

HARMONYNEWS

WHAT'S UP WITH THE RESURRECTION ANYWAY?

BY MATT MITCHELL

We just celebrated Easter—the glorious day when Jesus walked out of His own grave, defeating the power of sin and death, and proving His authority as the God of life. He has been resurrected!

If you're anything like me, you may be left wondering—how does the Resurrection fit in with my life? Isn't the Christian life just about getting saved and going to heaven? So what's the purpose of this Resurrection thing anyway?

God has taken me on a personal journey the past few years to discover how Jesus' Resurrection is much more amazing than we typically think.

I want to share 3 encouragements with you about the resurrection.

1. Jesus' Resurrection is the foundation of our faith.

If Jesus is not alive, but he died for good on Good Friday 2,000 years ago, our faith is a total sham and pointless. We are still dead in our sins with no hope. Paul says we should be pitied more than any other people if that was the case (1 Cor. 15:16–19). The resurrection of Jesus is the capstone miracle to all the miracles and authenticates the authority of The Bible. If the resurrection isn't true, everything falls apart. The Resurrection is our foundation!

2. Jesus' Resurrection gives us hope and endurance to keep going.

Without a living hope to look to, we can easily be enticed by sin and defeated by trials. Jesus says plainly that we will have trouble in this world, but to take heart because he has overcome the world (Jn. 16:33), and someday—so will we! This is part of what the Resurrection is all about. No matter what happens in this life, from bad to terribly worse, we don't have to slump into despair, because this is not how the story is going to end. The promise of the Bible is that King Jesus is coming back to make everything that is wrong right again! So the next time you're discouraged about a hard day or when tragic news comes your way; stop and remind your soul—this is not how it is always going to be. Jesus is going to raise us up in the end and make all of this right!

3. Jesus' Resurrection guarantees our bodily resurrection.

Jesus is called the first fruits or the first to rise from among the dead (Col. 1:18). Have you ever thought about the fact that Jesus's body post-resurrection was wonderfully different than his first one? His first body was like ours, but now our second body will be like his! (1 Jn. 3:2). How's that for confusing and glorious all at the same time?

This giant celestial ball that you, me, and all of creation live on, that God created

and called good in the beginning, He is going to make it good again! The curse will be lifted and dissolved. The effects of "The Fall" will be no more because everything will be "raised!" Jesus is coming again, not so he can take us away to heaven, but so he can bring heaven (and those with him) to earth. And we will all be changed! (1 Cor. 15:51–53). This new place is called the "New Heavens and New Earth" with the capitol city of "New Jerusalem" (Rev. 21:1–4). The only way to get there though is with a new, resurrected body that God will supply!

■ *Matt Mitchell* | Danville Campus Assistant Director

MEET LEADERSHIP

Meet Jon Dingeldein, an elder here at Harmony! Jon and his wife, Julie, have been attending Harmony since God brought them to Iowa 6-1/2 years ago. They have been married almost 15 years, and God has blessed them with four children: Micah (8), Noah (6), Kate (4), and Kinsey (2). Jon currently works as a dentist here in Burlington and enjoys cycling and any sport or outdoor activity. While he loves dentistry, he's most passionate about discipleship and seeing people transformed as they truly grasp and treasure the truth of the Gospel.



LOOKING AHEAD

MAY

SUN.

5

BAPTISM CLASSES

ALL CAMPUSES, before Sunday services

SUN.

5

MERGE

DANVILLE CAMPUS, 6:30 p.m.

SAT.

11

SECOND SATURDAY

FORT MADISON CAMPUS, 8 a.m.

WED.

15

PICNIC AND PRAISE

DANVILLE CAMPUS, 6:30 p.m.

SUN.

19

TWO WAYS TO LIVE

A NEW 6-WEEK CLASS

BURLINGTON CAMPUS, 8:30 a.m.

THUR.

30

FORT MADISON PRAYER NIGHT

FORT MADISON CAMPUS, 6:30 p.m.

More event details can be found at
harmonybiblechurch.org/events

JOIN US THIS SUMMER!



We hope you're ready to embark on an AMAZING adventure because "The Amazing Race" VBS is coming to your city this summer! Join a team in Fort Madison, Burlington, or Danville and navigate around the globe, completing a series of challenges as you race towards the ultimate prize! Will you be on the winning team?

JUNE 7: Fort Madison Campus, 9 a.m.– 2:30 p.m.

JUNE 21: Burlington Campus, 9 a.m.– 2:30 p.m.

JULY 16–19: Danville Campus, 9 a.m.– 12 p.m.

Online registration is now open for kids entering grades K-5 this fall. Don't be eliminated; visit harmonybiblechurch.org/events to reserve your spot today! WE NEED VOLUNTEERS, TOO! Visit that link to sign up!

MULTIPLY CAMPAIGN UPDATE

- The balance on the loan to purchase and remodel the Burlington and Fort Madison campus buildings is **\$2.3 million**.
- We have a little over **\$600,000** left in commitments to be fulfilled by the end of this year!
- At the end of this year, we expect to have the balance on the loan be around **\$1.5 million**.

For those of you who just did the math, you realize it doesn't add up! That's because, over the course of the last 2 years, **extra donations have come in**—donations that we are extremely grateful for and hope will continue!

For those of you who haven't yet participated in the Multiply Campaign, **you can still get involved!** Whether you [give online](#) or with check or cash, just mark the donations "Multiply".

Thank you! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Tim Svoboda | Executive Director of Operations
tims@harmonybiblechurch.org

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