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April 2010- homepage newsletter

When "Being Tough" Isn't Enough A Message of Hope through the Power of Resurrection

By Mike Neely

We've heard all the clichés. "Tough times don't last, tough people do." "When the going gets tough, the tough get going." Inspiring quotes, I'm sure, in their own time and place. But, what about the times when "being tough" won't work? What about the times when the tough times do last – longer than the tough person? Being tough won't bring back a loved one from the grave, or restore hope to the hopeless.

Jesus' limp body was taken from the cross and bound securely in grave wrappings and laid in a tomb of solid rock. A massive stone rolled into place with a sickening terminal thud securing the doorway. From the human vantage point the sealing of the tomb was the seal of despair. The stone's echo reverberated through the gaping caverns of death and filled the graveyard: "It is finished...over...done...the end. It is hopeless." But, in three short days, God overturns man's judgment, the opinions of the masses, and the verdict of hopelessness.

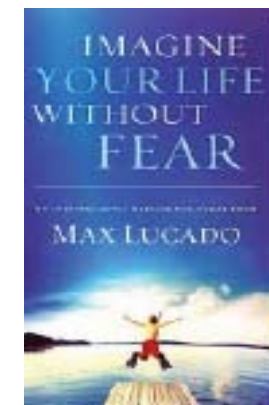
Romans 1:4 states that Jesus Christ was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead! Easter, commemorates a truth that is central to life: Hope comes through an open grave! The only one who is without hope is the one who hopes in this world alone. There is life beyond the grave, and Jesus has opened the way for any to follow in the likeness of His resurrection. Ah, but there is the impasse: A resurrection requires death.

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Easter Give-Away

Share the message and hope of the Resurrection through the Max Lucado book, "Imagine Your Life Without Fear". It is available for \$1 in the Lobby the next two Sunday mornings.

This small book presents practical faith-building insights about fearing less and trusting



"Imagine Your Life Without Fear" offers the Hope of Easter. Give copies to your friends and neighbors as you invite them to Easter Services.

God more. This Easter message is especially appropriate to share. Be sure to pick one up for yourself and grab several copies to give away. An attractive invitation card with Easter Service information is also included with a free 40 day devotional on the topic of trust.

"From Rags to Glory" Celebrating the Resurrection

Come celebrate the true story of Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection on Resurrection Morning. An inspiring morning of scripture, drama, special music and personal worship.

There are attractive Easter Service invitation cards available in the Lobby this Sunday. Share them with friends and neighbors as you invite to them Easter services.

Communion Service
7 p.m. Thursday, April 1

Easter Services
9 & 11 a.m. Sunday, April 4

All who know Jesus Christ as their Master are welcome join at the Table. Childcare is available for infants through Preschoolers. Please call the church office to RSVP by Wednesday the 31st.

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Zambia Mission (Cont. from pg. 3)

their commitment to Christ, and how anxious they are to use what they learn to serve Him.

Their plan for Diana while she was there (with her consent) was to "work her like a rented mule." She sorted donated clothing, painted, scraped and washed windows, pulled weeds, taught Lori to use the sewing machine we had taken to leave there, helped with the housework, and also taught several women and girls to make jewelry. Diana had purchased and taken jewelry making tools and supplies, and the jewelry-making will be added to the variety of ways the Bible School students earn money that helps pay for their education. They also grow much of their own food in college-owned gardens.

Please pray for this school, that it can be used to train many effective workers for God's Kingdom in southern Africa.

Being Tough (Cont. from pg. 1)

The resurrection of hope requires first the abandonment of false hope. If we are to follow in the likeness of Christ's resurrection, we must first follow in the likeness of His death.

Hope starts with the realization that we, by ourselves, are hopeless. This world, apart from Christ, is without hope. Eternal hope springs forth from the seeds planted in the death of temporal hope. There are countless applications of this truth.

- My eternal hope is secured the moment I quit hoping that I can manage my own salvation and forgiveness of sin and transfer my faith from self to Christ.
- God's vision for my life often starts with the death of my dreams.
- Genuine joy and fulfillment comes in life when I kill the desire to please myself and begin serving God and others.

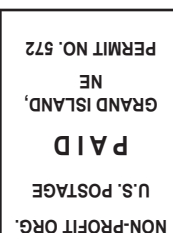
Where is your hope? When there is "no hope in the world," it is time to look beyond the world. It is time to look to eternity! If you have hoped in this life only (even if your hope has been of a religious nature) then you are to be most pitied. I pray that you will invite your friends and family to join the G.I. Free family on Easter Sunday to celebrate a hope that is out of this world!

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Grand Island
Evangelical Free Church



"A Place to Belong"

Annual Community Life Meeting and Informational Meetings

At 7 pm on Sunday, April 25 all are invited to share in the annual conversation and prayer for the upcoming season of ministry (childcare will be provided for infants - 1st graders beginning at 7:00 p.m.). Before this Annual Community Life Meeting, pick up the Informational Packets that will be available beginning April 11.

Several Informational Meetings will occur before the Community Life Meeting:

- **Budget Questions/Interaction**

5:30 pm Sunday, April 11 & 5:30 pm Tuesday, April 13 Room 108

NOTE: This is the only time for extensive conversation and line by line questions

- **Elder Candidate Interviews/Questions**

6:00 pm Sunday, April 25 Chapel

New Elder Candidates: Tim Dunagan, Lynn Rathjen, Pat Liebsack

Present Elders: Greg Epp, William Feely, Steve Morris, Lynn Wilson,

Rich VanZyl

- **Community Life Action Items for Members Include:**

- 2010-2011 Budget

(limited discussion, see Informational Meetings above)

- Election of Elder Board members, Church

- Clerk, and Financial Secretary

- First reading of a proposed Constitutional change

- Other items

Serving Globally: Zambian Mission Report

Paul & Diana Hofrichter

We have probably all heard the phrase "third world country," and going to Zambia is a chance to experience a different world. The area we were in was like reading National Geographic or watching a documentary on TV: the typical African bush country with tall grass and those rounded, top-heavy trees; round huts with grass roofs; no electricity or warm water; bugs (big ones!) and geckos and wildlife like you'd never see in Nebraska.



Diana Hofrichter teaches female students and pastors' wives how to make jewelry providing a means for earning money to fund their education

But we weren't there just to be tourists who get to see some new things. We were there to help build and run a Bible College, training national pastors to do the church work and evangelism they can do so much easier and more cost effectively than foreign missionaries could do - if they can get the training they need.

We stayed with Paul and Lori Schlick, full-time missionaries to

Zambia from our church - but not in a hut. The college is being built out of concrete blocks, and we even enjoyed indoor plumbing (just no warm water).

I (Paul) taught a class on Christian Worldview, examining various religions and philosophies, but focusing on the uniqueness and reliability of the Bible as the Word of God. My class of 12 sophomores is the initial group of students that started the college in 2009. We met for five and a half hours a day for 2 weeks. It was a joy to see their desire to learn,



Pastor Paul Hofrichter teaching sophomore classes for Zambian national pastors

Upcoming Events

April 10

JBQ District Finals, Here

April 14

Rock Solid Family Night

April 11

Baptism Services

April 15

Red Cross Blood Mobile

April 18

Talent/No Talent Show

April 25

Graduation Sunday

April 25

Elder Q & A 6:00 p.m

Annual Community Life

Meeting 7:00 pm

June 14-18

Vacation Bible School

July 23-25

All Church Campout

at Timberlake Camp

Serving the World Locally



Free Life High School students, Jesse Farrar and Jordan Lawhorne playing Bingo with residents of Tiffany Square and Primrose Retirement at the monthly service night.



Free Life Middle School students on their Winter Service Day sorted food at Hope Harbor and then said thanks to veterans at the Veterans Home.



Our church team poured the foundation on Habitat for Humanity Home #54. Volunteers are still needed to serve on Saturday, April 10.

2010 Vacation Bible School

- Vacation Bible School, June 14th-18th
- 9:00-11:30 a.m. Monday-Friday
- Program and Special Music June 20th

MEGA Sports Camp, The Great Comeback – Elementary students will learn how to rely on God to help them overcome obstacles in sports and in life. For Incoming 1st graders through incoming 6th graders

High Seas Expedition – Preschoolers will set sail for VBS fun! For 3-year-olds through incoming Kindergarteners

Approximately 175 adults and teens gave of their time last summer to help make this amazing week a success. If you would like to help out in any way, from teaching to providing snacks or helping raise the VBS tents, please call the church office (382-1898).

Registration forms will be available the first week of April. Registration is free. If you would like your child to have a VBS t-shirt, please submit your registration form and t-shirt payment to the church office by May 1st.

Emergency FYI

Planning for the Unexpected

Tornado Shelters - In the event that the Tornado Warning sirens sound, move to designated shelter areas of the building. Remain in these rooms until the "All Clear" signal.

Intruder in the Building - Armed security team members are authorized to carry concealed weapons and will respond to the intruder. Lock doors and turn off room lights. Do not leave the room until law enforcement officers show badges and release individuals from the room.

Talent/No Talent Show

Artists of all kinds are invited to share your talent with us on April 18th. If you sing, play, dance, speak, act, or anything else someone else might enjoy, please let us see and hear it! No auditions necessary - just tell Pastor Paul H. that you have something for the show, or write it on your communication card. Anything goes, as long as it's moral and respectful.