acts 22:1-21
- l. Paul at the Sanhedrin – Acts 23:6-8
- m. Paul before Felix – Acts 24:18-21
- n. Paul before Agrippa – Acts 26:12-19



## **SPECIAL THANK YOU'S**

During the past few months several people have done a great job in helping MMI.

- Erin Smith, MMI Oklahoma – for working very odd hours to meet hospital schedules
- Jan Ellis, MMI Indianapolis – for working odd hours to meet Erin's schedule
- Mark Whitlock, MMI President – for encouragement and support
- Rev. Dan Shinabarger, MMI Vice-President – for daily prayers
- Beth and Gary Kilgore, MMI Retired – for encouragement and support

There are hundreds of people, churches, pastors and conferences who have sent their prayers and gifts to our family. Mid-America Conference is the best! Cornerstone Church in Akron, Ohio, has become my family's favorite church. Spring Arbor University has blessed my son beyond measure. And of course, we give God all praise, honor, thanks and glory through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Grace and peace,

Dr. Jeffrey Johnson



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2016-2019

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