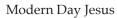
Holding It All Together

by Amy McCollom



What if Jesus was born in 1989 instead of 2000 years ago? What if he lived among us, healing the sick, proclaiming the gospel, opening blinded eyes, and pointing out sin? What if he had followers that would die for him? What if you could pull up YouTube and watch videos of great revivals where thousands of people were converted into followers in a single day?

Imagine the controversy, the news media, the fake news. Yes, they would dig up the fact that he was born in a barn, had an unwed mother, was raised by a step-dad, and was a strange child. Perhaps they would label him extraordinary or an idiotsavant. Magic, mystic, fraud. Doctors would weigh in on his powers. They would want to test him, scan his brain, and he would have no part of it, thus furthering the skepticism.

Jesus did everything in love and light, but the world is a dark place so it did not recognize that. Love and light is foreign to a dark and unloving world.

It would be the same today, I'm afraid. Yes, Jesus would gain followers, for once you really meet and touch Jesus,

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Greg Hoskins, publisher

you ARE changed. But those who don't get close enough to know him will not be changed, and Jesus will be a stranger to them, an outsider sent to mess up the current flow of the dark world.

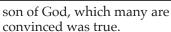
If Jesus lived in modern times he would suffer the same way, and he would be crucified. Perhaps not on a cross, but in every other way possible, and he would die an innocent man, free of any sin. But rest assured, he would also rise up from the grave in 3 days, and live again, for death cannot defeat the Son

I can imagine the outrage after his death; the riots, the chanting, the t-shirts with his picture and a slogan, perhaps: Say His Name - JESUS!

His obituary might read: Jesus Christ, 33, Tuscola, died on Friday while in police custody, details are pending. His mother, Mary, survives. Jesus was a carpenter by trade, and a teacher, leader, and evangelist to thousands. His ministry travels over the last 3 years have taken him thousands of miles on foot where he performed many documented miracles and healings. He preached prophecies of a coming Kingdom of God and also claimed to be the

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A graveside service was planned for Sunday, but has been postponed, as the grave has been evacuated unexpectedly. Donations can be made to his mother Mary in lieu of flowers or to your local church in Jesus's name.

So what do you think? If Jesus had walked among us today would you have become a follower? Would you have been drawn to him or thought him crazy? The only way to know for sure if Jesus is the real deal is to get close enough to touch him. You need to get to know him. Good thing he left the Holy Ghost behind to be here for us. Jesus said, "I will not leave you comfortless, I must go, but I will send my

Cont. pg. 4



With Tony Hooker

So, God made a farmer-Paul Harvey

And on the 8th day, God looked down on his planned paradise and said, "I need a caretaker." So, God made a

God said, "I need somebody willing to get up before dawn, milk cows, work all day in the fields, milk cows again, eat supper and then go to town and stay past midnight at a meeting of the school board." So, God made a farmer.

"I need somebody with arms strong enough to rustle a calf and yet gentle enough to deliver his own grandchild. Somebody to call hogs, tame cantankerous machinery, come home hungry, have to wait for lunch until his wife's done feeding visiting ladies and tell the ladies to be sure and come back real soon

Weekly Whispers

- and mean it." So, God made a farmer.

God said, "I need somebody willing to sit up all night with a newborn colt. And watch it die. Then dry his eyes and say, 'Maybe next year.' I need somebody who can shape an ax handle from a persimmon sprout, shoe a horse with a hunk of car tire, who can make harness out of haywire, feed sacks and shoe scraps. And who, planting time and harvest season, will finish his forty-hour week by Tuesday noon, then, pain'n from 'tractor back,' put in another seventy-two hours." So, God made a farmer.

God had to have somebody willing to ride the ruts at double speed to get the hay in ahead of the rain clouds and yet stop in mid-field and race to help when he sees the first smoke from a neighbor's place. So, God made a farmer.

God said, "I need some-

body strong enough to clear trees and heave bails, yet gentle enough to tame lambs and wean pigs and tend the pink-combed pullets, who will stop his mower for an hour to splint the broken leg of a meadow lark. It had to be somebody who'd plow deep and straight and not cut corners. Somebody to seed, weed, feed, breed and rake and disc and plow and plant and tie the fleece and strain the milk and replenish the self-feeder and finish a hard week's work with a five-mile drive to church.

'Somebody who'd bale a family together with the soft strong bonds of sharing, who would laugh and then sigh, and then reply, with smiling eyes, when his son says he wants to spend his life 'doing what dad does." So, God made a farmer.

Pastor Stahl's Weekly Message of Faith

We are currently in Holy Week, the defining week in all of world history. For in that week, the Lord Jesus Himself Gave up His Life for each of us. He took our sins, yours and mine, and bore them in his Body on the Cross. All because of His Great Love for us.

The week began with Palm Sunday. Jesus Came into Jerusalem to the praise of the crowd, who were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!" Five days later, however, many of the same people were shouting, "Crucify Him! Give us Barabbas!" Popularity can be fleeting. One minute you're on top of the world, the next your name is mud.

Jesus didn't let the mood of the crowd stop Him from doing what He came to do. He told His disciples many times that the Son of Man would go to Jerusalem, be beaten, crucified and buried. And then

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on the Third Day, He would Rise from the dead. But the disciples seemed to have a veil over their eyes and over their hearts. They didn't understand what He meant. By that cold Friday afternoon, all of them had deserted Jesus at the Cross, leaving only a few women who stood by as the Lord endured unbelievable pain and agony. Yet, there was no hatred in His Heart, only Love. "Forgive them Father, for they know not what they

do." (Luke 23:34) After Jesus Died on Friday, He was buried in the tomb, just as He predicted.

On Sunday morning, many of those same women came to the tomb to finish preparing Jesus' Body for burial. But when they got there, they discovered that the rock covering the entrance to the tomb had been moved, and the grave was empty! What had happened? Jesus had Risen from the dead, just as He had predicted. The women were met by an angel who told them, "You seek Jesus, Who was crucified. He is not here, for He Is Risen! Come, see the place

Today is a New Day! HE IS RISEN! Someday, we shall behold Him, coming back to

Thanks be to God!

Countryside and Ogden United Methodist Churches

where He lay." (Mark 16:6)

Happy Easter to all of you! Pastor Jeff Stahl

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sion Catholic Edition 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,

7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human

8 he humbled himself and became obedient to the point the name that is above every

10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

9 Therefore God also highly

exalted him and gave him

11 and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the

The Catholic Charities Community Advisory Board of Champaign & Piatt Counties invites you to attend the

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Tickets are \$35/person

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We look forward to seeing you at the dinner!

Jamie Morse, Advertising/Editorial jamie@thetuscolajournal.com Published every Wednesday Distributed free to the communities of Sidney, Philo, Broadlands, Homer, Allerton, Longview Pesotum and Tolono

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390 CR 2400E, Broadlands (217) 834-3289 Pastor Rev. John Sharp Sunday Schedule Service - 9 a.m. Sunday school and Bible classes - 10:15 a.m. (Aug. - June) Adult Bible Study Wednesdays - 9 a.m. (Aug. - June) Men's Bible Breakfast - 7:30 a.m. Second and Fourth Saturdays (Lincoln Street Lounge) •Youth Group • Sewing Circle • Men's Club •

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