



March 14, 2014

And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb ...

Dear Prayer Power Club Friend,

... but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.
– Luke 24: 2,3. How well we know and love this story! And every year as we celebrate the miracle of the Resurrection, we again stand amazed at the mouth of the empty tomb.

Soon we will come together to celebrate the Resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ. And as the stone that Joseph rolled across the mouth of the tomb was rolled away, we too can move the stones away from our own lives and find new clarity, hope and courage.

We move across troubled waters on the stepping-stones of our Lord's infinite love. The very stones that block our way become the stones that build freedom, faith, and power –

-- and lift us from shadow to light, from despair to hope, and from loneliness to fellowship with all of God's children on earth. We celebrate our human lives, our ability to love, and our willingness to sacrifice that others may know the joy of the risen Christ.

On behalf of all of us here at Guideposts Outreach and the seekers we serve, I offer you some stepping-stones of profound wisdom from thinkers and seekers who count themselves, as you and I do, among joyful believers doing all we can to serve God's suffering children on earth.

The poet Kahlil Gibran often wrote of spiritual love and Christianity. Gibran advises:

March on. Do not tarry. To go forward is to move toward perfection. March on, and fear not the thorns, or the sharp stones on life's path.

We need never fear the sharp stones on life's path, because we hold fast the hand of our Savior, who has walked those sharp stones before us, and guides us safely through. As He rose again from the dead, so too, we can rise from diminished spiritual lives into the fullness of His love.

Writer Marsha Sinetar wrote often about how to flourish spiritually in our material world. She reminds us, as we are often reminded that ...

... Life's up and downs provide windows of opportunity to determine your values and goals. Think of using all obstacles as stepping-stones to build the life you want.

Imagine our Lord stepping along ahead of us, clearing the pathway of dangers and troubles, easing our suffering, that we may forever find healing and peace in his loving arms. As hearts are moved to great gratitude and joy in this Easter season, let us walk fearlessly in our beautiful and troubled world.

And let us remember the amazing power of every prayer to bring light into the darkness of illness, worry, or loss -- and into the lives of a neighbor, a loved one, a troubled child, and the many we may never know.

And should we fail and fall into despair? We need only hear again these divine words of comfort and reassurance from John 11:25, spoken to Martha: *I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even if he dies ...*

And in the bracing, simple words of Thomas Chandler Haliburton, writer and politician who nobly served Nova Scotia, his native land:

Failures to heroic minds are the stepping-stones to success.

As we honor our Savior, who died and rose again that we may live, let us remember our Lord's suffering, His anguish and despair – and His ascendance to the right hand of God the Father Almighty. Let our minds be heroic, our every action a testimony to our faith, and our every prayer a powerful connection to our risen Christ.

The Roman lyric poet Horace, who lived before our Savior was born, was deeply connected to a divine power. Horace beautifully said:

... the righteous are like carvings upon stone, for their smallest act is

durable.

How lovely and true! Time and again, as we strive to be ever more righteous, we experience the durability of our smallest acts of kindness and love. Each one is like a tiny stone skipped across the water, leaving ripples that extend infinitely outward.

Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to cast a stone.

And with righteousness comes a deep humility, as Christ humbled himself that each of us may find peace, joy and everlasting life. As we roll away the stones that block our connection to divine power and love, we acknowledge our humanity, our errors, and the sins for which we seek forgiveness.

May your Easter be filled with love and light. May you feel yourself in the prayerful fellowship of all of God’s children on earth. And may the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior revitalize your faith, strengthen your deep connection to all living things, and open an unceasing flow of joy and hope.

Here is an Easter prayer, adapted from *The Book of Common Prayer* that I know will add a special power as we come together to celebrate Easter in this momentous year.

How Blessed Is The Day

How blessed is this day, when earth and heaven are joined
and humankind is reconciled to God!
May the light of Jesus shine continually
to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star
who knows no setting, find his light ever burning in our hearts—
he who gives his light to all creation,
and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

And as you are risen and renewed, so also we can work together to roll the stones of darkness, fear and despair from the many in urgent spiritual need who call on us for help.

Please send a special Easter Gift of \$15, \$20 – or as much as your heart calls on you to give – to help us serve the lonely, the injured and ill and the many who have suffered catastrophic loss.

I can’t think of a better way to honor our risen Christ than taking up His

work on earth with our human lives. We are so blessed to have you among us.

Your Easter Gift will provide prayer support to thousands of people who call on *OurPrayer*, booklets and special materials, free copies of *Guideposts* with true-life stories with the proven power to change a life, Comfort Kits for sick and hospitalized children, support for caretakers and parents, and emergency relief for the many worldwide suffering catastrophic loss.

It will bring the promise of the Resurrection to people like Sandra, who writes:

While my sister was hospitalized we were given a copy of Dr. Peale's booklet "Confidence, Dare to Be All You Can Be." These words were right on time. It helped me instantly to refocus and gain strength so that I could encourage my sister to do the same in spite of new health issues.

Focus. Strength. Peace. Courage. Comfort. A closer walk with our Savior, who hears our every prayer. May all of these come to you, and to the many your gift will reach with the Good News of God's love through *Guideposts Outreach*.

Thank you, and may God bless you and those you love.

Faithfully yours,



Peola C. Hicks
for *Guideposts OurPrayer*

P.S. We invite you to join us for our Good Friday Day of Prayer on April 18, 2014. Last year we prayed by name and need for more than 11,000 prayer requests – the mighty power of prayer!

Please write the names and needs of those in need of prayer -- loved ones, friends, and of course, your own prayer requests -- on the enclosed special Request Form and send it right along with your Easter Gift.

May the blessings of Easter and our risen Christ fill all your days.