

Opening Reflections for Committees: April 2012

Evangelism Sub-Committee of the Witness and Fellowship Ministry Team

Since one of the Evangelism sub-committee's responsibilities is to equip the congregation membership with the witness skills and a desire to engage others in the Good News of Jesus Christ, we would like to recommend that all committees and meetings be opened with a scripture reading and discussion followed by a prayer. This should get the members in the correct frame of thought before starting their work in Christ. It should also build a relationship between the members with their mission to serve the will of God in their meeting. If we learn to share and discuss the word of God among ourselves, we will be more comfortable spreading the good news throughout our everyday relationships.

In order to facilitate this project, our committee will provide everyone with a subject of the month along with Bible readings to be reflected upon before starting the meetings. It is also recommended that members of the committee rotate the leadership of these reflections so everyone can be equipped to lead and pray in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Easter: God delivers Christ and makes him alive

This is the meaning of the words by St. Paul: "Christ was raised for our justification", turns our eyes away from our sins and directs them to Christ, for if we look at our sins, they will destroy us. Therefore we must look unto Christ who has taken our sins upon himself, crushed the head of the serpent and become the blessing. Now they no longer burden our conscience, but rest upon Christ, whom they desire to destroy. Let us see how they treat him. They hurl him to the ground and kill him. O God; where is now our Christ and our Saviour? But then God appears, delivers Christ and makes him alive; and not only does he make him alive, but he translates him into heaven and lets him rule over all. What has now become of sin? There it lies under his feet. If we then cling to this, we have a cheerful conscience like Christ, because we are without sin. Now we can defy death, the devil, sin and hell to do us any harm. As we are children of Adam, they can indeed accomplish it that we must die. But since Christ has taken our sins upon himself, has died for them, has suffered himself to be slain on account of our sins, they can no longer harm us; for Christ is too strong for them, they cannot keep him, he breaks forth and overpowers them, ascends into heaven, and rules there over all throughout eternity. Now we have a clear conscience, are joyful and happy and are no longer afraid of this tyrant, for Christ has taken our sins away from us and made them his own. But they cannot remain upon him; what then becomes of them? They must disappear and be destroyed. This then is the effect of faith. We who believe that Christ has taken away our sin, is without sin, like Christ himself, and death, the devil and hell are vanquished as far as we are concerned and they can no longer harm us.

Prayer: How blessed is this day, when earth and heaven are joined and humankind is reconciled to God! May the light of Jesus shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find his light ever burning in our hearts—he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.