

Easter Hope

By Red Miller

Jesus told her, *"I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. (John 11:25-26)*

Recently I read this story.

"One Ash Wednesday, I attended a graveside funeral service for a 16-year-old boy, the son of family friends. He had died in an automobile accident days before. As the mourners gathered by the freshly turned earth, grief washed over us.

"Why?" seemed to be the question on everyone's lips.

"Why did this boy, bright with promise who loved God passionately, die so young?" Why?

Why do bad things happen to good people? I wish I knew the answer. I have my own thoughts but they probably wouldn't satisfy the one suffering grief.

But as we look at the whole picture it should help us. As Christians, we know that our story does not end on Ash Wednesday. Nor, does it end on Good Friday.

Early on Sunday, the stone rolled away; Jesus emerged alive from a dark tomb and eternally shattered the grip of death. On resurrection morning, Jesus gave us the ability to look death straight in the eyes, and say, "It isn't over."

To those who put their trust in the resurrected One, Jesus gives the assurance of eternal life. Jesus' words, *"The one who believes in me will live, even though they die" (John 11:25)*, bring immeasurable comfort and hope to all that believe, especially those dealing with the loss of a loved one.

Jesus has power over life and death as well as power to forgive sins. If He is the Creator of life, He can surely restore life. Whoever believes in Christ has a spiritual life that death cannot conquer or diminish in any way. When we realize his power and how wonderful his offer to us really is, how can we not commit our lives to him?

To those of us who believe, what wonderful assurance and certainty we have reason to celebrate Easter with great joy and assurance. *"Since I live, you too will live" (John 14:19)*.

"Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" (1 Corinthians 15:55)

In all my prays for all of you, I always pray with joy! Phil: 1:4