

# NEWS2USE

June 18, 2009-July 1, 2009

## PASTOR'S CORNER A Primer in Suffering

Are you worried? Do you know people who have lost their jobs? Are you worried you might be next? What would that do to your family?

Concerned? Is there someone you love who is battling an illness? Does her doctor, a specialist, hold out little or no hope? *OR*, are you the one with the terminal illness?

Moved with pity? Some folks look at the occasional news story about the wretched conditions of the camps in Uganda full of displaced Sudanese or the reports of starvation in North Korea, and they just flip to the sports. They don't carry any burden for the poorest of the poor. But not you; you learn of someone hurting somewhere, and you suffer. You hurt because you are loaded with compassion.

I am sorry this is so grim. I know it is summer, a time of sunshine, and a loose, carefree lifestyle. But, God has opened my eyes and made me aware of the trials people around me are enduring. I don't have any trials. I am not asking for any trials. But, people I care about are wrestling with different things.

I thought it was the right time to focus on the problem of pain. From a theological perspective, there are many ways of treating this issue. There are numerous places we could turn in the Bible. I decided on the book of Job. This year, we have journeyed through Colossians, the epistle Dallas Willard calls a "course in discipleship." Today, we begin a new trek through Job. It seems to me that Job is a primer in suffering.

The man, Job, was blameless (Job 1:1). He was wealthy, had a great family, good health, and a wonderful relationship with God. His problems began when the Adversary (Hebrew, which translates 'Satan' or the Adversary) and God discussed his case. God boasted of Job's righteousness (Job 1:8). The Adversary challenged God's assertion of Job's goodness. So, God permitted him to harm Job. He wiped out all of Job's wealth. He killed all of Job's children and hired hands. Finally, he destroyed Job's health.

Job was the picture of suffering (perhaps even a caricature). If anyone ever could ask 'why,' it was Job. But, he didn't do that. He declared his own innocence, and cast all blame on God.

Thus, Job hits us at many levels. At the Bible study level we have to ask certain questions. Was Job a single composition, or was Job compiled from different stories and traditions? Was there in fact a man in history named 'Job,' who suffered greatly? Or, is this work actually a great parable designed to teach us about God and about the ways of the universe?

At the theological level, we have to ask what Job teaches us about God. What kind of God allows the death of 10 children just to prove a point to Satan? Are we allowed to ask such questions? Or should we just blindly, uncritically trust that God is good and never challenge God?

I have already addressed the personal level. People are suffering in varying degrees. Job is someone with whom suffering people can commiserate. He asks questions they are asking. He gives voice to hurting people everywhere.

*(Continued on page 2)*

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The News2Use is also available on the web. If you would prefer to be placed on our electronic mailing list and/or removed from our regular mailing list, please contact us.

*(‘Pastor’s Corner’ continued from page 1)*

Thus we will tackle Job at the Bible study level, at the theological/spiritual level, and at the personal level. I’ll be writing about Job in the newsletter. I also have a Job blog, <http://honesttalkwithgod.blogspot.com/>, and three small groups are studying Job. Since I put out a church wide email about these Job studies, 8 people (people not in one of these small groups) have expressed a desire to be in a Job small group. We will need to find a way to get these folks into the discussions. And if you are interested, you can dialogue with me through the blog or through direct email.

From the outset of 2009, we have held spiritual formation as a goal. Dealing with Job will draw people to deep prayer (the contemplative tradition); these studies will raise questions about where virtuous living leads a person (the holiness tradition); these studies will make people hunger for a more direct, present, visceral relationship with God (the charismatic tradition); and hopefully, in dealing with suffering, we will develop a heart for people who suffer (the social justice tradition, or the contemplative life).

So, cry out to God. And read Job. And pray. And then, pray some more.

Rob Tennant

## **Help needed Hosting World Changers**

We will begin hosting a team of World Changers this Sunday, June 21st with a Covered Dish lunch. We will also be providing and preparing lunches for them as they work on houses in the Durham area the following week (June 22 - 26). Donations of food and/or money are needed. Volunteers to help make the lunches are also welcome. Contact Brenda Stiles if you can help - phone: 929-1481.

## *A Word of Thanks*

Many of you probably noticed the damage done to the front of the church from a thunderstorm about a month ago. You’ve also probably noticed that it has recently been repaired as good as new. Please thank our own David Seng with assistance from Jonathan Elwing. They both willingly braved the heights (and rain) on a power lift to put up the new trim piece. Extra thanks to David for arranging to get the new metal trim cut, shaped and painted to match our existing trim.



## **Bring a Covered Dish for Lunch this Sunday, June 21st**

We will be sharing a fellowship meal following the worship service Sunday morning. Bring food to share and plan to stay and fellowship. We will also be welcoming the team of World Changers we will be hosting the following week.

## **Food Drive for Durham Rescue Mission**

The Durham Rescue Mission is in serious need of food. This ministry provides shelter and meals for homeless people every day. Additionally, they have job programs, and they share the Gospel with the people who come. It is a worthwhile organization and they need our help. Please **bring in groceries** (canned goods and non-perishable items) that we can donate to the Durham Rescue Mission. The cause is worthy and the need is significant. We will be collecting groceries for the rest of June through the end of July.

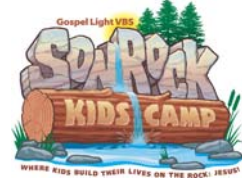


# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NOTES

## Letter From Camp

Dear Mom and Dad,

We're coming to the end of camp and it has been a fun week!! I can't believe it went by so quickly! I'm in a great group. -The Rocking Raccoons are the youngest campers. They really like to sing and play games. Probably their favorite game of the week was "What Time Is It Mr. Skunk?" They also love Duck- Duck- Goose. They don't travel around camp from station to station like we do. We're bigger and try to set a good example for them. Our group is the Wise Owls Cabin. There are also the Bouncing Beavers, the Brave Bears, and the Mighty Moose. They're really good at Moose calls.



We've enthusiastically enjoyed the music and great skits at the Campfire Assembly each evening. We also had some high energy games outdoors at the Big Rock Adventure on the nights we didn't have rain; and, some fun indoor ones on the other nights. We've hiked to Lookout Point for our Bible lessons where we've learned so much about Jesus and His friend, Peter. Then, we've wandered over to the Craft Cabin where we've made some awesome crafts - hats, picture frames, trivets, necklaces and more. I can't wait to show you!! We've enjoyed yummy snacks and worked on memorizing our Bible verses for each night. We've also made some new friends and reconnected with some old ones. On our last night, we're having an ice cream party and a video recap of our week.

You're invited too! Can't wait for you to meet our great counselors and the new friends I've made.

Love, "Your Happy Camper"

## Upcoming Dates

► July 18 - Saturday morning-@ 9:30am Classroom Work Day

### Group Discussion of *The Shack*

Beth Roberts is interested in forming a group at HillSong this summer to discuss the novel, *The Shack* (see below). The group may meet for a one-time discussion session, or it could meet several times, depending on the desires of the participants. If you are interested in being part of a group, please contact Beth at 967-6674 or by email at [beth-flora7@gmail.com](mailto:beth-flora7@gmail.com). Let her know if you would prefer to meet during the day or evening.

*The Shack* is a novel by William P. Young that tells the story of Mack Philips. Mack's youngest daughter is abducted during a family vacation, and is later presumed murdered. Four years later, in the midst of his *Great Sadness*, Mack receives a note, supposedly from God, inviting him back to the scene of the crime. If he returns to the place of his darkest nightmare, will he find despair—or hope? This book wrestles with the question "Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain?" It also challenges the reader to examine beliefs about the Trinity, and to consider what it means to forgive.

## NEWS 4 YOUTH

Are you ready for the summer?



Bible Study Wednesday  
Nights at 6:45pm

### Upcoming Youth Stuff

- \* Monday, June 22 - Durham Bulls, 6pm
- \* Wednesday, June 24 - Afternoon at Frankie's, 1pm
- \* Saturday, June 27 - Summer Blowout, 10am-3pm (details coming soon)
- \* Saturday, July 4 - Picnic & Fireworks
- \* Monday, July 6 - Camping @ Hanging Rock SP

Jonathan Elwing~[jonathan@hillsong.org](mailto:jonathan@hillsong.org)  
~ cell: (919) 357-7183

## DENTAL BUS IS COMING

**July 18 - 9am to 3pm**



The NC Baptist Men Dental Bus will be at HillSong to provide dental services for those who have no insurance and cannot afford to pay for dental care. Many volunteers are needed to provide this service to our community. If you will give some of your time to help, please contact

Laura Shrewsbury at 967-3076 or email [ishrewsb@bellsouth.net](mailto:ishrewsb@bellsouth.net)

## Website News

Check out Pastor Rob's blog at: <http://honesttalkwithgod.blogspot.com/>

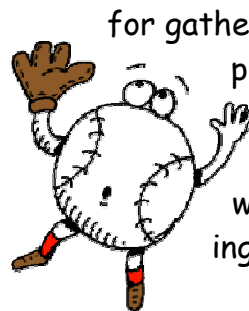
## BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE

- |    |                 |
|----|-----------------|
| 1  | Dawn Williams   |
| 3  | Alan Stiles     |
| 4  | James Asbill    |
| 5  | Bill Roberts    |
|    | Siqing Shan     |
| 9  | Mark Collier    |
| 11 | Kerry White     |
|    | Anjeanette Fox  |
| 13 | Tim Pressley    |
| 14 | Daniel Asbill   |
| 18 | John Roberts    |
| 21 | Igor Tennant    |
|    | Rose Barnes     |
|    | Dave Cowan      |
|    | Braden Meacham  |
| 23 | Misha Rhodes    |
| 25 | Eleanor Roberts |



## July 26th

Everyone get ready for great fun!!! Mark your calendars for Sunday, July 26th, for a church picnic and softball game. The pavilion and one softball field will be reserved at Anderson Park in Carrboro from 3pm-7pm for us all to gather for good food and great fellowship. The church leadership teams will supply the hamburgers and hot dogs if all families will bring the "fixins" and side dishes. There will be opportunities



for gathering, playing volley ball, playing on a shaded playground, and of course a softball game that will be fun for all. Looking forward to seeing you all there!