

NEWS2USE

May 21, 2009-June 3, 2009

PASTOR'S CORNER

"That God will open to us a Door ..." (Colossians 4:2-5)

Paul opens this pericope (a section of writing, specifically scripture) with the imperative. "Devote yourselves to prayer." It is as if Paul emphatically, definitively says, "Pray! With devotion and persistence, pray!" To the command he adds two other notable thoughts. First, as we pray, something we do as a matter of discipline and a matter of the heart, we are to "stay alert." Second, we are to pray with thanksgiving. This is no ho-hum religious exercise. It is something we do with attentiveness, focus, and it is something that comes from the deep gratitude of the heart.

Then, Paul gets personal. He requests prayer for himself and Timothy, the co-author of Colossians (see Col. 1:1). "*Pray for us as well that God will open to us a door for the word, that we may declare the mystery of Christ.*" Amazingly, Paul is writing from prison. Most people dread the thought of prison. Defendants who know they are guilty of crimes spend enormous amounts of money on attorneys. They want to avoid prison at all costs. Inmates who couldn't avoid it seek parole at the earliest possible chance. A few risk life and limb trying to escape.

Paul was a rare bird. Nothing in his writings indicates the fear or disdain for prison most people show. He simply wanted to be used by Jesus as long as he was there. Prison wasn't easy or pleasant for Paul. He didn't necessary seek to be in prison. But once there, it was not his prime mission to get out. He wanted to share the gospel with fellow inmates, jailors, and anyone else he met. "*Pray for us as well that God will open to us a door for the word, that we may declare the mystery of Christ ... that I may reveal it clearly as I should*" (4:4).

Paul didn't go to prison to serve time, he went to serve Jesus? Why do we go to school? To get grades or make it to graduation? Why do we go to physical therapy? Because the doctor said to do so? Why do we go to the office? To put in enough time so that we have enough retirement to live on? Why do we go where we go and live the way we live? Have we bought into our culture's definitions of what is fun, what is required, and what is needed?

What if ...?

What if we go the places we go with the intention Paul had in his life? Paul envisioned the prison as a place of transformation. When he made his prayer request to the church, he did not say, "Pray for God to protect me while I am in prison." He asked that they would pray that God would *use* him and *speak through* him. What if, at the next small group, we asked our Christian friends, "when I go into the office, please pray for me that God will open a door for the word, that I may declare the mystery of Christ and that I may reveal it clearly."

Prayer prepares the believer to share Jesus. This is why Paul began the pericope, "*Devote yourselves to prayer.*" The open door is a person or persons who actually show some interest in spiritual topics or matters of faith or theology. Someone in our sphere of influence opens up and actually wants to know the truth. We step through that open door (which is itself an answer to prayer), and we tell about Jesus and our own relationship with Him. What would happen if we worked at this the way Paul did?

He adds in verse 5 an important corrective. "*Conduct yourselves wisely*" among nonbe-

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lievers. Paul’s prayer imperative and evangelical imperative are not prompts to rudely, ineffectively throw the Bible in people’s faces and cram Jesus down their throats. We are to use tact, adroitness, sensitivity, and care as we present Jesus. We don’t tiptoe through the tulips, but we are not bulls in china shops. Finesse, timing, and nuance are sometimes needed.

Thus the pericope concludes, “Let your speech always be gracious” and also “seasoned with a little salt.” Throughout Colossians we see that Jesus-followers are people who are different morally and spiritually than others in the world. Furthermore, Jesus-followers are on mission to help people who don’t know Him themselves to become Jesus followers too.

Rob Tennant

Thank You

Dear HillSong Family,

Thank you for all your calls, cards and visits after the passing of our mother, Clara Horton.

She loved all of you and truly missed being able to attend her church the past few years. Her church family was always important to her. She treasured all of you and prayed for you daily.

Mom’s faith was evident in her daily life. She walked daily with Him and had a very personal relationship with Him.

I wish all of you could have known her the way we, her family did and experience the love and gentle spirit we saw daily. She has passed on her love of Jesus and trusting Him with your life to all of her children. We will be with her again when Jesus calls us home.

Yours in Christ,

Bobby & Darlene Blake & family

BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

- 1 Nancy Parker
- 3 Albert Collier
- 7 Riana Roche
- 10 Logan Fox
- 15 Gary Howe
- 21 Candy Tennant
- 24 Rachel Sudderth
- 25 Kumari Mathew
- 26 Brenda Zelon
- Taylor Fox
- 27 Neil Barlow
- 30 Leonard Cheek

BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE

- 1 Dawn Williams
- 3 Alan Stiles
- 4 James Asbill
- 5 Bill Roberts
- Siqing Shan



Financial Peace University is returning to HillSong Church! Financial Peace University is a 13-week, Christ-centered personal financial management class taught on video by Dave Ramsey. If you were unable to attend the free class preview on May 20th, please contact Kent Stone at kent@hillsong.org or 423-8317 for information on how to register for the class. Hurry, classes start **June 3rd at 6:30 pm!**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NOTES

SonRock Kids Camp VBS Preview & Pre-registration Event
Saturday afternoon- May 30, 2009

3:00 - 4:30 pm



**Join the fun and get a sneak peek!
Crafts, Games, Water Fun, Snacks
Bouncer, and Music!!!!**

VBS News from Rebecca Wells

VBS is coming up soon. Thank you to all the people who have already signed up to help. It is a blessing to us and to God. We are still in need of some helpers in several positions, as well as a **Co-Director**, so please contact Faye Hilger or Rebecca Wells if you are interested. For those already signed up to work or for those interested in helping here is my contact information. **Cell# - 428-8254 Email- rebeccawells2@hotmail.com**

Remember Summer Camp?...the fun, the games, the new friends, the memories and stories to tell for years after? We're looking forward to a great "camp experience" **June 14-18 from 6:30 to 8:30 each evening.**

Our theme verse will be 1 John 3:1- "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God."

We adults who are "children of God" have a great opportunity to share Jesus with the children of our church and of our neighborhood. Many people are currently hard at work making plans and preparations. We are so thankful for all of these. **Others are still needed. It's not too late to be included!** There is a place of service for everyone. !!

Still Seeking: VBS Co- Director, Hungry Bear Picnic Coordinator/s (Meals for staff on Mon-Thurs.), 3 Preschool Teachers, 2-3 Registrars, Adult & Youth Trail Guides (10-12). People to help with decorations.

VBS Decorating

We need to borrow

- Outdoor & camping equipment
- Any artificial plants and trees like ficus ,etc.
- Artificial Christmas trees (Assembled and undecorated)

Please bring to church no sooner than June 8-13 & label clearly with your name.

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Decorating Dates are scheduled for: May 23, May 30 and June 13. Please see Merri White for times, location and to volunteer!

HillSong Playground

Spring is here and these warm sunny days draw everyone to the playground! Extended Session classes like to go outdoors for part of their class time. **Take a look as you leave after worship on Sunday mornings.** You'll find many children and their families gathered on the playground for an extended time to fellowship. As the children run, and slide and play, families are able to visit and catch up with each other. These are happy scenes and sounds.

We have a wonderful play structure for our preschoolers and a great sandbox under the eaves built by Tom Timmons and a group of youth and adults several years ago. However, we need a larger play structure for our older children. This structure would replace the *metal slide that gets too hot to use for much of the year and does not meet current safety standards.* **We have proposals from three different companies. They all offer really neat possibilities; but there is no money for this in the current HillSong budget... so, what can we do now?** The most timely solution is to **fundraise until we collect the \$6,000 needed.**

Currently seeking interested person(s) who would organize and lead this effort. Please feel free to think creatively!!! See Faye if you can help.

Upcoming Events

- May 23 - VBS Decorating Work Day
- May 30 - VBS Decorating Work Day (morning only)
- May 30 - VBS Preview/Pre-Registration Event @ 3:00pm to 4:30pm
- May 31 - Family Worship & VBS Skit
- VBS Training Event for all workers Time TBA
- June 13 - VBS Decorating Work Day (morning)
- June 14-18 VBS @ 6:30 to 8:30 each evening

Keith Henderson
Dessert/Concert
Illusions of "THE KING"
Mount Carmel Baptist Church
2016 Mount Carmel Church Road
June 13, 2009

Doors open at 6:00pm
Dessert served from 6:00pm to 7:30pm
Show starts at 7:30pm
Tickets are \$25



Keith Henderson

For more than 20 years Keith has brought back memories of Elvis through his show, "Illusions of the King". Keith takes pride that his performance is completely natural and his show is a true tribute to the King of Rock n' Roll. Keith has competed and won in numerous tribute competitions including the 2002 "Tribute to the King" contest in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Proceeds to benefit Mt. Carmel Building campaign. For tickets or more information, please contact Kathryn Royster roysterbksd@bellsouth.net or 933-0768. Thanks in advance for your support.