

CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

Proof of the resurrection

By Donna Rick

(Associate Pastor, Fruitport Congregational UCC)

People have a tendency to doubt unless there is proof that something either exists or is truth. When it comes to believing in Jesus Christ as Savior, having risen from the dead, there are those who hold out on believing until they see the proof. This is no different today than it was over 2000 years ago.

It was early in the morning when Mary Magdalene went back to the tomb only to find the stone rolled away. Guessing someone had taken her Lord, she asked the two angels where Jesus' body was. Jesus was standing behind her and she supposed he was the gardener until he said her name. Like the Good Shepherd whose sheep recognize his voice, Mary recognized Jesus' voice and knew he had risen from the dead. He told her to tell the disciples. For those who do not know the voice of the Good Shepherd, they, too, mistake the presence of God for someone else.

Mary told the disciples and many did not believe her. Peter and John went back to the tomb to see for themselves, only to find the stone rolled away. Note: The stone was rolled away for our benefit, not Jesus'. Jesus did not need the tomb opened to rise from the dead; he did it for our benefit so we could come in. He still invites us to come in, to come into his presence, to come into relationship with him, and to come see that he is real.

The risen Lord then appeared to two disciples on the road to Emmaus. They did not recognize him but admitted they felt strangely warm around him. It wasn't until he broke the bread that their eyes were opened and they recognized him. They, too, had heard from Mary that Jesus had risen, but until their eyes were opened they did not recognize him in their midst. What will it take for your eyes to be opened to see Christ in your midst? Will it take a tragedy, a diagnosis, or a loss?

Next Christ appeared to the disciples. They thought they were seeing a ghost. They were troubled and startled. Might their reaction have been related to their guilt? After all, Peter who had denied him was there, as well as the other disciples who ran away during his time of need. Until Christ allowed them to see the holes in his hands and feet and touch them, they still doubted his presence. He ate boiled fish to prove he was of flesh and bones. Since they did not believe what others had seen, he came as proof of the resurrection. Thomas was not there, and therefore did not believe. He gets a bad rap and a label, "Doubting Thomas," but the truth is, many of us are just like him. Unless we see for ourselves and touch the holes in his hands and put our hand in his side, we will not believe, either. Christ told Thomas, "You believe because you have seen, but blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

Friends, what more proof of the resurrection do you need? Have you not seen because you have rationalized any sense of God's presence away? Have you not recognized the voice of the Good Shepherd speaking in a still small voice? Have you not felt the hand of God at work in your life? Walk into the tomb and tarry there awhile. I promise you God will make Godself known to you in a very tangible way. •

Summer concert schedule at Christian Reformed Conference Grounds

(Submitted by Christian Reformed Conference Grounds)

The Christian Reformed Conference Grounds, 12253 Lakeshore Drive in Grand Haven, presents a free will offering concert series during the summer months. Concerts begin at 7 p.m. in their 1000-seat auditorium.

This year's concert lineup includes:

May 25	The Heralders Quartet
June 20	Down Home
June 27	Jim Brady Trio
July 4	Voices of Victory
July 11	The Matthews Brothers
July 18	Big Band of Praise
July 25	Tribute Quartet
August 8	Old Paths Quartet
August 15	The Singing Crusaders
August 22	Glorybound Quartet
August 29	An evening of Praise with Marilyn DeMann & Friends
September 7	John Dykstra Travelogue
September 12	King's Choraliers •

Seeking the vision of God

By R. E. Kirk, one time Anglican Bishop of Oxford

(Submitted by Rev. R.A. Shackles)

"Whenever a man's mind has been uplifted, his temptations thwarted, his sorrows comforted, his resolutions strengthened, his aberrations controlled, by the sight of purity, innocence, love or beauty, — indeed, wherever he has, even for a moment, recognized and responded to the distinction between good and evil, between better and worse — such a man has had in part the mystical experience. Dim though his mirror may have been, he has yet seen God. Where he has seen God once there he may see him again. •

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CALVARY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



Endorsements from local leaders

"In a day when the term 'Christian' means just about anything, it's pretty clear that CCS is a Christian school in the true sense of the term. Keeping Christ at the center of their vision and honoring Him in education, I'm pleased to recommend this school to anyone."

Pastor Nate Birkholz, Lakeshore Baptist Church, Grand Haven

"A person's character is revealed in seasons of difficulty. I have had the opportunity to meet with, pray with, and seek God's direction with the leadership of Calvary Christian Schools. Their dependency on God is authentic, and I have confidence that as they lead CCS forward, that those who attend CCS will be led by leaders who are being led by Jesus."

Pastor David Wisen, Harvest Bible Chapel, Spring Lake

"CCS plays a significant role in developing young people...not just educationally but spiritually and socially as well, with the goal of producing devoted followers of Jesus who will make a difference in our world. We are delighted to have some graduates from Calvary Christian Schools as a part of our student community at Cornerstone University."

Dr. Joseph M. Stowell, President, Cornerstone University, Grand Rapids

"I appreciate the long history and rich legacy of Calvary Christian Schools. As the place where our children received their elementary and secondary education, I was consistently grateful for the school's Bible-centered approach and caring, godly mentors. And as pastor of a congregation with several staff and student body families, I continue to be thankful for CCS' unique niche in serving the educational needs of this community."

Pastor Eric Stratton, Bridge Bible Church

"My children have been attending Calvary Christian School since 2010, and I have been pleased with the quality of education and the dedication of the teachers. Then two years ago, we wanted to start a chapter of Girls on the Run, and the administration gave their enthusiastic support. This program supplements the Running Club, which was established to encourage health, character, and noncompetitive running in the elementary students. For the past two years, I have had the privilege of heading the Girls on the Run after school program at CCS. Each year almost all the girls who are age-eligible to participate have chosen to do so. I have enjoyed getting to know more students in the school. The girls work so diligently and are so encouraging and respectful to each other. It is great to experience firsthand the love and support I have come to associate with the CCS family."

Dr. Kristen Lawrence, OB / GYN Associates and CCS mother

"When I think of CCS, the word that comes to mind is 'passionate.' Their teachers are passionate; their parents are passionate; and their students are passionate. They are passionate about education, about sports, about fun, about relationships — but most importantly, this is a community that is passionate about Jesus Christ. At the heart of their identity is the desire to train the next generation to be passionately committed to the glory and work of Jesus — is there any better reason to educate?"

Kristen Wisen, Christian author/speaker

"On a regular basis, I interact with students from many different public and private schools and school districts in the greater Muskegon area. With few exceptions, Calvary students show a drive for improvement and an intellectual curiosity that has clearly found nourishment in their families and their educational environment. Their interactions are mature and respectful without exception. It is clear to me that these students are products of a solid system."

Dave Van Andel, Physical Therapist, Owner, Shoreline Sport & Spine Physical Therapy

231-865-2141

"As a pastor, I interact with teachers, parents and students from Calvary Christian School regularly. I see a story emerging from this group. It is the story of a people, pursuing Jesus, pursuing excellence, and becoming a light to a darkened world. Their stated mission and values are lived out."

Pastor Peter Yoshonis, Lead Pastor, All Shores Wesleyan Church

"CCS is delivering a well-rounded, quality Christian-centered education experience to its students. Their faith-based curriculum is preparing our children to compete in a global environment and to live as faithful disciples. CCS will continue to have a positive impact on our community for many years."

Goef Hansen, State Senator for the 34th District

"I have watched CCS from a distance until recently. I have always heard great reports from close friends, but I was really impressed a couple of weeks ago when I was asked to share in one of their chapel services. I saw committed staff that loved the students...I saw a well-prepared worship team leading their peers...and I saw a student body engaged in worship and in the Word of God! I enjoyed my time and look forward to future connections with CCS!"

Ben Vegh, Lead Pastor, The Gateway Church

"Calvary Christian Schools sets itself apart by their commitment to the character development of each individual student. In an atmosphere which exemplifies *faith*, *hope*, and *love*, CCS inspires and equips students through comprehensive education, competitive athletics, and a distinctly biblical world-view."

Rebecca S. May, Director of Women's Ministry, Relational Concepts, Inc.

"I've had the privilege to work with CCS students in the area of worship leading for their chapels. When a school puts emphasis on the worship of Jesus Christ and the students follow with excitement and service, you know something right is happening there. Students closing their eyes, lifting their hands and singing loudly lifting high the name of Jesus Christ is a beacon of light in the midst of an unguided generation."

Christopher Moeller, HBCSL pastoral staff

"Calvary Christian Schools is one of the best kept secrets in West Michigan. With its dedicated staff, a strong focus on academic excellence and a robust commitment to biblical values, this school is an educational choice that parents can trust. I strongly recommend CCS for parents who want to see their children develop as Godly leaders and succeed in all arenas of life."

Jay R. Link, retired Foundation Manager for a West Michigan Fortune 1000 Company

"I always enjoy speaking at Calvary Christian Schools as the students take ownership of their experience. I always work with a student running the technology and speak after a student-planned, student-practiced and student-led worship. It's a blessing to see them faithfully training up the next generation of Christian leaders through both teaching and real-life experience."

Ben Vander Kodde, speaker/trainer for Grace Adventures Camp, Mears, MI

"The leadership of Calvary Christian School desires that their students are trained with more than just a Christian worldview. They desire that their students find their greatest joy is *knowing* Jesus Christ."

Pastor Dave Wisen, Harvest Bible Chapel, Spring Lake

"I have observed CCS in good times and in challenging times, and the commitment to Christian education by teachers, staff, and leadership has been unwavering. The students of CCS have witnessed role models living out a biblical worldview, a vibrant faith and courageous leadership while learning the core essentials of a good education. I can think of no better preparation for our children and for future Christian leaders which our community so desperately needs."

Steve Adams, CEO, U.S. Retail, Inc. Chairman of the Board, International Business as Missions