

Prayer Updates

HOSPITALIZATIONS & SURGERIES THIS PAST WEEK

Alex Tabag—at Stanford, Scleroderma
Don Coldwell—surgery
Andrew Carlton—detached retina surgery, Michigan
Robert Walters—back pain, great difficulty walking
Virginia Fair—still recovering from pneumonia
Dennis Earlee
Terri Cadwallader


Recent hospitalizations & surgeries:

Franklin Marshall, Jane Evers, Kary Bisagno, Leslie Douglass

Family & special needs:

Nancy Kronander—at home with family & Hospice Care

Faith Community Church Update:

 Praise God for providing affordable office space just steps away from the Rio Theatre!
We are thankful for God's perfect timing and provision that exceeds our expectations.

We want to provide pastoral support...

Please call 465-3395 when someone is hospitalized, scheduled for surgery, becomes a shut-in, or in special need. Prayer support is available through our pastors and numerous prayer groups — call 689-9400. Please pick up a Prayer Update at the Information Desk or Welcome Center.



"Seeing the Risen Christ" Easter 2006

I pray that your eyes will be focused and clear, so that you can see... the incredible greatness of his power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead! Eph. 1:18,20 (NLT)

Where can I behold the power of the risen Christ today?

1. When I'm lonely, I have the _____ of the risen Jesus
Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb... she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus... Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." John 20:1,14,15
2. When I'm afraid, I have the _____ of the risen Jesus
*On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear... Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" John 20:19
They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself!" Luke 24:37*
3. When I fail, I have the _____ of the risen Jesus
*Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, 'Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Feed my sheep.'" John 21:17
Just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. Rom. 6:4*

A Prayer for New Life

Lord, open my eyes. Help me to behold you, the resurrected Christ. I need to see with fresh eyes your power in my life: Your presence with me every day, your peace that calms my fears, and your pardon for my sins that you offer freely. And all these things are mine because you triumphed over death and are living today! As much as I understand, I commit myself now to Jesus Christ as my Lord.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Daily Meditations

Brief daily readings and questions to stimulate thinking on today's topic.

This week's memory verse: "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life." John 5:24

Monday

Read John 20:10-18. In the weekend services, you heard of Mary Magdalene's background: A loner, a woman with a past, a woman of the streets. It may sound funny to ask, but do you find you relate to her in any way?

What do you find significant about Jesus' response to her?

How does it make you feel to know that Jesus knows you and calls you by name?

Today pray to God with this truth in mind: He knows you by name, better than you know yourself! Thank Him for this! Ask Him to help you behold Him with fresh eyes as present with you at all times!

Tuesday

Read John 20:19-23. Why were the disciples afraid?

Why do you suppose the doors were locked?

Does the locked door deter Jesus?

In what ways does Jesus glide through locked doors in our world today?

What fears do you struggle with:

___ The future	___ War/terrorism	___ Violence in our cities
___ My own sin	___ My children's future	___ Death/illness
___ The economy	___ Job fears	___ Financial fears
___ Accidents	___ Other: _____	

What would Jesus say to you about your fears today? Bring each of your fears specifically to God right now in prayer. Ask to receive His peace! Ask Him to help you behold with fresh eyes His promise of resurrection!

Wednesday

This year we did not discuss Thomas in the services, but his story is worth a look. Read John 20:24-29 and Luke 24:38-48. We all struggle with doubt at times; perhaps not doubt that Jesus rose from the dead, but doubt that He will be good to you, or that He can make a difference

right now in your life. What did you learn about Jesus' response to doubt in these verses?

How does this help you in your struggle with doubt?

Remember that next weekend we begin a series designed to help those who have had their doubts fueled by recent novels and films attacking the historical claims of Christianity. Honestly evaluate your doubts right now. What evidence has God given you that you sometimes choose to ignore?

Thank God that He isn't threatened by your doubts! Thank Him for the truth of His word. Ask Him to help you see the evidence He puts around you to help you overcome your doubts.

Thursday

Read John 21:1-17. Earlier, what did Peter do when Jesus was on trial?

How many times did he do this?

How many times did Jesus reinstate Peter?

What do you think is significant about this?

What can you learn from this story about Christ's attitude toward you after you've failed?

How is this different from the way we might expect God to act toward us after our failures?

Thank God today for His grace! Ask Him to forgive you and reinstate you if you have failed Him!

Friday

Read John 11:21-27. What do you say to Jesus' question: "Do you believe this?"

What difference has your faith in the resurrected Christ made in your life?

How do you "behold" Him in your life: What evidences have you found helpful in showing friends that Christ is alive today?

Thank God today specifically for the hope of the resurrection-- be specific about what it means to you! If you have never done it before, say "yes" to Christ's question in this passage: "Do you believe this?"

Saturday

Today, just meditate on God's goodness. Spend time quietly beholding the risen, living and active Christ! Please pray for the weekend services. Thanks!