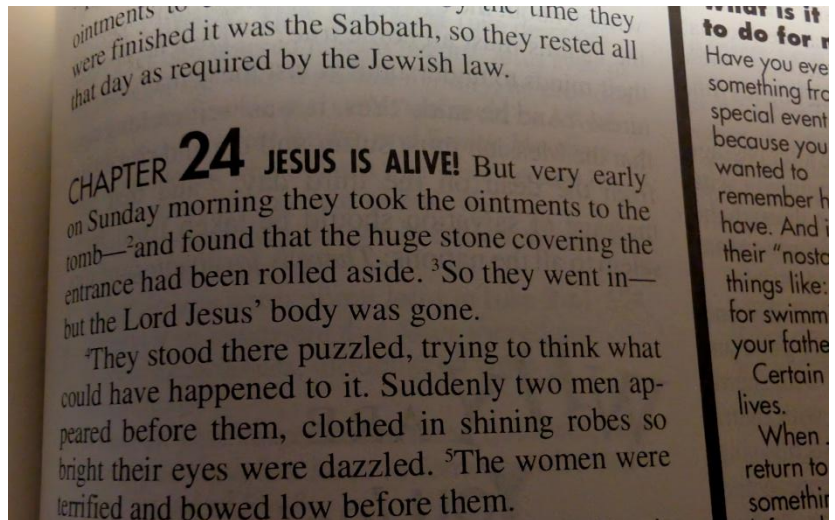


Jesus is Alive

Back in 2002, our family faced a dramatic personal crisis. Our son and a companion were lost in the Amazon rainforest. We were notified on the afternoon of 4th day by the US Embassy in Brasilia that search efforts were unsuccessful but continuing. Even though we are a family deeply rooted in our faith, it is human nature for our minds to consider the possibility that our son and his friend were no longer alive. There are many dangers in the vast, untamed wilderness of the Amazon jungle – the largest and most dense rainforest in the world.

On Sunday morning (day six), I felt God speaking directly to me. My daily morning routine is to sit at the kitchen table, spend time in prayer, and read the next several chapters of my Bible. There was never a time in my life when this was more needed. Just before opening my bible, I literally asked God the question: “Please tell me, is my son still alive?” In other words, is there still hope? My bookmark showed me where I had left off the day before, so I opened my Bible to begin reading the next chapter. God’s answer to my prayer was staring me in the face. In boldface print, the caption read: **"Jesus is Alive!"** To make sure I made the connection, the verse even identified the day: *“But very early that Sunday morning ...”* That passage spoke of the Sunday morning in the resurrection story (Luke, chapter 24).



This is what I saw when I opened my eyes for my daily reading on June 2, 2002

Those three printed words, "Jesus is Alive," were God’s way of telling me that my son was still alive and that God was with me during this crisis. Those words gave me the reassurance to trust that the Lord was at work.

Today, on Easter Sunday, we celebrate that Jesus is Alive! “Christ has risen. He has risen, indeed. Hallelujah!” Jesus’ resurrection turned tragedy into triumph. It came at a time when emotions were at their lowest point. Yet, when it seemed like there was no hope, Jesus emerged victorious, rising from the dead on that third day. Because of that, it changed the lives of all believers -- forever.

The Easter story is relevant for us today. The resurrection is a reassurance that Jesus is alive and present in our daily lives. His triumph gives all believers the Hope for life eternal. Jesus told His disciples, *Because I live, you also will live (John 14:19).*

At 12:05 AM the next morning, we received a call informing us that they had been found -- alive!

It is time to celebrate! Jesus is alive! Hallelujah. May you always feel God’s presence in your lives. Happy Easter.

The Bible Says: *For you, LORD, have delivered me from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling, that I may walk before the LORD in the land of the living.*

Question: When you are in a crisis, do you seek the Lord’s comfort and trust in His plan?

Closing Prayer: Dear Lord. The resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, provides a path for the forgiveness of our sins. It also gives us the assurance that You are with us always, and we have Hope for the life to come. Amen.