



NEWSLETTER

April 2014

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VISIT THE WEBSITE

Note the daily blogs on the website from Lynn Kennedy, that began a week before Easter.

DON'T MISS IT!
shatteringdarkness.org

CELEBRATE!

Easter is celebrated differently with many of us. Some with young children search for eggs and many have family dinners and worship together.

Explore with Lynn Kennedy the Easter celebration THIS YEAR of our brothers and sisters in Burkina Faso in West Africa. Be inspired and challenged by their faith and devotion.

"He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said,"
Matthew 28:6

It is early morning here. One by one people enter and are given a strip of black construction paper and a nail. No one speaks and no one greets. The silence is as profound as the darkness. As the hour nears 7 PM, a few kerosene lamps are lighted. It is now that we see the wooden Cross placed against the mud brick altar.

There are no drums this night. There is no ballaphone this night. There is no choir singing and no dancing. What there is...is silence. Heaviness. The Cross.

The Pastor brings the message of "Good Friday" (called HOLY Friday here in Burkina). Interesting. Although the Pastor reads the Scriptures and details the physical sufferings (Passions) of our Christ, he spends a personal time of reflection as well. He

presents to us his sense that our Lord Jesus suffered more emotionally than physically. He leads us to imagine the abandonment felt by the One called Christ. Christ's intimate friends sleep rather than pray. His intimate friends run away. His intimate friend denies personal knowledge or acquaintance.

We, who know this One called Christ have never doubted His physical suffering, whether or not we can even begin to understand it! Many of us may have intimate knowledge of the pain accompanied with abandonment, death, divorce, betrayal. Have any of us ever attributed those emotions and sorrows upon our Savior?

We are now instructed to look at our individual slips of black paper. We are told to reflect on our personal sin and sinfulness which necessitated the death of Jesus; the spilling out of His blood, the mockery, the sorrow, the abandonment and separation from His Father endured by the Holy One.

A slow melody begins and a few people begin to whisper the words accompanying the melody. Jesus paid it all at the Cross. He showed His love at the Cross. He obeyed to the death at the Cross. He holds our sorrows at the Cross. He gains our Victory at the Cross. He holds the future at the Cross. One by one we are told to approach the Cross and with a hammer placed in our hands, to nail our "black sinfulness" to the Cross.

"Oh, I remember this," I say to myself. "We did something similar to this at my home Church." Then I notice, in the still darkness...this is not the same at all! People falling to their knees at the Cross! One is on his face at the foot of the Cross...weeping...nailing the "blackness" to the lowest place on the Cross! People approach one by one...then kneel and stay..."HOLY" Friday.

The next morning and throughout the day people are free to come and pray and confess, but still in silence as we continue to ponder the price our Savior paid for our freedom. At 9 PM Saturday evening we are once again together at the church. It is difficult to find a seat. There is an "air" of expectation and hope.

The message is a review of the 7 phrases Jesus uttered from the cross. Here in Dagara culture, when a person is dying they call those closest to them to encircle their mat and speak their last words of counsel and instruction. When we looked at the 7 phrases from the Cross that the Scripture records for us, they are important indeed! The entire congregation listened intently then spontaneously drop to their knees to search their individual hearts.

As time nears 10 PM the choir begins to lead us in worship with mellow songs of adoration, gratitude and hope. It is now 11 PM, standing room only. People outside are circling the church building trying to squeeze to a place near any of the windows allowing them to see inside.

Drums! Ballaphone! PRAISE! This continues until...folks begin to take their sleeping children home. Some others head home as well. Still others, many others, are still dancing and singing as Sunday day breaks through the heavens!

Resurrection Sunday! Best dresses. Fancy head coverings. Men in suits and dress shirts and slacks. Children so excited they can not contain their joy. Hours of singing

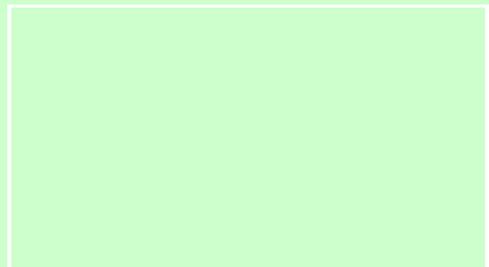
of our Risen Lord and the empty grave. Dancing, Drama Group, Bible Photos, Bible Message. All the while I am looking at the Cross. The **EMPTY CROSS!!**

"HE IS ALIVE! JUST AS HE SAID!"

ALLELUIA!



Nailing my sin to the cross.





Sins nailed to the cross



Humble before the cross



Resurrection Sunday Celebration!

"HE IS ALIVE! JUST AS HE SAID!" ALLELUIA!

If you have enjoyed and been touched by our e-newsletters we have a favor to ask. Please pass along the newsletter to friends and co-workers. We are attempting to expand our contact base and each of you reading this month's edition know many people we never meet this side of heaven. To receive this bi-monthly e-newsletter simply send your email address to : nbkort@gmail.com

Prayer Requests

1. The SW Region of Burkina Faso is experiencing our version of the California GOLDRUSH days. Danger. Death. Immorality. Broken homes. GOLD FEVER. Alcohol. Drugs.

Please pray that we will know how to enter this darkness in a way to minister to those 'enraptured' at even the possibility that they will discover gold!

2. Please pray that we will be able to develop viable plans for approaching the many Muslims in this country in a way they will truly listen and be open to Truth.

3. Please pray for Patrice, Celine, Marcel, Christien and Victor as they each finish up various levels of their continued ministerial formation/education.

JOIN US IN PRAISING AND THANKING GOD:

1. 260 women attended the National Baptist Women's Conference which SD Ministries hosted.

2. Our Lord faithfully protects us amidst the onslaught of spiritual warfare.

3. Ed, Tracy, Maleah and Grace Manning are headed our way June 15, 2014! YEAH!

4. YOU...our Partners in the Faith and the Fight

**"Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because I am doing something in your days... You would not believe if you were told."
Habakkuk 1:5**

How to Financially Partner With Shattering Darkness Ministries

To send a tax-deductible, charitable contribution using Pay Pal or by Credit Card, click [here](#) and select the [donate button on our website](#) or mail your contribution to:

Shattering Darkness
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Newnan, GA 30271

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Karen Bassett by phone at (678) 378-6004 or contact Karen by e-mail at Karenb@newhopebc.org.

"When you make a financial contribution to the work of Jesus Christ via Shattering Darkness Ministries, you are impacting a lost world in the areas of evangelism, discipleship, church planting, radio broadcasts, Jesus Film production, building schools and churches, treating thousands of sick and ministering to widows and orphans.

We cannot place a dollar amount value on this. Can you?"

Shattering Darkness, PO Box 71844, Newnan, GA 30271