

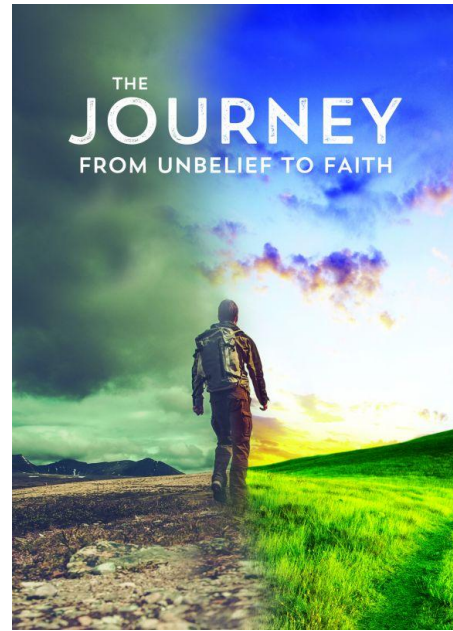


China Baptist Church
Pastor Morrell's Easter Message

This coming Sunday, March 12th, the time changes to Daylight Savings Time. The first day of spring will be on Monday the 20th. As I write this Easter Letter there is some snow on the ground from little more than a dusting this morning. In Maine we may have more snow and some stormy weather, but hope is in the air. Easter Sunday is April 16th, and Easter is a reminder of the eternal hope that we have as Christians.

As a pastor I have had to walk to death's door with a number of people. I have tried to remind them of the hope that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Christians believe that the resurrection of Jesus assures us of our future resurrection. In 1 Corinthians chapter 15 we read: *"But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep."* The word *firstfruits* means a foretaste or a glimpse of what is to come. Now, we don't know exactly what all that will mean, but we do know that this world is not all there is. In chapter 2 verse 9 Paul says *"However, as it is written: 'What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived' -- the things God has prepared for those who love him--."*

The Easter hope is for those who have called upon Him. The familiar verse John 3:16 reads: *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* Do you believe in Him, have you called upon Him, *"....Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* (Romans 10:13)



For our Lenten Study this year we are viewing and having a discussion on the testimonies of some folks who have "called upon the Lord." They are drawn from the back stories of four very different individuals, *The Journey from Unbelief to Faith* shows God at work in the world. Regardless of our troubled pasts, entrenched beliefs, willful antagonisms, or pre-conceived notions, God can cut through our callous exteriors, making a shambles of the self-deluding facades we erect to keep Him out.

We will be continuing the studies Sunday March 12, 19 and 26 at 6:00 p.m. in the Vestry Fellowship Hall. Join us for the accounts of coming to faith in Jesus Christ.

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: John 11:25



Easter always comes close to the end of our church fiscal year and it seems we need to almost always ask for a generous Easter Offering. This year is no exception. Even though giving has been up this year the Executive Council had to make a decision the first of the fiscal year to temporarily not take money from the church's invested funds. Therefore we have gotten behind and this will most likely contribute to the deficit. We are hoping for an upturn in the economy and for our investments to increase in value, but in the meantime we need to try and make up for the shortage in our current expenses.

Please consider a very liberal Easter Offering. Easter plants are not a fundraiser as we only ask you to pay for what the plants cost us and the offering is a separate matter.

China Baptist Church
www.chinabaptist.org - 207-968-2120
Post Office Box 6095
China Village, Maine 04926-0095
Email: cbaptist@fairpoint.net



The Lenten Season

Second Sunday in Lent

March 12

Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Lenten Series 6 p.m.

The Fellowship Hall

Third Sunday in Lent

March 19

Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Lenten Series 6 p.m.

The Fellowship Hall

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 26

Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Lenten Series 6 p.m.

The Fellowship Hall

Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 2

Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday

April 9

Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday

April 13

Communion Service 7 p.m.

The Upper Room

Easter Sunday Morning

April 16

Sunrise Service 6 a.m.

Easter Breakfast

following the Sunrise service

Easter Morning Celebration

10:30 a.m.