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APRIL 2017

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

God the Great Deliverer

“Jesus said to the people who believed in him,
You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings.
And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:31-32)

When Slavery was still prominent in the south an Englishman bought a slave that was being bid high. When the slave approached him he asked, “Why would you purchase me when slavery is no longer being practiced in your own home?” He replied, “I bought you to set you free.” The slave in gratitude and joy said back to his new master, “I will be your willing slave forever.” This illustration shows us what a new life in Christ is about. When Christ died and rose again he did so to be our new deliverer. I want to examine this question “Whose slave are you?”

Isn't it interesting that the things you choose to own usually end up owning us? We buy new cars and then must work harder than ever to make the payments. We buy new homes and then must spend our weekends maintaining them. Even worse is the way our sinful behaviors come to dominate our lives. One of the cruelest consequences of sin is that it will make a slave out of you. One of the greatest benefits of redemption is that it will set you free from sin. Christ declared that His coming was to set the captives free. Only holiness theology fulfills this promise in the truest sense. A doctrine that allows a person to keep on sinning leaves them in slavery. In Romans 8:16 Paul writes, “Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.” In 2 Peter 2:19 we find the same idea, “They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity--for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.” The question we have to ask ourselves today is what or who is our master? The deep truth we find today in our illustration is that the English man bought the slave to set him free and in return the slave willing became a slave to the new owner. Paul points out that when we become slaves to righteousness then we are no longer held by the master of sin.

Life is filled with choices about whom and what we will obey. The truth is that eventually something or someone will run your life. The question is where do you fall today? Today men have become a slave to their job, their home, their spouse, their children. We find within our relationships, goals, employment, education, career, debt and marriages that all of these include the bondage of slavery. In John 8:34 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin." When a slave was set free they didn't want to return to the brutality and bondage of their

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previous life. They wanted to enjoy the freedom they received. When Christ finished his work on the cross and grave he made it possible to experience new freedom: WE WERE DELIVERED. Paul declares it in 1 Corinthians 7:22-23, "And remember, if you were a slave when the Lord called you, you are now free in the Lord. And if you were free when the Lord called you, you are now a slave of Christ. God paid a high price for you, so don't be enslaved by the world."

Three different times Paul identifies himself as a slave to Christ (Romans 1:1, Philippians 1:1, Titus 1:1).

When Paul talks about his Chains in Philippians 1:12 he uses them to identify his relationship with Christ. Paul tells us that we are either a slave to Christ or a slave to sin. You can't have Christ as Lord and be doing the work of the devil. We can't be honoring Christ with our lips but not with our hearts as described in Matthew 15:8. This comes from Isaiah 29:13, "these people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me." Christ set us free so that we could follow him, love him, and obey him completely. To atone for sin means to cover but Christ didn't just cover sin he expiated it meaning he wiped it out. Christ provides a new deliverance in that he loosed us, sets us free from the bondage of guilt and power of sin.

So we go back to the beginning question "Whose slave are you?" Job, home, debt? Or is it Christ? When these other things become our masters and consume us we neglect Christ being our master. Jesus told us we can only serve one master; we can't serve slavery to the world and sin and serve Christ. Christ came so we would serve one master, Christ. God wants balance in our lives. Anytime we are not following Christ as master and these other things take away from it, we are sinning. Following anything other than Christ leads to death. You can experience death in this life when we stray away from Christ has Lord. But we are to be slaves to Christ. Psychology seeks to explain the power of sin and attribute its continuity to some form of habit. Habits are things we don't realize we are doing. The thing about habits is that they are things we don't realize we are doing until someone points them out and then usually we react with anger and frustration towards the other person. You might think what you are doing is right. A man is a slave to whatever has mastered him. Christ died and defeated sin. He mastered over what was master. We must not be mastered but master through Jesus Christ.

Psalm 118:5, "In my distress I prayed to the Lord, and the Lord answered me and set me free."

With Love in Christ,
Pastor Jamie

P.S.

Mark your calendar now for April 16th which is our Easter Celebration. I'm excited about this time. I want and need everyone here on this special day.

SUNDAY SERVICES

Breakfast 9:00 a.m.
Pastoral Prayer 9:10 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship..... 10:35 a.m.
Children's Quizzing 5:00 p.m.
 September - April 1st Grade - 6th Grade
Pastoral Prayer..... 5:40 p.m.
Evening Worship..... 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY SERVICES

"Family Bible Study" 6:30 p.m.
 1st, 2nd, 4th & 5th Wednesday of each month

Missionary Service 6:30 p.m.
 3rd Wednesday of each month

Children's Quizzing 6:30 p.m.
 September - April 1st Grade - 6th Grade

Check out our Website and Facebook Page at www.annanaz.com



Nazarene Missions
INTERNATIONAL



Our NMI meeting was a success because of some very gracious volunteers. Carla Ramage and Verna Fuller used their creative talents to prepare items we used to make wonderful cards for Robert and Kolene Hintz. I am sure they will appreciate the thoughts and prayers in each card. These two talented ladies allowed us to create some wonderful cards and what they provided was more than I could have ever expected. On Monday, April 24th these two missionaries will be at the Marion Nazarene Church. Larry Fuller has agreed to drive the VAN. If you plan on riding with us please be at the church ready to go by 6 PM. Another volunteer presented a great lesson and I want to thank Nancy Smith for using her teaching talents to share her love and passion for missions.

The Easter Offering will be collected on Easter Sunday, April 16 which goes directly toward accomplishing the mission of the Church of the Nazarene, to make Christ-like disciples in the nations.



International Celebration of Missions is set for April 19th and our planning is well underway. These are always enjoyable times and we need you to get involved. Get together with some friends, sign up as a team and some of you might even bring “outsiders” to spice up your offerings. Each team will be given a specific world region and then you can let your imagination fly. Decorate your area, prepare food, display information about the area and the missionaries from these regions. We need one team for each region. If we have enough teams there might be some friendly competition. The world regions defined by the NMI are USA/Canada Region, Eurasia Region, Asia-Pacific Region, Mesoamerica Region, Africa Region, and South America Region.

On April 30th, we will recognize the contribution of Rev. Michael Ice. Many of you know him from the time he spent with the church. This man had a heart for Work and Witness and several trips were arranged while he was here. I would love to hear some of your memories about how this Pastor ministered to you.



Stuffed Animals

April

Samaritan’s Purse for Operation Christmas Child suggestion for April is stuffed animals. I have several stuffed animals and I believe every child should

have a minimum of one stuffed animal in their life. I have a Teddy Bear I made on a missionary trip to California and I have deemed her the traveling teddy bear. She has gone with me to Kansas, Colorado, Florida and is a constant reminder of the mission trip to California. Help the children’s department collect stuffed animals so that they can provide a stuffed animal to someone that may not have one.

#OCCSamaritanPurse

Words from someone that received a box. *“When I lifted the lid on my purple plastic shoebox, the first thing I saw was a stuffed dog. I was filled with exuberant joy! I just remember hugging it.”*—Yuliya, Central Asia

UPCOMING EVENTS



APRIL 14 AT 7:00 P.M.

JOIN US FOR OUR GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

We will be reading through the road to the Cross
Featuring, Tab Beechler

Tab is a celebrated pianist/vocalist and seasoned worship leader whose words and music have brought hope, encouragement and God's Truth to countless listeners.

GRAHAM'S EASTER EGG HUNT

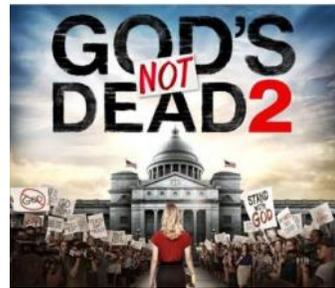
Saturday, April 15
at 10:00 a.m.



Richard & Yvonne Graham's Farm
5225 New Saratoga Road
Anna, IL

There will be a hotdog roast
following the egg hunt.

COMING SOON



MOVIE NIGHT

Date To Be Announced

EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 16



9:15 a.m.
Breakfast

9:30 a.m.
Sunday School Class
Available for Adults

10:30 a.m.
Worship Service



Easter Egg Hunt following the am
worship service

Evening Service Cancelled

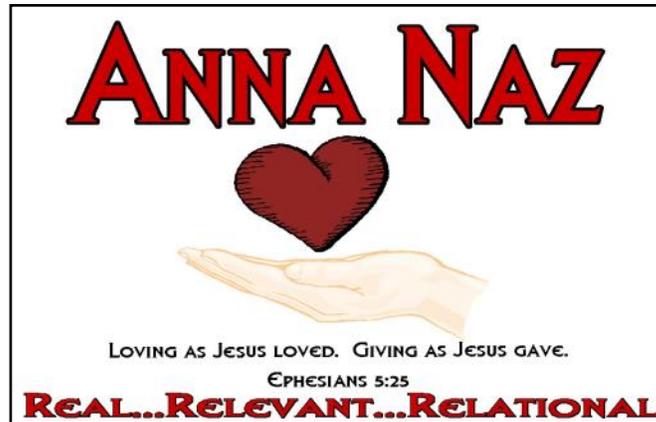
APRIL 30 AT 6:00 P.M.



*Join us for a night of fun as we celebrate birthdays,
eat food and play games.
Bring your favorite foods and games and come ready
to connect with family and friends*

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS APRIL 2		MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS APRIL 30	
Special Music:	A.M. Abby Barlow	P.M. Randy Wright & Johnathon Cauble	Special Music:
Greeters:	A.M. Chad, Am & Abram Brooks	P.M. Richard & Yvonne Graham	A.M. Jessica Elkins
Projection:	A.M. Verna Fuller	P.M. Verna Fuller	P.M. Family Connect in the Fellowship Hall
Sound:	A.M. Stanley Elkins	P.M. Stanley Elkins	Greeters:
Video:	A.M. Michael Hill	P.M. Clayton Ramage	A.M. Terry Wiseman Sr. Noah Wiseman
Ushers: Matt Macy, Curt Lyerla, Curly Ralls, Phil Ray		P.M. Family Connect in the Fellowship Hall	
Pastoral Prayer Partners: Bryan & Ginger Morrison, Kathy Papa, Leonard Sadler		Projection:	
Nursery Worker/Helper: Vonda Hill/Madison Wright		A.M. Verna Fuller	
Finance Team: Stanley & Marilyn Elkins, Dorris Johnson		P.M. Family Connect in the Fellowship Hall	
MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS APRIL 9		Sound:	
Special Music:	A.M. Patti Mulback	P.M. Judie Barnhart	A.M. Stanley Elkins
Greeters:	A.M. Kathy Papa/Lottie Smith	P.M. Leonard & Connie Sadler	P.M. Family Connect in the Fellowship Hall
Projection:	A.M. Sarah Elkins	P.M. Sarah Elkins	Video:
Sound:	A.M. Brad Clayborne	P.M. Brad Clayborne	A.M. Clayton Ramage
Video:	A.M. Michael Hill	P.M. Jason Elkins	P.M. Family Connect in the Fellowship Hall
Ushers: Darrell Mowell, Esten Parks, Jacob Wright, Dorris Johnson		Ushers:	
Pastoral Prayer Partners: Bryan & Ginger Morrison, Richard & Yvonne Graham		Matt Macy Curt Lyerla Curly Ralls Phil Ray	
Nursery Worker/Helper: Vonda Hill/Marie Mowell		Pastoral Prayer Partners:	
Finance Team: Stanley & Marilyn Elkins, Leonard Sadler		Bryan & Ginger Morrison, Kathy Papa, Leonard Sadler	
MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS APRIL 16		Nursery Worker/Helper:	
Special Music:	A.M. Tab Beechler	P.M. No Service	Vonda Hill/Madison Wright
Greeters:	A.M. Bryan & Ginger Morrison	P.M. No Service	Finance Team:
Projection:	A.M. Verna Fuller	P.M. No Service	Stanley Elkins Marilyn Elkins Dorris Johnson
Sound:	A.M. Stanley Elkins	P.M. No Service	
Video:	A.M. Michael Hill	P.M. No Service	
Ushers: Heath Brooks, T.J. Macy, Noah Wiseman, Mark Smith			
Pastoral Prayer Partners: Bryan & Ginger Morrison, Kathy Papa, Leonard Sadler			
Nursery Worker/Helper: Vonda Hill/Kerri Macy			
Finance Team: Stanley & Marilyn Elkins, Dorris Johnson			
MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS APRIL 23			
Special Music:	A.M. Harley & Madison Schnaare	P.M. Curt Lyerla	
Greeters:	A.M. Darrell & Marie Mowell	P.M. Dorris & Joyce Johnson	
Projection:	A.M. Verna Fuller	P.M. Sarah Elkins	
Sound:	A.M. Brad Clayborne	P.M. Brad Clayborne	
Video:	A.M. Jason Elkins	P.M. Clayton Ramage	
Ushers: Robert Smith, Logan Wiseman, Chad Brooks, Terry Wiseman Sr.			
Pastoral Prayer Partners: Bryan & Ginger Morrison, Richard & Yvonne Graham			
Nursery Worker/Helper: Vonda Hill/Marva Wall			
Finance Team: Stanley & Marilyn Elkins, Leonard Sadler			



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Anna First Church of the Nazarene April 2017 Activities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5 Family Bible Study 6:30 pm	6	7 Church Office Closed	8
9 PALM SUNDAY	10	11 Board Meetings Sunday School 6:15 pm Church 7 pm	12 Family Bible Study 6:30 pm	13	14 Good Friday Service Tab Beechler 7:00 pm	15 Graham Easter Egg Hunt 10 am
16 Easter Breakfast 9:15 am Worship 10:30 Egg Hunt Following Am Service	17	18	19 International Night Missionary Service 6:30 pm	20	21	22 District Children's Quizzing
23 Annual Election	24 Missionary Rally in Marion at 7 am	25	26 Family Bible Study 6:30 pm	27	28	29
						30 Fellowship Connect