

## Marking Good Friday

Christians mark holiday in pilgrimage, prayer and pain

By **STEVE WEIZMAN**  
Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM — Some in agony, others in ecstasy, Christians around the world marked Good Friday with prayer, processions and pleas for peace.

Thousands of pilgrims, some carrying large wooden crosses and others holding candles, wound their way through the narrow lanes of Jerusalem's Old City, retracing the route the Bible says Jesus took on the way to his crucifixion.

In Mexico City, meanwhile, more than 500,000 people turned out for the annual Passion play in the capital's working class Iztapalapa neighborhood. Thousands participated in the procession, many lugging heavy crosses through the streets.

Officials said it was the 164th year that the Passion play has been enacted in the neighborhood, although there are references to earlier performances in Mexico City going back to the 16th century.

In the Mexican silver-mining town of Taxco, hooded men belonging to a Catholic brotherhood slapped their backs bloody with nail-studded whips and dragged their shackled bare feet across rough cobblestone streets. Others carried thorny blackberry branches tied across their outstretched arms.

On Jerusalem's Via Dolorosa — or Way of Sorrows — visitors from the United States, India, South Korea, the Philippines, Russia and many other countries followed the traditional route of Christ's final walk, stopping at 14 stations, each marking an event that befell Jesus on the way to his death.

The final five stations are inside the Church of the Holy Sep-



AP Photo / The Ventura County Star, Joseph A. Garcia  
James Chamrerckhang, 16, of Port Hueneme, carries a cross and leads a group of youths participating in a Good Friday observance on Friday in Ventura. The walk began at Channel Islands Vineyard Fellowship Church in Oxnard and finished at Grant Park in Ventura, and was one of countless events marking the holiday worldwide.

ulcher, where tradition says Jesus was stripped, crucified, and finally laid to rest before being resurrected on Easter Sunday.

In a re-enactment of those last hours, a Korean pilgrim played the role of Jesus, wearing a crown of thorns, dragging a cross and covered with fake blood. He was escorted by other pilgrims dressed as Roman legionnaires.

"The Lord moves us to come here," said Bob Payton of Orange County, Calif., playing the part of a Roman soldier in his third Good Friday visit.

Israeli police said "thousands" took part.

In the Philippines, seven penitents in the northern village of San Pedro Cutud were nailed to crosses in an annual rite that is frowned upon by religious leaders but has become a major spectator attraction. Dozens of half-naked men hit their bloodied backs with bamboo sticks in an atonement rite.

In his traditional Good Friday message, Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah, head of the Roman Catholic Church in the Holy Land, appealed to politicians of

all faiths to bring an end to the region's ongoing violence.

"What's happening now, in our Holy Land here, is believers in God killing each other in the name of God; Jews, Muslims, Christians," he said. "We hope, we wish, for political leaders who will have the courage to go and find the right ways for peace."

The calendars of five major Christian faiths coincide with one another this year, something that happens only once every four years.

Clergymen of different Christian denominations, some dressed in colorful robes, filed early Friday into the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

The various groups, who have feuded in the past, put aside their rivalries and the ceremonies passed smoothly. At one point, Catholic and Greek Orthodox worshippers quietly held simultaneous prayers in different parts of the church.

In accordance with tradition, the church's doors were unlocked by a member of a Muslim family that has held the key for centuries.

Easter this year also falls

during the weeklong Jewish festival of Passover, which brings thousands of Jews into the cramped Old City to worship at the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site.

"Faith shouldn't necessarily divide us, but in fact can bring us together," said Catholic pilgrim Michael Murphy, a San Francisco native who lives in Paris.

Israeli police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said hundreds of police were deployed in and around the Old City to maintain order and protect all visitors.

Among the Easter pilgrims on Friday, some could be heard singing hymns in English, Latin and Hindi.

Slavko Stojic, an electrical engineer from Serbia, walked with three large crosses on his shoulders, which he wanted to have blessed before taking them back home.

The pilgrimage, Stojic said, transformed him.

"I'm now a full man," he said.

## Pope carries cross at Friday procession

By **FRANCES D'EMILIO**  
Associated Press Writer

ROME — Pope Benedict XVI gripped a cross at the start of the traditional Good Friday procession at the Colosseum to commemorate Jesus' suffering ahead of his crucifixion, and thousands of faithful prayed with him as they clutched flickering lights in tiny paper lanterns on a warm Rome night.

"It will be a journey into pain, solitude and cruelty into evil and death," Benedict said, describing the procession which was about

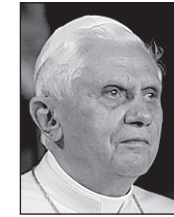
to begin. A tall cross, studded with flaming candles, stood among the bleak, stone ruins of the ancient amphitheater.

"But it will also be a path trod in faith, hope and love, because the tomb which is the final stop on our way will not remain sealed for ever," the pope said, of the joy which awaits Christians Sunday when they will mark Easter, when they hold that Jesus rose from the dead.

The procession, which depicts Jesus' suffering, final hours and crucifixion death, is a solemn ritual for countless Catholics in cities and towns around the world.

Wearing a white robe, the 79-year-old pontiff set off at the head of a column of clergy and other faithful in a narrow aisle between the rows of arches and stonework. Prayers chanted in Latin echoed across the arena.

Benedict then handed over the cross to Rome Cardinal Camillo Ruini, his vicar for Rome. Rome's streets for days have been chock full of tourists and pilgrims, many of them coming for Holy Week ceremonies at the Vatican which will culminate in Easter services Saturday night in St. Peter's Basilica and



POPE  
BENEDICT XVI

another on Sunday morning in St. Peter's Square.

A few hours earlier, Benedict presided over a Good Friday service in the basilica, listening to a lengthy homily read by the papal household's official preacher.

In 2005, Benedict, then German cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, composed the meditations for the cross procession, which Pope John Paul II failed to preside over for the first time in his long papacy because of worsening health. Only eight days before his death, the late pope watched the ritual on TV from his Vatican apartment.

**EASTER WEEK at**

**CHURCH OF THE VALLEY**

*Ordinary People discovering an extraordinary God!*

**Refresh and renew your spiritual life with passion this Easter.**

**Easter Sunrise, April 8, 6:00 AM**  
Sunset Hills Memorial Park  
"Easter Promise"  
Pastor David Loleng

**Easter Morning, April 8**  
"Victory Over Death"  
Dr. Alan G. Stones  
9:00 AM Traditional  
10:30 AM Contemporary  
Hansen Hall.

**Child care through 3rd grade**  
at 9:00 & 10:30 AM services.

20700 Standing Rock Road, AV  
(just off Dale Evans Parkway & Hwy 18)  
Information: 247-6494  
www.churchofthevalley.net

**Jesus is Risen! Celebrate!**

459

**Facts About The BIBLE** BY JOHN LEHTI

This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Genesis intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

**ABRAHAM'S BATTLE WITH THE FIVE KINGS**  
ABRAHAM'S NEPHEW, LOT, HAS MOVED ONTO THE PLAINS NEAR SODOM, BUT SODOM IS NO LONGER A SAFE PLACE, BECAUSE SEVERAL WARRING KINGS ARE ATTACKING WITH THEIR ARMIES IN SEARCH OF LOOT AND SLAVES...

IF MY FORWARD LINE GIVES WAY UNDER THE ASSAULT WE WILL ALL DROP BACK TO REFORM OUR RANKS AND STOP THE ATTACK WITH OUR MAIN BODY OF TROOPS!

KING BEA GIVES THE COMMAND TO FALL BACK IN ORDER TO REFORM THE BROKEN RANKS...

...BUT THE SODOMITE SOLDIERS GO BACK TOO FAST—THERE IS PANIC—THEY BREAK INTO A DEAD RUN—AND THEN FLEE RIGHT INTO A TRAP! THE DEADLY OZZING, TAR PITS OF THE VALE OF SIDDIAM!

THE FORWARD LINE OF THE SODOMITES STANDS READY TO MEET THE CHARGE OF THE INVADING ARMY AT THE VALE OF SIDDIAM.

RUSHING DOWNHILL, THE WEIGHT OF THE INVADERS AND THE FEROCITY OF THEIR ATTACK IS TOO MUCH FOR THE SODOMITES...

Next Week  
PENALTIES OF DEFEAT!

SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK

This Series of Religious Messages is Made Possible by the Following Business Firms

**RANCHO MOTOR CO.**  
14400 7th St., Victorville  
Phone 245-7981

**CAL HERBOLD'S QUALITY NURSERY**  
9403 "E" Ave., Hesperia  
Phone 244-6125

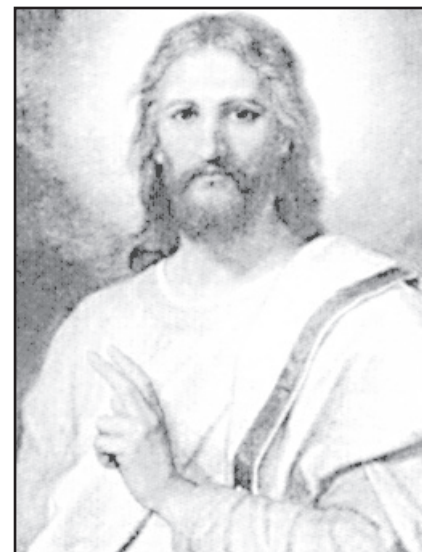
**HIGH DESERT BIBLE SOCIETY**  
13790 Bear Valley Rd., Ste. 2, Victorville  
Phone 241-5788

To Participate in Sponsorship on This Page Call Sheila at 955-5310

## Community Easter Sunrise Service

April 8, 2007 at 6:00 a.m.

Come join the celebration of the Risen Christ in Victor Valley Memorial Park at 11th & C Street, Victorville, thru gate D.



No one would be happier to see you celebrate the miracle of the resurrection than Jesus. After all, it's a miracle He wants everyone to share.

## PARTICIPANTS

Hospice Chaplain, Community Hospice Victor Valley.  
Hospice Chaplain, Visiting Nurse Association of the Inland Counties.  
Primera Iglesia Bautista De Church, Hesperia.  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Victorville.  
United Methodist Church of Victorville.

**Dress Warm and bring a flashlight!**



# Answering God's call

Customizing cell phones with religious content becoming more popular

By **JOE RODRIGUEZ**  
McClatchy Newspapers

WICHITA, Kan. — At 6:15 each morning, Kristin Armstrong receives a text message on her cell phone that helps her start her day in a positive way.

The message — a Bible verse — also lets her maintain her focus on faith.

"I get up sometimes, and I'm not getting up thinking of the wonderful day God has ahead for me," Armstrong, 25, said. Then she reads her daily morning message, and "it kind of helps me move my mind back into the mind-set it needs to, when I'm going astray in the morning. It's a nice reminder."

Such messages are among the growing number of faith-based services offered by wireless service providers.

Cell phone users can watch and listen to sermons of "cyber pas-

tors," download faith-based ring and ring-back tones, and have information about saints sent to their phones.

And the trend isn't limited to Christians. Muslims can get a service on their phone that alerts them when it's time for their daily prayers or lets them download parts of the Quran. A Web site, askmoses.com, can send out information on Jewish history and remind cell phone users of Sabbath and holiday observances.

Some of the services are free, while others have a fee; charges can be by single usage or added to a monthly bill. Most services can be accessed regardless of a person's cell phone provider, as long as the phone has the technological capability, said Donna Sibai, owner of Wireless Toyz Cellular Superstore in Wichita.

"People are really able to pick and

choose what they want," she said.

And more companies are starting to recognize that.

For example, Catholic Mobile was launched late last year. The Denver-based company offers a variety of ways for people to customize their phones to reflect their faith. Among them, people can download ring-tones of "Ave Maria" and "Amazing Grace" or images of Jesus and Pope Benedict XVI. Customers can also receive daily prayers, readings and information on saints.

"Mobiles ... have become extensions of ourselves, both by the many tasks they do for us and the way we try to personalize our cell phones," said Alejandro Bermudez, spokesman for Catholic Mobile. "We believe people who are Catholic should have the opportunity to also turn their cell phones into extensions of themselves as Catholics."

In most instances, the services

target tech-savvy young people — from teens to 30-somethings — who frequently use their mobile devices for more than just phone calls.

Last month, Verizon Wireless added a Christian-oriented channel to its wireless V Cast entertainment menu. Along with getting sports, comedy and pop culture video clips, V Cast subscribers can use a spiritual channel called The Mobile Word. The channel contains video clips from cybepastor.com, which offers daily devotionals. It also plays Bible verses and Christian music and entertainment clips.

"We try and provide our customers with content that we think they want, and faith-based content is something we understood our customers were wanting," said Verizon spokeswoman Cheryl Bini-Armbricht.



Photo illustration by Justin D. Beckett



## Character Counts

by Michael Josephson

### Making character count!

I find myself spending more and more time consulting with large corporations concerned with strengthening their ethical culture. I start by identifying two reasons to be concerned about ethics: virtue (it's the right thing to do) and prudence (it's the smart thing to do).

Although I always stress the intrinsic value of moral principles, most executives are more receptive when I talk about ethics as a risk-management strategy. Above all, they are the stewards of the reputation and resources of their organization, and they know unethical conduct can severely damage or even destroy a company.

The key is to establish an authentic ethical culture that nurtures and rewards trustworthiness, responsibility and mutual respect and discourages dishonesty, unaccountability and disrespect.

This requires much more than codes and classes. Well-written standards of conduct clarify expectations and provide a useful basis for discipline, but that's not enough.

Neither is training. A well-designed ethics course can raise ethical consciousness, teach legal requirements and encourage employees to do the right thing. But unless ethical values are pervasively advocated and enforced in everyday decision making, the risk of unethical behavior remains high.

Generally, we get what we reward. In an ethical culture, formal and informal incentive systems make it easier and wiser to do the right thing. In an ethical culture, deceit, cowardice, and irresponsibility are high-risk behaviors because they endanger careers.

The best way to establish a sustainable ethical culture is to integrate character issues in recruiting, hiring, orientation, in-service training, and especially performance reviews and discipline decisions.

## Polish Jews embrace liberal style worship

By **VANESSA GERA**  
Associated Press Writer

WARSAW, Poland — Ludmila Krzewska abandoned Judaism after enduring anti-Semitic childhood taunts, and warnings from her parents that it wasn't safe to be Jewish in Poland.

The 25-year-old biology student decided to reclaim her heritage five years ago in the face of declining anti-Semitism. But she met a different kind of rejection. She was discouraged from joining Warsaw's Orthodox Jewish community by one member because her husband isn't Jewish, she recalled.

So Krzewska turned to Warsaw's fledgling Progressive Jewish community, becoming one of



AP Photo / Katarzyna Mala

Members of Warsaw's Progressive Jewish community Beit Warszawa pray as they welcome the Sabbath in Warsaw, Poland.

a growing number of eastern European Jews embracing a modern, liberal stream of Judaism amid a larger rebirth of a Jewish community, once Europe's largest, that was devastated by the Holocaust.

Many are drawn to Progressive Judaism — known in the U.S. as Reform Judaism — because they consider it more in tune with

modern life, and say it allows them to remain more a part of the non-Jewish world.

"There's been a tremendous resurgence of (Progressive) Jewish life," said Rabbi Joel Oseran, vice president of international development with the World Union for Progressive Judaism in Jerusalem. "We see young people searching for Jewish meaning, people

who have come anew to their own Jewish identities. And Poland is the best example of that."

It is tricky to live an Orthodox life in this staunchly Roman Catholic country of 38 million, where there are perhaps 30,000 Jews, according to some estimates. Pork sausages and other non-kosher foods crown most menus. There's only one kosher butcher in the entire country, in Bialystok, 110 miles northeast of Warsaw. Shutdown comes at 3 p.m. in the deep of winter, meaning Jews who observe the Sabbath must cease work in the middle of the work day on Fridays — not an option in most jobs.

Unlike the Orthodox, Reform Jews travel on the Sabbath, sit with the opposite sex during services and don't necessarily adhere to all dietary laws.

"It gives you more independence and a spectrum of choice," said Krzewska, whose husband eventually converted. "And it makes it easier to have non-Jewish friends, homosexual friends, people who are different."

Before World War II, Poland was home to a vibrant Yiddish-

speaking Jewish community of nearly 3.5 million. Following Nazi Germany's invasion in 1939, most were murdered in Nazi-run death camps, such as Auschwitz, that dotted the land that had been their home for a thousand years.

Of those who survived, many fled in reaction to anti-Semitic violence or repression under communism. Those who remained often turned their backs on the faith — though their last names sometimes prevented them from hiding their heritage — and many intermarried with the Roman Catholic majority.

But now, with post-Cold War democracy nurturing a new tolerance and security, many Jews are increasingly returning to their roots, in many cases discovering only very recently they have Jewish ancestry.

Reform Judaism was founded in 19th-century Germany, but came to maturity in North America, where it has grown into the world's largest Jewish denomination. It faces challenges in other countries, particularly Israel, where religious life is dominated by the Orthodox.

# Make Time to Worship



A Ministry For All People  
Pastor Dr. & Mrs.  
Samuel D. Lee  
cordially invite you to a  
new experience of  
preaching and teaching.

14262 McArt St. • Victorville, CA 92392 • (760) 962-9231

## Crossroads Cathedral of Praise Church

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

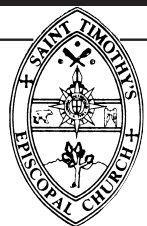
### TIME OF SERVICES:

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. — Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. — Sunday Worship

Tuesday: Noon — Prayer & Bible Band  
Wednesday: 6:30 p.m. • Prayer & Healing Service  
7:00 p.m. Bible Study  
— NURSERY PROVIDED —

## St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

15757 St. Timothy Rd. • Apple Valley, CA 92307 • 242-2405



## God is Alive and With Us This Easter

Tomorrow morning we will be celebrating a New Life.

Wouldn't it be great to find new life,  
new joy and  
new hope for yourself too?

If so, join us for a festival of Easter  
sights, sounds, smells and smiles.

Services begin at 8 A.M. and 10 A.M.

Followed by a Celebration Reception with Hot Cross Buns and Easter Egg Hunts for children of all ages.

Childcare is available at all services.

For additional information  
please call us at 242-2405 or

E-mail sttimschurchav@charterinternet.com

## "The Last Days and the Book of Revelation"

9/11, Tsunamis, Earthquakes, War in the Middle East and Predictions about the Rapture. Are we in the end times? Are the "Left Behind" books accurate? How should you understand current world events in light of biblical books such as Revelation?

High Desert United Reformed Church invites you to hear author, professor and pastor, Dr. Michael Horton, speak on this important topic of the Last Days on Thursday, April 19th at 7:00 p.m. at the Lewis Center for Educational Research in Apple Valley.

Refreshments will be served and a nursery provided  
Call 951-0809 or visit  
www.highdeserture.org  
for directions or more information

## Find New Life This Easter

### St. John Lutheran Church

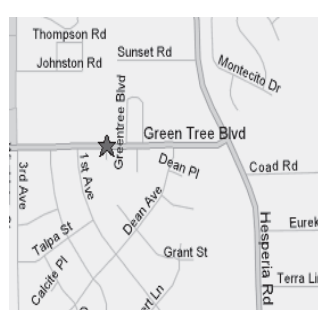
16700 Green Tree Blvd.  
Victorville, CA 92395

Sunday, April 8

Easter Dawn Worship — 7:00 a.m.

Easter Breakfast — 8:00 a.m.

Easter Day Worship — 10:00 a.m.



Christ is risen!  
He is risen indeed!  
Join us to celebrate what  
Christ's victory over death  
means for your life!

Pastor David J. Salinas  
Phone: 760-245-9090  
www.stjohnvictorville.com

Victors in Christ Serving the Victor Valley!

## "He Lives!"

### CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

9966 "I" Ave.

Hesperia • 244-0414

Sunday Service

10:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

Pastor Tom Ratcliff



### Calvary Chapel Victorville

15081 Center Street

Victorville 760-241-0778

### Special Guest Speaker Gayle Erwin

April 13 - 15th

In the Sanctuary, Friday, April 13th 7:00 p.m.

2 Sessions on Saturday

April 14th 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Sunday April 15th Morning Service at 10 a.m.

"The Jesus Style"

Gayle has real talent for humorously helping us see ourselves in the faulty disciples Jesus surrounded Himself (and continues to surround Himself) with.



## Ask the clergy

By IMAM SHAMSHAD A. NASIR

### Should you help those that may deceive you?

**DESIRE THAT OTHERS BE HAPPY**  
— Lama Chuck Stanford, Rime Buddhist Center & Monastery:

There are countless stories in the Buddhist scriptures about the expression of limitless compassion. None expresses this better than the following story from the Zen tradition.

Once there was a simple Buddhist monk by the name of Ryokan who lived in perpetual retreat in a small hut at the base of a mountain. One evening a thief broke into his hut only to discover it was empty. Ryokan returned and caught him. "You have come a long way to visit me," he told the prowler, "and you should not return empty-handed. Please take my clothes as a gift." The thief was bewildered. He took the clothes and slunk away. Ryokan sat naked looking at the full moon. "Poor fellow," he mused, "I wish I could give him this beautiful moon, too."

Some might say that Ryokan was letting the thief take advantage of him by giving him his clothes. But the point of the story was that Ryokan was so compassionate and so non-attached that he genuinely didn't mind giving the thief his only possession — his clothes. This is best expressed in the words of Shantideva, who said: "All those who suffer in the world do so because of a desire for their own hap-

piness. All those happy in the world are so because of their desire for the happiness of others."

**HELP OTHERS CHEERFULLY** — Pastor Raymond Davis Jr., Greater Corinthian Church of the Christ:

Helping people can be a very controversial issue, especially when those being asked to help have the mind-set of being suspicious of the one asking. Using the street vernacular, people are wary of being played.

But the guiding hand for responding to the call to help someone in need should always be the Good Samaritan principle, "he had compassion on him" (Luke 10:33 KJV).

Jesus' teaching on helping people stands in the context of our moral and spiritual duties to God and our fellow man. The practice for doing such is the Christian model for pleasing God.

Some firm directives are given concerning the matter of help-giving: "Be ye therefore merciful." "Give and it shall be given unto you." "Give to every man that asketh of you." "As ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them" (Luke 6:36, 38, 30, 31).

To this regard, we should not approach this circumstance of being asked to help with any suspicion of ill will from those who ask of us. We should stay away from a judgmental and defensive attitude. The possibility does exist that you will be used disrespectfully. But less help or no help is given when the phrase "take advantage of you" becomes an issue. If you help others in distress, do it cheerfully (Romans 12:8).

**VOICES OF FAITH:** Send your questions for one of our panels of religion columnists to Helen Gray at The Star, 1729 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, Mo. 64108. Send e-mail to hgraykstar.com or a fax to (816) 234-4787.

# Finding peace in life's storm

Hospice chaplains help those dealing with the end of their own time

By MARK I. PINSKY  
The Orlando Sentinel

ORLANDO, Fla. — Joyce Bergen is going over plans for her post-funeral reception.

"It's going to be a party," says the 80-year-old Longwood, Fla., woman. Its music will reflect her life, including "Chicago," "New York, New York" and a Blues Brothers number. So will the menu — lots of Polish dishes.

"The good Lord gave me the time to do this," she says.

Sitting next to Bergen's bed, Mike Caroline, a chaplain for Hospice of the Comforter, listens intently. It's what he does best on his daily journeys throughout Central Florida, ministering to those whose days on Earth are dwindling.

Bergen, a breast-cancer patient, is weak this day and can't get up. She has two small dogs at her feet. She laughs and she cries. She tells Caroline that she dressed up and even put on a little makeup for him. The chaplain reassures her when she wonders whether she has been praying enough.

"You've given me a beautiful insight," Bergen tells him. "It's not my strength, but God's strength" that enables her to keep going.

"I have felt the touch of God on my shoulder, in so many ways," she says.

Caroline says he draws strength from the "transcendence" of patients such as Bergen. "These are the amazing people I meet every day," he says. "That's why I can't be depressed."

For 58-year-old Caroline, death is a constant companion — but not an unwelcome one.

"Most of the people under our care die a peaceful, graceful death," he says, "which is a blessing."

Caroline spent 27 years as a Catholic priest with the Glenmary Home Missionaries, much of that time spent as pastor of small churches in rural Kentucky. In 2001 he married a long-time friend and former nun, Ellen Kalenberg.

Though he can no longer officiate at Mass, Caroline says his hospice ministry provides "a wonderful gift to live out my priesthood as a married man."

He is one of 12 full-time hospice chaplains at Hospice of the Comforter in Altamonte Springs, Fla. All are Christian, although volunteer clergy from Jewish, Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist traditions are on call. Pastors from congregations where patients have been members also help with visits.

Caroline, who has been with hospice for six years, has a caseload of 40 to 50 people. Each week four to six of them die, and an equal number are added to the list. Those whose



George Skene / Orlando Sentinel / MCT  
Mike Caroline, a chaplain for Hospice of the Comforter, greets patient Herman Hall at his home in Sanford, Florida. Hall was a landscaper before he took ill in 2002.

conditions are stable receive pastoral visits about every three weeks.

Most days, he visits three to five patients. He carries a large, black ring binder with a printout on each patient and family, but he also adds yellow Post-its on the pages, with personal notes about each individual's past visits. He usually dresses in a white shirt and tie, with his sport jacket tossed across the back seat of his green, 1998 Honda Civic. A simple wooden cross hangs from the rearview mirror.

On this day, he swings through Longwood for a visit with Tony and Nydia Lopez.

Tony's heart is failing. When doctors gave him two months to live and referred the family to hospice, Nydia thought the service was "for someone on their deathbed."

That was three years ago.

"I truly believe we have come this far because of hospice," she says. "Spiritually, they take care of us. Tony has done much better than if he had been in the hospital. It is more relaxed with family around. He has had a much better quality of life."

Nydia tells Caroline that he was "heaven-sent to our house. You are part of the family now."

Tony, 77, agrees. "Hospice will go out of business from me," he jokes.

There is a general rhythm to Caroline's visits, which never seem rushed. First he asks how people are feeling, if their material and medical needs are being met. Then he asks how their caregivers are doing. Sometimes, with cancer patients, he mentions in

passing that he has had prostate cancer. He coaxes happy memories from them, and if they seem receptive, he gently shifts to more spiritual matters.

"A hospice chaplain meets that patient wherever they are," says Jeanne Twohig, deputy director of the Duke Institute on Care at the End of Life at the Duke Divinity School.

"Sometimes that involves God, and sometimes it doesn't," she says. "The best hospice chaplains are nonjudgmental about that. The chaplain doesn't bring his or her own understanding of theology or religion unless that's what the patient wants. They just meet the patients where they are."

And, says Caroline, this approach works. One man, a lifelong agnostic, unexpectedly asked Caroline into the back yard so they could pray.

"My heart told me that God was working in his life," Caroline recalls. "I knew he was in God's care already."

Often, Caroline asks his patients if they have thought about heaven.

"The time is coming, I know, but I'm not in a hurry," Tony Lopez replies. "Not yet."

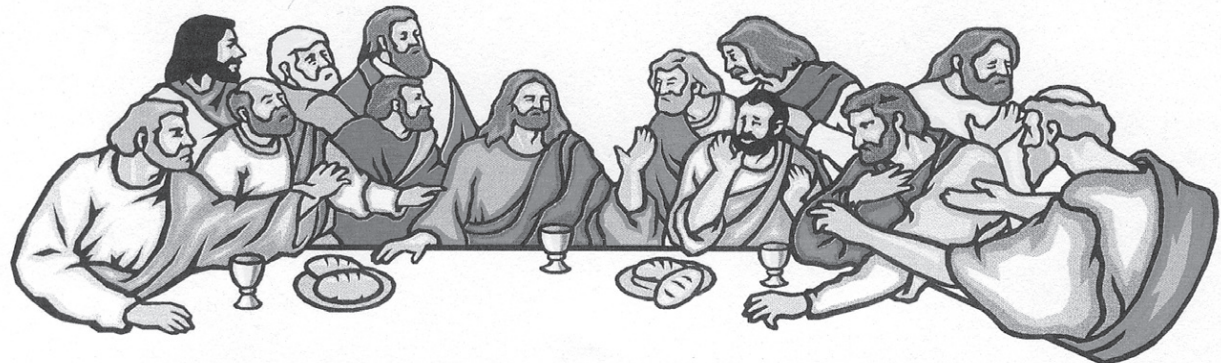
In a modest house in Sanford, Fla., retired landscaper Herman Hall, 75, medicates himself with an automated inhaler, sitting on his bed in the living room. Then he reminisces with Caroline about his hunting and fishing trips.

Heaven?  
"I'm looking forward to that," Hall tells the chaplain, and to hearing from his "best friend," Jesus. "I want to be ready when he calls me."



**PASTOR DAVID DENSON &  
THE BURNING BUSH CHURCH  
INVITE YOU TO A RESURRECTION  
SUNDAY CELEBRATION!**

## WELCOME TO "THE TABLE"



*Come Celebrate with the  
Church that Loves  
"L-O-D-D-Y, D-O-D-D-Y  
and  
Every B-O-D-D-Y"!*

*Services will be held at:  
The Hilton Gardens Hotel  
12603 Mariposa Road, Victorville, CA*

*April 8, 2007  
Service Times: 8 am & 11 am*

**Burning Bush Church Office  
15028 7th St., Ste. 6, Victorville, CA**

**Phone: 760-241-6221  
Fax: 760-241-0732 • Website: 1bbbc.org**



# Art offers window into Islamic world

By NOREEN S. AHMED-ULLAH  
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — In the early 1970s, the game of table tennis led to a thawing in U.S.-Chinese relations. Curators of an Islamic art exhibit at Chicago's Smart Museum hope art can work the same magic, opening doors to greater understanding between the U.S. and the Muslim world.

"If you say Islam to most Americans, they say terrorist," said exhibit co-curator Jonathan Bloom, a professor of Islamic art and architecture. "We want to show there's a different side to Islam. That it has a very rich and long culture."

Few U.S. residents realize the contributions of Islam to modern civilization, such as introducing Arabic numerals and papermaking to Europe, said Sheila Blair, exhibit co-curator and Bloom's wife.

Bloom and Blair, who are professors of Islamic art at both Boston College and Virginia Commonwealth University, hope the intricacy and beauty of the displayed pieces will lead visitors to read more about Islamic culture. The artifacts come from the David Collection in Copenhagen, considered one of the finest Islamic art collections in the world.

"In some way art creates an opening," Bloom said. "Our

main focus is that people enjoy it and want to learn more."

Blair added: "We wanted to affect their eyes, and that would lead them to then use their brains."

Islamic art, as defined by the curators, encompasses both secular and religious works in the Muslim world from the early days of Islam in the 7th Century until the influence of European colonialism began to be seen in the 19th Century. It was produced from Spain and West Africa to China and Indonesia.

Unlike familiar art forms like paintings on canvas or sculpture, Islamic art leaned toward a smaller scale and focused on everyday objects that were both useful and beautifully decorated. Decoration was its most distinctive aspect, found on everything from the wooden pulpit in a mosque to a ceramic bowl at home. Thus, the exhibit is named "Cosmophilia," or "the love of ornament."

Objects on display include an ink and gold fragment from a Koran manuscript; panels of tiles that could have lined Topkapi Palace in Istanbul; a kaleidoscopic 17th Century door from Iran with several types of wood, ivory and brass inlay; a 14th Century silk tapestry roundel depicting an enthroned Mongol prince surrounded by his courtiers; and a stunning Iranian carpet.

Barak Rosenshine, 70, a retired educational psychology professor, was visiting Chicago recently when



Carlos J. Ortiz / Chicago Tribune / MCT  
Laverne Alexander and Carol Schneider, right, look over an exhibit of Islamic art at the University of Chicago in Chicago, Ill.

he dropped by the Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago. He seemed mesmerized by the painstaking work put into the 17th Century door.

"Given the prejudice against Muslims today, it's wonderful to see this and reflect on the glory of that culture," he said. "We're bombarded with the fear that this country is going to be invaded by terrorists from the Middle East. Nothing positive is coming out of the Middle East. This is another side."

From the minute they walk into the exhibit, visitors will grapple with their misconceptions. The first section is devoted to artifacts that depict the human form.

"The one thing everyone seems to know about Islamic art is that it doesn't have human figures," Bloom said. "It's not true. Here, there's a whole section of pictures."

Because the Koran, the Mus-

lim scripture, bans the worship of idols, pictures of people are not found in mosques and other religious settings. And though conservatives frown on figurative art, other Muslims enjoy depictions of people and animals in their everyday lives, Bloom said.

The next section of the exhibit focuses on writing and calligraphy. Bloom said the central miracle in Islam is the Koran, which Muslims believe was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. Reverence for God's word and efforts to make it as physically beautiful as its content made calligraphy the major art form throughout the Muslim world, he said.

"For conservative religious types, calligraphy is the noblest of the arts," Bloom said. "Manuscripts of the Koran and objects of religious writing and secular writing all are treated with great care."

# School board to consider 'Bible as Literature' course

By ANNIE BURRIS  
The Orange County Register

Huntington Beach high school students could soon be bringing a Bible to school — not for a Bible study but for class credit.

The district's school board Tuesday will consider a proposal for a Bible as literature course that would be offered as an elective in its public high schools.

Walter Schulte, a retired mechanical engineer, and his daughter, Mary Ann Shields, will make a presentation to the Huntington Beach Union High School District board.

They said they plan to discuss the significance of offering the course and to share about 2,000 signatures they said they collected from parents, guardians, teachers and high school students within the district who support it.

"The course is designed not as a religious class or as a Bible study," Shields said. "It is helping students understand a classical illusion of references to the Bible."

The Los Alamitos Unified School District already offers a Bible as Literature course, officials said.

Similar courses are also offered in Long Beach, Fallbrook and Murrietta Valley unified school districts.

The father-daughter team originally got the idea for the program when they heard about a similar course in North

Carolina and wanted the class taught in their local schools.

Schulte and Shields had previously suggested a pilot program in November 2005 to Superintendent Van Riley and Carol Osbrink, assistant superintendent of educational services, and were rejected. This is their first proposal to the board.

The idea was revived at a March 13 meeting when school board member Matthew Harper asked to have the presentation put on the agenda for the following meeting.

"I don't know how the board will respond," said board member Bonnie Castrey. "Until we study an issue, we don't know."

The proposed curriculum, which includes mock trials and presentations, meets California requirements for school materials and was written by Nader Twal at Millikan High School in Long Beach, Shields and Schulte said.

Teachers would be chosen according to their academic qualifications and not religious affiliations and would be teaching from the King James version of the Bible, they said.

The course will focus on the literary style and nature of the Bible as well as biblical references in popular literature.

References to the Bible can be found in Shakespearean works, "Moby Dick," "Jane Eyre" and "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" as well as the Declaration of Independence.

## Religious Perspectives

By REV. TOM MORRISON

There has been an explosion of interest in the "last days." Jerry Jenkins and Tim LaHaye have co-authored the "Left Behind" book series; 63 million copies have been sold. Increasingly, evangelical Christian perspectives on the last days are the subject of television and radio interviews. Apocalyptic events such as 9/11, natural disasters such as recent earthquakes and war in the Middle East seem to provide a receptive context among people for

popular evangelical perspectives on the last days.

The evangelical perspective is popular because it provides detailed commentary on current world events. For example, Joel Rosenberg, the author of several books on the end times, confidently states that he knows the application of certain Old Testament texts. In a CNN interview, Mr. Rosenberg stated that Ezekiel chapters 36 and 37 are about the rebirth

of the state of Israel and the city of Jerusalem coming back under Jewish control. Mr. Rosenberg and many evangelicals detail the unfolding of the end times as they read the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other.

But one should question the ability of people like Joel Rosenberg and others to interpret the Bible and political events with any real competence. Do these people really understand the biblical text and

the political intricacies of the Jewish Knesset and the tensions in the Middle East? They do not. Merely notice the prophecy books on the second Persian Gulf War on sale for pennies and the lists of false predictions about the "rapture." Since the last days are such an important topic, one should listen carefully to those who are both sensitive to what the biblical text actually says and humble to confess limitations about the application of the Bible

to current events.

High Desert United Reformed Church invites all who are interested to listen to a biblical theologian on the topic of the last days. Author, professor and pastor, Dr. Michael Horton, will speak on the topic of the last days on Thursday April 19th at 7:00 PM at the Lewis Center for Educational Research in Apple Valley. Call 951-809 or visit [www.highdeserturc.org](http://www.highdeserturc.org) for directions or more information.

# The last days and the Book of Revelation

First Baptist Church of Hesperia is pleased to present



A Sermon in Song

April 7th at 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.  
April 8th at 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.  
Admission is Free

9280 Maple Ave. • Hesperia • 244-4109



Hallelujah!  
He Is Risen!

ALL WELCOMED TO  
EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

April 8th, 2007 at 6:15 a.m.  
RIVER OF LIFE CHURCH  
8519 Maple Avenue

Free Pancake Breakfast for all who attend.

Also 10:00 a.m. Easter Service

Nursery available • For more information call 947-6551

## Jubilee Fellowship

Invites you to

"Something Happened

Early Sunday Morning"

a fresh look at the Resurrection story

12241 Industrial Blvd. • Victorville

(Between Bear Valley Rd. & Jasmine St.)

Victorville 8:30 & 10:00 AM

(Child care provided in the 10:00 AM service)

Senior Pastor  
Ray & Carmel Gemme

Associate Pastor  
Bill & Katie Stone

Cell Ministry Pastor  
Bruce & Bubble Bestul

Spanish Ministries Pastor  
Danny & Terry Laboy 952-1155

[www.jubileefellowship.org](http://www.jubileefellowship.org) • (760) 245-1775

### First Baptist Church of Hesperia

Wayne Stockstill  
Senior Pastor

9280 Maple Ave.  
(760) 244-4109

"Big enough to meet your needs,  
small enough to care"

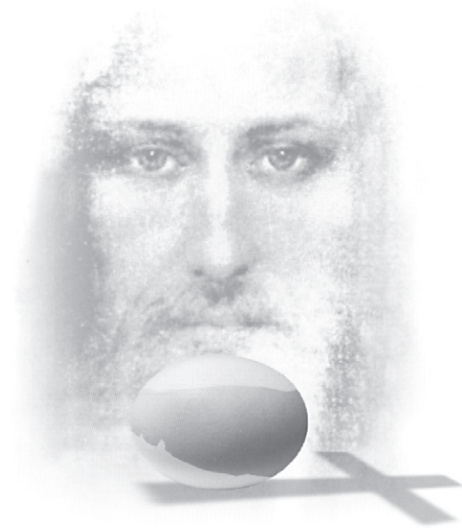
Join us weekly for worship and ministry activities!

SUNDAY - Childcare available -  
8:00 A.M. Blended Worship  
8:00 A.M. Bible Study for all ages  
9:30 A.M. Praise Worship  
9:30 A.M. Bible Study for all ages  
11:00 A.M. Blended Worship  
11:00 A.M. Selected Adult Classes  
5:15 P.M. Children's Awana  
6:00 P.M. Evening Worship

TUESDAY  
6:00 P.M. High School Bible Study  
WEDNESDAY  
5:30 P.M. MAD(D) House (Children)  
6:30 P.M. Corporate Prayer  
6:30 P.M. Junior High Bible Study  
6:30 P.M. Preschool/Children/Youth/Adult  
Discipleship  
7:15 P.M. Adult Bible Study

THURSDAY  
7:00 P.M. College Bible Study/Fellowship  
Web: [www.fbch.org](http://www.fbch.org) • email: [fbcfbch.org](mailto:fbcfbch.org)

This Easter, let your kids  
discover something more  
meaningful than a painted egg...



...and find the true miracle of Easter.  
Join us as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## THE COMMUNITY CHURCH

at Jess Ranch

Worship Services 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School — 9:00 a.m. • Jr. High Youth Study — 9:00 a.m.  
Junior and Senior High Youth Groups — Wednesday, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Nursery Care during 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Services

11537 Apple Valley Rd., Apple Valley • 961-2242

"Serving All People, Of All Ages, In The Name Of Christ"  
Rev. Frank G. Fahnestock, Senior Pastor, Rev. Michael R. Coffee, Associate Pastor