

# A WORD ON WORSHIP

MARCH 31, 2013

BY PASTOR ANDREW KICKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

## *John 20:11-13*

“But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. And they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?”



It is very easy to read the story of the women at the tomb of our Lord and to expect a very different message from the angels. When I consider my shortcomings and lack of faith, I hear the angels prepare a word of rebuke at why these women failed to take Jesus at His word at rising again on the third day. How many other things has Jesus spoken to us in the gospels that we acknowledge as Scripture but still fail to truly take Jesus at His word?

This is a teachable moment in the lives of these women, just as you and I have teachable moments when the Lord calls us closer to look and see, testing for ourselves that the validity of His promises is sure and not to throw away our confidence which yields great reward. Jesus is no longer in the tomb, but the evidence remains — the linen wrappings lying there with the face cloth rolled up to the side. No disciple has come to remove the body or any enemy to pillage the tomb. Jesus has yet again kept His word.

There is a time to believe the promises of God as a child believes a parent when told to be ready for school in the morning. But there comes a time when each one of us must learn by faith to believe the Word of God is unfailingly true. We will experience the prick of our doubts, just as the women must have felt when the angels reminded them in Matthew 28:6 “*He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said.*” This resurrection Sunday is the day for us to move forward, past our previous doubts and failures, into the realm of faith. Not understanding how God will do what He has promised, but believing He who has promised is faithful, and will bring it to pass for our good and His glory.

For the church to believe Jesus rose from the dead is fine, but it is not enough. We need to personally understand what kind of Savior rose from the dead. He is the same loving Redeemer who healed the sick, comforted the mourning and died for the sinner. That is the Savior who now calls us to share with others — the news Jesus Christ has risen — just as He said. He laid down His life so we could share in the inheritance as members of His family, if we believe as John did that first morning when he entered the tomb and saw and believed.

**Sunrise Community Church**  
*Come acknowledge the Lord in our midst*  
**EVERY SUNDAY BEGINNING AT 8:45 A.M.**

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APRIL 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	30	1	2	3

## Hymn of the Week

### I Know He Is Mine

Words Philip P. Bliss, in Gospel Songs, 1874  
 Music Ira D. Sankey  
[www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/i/k/h/ikhimine.htm](http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/i/k/h/ikhimine.htm)

A long time I wandered in darkness and sin,  
 And wondered if ever the light would shine in;  
 I heard Christian friends speak of raptures divine,  
 And I wished – how I wished – that their Savior were mine.  
 I wished He were mine, yes, I wished He were mine;  
 I wished – how I wished – that their Savior were mine.

I heard the glad Gospel of “good will to men”  
 I read “whosoever” again and again;  
 I said to my soul, “Can that promise be thine?”  
 And then began hoping that Jesus was mine.  
 I hoped He was mine, yes, I hoped He was mine,  
 And then began hoping that Jesus was mine.

Oh, mercy surprising! He saves even me!  
 “Thy portion forever,” He says, “will I be”;  
 On His Word I am resting – assurance divine:  
 I am “hoping” no longer, I know He is mine.  
 I know He is mine, yes, I know He is mine,  
 I’m hoping no longer – I know He is mine.

# SEE YOU SUNDAY AT SUNRISE

## April 2013

- April 2 7:00 p.m. Bible Study  
 April 5 7:00 p.m. Game Night  
 April 7 8:45 a.m. Mark 14:26-42 *The Essence of Hell*  
 10:30 a.m. Sunday School  
 April 8-12 Temple City Schools Spring Break  
 April 9 7:00 p.m. Bible Study  
 April 12 6:30 p.m. Friday Night Fellowship  
 April 14 8:45 a.m. Mark 14:43-52 *Jesus Arrested, Others Barely Escape*  
 10:30 a.m. Community Prayer in Room 1  
 April 16 7:00 p.m. Bible Study  
 April 19 7:00 p.m. Game Night  
 April 21 8:45 a.m. Mark 14:53-72 *The Savior's Silence*  
 10:30 a.m. Sunday School  
 April 23 7:00 p.m. Bible Study  
 April 26 6:30 p.m. Friday Night Fellowship  
 April 28 8:45 a.m. Mark 15:1-21 *Pilate, Politics and the Prince*  
 10:45 a.m. Sunday School  
 April 30 7:00 p.m. Bible Study

## The Cost of Discipleship –

### Hmong Christian leader in Vietnam beaten to death in police Custody

SOURCE [HTTP://MORNINGSTARNEWS.ORG](http://MORNINGSTARNEWS.ORG)

LOS ANGELES – March 28, 2013 (Morning Star News) – A Hmong church leader in Vietnam has been beaten to death in police custody, area sources said. Police beat Vam Ngaij Vaj around his neck and shoulders and likely used electric shock on him, resulting in his death on March 17, said a church leader who spoke with those who viewed the battered corpse.

“They think he could have been electrocuted as well as beaten,” said a Hmong Christian leader in Vietnam.

Vaj, of Cu Jut District, Dak Nong Province in Vietnam’s Central Highlands, and his wife were clearing brush from their field in nearby Dak Ha Commune of Dak Glong District when they were arrested for “illegally destroying the forest” on March 16. Hmong churches in the Central Highlands often report harassment by a communist regime that views Christianity as a threat, and the spurious charge of “destroying forest” on their own property was consistent with such harassment.

The husband and wife were transported to a police station in Gia Nghia Town and placed in separate cells, Christian sources said. That night Vaj was savagely beaten and tortured by police, the sources said, and the next day local authorities informed his

younger brother that he had died. This news came as a shock as Vaj, in his late 30s, was in excellent health, the sources said. They added that the killing terrorized the Hmong Christian community.

Police informed Vaj’s younger brother that an autopsy would be performed, and officers subsequently announced that he had died from electric shock by placing his hand in an electrical outlet. A photo of Vaj’s neck and shoulders show signs of severe trauma. Those who saw the corpse said they suspected electric shock had been used, consistent with the announced cause of death.

Hmong Christians and their leaders believe such ill-treatment comes because they are Christians. Since the mid-1990s, more than 35,000 Christian Hmong have fled their native area in Vietnam’s Northwest Mountainous Region to the Central Highlands, some 800 miles south, because of pressure and persecution from authorities and sometimes from Hmong animists.

