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WHOLE NO. 14.

Today

GARY W. LLOYD, Editor

"Our country is the world – our countrymen are mankind."

L.D. BLISS, Printer

Happy Easter Monday! Go Plant a Tree



**Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai of Kenya
proposes an Easter Monday Celebration**

Yesterday was the fourth Easter that the world has been without Wangari Maathai. She passed away in September 2011 at the age of 71. Professor Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement in 1977. Its mission, as described, was "to plant trees across Kenya to fight erosion and to create firewood for fuel and jobs for women." In 2004, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, becoming the first African woman and the first environmentalist to win the prize. While Green Belt's "Billion Trees Campaign" may be calculated in the number of seedlings planted, Professor Maathai's legacy may be best understood in her statement: "The planting of trees is the planting of ideas. By starting with the simple act of planting a tree, we give hope to ourselves and to future generations."

In 2005, Professor Maathai gave an interview to Mia MacDonald of *Beliefnet* which was entitled "Heaven Is Green." When asked how she had sought to engage religious leaders in environmental activism, she replied:

For the last few years, I have been trying to communicate with leaders of various Christian churches to urge them to bring protection and conservation of the environment into the mainstream of their faith and their teachings. I have been suggesting that Easter Monday could be a very good day for the entire Christendom to plant trees. If we could make that Monday a day of regeneration, ... it would be a great celebration of Christ's resurrection. After all, Christ was crucified on the cross. In a light touch, I always say, somebody had to go into the forest, cut a tree, and chop it up for Jesus to be crucified. What a great celebration of his conquering [death] it would be if we were to plant trees on Easter Monday in thanksgiving.

Maundy Thursday:

April 2, 2015

New York Times

NAIROBI, Kenya — Somali militants burst into a university in eastern Kenya on Thursday and killed nearly 150 students in the worst terrorist attack since the 1998 bombing of the United States Embassy here, laying bare the nation's continuing vulnerability after years of battling Islamist extremism.

A small group of militants, most likely between four and 10, roved from dorm to dorm, separating Christian from Muslim students and killing the Christians, the authorities said. Students described being awakened before dawn by the sound of gunfire and fleeing for their lives as masked attackers closed in.

Easter Sunday:

Really Professor Maathai?! Plant a tree on Monday?

Only, we suppose, if death truly was conquered.

-A.O.B.