

Hello from my little corner of the Lord's pasture!



Have you noticed? The days are getting longer, the robins are singing and waiting for the ground to thaw and turn loose a fresh crop of worms. Spring is in the air, at least, sometimes. We Christians are “springtime” people of hope, aren’t we! We journey through Lent with eyes focused on the cross and on towards that empty tomb from which Jesus rose in victory over death and the power of sin. We move forward in our lives with confidence because the Lord has given us hope for this life and in the life everlasting.

It is because of the resurrection victory of our Lord that we have the exciting stories of God’s grace to tell, to share, to preach, to proclaim. These stories of God’s Good News in Christ are being shared in big and little congregations, in the struggling rural and small town fellowships, as well as in the larger, urban churches. They are being shared with young and old alike, with members new to the faith, and those who have seen many years of Easter celebrations.

None of this is new to anyone reading this message. It is, however, getting harder to keep doing it—not the preaching and telling of His story—but dealing with the struggles of the churches facing financial concerns due to the shrinking numbers of the congregation. Some of the loss comes with the apathy of the times in regards to spiritual things. Some comes from the aging and dying of the members without the replacement of new members by birth or evangelism. What do we do? Where does one turn for brotherly support in ministry? Is there anybody out there doing anything about this? Well, yes, there is! And I would like to share some of that story with you, because, it too, is a “springtime” story of help and hope centered in Christ and His Word. A group of nine ventured into Mahoney State Park for the 2nd annual Heartland Conference last November and talked, listened, and shared concerns about these same questions. This group met February 16 to talk about some of the ideas that were heard and see how they might be applied in IDW. I can tell you that there are things happening that will address the questions you have and will offer opportunities to deal with some of your individual situations. I will keep you posted on the progress, hopefully on a link on the IDW Web site, very soon.

If you have a question, a concern, or a situation that you would like to have this Heartland group respond to, please e-mail me and I will share it with the others. Together, we can, with the Lord’s Word and help, keep moving forward in the ministry that He has given us to do.

Have a blessed Resurrection Sunday after you have been to the foot of the cross and have remembered the sacrifice He made for our sins.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
 May He watch over your work and bless it.
 May He continue to count on you as one who proclaims the Good News of Jesus with all you do, wherever and whenever that is.

Serving in His field with joy,
 Gene Ernst (geneviv@netllcwb.net)

