



NEW LIFE NEWS

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SCANDALOUS: THE CROSS AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS

by D.A. Carson, reviewed by Chris Sledge

Over the past thirty years, D.A. Carson has proven to be one of the church's most gifted biblical scholars and teachers. His blend of careful exegesis and sound application results in works that are consistently profound, penetrating and practical. He is also extremely prolific, having written or edited more than 50 books, with several more scheduled for release this year. He's on a short list of authors whose works I would unhesitatingly recommend. As a result, I recently bought and read Professor Carson's latest book, *Scandalous: The Cross and Resurrection of Jesus*. Carson's aim is to interpret the meaning and significance of these two foundational events. As he states in the preface, "Nothing is more central to the Bible than Jesus' death and resurrection. The entire Bible pivots on one weekend in Jerusalem about two thousand years ago." Each chapter of the book is built on the explication of a separate New Testament text.

Matthew 27:27-51. In this chapter, Carson points out the deep ironies that Matthew embeds in his narrative of the crucifixion of Jesus. For example, the one who is mocked for claiming to be a king is in fact the King of Kings. Also, while Jesus is jeered for supposedly being unable to save himself from the cross, it is only through his act of self-denial that he is able to save others.

Romans 3:21-26. In a chapter he titles "The Center of the Whole Bible," Carson begins by setting this important passage within its context in Romans, then draws out the implications of Paul's argument, including an analysis

of the concept of propitiation. It is a staggering thought that, as Carson states, "God is the one who provides the sacrifice precisely as a way of turning aside his own wrath. God the Father is thus the propitiator and the propitiated, and God the Son is the propitiation."

Revelation 12. This chapter is an illuminating study of the fascinating images John describes in this passage: a woman clothed with the sun, a male child who will rule the nations with a rod of iron, a great red dragon sweeping a third of the stars out of heaven before being thrown to earth himself, and the woman fleeing to the wilderness for 1,260 days. Carson draws out startling implications by examining the seemingly absurd way in which Christians overcome the fury of Satan by the blood of the cross and the proclamation of the gospel.

John 11:1-53. In this chapter on the raising of Lazarus, Carson points out that Jesus, after learning that Lazarus is ill, intentionally extends his stay for two days, thus leaving no doubt that Lazarus is dead. The result is a miracle of deep significance that highlights how "God works in surprising ways, and sometimes he demonstrates his love by delay." This chapter also contains an unexpected but extremely helpful illustration of the connection between Jesus and Colonel Sanders (yes, the one from Kentucky Fried Chicken).

John 20:24-31. The final chapter begins with a look at the nature of doubt and ends with an examination of Jesus' apparent rebuke of "Doubting Thomas"



for having a second-rate faith that is unable to believe without seeing. Carson soundly rejects this understanding of the text, pointing out the importance of Thomas as a witness to the resurrection and the last of a string of witnesses that John enlists in support of his purpose in writing: "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." Even though we have not seen the risen Savior, we are blessed through the testimony of one who saw and touched his risen Lord and God.

Scandalous is a blessing to read. In fewer than 170 pages, Carson uncovers some of the deep truths Scripture reveals about the implications of our Savior's death and resurrection. His ability to skillfully walk readers through complex biblical arguments is unmatched, and he illuminates Scripture with apt illustrations, delivering insightful applications that follow naturally from the text. I wholeheartedly recommend this book for reading and re-reading. If you're interested, the book is based upon a series of messages posted on-line at http://theresurgence.com/a_day_with_dr_don_conference, but don't deprive yourself of the joy of reading these messages in print. ☛

MONI FROM MALAWI

By Katie Dimwiddie

It's crazy to think that seven months have already passed since I left the states and boarded the plane for the "Warm Heart of Africa." Now, as Resurrection Day approaches I am rejoicing to think that there would be absolutely no reason for me to be here if Christ had not, over 2000 years ago, taken on human form and come into the world to save sinners. We bear the greatest news in the entire world to proclaim to the entire world because of the life, death and resurrection of our Jesus!

Over the last several months I've enjoyed the opportunities to share Jesus with and to grow closer to the students at ABC Christian Academy. The children I teach come from a variety of backgrounds and cultures. Here on the ABC campus I am mostly surrounded by kids of embassy and NGO workers, missionaries, and upper-class Malawians. In addition to teaching middle school math, this most recent school term, I was able to build relationships with the younger students as well, by offering classes in crochet, piano and tumbling. (God uses everything.)

The school is a diverse place, but one thing we all share is the need for



Jesus. God is teaching me daily to be patient with His work, not just in the hearts and lives of my students, but also in my own. This week, in celebration of and preparation for Easter, we have cut classes shorter and set aside the extra time to discuss with the students the significance of the gospel. I am sharing and leading discussions with the seventh graders. I hope and pray with expectation that God will pierce their hearts with the message of the One who was pierced for our transgressions.

Off campus God has especially been stirring my heart and opening my eyes to the great spiritual need of those in the villages. I praise God for the opportunity He gave me to go into a friend's village and distribute Chichewa Bibles to those who had never possessed a copy of God's Word. Their joy for the Bibles was one of the most

humbling and convicting things I have ever witnessed. I sometimes honestly wonder if I was blessed more by that distribution than they were.

Since then I was able to go back into that village to talk about Jesus to many of the women. I was encouraged to see some of the Bible recipients who had their Bible with them all wrapped up in plastic bags for protection. God also opened the door for me to meet with the leader of the Muslims in this village who allowed me to share the gospel with him and gratefully accepted some tracts and a Bible.

Thank you so much for your prayers and words of encouragement. Please continue to pray for Malawi, and for all nations, that God may be glorified among them. "Let all the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!" ❖

KITCHEN TIME WITH MRS. ORR

By Joy Miladin

On Saturday, March 6, a small group of young ladies gathered in the New Life kitchen for the first of a series of cooking classes taught by Andrea Orr. The purpose of these sessions goes beyond simply learning how to create wonderful dishes, but also knowing how to show prudence when planning meals and purchasing food, as well as displaying a servant's attitude when showing hospitality to others. Proverbs says, "A woman who fears the Lord is to be praised...she rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household...she perceives that her merchandise is profitable...she looks well to the ways of her household" (*Proverbs 31:30b, 15a, 18a, 27a, ESV*). Opening with prayer and this biblical reminder that God cares about our

actions, motives and heart even in the kitchen, Mrs. Orr began to instruct us on a classic dish every girl should know how to make, macaroni and cheese. Beginning with the basic skill of making a "roux," a cooked mixture of fat and flour used to thicken sauces or soups, Mrs Orr covered a variety of topics, giving advice and helpful tips along the way. We learned how to "julienne" an onion and the details of making a specialized "béchamel" sauce. Two hours flew by as we chopped, measured, stirred, and poured, laughing, talking and sharing stories as we enjoyed godly fellowship with sisters in Christ. We went home smelling like onions and cheese with the reminder that despite our new delicious recipe, our own mother's macaroni and cheese recipe would *always* be the best. ❖

THIRD TIME'S A CHARM

By Sherrene David

“Look how far we’ve come!” he exclaimed. The missions director from another LPCA church was beaming at me. “I remember that first meeting when you raised your hand and asked about what was being done for women in the churches, and the blank stares you received.” The awe of God’s leading was clear on his face. “And now look at what is happening! I am so proud of you, and I’m excited that you will be going to South Asia this summer to help start this much needed women’s ministry.” He gave me a big hug, and I thanked him for his encouragement.

This was my third trip to “Mission to the World” (MTW) headquarters, and it was the most encouraging. The first trip was exploratory as I went to learn about the church-planting work in the country of my heritage. I was left amazed at the effort being poured into training men to be pastors, elders and deacons, as well as the work in the children’s homes. As the meetings progressed, my heart sank as I waited for the topic of women in the churches to come up. It didn’t. That’s when I raised my hand.

The second trip was more familiar. I knew names and faces, and the topic of women’s ministry came up without me asking. They mentioned something about a conference in the future, but it was still uncertain. A lot of planning needed to be done.

This third time, it was my turn to share. The field leadership, knowing my heritage and seminary training, requested that I write the curriculum for this women’s conference, and asked me to give a small presentation at this meeting on my vision for women’s ministry in these fledgling churches. As I bubbled over with excitement about crafting “corner pillars” (Ps. 144:12), I could see the light bulbs turn on in the faces of my brothers. Many of them approached me afterwards with words of encouragement and prayers.

Needless to say I am shocked at the opportunities before me. It is in moments like these that I look back and relish God’s sovereignty in ordaining everything in my life, from my heritage, to that first trip to see my grandfather, to my heart for women in the church, and to the casual first trip to Atlanta. I would never have dreamed such an intricate plan for myself.

I know I’ll never be able to see the fully woven tapestry of my life, but as God weaves each strand together piece by piece, I cannot help but rejoice in His goodness. In the words of our confession, “nothing is to Him contingent or uncertain” (WCF 2:2).

Thank you for your prayers and support as I prepare for this summer. 🍷

LETTERS FROM ISRAEL MARCH 21, 2010

By David Zadok (A letter from Hadas will appear in next month’s issue)

It has been awhile since we have written to you, but you are much in our prayers and thoughts. We are thankful for your love, support and prayers on our behalf, as they are much needed. As you know, the last year has been very challenging with my brother’s sickness and then death. In addition, Eti’s mom was transferred to a geriatric centre, as she is now totally dependent. Yet despite all of this, we see His goodness and grace. Eti will graduate June 15 after three years of studying biblical counseling. This has not been an easy road, but we see the need in this area. She already has two clients she meets with on a regular basis. The girls are excelling in their studies and are growing up too fast for us to comprehend. Meidan has turned from a baby boy to a boy who will start first grade next year. We are thankful to you and CWI USA for enabling us again to come to San Diego as a family this summer. We are looking forward to seeing you all and particularly to worship our Triune God with you. See you soon, God willing, The Zadok family.

Pick up a copy of David’s latest prayer letter at the missionary bulletin board or at www.ha-gefen.org.il 🍷

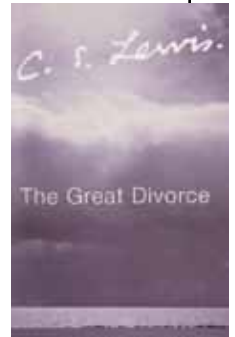
WOMEN’S BOOK CLUB

By Tina Settergren

Have you ever read a book and wondered what other Christian women thought about it? Now is the time to find out. Since summer 2007, women of the church have had a book club, which meets every three months to discuss a novel chosen by the group. There are discussion questions which can be found posted on New Life’s website at least a month before the discussion date, sometimes earlier. Most of the books are classical literature, but we have also read *Confessions*, (St. Augustine’s autobiography), *Jane Eyre*, *The Pilgrim’s Progress*, *The Good Earth*, and *The Number 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency*, to name a few.

I would like to encourage all the women of the church to participate in the book club, at least one time. If you are interested in or have always wanted to read one of the books we are reading, then strive to read that book in the given three months, which really is a long time! Even if you aren’t a big reader, you can still participate; a few women have found it easier to get the book on CD. Come along for brunch and the discussion. You don’t even have to speak, although some of the quiet people have felt comfortable enough to express their opinions. For me, it has been a blessing to listen to other women’s ideas and impressions about the text during our discussion time. It deepens and broadens our understanding of the novel and the world around us, whether we like the book or not. It is a fruitful way to spend a few hours on a Saturday morning.

Our next book club discussion is Saturday, June 12 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. The selection is *The Great Divorce* by C.S. Lewis; it is an allegorical novel about heaven and hell. Please join us and feed your body and mind. 🍷



Did You Know? Who has eaten fried alligator meat? Answer on page 4

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said..." — Matthew 28:5

A NAVY HOMEPORT CHURCH

By Tim Power

New Life has been very good for our Navy Chaplain family. When we originally drove into San Diego on Labor Day weekend 1993, we arrived late Sunday morning after staying the previous night in an El Centro motel. I can't even remember if we attended the entire morning service, but we did make it to New Life, then in Point Loma. Betsy Smith opened her home that evening to our family. John was just two, but getting really close to Sonbeam age, and Disa was just shy of five months old. After a night at Betsy's we checked into the Navy Lodge down at 32nd Street Naval Base, and I went to report aboard the Navy Cruiser, *USS Lake Champlain*. Since it was Labor Day the ship was pier side, but I was ordered not to miss ship movement the next day. Janine dropped me off at the pier the next morning, and she was alone with the kids for the rest of the week in a new city of over a million people. That was when Gordon Peterman, an elder now in the church triumphant, made a point to call and show Janine the city and possible places to live. When the ship arrived back in port on Friday Janine was so appreciative of all the love the church had shown. Our choice later that month to live in La Mesa came out of Gordon's sage direction. After that auspicious beginning New Life provided us with social/ fellowship opportunities, camping and hiking friends, deployment/ underway prayer warriors and helpers, a birth coach, baptism covenants, ministry opportunities, and do-it-yourself moving helping hands for the next two years. And although we lost touch with many families, we maintained contact with some New Life people as we moved to San Clemente and Ridgecrest, CA. Some even kept up contact after the Navy moved us to New Jersey and Virginia after 2001.

Fast forward to November 2007. While I was in Iraq the Navy suddenly



John Power in the 4's & 5's class in 1995



Power family 2010

modified my orders from an east coast base to a duty station again in San Diego. Accordingly, I moved out ahead of the family the week before Thanksgiving. The family would follow me in February of 2008. I decided on Thanksgiving morning to climb Cowles Mountain, a favorite family activity since we first lived in La Mesa. On that morning after not seeing them for around 11 years, I greeted some of the Goodhart family while hiking on the trail. Could it be that New Life would become our church home for a second time after all the years of geographical separation? Suffice it to say we felt overwhelmed with love and care from New Life as our family arrived in 2008, this time with a highschool junior half-way through the school year, and two additional children added since Genevieve was baptized in Point Loma back in 1995. Within the first month the youth group had us out to the

Kroc for broomball, other members challenged our children to audition for a local musical with them, the youngest boys were making cars with the Cadets for the upcoming night at the slot track, and we accepted our fair share of invitations to soup night. And the worship, service, activities, and deep joy haven't stopped since. Yes, God has taken care of us spiritually at every Navy homeport we've been a part of, but we are especially pleased that a Navy homeport church could welcome us back into its loving family. ☩

God judged it better to bring good out of evil than to suffer no evil to exist. —Saint Augustine



Note: The April Fool's issue will be in May this year. April Fools!