

"Saint Patrick, Early Missionary to Ireland"

Rev. David J. Bauer



March 17 will be celebrated as St. Patrick's Day. Those of Irish decent will proudly wear green. In Chicago the river will be temporarily dyed green on that day, during a festive parade downtown. The most popular Irish name for newborn boys is still Patrick, and Patricia for girls.

However, much of what surrounds the legend of St. Patrick is just that: legend... For instance, Patrick is credited with the banishment of snakes from Ireland, when he chased them into the sea after a 40 day fast. Though hard to prove Ireland's absence of snakes is attributed to St. Patrick, it is a curious story. St. Patrick is also reputed to have used a three leaves of the shamrock clover to illustrate the Trinity of the God-head.

Legends abound with many supernatural miracles and visions attributed to this curious man of the fifth century. Many stories surround him and his deeds.



Rev. David J. Bauer,
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There actually was a historical character named St. Patrick. Interestingly, he was not born in Ireland, but in Britain, to Christian parents in AD 389. Though his father was a deacon in the church of his hometown and his grandfather was clergy, Patrick's early faith in Christ was nominal at best.

At age 16 Patrick was captured by pirates, taken from his homeland, and traded into slavery to the Celts of Ireland. It was there he served by tending cattle for the next 6 years. It was during this time, Patrick noted the strong influence of the Druid priests and the overwhelming paganism of the Irish. Also during his servitude Patrick experienced a religious fervor in his spirit, which probably could mark his actual conversion to the faith of his parents and grandfather. According to his later *Confessions*, he wrote that the time he spent in captivity was critical to his spiritual development. He explained that the Lord had mercy on his youth and ignorance and afforded him the opportunity to be forgiven his sins and convert to Christianity. While in captivity Patrick would pray often and strengthen his relationship with the Lord.

He finally escaped to France, where he was again enslaved for a short period. But it was there he would have a dream, where a man from Ireland was begging him to come over and help them. Patrick would obey this divine calling and devote the rest of his life to the conversion to Christianity of the Celtic people of Ireland. As Patrick later speaks in his *Confessions*: "I am greatly a debtor to God, who has bestowed His grace upon me that multitudes were born again to God through me. The Irish, who never had the knowledge of God and worshipped only idols and unclean things, have lately become the people of the Lord, and are called sons of God" (Schaff, Vol. IV p. 46).

Though not Irish, Patrick had a deep love for the people of this island. Being a man of deep personal piety and warm evangelistic fervor, Patrick gave himself

without reservation to the evangelization of Ireland for the next thirty-five years. He would be exposed to many kinds of dangers from Druid chieftains, armed soldiers and robber bands. Wikipedia notes that His refusal to accept gifts from kings placed him outside the normal ties of kinship, fosterage and affinity. Legally he was without protection, and he was on one occasion beaten, robbed of all he had, and put in chains, perhaps awaiting execution. Despite the opposition, this courageous missionary baptized thousands of converts, planted hundreds of churches and ordained many to the clergy (Kane, p. 13). During the time of the Dark Ages in Europe, Ireland was a mission center from which monks and missionary scholars were sent out to all of Europe. For instance, it was from Ireland that (missionary) Columba set forth to win the Scots to Christianity. The Celtic church of Ireland and Scotland were both missionary minded churches in the fifth and sixth centuries (Cairns pp. 128-129). Patrick died in AD 465. His body was laid to rest beneath a marked stone in Downpatrick, Ireland the place where his ministry journey began.

The Roman Catholic Church has canonized St. Patrick. The Evangelical church tends to question his existence. Yet history cannot ignore Patrick's faithful evangelistic zeal and deep devotion to the Great Commission! Would to God we would be so burdened for the salvation of such a people of our influence! St. Patrick's true story is an illustration of what one obedient person loving God and people can accomplish. We are likewise called to go into all the world and preach/teach all nations -Mark 16:15; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8. AMEN!

References:

Cairns, Earl E., *Christianity Through the Centuries*, Zondervan, 1981

Kane, Herbert J., *A Concise History of the Christian World Mission*, Baker, 1982

Schaff, Philip, *History of the Christian Church*, EERdmans, 1973



Easy Irish Stew

(St. Patrick's Day Special)

2 lb. beef chuck *or* lamb stew meat, cut into 1 ½" chunks, season with salt & pepper
4 Tbsp. olive oil, divided in 2 parts
2 cups diced onions
2 Tbsp. minced fresh garlic
2 Tbsp. tomato paste
¼ cup all-purpose flour
2 cups low-sodium beef broth
2 cups low-sodium chicken broth
2 sprigs fresh thyme
2 lb. Yukon gold potatoes, peeled & cubed
1 cup chopped carrots
1 cup frozen green peas, thawed
1 cup sliced Savoy cabbage

Brown meat with 2 tbsp. oil in a large pot over medium-high heat, 8 minutes. Transfer meat and its juices to a bowl; reduce heat in pot to medium. Simmer onions in remaining 2 tbsp. oil in same pot, covered until soft, 5 minutes. Stir in garlic and tomato paste; cook until paste darkens, 2 minutes. Add flour and stir to coat, 1 minute.

Deglaze pot with some of broth, scraping up any brown bits. Add beef and chicken broths, beef and any accumulated juices, and thyme. Bring stew to a boil, reduce heat to low, cover, and simmer 1 hour.

Stir in potatoes and carrots; cook until potatoes are tender, 12 minutes. Add peas and cabbage, season with salt and pepper, and simmer another 5 minutes.

(total cooking time 1 ½ hours!) -Serves 8



Check the efficiency of the heating system in your home or the one you are thinking of buying. Change the thermostat setting – raise it if it's cold outside or lower it if it is hot. It should take no more than a half hour for the home to reach the desired temperature.

Your heating system will operate at peak efficiency only if it is clean, so regular maintenance means savings on heat bills.

For each degree you set your thermostat above 70, you can expect a 3 percent rise in energy costs. For most people a 65 degree setting and a 55 degree nighttime setting is acceptable.

During the winter months cooking foods slowly in the oven at low temperature will provide extra heat to help warm the house.

Keep windows sparkling in winter. Spotless window glass lets in more sunlight to warm your home.

Latch all your windows instead of merely closing them - for a tighter seal against wind and cold.

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Bible Related Ministries Newsletter

Rev. David J. Bauer, Director



2019

"For whosoever will call upon the name of Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call upon Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?" -Romans 10:13-15

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Rev. David Bauer March Itinerary

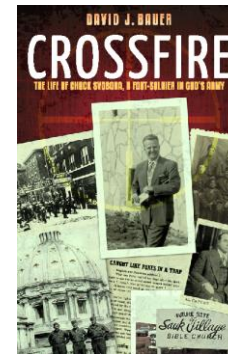


March. 5 10:30 a.m. Golden Fellowship, La Grange
Bible Church, La Grange, IL

March 17 10:30 a.m. New Life Bible Church,
Twin Lakes, WI

March 21 12:00 Noon Pacific Garden Mission, Chicago, IL

March 24 10:30 a.m. River Grove Bible Church,
River Grove, IL



From Cicero
Gangland, to Enemy
Gunfire, to Church
Organization, to
Arbitration in
Churches... and
beyond! The Chuck
Svoboda Story & Bible
Church History!

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The Lighter Side...

I was ready for a doctor's appointment and remembered how my mother once told me, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away."

Taking her words to heart, I decided to bring an apple. Needless to say, it was shot day. I don't like needles and was thinking, "There must be some kind of way out of this?"

So without thinking, I threw my apple at the doctor. He hasn't spoken to me since!

BRM Field Report #3

Lots going on in and around the office this month. We have braved snow and ice storms in and around Chicago and northern Indiana. We thank God for His provision of safety and journey mercy.

This past year exhibiting the downfall of at least two mega-church movements, due to the corruption of leaders all the way to the top, should raise a red flag to each of us. We are fallen creatures on a twisted planet, where we are bombarded with attacks from the world, the flesh and the devil. But probably the greatest enemy is the flesh. So why do we think we can have Elder rule in our churches without accountability? There must be a system of checks and balances between our boards and members with absolutely no one (not even the pastor) possessing absolute power. Even the Apostle Paul said: "...In me (that is in my flesh) dwells no good thing..." -Romans 7:18. The flesh is deadly and any of us can be easily deceived by the greatest enemy of all: *our prideful self!* Let each of us who thinks he stands, beware lest he fall! A sober reminder...

A related question which also surfaces, regarding the sinful failure of popular pastors and church leaders is: "What about those who have come to saving knowledge of Christ under the ministry of such corrupt leaders?" While imprisoned, the Apostle Paul noted that: "Some preach Christ even of envy and strife...of contention, not sincerely, hoping to add afflictions to my bonds" -Philip. 1:15-16. Paul's surprising response was that in every way Christ was preached, even in pretence or truth was a cause for rejoicing! -Philip. 1:18. Even in the face of faulty pastors or board members, God honors His Word as it is preached! But we should remember to pray for the sheep of these churches, that true faith would remain and grow. And this is a sobering reminder to seek Godly Bible teaching pastors, who are examples in word and deed. Rev. John Petgen, joined his wife in glory on Feb. 6. John, a faithful friend and BRMer, pastor of Calumet Bible Church and Central Park Bible Church in IL, served NIR IFCA Int. as Treasurer and as President.

Let us labor faithfully for the Lord while we still have today! The coming of our Lord draws nigh! Amen!

Sincerely,

Rev. David J. Bauer -Titus 2:11-13