

NEWS2USE

July 2, 2009-July 15, 2009

PASTOR'S CORNER

The Deaths of Job's Children

Job had 10 children (Job 1:2). When Satan challenged God's assertion of Job's righteousness, he asked God for permission to harm Job's loved ones and take Job's possessions (vs. 10-11). God acquiesced, and Satan used human conflict (vs. 15, 17) and natural disaster (vs. 16, 18-19) to destroy all that Job had, and to kill all whom Job loved, save his wife.

My biggest fear is that something would harm *one* of my children, let alone both of them. I know people who have lost children. It is completely devastating. Yet, from the text of the story of Job, the death of his children functions more as an element of movement, than a cause for mourning. Job must move from prosperity to pain so we can get to the meat of the story and find out if Satan was right. The death of 10 "young people" (vs. 19), as well as their spouses and servants, is a tool for the use of the storyteller. The event gets us to the point where Job has to react, and his reaction is the story.

The narrator never comments on the sorrow of such an awful human loss. Satan is utterly indifferent. Satan does not care a whit for Job's children or for Job. Satan wants to prove God wrong. God also comes across coldly. We love reading "*Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?*" (Matthew 6:25-26)?

These words of Jesus clearly state that God values us, loves us, and provides for us. Genesis chapters 1 & 2 declare humans made in the image of God; humans and humans alone are special in God's kingdom.

And yet, in Job 1-2, humans (Job's children and servants) are mere fodder for the wager. God seems more intent on proving Satan wrong than valuing Job's children. In fact, God appears to be completely indifferent to the fate of Job's children; *and*, God is not at all sympathetic to Job's grief. What gives?

First, this is a good example of why we strive to consider the entire testimony of the Bible and not just isolated verses. When we read the New Testament we have to remember the Old, because the New is built on the Old. When we read the Old Testament, we have to remember the New because our interpretation of the Old is determined by the teaching of Jesus and Paul and the other New Testaments voices. With other passages as a corrective, we remember we can trust God to watch over us and care about us.

Second, death is not always the worst thing to happen to someone. We don't see the Job story from the perspective of Job's children. Their view is never considered. From their vantage point, maybe something is gained by their deaths. I don't know. I look into the New Testament and see Stephen willingly face death for the sake of the Gospel (Acts 7). Jesus embraced death to save humanity.

This step of trying to step into the shoes of the peripheral characters does not put God in a

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

better light. God doesn’t look good in Job 1 & 2. But, lest we commit Job’s sins, let me hasten to add, we cannot understand God’s perspective. We cannot know the divine mind and I accept that. What I wish is that we had some dialogue or some knowledge of the thoughts of one or two of Job’s children. It might help us understand the morality of the story.

In seeing that we don’t have that, I am eternally grateful we have passages like Genesis 1 & 2 and Matthew 6 to remind us that God does value us and does care. These passages don’t provide relief to the seemingly capricious theology and theocentric morality of Job. But they remind us that God is good.

Rob Tennant

Financial Snapshot

May 2009

General Fund

5/1/09	Beginning Balance	\$ 55,505.19
	Receipts:	
	Offerings	40,120.02
	Parking	400.00
	Building	1,650.00
	Expense Offsets	55.00
	Expenses	(31,237.36)
5/31/09	Ending Balance	\$ 66,492.85

Specials Fund

5/1/09	Beginning Balance	\$12,944.40
	Receipts	1,085.00
	Expenses	(2,738.00)
5/31/09	Ending Balance	\$11,291.40

Savings Account (Long Range Fund, CD, Ministry & Missions Reserves)

5/1/09	Beginning Balance	\$ 146,521.99
	Receipts	160.93
	Expenses	-
5/31/09	Ending Balance	\$ 146,682.92

Website News

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

NEWS 4 YOUTH

Are you ready for the summer?

connection Bible Study Wednesday
Nights at 6:45pm

Upcoming Youth Stuff

- * Saturday, July 4 - Picnic & Fireworks
- * Monday, July 6 - Camping @ Hanging Rock SP
- * Friday, July 10 - *Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs*
- * Tuesday, July 14 - NC Museum of Natural Science 11am
- * Saturday, July 18 to Friday, July 24 - World Changers Team in Roanoke, Virginia

Jonathan Elwing jonathan@hillsong.org
cell: (919)357-7183

BIRTHDAYS IN JULY

- 1 Katie Randolph
- 2 Laura Booth
Andrea Cobert
- 8 Phillip Parker
- 9 Emily Asbill
- 11 Laura Shrewsbury
- 19 David Seng
Lynn Cohen
- 21 Johelen Courliss
- 26 Nelson Keller
Dana Brower
- 28 Mason Meacham
- 30 Oscar Moncada
David Sanders

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NOTES

Final Reflections on VBS



We're down to the final packing and filing away for VBS 2009! We're so thankful for the great times and blessings that we had June 14-18. There was excitement and energy in both children and staff. We had a wonderful SonRock Kid's Camp crew - about 45 adults and youth who faithfully ministered to our children and their families (also numbering about 45.) Thanks to each of you who contributed your time and your gifts in a variety of ways to share God's love and the good news of Jesus with our children.

VBS takes a church-wide commitment. I'm so thankful that HillSong is a church that values children!

Sunday School Classes for the Summer

For those new to HillSong; or, are wondering about what class their child should be in now that it's summer and they have been promoted at school.. Here is how it works: Everyone stays in their current class until the end of summer/August. Then the first Sunday in September (9/6), Kindergarteners who've become 1st Graders move to Children. 2nd Graders who've moved to 3rd Grade move to a new class; and, 5th graders who've become 6th Graders move from Children to Youth. This will also be the time when those who are now in the Nursery (and are 2yrs old) will move to the 2's&3's class.

Thinking Ahead - Staffing for Children's Ministries for the Fall

Please be in prayer for our church, our families, our children and our ministry to them each week. Pray that God will bring the right people to meet the needs that we will have. In a recent article, "**Why Does Children's Ministry Matter?**", the author, Anthony Kummer **gives 68 reasons!** He talks about the ways it helps the kids, the ways it helps families, the way it helps the church, the ways it helps everyone, and, especially the ways it helps kids learn.

To staff one typical Sunday morning requires 18-20 committed adults (at least 2 for each classroom.): 10 Sunday School Teachers, 6-8 Extended Session Teachers, and 2 Kingdom Kids teachers.

Prayerfully consider if God might be calling you to work with children this year. There are many opportunities- perhaps 1 hour per month in Extended Session or Kingdom Kids, or 1 hour per week as a Sunday School teacher; or to be on call as a substitute as needed; or to help with a one time event in October or December?

Look for more details in upcoming newsletters. Please see Faye at anytime to talk about this.

All Small groups are operating on their regular schedules this coming Holiday Weekend

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 bethflora7@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 Phillips. 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.

Give a Helping Hand This Sunday



On the first Sunday of each month, you have the opportunity to give to the Helping Hand Fund. This fund is used to give financial assistance to people in our church and in the surrounding community who are in need. You are welcome to make donations to this fund at any time, not just on the 1st Sunday. However, your donation should be in addition to your normal tithes and offerings. The Helping Hand fund is not part of the general budget, so please make out a separate check to “HillSong” and designate “helping hand” on the memo line or on the offering envelope.

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.

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.

What Can I Do?

Evangelism, Registration, Set-up and Clean-up, Runners, Spanish Translators, Transportation, X-ray Technician, Dental Assistant, & Nurse. Help is also needed with Lunch - Donations, Food preparation, Serving, Set-up and Clean-up

Questions? Contact Laura Shrewsbury at 967-3076 or email lshewsb@bellsouth.net



Prayer Among “Friends”

One of the many attributes that I love about our church family is the commitment we make to pray for one another. We gather together for prayer during Sunday morning worship, lifting up one another and the communities we serve. We also gather for prayer in small groups. Perhaps these smaller gatherings allow us to share our more intimate requests among those with whom we are closest. Even with these times of prayer, and the prayer lists that we take with us each week, we are still left with little guidance (and sometimes little motivation) to pray for the specific needs of others as they arise during the busy week.

After reading an insightful article by Lenora Rand, “The Church on Facebook” in *The Christian Century*, I thought more about how we as a church can be even more attentive to the needs for prayer among our body – and even outside our body. Gone is the time when we as a church can gather for prayer nightly; yet, these are the days of facebook. Surprisingly, facebook can be a place to know others and be known, a place to weep with those who weep, and laugh with those who laugh, and most importantly, a place to bear one another’s burdens and share one another’s joys. With Facebook we can do this not only once a week, or once a month – but we can be joined by prayer daily.

Facebook can be about: reflection and confession, support and community! People share thoughts on Facebook they might not share in person. Use the “News-feed” of “status updates” as your daily prayer list. So, those of you on Facebook, I urge you to look at your “news-feed” for what people are expressing hope or concern over in their lives, at that moment. In the same way, you might begin thinking of marking your “status” in ways that allow your “friends” to know what’s really going on in your life that needs prayer, or deserves praise.

Perhaps we can “commission” Facebook a tool for spiritual intimacy. Gathering together (physically) in the name of Christ is how Christ creates a spirit of true intimacy among His body. Facebook affords us – the body “ambient intimacy” the ability to keep in touch with people with a level of regularity an intimacy that you wouldn’t usually have access to, because of time and space. While not completely the same – it can be an act of faithful community amidst an otherwise individualistic culture.

Facebook may help maintain our community of compassion and prayerful support. If you’re not currently on facebook and would like to be, go to www.facebook.com to register (for free). If you need some assistance signing on, feel free to contact any member of the ministry staff. I look forward being facebook friends with you!

Blessings, Heather

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23

Dear Friends at HillSong,

“A bushel of thanks for all the ways you extend God’s love to others!”

Thank you so much for the love offering you took up so we could make this trip to Florida. We made some precious memories during Mom’s last days on Earth and we’re so glad to be here to help with the funeral arrangements and help Dad get life simplified so it is more manageable for him. We will treasure the memories of this time forever. Thank you for caring for us in such a tangible way.

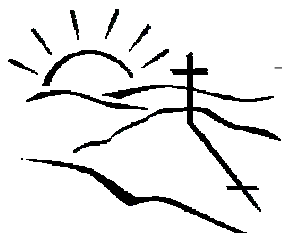
*Love,
Dale & Carmen Phillips*



JULY 2009

"THE HILLS WILL BURST INTO SONG!" ISAIAH 55

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30pm ConnecXion 6:30pm Financial Peace University 7:30pm Worship Team Rehearsal	2	3 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	4 Youth Picnic & Fireworks
5 9:45am Sun. School 11:00am Worship 4:00pm Grace CC	6 Youth Camping Trip @ Hanging Rock SP	7 7:00pm Elders Meeting 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	8 6:30pm ConnecXion 6:30pm Financial Peace University 7:30pm Worship Team Rehearsal	9	10 Youth Movie Day - <i>Ice Age</i> 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	11
12 9:45am Sun. School 11:00am Worship 4:00pm Grace CC	13	14 Youth Trip to NC Museum of Natu- ral Science 7:00pm Worship Planning Meeting 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	15 6:30pm ConnecXion 6:30pm Financial Peace University 7:30pm Worship Team Rehearsal	16	17 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	18 <i>Hill-</i> 9:00am-3:00pm Dental Bus
19 9:45am Sun. School 11:00am Worship 4:00pm Grace CC	20	21 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	22 6:30pm Financial Peace University 7:30pm Worship Team Rehearsal	23	24 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	25
<i>Song World Changers in Roanoke, Virginia</i>						
26 9:45am Sun. School 11:00am Worship 3:00pm Church Picnic at Anderson Park 4:00pm Grace CC	27 1:30pm Mushana Food Distribution	28 Youth Game Day at HillSong 7:00pm Deacons Meeting 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	29 6:30pm ConnecXion 6:30pm Financial Peace University 7:30pm Worship Team Rehearsal	30	31 6:00pm Aubry/ Strang Wedding Rehearsal 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	



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