



## THE EMPTY EGG

Some Christians see an opportunity to share the love of their Savior. Then they think "Well I will wait for a better time, when the timing is just right to talk to my friend about what the Lord has enfolded for me."

This is the right time to share your faith no matter how rough you feel you were in the act. Our story this month is about Easter and perhaps you feel that this story is as applicable in June as it would be in March or April.

Eight-year-old Steven was developmentally disabled and had many health problems. His health appeared to be growing worse every day. His teacher was concerned that his classmates might stop identifying with him and loving him as they became more aware of his differences.

In April the teacher asked the class to put together one plastic Easter egg filled with a small object representing new life in the spring. Thinking Steven might not understand (and not wanting to embarrass him), the teacher had each child place their egg on her desk so that she could open each one individually.

The first egg contained a tiny wild flower, which truly was an indication of new life. Next came a rock and the teacher assumed the rock was Steven's. Her reasoning was that rocks don't symbolize new life and growth. But a little boy shouted from the back of the room that the rock had moss on it, thereby showing new life. The teacher agreed.

A butterfly flew out of the next egg and the little girl that brought it bragged that the butterfly was hers, and how it had come from a cocoon, symbolizing new life. The teacher agreed again. The fourth egg was empty. The teacher knew this had to be Steven's egg, and she nervously set it aside, hoping he wouldn't notice.

As she began to pick up a different egg, Steven excitedly announced that the empty egg was his! With hesitation the teacher replied, "But it's empty!" "That's right," said Steven. "Just like Jesus' tomb was, and that means new life for everyone!"

The teacher was amazed at Steven's insight and his love for Jesus. Later on, at the end of the school year, Steven's condition worsened and he died. At his funeral, the children from his class each placed an empty Easter egg among the flowers.

Many of the adults at Steven's funeral were puzzled by the appearance of all of the eggs, and the message Steven shared with his classmates was shared again! An empty tomb some two thousand years earlier gave Steven the hope of a new life! Although the flowers were beautiful, it was the empty eggs that shared the message of hope in Eternal Life through Jesus Christ!

What a wonderful message to share every day with those you love! It's so simple that even I can understand it.



"...for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say". John 12:12