



12-15-1988

## Our God Reigns: FBC Easter Pageant

Bob Klaasen

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview>

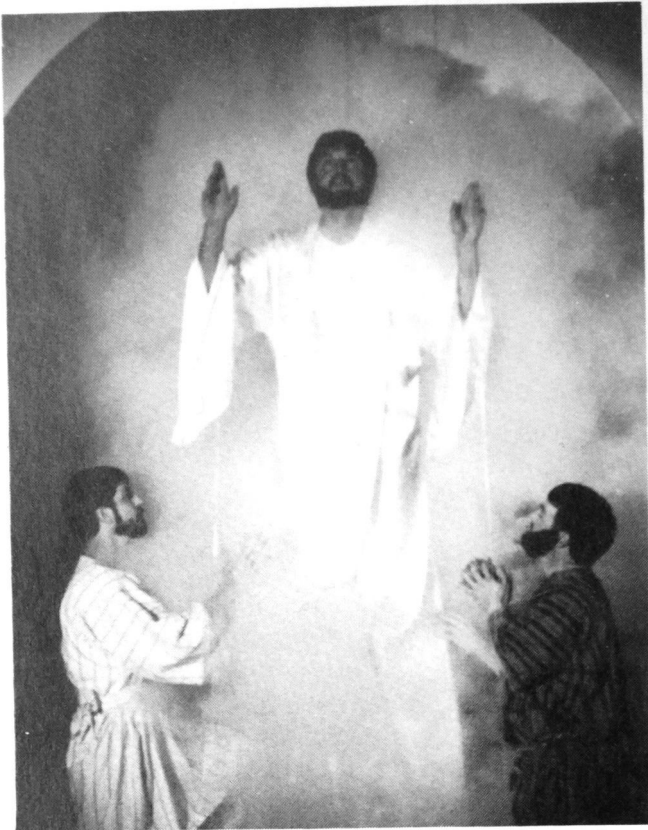
---

### Recommended Citation

Klaasen, Bob (1988) "Our God Reigns: FBC Easter Pageant," *Westview*: Vol. 8 : Iss. 2 , Article 12.  
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol8/iss2/12>

This Nonfiction is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at SWOSU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Westview by an authorized administrator of SWOSU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu](mailto:phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu).





## RELIGION

*joint, unified effort*

# Our God Reigns: FBC Easter Pageant

By Bob Klaasen

A Western Oklahoma landmark? Not in the exact sense of the word, but the annual Easter Pageant of First Baptist Church (FBC) in Weatherford will soon become a Western Oklahoma Landmark. This pageant originated in the mind of Tony Cannon approximately six years ago. During that time, he was directing pageants in another community. In 1986, when Cannon became Minister of Music at FBC, Weatherford, this particular pageant began. "Since I was a small child," says Cannon, "I've heard that a picture is

especially true of Christian dramatizations. Cannon continues, "For years we have read of the agony that Jesus went through to die on the cross. We have also read and learned of the love that Jesus had and still has for us today. But...have we really felt that agony, that love, His mercy?" As Cannon reflects upon the first pageant he viewed, he says, "For the first time in my life, I felt the love God really had for me. He loved me so much, He died. Yet, He lives today! The sufferings I face are not even a drop in a bucket compared to what Jesus had to suffer for my sins." Because of the tremendous impact this first pageant presentation had on his life, Cannon reflects, "I have committed myself to Him to be used by Him in each of our presentations. My ultimate desire is that Christ is seen, not man! John 3:30 says it best: 'He must increase, but I must decrease.'"

The Easter dramatization at FBC in Weatherford started with one performance in 1986, and will have four performances in 1989. The first two performances will be March 23 and 24, and the last two on Easter Sunday, March 26. The adult choir of the church, composed of approximately sixty voices, is the most visible portion of the presentation. However, there is a large cast of non-singing participants and much work also occurs behind the scenes! First of all, the script must be written before the cast is selected. Cannon never uses the very same presentation from year to year — there is an annual revision. Musical numbers must be chosen and ordered, publicity must be planned, costumes designed, personnel enlisted, and sets built. The latter of these requires a large cadre of volunteers who spend about three weeks each season building an elaborate set across the entire front of the church building. Merle Bonner, Supervisor of House-keeping at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, and Set Construction Coordinator in 1988 and again in 1989, says, "I don't mind giving my time for this project because it's enjoyable. Everybody has a different talent; however, I cannot sing or read music, but I have a talent in building and working. A Bible verse in Romans 12:6 reminds us that our gifts differ."

Other areas which require considerable planning and preparation are sound and lighting. Because FBC does not own enough lighting and special sound equipment, it's rented from a commercial establishment in Oklahoma City and delivered here several days before the first presentation. Volunteers in the church fill additional vital positions such as coordinators of drama, make-up, props, publicity, prayer, video, special effects, photography, and ushering. Approximately 130 different people were involved in the 1988 presentation. The cost of this annual ministry is budgeted by the Music Budget of FBC with special gifts accepted.

Mrs. Midge Gerber, church organist and Instructor of Office Administration/Business Education at SOSU, has been the Technical Producer since the

first pageant in 1986. She has a crew of six to ten people who enjoy working behind the scenes. They work as a family and enjoy it so much that no one wants to quit. The only people not presently involved, who were part of the original crew, have moved away. "If it were not for the technical crew, the choir would sing very quietly and in the dark!" says Mrs. Gerber. She is also quick to point out that "the pageant is an opportunity for spiritual growth." "A spectator," she continues, "might perceive the production as just a performance, but as a participant you see that the pageant is done for God's glory, not man's."

How does the community of Weatherford fit into the production? First of all, the community is invited to attend. Additionally, invitations are sent to churches within a fifty-mile radius, encouraging them to make reservations and attend as a group. This pageant has become an important part of Easter-time worship for people of many denominations. FBC feels that this production is a service of ministry to the community as well as to its own church.

This Easter dramatization is the portrayal of the life, death, and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Important aspects of the pageant include fellowship and evangelism — fellowship that occurs among its cast members and evangelism that reaches out into the community. These aspects, combined with attitudes of giving and ministry, will cause the pageant to continue being successful.



A Western Oklahoma landmark? Maybe not in the true sense of the word, but it is hoped that this pageant will become the type of landmark which will encourage people to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. ■

*BOB KLAASSEN, SOSU Director of Admissions, has appeared in the cast of OUR GOD REIGNS, subject of his article.*

# TGPF




## GREAT PLAINS FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

SERVING YOU AT

### CLINTON

1002 W. Frisco 323-0730

AND

### WEATHERFORD

109 E. Franklin 772-7441