



**Gordon Cosby** was resurrected last week. Do you recognize that name?

Gordon grew up in Lynchburg, Virginia, and became the pastor of a black congregation there when he was fifteen years old. After finishing his seminary studies at Southern in Louisville, Gordon served as an Army chaplain in Europe during World War II.

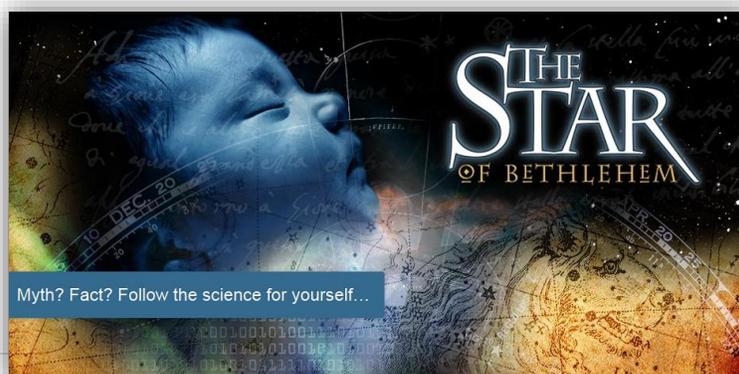
Upon Gordon's return from war, Gordon and Mary founded **The Church of the Saviour** in Washington D.C.'s Adams Morgan neighborhood, where they remained until his retirement in 2009. He was resurrected from Christ House, a ministry of the church to Washington's homeless.

Gordon and Mary were pioneers of courageous, ethical Christian faith. The Church of the Saviour was founded on the "feeling that denomination and race were artificial constructs and that people should live in regular life as they would in war—willing to lay down their lives for their neighbors, viewing their faith as an urgent tool to change the world."

Gordon understood discipleship as an integration of two journeys: an inward journey of spiritual growth in love of God, self, and others; and an outward journey to mend creation. I have worshiped with them in the old house where The Church of the Saviour was born, and it was a sermon that Mary gave at our church in Ft. Worth where I first heard the four markers for discerning God's will that you've heard me talk about before: God's will is (1) simple; (2) impossible; (3) persistent; and (4) not an ego trip. (If you don't remember my talking about these, don't worry. I'm likely to do it again before long.)

You'll be interested to know that Gordon Cosby had rather a close relationship with the establishment of Columbia. **Jim Rouse** (I'll bet you've heard of him!) and Gordon Cosby were good friends. Jim worshiped with The Church of the Saviour, but he was never willing to meet their exceedingly stringent requirements for membership. Jim was a courageous businessman in his own right; but it was his exposure to Christian discipleship under the ministry of Gordon Cosby that led him to the vision that led to the town of Columbia. And now you know "the rest of the story."

Tonight is the second night of the Feast of Passover and the third night of Holy Week. If you'd like to refresh your memory of what Passover commemorates, you can find the story in Exodus 11-12. And if you want to re-experience the wonder-full and awesome *Star of Bethlehem* movie we watched last year, you can watch the film at <http://archive.org/details/TheStarOfBethlehem.divx>. Be sure to watch for the connection with Good Friday that comes at the end. (NOTE: There's more about Good Friday on the actual DVD, which is available for purchase at [www.bethlehemstar.net](http://www.bethlehemstar.net).)



On another subject, the Starbucks illustration in last Sunday's sermon came from Barry Cooper's article, "Imprisoned by Choice," that appeared in the January/February issue of *Christianity Today*.<sup>1</sup> Here's some additional insight from that essay:

"The living God, the loving, triune God, did not create us to 'keep our options open.' He didn't create us to live in fear of making a choice. . . . God created us to commit. To him, and to others. He created us to choose.

"It's right to be careful in our decision making, of course: to pray, to seek counsel from Scripture and from wise Christians. The bigger the decision, the more careful we should be.

"But there comes a point when pausing becomes procrastination, when waiting is no longer wise. There comes a point when not to choose becomes idolatry. It becomes a lack of trust in the God who ordains the decisions we will make, gathers up the frayed ends, and works all things for our good and for his glory. . . .

"Maybe you're not truly committed at work—you have *Facebook* open in one of your browser tabs, half hoping to be interrupted. Maybe your restless eyes are on constant alert for something or someone better. Maybe you're keeping your options open with God himself, not allowing yourself to become too committed. . . .

"The god of open options is a cruel and vindictive god. He will break your heart. He will not let anyone get too close. But at the same time, because he is so spiteful, he will not let anyone get too far away, because that would mean they are no longer an option. . . .

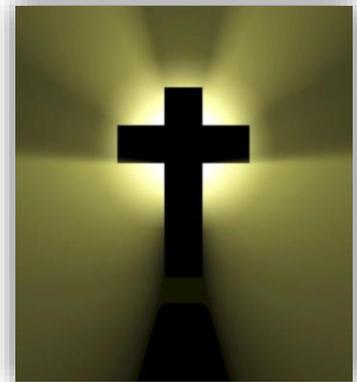
"The god of open options is also a liar. He promises you that by keeping your options open, you can have everything and everyone. But in the end, you get nothing and no one.

"Jesus said, 'You cannot serve two masters.' At any given moment, you must choose whom you will follow. And if you choose the god of open options, you cannot at that moment choose the triune God, the one who deliberately closed off his options in order to save your life. **Nothing narrows your options more than allowing your hands and feet to be nailed to a wooden cross.**"

I pray that your Holy Week will be so in every way.

Dave

P.S. I'll bet you know we're having a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration for CBF on April 6-7 (the actual anniversary was yesterday: 3/25/1973). You can still register for the catered dinner on April 6 through this Sunday. If for some reason that doesn't work for you, please come to the hors d'oeuvres reception that will precede the dinner from 5:30-7:30 p.m.!



Passover and CBF . . . a Pilgrim People

<sup>1</sup> [www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2013/january-february/imprisoned-by-choice.html](http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2013/january-february/imprisoned-by-choice.html).