

Pastor: Don't Go to Church on Easter

✘ Easter and Christmas. Both of these holidays tend to draw even casual Christians to a local church. But one pastor says that church is the wrong place to celebrate Resurrection Day.

That one pastor is Eric Foley. Foley is pastor of the Doers of The Word Evangelical Church, which meets simultaneously in Colorado Springs and in Seoul, Korea. As Foley sees it, the Bible clearly shows that the proper place to celebrate Easter is on the road.

“Lock the front door of the church on Easter morning and post a sign there that says, ‘He is not here—He is risen,’” says Foley. “That’s the message the angel shares when the women come to anoint Jesus’ body on Easter morning: ‘Go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ Whether it’s the disciples who meet Jesus on the road to Emmaus or the apostles who are called out of the Upper Room and on to Galilee, the Easter message is clear: If you want to meet Jesus, hit the road!”

e3 Partners' Israel Director Joins Sports Hall of Fame

The new Director of Israel for e3 Partners really knows what it means to “kick things into high gear.”

Prior to joining e3, Jason Elam was the Denver Broncos kicker. Along with five others, he has been inducted into Colorado Sports Hall of Fame, Class of 2011.

Elam was a member of the Broncos from 1993-2007 and won two Super Bowl titles with the club. He retired with the fifth-most field goals (436) and points scored (1,983) in NFL history. A member of the Denver Broncos 50th Anniversary Team, his 236 games played for Denver are a club record, and his 15 seasons with the Broncos are tied with center Tom Nalen for the second-most seasons with the team in franchise history behind Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback John Elway.

Elam recently joined e3 Partners in an official capacity after several years of assisting Middle East Region Director Tom Doyle on many e3 expeditions. He will continue to focus his efforts on leading the strategy in Israel.

The “e” in e3 stands for Equip, Evangelize and Establish. In the context of evangelism, they’re working to equip 10 million Christians with the tools and training to evangelize one billion people and establish four million multiplying churches.

E3 is trying to encourage people to participate in a larger Kingdom effort to see simple churches started in every community among every language and people group in the world. Their goal: to raise up 1,000 prayer warriors for each country where they are working in the Middle East and Central Asia.

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Obama Calls Netanyahu Prior to Passover

✘ President Barack Obama called Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to discuss conflict in the Middle East—and to offer his best wishes before the Passover starts on Monday evening.

Passover is a weeklong Jewish holiday that celebrates how God helped Israel escape from Egypt by pouring out 10 plagues on the nation. Passover begins with a traditional Seder meal. During the Seder meal, people retell the redemptive story of Exodus.

Obama also extended his warmest wishes to all those celebrating the sacred festival of Passover in the U.S. and around the world. He noted that the Seder, with its rich traditions and rituals, instructs each generation to remember its past, while appreciating the beauty of freedom and the responsibility it entails.

“This year, that ancient tradition is reflected in the daily headlines as we see modern stories of social transformation and liberation unfolding in the Middle East and North Africa,” Obama said. “Against the backdrop of change, we continue to pray for peace between Israel and her neighbors, while reaffirming our enduring commitment to Israel’s security.”

Lady Gaga, Bieber Fever Outdone by Christian Tour

✘ It's quite a day when a multi-artist event that promotes Christian bands drives a bigger audience than secular rock stars like Bon Jovi, U2, Justin Bieber and, yes, Lady Gaga. That's just what the Winter Jam Tour Spectacular has done. It was the number one tour in the world for the first quarter of 2011, according to Pollstar.

The Winter Jam 2011 Tour Spectacular saw 524,239 fans come out on its 46-market tour. Headliners included the Newsboys, David Crowder Band, Kutless, Francesca Battistelli, RED, KJ-52, and guest speaker Tony Nolan, along with a Pre-Jam party presented by the American Bible Society with Sidewalk Prophets, Chris August, Chris Sligh and Jason Castro.

Branch Davidians Still See David Koresh as God

✘ Why were Sheila Martin's children burned alive? She actually thinks it's because God wanted it that way.

"I don't expect you to understand," she told CNN. Martin was a member of a cult called the Branch Davidians. Seventy-six people died in an FBI raid on the Waco, Texas area compound 18 years ago.

CNN reports that Martin and a handful of other [surviving Branch Davidians](#) will gather at a Central Texas hotel to hold a memorial for David Koresh.

“For more than a decade on every Saturday, the Branch Davidian Sabbath, Sheila Martin and Clive Doyle have gotten together to pray and discuss the Bible,” CNN reports. “They affirm to each other that David Koresh was God in the flesh. Then, they usually go to lunch or run errands.”

Philly Offers 11-Year-Olds Free Mail Order Condoms

✘ In a shocking sign of the times, The City of Brotherly Love is offering free mail-order condoms for kids in middle school. Yes, free mail order condoms.

Kids as young as 11 can order free condoms online at TakeControlPhilly.org.

One page on the TakeControlPhilly.org Web site says, “Let’s face it, sex is more fun when you’re not worried about getting pregnant or getting a sexually transmitted disease.”

Removing the Religious Robes of Judgment

There’s plenty of talk about how technology aids evangelism, but 21st century technology also opens the door to a myriad of creative ways to judge, criticize and condemn people.

You can jot judgmental remarks on a blog. You can e-mail

critical comments. You can compose condemning words on Twitter (so long as you don't use more than 140 characters). You can relay your rebuke via text message. Or you can put them on blast by way of Facebook.

Of course, most of us are too sophisticated to launch outright public attacks against our brothers and sisters in Christ, even behind the cloak of technological tools that guarantee anonymity. More likely, we keep our disapproval of a friend's choice, the disparaging analysis of our pastor's message, or the dislike of our daughter's wardrobe in our thought life—or maybe we share it in confidence with our prayer partner so they can “touch and agree” on the thing with us.

Whether we judge, criticize and condemn publicly or keep the matter in our own hearts, God sees and hears it all. And every drop of scorn we pour on another is collecting in a bucket of belittlement that will one day tip over and drench us with detraction. In other words, as the Message Bible says, that critical spirit has a way of boomeranging.

Is Jesus Marking His Calendar for May 21?

- If you only had about a month left on this earth, how would you spend your days?

Project Caravan is traveling around the country offering people this grim message. Backed by Family Radio, Project Caravan launched its first-of-a-kind RV national tract distribution mission last year to proclaim that Judgment Day begins on May 21, 2011.

This week, the doomsday evangelists emerged in Columbus, Ohio. Despite scripture that declares not even Jesus knows the day or the hour of His return, Project Caravan points to Scriptures and offers a mathematical formula that marks May 21 as the end of the age.

Same-Sex Dads Denied Adoptive Birth Certificate Rights

Like fathers like son? Not so in the case of a same-sex couple from New York who wanted to list each man's name as "father" on their adopted child's birth certificate.

The unmarried same-sex partners sued to change the Louisiana boy's birth certificate to state that he had two dads. But the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the men could not force Louisiana to make the change.

Here's the back story: Mickey Smith and Oren Adar, an unmarried same-sex male couple, adopted a baby in New York in 2006. The couple wanted to have the baby's birth certificate reissued in Louisiana, replacing the names of his biological parents with their own. However, in Louisiana only married couples can jointly adopt a child. So the registrar refused the request.

Hope Home Recovering from Australia Floods

When the January floods along Australia's Brisbane River swamped nearly 12,000 homes and tourist precincts, it also destroyed a sanctuary of hope, help and healing.

The Hope Home in Rocklea was home to "Nat," a woman who's life, like others the Hope Foundation serves, had hit rock bottom. The Hope Foundation's mission is to bring liberty to women wanting a life change from addiction and the sex industry through consistent Christ-centered care.