



## WHAT IS GOOD NEWS?

Having experienced the loss of my mother last week, the weight of her loss to me and my family are increasingly heavy this evening as I write. While the final days of her 101 years were filled with pain and disturbing discomfort, and while she and we called to God that he would take her home – and He did, it nonetheless brings a great sense of incompleteness, emptiness, bitterness and dissatisfaction to have lost someone so dear who sacrificed and poured themselves into her family as she did. She planted the original seeds of Christian faith and worship that have grown in our souls, minds, hearts and bodies, and she kept the faith through her last breath.

Clearly, the process of death was never meant to be. Though it is inevitable in the state of things as they are today on THIS earth, without doubt death is not natural to the love, care, and miraculous craftsmanship by which God created us. So clearly, God intended infinitely much more and better for these that He created in His image. How horrible it is that sin entered the world, subjecting us to the curse that is death, and which we mistakenly, if not naively and stubbornly, assume is the natural order of things.

These past months have brought a

season of loss of close brothers and sisters amongst us who have suffered and left this broken world and have attained rest and relief from the tears and pain of this place. Sadly, this cycle continues for now.

But in the darkness of this horrible and too closely experienced reality, I have Good News! ...HE IS RISEN!!

In the coming days we will CELEBRATE the greatest victory ever won! This is the victory of Jesus' love for mankind.

Oh, how we will celebrate! For those who believe, this victory restores the TRUE natural order of the intimate and glorifying forever relationship with our God for which He created us. This is Jesus' victory over death, through His own death for our sin, his burial and His RESURRECTION to life. As Jesus rose and took off the grave clothes on that third day, so all of mankind is offered this same opportunity to remove the clothes of death and to put on Jesus' own clothes of life, light and righteousness, because God desires to be in relationship forever with His cleansed and well-purposed people.

OH YES! In such a place of darkness and pain, THIS IS GOOD NEWS!

~ Craig Crandall

## GAME NIGHT

On March 14, the Journey class hosted a Game Night. It was a great time for many. We had 30 gamers come and have a blast. We played a variety of board games as well as a tournament of Family Feud. The best part about game night was all the fellowship that we all enjoyed.

A huge thank you to Debbie Oliver, Jessica Edholm and Shanna Lee for helping, and to Yolanda Ambrocio for donating prizes.

Fellowship events like this one are great ways to get to know others. Come check out our next event soon!

~ Lisa Cervantes



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

BLOCKED FOR PRIVACY

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

# MEN'S RETREAT

Our Men's Retreat was a fantastic opportunity for 34 men and youth of our church to get away and strengthen bonds with each other and with the Lord at Camp Jonah. The video series on "Wholehearted Discipleship" from Jeff Vanderstelt really highlighted the importance of understanding and valuing our emotions as an essential part of the way the Lord created us, as well as the necessity to pursue deep, honest relationships with the people in our lives.

Our breakout groups gave people opportunities to share with and learn from diverse demographics, both laughing and crying over the insights gleaned from the videos.

Activities such as the sunrise prayer walk, expedition into the cheese caves, and hours of floor hockey provided more chances for all to interact and connect. We look forward to seeing dividends from this weekend in the lives of attendees young and old, and pray we can find ways to continue to build on what we learned.



~ Chris Wright

## EASTER PREP



About 35 people stayed after the Convivio on March 29 to help stuff plastic eggs for our Resurrection Sunday celebration. An estimated 3,500 eggs are ready to go for kids to collect before our bilingual service. A couple hundred flyers were also distributed to our surrounding neighbors, inviting them to a free breakfast, egg hunts, and most importantly, to hear the Gospel message on April 5.

## SPRING CAMPUS CLEAN-UP

God provided a beautiful day for our Spring Campus Clean-up on Saturday, March 28, allowing for 22 of His servants to partner with Him in maintaining His blessed campus for



ministry at Wood Village Baptist Church! Older and younger men and women, youth, and entire families joined in the effort with great energy, care and love for one another, for YOU, and for our community. Much thanks to the generosity of so many who worshipped our God through the giving of their hearts, time, minds, strength, and financial resources in preparing and serving together!

~ Craig Crandall