



Newsletter

APRIL - 2022

Greetings!

A Major Revelation for Pastor Michael

I never thought it would happen, yet it did! I didn't expect it, I was actually blindsided by what happened and I really needed to tell you about it. You see, I've talked about it for so many years, actually it's been a lifetime of hatred for me. You may not realize the aversion, in fact, the hatred I have for celery. It's disgusting and gross. At least I thought it was.

And then I tasted it again and to my total amazement, it was GOOD. It wasn't just good, it was GREAT! I even asked for more. I dipped it in buffalo ranch dressing, then put a little peanut butter on it. I ate it in some chicken soup. It filled me and I rejoiced!

I was shocked, as maybe you are right now as you read these words. Can you believe the change in me? I feel like a new man.

You may not realize it, but today is April Fools Day, and I'm really, really joking. I still despise celery. OK, had to have a little fun.

What's not a joke is what Jesus came to do for you and I. This month we're moving towards Good Friday and Easter. These are monumental days on our Christian calendar. Without these 2 days we are truly totally lost. We should no longer be

blindsided by the power of Good Friday and Easter. We should be wanting more and more of Jesus. To be changed more and more by the name that is above every name, by the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Jesus paid the price for us. He is the One who completes us. It's not my wife, as amazing as she is, but it's Jesus who completes me because I now have everything I need for this life and the life that is yet to come.

Too many people see Jesus and you and I as an extension of Him as a joke. But this is no joke. This is serious JOY! It's time to say thank you! Thank you, Jesus! Thank you for coming, living, dying and living again for me!

Friends, be ready, be prepared to open your heart, spirit and mind to the power of the Holy Spirit. Embrace the power of God's grace and mercy! Exalt in it! For on that day, April 17, Easter, we proclaim "CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY!!" And my friends that is no joke!!

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Michael

NEWS AND EVENTS

ALEX COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

**BREAKFAST
GAMES/CRAFTS
EGG HUNT-TODDLER TO 6TH GRADE
AND MORE**

**PRE-REGISTER AT alexnazarene.org
TO BE ENTERED INTO A DRAWING**

**Saturday, April 16th
10 AM - 12 PM
@ Alex Nazarene
1401 S. Harrison**

We are collecting individually wrapped candy and small prizes for Easter eggs.
Please place them in the collection barrel in the hall outside the sanctuary.
Deadline is April 10th. Thank you!

EASTER PARTY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



The Alexandria Community Easter Party is on Saturday, April 16th at the Church of the Nazarene from 10:00am to 12:00pm.

If you would like to help, please click [HERE](#) to sign up and let us know what you would like to do! Thank you so much!

S.A.L.T. SOCIETY



The S.A.L.T. Society (Seasoned Adults Learning Together) met in March for the first time in over 8 years! About 25 people ate together and shared prayer concerns and praises. This group will meet on the third Tuesday of each month. The next event is Tuesday, April 19th. It is a pitch-in, so if you'd like to attend, please bring your favorite dish. They would love to have you!



Attention all students graduating from high school, college, or technology school! Please give your information (school/open house) to the secretary's office or Pastor Michael.

You may call the church office or email information to

alexfbsecretary@gmail.com. Deadline is May 1st for the church bulletin. Senior recognition Sunday is May 8th. (Please wear your cap and gown that day.)



ATTENTION SOFTBALL PLAYERS!

It's been a few years since our church played in the Madison County Church Softball League, but this year we plan to field a team! If you are interested in playing this year, please contact Eric Prophet at ericprophet@gmail.com. This is a men's league, but women are welcome to play as well! Here are the important details:

- Games will begin **May 23rd**. There will be 7 regular season 7-inning double-headers with a tournament to follow. Games begin at 6:30pm.
- Each participant is required to sign a waiver acknowledging that they are playing at their own risk. Anyone playing who is under 18 years of age must have a signed parental waiver. Kids under 15 are not recommended to play, but are allowed to with parental consent and signed waiver.
- The league organizer says he hopes that most games will be played at Bethany Christian Church near Highland High School. Some games will be played at other fields in Anderson.
- If you have a friend that would like to play with us, they are welcome to do so!

TESTIMONY

From Kevin Thompson

Eric sent out an email recently asking if anyone in the church leadership wanted to submit something for the newsletter. I was thinking, "a short testimony might be a good addition to the newsletter." Not everyone has the opportunity to give a testimony, and some might not be comfortable speaking in public, but everyone

probably has a story that would be an inspiration to others. Below is one of my stories from my medical journey over the last two years. Let me set the scene for you.

I had a major surgery to remove a tumor in the spring of 2020. I was expected to be in ICU for two days and due to complications, I was in ICU for three weeks. During the third week, my lungs would fill up with fluid every day and the doctors would have to perform scopes to clean out my lungs. In addition to the scopes, I was also given breathing treatments every four hours. By this time, my speaking ability was about two or three words at a time before I would have to stop and take another breath, my lungs being weak. There was one respiratory therapist who came in, performed the breathing treatment, and as she was getting her equipment ready to leave, she must have said something nice because I reached out over the bed frame with my hand to thank her. She grabbed onto my hand and said, "Baby, let's just pray about it," and she prayed for me and my recovery. We had not spoken very much, she didn't know anything about me, but she knew my medical condition, she saw the same monitors above my head that everyone who came in my room would see, look at and frown, and she knew she had more to offer me than just her medical expertise. She had Jesus.

I have always wanted to tell this story, not just as a story of something that happened to me, but a story that might inspire others. When your spouse or kids are asking something of you, when those at work are asking something of you, when someone on social media is asking something of you, please remember the example of my respiratory therapist, and no matter what you give, always give Jesus.

SERVICES



Sunday

10:30am: Worship Celebration

2:00-4:00pm: Impact (grades 7-12)

Tuesday

7:00pm: Ladies Zoom Bible Study
with Debbie Deutsch

Wednesday

6:30-7:30pm:

High Point (grades K-3)

Crew 456 (grades 4-6)

Impact (grades 7-12)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A LIFE OF INTEGRITY

Abel Mutai, a Kenyan runner competing in a grueling international cross-country race, was mere yards from victory - his lead secure. Confused by the course's

signage and thinking he'd already crossed the finish line, however, Mutai stopped short. The Spanish runner in second place, Ivan Fernandez Anaya, saw Mutai's mistake. Rather than take advantage and bolt past for the win, however, he caught up to Mutai, put out his arm and guided Mutai forward to a gold-medal win. When reporters asked Anaya why he purposefully lost the race, he insisted that Mutai deserved the win, not him. "What would be the merit of my victory? What would be the honor of that medal? What would my mom think of that?" As one report put it: "Anaya chose honesty over victory."

Proverbs says that those who desire to live honestly, who want their lives to display faithfulness and authenticity, make choices based on what's true rather than what's expedient. "The integrity of the upright guides them" (11:3). This commitment to integrity isn't only the *right* way to live, but it also offers *abetter* life. The proverb continues: "But the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity" (v.3). In the long run, dishonesty never pays.

If we abandon our integrity, short term "wins" actually yield defeat. But when fidelity and truthfulness shape us in God's power, we slowly become people of deep character who lead genuinely good lives.

- Winn Collier

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