

ARKANSAS SUPPLEMENT



Timothy J. "T.J." Henwood, KCT, Editor
P. O. Box 6681, Sherwood, AR. 72124-6681
Phone: (501) 723-8333 E-Mail: chiknstik@gmail.com
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He IS Alive!

Rev S.K. Steven G. Tiner, Grand Prelate

Easter is the central drama in the Christian faith. The early church was not founded around the teachings of a great leader or the imitation of His life of self-sacrifice and service. The central symbol of Christianity is the empty tomb.

Easter remembers and celebrates this unique event. But the invitation of Easter is more than a historical remembrance. Our celebration of Easter looks backwards to that empty tomb, but it also encourages us to look inward to all the possibilities of new beginnings in ourselves. The great hope of Easter is that everywhere there is death, there is the possibility of new life.

Jesus told the disciples to see the scars in His hands where the nails had pierced His flesh and put their hands in His side where the spear had left a gaping wound. This was not a specter or phantom, but the real person who was dead and now was alive.

I can tell you all about the life and death of Gautama Buddha, the enlightened one, who began Buddhism. Why, in the Buddhist works, they tell about his death. He ate too much pork one night and he died. They buried him. There's no word about a resurrection of Buddha.

I can tell you the same thing about Confucius - his disciples, his life, and his death, how and where he was buried.

I can tell you the same thing about Mohammed. We hear so much about Islam and the Arabic world today and so many Muslims are committed. They are religious people. And yet, Mohammed died. It's an historical fact. No Moslem points to a grave and says, "it's empty – Mohammed is not there."

The uniqueness of the claim of Jesus Christ is that on the third day He was raised from the dead and when you visit Jerusalem today, you're not shown the tomb of Jesus. You're shown an empty tomb – open, empty, God's validation of the truth of Jesus Christ.

2,000 years has not been able to prove that Jesus Christ did not raise from the dead. In fact, the Apostle Paul, some thirty years after His resurrection, wrote the church at Corinth and said, "500 people, many of whom are still alive, saw the resurrected Christ." That means many of them were young people, teenagers. Paul said, "it's a fact. More than half of them are still alive, who saw the risen Christ."

See conclusion on facing page, in box.

**R.: E.: Grand Commander
Burt F. Lee**



Greetings, Sir Knights:

I would like to thank all of the Sir Knights of Arkansas for electing me, and giving me this opportunity to serve as your Grand Commander for 2009-2010. I consider it an honor and a privilege and I'm looking forward to a good and prosperous year.

Burt Lee
Grand Commander, 2009-2010

Sir Knights: Look for news and pictures from the Grand Sessions in the May issue. National publication deadline did not allow for delay of sending this issue as in past years. Editor.

Grand Commander's Easter Response

As Christmas is celebrating Jesus' birth, Easter is celebrating Jesus' victory over death and mankind's hope to eternal life.

The highlights behind the Easter story include Jesus' execution, His burial and, most importantly, His rising from death.

Before his death, Jesus had promised eternal life to those who followed Him. If the story ended at His death, Jesus would have been no more than a religious figure with a finite life span. But the fact that

Jesus rose from death demonstrated He has the power over death, and only through Him can people have hope for eternal life. Jesus said, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal Life" (John 3:16).

Let us not forget that we are not only Knights Templar, but Christians for the entire world to see.

May the Lord keep and bless you.
Fraternally,
Burt F. Lee
R. E. Grand Commander

Alive, Conclusion

Because of His death and resurrection, we believe that death is never the end. This same, real, resurrected Jesus is with us bringing the hope that life can be renewed.

There are many ways that we experience death besides physical death. There is the death of a relationship, career, long-held hopes, even the death of faith.

But the good news of Easter is that God is at work in our lives, bringing life – both new and renewed. Open your self to the possibilities of Easter. As the Apostle Paul said, "My God is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that you can think or even imagine."