



February-March, 2008

— The Deadline for the April—May Evangel is March 25th

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**“Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away.” (Psalm 32:1)**

A dear brother in Christ has spoken these words in my hearing numerous times: *“Be the change you wish to see in others.”* I don’t think this little maxim is original to my friend, and at first I enjoyed hearing it very much. It struck me as an honorable effort on behalf of the nobility of all human-kind. After hearing others repeat this lofty phrase for about the 47<sup>th</sup> time, the overwhelming feeling was one of gloom. After all, change is hard work and often disappointing, and the last thing I want to do is disappoint God or myself or anyone else! I would much prefer that other people change, rather than me. Unfortunately, there are a few things (well, a lot really) that needs to change in me. I suspect that many of you may see some similar changes needing to take place in your own life.

But change for “change’s sake” is never a good enough reason for me. Why do we need to change? What about us needs transforming? Who does the conversion and how? And to me at least, the most important question becomes “In whose name shall I be changed?”

Let me invite you to stop reading this for a moment and open your Bibles to Psalm 32. This wonderful Psalm gives us a starting place to consider sin, repentance, transformation, and new life in Christ, the Great Converter of Souls.

As I was reflecting on how to assign words to something that has become part of my DNA, it occurs that I need to set it out in “stages”. Like the “five stages of grief”, we will not visit these “stages of transformation” in an orderly fashion, one after the other and finish with them. Rather, my experience is that many of us will move through them over and over, winding our way in and out of them as the Spirit moves us to reconciliation. So, here goes:

**Repentance** – We come to the realization that the way we are living our life just does not work anymore. Our unhealthy choices may be wrecking our relationships and stripping our lives of grace & happiness. We may feel abandoned by God or distanced from family or friends. We may even feel that life is empty of meaning or purpose and not worth living anymore. In the desperation of lost hope, we turn to God. It is in this darkest of hours where we plead for God to intervene. We ask God to take our life & our will and save us. We confess our inability to manage our life and the many sins we have committed which attest to this reality. We desire to be different – to change.

**Prayer** - We ask God to come into our lives and change us – we offer our will to God through daily communication with God. Since human beings are built for relationships, communication is more than “transmitting” – it is also “receiving”. Along with our desire to speak to God, must be an equal desire to listen to what God tells us! The practice of prayer is to be done with some regularity and intention. Not just when we think about it every few days or weeks or when we find ourselves in an emotional bind. Prayer is an opportunity to encounter the living God – the lover of our souls – our Savior. And like the outcome of practice for any discipline, our prayer life will become stronger the more often we exercise our will to participate in it. I freely admit, how prayer works is a mystery to me. However, one thing I know for sure: when we pray, something happens – God acts and we are changed. The more we allow God’s actions to take root in our souls, the more we are transformed, the more we will joyfully engage in this gift of communication!

**Study** - We read God’s word to discover more about the heart and will of God through Jesus Christ for our lives. Whenever we read Scripture, we should first pray, asking for God to lead us to insight and learning. Again, our study of Scripture is most effective as an agent for change when we open our Bibles every day – not just when

the mood strikes us. The study of Scripture and the practice of prayer seem to work hand-in-hand – a double dose of power in our lives! We are not limited to learning in isolation. There are wonderful resources and curricula available to us, on-line courses in Christianity and spirituality, Bible studies and classes. There are also many wonderful books written by Christian writers. Your clergy and others will be happy to make suggestions about specific topics if you ask. The most important thing is that you BEGIN.

*Fellowship of Believers* – Unless you are a hermit-monk, none of us lives or loves in a vacuum. Many of our brothers and sisters in the faith have great wisdom and have experienced life in ways we cannot imagine. God has put them into our lives for a purpose, just as we have been put into the lives of others for a purpose. Conversion of life is grace-filled but sometimes we face struggles designed by Satan to tempt us. We need the support and encouragement of others who love the Lord. We have the amazing opportunity to learn from these saints in our Christian community what we need to know about the amazing love of Jesus. Do not neglect to meet with the faithful servants of Christ who will instruct us and encourage us as we have need.

*Faith in Action* – Have you ever thought about “faith” being a verb rather than a noun? We are called to be do-ers of the Word and not merely hear-ers of it. At the beginning I wrote that as we repent, we desire to change. Notice I did not say “be changed”. Although “being changed” happens by the grace of God, I believe we have a responsibility to begin to make the changes we believe God is calling us to. Even though initially we may only be able to make baby steps, we must reflect the changes outwardly that God is making within us. Day by day, decision by decision, choice by choice – we must make a stand for Christ. If we say we are different, if we are to receive the conversion we desire, we strive to avoid making the old choices and mistakes. Although there are many “tools” on which we may rely to help us on our new journey with Christ, finally, we are given the freedom to produce the good fruits of our repentance. Sometimes it will seem so easy to make the right choice – other times it will not. But whether your path is straight or filled with dangerous detours, you will never be alone. Our Lord walks right beside you every step of the way.

*Forgiveness* – Perhaps I should have put this one at the very beginning. I chose the end because it is a phase that must be scattered throughout the stages at every turn. And finally, we must receive by faith this wonderful gift. When our sins are forgiven, to God it is as though they never were. You are God’s precious child and you have been set free of the bonds of past sins. Start acting like it! But I am not so naïve – I know that we human beings will sin again. In the face of temptation and sin, remember you are God’s own. As soon

as you are aware of your sin, turn again to the One who is crazy about you and repent.

Thanks be to God for his power and mercy and grace poured all over us!

And finally, my brothers and sisters, pray for me, a sinner, too.  
Deacon Geri

## **Savannah Convocation School of Religion: You Are Invited!**

Five 5-week classes will be offered on February 12, 19 & 26; and March 5 & 12 at 7pm each evening. St. Thomas will be the host site each week, which makes it very convenient for us St. Thomasinians to attend! Classes in Church history, theology, worship, Scripture and Christian living will be led by Frs. William Willoughby, Gavin Dunbar, Jim Parker, Jim Shumard and Craig Dolack. A brochure included in the Sunday bulletin gives more information. This is a great opportunity to deepen your Christian understanding and observe a fruitful Lent.

## **Wednesday Evening Prayer, Lenten Supper and Bible Study**

Pray at 5:30pm; eat a simple supper at 6:00pm; and study Scripture with your brothers and sisters at 6:45pm: a great Lenten discipline.

## **Saturday Evening Community Praise and Worship Service**

A worship service especially suited for those who have no prior experience of the Episcopal Church will begin in the Chapel on Saturday, February 2, at 5pm. The Liturgy will be more informal than Sunday morning, with praise music. Subsequent dates will be March 1 and April 5. With sufficient response we will continue indefinitely. The Monday evening Healing Service will no longer be offered, because of low attendance.

## **Stations of the Cross**



As in past years, Stations of the Cross will be offered on these Fridays in Lent at 12noon:

**February 22 & 29, and  
March 7 & 14**

**Holiday** -The Church Office will be closed Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, in observance of Presidents’ Day.

**Vestry** -In February the Vestry meets on Monday, the 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm in the Library

## Healing Prayer at 10am Sunday Worship begins February 10<sup>th</sup>

Lent is a season for self-examination, repentance and amendment of life: a time to let go of those habits which stunt our growth in Christ, and take on those good habits of heart, mind and body which prepare us to receive more of Christ. Have you ever thought of Lent as a time for healing? All those things previously mentioned – repentance, giving up negative actions, and practicing positive acts – are all for a purpose: that we might cooperate with God's healing in our lives. This year we want to offer Lent as a time for healing. Physical healing, of course; emotional and spiritual healing, too.

Jesus is a Healer; he said, *"Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."* (Mark 2:17)

During Communion at the 10am Eucharist, two of our clergy will stand at kneelers on each side of the Nave in the front. After receiving Communion, as you return to your place in the congregation, you may come to the 'station' on the side on which you sit and, kneeling or standing, receive a brief prayer of healing accompanied by Anointing with Holy Oil. If you desire you may share with the ordained minister a specific request for healing, although it is not necessary. God knows our needs before we ask. After receiving Anointing and healing prayer, continue on your way to where you are sitting.

Ask God to help you offer yourself for Jesus' healing touch: be confident that God will guide you; remember that there is nothing God will leave you to face alone. Come for your own healing. You may have family members or friends whom you long to receive healing. It is right that you pray in intercession for them, and during the Prayers of the People there is opportunity for that very purpose. The kind of healing prayer we will offer at worship is not for others but for *you*. Offer yourself to the Great Physician just as you are; receive the Holy Spirit's gift of healing just as our Gracious Father, through the intercession of the Only-begotten Son, desires for you. And, in the power of the Holy Spirit, be thankful.

**Healing Prayer Sunday begins February 10<sup>th</sup>.**

## Clergy Comings-n-Goings

Fr Richard, Fr Craig, Deacon Geri & lay delegates Ron Crawford, Tracy Edgar & Dede Roberts will attend Diocesan Convention Feb. 7, 8 & 9<sup>th</sup>, in Augusta.

The clergy will be away Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, midday, attending the monthly Savannah Convocation Clergy Meeting at St. Michael and All Angels, Savannah.

Deacon Geri will be away Feb. 28, 29 & Mar. 1 at the Deacons' School for Ministry Winter Gathering.

The clergy are away Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, attending the Annual Diocesan Clergy Day of Preparation (for Easter) at Christ Church, Dublin.

## Whatever Happened To The New Testament Church? It Can Be Found In India.

Today there is a vibrant, persecuted Christian minority in India. Indigenous missionaries, pastors and lay people are being subjected to real threats and violent acts simply because they are Christian. The experience of Christians in India *right now* is very much like what our forbearers of the first three Centuries endured. This is not hyperbole, it is fact.

We have an opportunity to learn more and to support our Christian brothers and sisters in India. On February 25, Monday, at 7pm, the parishes on the Isle of Hope are hosting a special event. That evening, at IOH Methodist Church, we welcome The Rev. Dr. Ajai Lall, Executive Director of the Central India Christian Mission (CICM). In the context of an inspiring service, Dr. Lall will speak about the struggle of Christians in India. It is important that we who have so much, including our freedom to worship without persecution, join with those who are a distinct, persecuted minority. We can make a difference for Christ in India. Please come.

We are especially grateful to Cliff McCurry who brought the work of Dr. Lall and CICM to our attention, and who is a guiding presence in this special event.

*Monday, February 25, 7:00pm at IOH Methodist Church: Dr. Ajai Lall of the Central India Christian Mission.*

## THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

The Daughters of the Diocese of Georgia are looking forward to their Spring Assembly which will take place on March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> at The 11111 Honey Creek Conference Center. Our speaker will be The Rt. Reverend William Skilton, Suffragan Bishop of South Carolina. Bishop Skilton is also the Chaplain for the Province IV Daughters. If you attend, you will enjoy his humor, his stories and the meaningful meditations. The registration should be in the mail. Make your plans now!

## Thanks to Wayne Hosti

Our Christian Education Building is better than ever, thanks to Wayne Hosti. After a mold problem was discovered, then Sr. Warden Jack Kinzie immediately sought the "fix". Wayne offered to assist and, with his expertise in the building and remodeling trade, was invaluable. Wayne worked with contractors, an air quality company, and most importantly, our insurance company as our general contractor. The work was accomplished significantly ahead of schedule; our building is clean and looks great. At Wayne's suggestion the Ladies Wash-room in the main hallway is now tiled, and will soon have water-saving, high efficiency toilets. We are so grateful to Wayne, Jack and the Buildings and Grounds Committee for their hard work on this project.

# **HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WORSHIP**

## **PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 16**

**7:30 AM MORNING PRAYER**  
**8:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST**  
**9:00 AM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES**  
**10:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST: WEATHER PERMITTING,  
WORSHIP BEGINS ON THE LAWN WITH THE  
PALM LITURGY**

## **HOLY MONDAY, MARCH 17**

**8:00 AM MORNING PRAYER**  
**12:00 NOON HOLY EUCHARIST**

## **HOLY TUESDAY, MARCH 18**

**8:00 AM MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY EUCHARIST**

## **HOLY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19**

**9:30 AM MORNING PRAYER**  
**10:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST**

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 20**

**8:00 AM MORNING PRAYER**  
**7:00 PM HOLY EUCHARIST**  
**8:00 PM – 12 MIDNIGHT THE WATCH BEFORE THE  
BLESSED SACRAMENT**

## **GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 21**

**8:00 AM MORNING PRAYER**  
**12:00 NOON STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND COMMUNION OF THE  
PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS**  
**7:00 PM GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY**

## **HOLY SATURDAY, MARCH 22**

**8:00 AM MORNING PRAYER**

## **THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER, SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 8:00 PM**

## **EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 23**

**7:30 AM MORNING PRAYER**  
**8:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST**  
**10:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST**

## Thrift Store Begins New Year with Thanksgiving

St. Thomas Thrift Store volunteers and board praise God and give thanks for the wonderful year the shop had in 2007. Sales totaled more than \$58,000, and donations surpassed \$28,000. In addition, outstanding December sales allowed the board to set aside \$5000 more as part of 2007 donations bringing the total to more than \$32,000. Thanks be to God!

In like manner clothing and household items valued at more than \$32,000 were donated to charitable organizations, families and individuals in crisis referred to the shop by organizations such as the Red Cross, etc., and church missions both in and outside of the United States. We make every donation count!

The following are the agencies and organizations that the Thrift Store supported last year:

Court Appointed Special Advocates	Chatham/Savannah Citizen's Advocacy
Camp Coastal Outpost	(St. Thomas Youth Mission trip)
Coastal Children's Advocacy Center	Convent of St. Helena
Episcopal Camp and Conference Center	(Scholarships for summer camp)
Episcopal Youth and Children's Services	Fresh Air Home
Healing Streams	St. Thomas Mission to Honduras
Inner City Night Shelter	Interfaith Hospitality Network
International Bible Society (Bibles for inmates in Chatham County jail)	
Kicklighter Resource Center	
La Iglesia de Cristo Rey Day Care Center (Clothing for children) Puerto Plata, D.R.	
Old Savannah City Mission	Park Place Outreach
Safe Shelter	St. Martha's Guild
Senior Friendship Days	The 200 Club of the Coastal Empire
The Navigators	Union Mission
The Unseen Guest Ministry	Urban Hope
St. Thomas Angel Gown Project	

The Thrift Store has also contributed to our clergy discretionary funds, and at the January Board meeting designated contributions to the St. Martha's Guild to help pay for a playground at Greenbrier Children's home, to the Fresh Start Program of Old Savannah City Mission (for recently released prisoners) and to the Rogers State Prison for books for the Kairos ministry.

Many parishioners are involved on an individual basis with the groups that we support, and the board is always looking for new and different charitable organizations that could benefit from additional funding. We particularly like to target new programs that benefit youth and/or the community at large. Please let the board know if you work with or know of such a program, and we will be happy to explain to them how to apply for a grant. Board member Paige Case is the new chairperson of the Donations Committee.

Other members of the Board of Directors of the Thrift Store are Sue Teng and Dede Roberts, Co-chairmen; Rene Abeles, Secretary; Charlie Milmine, Treasurer; Jim Jeffers, Barbara Anderson, Linda Kelly Fleming, Tommy Martin, Jay McCaslin, Hugh Papy, and Pam Smith.

Our loyal and enthusiastic volunteers give of their time, talents and resources in endless ways and are a true blessing to the ministry. And I believe that many would say that working at the Thrift Store is a blessing to them as well. One of the newer volunteers wrote to me in the fall saying, ". . . all of the merry band who work on Saturdays have made volunteering at the Thrift Store a true joy for me. I am certain that everyone's love holds the key to the ongoing success of this venture." Volunteers are always needed, so just call Sue (3225-9252) or Dede (352-2114) if you are interested!

In closing, I want to thank the following for their help in publicizing the work of the Thrift Store:

Jodie Chapin and Sonny Dickson of WTOC	Judy McDougal (Dutch Island Newsletter)
The TWATL	The Skinny
The Coffee House News	SCAD Radio
HIS Radio	Jamie Sumner (Dutch Island Newsletter)

We appreciate any and all publicity!

Your support of the Thrift Store Ministry is essential and invaluable. Without your love, prayers and donations the ministry would wither and die. So please keep us in your hearts and prayers, and know that you will be blessed for your faithfulness!

Yours in Christ,  
Sue Teng

Happy winner of The Dollhouse Raffle and her mother; over \$1,400.00 was raised for the Greenbriar Children's Center!



**Christmas Pageant 2007**



**Sages of St. Thomas**



## From the Parish Register



### February Birthdays:

- 1) Chris Gwinner
- 2) Gladys Baker
- 5) Anne Shore
- 6) Pam Benton
- 7) Tim Garner, Jack Norris
- 8) Stetson Fleming
- 9) Betty Anderson
- 10) Andre Dyers
- 12) Robert Clemons
- 13) Kathleen Simons
- 15) Mike McCullough
- 16) Graeme Baker
- 17) Julia Murphy
- 19) Allyn Case
- 20) Ashton Green
- 21) Julian Bass, Millie Green
- 22) Hugh Papy
- 23) Allison Caldwell
- 24) Florence Slatinsky, Sally White
- 25) Jennifer Hoyt, Tina Norris
- 26) James Shuman, Nancy Skaliy
- 27) Sue Tengg
- 28) Robert Knarr, John Murphy, Julie Rodgers



### March Birthdays:

- 1) Rebecca Caldwell, Pat Martin
- 2) Ben Richardson
- 4) Penny Zipperer
- 5) Lauren Statts
- 6) Jennie Thompson
- 7) Julia Carpenter
- 8) Rita Lewis, Alexis Moreau
- 9) Dianne Gaudry, Eleanor Rodgers
- 11) Dana Thompson
- 12) Phil Hope
- 13) Jeff Wallace
- 14) Andrew Joyce
- 15) Dan Poppell
- 16) Steve Calver, Logan Hall
- 18) JoLynn Bennett, Paula Caldwell, Sarah Wyant
- 19) Kegan Kurinij
- 20) Mary Flanders
- 21) Margaret Minis
- 22) Scott Tanner
- 23) Michelle Conner
- 24) Jack Flathman
- 27) Fred Abeles, Kelly Epting, Virginia Lee
- 29) Connie Burke, Paulette Figuerido, Austin Hall, Jim Jeffers
- 31) Toni Paruso, Will Quaille



### February Anniversaries:

- 9) Arthur and Candace Peagler
- 13) Alan and Donna Dunn
- 14) Mark and Paige Case
- 16) Vernon and Erin Nelson
- 22) Don and Anna Fowler
- 28) Henry and Dorie Nichols



### March Anniversaries:

- 9) Joe and Sally McCaughan
- 10) Mike and Boo McCullough
- 20) Rudy and Viola Bairas, Steve and Sandra Calver
- 22) Ronald and Elsie Clark
- 23) Ronnie and Jameson Hall, Pat and Polly Paruso
- 28) Sax and Reba Daniel



### Births:

**Dec. 11, 2007**—Lake and Jennifer White, a son Sheldon Lake; 8 lb. 15oz.; 21 3/4 in.

**Jan. 24, 2008**—Jeff and Michelle Conner, a daughter Molly McLin; 7lb. 8oz.; 19in.

**Jan. 29, 2008**—Bruce and Molly Ford-Coates, a son Bruce David Alan Ford-Coates II, 8lb. 9oz.; 21in. (Congratulations new grandparents—Deacon Geri and Fr. Richard!



### Deaths:

Our prayers and sympathy go out to Kelley Marshall for the loss of her mother; Hart Williford for the loss of his father and to the family of long time parishioner Woo Logan.

### Attention All Master Gardeners and Those who like to get their hands dirty:

The Chatham County Extension Office recognizes the St Thomas' "Don Bass" Memorial Garden as an "authorized" project toward meeting required annual volunteer hours. Therefore, any work done there qualifies for notation in the County Extension Office forms.

The recent freeze wrecked havoc with the ferns and a few other plants and need to be removed. Also, I am thinking of moving the bird bath to replace the pomegranate stump. Other ideas are most welcome, including a scheme to return the garden to its original biblical herb garden status.

The work-day is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am, or thereabouts. Please let me know your anticipated participation in advance, if possible.

Thanks, and hope to see you there.

Thomas Tengg,  
Chatham County MG, Class 1999.

### Saint George's Church is looking to hire a secretary—

16 hours a week; with excellent Word Processing skills, good organizational skills, welcoming personality. Being an Episcopalian familiar with our lingo and liturgies a plus, but not imperative. Person must be dependable, self starter. EOE. Background check.

**Contact Fr. Jim Parker at 925-6517 or 604-4330.**

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
2 ST. THOMAS AVE.  
SAVANNAH, GA 31406

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**Don' Miss Out! McCaslin Christian Life Conference: "Bringing The Bible Alive"**

**THE CLERGY & STAFF**

BISHOP THE RT. REV. HENRY I. LOUTTIT, JR.  
RECTOR THE REV. RICHARD NELSON  
ASST. RECTOR THE REV. CRAIG A. DOLACK  
MINISTER OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION—  
THE REV. DEACON GERI NELSON  
ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER PAM MCCASLIN  
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR FRANCES CONNER  
SEXTON NICOLE KING

**THE VESTRY**

MELINDA BAILEY, SR. WARDEN  
JIM CHAMBERS JR. WARDEN  
THOMAS TENGG, TREASURER  
MARIANNE CHAMBERS, CLERK

BARRETT BENTON MARK GOMPELS  
JACK KINZIE HUGH POPY  
JAY MCCASLIN MITCH GREEN  
DON FOWLER DEDE ROBERTS  
BECKY MILMINE

**MINISTRY GROUP CONTACTS**

ALTAR GUILD PHYLLIS POSEY  
CHOIR PAM MCCASLIN  
COUNTERS FRAN CONNER  
DAUGHTERS OF THE KING -  
LAURA KINZIE  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN  
ST. MARY'S GUILD JANE WERTH  
ST. MARTHA'S GUILD  
PATTI WAINWRIGHT  
EYC  
FLOWER GUILD JUDY OCHSNER,  
LIESL TANNER  
GREETERS FLORENCE SLATINSKY  
LAY MINISTERS BILL FRIEND  
MEN'S CLUB HUGH POPY  
COOK'S NIGHT OUT SELINA JOHNSON  
USHERS DON FOWLER  
THRIFT STORE  
SUE TENGG/ DEDE ROBERTS

**ADULT CHOIR**

DEE WILLIFORD, STETSON FLEMING,  
KEVIN FLEMING, ELAINE HODGKINS, PHIL  
HODGKINS, EMORY HEIDT, JACK KINZIE,  
LAURA KINZIE, RITA LEWIS, KATHY  
MCCURRY, ANNA MULLINGS, JOLYNN BEN-  
NETT, MIKE MULLINGS, DEBORAH BOWEN,  
PHIL HOPE, LAURA LAWTON, PAULETTE  
FIGUERIDO, BARRETT BENTON, PAM BEN-  
TON, DEIDRE DORN LINDA SOUTHERLAND,  
WAYNE WELCH, DEBBIE FRIEND, BILL  
FRIEND, STEWART MARSHALL, MARION  
STAPP, FRANK STAPP, SANDY CHAMPION,  
CRYSTAL SIMPSON, CHRISTINE BURTON,  
ELI IRVIN, NICK BUCHANAN, DEBILYN  
FRIEND

**HANDBELL RINGERS**

DEBORAH BOWEN, EMORY HEIDT, PHIL  
HODGKINS, ELAINE HODGKINS, KATHY  
MCCURRY, ANNA MULLINGS, MIKE MULL-  
INGS, DEE WILLIFORD

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**THE APRIL-MAY 2008 EVANGEL  
DEADLINE IS MARCH 25TH!**