

MM Easter Season Blue Sheet April 10, 2014



Morgan's Moment.....

I'm thinking I need a symbol...
something to visualize
the "true meaning of Easter".
Pause to allow yourself
a little chuckle here...
or better a hearty guffaw!
"True meaning of Easter?"
something congregations might hope for...
but no preacher can deliver.
Easter is like...like...like...
like a tulip bursting into bloom
out of an egg shell!
The Easter tulip clip art above was #85 of 100
offered from among eggs and bunnies
to symbolize my theme.
So I'll take it as a message from above...
one I've already received...
from my Easter study hours.
No biblical scholarship or study
of earliest church documents
presents a decisive picture of Easter.
I'm not sure what I'll offer on Easter
but I'll keep in mind that tulip in a shell...
as believable as angels in an empty tomb.

— Art Morgan

Easter

At Inavale Farm

Easter service at 10 sharp (more or less...)
A potluck Easter brunch follows.
The official address is: 31798 Horse Farm
Lane, Philomath Through main gate, past
stables, arena and kennels. Take lane about ¼
mile to house.
(About 2 miles west past Morgan's)
Glass phone: 541-929-5776
Or Jean's cell: 541-207-2018

LOOKING FOR A BLACK BOX

If we could only find the black box we would know what really happened.

Without the black box there is only speculation.

Look all over the sky. No plane. Look over all the oceans. No plane. Where did it go? How did it go? Why did it go?

If we could only find that black box. Tantalizing pings so far. But no black box.

Easter scholarship is a search for the "black box."

Was there ever a tomb? Was Jesus in it? If it was found empty, how did it become empty? How and why? Is there any way to know?

Many have been taught that our questions are answered in a "black book." There you can find the reports in the earliest writings of Paul and later the Gospels. That black book is paraded down church aisles and ceremoniously opened on lecterns where the reading is concluded with the words: "This is the word of the Lord."

Many Easter scholars are not so sure that the black book is the black box we would like to find. The search for answers is on-going.

We humans like answers. We want answers. We demand answers. We are not satisfied with answers from experts with expert opinions, whether from science or industry. Many are not satisfied with answers from church institutions or their sacred books and creeds. And many do not question at all.

What if no black box can be found?

What if we are left with no final answer to why a suicide occurred or a murderer went crazy or why a plane disappeared? Or how a Jewish man from Nazareth could emerge on the world scene and become such an historic person?

Why would the Emperor Constantine pay to summon a group of 300 Christian Bishops to Nicea only 4 centuries after this Jesus died to decide once and for all who he really was?

And why, after all these centuries, are we celebrating Easter and discussing what might have happened? Why are we still looking for that black box?

Art Morgan, April 10, 2014

BOOK CORNER

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 is probably the most significant legislation in my life-time. It is almost impossible to believe the America that made it necessary, or why it was so hard to pass. This 50th anniversary happens as I am in the midst of reading "The Warmth of Other Suns" — *The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*, by Isabel Wilkerson which tracks the exodus of millions of blacks from the Jim Crow south. Compelling!