



OAK GROVE ENCOURAGER

“And let us consider one another in order to
stir up love and good works” Hebrews 10:24

OCTOBER 1, 2006

It's empty!

Little Philip, born with Down's syndrome, attended a third-grade Sunday School class with several eight-year-old boys and girls. Typical of that age, the children did not readily accept Philip with his differences, according to an article in leadership magazine. But because of a creative teacher, they began to care about Philip and accept him as part of the group, though not fully.

The Sunday after Easter the teacher brought L'eggs pantyhose containers, the kind that look like large eggs. Each receiving one, the children were told to go outside on that lovely spring day, find some symbol for new life, and put it in the egg-like container. Back in the classroom, they would share their new-life symbols, opening the containers one by one in surprise fashion. After running about

the church property in wild confusion, the students returned to the classroom and placed the containers on the table. Surrounded by the children, the teacher began to open them one by one. After each one, whether a flower, butterfly, or leaf, the class would ooh and ahh.

Then one was opened, revealing nothing inside. The children exclaimed, That's stupid. That's not fair. Somebody didn't do their assignment."

Philip spoke up, "That's mine."

"Philip, you don't ever do things right!" the student retorted. "There's nothing there!"

"I did so do it," Philip insisted. "I did do it. It's empty. the tomb was empty!"

Silence followed. From then on Philip became a full member of the class. He died not long afterward from an infection most normal children would have shrugged off. At the funeral this class of eight-year-olds marched up to the altar not with flowers, but with their Sunday school teacher, each to lay on it an empty pantyhose egg.

Source Unknown.

Life After Death

By Bruce Dehut

There are many theories concerning the state of man after his time on this earth. Let's explore what the scriptures have to say about the matter. God has breathed life into each and everyone one of us, and that element of a person will return to our Maker. *Ecclesiastes 12:7 Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.* The theory of evolution contends that mankind is no

different than the animals. But here again the Bible speaks very clearly on this subject. *Ecclesiastes 3:21 Who knows the spirit of the sons of men, which goes upward, and the spirit of the animal, which goes down to the earth?* Indeed, the spirit of man is far different than that of animals because we are created in the image of God (*Genesis 1:26*).

Another theory contends that there is no existence after this physical life. One religious group of Jesus' time had the same idea but the Lord quickly dispelled that notion; *Matthew 22:31-32 "But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, 32 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living."* In answering the Sadducees, Jesus reiterated what God had spoken to His servant Moses. This statement by God gives credence to the fact that some part of man is alive beyond the confines of this earth.

Finally, what about reincarnation? Are we destined to be recycled back to earth until we get it right? *Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.*

Keep in mind, we all have this one precious life to do our Father's bidding and we will be judged accordingly. *2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

Oak Grove church of Christ
9203 Thixton Lane
Louisville, KY 40291

Oak Grove Church of Christ

(502) 749-9209

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 AM
Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
Evening Worship: 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class: 7:30 PM

Evangelist:

Bruce J. Dehut
Home Bible Studies Available
Upon Request

Order of the Events of the Resurrection

- Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome start for the tomb, Lk 23:55-24:1
- They find the stone rolled away, Lk 24:2-9
- Mary Magdalene goes to tell the disciples, Jn 20:1-2
- Mary, the mother of James, draws near and sees the angel, Mt 28:1-2
- She goes back to meet the other women following with spices
- Meanwhile Peter and John arrive, look in and depart, Jn 20:3-10
- Mary Magdalene returns weeping, sees two angels, then Jesus, Jn 20:11-18
- The risen Christ bids her tell the disciples, Jn 20:17-18
- Mary (mother of James) meanwhile returns with the women, Lk 24:1-4
- They return and see the two angels, Lk 24:5; Mk 16:5
- They also hear the angel's message, Mt 28:6-8
- On their way to find the disciples, they are met by the risen Christ, Mt 28:9-10

Post-resurrection Appearances

- To Mary Magdalene Jn 20:14-18; Mk 16:9
- To the women returning from the tomb Mt 28:8-10
- To Peter later in the day Lk 24:34; 1 Cor 15:5
- To the disciples going to Emmaus in the evening Lk 24:13-31
- To the apostles (except Thomas) Lk 24:36-45; Jn 20:19-24
- To the apostles a week later (Thomas present) Jn 20:24-29
- In Galilee to the seven by the Lake of Tiberias Jn 21:1-23
- In Galilee on a mountain to the apostles and 500 believers 1 Cor 15:6
- At Jerusalem and Bethany again to James 1 Cor 15:7
- At Olivet and the ascension Acts 1:3-12
- To Paul near Damascus Acts 9:3-6; 1 Cor 15:8
- To Stephen outside Jerusalem Acts 7:55
- To Paul in the temple Acts 22:17-21; 23:11
- To John on Patmos Rev 1:10-19

The New Unger's Bible Handbook

Stop and Smell the Roses

Bible study on God's blessings
By Allan E. McNabb

Some years ago, I was driving through beautiful mountains. The person with me lived in the mountains in which we were traveling, and I asked, "What is it like to live in a beautiful place?"

The answer surprised me, as he explained how he had got used to living in the mountains — he didn't pay attention anymore.

Pay Attention

Since that day, I've been careful. I try to stay out of the trap of ignoring God's blessings. I try to pay attention to the good things around me, and smell the roses.

When we are aware of God's blessings in our life, it helps us in many ways.

Be Thankful

When we stop and smell the roses, we're reminded of God's blessings. We think about the good things God is doing in our lives, rather than our troubles. We view life from a glass-half-full perspective, rather than a glass-half-empty perspective.

Our thankfulness is then reflected in our prayers, as well as every aspect of our life. We "rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks" (1 Th. 5:16-18).

Be Positive

A positive attitude results from smelling the roses.

If anyone had a reason to have a negative attitude, it was the apostle Paul. He had been in prison, beaten, scourged, beaten with rods, stoned, shipwrecked, and poor. But through all this, he remained positive — he focused on good

things rather than bad things.

Paul had "learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need" (Phil. 4:12). "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me," he proclaimed to the Philippians, and everyone who observed his life (Phil. 4:13).

Paul's attitude was, "God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God" (Rom. 8:28). Paul knew that God used everything in his life for good, even when suffering greatly for the cause of Christ.

Our challenge is to believe in God, that He works all things together for good to those who love Him — no matter what happens.

Enjoy Life

God is the One from whom all our blessings come — "Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights" (James 1:17).

As the giver of all our blessings, God teaches us to enjoy them while doing good — "Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share" (1 Tim. 6:17-18).

Smell the Roses

So we should stop and smell the roses, paying attention to God's many blessings in our life. This will help us be thankful and positive people, enjoying life as God's children.

When's the last time you stopped and smelled the roses?

THE LORD'S DAY PRIVILEGE LIST

Sunday Morning Service

Announcements: **Brandon Yates**

Song Leader: **Brian Shepherd**

Opening Prayer: **Chuck Sharp**

Lord's Table: **Bill Milliner
Jr. Stout
Jr. Alford
Chris Runner**

Scripture Reading: **David Shepherd**

Sermon: **Bruce Dehut**

Closing Prayer: **Kenny Case**

Sunday Evening Service

Announcements: **Brandon Yates**

Song Leader: **Brian Shepherd**

Opening Prayer: **Larry Runner**

Song Service

Lord's Table: **Bill Milliner**

Closing Prayer: **Jim Phelps**