

In the gospel of Mark, the evangelist's rendering of the Resurrection story of Jesus goes way beyond a mere historical documentation of a mysterious empty tomb. The challenge issued in his message to those 'Jesus Seekers' who came to bewail and moan his crucifixion, was urging them to look beyond His tomb to a new life of hope and freedom. He assured them that though life in the service of this Risen Christ would have its moments of pain and grief, that the joy and reward of being his co-workers in the market place of life would be both fulfilling and life giving. Mark couched this message in the ominous but prophetic voice of a 'young man' who stood guard at the tomb of our Lord; *"... you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him"* – Mk. 16:6b. He then enlivened hope and enthusiasm with the words; *"... he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you."* Vs.7. In short, Mark's message to all 'would-be seekers of the Christ' is that He does not reside in the lost past of history, but in the current day of our unfolding lives.

I am sure that, like me, you have heard the laments about our changing times; and perhaps have even sometimes joined in with the despairing chorus as we throw our hands up in the air with a downcast spirit. Yet the message of Easter is not about what used to be; it is about what could be, if only we would dwell in its hope. Our Lord reminds us that it is in the very dungeons and grunge of life that He awaits us and seeks our help, for God has no hands but ours. Our Lord reminds us that ... *"The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few"* – Matthew 9:37.

GOD NEEDS YOU!! ...A joyous and blessed Easter to you.