

## **A Very Special Wellesley Baptist Easter**

April 11, 2004

This year I will celebrate Easter with a renewed sense of wonder and appreciation ... but I suspect I will not be alone. Along with the millions and millions of other folks who have seen Mel Gibson's movie, "The Passion of the Christ," I will cheer on Sunday morning for the stunning climax that it brings to the events of Good Friday. All His suffering ... all His pain ... will not have been in vain. My sins have been paid for ... once and for all ... and even better, His resurrection paves the way for my resurrection and for my fellow believers.

And that, dear friends, is of particular value to those of us who are members of Wellesley Baptist Church. This week we saw one of our dearest friends and long-time church member "promoted to glory." I take great comfort in knowing that, just like my sins, her sins were completely paid for and canceled out. Because of Jesus, Marilyn has nothing to fear when she stands in front of a Holy God.

But that, of course, is not the end of her story. As a matter of fact, it's only the title page of her story. Marilyn's life on earth, as wonderful as it was, is but a shadow of what she now enjoys ... eternal life in the land of perpetual Light.

So when the tympani rolls and the trumpets blast out the triumph notes of Handel's "Hallelujah" Chorus, I will look to the ceiling of our church and smile at the 100+ balloons that were released earlier in the service to symbolize our own resurrection. I will smile through my tears because I will KNOW that my dear friend Marilyn will be smiling back at us and saying "Don't worry about me ... I'm just fine now - couldn't possibly be better!"

Hallelujah - Hallelujah - The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth  
The Kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ

And He shall reign forever and ever.

King of Kings, Lord of Lords

