

E M M A N U E L

# Life

March 2016 Edition

Leonardo da Vinci paints

# THE LAST SUPPER

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## THANKS TO THE BOLL WEEVIL

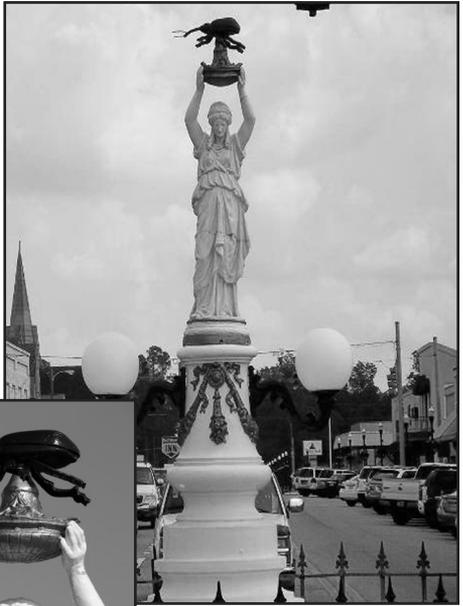
Farmers in southern Alabama were accustomed to planting one crop every year - cotton. However, trouble was coming. In 1915, a pest called the boll weevil appeared in Alabama

Some of the farmers mortgaged their homes and planted cotton again, hoping for a good harvest. But as the cotton began to grow, the insect came back and destroyed the whole crop, wiping out most of the farms.

The few who survived those years of the boll weevil decided to experiment the third year. They planted something they'd never planted before - peanuts. And peanuts proved so hardy and the market proved so ravenous for peanuts that the farmers who survived the first two years reaped profits that enabled them to pay off all their debts. They planted peanuts from then on and prospered greatly.

Then you know what those farmers did? They spent some of their new wealth to erect a monument to the boll weevil in the town square. After all, if it hadn't been for the boll weevil, they would never have discovered peanuts. They learned that even in the middle of disaster good things can come.

Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).



We all go through times of trouble. Sometimes, the problems come thick and fast and we wonder if we will ever come out of it all. However, in the midst of trouble, we often find God. When times are hard, we start looking for answers, and looking for help. The apostle Peter said, "Cast all your cares on Him because He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

The Bible also says, "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). Ask Jesus to come into your life today, He will give you the strength to go through all the trials of life.

## PRAYER SAVES FAMILY FROM SUICIDE

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Kumar, a Christian in South India, was upset because none of the 13 people he had invited came to watch a Billy Graham evangelistic broadcast at his home on December 23rd, 2006. He began to pray, and around 9 p.m. he felt God compelling him to invite his wife's sister's family to watch the next night's broadcast. Immediately he set about to contact them.

It wasn't easy. His sister-in-law's family had no phone, so Kumar had to call their neighbour and plead with him to go and bring them to the phone for an urgent message. When his brother-in-law, Satish, reached the phone, Kumar asked him and his family to catch a bus to his city as soon as possible. Satish said he had no money. Kumar encouraged him to borrow the money and said that he would reimburse Satish for the tickets.

Satish consented, and at 4 a.m. he and his family boarded a bus for the long trip to Kumar's house. They

arrived at 5 p.m., and an hour later they watched the My Hope telecast from the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Afterward, Kumar told his own story and asked if the others wanted to put their faith in Jesus Christ. They were all looking at one another, and Kumar wondered what they were thinking. Then Satish, noticeably distressed, stood and explained that he had lost his job because the tea factory that he worked for had closed. Further, the company was demanding that the family vacate their company-owned house. Seeing no hope, the family had decided that on December 25 they were all going to commit suicide.

Now they saw that through Jesus there is hope, and they prayed with Kumar to accept Christ. Satish said he felt like a new man, and, after staying several more days with Kumar, the family returned home ready to face the future with Christ.

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“God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.”

- Saint Augustine

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Sometimes it can seem that there is no hope, no future. The prophet Jeremiah said, “I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11). God knows your life and Jesus died that you might be set free from sin and live a new life.

# PRAYING TO THE GOD WHO HUNG ON A CROSS

Journalist Ellen Vaughn retells a gripping story of how the good news of Jesus came to a small village in Cambodia. In September, 1999, Pastor Tuy Seng traveled to Kampong Thom Province in northern Cambodia. Throughout that isolated area, most villagers had cast their lot with Buddhism or spiritism. Christianity was virtually unheard of.

But much to Seng's surprise, when he arrived in one small, rural village the people warmly embraced him and his message about Jesus. When he asked the villagers about their openness to the Gospel, an old woman shuffled forward, bowed, and grasped Seng's hands as she said, "We have been waiting for you for twenty years." And then she told him the story of the mysterious God who had hung on the cross.

In the 1970s the Khmer Rouge, the brutal, Communist-led regime,

took over Cambodia, destroying everything in its path. When the soldiers finally descended on this rural, northern village in 1979, they immediately rounded up the villagers and forced them to start digging their own graves. After the villagers had finished digging, they prepared themselves to die. Some screamed to Buddha, others screamed to demon spirits or to their ancestors.

One of the women started to cry for help based on a childhood memory - a story her mother told her about a God who had hung on a cross. The woman prayed to that unknown God on a cross. Surely, if this God had known suffering, he would have compassion on their plight.

"The entire plan for the future has its key in the resurrection."

- Billy Graham

Suddenly, her solitary cry became one great wail as the entire village started praying to the God who had



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...from page 4 *Praying to the God who hung on the cross*

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suffered and hung on a cross. As they continued facing their own graves, the wailing slowly turned to a quiet crying. There was an eerie silence in the muggy jungle air. Slowly, as they dared to turn around and face their captors, they discovered that the soldiers were gone.

As the old woman finished telling this story, she told Pastor Seng that ever since that humid day from 20 years ago the villagers had been waiting for someone to come and share the

rest of the story about the God who had hung on a cross.

Jesus suffered and died that we might be set free. As we cry out to Him, and put our trust in Him, even if we don't necessarily fully understand who Jesus is and what He did for us - Jesus meets our need and makes Himself known. Whatever you find yourself going through, Jesus knows and understands and is there waiting to meet your need.



## THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS (FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE)

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On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'"

Then they remembered his words.

# LEONARDO DA VINCI PAINTS THE LAST SUPPER



When Leonardo da Vinci was forty-three years old, the Duke Ludovico of Milan commissioned him to paint the dramatic scene of Jesus' last supper with his disciples, as part of a plan of renovations to the Convent of Santa Maria dell Grazie in Milan. Working slowly and giving meticulous care to details, he spent three years on the assignment. He grouped the disciples into three's, two groups on either side of the central figure of Christ.

However, not long before he started the project, Leonardo had a violent argument with a fellow painter. Leonardo was so bitter that he was determined to paint the face of his enemy, the other artist, into the face of Judas, and so take his revenge by handing the man down in infamy and scorn to succeeding generations. The face of Judas was, therefore, one of the first he finished. And everyone could easily recognize it as the face of the painter with whom he had quarreled.

But when he came to paint the face of Christ, he could make no progress. Something seemed to be stopping him, holding him back, frustrating

his best efforts. Finally he came to the conclusion that the thing that was frustrating him was that he had painted the face of his enemy onto the face of Judas. He repented of what he had done and repainted the face of Judas, removing the face of the other artist. He was then able to finish his work on the face of Jesus and this time did it with the success that the ages have acclaimed.

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“There would be no Christmas if there was no Easter.”

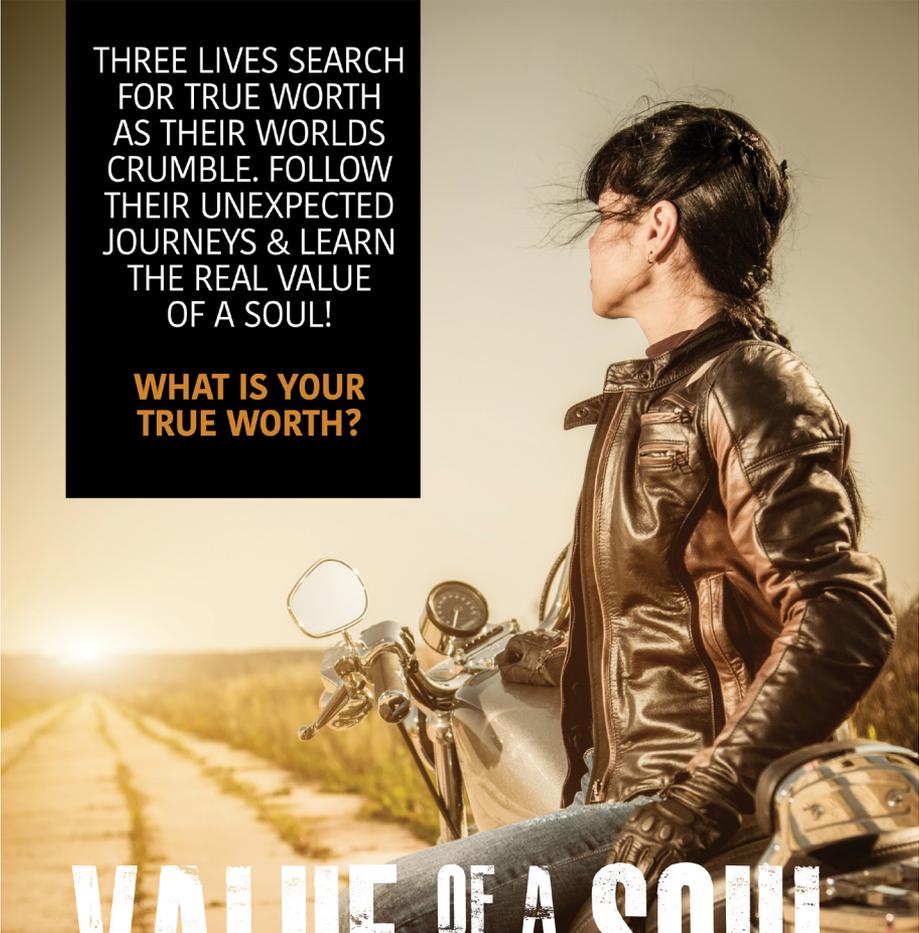
- **Gordon B. Hinckley**

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DaVinci had to deal with the bitterness in his heart and the unforgiveness he was holding against the other painter. At Easter time we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus. In dying Jesus cried out, “Father forgive them, for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34). When we come to Jesus, and put our trust in Him, we receive that forgiveness for our own sins, and God places His Holy Spirit within us. It is that Spirit that enables us to forgive and love others the way that Christ forgives and loves us.

THREE LIVES SEARCH  
FOR TRUE WORTH  
AS THEIR WORLDS  
CRUMBLE. FOLLOW  
THEIR UNEXPECTED  
JOURNEYS & LEARN  
THE REAL VALUE  
OF A SOUL!

**WHAT IS YOUR  
TRUE WORTH?**



**VALUE OF A SOUL**

**FILM & CONCERT**

A FILM FROM THE BILLY GRAHAM ASSOCIATION

**THURSDAY MARCH 24th | 7pm**

\*LIMITED SEATING\*

REGENT THEATRE | 224 MAIN ST., PICTON

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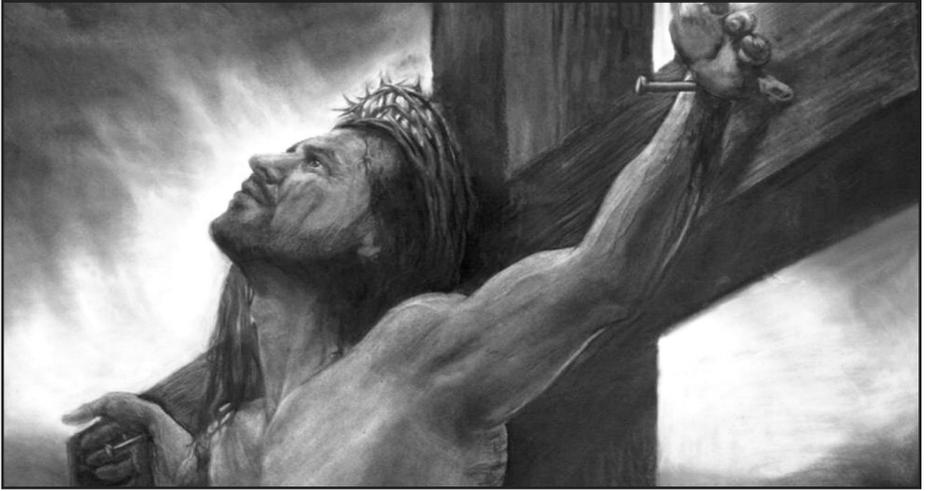
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**MY  
HOPE**

Simply Sharing Jesus.

# THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS

## (FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE)



Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to the crowd again. But they kept shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

For the third time he spoke to them: “Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him.”

But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. So Pilate decided to grant their demand. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will.

As the soldiers led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A large number

of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him...

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

“There is more evidence that Jesus rose from the dead than there is that Julius Ceasar ever lived or that Alexander the Great died at the age of thirty-three.”

- Billy Graham

# A VOICE TO SHOUT WITH!



Margaret Sangster Phippen wrote that in the mid-1950's her father, the famous British minister W.E. Sangster, began to notice some uneasiness in his throat and a dragging in his leg. When he went to the doctor, he found that he had an incurable disease that caused progressive muscular atrophy. His muscles would gradually waste away, his voice would fail, and his throat would soon become unable to swallow.

Sangster threw himself into his work in the British home missions, figuring he could still write and he would have even more time for prayer.

"Let me stay in the struggle Lord," he pleaded. "I don't mind if I can no longer be a general, but give me just a regiment to lead." He wrote articles and books, and helped organize prayer cells throughout England.

"I'm only in the kindergarten of suffering," he told people who pitied him. Gradually Sangster's legs became useless. His voice went completely.

But he could still hold a pen, shakily.

On Easter morning, 1959, just a few weeks before he died, he wrote a letter to his daughter. In it, he said, "It is terrible to wake up on Easter morning and have no voice to shout, "He is risen!" - but it would be still more terrible to have a voice and not want to shout."

**"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"**

- John 11:25-26

**"The moment someone chooses to trust in Jesus Christ, his sins are wiped away, and he is adopted into God's family. That individual is set apart as a child of God, with a sacred purpose." - Charles Stanley**

## THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

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The southernmost point of Africa is a point which for centuries has experienced tremendous storms. For years no one really knew what lay beyond that cape, for no ship attempting to round that point had ever returned to tell the tale. Ancient people called it the 'Cape of Storms,' and for good reason.

But then a Portuguese explorer in the sixteenth century, Vasco De Gama, successfully sailed around that very point and found beyond the wild raging storms, a great calm sea, and beyond that, the shores of India. So the name of the cape was changed from the 'Cape of Storms' to the 'Cape of Good Hope.'

Until Jesus Christ rose from the dead, death had been the cape of storms upon which all hopes of life beyond had been wrecked. No one really knew what lay beyond that point until, on Easter morning, Jesus rose from the dead and then ascended to heaven - having previously told us,

"I go to prepare a place for you, and I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am! (John 14:3). Suddenly, like those ancient explorers, we can see beyond the storm to the hope of heaven and eternal life with the Father.

More than that, as we put our trust in Jesus Christ as our Saviour, we come to experience new life right here and now - Jesus brings a hope into our lives that is like no other. Peter, one of Jesus' disciples expresses this in one of his letters, where he writes, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3)



# Coming Up

## at Emmanuel Baptist Church

### Value of a Soul Film & Concert

*Thursday, March 24th | 7:00pm.* Located at the Regent Theatre, 224 Main Street, Picton. Join us as we present Value of a Soul; a film that showcases three lives searching for true worth as their worlds crumble. Follow their unexpected journeys as Franklin Graham addresses the real value of the soul. This special multi-media presentation includes a live concert. All Welcome! Free Admission! \*Limited Seating\*

### Amazing Grace - Easter Sunday

*Sunday, March 27th | 9:00am & 11:00am.* Multi-Media. Special Music. An inspiring walk through of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Emmanuel Kids (JK to grade 5) program will take place during both services.

## Regular Events at Emmanuel

### SUNDAYS

**Morning Service** (Full children's programs)

**9AM | 11AM**

**Evening Service/Bible Study**

**7PM**

### WEDNESDAYS

**Bible Study**

**1:30PM**

**DVD Small Group Study.** Dinner Included.

**6:30 - 8PM**

Visit [emmanuelife.com](http://emmanuelife.com) for more information on current study.

**Emmanuel Kids** (JK to Grade 5)

**6:30 - 8PM**

**Fusion** (Grades 6-8)

**6:30 - 8PM**

### THURSDAYS

**Surge** (Youth - Grades 9-12)

**7 - 9PM**

Hangout, have fun, make friends, and learn about God.

**Real Life Young Adults** (Age 18-25ish)

**7 - 9PM**

We look into God's word, build each other up and seek after REAL LIFE.



For more information, visit [emmanuelife.com](http://emmanuelife.com).

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## UNSUBSCRIBE

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# STEPS TO PEACE WITH GOD

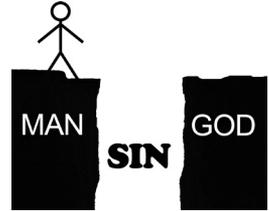
## God's Purpose: Peace and Life

God is the Master Artist. He created the universe and everything in it, and made us so we could have fellowship with Him. God loves us and wants us to experience His peace and life - abundant life in this world and eternity with God.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." - John 3:16

**The Problem:** Separation from God  
God created us in His own image to have everlasting life. When we choose to disobey God, going our own way and not His, this is sin, and separates us from God.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."  
- Romans 3:23

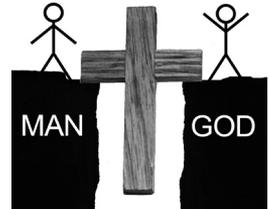


## God's Bridge to Himself:

### The Cross of Jesus

Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose from the grave. He paid the penalty for our sin and bridged the gap between God and people.

"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me.'"  
- John 14:6



## Our Response:

### Receiving Jesus Christ as Saviour

We must trust Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and invite Him into our life. When we do, He comes into us through His Holy Spirit.

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and fellowship with him, and he with me." - Rev 3:20

## How You Can Know Jesus Today

- Admit your need for Him.
- Be willing to turn from your sins.
- Believe that Jesus died for you on the cross and rose from the grave.
- Invite Jesus to come in and control your life through the Holy Spirit.

## How to Pray:

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins. I want to turn from my sins. I now invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as Lord and Saviour.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

If you prayed that prayer, give me a call - I would like to give you some materials to help you come to know Jesus better.