Yankee Steve's Column for the week of April 1, 2010

Dear friends,

I thought I would devote this week's column to Easter. When I ran across this message from a cleric in Great Britain, I decided to share it with you.

Ever yours,

Yankee Steve Cakouros

An Easter Message from the Right Rev. Dr. John Inge [1955-], Bishop of Worchester in England

A very happy Easter to you.

Easter is about life. Easter is about new life offered to you and me. Easter is specifically about the new life offered through resurrection, the resurrection of Jesus.

The resurrection of Jesus is not one of several impossible things that you might, like Alice in Wonderland, be asked to believe before breakfast. The evidence for the resurrection is as good as that for any historical event - that Julius Caesar attempted to invade Britain in 55 B.C., for example.

The resurrection of Jesus is an extraordinary event, to put it mildly, but it actually happened and it has had an enormous effect. It was the resurrection that enabled the early church to grow. Nothing else that historians have come up can explain what turned a dejected group of disciples into a group of people who changed the world.

But what does it mean for us? It means that God's love has triumphed and will triumph over all that is evil and even over death itself. It means that the offer of new and eternal life is open to you and me and to everyone. It means that, if we will turn to him, nothing will be able to separate us from God's love. As St. Paul puts it to the Romans: "neither death nor life, neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

It's not just about the future, either. The power of the resurrection still transforms lives in the here and now and gives Christians purpose. It can work wonders for anyone and everyone.

If you are looking for good news then this must be about as good as you could hope for, it certainly beats an upturn in the economy, or the latest football results. What could be better news than the fact that you can rely on the embrace of God's love not only now but forever?