



# The Communicator

## Resurrection

—Evangelist Rich Kohlman

*He lives to bless me with his love; He lives to plead for me above;*

*He lives my hungry soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.*

—“I Know That My Redeemer Lives,” verse 2, HS 274

Easter 2006 found my wife and me in Brazil with our son, daughter-in-law, and grandchild. We went to see an impressive rendition of the Passion of Christ (*Paixão de Cristo*). It was held outside with seven magnificent sets, covering an area of 70,000 square meters. The set “city” was called *Nova Jerusalem*. The crowd of thousands and the actors would move from one set to the other until we arrived at the tomb to see the Christ arise from death. It was an event we will not forget, both for its excellence and for the authentic feel it provided as Christ drag the cross down the street right past where we stood. We literally became part of the story.

Easter 2007 found us in a completely different place. World Conference was over with its stresses, long hours, and multiple meetings and responsibilities. We had come through a long process of downsizing and redesign at IHQ that brought more than enough pain for too many. We had carried double responsibilities, had experienced the death of my parents a few months before, and our emotional and physical tanks were empty. Using our floating day off,

we opted for a four-day weekend over the Easter weekend from Good Friday through Monday. We wanted to get away. I was physically and emotionally bone tired. I was too tired to even think of driving someplace much less packing. My wife asked me what I wanted to do—*and—I—didn’t—know*. One of my support persons remarked to me that perhaps therein lay the answer. Do nothing! And so we did. We slept in; we ate out; we did only what we felt like doing with no agendas.

In choosing to not attend an Easter service, I was deeply aware that what I needed most was my own resurrection rather than to celebrate Christ’s resurrection. *He lives to bless me with his love; He lives to plead for me above; He lives my hungry soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.* And so I claimed those words for my Sabbath weekend.

I was amazed at how much better I felt by Monday afternoon. My hungry soul was being fed! I felt like getting back to work and addressing the many issues that awaited. Physically I was rested and renewed. My spirit took some additional “resurrection” that involved a silent week at a spiritual retreat center the week after Thanksgiving.

What joy there is in the faithful belief of a resurrected Jesus that is there to *help in time of need, who blesses me with his love, who pleads for me*, who resurrects even me and will also resurrect you. May your Easter celebration this month be blessed by the presence of the Spirit.

*Alleluia!*

## Retreat Follow-up

We want to keep the major themes from our retreat before us as we continue the discernment process of learning what God is calling us to do. Following is a list of the major themes that arose from our dreams:

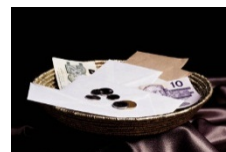
- + Personal involvement of members—outside of our walls, in the community.
- + Community involvement (broader vision within the Fort Collins area)
- + A desire for overall health of the congregation
- + Ministry to children and young people and inviting ministry from them
- + Recognition of diversity of generations
- + Sustaining and growing into being a welcoming congregation
- + A desire that our building be used in new, creative ways
- + Creative worship/celebrations
- + Willingness to listen and be reflective—without giving up the gain of knowledge in other ways
- + Willingness and desire to nurture ourselves and also move beyond ourselves

Additional information will be forthcoming as the Retreat Committee and the Leadership Council review the results of the retreat. Thanks to all of you who were able to attend.

"The central point for the Discipline of simplicity is to seek the kingdom of God and the righteousness of his kingdom first—and then everything necessary will come in its proper order."

—*Celebration of Discipline*, Richard Foster, pg. 75.

## Financial Report



### February Income

#### **World Church**

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| World Ministries | \$1,311.50        |
| Oblation         | 225.25            |
| World Hunger     | 30.25             |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>\$1,567.00</b> |

#### **Local**

|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Local Offering    | \$2,585.00         |
| Building Fund     | 25.00              |
| 2 Cents a Meal    | 91.00              |
| Family Assistance | 35.00              |
| Valentine Dinner  | 150.00             |
| Retreat           | 568.00             |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>\$ 3,454.00</b> |

## Thank You

Dear Friends,

These simple words cannot begin to convey our deep appreciation for all your acts of kindness and concern for our family. Your outpouring of love and prayers were a great source of strength that meant so much to us, especially in those early weeks after Gary's passing. Your many gifts of cards, calls, counsel, food, flowers, hugs, tears, and laughter nourished us spiritually, emotionally, and physically and made this difficult time so much easier. So many of you helped in various ways to make Gary's Memorial Service something we hold dear in our hearts.

Thank you, dear friends and loving Community of Christ. May God bless you as you continue to serve one another.

Love,

Donna, Shauna, Jared, Madison, and Bianca



## Herald-in-Every-Home Program

Our congregation participates in this program. It is paid for out of the congregation Operating Fund. If you would like to support this program and the budget, consider giving \$26.50 beyond your regular offering. Identify it as *Herald in Every Home*. Thank you. *To-date, only two contributors have responded.*

## April Birthdays



|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| Tonia Watts     | 04/01 |
| Ryder Jackson   | 04/06 |
| Dee Cable       | 04/09 |
| Angela Alton    | 04/13 |
| Gary Gordier    | 04/14 |
| Dave Simons     | 04/19 |
| Jon Higgins     | 04/21 |
| Peggy Gordier   | 04/22 |
| Cinnamon Garner | 04/23 |
| Kay Bunch       | 04/25 |
| Avery Dickie    | 04/25 |
| Bettie Miller   | 04/30 |



## Upper Room Study Group

Meets Every Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.

This open group invites people to participate in a discussion where thoughts are shared on daily meditations. We use *The Upper Room Disciplines: A Book of Daily Devotions* as our study guide. Participants enjoy an exchange of

ideas that vary from quiet, humble thoughts to creative, more expressive ideas! We listen to each other's interpretations, always with respect. Often we share personal experiences inspired by our daily devotional and scripture readings.

There is no requirement for "perfect attendance" every week; participants attend as they are able and according to their own schedules. **We've ordered a few extra 2011 books. Do you want to join us?** How about helping set up an evening group that might work for those without daytime flexibility? Contact Shari Smith, Sharon Troyer, or Rich Kohlman for more information.



## \$10 a Week Transforms Lives

—Linda L. Booth,  
*Southern USA Mission Field apostle*  
*director of Communication*

The spirit of generosity is moving throughout the church. It is an active, tangible response to God's generous grace. This spirit inspires and challenges us to continue to grow and become even more generous disciples. It is part of our call as disciples of Jesus Christ, in our roles as church members, and, for some, as priesthood.

In January and February, priesthood members in the United States are receiving an invitation from President Steve Veazey to consider increasing their giving to World Ministries by \$10 a week or more. With 16,000 priesthood members in the USA, that could mean \$8.3 million more to launch and expand ministries in our communities throughout the world. Imagine what could happen!

For many of us, \$10 might equal two lattes, one movie ticket, or lunch out with friends. That same \$10 in Bolivia, Haiti, Malawi, and

even Baltimore, Chattanooga, and Detroit, will transform lives!

Let me take this opportunity to invite each of you as disciples of Jesus Christ to consider giving at least \$10 more a week to World Ministries Mission Tithes to support God's mission throughout the world.

Join your brothers and sisters around the world in building the peaceable kingdom together.

Thank you!



## Names in the News

Carrie Newman helped out with the Musical Zoo!

Maria Swall wrote a Thumbs-up to Embassy Suites for their help with the Boys and Girls Clubs.

Alec Fronapel played on the U-11 Arsenal Gold soccer team that won the championship at the Sunbelt Classic soccer tournament.

Community of Christ was mentioned in the United Way Newsletter for our provision of space for the homeless at night.



## Speakers, Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery



### Speakers

- ❖ April 3: Shandra Newcom
- ❖ April 10: Sharon Troyer
- ❖ April 17: Dick Foster
- ❖ April 24 (Easter): Dave Simons

### Keyboard

- ❖ April 3: Jean Newman
- ❖ April 10: Tom Beck
- ❖ April 17: Sharon Fulton
- ❖ April 24: Tom Beck

### Greeters

- ❖ April: Ytell and Carrie Newman Families

### Nursery

- ❖ April 3: Peggy Gordier
- ❖ April 10: Lisa Garner
- ❖ April 17: Debbie Jones
- ❖ April 24: Marilyn Garner

"Stories can be broken. The stories we live by sometimes fall apart. They no longer adequately explain our experience or give us enough reason to get up in the morning. Even worse, we sometimes come to doubt there is any story to our lives at all. They seem plotless. We lose any sense of ourselves as characters making significant choices. We cannot imagine a meaningful outcome to events. In such cases, we need to heal our broken stories. The best cure for a broken story is another story."

—"Healing Broken Stories," *Soulful Living*, pg. 149.

## April Calendar



Check the website

<http://cofchristrm.org/FortCollins>

- Apr. 3: Communion  
First-Sunday Giving
- Apr. 4: HealthEdConnect, 6:00–7:30 p.m.
- Apr. 6: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.  
Senior Meal Site, 11:45 a.m.  
Worship Team, 7:00 p.m.
- Apr. 10: Two-Cents-a-Meal Offering
- Apr. 11: WEAVERS, 4:00–6:30 p.m.  
PFLAG, 6:45 p.m.
- Apr. 13: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.  
Senior Meal Site, 11:45 a.m.  
Prayer Shawl Group, 1:30 p.m.
- Apr. 14: Afternoon Women's Group,  
1:00 p.m.
- Apr. 17: *Communicator* items due.  
Palm Sunday
- Apr. 20: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.  
Senior Meal Site, 11:45 a.m.
- Apr. 21: Leadership Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
Maundy Thursday
- Apr. 22: Good Friday
- Apr. 24: Easter
- Apr. 27: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.  
Senior Meal Site, 11:45 a.m.

“We have to integrate our behavior with our theology in order to become people of integrity.”

—*The Road Less Traveled*, Scott Peck, pg. 209.



Come hear about church-member heroes in Africa! **HealthEd Connect**, a not-for-profit organization working closely with the church, is assisting local folks with their most pressing needs. Sub-Saharan Africa is facing the daunting challenge of caring for over 50 million orphans. Our church communities are in the middle of the struggle to cope with this alarming situation. With education identified by the caregivers as the highest priority, two community schools serving over 350 children have been established in Community of Christ churches. You will be inspired by the heroic efforts of community volunteers. Join Cherry Newcom and Jac and Sherri Kirkpatrick as they make a presentation on April 4 at the Fort Collins Congregation and April 6 at the Greenwood Village Congregation to provide an update and invite folks to join the efforts. Time for both events will be 6:00–7:30 p.m. There will be snacks! For more information about HealthEd Connect, see [www.healthedconnect.org](http://www.healthedconnect.org).



### Christmas-Tree Thanks

A great big thanks to all of you who shared your artificial trees with us during the Congregational Retreat. There was general agreement that the setting added a great deal to the atmosphere for the weekend. Now it's time for reality to set in. It would be appreciated if you could now gather your tree and tuck it away in wait for Christmas. The trees are in the Fellowship Hall. If you could remove them as soon as possible, we would be grateful. Thanks again.



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First Class  
Stamp Here

Mailing Label Here