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**GOD**

# Good News

Volume XVI, Issue 3

April 2006

As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so *is* good news  
from a far country.

Proverbs 25:25

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**G**reetings in the wonderful name of  
Jesus Christ.

A last week when the Christian World celebrated the resurrection of our lord and savior Jesus Christ I thought about what I would teach on that day. I know that we can never tire of the traditional readings of the events of that time and the significance of it all. But I wanted to look at something a little different.

It was by one man, Adam, that we lost it all. And it was by one man, Jesus Christ, that we received all of God's blessings back. But can the single life of other individuals also have great impact and meaning? At some point I think everyone asks, "Do I matter, do I count?"

So I started looking at the events surrounding the resurrection and the people involved and I found some wonderful insight that I wanted to share.

The time period of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ was the most important 3 days in the history of mankind. It was the completion of a promise God gave in Genesis to redeem mankind.

So this being such a monumental time in history you would think that the people involved would have been some of the most powerful, most recognized, most important people of the day—but let's see.

The first person I want to look at is Joseph of Arimathae, who the scriptures say was simply "Jesus' disciple". Just a disciple, not even one of the twelve. This was a remarkable man, because he was one of the only ones recorded that truly believed Christ would get up. He asked Pilate for the body of Christ, after he died

on the cross and then wrapped the body in a cloth and placed it without proper burial in a tomb which he had prepared for this occasion. Then he covered the tomb with a stone and waited. He didn't do the normal ritual of burial with spices and oils because he knew Christ would get up. Here is a man whose life certainly mattered.

Three days later Mary Magdalene, who had been a prostitute and a woman who had been possessed of evil spirits showed up. This seemingly unimportant woman came to the tomb with others to do a proper burial. When they saw the empty tomb they told the others, but after everyone left not knowing what was happening, she stayed around. Then Christ made himself known to her. As far as we know she was the first person he revealed himself to after the resurrection. Christ chose this person who the world would have put perhaps last on the list of important people, but she was chosen to see him first. Her life mattered.

Then we see two men, not of the twelve apostles, not of the leadership of the Jews at the time, not from the Roman authorities—just two men. Two men walking on the road to Emmaus and Christ appears and teaches them about himself from the scriptures in the Old Testament. They then went back and told others.

So during some of the most important days in the history of mankind, God picks ordinary, common, seemingly unimportant people to play major roles in the resurrection of Christ because their lives mattered.

Each of us matter, each of us count, as members of the Body of Christ we all have very important roles to play and contributions to

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make. Even a single kind and loving act can have great impact on someone's life. It's not the amount of things we do, nor is it the importance that someone may attach to them. Every time we walk as one who belongs to God, every time we live the life that God has given us, we matter. Every time we speak God's Word, every time we encourage with love, every time we pray for someone or something, we matter.

So let your life shine and know that nothing you do is insignificant and that every day your life matters.

In His love,

### Coming Events:

- The joyous return of our lord and savior Jesus Christ
- Men's Conference 2006 in March or April
- Christian Business Conference Late Spring

### CD Classes

#### God Wants You to Prosper Foundational Class

I have put my original class "Understanding Prosperity" on CD and it is available at [www.Godwantsyoutoproper.com](http://www.Godwantsyoutoproper.com) or you can write for an order form at

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Oro Valley, AZ 85737

#### "Stories for Joshua "

We now have Volumes 1-5 available to order with more coming in late spring or early summer. Each CD is \$18 plus \$3.95 shipping for each order, if ordered separately. For now, the Joshua CD as well as the Prosperity in the New Economy CD can be ordered online

at: [www.goodnewspublications.com](http://www.goodnewspublications.com)

This site will be changed soon with more information and more options.

### Psalm 23—A Closer Walk with Thee

This is a 6 CD class and workbook revealing the hidden treasures of Psalm 23. This study has taught me so much about our relationship with our heavenly Father and how He takes care of us in such a loving and wonderful way.

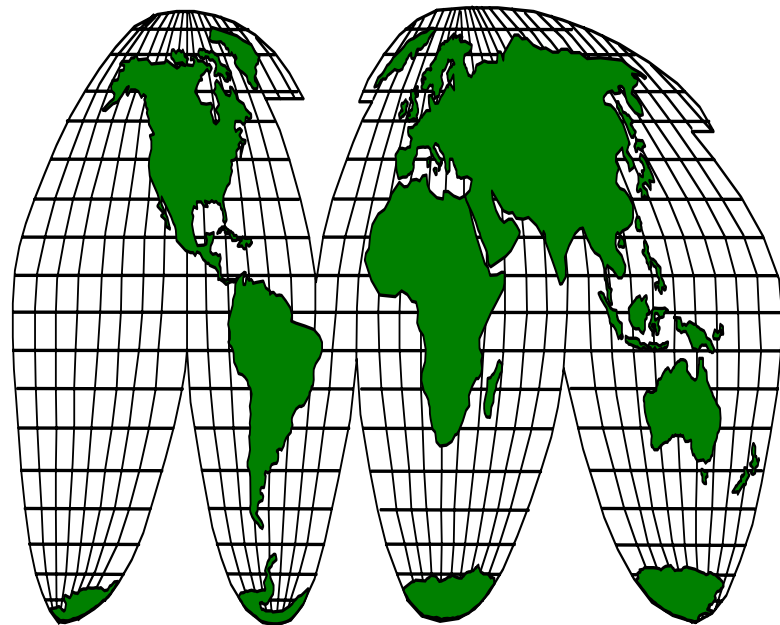
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**God**

# *A Word from the Oasis*



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## **Partnership with God: Part 1**

II Corinthians 6:1:

We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.

This is the New Testament reference about being in a partnership with God, but most people think it only pertains to “ministry work”. God has wanted a partnership with His creation for a long time.

In the Book of Malachi God told them to bring the offerings in and then He said, “And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.” That certainly sounds like a partnership to me.

What about God’s partnership with Abraham to leave his home land and start a new nation? God was with Abraham at every turn.

What about the partnership that God had with Noah in the building of the ark? God stood by his side for years as they worked on that project.

What about the dealings that God had with Jacob when he went to get a wife? God was there working hand in hand and every time Laban tried to change the deal, God changed the blessing so that Jacob came out on top. Jacob had promised God earlier that whatever God blessed him with he would give 10%—that started the partnership.

We could talk about Joseph, Daniel, Paul and many, many more. The key to all of these partnerships was first that they stayed in constant communication and secondly that they were honest with God about what was going on. Most people don’t really talk to God and certainly not in an open and honest way.

God wants to be a partner with us in all of life and that starts with an open and honest connection.

## **Partnership with God: Part 2**

The second stage of this partnership with God has to do with “Trust”.

It’s easy for people to say that they trust God but that trust must be backed up by action. It becomes uneasy for some because this trust usually involves moving into the unknown.

Now here is the interesting part, I think instead of calling it the “unknown” it should be called the “unrealized” or “not yet manifested”. God has told us the outcome with His written promises, so the end result is not unknown, it is simply unrealized.

Exodus 3:16 and 17:

Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say unto them, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared unto me, saying, I have surely visited you, and seen that which is done to you in Egypt:

And I have said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt unto the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, unto a land flowing with milk and honey.

The Promised Land was not the “unknown” it was simply the “unrealized”. In this partnership all they had to do was trust that what God had said, He would do and that was to take them to the Promised Land.

As we keep our eyes focused on the reality of the promises of God and trust Him to bring them to pass, we walk in our partnership with Him and receive the manifestation of those promises.

### **Partnership with God: Part 3**

This third stage of the partnership is one that people have the most problems with—this part is balance. They either want it to be all God or all them.

Those who want it to be all God are just afraid to believe in themselves and do not yet know how to blend their actions with trusting God.

Those who want it to be all them still have God in a box and want Him to stay a “Sunday” God and live the “Church on Sunday, Work on Monday” concept and keep it separate.

There is a good example in I Samuel 14 with Jonathan, King Saul’s son. Israel was once again at war with the Philistines and King Saul was frozen in fear. He sat under a pomegranate tree doing nothing while his enemy made ready.

Jonathan was tired of waiting around and decided it was time to start working with God to get something done.

I Samuel 14:6:

And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the LORD will work for us: for there is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few.

His plan was to start taking action but not all on his own. He had a balanced plan of going out to the enemy and then looking to God to see what the next step was and how they would move from there.

He was going to show the Philistines where he was and then he told the young man with him, “...if they say thus, Come up unto us; then we will go up: for the Lord hath delivered them into our hand: and this shall be a sign unto us.”

That is exactly what they did and the two of them, with God’s help, turned the tide of the battle.

Our partnership with God is a walk of balance. We talk openly and honestly with God, trusting His promises even before they are realized and maintain the balance of our action and God’s blessing to get the job done.

### **Partnership with God: Part 4**

The fourth stage of our partnership with God is recognition and this stage has two parts to it.

The first part of recognition is to stay humble and the second part is to stay thankful.

Under the first part of staying humble there are also two things to remember: God is the senior partner and recognizing the greatness of His power and ability to do.

Hezekiah stayed humble in his partnership with God recognizing Him as the senior partner in Isaiah 37. When Hezekiah received a threatening letter from his enemy, the king when straight into the temple and laid the letter out before God and said, “Look what they are trying to do to us.” Hezekiah took the threat to his senior partner and asked what to do. God sent him the answer and they worked together to get it done.

The second part of this humility is the recognition of God’s ability and power to do anything. Jesus Christ demonstrated this when went to raise Lazarus from the dead. Christ recognized God’s ability to give a man life who had been dead for four days and who was starting to rot. Working together with God, Christ spoke the command and God restored Lazarus and brought him forth.

Now when it comes to the second part of recognition which is thankfulness, let’s look at two parts of that thinking. The first is to be thankful that God in the One Who carries the load for us. Knowing that God will be our protector and provider and that we don’t have to do all that on our own. This gives us confidence and peace in our lives.

The second part to this is to recognize His personal care for us. He has said that He will never leave us and never forsake us. How many partners in the world can say that? As soon as there is any sign of trouble they are gone in a heartbeat. But time and time again we see God telling us that we need not worry about our relationship with Him. He promises He will take individual care for us all the days of our life.

So our partnership starts with a constant connection with our God, then our trust, then maintaining a balance in our walk and finally recognition of His power and ability and thankfulness for all He does. That’s our partnership with God.