



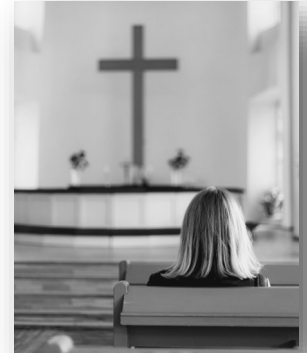
KimballCoburn.com



Spring 2023, Issue 200

WHAT WILL BRING US BACK

I think it is about time. It's about time we start filling up our churches again. The pandemic has kept our churches only half full, and sometimes less. There are those who predict that this will be the way from now on. They've shown that many of us have grown accustomed to watching our worship services at home on demand.



As comfortable as it is worshipping in pajamas, it will never take the place of being in community with friends and singing the songs to live music. Even though many churches are still wearing masks and not touching each other with hugs, kisses, or even holding hands, there is an undeniable connection when we're together in the sanctuary and worshipping with each other.

When Pam and I are leaving and fellowshiping in the narthex, we can't help but share some hugs and shake a few hands. I know we probably shouldn't be touching others, but we miss it so much and find it difficult to hold back. I'm not saying it's the healthy thing to do. What I am saying is it shows how much we miss it.



The Church is not an institution, a club, or an organization. The Church is the instrument of God. It's the personal warmth and bond of faith that is the glue binding us together. We are a community of love that builds God's Kingdom come, God's Will be done. This is what will bring us back to Church.

*Agapè,
Kimball, SE*



the *Creek* ~ the *Cross* ~ the *Miracle*!

In light of the recent rain, storms and floods, Kimball and I are taken back to a frightening experience we had 30 years ago. It was during Lent in 1993 and one of those unusual times when torrential rains flowed down the mountainside, but our spirits would not be dampened. We were still excited about the day before when we had begun our four-day Lenten series with the First United Methodist Church of Garden Grove, CA. We were eager to get back for our second day of activities, fellowship, and worship. Today it beckons us to repeat this story for our new readers of **THE CALL**

As we came to the creek's crossing below our Mt Baldy home our hearts won out over our heads. We knew the water was higher than we had ever seen but didn't anticipate its fierceness. We only wanted to get to the other side and be on our way. Ever so cautiously and with hearts pounding, we started across, only to be swept up in a matter of seconds into the raging creek. After crashing into a large boulder that kept our car from going farther downstream, Kimball found his door was lodged next to the rock and he could not open it. He managed to climb into the back seat and open its door. Holding on to the seat belt to keep him from being washed away, he made his way to a large rock and held on. It steadied and protected him from the strong current. He called for me to follow. "No, I'm afraid" I yelled! He assured me I would make it and I believed him. I, too, climbed into the back seat and held on to the seat belt as I began to slide out of our car. The fast-moving waters immediately took my shoes (my new red flats!) and I began to panic. Looking up, there he was, one arm holding fast to the rock and the other outstretched to pull me to him. As soon as I got to him, he continued making a way for us to safety through the freezing waters and through thick brush to the edge of the road.

Our small community of good friends and neighbors rallied in support of us. As soon as we made it to a clearing, they began wrapping us in blankets. About eight of us stood beside the creek watching our car, which was partially submerged in 5 ft. of water, being pushed, and pulled by the force of the water flowing at an estimated 60 miles an hour. How in the world did we get out?!

As the tow truck began pulling our car from the creek, we saw a cross floating around in the back seat. "Look, it's a cross!" It was a roughly made cross from branches of a fallen tree that Kimball had made for his time with the youth to illustrate the power of the cross. Never could he have imagined how significant that cross would become! Everyone pointed with amazement and the tow truck driver shook his head, took his hat off, placed it on his heart and said, "Bless be to God, it is a downright miracle that those folks got out alive! That cross is what saved them!" We told him we were "those folks" and thanked him for his concern and caring.

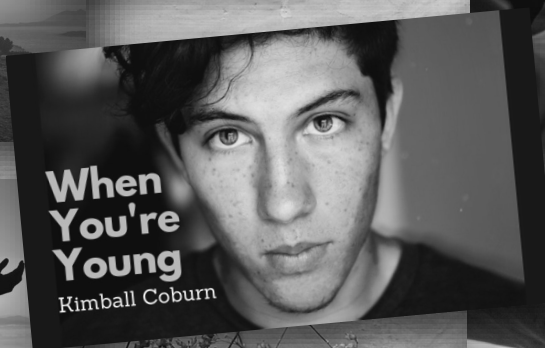
We held each other tight and smiled, feeling very humbled and oh, so blessed ~ ***The Creek, the Cross, and the Miracle!*** ... What an Easter Story! Never does the season of Easter come that we don't stop our busy world and pause for a time of meditation remembering the cross and feeling the love and sacrifice it represents.

We wish you and your family a happy and blessed Easter. ~ Agape, Kimball, and Pam



With the help of our Media Team, Kimball is creating a series of videos that can be used for personal inspirations, program starters, or worship resources. The first nine are now ready for you to watch via YouTube. You can also download them to use in your church.

Enjoy them now at **KimballCoburn.com**





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Service Return Requested

Financially Speaking

Budget for 2022 ~ 2023

\$57,460

Amount received for 2022

\$51,083

Budget for 2023

\$57,460

Amount Received To Date (March 14, 2023)

\$3,570

A Note from our Board of Directors

As Kimball's Board of Directors, we humbly thank you for the many ways you have sustained Kimball through these 44 years with your belief in him and his Calling to the ministry of servant evangelism. With Kimball still working his way back to full strength, he and the Board have planned to keep our budget the same amount as last year.

Kimball's health continues to improve. Each day he's at his desk writing scripts for his video series, OUR CALL. These short videos are produced by our own media team using Kimball's music to drive his messages home. It's a resource that Churches and people can freely use to share God's vision and hope.

His 10th video will soon be released. Featuring his song, IT'S THE SPIRIT, Kimball reminds us that the Holy Spirit dwells in us and gives us the power to live the Christian life. Look for this new video soon at KimballCoburn.com.

Agape, the KBC Ministry Board of Directors

