

# NEWS2USE

August 13, 2009-August 26, 2009

## PASTOR'S CORNER

### Defeated and Down, but Never Out

*"Do not human beings have a hard service on earth?"* These remarks begin Job chapter 7 and come in the middle of his second monologue after Eliphaz has spoken (Job 4-5). What do we hear in Job's words?

*"Are not the days of [human beings] like the days of a laborer? Like a slave who longs for the shadow, and like laborers who long for their wages, so I am allotted months of emptiness"* (Job 7:1b-3a). In his book, *Wisdom & Creation* (p.143), Brite Divinity School professor Leo Perdue comments on the Hebrew word 'ebed' that occurs in verse 2 and means 'slave'. He points out that after 7 years, the slave was to be freed (see Leviticus 25:40-41). Even though the slave may have owed much to his creditor, all debts were forgiven in the Jubilee year.

However, Job does not lean on such a hope in his present outcry. Graphically, he describes his circumstance. *"My flesh is clothed with worms and dirt; my skin hardens, then breaks out again. My days ... come to an end without hope"* (7:5-6). Have you ever experienced such calamity that it seemed hope was impossible? Has life ever been so bad, you decided hope was too heartbreaking because it was sure to fail? That's where we find Job.

He doesn't ask God for relief or restoration. He doesn't dare believe that God could be on his side. Job believes God is against Him. Mournfully, he says, *"remember that my life is a breath"* (7:7). And, he challenges God. *"Why do you not pardon my transgression and take away my iniquity?"* Job is sure of his own innocence and he is equally sure that God against is him. In other words, *If God is against me, what can I possibly do?* Thus his lugubrious lament, *"now I shall lie in the earth; you will seek me, but I shall not be"* (7:21). Perdue notes that Job doesn't seek the freedom of Jubilee; rather he just wants God to leave him alone.

As I have written previously, Job's problems began exactly when God left him alone at Satan's prodding. A person's life is most forlorn when that person is far from God. Whether Job's suffering was a caricature or an accurate historical accounting of a man who went through a living hell, the principle holds. Human beings experience pain. Sometimes they go through a lot of it. It is that much worse if the sufferer is also alienated from God. Job was not, but he thought he was. His pain created despair that submitted him to the deception that God was his enemy,

I urge you, reader, to think about Jesus' assurance of what He desires for all who follow Him. I say this knowing that Jesus' disciples in fact go through all kinds of pain (cancer and other diseases, ridicule, persecutions, economic loss, accidents, divorce, etc). Christians get hurt just like everyone else; still we lay claim to the words of Jesus. *"Whoever enters by me will be saved; ... I came that they might have life and have abundantly"* (John 10:9, 10).

Stubbornly, we who follow Jesus hang on to those words even though the situations we are in may make those words appear foolish. We refuse to go where Job went. We refuse to despair and give up on the Jubilee (freedom, release) that God promised. When Jesus says, *"You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free"* (John 8:32), we believe Him.

Yes, followers of Jesus get knocked down. Yes, we experience loss. We are sometimes

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defeated. But, we do not give up. We do not forfeit hope. Because of the cross, we will not descend to darkness of the soul that Job could not escape. We learn from his example that faithful people will go through debilitating pain. But, we learn from Jesus that faithful people will be delivered and blessed, even in times of trial. We reach out to God in the name of Jesus, and God reaches out us and pulls us through.

Rob Tennant

<http://honesttalkwithgod.blogspot.com/>

## Fellowship Meal Sunday August 23rd

Several months ago, we started a HillSong tradition that whenever we celebrate Communion together, we will also share a meal together. On August 23rd, we will be celebrating Communion so plan to bring a covered dish to share and stay after the morning worship for a fellowship luncheon.

## BIRTHDAYS IN AUGUST



1	Rachel Morris
2	Marion Charles
3	Jane Hollingsworth
7	Lisa Roche
9	Justin Phillips Bryce Sit
10	Mary Gay Collier
13	Nancy Rhodes
18	Carla Adams
26	Liam Roche
28	Vickie Pashion
29	Joe Morris

## NEWS 4 YOUTH

connexion Bible Study Wed.  
Nights at 6:45pm

### Upcoming Youth Stuff

- \* Friday, August 14 - Afternoon at the movies
- \* Saturday, September 5 - UNC Football vs The Citadel, 6pm. Tickets \$10 per person. Families welcome. Please sign-up ASAP.
- \* Friday, September 11 to Sunday, September 13 - Back 2 School Retreat. *Diagnosis: Learning to Take the Path Less Travelled* \$40 per person
- \* Sunday, September 20 - Parent Planning Meeting, 12:30pm. Lunch provided.

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## Testimony of God's Grace

*Friends & Family of HillSong,*

*One year ago the doctors told me I had no more than 6 months to live. Well, I'll tell you that they are all scratching their heads today and can't explain why I'm still kicking!*

*But, I know why—it's because of the love & prayers of my HillSong Family. I know the Lord has a plan for me, so now I'm working on my 2nd year of God-given life and I want to thank each & every member of HillSong for helping make this possible.*

*I do believe and I will believe till the Lord finally does call me to heaven!*

*Your Brother in Christ,  
John (Faust)*



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NOTES

## **New Year Begins Soon!!**

Summer has almost slipped away! Everyone is thinking about the new school year which soon begins for many of our children. Our year- round students have already been in class for a while. Everyone is anticipating new classes, new teachers and new friends. **HillSong Children's new church year begins in about 3 weeks! We have much to do to get ready.**

*Children's Ministries exist to love and serve children in Jesus' Name - to reach , teach, and disciple children beginning with those in the nursery. It is an awesome privilege with an eternal impact. You have an opportunity to bless the next generation. "Experience the joy of serving Jesus Himself by serving His children."*

Pastor Dick Gruber in Minnesota put this recruiting announcement in his church bulletin: *"Do you like eating the middle of the Oreo first? Do you ever wish you could just play with blocks? If you answered yes to either of these questions, then I'm looking for you. Let me help you find a place of ministry in our children's department..." So, how about it?*

Each of us has been gifted by God to serve the body and to build it up. **You have special gifts and abilities that can be used to minister to children and to glorify God.**

**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.***

*Follow our progress on the charts in the hallway between the bathrooms. This gives a visual of the praises (positions filled) and the needs. **The needs are great! Where do you fit ?***

## **Opportunities for the Fall**

There are many opportunities - **perhaps 1 hour per month in Extended Session or Kingdom Kids: Two teachers per class** serving one time each month on a rotating basis for the year (Sept. to Aug.) **15 people still needed!!**

**Sunday School teachers:** **Two per class** serve 1 hour each week for the year (Sept. to Aug.) **When we can have two teams of teachers (4 people) for each class, the responsibility is shared through rotating months and allows for some flexibility. 3 people needed to have basic coverage, 8 more needed to form two teams to rotate months!**

**An Extended Session Director** is needed for the Fall to recruit and schedule workers for the worship hour for babies - K.

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Children's Ministry Notes (Continued from page 3)

**Substitute Teachers:** needed for all classes and all ages (Birth - 5th grade)

There are also one time opportunities in October and December and other times during the year.

Please see Faye if you have questions or need more information (967-3056 or 967-8694).

### Upcoming Event

**Aug. 15 - Training Extravaganza** at Trinity Baptist Church in Raleigh ( 8am-noon)-choice of 10 conferences to help with our ministry to children.

**August 23 - Updating Children's Registrations** begins for the new church year (Help us keep our information current for you and your family. You'll find these forms on the table in the Children's classrooms hallway.)

**August 30 - 11am Family Worship**

**September 6- Moving-Up Day** for Pre-school and Children

**September 13 - Bible Presentation** for new First Graders

### Address Change

Please note that Anjeannette Fox & Family have moved. Their new address is: 1323 Keith Court  
Chapel Hill NC 27516  
Their phone number remains the same.

# Thank You

*On behalf of the Cowan Family—Thank you church for your thoughts and prayers.*

*Dave & Debbie Cowan*

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS RETURN IN SEPTEMBER

Summer is winding down, and John and Jim are ready to go again with Wednesday Night Dinners. Mark your calendars! The first two are planned for **September 2** and **September 16**. As was the custom last year, the plan is for two dinners each month. Watch the newsletter and the Sunday bulletin for dates.

### Community Conversation Saturday, Sept 12 9am to 11am

Everyone from HillSong Church is invited to come to a community conversation sponsored by the pastoral staff and the elders. The topic will be our church's denominational partnerships. As a Baptist Church, we are autonomous. This means we don't answer to any higher denominational body. However, we are members of two distinct groups and we partner with several others. At the meeting on September 12, we will **clarify** all of our partnerships. We will **identify** benefits and possible conflicts within our two main partnerships – the Baptist State Convention (and thus the Southern Baptist Convention), and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. We will **anticipate** our future denominational partnership & alignment (as well as anticipating any possible changes and the accompanying ramifications), and finally, we will do our best to **answer** questions. Please do your best to be at this important community conversation.