INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Ted Johnston

Dear GC2 equipper readers:

I'm privileged to serve as *GC2 equipper* editor with assistance from copy editor Nancy Akers, utilizing contributions from ministry developers and readers who share tips and resources related to GC2 ministry.

Senior pastors are emailed *GC2 equipper* automatically each month. Others may be included in this distribution by sending a request to Ted.Johnston@wcg.org. Current and past issues may be downloaded at http://www.wcg.org/MinDev/Web%20Documents/GC2%20equipper.htm.

This issue focuses on **Holy Week**—providing links to resources that you may find helpful in your preparation. Holy Week begins with **Palm Sunday** (April 1 this year). It rehearses Jesus' entry into Jerusalem where, with great irony, the crowds proclaimed him conquering king even as he entered Jerusalem to suffer and die.

Next is **Maundy Thursday** commemorating the Last Supper, which Jesus shared with his disciples the night before he died. Maundy Thursday is named for the 'new command' which Jesus gave that night (John 13:34). *Maundy* is from *mandatum* a Latin word meaning command. At the Last Supper Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper (the bread and wine of remembrance) and washed the disciples feet to dramatize his commitment to serve others – a commitment that would take him the next day to the cross.

Next is **Good Friday**, which remembers Jesus' journey that day as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world—a journey that took him to the cross and the tomb. Good Friday services often rehearse the steps in Jesus' journey and his final words as he hung dying on the cross.

Holy Week concludes with **Easter Sunday** (April 8 this year)—a joyful celebration of Jesus' resurrection that validated his death as the sacrifice of no less than the Eternal Son of God in the flesh. Because we are united to Christ it also makes sure our hope of future resurrection. I wish you a wonderful Holy Week and my prayer is that God uses you powerfully during this season to share the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection with believers and nonbelievers alike.
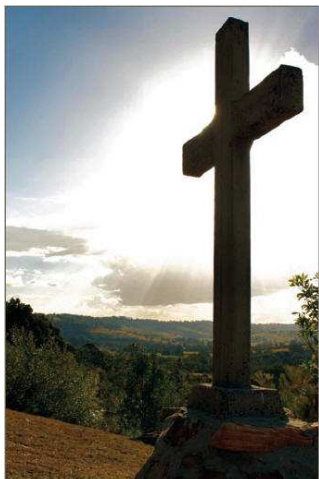
Ted Johnston
Editor, GC2 equipper

Q & A: Tips and Resource

Q: Any tips for celebrating Holy Week as a congregation?

A: Most congregations hold special worship services during Holy Week, which includes Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Since providing four services in one week is beyond the resources of most congregations, it's typical to have a Palm Sunday service the first weekend, a Maundy Thursday or Good Friday service midweek, and a concluding Easter Sunday service. Some congregations have only two weekend services—Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

Whatever arrangement is used, the goal is to remember and celebrate the essential messages that flow out of the events of Holy Week, culminating in Jesus' death and resurrection.

Listed below are Holy Week sermons and dramas that you may find useful as you prepare. Download them by clicking on the web addresses noted (or copying the address and pasting it in your web browser). Most are in Word for Windows format.

Palm Sunday sermon:

http://www.wcg.org/MinDev/Web%20Documents/Palm%20Sunday%20sermon.doc

Maundy Thursday Last Supper drama:

http://www.wcg.org/MinDev/Web%20Documents/Maundy%20Thursday%20drama.doc

Easter Sunday sermon:

http://www.wcg.org/MinDev/Web%20Documents/Easter%20sermon.doc

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