



I AM THIRSTY

By John Kester, Pastor

John 19:28 Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty."

I don't know how Jesus said it. I don't know if it was a whisper or a gasp. What I do know is that after enduring a beating, after having his hands and feet penetrated by the dull Roman nails, after hanging for hours in the fierce Judean heat, John records a single word falling from the lips of Jesus. Dipsao. Thirsty.

For those who had witnessed previous crucifixions, this cry was nothing new. One of the hideous side effects of being crucified was intense thirst. The combination of the heat and loss of blood produced a desperate longing for a cool drink. Jesus was no different than those who had experienced this torture before him. He knew the burning desire for just a sip of water to cool his parched throat. If you ever wondered if Jesus was really a man, if God in the flesh really knew what it meant to suffer, this single word confirms it. Thirsty.

But I wonder if the magnitude of this solitary cry was lost on those who heard it. The same Gospel writer who records this word from the cross was also the one who told a story about Jesus and a woman who he met at a well and asked for a drink. In that story, Jesus said **"If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." ... whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.**" In one of the great ironies of all time, the one who can take away our thirst forever became thirsty as he hung upon the cross.

It occurs to me that just as Jesus used physical thirst to talk about spiritual reality with the woman at the well, perhaps his cry on the cross did more than demonstrate his humanity. I want to suggest to you today that this single word from the cross carried deeper meaning. I think Jesus' thirst on the cross was not just for water, but for the very presence of God. The Psalmist wrote, **"As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God."** (Psalm 42:1-2)

As Jesus hung on the cross, his greatest agony was not in the indignities done to his physical body. It was not the bloody stripes on his back from the whip. It was not the bruises from the beating administered by the guards. It was not the wrenching pain of the nails in his feet and his hands. It wasn't from the crown of thorns on his brow. It was not even the fiery thirst of his parched throat. The greatest agony Jesus experienced on the cross was the separation from God caused by our sin. Like a desperate man struggling to survive a desert crossing longs for water, Jesus, with the weight of my sins upon him, thirsted for the familiar presence of God.

Dipsao. Thirsty. This single word speaks volumes about the sacrifice that Jesus made to carry my sin so that I might live. He became thirsty so I would never have to thirst again. He sacrificed not just his body, but he sacrificed the blessing of God's presence so that my sins would be forgiven. I think thirsty is a pretty remarkable word. It speaks of Jesus' love for me.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS APRIL 2010



All events are at the church building unless otherwise noted.

* Indicates an article is elsewhere in this newsletter.

- April 2 – Good Friday 6:30pm*
- April 4 – Easter Sunday 8:30am Early Service and 10:30am Service with Cantata*
- April 8, 15, 22, 29 – Bible Study 1:00pm
- April 9-10 – Minnesota Christian Convention*
- April 11 – Monthly Building Offering
- April 11 – Elders Meeting*
- April 13 – Dorcas Fellowship 1:30pm*
- April 13 – Church Board meeting 7:30pm*
- April 18 – Pine Haven camp manager, Tay Odor with us to share about Pine Haven*
- April 22 – May newsletter articles due
- April 24 – “Heart to Heart” distribution
- April 26 – Deadline to reserve your space for May 7 Crossroads Dream Banquet

COMING IN MAY

- May 7 – Crossroads College Dream Banquet Rochester, MN. Reservations due by April 26*
- May 8 – Commencement at Crossroads College
- May 9 – Mother’s Day
- May 13-15 – Pine Haven Christian Assembly Work Weekend
- May 17-20 – Crossroads College Prime Timers on Campus, Rochester, MN
- May 29-31 – Pine Haven Christian Assembly Fishing Weekend*
- May 31 – Memorial Day



EASTER SERVICE TIMES

- April 2 – Good Friday Service at 6:30pm
- April 4 – Easter Sunday
 - Early Service at 8:30am
 - Breakfast at 9:30am
 - Regular Worship with Choir at 10:30am

CHURCH BOARD MEETING

Members of the church board will meet on Tuesday, April 13 at 7:30pm at the church.

Minnesota Christian Convention

April 9-10, 2010
Rochester, Minnesota

Adults & Children Sessions at Kahler Grand Hotel
Teen Sessions at Hope Summit Christian Church
For more information go to www.mnconvention.org

ADULT CONVENTION

Kahler Grand Hotel

LESSONS FROM THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

Ben Cacharias, Adult Sessions Speaker
Friday night: *Find Peace When Life is Stressful*
Sat morning: *Seize Joy When Life is Sad*
Sat afternoon: *Cling to Jesus When Life Sucks You In*

TEEN CONVENTION

Hope Summit Christian Church at 1315 6th Ave SE

GIVE IT UP

GIVING UP YOUR LIFE AND LIVING IT FOR CHRIST

Danny Curry, Teen Sessions Speaker



CONGRATULATIONS!

Lance and Janice Fahning were married on Saturday, March 13, 2010 at our church.

WELCOME & CONGRATULATIONS!

On Sunday, March 7, Kathy Eager was baptized into Jesus. We welcome Kathy into our Cleveland Church family. Pray for her growth in Christ.



DORCAS FELLOWSHIP

After taking the winter months off, the Dorcas Ladies will resume their monthly gatherings at the church beginning Tuesday, April 13 at 1:30pm.

ELDERS MEETING

The Elders will meet on Sunday, April 11 directly after the morning worship service.

BIRTHDAYS: April 2- Donna Polenske; 4- Caleb Dickie; 5- Calissa Guentzel; 6- Tony Dittrich, Sherm Rupe; 7- Brenda Davis, Jenni Schmidt; 8- Carter Pribyl; 9- Marshall Heldberg; 13- Kim Wobbrock; 16- Jeff Jaster; 18- Wally Krenik, Gab Schettler, Glory Schettler; 19- Dan Christensen, Ryan Nelson; 23- Brianna Christensen, Simba Nyamutora, son of missionary in India; 24- Lisa Sprague; 25- Larry Filter, Brandon Koppelman; 28- Jim Schmidt; 29- Kelly Esser; 31- Emily Phillips

ANNIVERSARIES: April 7- Graydon & Ellen Dickie; 16- Tim & Amy Ellickson; 23- David & Sheila Phillips



PINE HAVEN CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY

"The future of the church depends on young people preparing themselves for leadership in the church. Decisions are made for full-time Christian service at Pine Haven. Do everything possible to get your young people there..." 63 years ago Don Lawrence wrote these words in promotion of a week of camp at Pine Haven Christian Assembly. Time has passed, but the mission of Pine Haven to disciple young people in Christ remains at the core of her mission. We delight in partnering with Pine Haven in challenging young people in their walk with Christ. Last year we sent nearly 30 campers to Pine Haven as well as a number of faculty members. We look forward to another summer of life changing adventure at Pine Haven.

Tay Odor, Pine Haven camp manager, will be with us Sunday, April 18, to present the work and ministry of the camp.

PHCA 2010 CAMP SCHEDULE

Based on grades going into Fall 2010
Cleveland is in Zone A

May 13-15	Work Weekend
May 29-31	Fishing Weekend
June 13-19	11th & 12th Grade
June 20-26	9th & 10th Grade (Zone A)
June 27-Jul 2	Family Week
July 2-4	Ladies Retreat
July 16-18	Adult Weekend
July 25-31	7th & 8th Grade (Zone A)
Aug 8-11	4th Grade
Aug 12-15	Family Weekend
Aug 15-20	5th & 6th Grade (Zone A)
Aug 20-22	Motorcycle Weekend
Sept 3-6	Last Chance Camp
Sept 9-12	Scrapbook Weekend 1
Sept 16-19	Scrapbook Weekend 2

PINE HAVEN FISHING CAMP

Memorial Day Weekend!

May 29, 30, and 31

With Early Worm start May 28 after 3pm

Novice and experienced fishermen and women welcomed. Days will consist mainly of fellowship and fishing.



Camp Deans & Fishing Enthusiasts:

Bob Wetmore 507-644-2020 or
507-430-3988 or awfun@redred.com
and Dwight Hollingsworth 507-430-2102



Dream Banquet '10
Friday, May 7, 2010
Rochester Int'l Event Center

Special Guest Speaker – Mr. John Foppe
Silent Auction and Refreshments 5:30 - 6:30pm
Dinner and Program 7:00pm

This is a free event, but registration is required.
Deadline is April 26 to reserve your space.

Call 800-456-7651 or
email smoreland@crossroadscollege.edu

FREE CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION

We will be hosting our third annual free clothing distribution on Saturday, May 15, 9am-1pm. Please drop off good quality used clothing at the church beginning May 8 and through May 14. Children's clothing is especially needed. Clothing can be placed in the small classroom next to the nursery (Room 1). Please contact Mary Howells if you are willing to set up, organize or help distribute the clothing.



DID YOU KNOW...

- 26 teens participated in the 30-Hour Famine and raised \$500+ to fight world hunger
- Nancy & Herb Weber's grandson, Pvt E2 Zachary Lantz, graduated from Basic Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.
- Vacation Bible School is planned for August 1-5

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Prayer Chain: clchurchprayer@live.com

OUR HEAD: Jesus Christ
PASTOR: John Kester
CHURCH SECRETARY: Lisa Koppelman

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m. – Bible Classes for all ages
10:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time
10:30 a.m. – Worship Service