



HISTORY INTEGRITY TRUTH SCRIPTURE



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June 2019 Newsletter History – Worth Remembering

In our last two newsletters we explored the concepts of truth and scripture, the last two elements of our fourfold ministry emphasis. Today, I'd like to review the importance of history in the Christian life. Then, next month, we'll visit the idea of integrity, thus taking us all the way through our cycle - HISTORY - INTEGRITY - TRUTH - SCRIPTURE.

Christianity is, above all else, an historical faith. It has very clear roots in the well documented factual reports surrounding Jesus' life, death, and resurrection nearly 2000 years ago. Christianity claims a much older heritage as well, with clear ties to events and religious texts preserved in the Old Testament, some with a written history dating back approximately 3,500 years.

It's very important that modern Christians remember how the Bible is largely concerned with verifiable claims. The events recorded are placed in history, so much so that I have heard it claimed that secular historians of antiquity would sell their mothers' souls to be able to document many events of Greek history so well! (I do hope they are kidding, but we get the point.)

The idea of verifiable claims is valuable. Because Christianity claims to be based on the actual bodily death and resurrection of Jesus, around the years 30-33, in Jerusalem, at the time of Passover, and because Christianity affirms that Jesus, by his miraculous acts, is able to die as a substitute for those who believe, Christianity has a level of credibility in its claims which is completely unmatched by other world religions. If anyone had been able to produce the dead, unresurrected body of Jesus, all the claims of Christianity would have been proven null and void (1 Corinthians 15). Some lawyers who build defenses of Christianity will speak of the force of claims which could be falsified. In other words, they could be proven invalid. A claim which could be proven or disproven and has not been overturned by its opponents is incredibly strong. We ask the opponents where their evidence is. They don't have any.

Non-Christian religions are always based on some sort of external practice, an internal intuition, or some combination of the two. Those cannot be falsified. They cannot be proven wrong. Nobody can document your feelings or sense of inner peace. Nobody can prove that your religious activities were not done from an adequate motivation. The non-Christian religions are immune to such a test. Their claims can neither be proven nor disproven.

Christianity, with its claim of a resurrected and ascended Lord, could have been disproven.

The Christian teachings were present from the first generation of Christians. Unlike the other religions, the claims have never been shrouded in secrecy. There were many who wished to disprove the Christian faith, but they could not do it.

Since Christianity proved true in its most astounding and central claims, there should be no good reason to doubt the other important elements of the Christian life. The Bible gives particular ethics and principles to live by. It says God thinks they are good. And when we live by them, they prove to be very good for society. We have a long history of engaging our world, preserving life, caring for the poor and the sick, advancing science and education, and building a just civilization. We should not think that work is over or that it belongs to someone else. The Christian has an historic foundation like none other from which to work for good in this world. That's what we can be busy about today, this month, this year, and in this generation and those to come.

The historic foundations of Christianity motivate Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry to keep up the work of being salt and light in the world, loving and serving our neighbors, and seeking the good of our community. We hope you will join in this endeavor.

Wittenberg Door Financial Update



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Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry 2019



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Thanks for all your help keeping us going with real, face-to-face pastoral care on the college campuses in Columbia! In the past month over two thousand dollars have come in. This goes a long way! I will observe that we are still a little below 20% of our goal for this year, which includes the regular operating expenses of the ministry as well as housing and medical care expenses. For what it's worth, in all budget categories except "office," spending year to date has been below budget. The office category is above budget because of replacing a computer early this year. Giving is well ahead of last year too. We can only keep doing this as people make it a priority and help the work continue. Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry is entirely funded by the generosity of individuals and groups who want to help us bring on-site pastoral care to our campuses. Giving is easy! Simply visit our website at www.wittenbergcomo.com or our fundraising site at <https://www.gofundme.com/wittenberg-door-campus-ministry-2019>. I've got many upcoming opportunities to tell local churches about this ministry. Is yours on the list? Let's keep it moving! I'm always glad to tell church groups about what we do to make a difference on our local campuses and around the world.

Uganda Update:

There are some good things happening in the work of Simon Peter in Uganda. We keep hearing that the young people in the schools associated with the church he has planted are doing well academically. Though the area is poor, they are learning hope through the Gospel as well as hope for this earthly life as they learn to read, write, and care for one another as Christians who show the love of God to all around them. My friends at Love, Uganda are still working out details for a team visit in January, which I will be able to join.



Meanwhile, our friend Alice continues to improve. She goes for another evaluation in Nairobi in about a week. Here's a picture Simon Peter took of himself, Alice, and their youngest son, Lazarus. I think it is somewhere around the hospital in Nairobi. We're very glad to see Alice's improvement in the last 18 months. There's even a possibility she will be released from the doctor's care by about the end of this year. If you wish to contribute to her care, it costs about \$2,200 per month. A link to give follows.

<https://www.gofundme.com/alice-waako-brain-surgery>

As well as preparing a new course for the American Lutheran Theological Seminary for this fall, I am preparing to teach an introduction to Lutheran doctrine in Kaliro while there in January. I think many people will be coming, including some who have never before heard that Christ's work outside them on their behalf is at the heart and center of the Christian faith. It will be exciting to bring this great message to a people who hunger and thirst for God's grace.



Upcoming Activities:

June 8 Sat. Hold the Line Conference Franklin NC, stay over to 9th.
June 11 – Mizzou Summer Welcome activities begin
June 14 Friday – Cookout at the Intergalactic Headquarters 6-9 pm
June 23 Christ Lutheran, Chippewa Falls, WI
stay in area vacationing until
June 30 Christ Lutheran, Chippewa Falls, WI
July 4 – Picnic and fireworks, place TBA
July 14 Christ Lutheran, Ellis KS
July 15-19 Youth Conference, Estes Park CO
July 21 Christ Lutheran, Ellis KS
July 26 (Friday, Tentative) – a fun dinner
August 4 St. John's Lutheran Church, Stringtown MO
August 12-13 (Monday-Tuesday) Mizzou International Welcome Activities
August 16 (Friday) The First Dinner Night of the New Academic Year!
August 18 Christ Lutheran Church, Duluth MN

We always have something new at the website, the blog, and the activities calendar. Please be a friend on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. If you're in Columbia, let's get together on or near campus. Go to <https://www.wittenbergcomo.com/support-us.html> to provide financial support. The Wittenberg Door 300 needs you!