

NEWS2USE

August 27, 2009-September 9, 2009

PASTOR'S CORNER

Pain Speaks

As I delve deeper and deeper into Job, I am convinced that the book of Job exists to show that God hears when His people speak from their pain. Job is counted as speaking rightly, not because of what he says, but because he speaks to God and he speaks with unrestrained honesty. God tells Eliphaz that God's wrath is against him and Job's other friends (42:7) because "[they] have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has done" (42:8).

A simple analysis of Job's comments and the friends' comments in Job 3-27 and Job 29-31 will reveal that much of what Job says to God is not something we'd affirm. *"Surely now God has worn me out; he has made desolate all my company. And he has shriveled me, which is a witness against me; my leanness has risen up against me, and it testifies to my face. ... God gives me up to the ungodly, and casts me into the hands of the wicked. I was at ease, and he broke me in two; he seized me by the neck and dashed me to pieces; he set me as his target; his archers surrounded. He slashes open my kidneys, and shows no mercy; he pours out my gall on the ground. He burst me open again and again; he rushes at me like a warrior. ... My face is red with weeping, and deep darkness is on my eyelids, though there is no violence in my hands, and my prayer is pure"* (Job 16:7-8, 11-14, 16-17).

Who among communities of faith today would call God an enemy warrior who rushes against them? Look at the violence in Job's words! If his description were played out in a movie, it would be rated 'R' for being so gory. When is the last time we sang this song of praise – "Praise God, King of Kings, Lion of the Tribe of Judah, Slasher of Kidneys, the God who shows no mercy"? We don't say what Job said and yet Job is the one who spoke rightly about God.

On the other hand, consider the words of Job's friends. *God is sovereign*, they say! Amen, we shout! *God is just*, they say! Amen, we shout! So many of the words about God spoken by Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar are indicative of theology we find elsewhere in scripture. It is a theology about God's lordship and goodness. This theology is crucial to what we believe.

So Job says things we wouldn't say. His friends say things we constantly say. And Job is counted by God as right, and his friends as wrong. In fact, they are so wrong, their only hope is to have Job pray for them (Job 42:8-9). Does this mean we are to change our theology so that it conforms to Job's? Do we praise the God who "seizes [our] necks and dashes [us] to pieces"?

That would be a mistake. We know the story of the cross. We know that God loves us, heaps grace upon us, and desires a love relationship with each of us. We know that! What we have to do with the book of Job is understand how the Holy Spirit has used it to empower disciples in their expression of faith. The book of Job is God's way of saying to His children, "When you hurt, bring it to me, no matter what it is."

God does not want us to clean up our language and get our act together and then come to Him. He wants us to come when we are a mess. Remember, the rightness of Job is in the fact that He speaks directly to God, attributes all to God, and speaks completely honestly. Only when we turn our attention on God and speak with absolute honesty (transparency is another way of thinking of it) are we ready for whatever response God will give.

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Beware of writers who turn to the book of Job for answers. When someone offers a neat set of precepts that reduce debilitating pain to a problem solved by following ten steps, and they reference Job in support of their trite solution, it is a clear indication that they do not understand Job at all. A lot of writers do this. The most recent one I read is Rick Warren. I love most of what he does, and would recommend it. But don't trust him when it comes to Job. He writes a piece about being free of past pain. To bolster his teaching, he turns to Job. He writes "Job says," but then he quotes Eliphaz (5:2). We've already attested to the fact that Eliphaz is counted as speaking wrongly.

I say this about R. Warren and about other excellent writers because Christians who teach through the writing of articles and essays and books write under a sense of pressure to provide answers. But, the book of Job doesn't offer answers! Job offers permission. Maybe beyond that, Job prods us to speak from our own darkness. In our moments of deepest pain, Job, which is poetry not didactic narrative, tells us to speak clearly, creatively, emotionally, evocatively, and even accusingly to God. God can take it. God will match our emotional intensity, and God will not abandon us. Things won't necessarily get easier. But without God, there is no outlet for the pain and no relief. Nor is there any purpose for it. God doesn't cause it. But God will bring good from it *if we stick with Him*.

So, use Job as an example. Look to Job as a role model. Speak to God directly. Don't hold back. Say exactly what you feel.

Rob Tennant

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

What does it mean for us to be "green"?

Heather@hillsong.org (919) 619-8338

The topic of environmentalism is one that the "Encounter" group has been discussing and is actually a good topic for us all to consider – especially in the context of discipleship. Therefore, over the course of the next few newsletters I will write a bit on our role in honoring the environment as *passionately devoted followers* of Jesus Christ.

Environmentalism has become so popular recently that our information on the "green movement" and our motivation to be "green" probably comes from secular sources. That's okay – but what does scripture teach us about our role in God's creation? We'll begin this week by looking at the creation account, in the next newsletter we will look what we call "stewardship," and then, our "priestly" role in creation as enabled by the Holy Spirit and exemplified throughout scripture.

Let's explore our "human role" in God's creation by looking at the first account of creation (Genesis 1:1-2:4) – specifically Gen. 1:28. The word that stands out is *dominion*. What does it mean for humanity to have dominion? Unfortunately this word has justified, for some, a quest for ultimate power and even abuse of other humans as well as all of God's creation. For others, dominion implies a role of care-taking or responsibility for other creatures. Our ideas of dominion can be many – and can stray from God's intentions for us in that role.

The prophet Isaiah reminds us that our human desires and plans for God's creation are often infinitely different from God's and we must acknowledge our weakness – "*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts*" (Is. 55:8 NRSV).

It's helpful for us to acknowledge that our role in God's creation is granted by God. Therefore, our first "environmental" role as children of God is **prayer**. We must be in prayer for God's creation, and for making decisions regarding our treatment of God's creation. We should also read scripture to seek the ways God shapes our role by instructing His children over time. Over the next few weeks I hope we all can begin making prayerful decisions regarding our treatment of God's creation, and share what we've learned with each other.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NOTES

New Year Begins Soon!!

Janice Haywood, recently retired Children's Ministry Consultant for the Baptist State Convention(30+ years) and author ,says that preschool and children's ministry is crucial to building a healthy church. It should be a part of the faith nurturing mission of the church. Faith nurturing/teaching should begin with babies- no babysitting. Faith is communicated to children through relationships- relationships with parents , teachers and church staff.

Children's Ministries exist to love and serve children in Jesus' Name. It is an awesome privilege with an eternal impact. We're putting down foundations on which a life of faith is built. We have an opportunity to bless the next generation. 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 obvious when you take a look. Where do you fit ? Please see Faye if have questions or need more information (967-3056 or 967-8694)*

*****There is a praise for Krystal Elwing who has stepped out to serve as Extended Session Director in addition to her existing commitment to Youth ministry.**

Moving-Up Day is September 6, 2009

Many of our children have started a new school year this week. We're getting ready to start a new church year as well on September 6. Some children will be moving to new classes. Some will be in the same class for another year. Here's how it works:

- ▶ **Toddlers move from the nursery to the 2's&3's class in Rm 101**
Teachers: Susan Howe & Jane Hollingsworth (*Second team still needed*)
- ▶ **Pre-K.'s & K.'s stay in Rm 103**
Teachers: Riana Roche & Julie Logan (*Second team still needed*)
- ▶ **First Graders move from Rm 103 to Rm 107 - last classroom on the left.**
Teachers: Todd Baker & *asst needed (Second team still needed.)*
- ▶ **Third Graders move from Rm 107 across the hall to Rm 106**
Teachers: Brenda Stiles & *asst. needed (Second team still needed.)*
- ▶ **Sixth Graders move from Rm 106 to join the Youth - downstairs in Youth Room**

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Upcoming Events

August 23 & following Sundays - 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 - Family Worship Time with the Children's Sermon given by Roger Sit

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

September 13 - Bible Presentation for new First Graders during morning Worship

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.

Come to HillSong for **WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER** **SEPT, 2ND, 5:45PM**

Baked Chicken Quarters
Sweet Potatoes
Green Beans
Tossed Salad
Rolls
Brownies & Ice Cream

NEWS 4 YOUTH

CONNECTION Bible Study Wed.
Nights at 6:45pm

Upcoming Youth Stuff

- * 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.
- * Wednesday, September 23 - *See You @ the Pole* (your school's flag pole)
- * October 2-3 - *Revolve Tour* (sorry guys, Ladies only) @ Charlotte NC, \$80 per person.
- * Friday, October 23, 1pm-11pm - *ScareMare* @ Liberty Univ. \$8 per person

Jonathan Elwing jonathan@hillsong.org
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Thank You

Dear Church Family,

John and I thank you for your outpouring of love following the death of my grandmother, "Mamaw". We truly appreciate your prayers for peace and strength and felt God's provision throughout this time of sorrow. You are a blessing to us both.

With Love,
Heather & John

BIRTHDAYS IN AUGUST

28 Vickie Pashion
29 Joe Morris

BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

2 Diane Sudderth
6 Carmen Phillips
7 Gloria Keller
9 Phil Partin
Anna White
12 Shirley Rollins
Susan Dunn
Lisa Abbott
13 Jane Barlow
17 John Faust
Tessa Marcy
21 Meredith Williams
24 Bob Thompson
Susan Howe
Sharon Henley
25 Jenny Ting Shigekawa
27 Angel Koshy
29 Krystal Elwing
Roger Sit

BACK2SCHOOL

Hey you(th) (and parents) it's school time again and that means that our Back2School Weekend is just around the corner! We are going to have an awesome weekend of crazy fun and Bible Study! I hope that you all will be able to make it! It is going to be **September 11-13**. The cost is \$40 dollars per person (this covers your trip to Frankie's as well as the material and food for the weekend). Bring your friends and they get in for \$20. There will be a special treat if you guys (and girls) can get more than 25 teens!

Sign up on Facebook or downstairs!

See Jonathan if you have any questions

Financial Snapshot

July 2009

General Fund

7/1/09	Beginning Balance	\$ 58,070.02
	Receipts:	
	Offerings	26,275.72
	Parking	400.00
	Building	1,085.00
	Expense Offsets	3,409.02
	Expenses	(26,784.18)
7/31/09	Ending Balance	\$ 62,455.58

Specials Fund

7/1/09	Beginning Balance	\$11,079.26
	Receipts	397.00
	Expenses	(4,472.98)
7/31/09	Ending Balance	\$ 7,003.28

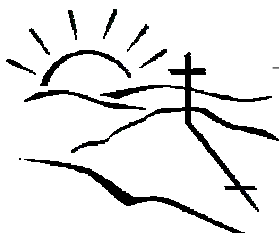
Savings Account (Long Range Fund, CD, Ministry & Missions Reserves)

7/1/09	Beginning Balance	\$ 146,820.36
	Receipts	142.15
	Expenses	-
7/31/09	Ending Balance	\$ 146,962.51

SEPTEMBER 2009

"THE HILLS WILL BURST INTO SONG!" ISAIAH 55

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00pm Elders Meeting 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	2 5:45pm WNSupper 6:30pm ConnecXion 7:30pm Worship Team Rehearsal	3	4 6:00pm Wedding Rehearsal 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	5 3:00pm Lewin/Williams Wedding
6 9:45am Sun. School 11:00am Worship 4:00pm Grace CC	7	8 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	9 6:30pm Handbells 6:30pm ConnecXion 7:30pm Worship Team Rehearsal	10 7:00pm Troop 45	11 YOUTH BACK2SCHOOL 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	12 9:00am HillSong Community Conversation
13 RETREAT 9:45am Sun. School 3:30pm Busy Hands 11:00am Worship 4:00pm Grace CC	14 6:00pm Dartball	15 7:00pm Worship Planning Meeting 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	16 5:45pm WNSupper 6:30pm Handbells 6:30pm ConnecXion 7:30pm Worship Team Rehearsal	17 7:00pm Troop 45	18 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	19
20 9:45am Sun. School 3:30pm Busy Hands 11:00am Worship 4:00pm Grace CC	21 6:00pm Dartball	22 7:00pm Deacons Meeting 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	23 6:30pm Handbells 6:30pm ConnecXion 7:30pm Worship Team Rehearsal	24 7:00pm Troop 45	25 <i>Mothers of Multiples</i> 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	26 <i>Yard Sale</i>
27 9:45am Sun. School 3:30pm Busy Hands 11:00am Worship 4:00pm Grace CC	28 1:30pm Mushana Food Distribution 6:00pm Dartball	29 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	30 6:30pm Handbells 6:30pm ConnecXion 7:30pm Worship Team Rehearsal			



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