

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Ah yes, time to pull out that old but familiar saying, which goes something like this: “April Showers bring May Flowers”!

Ah yes, there is a song written by Brenda Lee and Tammy Wynette that states: “I never promised you a rose garden along with the sunshine there’s gonna be a little rain sometime...”!

Ah yes, “April Showers bring May Flowers”, and with the rain and sunshine comes that beautiful “Rainbow”!

Easter has come and will be gone and that is no kind of “April Fool’s Joke”! Indeed, Easter is being celebrated on March 31 this year.

After, the “April Showers” begin to fall the expectation of “May Flowers” will soon follow; after, the Rains begin to fall and the Sun breaks through the clouds there will often be a beautiful Rainbow that follows; after, “Easter” which could be called about the most ultimate statement of God’s gracious love for us, what is there?

Well, the answer to the above question, what follows “Easter”, much like the flowers, and much like the rainbow, what follows the celebration of “Easter” is more “Easter” or more ultimate love from God, for us!!!

*Just think about it “Easter” is all about being **“ALIVE”**, and “Easter” highlights just how **“ALIVE”** God’s **LOVE** is for us!!!*

*Yes, with “Easter” we celebrate the “Empty Tomb” and the “Resurrection” of **JESUS** the **CHRIST**, our precious **LORD** and **SAVIOR**!!! Yes, with “Easter” we celebrate **“ALIVE”**!!!*

*Beyond “Easter” and **“ALIVE”**, beyond the ultimate statement of **GOD’S GRACIOUS LOVE** for us; more “Easter” and more of God’s **LOVE** for us **“ALIVE”**!!!*

*God’s **LOVE** for us **“ALIVE”** beyond “Easter”, is found in God’s gracious gift of the Holy Spirit to nurture, comfort, and guide us, as we seek to walk with God and grow our relationships with God, as children in God’s Family!!!*

*God’s **LOVE** for us **“ALIVE”** beyond “Easter”, is found in God’s gracious gift of the Church where we as brothers and sisters in the Family of God can gather to worship God and to fellowship with one another as Family, while growing our relationships with God and with one another!!!*

*God’s **LOVE** for us **“ALIVE”** beyond “Easter”, is found in God’s gracious gift of the New Testament Scriptures which combined with the Old Testament Scriptures empower a powerful statement of “Promises Made” and “Promises Fulfilled” by our amazing God!!! The God promises, God has provided out of **LOVE** for us, so that we might grow our relationships with God and with one another!!!*

*God’s **LOVE** for us **“ALIVE”** beyond “Easter”, is found in God’s gracious gift of witnesses old and new who continue to proclaim the wonder of God if we will pause and open our ears to hear!!!*

*So, just as “April Showers” are followed by “May Flowers”; just as the Rain and Sun combine to allow the beautiful Rainbow to follow; “Easter” is about God’s gracious **LOVE** for us **“ALIVE”** through the Holy Spirit, the Church, the Scriptures, and the Witness Made, these are among the precious things that follow “Easter”!!!*

Love in Christ,

Dana