

Be a Berean!

The Bereans...received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day (Acts 17:11). "Be a Berean" will regularly cover topics that arise during Lockport Alliance Bible classes. Contact Franklyn Pfeil—pfeil.lockcma@roadrunner.com—with questions or comments.

"I will rise"

On the twelfth day 'fore Easter, I and a few others were in the library, contemplating a book together, when what to our wondering eyes did appear, but a person, then people, then more, then many more, followed by a stream, then a surge.

I knew why they were there. I knew that Terry, Shelley, and Tina--co-conspirators of the Eggstravaganza--had asked around for helpers to stuff plastic eggs with candy. What I didn't know is that half of LAC would show up!

So we took a break from our book and wandered over to see this sight. It was an assimilator's dream. I watched as 3705 eggs went from empty to full. I tried to pilfer a piece of candy from Shelley's table and was informed, abruptly, that, "Hey! Those are for the kids." I was in a room with 18,000 Tootsie Rolls and couldn't have one!

When the big day arrived, so did the most miserable weather of the year. Did that deter the spirit of the Egg-apalooza? No way! They just brought the rug rats inside and let the controlled chaos commence. The Easter bunny, whom Destiny (hint, hint) delivered to our doors, kept the joint hopping while the urchins awaited the signal, as visions of jelly beans danced in their heads. You can't say you've really lived until you've seen 4-year-olds scrambling for eggs in the Fellowship Hall.

Then, stuffed with 'Peeps' and chocolate bunny parts (the ears are always the best), the little scavengers were ushered into the sanctuary, where Dr. (Joan) Bubbles and her erstwhile assistant (Angela) planted the seeds of the Good News of Jesus Christ in well-sweetened soil.

My birthday happened to be the day before, and I was all aglow on Easter as I put on my birthday present, a brand new shirt. There was no LIFE Hour, no Cross-Ties class to finalize, so I could linger over my tie selection. I knotted it carefully, then I looked out my bedroom window at the delicate blue sky for a long time. Then it was off to the brunch. Then to our accustomed seats in the sanctuary. The front rows to the far left were filled with 20 or more choir members. I'd been looking forward to their performance for months. Now I'll look back on their performance for years and years.

As their Director, Tim Wasson, strode forward, the choir took their places on the steps. Then I heard Ben Verratti's solitary voice.

Poignant, sad, forlorn; brave, sweet, and high; these were the notes he sang. Cast down, but not defeated; deterred, but determined. As the song swelled, I looked to the choir. They were gathering their breath, readying their hearts. I watched Bob Billingsley, my trusted friend from three time zones--a life buried; a life now; and the resurrected life to come. He and his wife Karen, two rows down, were dressed in the same splendid pastel shade. Laura King, beaming, was poised to **bring it**.

When the song reached its bridge their voices cascaded. The solo submerged, dissolved for a moment, then re-emerged; soloist and choir so selflessly deferential, so careful to enhance the other. I don't remember much from that point on, 'cause I'd been swept away...

Jesus has overcome
And the grave is overwhelmed
The victory is won
He is risen from the dead

And I will rise when He calls my name
No more sorrow, no more pain
I will rise on eagles' wings
Before my God fall on my knees
And rise
I will rise...

Church isn't where we are served. Church is where we go to give ourselves away:
For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve (Mark 10:45).

Eggs need stuffing. The soloist needs backing. The bunny suit's no good until someone's in it. The gospel goes forth from our hands and voices, or not at all.

Stuff eggs, sing, serve. Play your drum for Him. Play your best for Him.
Rise.

It is our fervent hope that you will 'be a Berean' by attending one of these Bible-based classes this week! —

"Cross Ties"--Sunday at 9:45

"Becoming A Woman of Purpose"--Sunday at 9:45

"A Detailed Study of Luke"--Sunday at 9:45