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Into impenetrable darkness pierced unquenchable light

As a young boy, my favorite memories of Easter were surrounded by big family

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gatherings, delicious food, exciting egg hunts, loads of candy, and going to church

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at the break of dawn for a sunrise service and breakfast. These highly anticipated traditions were special in their own way primarily because they only happened once a year. The celebrations of Easter are often embedded in a memory bank of cherished times.

The gleeful innocence of childhood is something that most of us fondly remember and can seem too far away when we “grow up.” When responsibilities, deadlines and assignments become the rule of our adult life, the innocence seems to vanish quickly. Professional counselors

use the metaphor “reclaiming our childhood” as a teaching tool to: recapture the joyful side of our lives, lighten our load of stress and pressure, brighten our spirits and create more positive attitudes. This accomplishment is more easily said than done when faced with the constant barrage of expectations, duties, and conflicts from our jobs, families and acquaintances.

Numerous times in the Bible we read about the challenges in life as a form of darkness. Separation from God and a life centered on “earthly” things are referred to as “dwelling in the darkness.” (Matthew 4:16)

We are living in trying times. I can hardly watch the news on TV because of the negative and tragic stories that consume the newscast. It seems like our days are filled with many pressures. People are stressed to the max,

short-tempered, frustrated, hurt and distracted. Violence and road rage seem to be used more often to resolve conflicts. Our constant connectivity via the internet and cellphones are potentially a blessing and a curse. I believe these are some of our greatest challenges.

No matter your specific denomination or tradition, Easter has the ability to bring us back to the most important parts of our lives — mission and purpose, clarity of mind and soul, freedom from mental and emotional bondage. The resurrection of Jesus provides unquestionably the strongest message of hope in a world filled with dark news.

His victory over death reveals the power he possesses to transform our lives into the childlike person that God created us to be — free to enjoy a world full of God’s blessings and free to live a life of

hopeful anticipation of each and every celebration! (1 Corinthians 15:54-55)

The Light of Christ pierced through that dark tomb and showed us a way of life that cannot be hindered from the wholeness that God can give. (John 8:12)

In Christ, we have a Lord and Savior that invites us to share in a life that transcends the challenges of our world and offers a life of unconditional love, never-ending hope, inner peace, and complete joy. My prayer is for all of us to allow the light of Christ to shine in our lives and pierce through any darkness that we are facing. May the risen Christ become an Easter blessing to all of us!

The Rev. Clay McQuerry is the executive director of Rebuilding Together Kansas City. He wrote this column as part of the Liberty Ministerial Alliance.