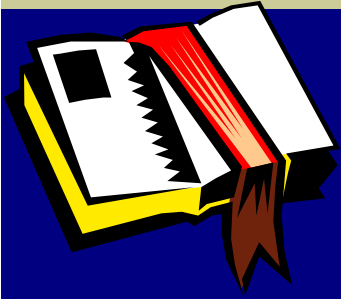


Sunday

March 14, 2010



ESSEX VILLAGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

# Reflections

## *"The Difficulty of Miracles"* *By: Stefano Mugnaini*

A teacher who was an atheist was trying to destroy his pupils' faith in the Bible as God's word. He was emphasizing that Moses and the children of Israel did not cross the Red Sea on dry ground. He said they waded over six inches of water. A little boy in the back of the room who was familiar with the story yelled out an "Amen!"

The teacher asked, "Why did you say amen? That was not a miracle."

The boy retorted that the miracle was not in the people wading in 6 inches of water, but it was a miracle that God drowned Pharaoh's army in 6 inches of water!

That's the interesting thing about Biblical miracles; they are pretty difficult to explain away. In their scope, their general acceptance, even by non-Christian sources, and in the dramatic reaction that they generated among eyewitnesses; if we deny the miracle as it is written, we merely create even harder circumstances to explain away.

Consider the resurrection. If we were to deny the validity of the biblical accounts that Jesus was raised from the dead, how are we to account for the conviction, boldness, and success of the early church? How do we dispel the fact that the apostles pointed to numerous eyewitnesses and essentially challenged the crowds to dispute the claim that He has risen?

What is the greater miracle? That God incarnate was raised from the dead, or that his disciples converted much of the world to faith in that which they knew to be a lie? Or that they were willing to suffer and die to proclaim that message.

I am not so naïve as to suggest that there are not many things in Scripture that are difficult to explain, understand, or even accept; but it seems that the alternative, to reject the Bible as the word of God, is an even greater challenge.

And as one writer pointed out: no matter where I place my faith, there is an empty tomb somewhere in Palestine that proclaims the message that Christ is raised.

\*continued on page 3

Church Office : 843-556-1792

Church Fax: 843-556-6085

Email: [evcoc@bellsouth.net](mailto:evcoc@bellsouth.net)

Website: [www.essexvillage.org](http://www.essexvillage.org)

Sunday

Class: 9:00 am

Worship: 10:00 am

Worship: 6:00 pm

Wednesday

7:00 pm



**For the Record  
Week of 03-07-10**

**Elder for the Month  
of March**

**Program of  
Worship**

*Helen Embry  
Mark Embry  
Polly Fowler  
Leonard McNeill  
Lois Ott*

Bible Classes: 64  
AM Worship: 131  
PM Worship: 39  
Wednesday Evening: 46  
Contribution: 4,039.00

Howard Streets: 766-7727

**Announcements:**  
Howard Streets

**Song Service:**  
Keith Dee

**Opening Prayer:**  
John Such

**Communion:**  
Rick Porter

**Serving:**  
Norman Ricker  
Larry Polk  
Eddie Haselden  
Jack Crabtree

**Sermon:**  
Stefano Mugnaini

**Closing Prayer:**  
George Brown



**Preparing communion:** Janie Polutta

**Baptismal Garments:** Pam Ragland

***Military***  
*Robert Bagley  
Kristopher Black  
RJ Boris  
Adam Bowles  
Chris Branham  
Adam Carlucci  
Russell Coble  
Ryne Collins  
James Dalton  
Ellis Flenoid  
Steven Hilton  
Michael Hilton  
Matthew Lemieux  
Katie McCaskill  
Derrick Menrique  
Kevin Mitchell  
Scott O'Connor*



**We Are Praying For...**

**Debbie,** Steve McLawhorn's sister & Mac & Agnes' daughter, is at home. Please continue to pray for her and the family.

**Larry Cooper,** Ruby's son, has lung cancer.

**Judy Cox,** the mother of Natasha's friend, has advanced stage 4 colon cancer. She is undergoing another round of chemo treatments.

**Maxine Doll** has congestive heart failure and diabetes. Maxine is Pam Ragland's mother.

**Emily Fowler,** Scott Fowler's mother, has some health problems and would like our prayers.

**Duke Gregory,** Doris and

Janie's brother, has been moved to a medical facility in McMinnville, TN.

NHC Healthcare  
928 Old Smithville Road  
Room 213A  
McMinnville, TN 37110  
Tel # 931-474-2929

**Clara Haselden** is receiving chemo treatments.

**Esther Lamm** is having some health problems.

**Val Mabry,** Ann Mabry Standefer's aunt, has Alzheimer's.

**Nell McIntire** has cancer and is the sister of Lois Ott.

**Sam & Barbara Truscello,** Raymond Boynton's neighbors, are in need of prayers. Sam has health problems and Barbara is the caregiver.

**Ona White** is recuperating at home.

**Verdie Whitson** is at home.

**Paul Quesenberry,** Clara Haselden's nephew, had surgery to remove a tumor on his spine and is in serious condition.

## Here is what is happening...

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### Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Class

The ladies will meet for class on Tuesday, March 16th at 10:00 am.

### Soup Kitchen

If you would like to help prepare lunch at the soup kitchen on Mon-

day, March 22nd, please see Raymond.

### Baby Shower

There will be a baby shower for Shelli on Sunday, April 11th at 4:00 pm in the fellowship hall.



### Happy Birthday!

3/15  
Stephanie Dee

3/18  
Chuck Spence

## Teachers' Workshop

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Summerville Church of Christ will be hosting a Teachers' Workshop on Saturday, March 20th from 9:00 am—12:00 pm with a luncheon to follow. The workshop will be led by Debbie Bumbalough, former editor of *Ideashop*.

Summerville Church of Christ  
413 Old Trolley Road  
Summerville, SC 29483

Contact Cyndi Russell-Albach with questions at 843-367-1292

## Youth Rally

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Palmetto Bible Camp  
Spring Youth Rally  
April 30th– May 2nd, 2010

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.” - Hebrews 12:1

Cost: \$50.00 per person

### Vacation Bible School



Vacation Bible School will be held on Wednesday, June 9th—Saturday, June 12th. The theme will be “Jungle Journey—Exploring the Nature of God”. Please be sure to mark your calendars and make plans to attend with your friends & neighbors!

## Article continued...

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**But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. 21 For since by a man *came* death, by a man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His com-**

**ing, 24 then *comes* the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.**

Corinthians 15:20-24

## Bulletin Board

### Gospel Meeting

Where: Charlotte Avenue Church of Christ  
339 Charlotte Avenue  
Rock Hill

Date: March 14th—17th, 2010

Guest Speaker: Brad Harrub

### The Ninth Annual Charlotte Avenue Youth Rally

Theme: Which "Network " are you on?

Date: April 17, 2010

Guest Speaker: Mark Reynolds

Where: Charlotte Avenue Church of Christ  
339 Charlotte Avenue  
Rock Hill, SC 29730

### 2010 Ladies' Day

Theme: "There is a Time"

Guest Speaker: Becky Fowler Blackmon from Woodway, Texas. She is the author of The Begging Place.

Date: April 17th at 9:00 am—12:00 pm

Where: Plaza Church of Christ

### Palmetto Bible Camp Senior Week

Grades 7-12 Date: July 18—24, 2010

Check it out on the web at: [www.palmettobiblecamp.org](http://www.palmettobiblecamp.org)

### ELDERS

Larry Casbeer 795-0429  
Howard Streets 766-7727

### MINISTER

Stefano Mugnaini 329-3704

### DEACONS

Rick Porter 556-2679  
Activities  
Jim Lamm 556-6756  
Benevolence  
Lloyd McLawhorn 556-6709  
Worship  
Roddy Akers 559-3565  
Song Service  
Larry Polutta 795-5266  
World Bible School  
Bill Ragland 556-6711  
Building Maintenance  
Hilton Googe 766-4670  
Lynn Smallwood 766-8579  
Grounds  
Eddie Haselden 767-5511  
Financial  
Durwood Collins 869-4199  
Youth Activities

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Essex Village Church of Christ  
736 Savage Road  
Charleston, SC 29414