



the beacon



"What's in your wallet?" - A few thoughts from Steve Authier

Without doubt one of the most sensitive issues those in church leadership have to talk about is money. It is an ultra sensitive issue to so many people, especially to the person who may not have grown up in an evangelical church where stewardship of God's resources is a generally accepted teaching.



However, I challenge even the long standing Christian to examine their perception of what God calls us to when it comes to generosity.

One reason that bringing up money is such a touchy subject is that there continues to be so many cases of abuse by Christian leadership. Whenever I think about this issue the memories of the infamous Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker PTL financial scandal of the mid-eighties comes to mind. I also think of the various special healing cloths and gifts that you can purchase today from various TV evangelists or of the ever popular prosperity gospel that claims that you will prosper financially if you simply give money to a given ministry. It is these and

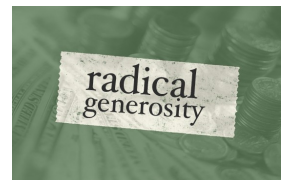
many other shameful behaviours that have made the topic of money and radical generosity such a sensitive issue.

Because there are Christians that have abused their positions of power in respect to financial stewardship does not mean that we should let those behaviours prevent us from understanding and responding to God's call to radical generosity. If we have to determine whether or not we choose to follow Jesus based on how some of his so called followers behave we would have to walk away from Jesus and his teachings. However, making such a decision is not based on sound logical arguments. We need to look at the teachings of Jesus Christ & have them stand on their own merit, and that merit for us Christians should be the fact that it is Jesus Christ himself calling us to radical

"I tell you, love your enemies. Help and give without expecting a return. You'll never—I promise—regret it. Live out this God-created identity the way our Father lives toward us, generously and graciously, even when we're at our worst. Our Father is kind; you be kind. ~ Ecc 11:1 Msg

generosity.

The story of the Rich Young Ruler from



Matthew 19 comes to mind. Jesus asked him to sell all his possessions and follow him. We never hesitate to point out that this was a specific call on that person, not on us. Though that may be true, we somehow never seem to really try and discover what Jesus is calling us to. We seem to be content with thinking all that is required is a 10% tithe. Somehow, I suspect that some of us are called to more.

In a recent sermon about money I talked about a principle some call reverse tithing, radical tithing, Spirit led giving, or radical generosity. If you think that talking about money is a sensitive issue you can imagine what some of the reaction has been to teaching about radical generosity. For too many Christians the concept of a 10% tithe is all that we are called to do, any more is simply just not called for, and to suggest otherwise is self-serving by the church. Talking about or suggesting that God calls

... continued on page 2

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(... cont'd from page 1)

us to do more seems to propel people towards an unhealthy and extreme scepticism.

In Acts 4 we read about the believers in the early church sharing their possessions. How they brought all their money forward and laid it before the apostles to be used where it was needed. It's a scary thought for a lot of people to think that God might actually want us to do something like that. Don't be alarmed, that's not what I'm suggesting we all do. However, I do want us to think about how radical that type of generosity was then, and still is today, and we should be willing to do it if that is what we are sensing God is asking from us. Do we honestly believe that Jesus does not call us to radical generosity today?

So we might ask, where does the concept of tithing at a mere 10% level come from? I know that for some people even the concept of tithing at a 10% level sounds crazy. I once thought the same way, so I get it. I also once thought loving your enemy was crazy. Tithing at 10% comes from the Old Testament or Mosaic Laws that were put in place by God to give the people of Israel some guidance that moved them towards becoming more in tune with the principle of radical generosity required to truly support God's call to love our neighbour.

REAL TREASURE?

In Mark 12 we find great insight into why Mosaic laws were given. Jesus is asked about divorce,

and he goes on to describe how Mosaic laws were given because the Israelites hearts were hardened. Even though this passage is about divorce, the precept can also apply to other Mosaic laws. Mosaic Law put in place a definitive number like a 10% tithe to ensure that the temple and the poor were cared for. Otherwise, the hardened hearts of that time would not have supported God's work. Hardened hearts might sound a little harsh, but these are Jesus' words not mine.

We have often heard Bruxy Cavey mention that the old covenant laws were similar to the laws that we put in place for our children



when they are young. We set up rules to help guide them during a time when they cannot deal with the precept behind the rule. However, what we hope for is that as they grow older they will understand the principle behind the law, and then start making their choices accordingly.

Of course the Church is no longer led by Mosaic Law; instead we are guided by the Spirit with our serving and our giving. We should live by the principle of radical generosity and not by the legalist rule of a tithing percentage. Radical generosity looks different for each of us. But it should definitely look like something that costs each of us dearly. The principle of going the

extra mile Jesus taught about in the Sermon on the Mount surely applies to generosity.

We do not live in a culture where the call to love our neighbour is a driving force. We live in a capitalist culture of entitlement that says we have a right to gather as much as we want, to keep it for



ourselves, and to look out for number one. Sure, our society understands the need to take care of others, but that need comes after we have taken care of ourselves. The seemingly inherent understanding by our society to have enough sense of responsibility to care for others is really simply God's way of having a minimum standard set within us. Otherwise, our hardened hearts would mess up.

Being a citizen of God's kingdom is not about doing the minimum. Being a citizen of God's kingdom is about being other-centered to the point where our neighbour's need becomes a driving force in our lives, to the point where taking care of our neighbour hurts. Right? Jesus did say love your neighbour as yourself—did he not?

I fully understand that not everyone is in a situation where they can necessarily give a lot of money to charities. But we have to work within the context of our situation and ask ourselves if we are living simply and putting

... continued on page 3

December 2011

Birthdays

- 06 ~ Mervyn Wideman
- 07 ~ Luella Lofthouse
- 07 ~ Shirley Wright
- 12 ~ Hubert Roberts
- 19 ~ Joanne Boake
- 24 ~ Rick Quinn
- 24 ~ Glen Wideman
- 24 ~ Bill Wright
- 27 ~ Joan Quinn



Anniversaries

- 22 ~ Lloyd & Lorna Hogg
- 28 ~ Dale & Pat Rennie

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(continued from page 2)

ourselves in a position of willingly sacrificing for others, or are we merely giving of our surplus after we kept all we want for ourselves?

Our giving need not be limited solely to the church. It makes perfect sense that giving to our local church accounts for a large percentage of what we give, but we should not be restricted to it. God is doing all sorts of great work in the world through various organizations, some are explicitly

Christian and some are not.

We manage God's money. It really is God who owns it. We are simply given the *privilege* to manage it *for him*. What's in our wallets doesn't really belong to us anyway.

Blessings, Steve



The *God is Irrelevant* ad that you see below was placed in the *Markham Economist & Sun's Viewzine* that launched on November 24th. It appeared as a ¼ page ad. Along with the ad we also produced a 52 second *God is Irrelevant* video that we premiered at Heise Hill on November 13th.

For those of you who may not be aware what the square techno looking thing in the bottom right corner of the ad is, it's a **QR code** (abbreviated from **Quick Response code**). It was first designed for the automotive industry for Toyota but more recently the system has become extremely popular outside of the auto industry due to its fast readability.

The code consists of black modules arranged in a square pattern on a white background. By simply pointing a Smartphone with a QR Scan app you automatically launch to a website or video.

In the case of Heise Hill's ad we launch directly to our video. We own the QR code for a year

and we can place it anywhere we choose such as postcards, more ads, billboards, etc...

So get creative and suggest places where we might use this code to help spread the good news of Jesus Christ's kingdom through Heise Hill.

God
 may not be dead,
 but he definitely
is irrelevant
 to many of us

A gospel that does not acquaint itself with the sufferings of others, is not the Gospel. ~ Sara Groves

Visit **heisehill.org** to find out more



Quotes & Thoughts & Questions

Prepare your minds for action...

~ 1 Peter 1:13

gif - tiv - ism

- the practice of radically generous acts to change the world

What does "life abundantly" look like for you?

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that you may have life, and that you may have *it* more abundantly.

~ John 10:10

Immanuel ... God with us!

~ Matthew 1:23

HELP
Fill the Box
Heise Hill Cares
 Weekly Food Collection



heisehillchurch
LIVES CHANGED HERE In partnership with
UAC'S MASTER'S PANTRY

Someone ate because you gave. Your giving makes a difference! Thanks!

December 2011		
4	10:00 am 10:30 am Noon	Time of prayer for Heise Hill Worship Service ~ Frank Martinez Corcho, Bishop of the BIC Church in Cuba Carry-In-Lunch
5	Noon	HOPE 55+ Christmas Luncheon
11	10:00 am 10:30 am	Time of prayer for Heise Hill Worship Service ~ <i>REVOLUTION #6</i>
18	10:00 am 10:30 am	Time of prayer for Heise Hill Worship Service
24	6:30 pm	Christmas Eve Service
25	10:30 am	Christmas Celebration Worship Service
31	7:30 pm	New Year's Eve Concert

Thank you!

\$1,490 was given towards the ongoing bus expenses! - - -

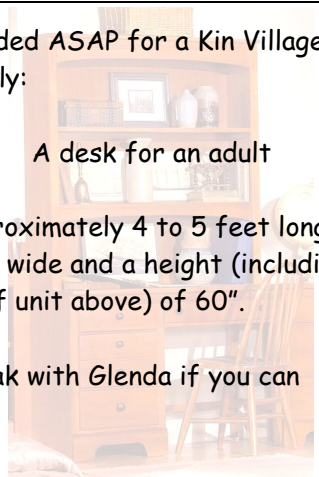


Needed ASAP for a Kin Village family:

A desk for an adult

Approximately 4 to 5 feet long, 2 feet wide and a height (including shelf unit above) of 60".

Speak with Glenda if you can help.




ANNUAL

NEW YEARS EVE

CONCERT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2011 7:30 PM @ Heise Hill Church

ALL ARE WELCOME! • FREE REFRESHMENTS • FREE WILL OFFERING

FEATURING: Hilltop Vocal Band • Springvale Boys • Vessels of Honor

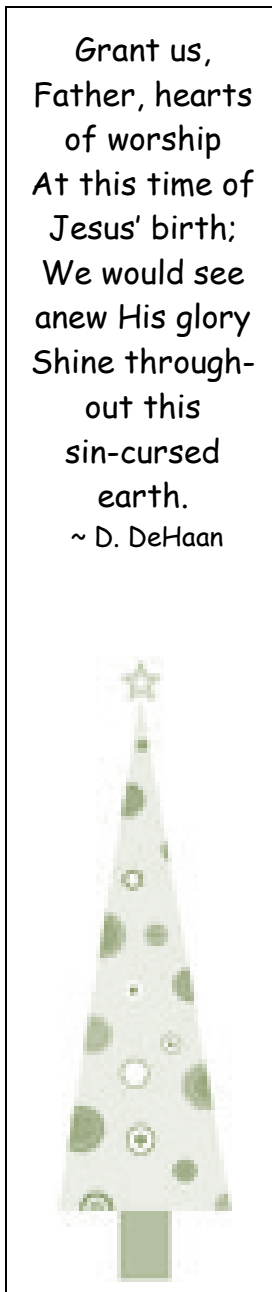


For to us a child is born, to us a child is given,
and the government will be on His shoulders.
And He will be called . . .



**Wonderful Counselor.
Mighty God.
Everlasting Father.
Prince of Peace.**

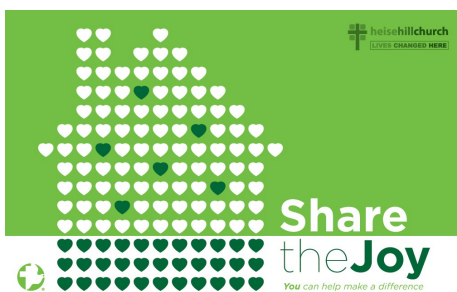
Isaiah 9:6



Week of Prayer & Fasting January 1 to 8, 2012

Join thousands of BIC believers from across North America for the Week of Prayer and Fasting.

A weeklong devotional, "Following Jesus," will be available for you. This guide contains daily Scripture readings, meditations, and prayers by BIC people who have committed themselves to following Jesus -- by living simply, pursuing peace, serving joyfully, and embracing community.



Share the Joy

Add these items to your Christmas shopping list:

- ♥ A relief home in Indonesia
- ♥ Goats
- ♥ Christmas hamper for a family in Kin Village

Help make a difference by sharing the joy of Jesus Christ. Find the *Share the Joy* hearts in the foyer each Sunday. Heart purchases will be added to your annual tax receipt.



December 8th
is the
CARDS & COMMUNITY



night for the women at Kin Village.

Thankfully we have enough volunteers to help out that evening.

Our remaining need is for people to bake cookies. We plan to give each lady a dessert plate of cookies as a gift to take home.

If you can bake some cookies for this event please let Judi Authier or Pat McMullen know.

The cookies should be delivered either to Judi's house or to the church by Wednesday, December 7th at 3:00 pm. Thanks!

"Is anyone happy?" James asks in his epistle (James 5:13). He continues with this word of instruction to the joy-filled person: "Let him sing songs of praise." "Songs of praise" are just prayers of joy that have been set to music. Happiness should not go unexpressed. It must be given a voice. And the One to whom we address these outbursts, first and foremost, should be God. ~ James Nicodem

A Simple Gesture

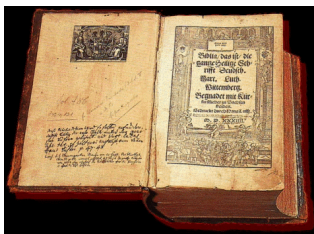
Everybody can be great . . .
Because anybody can serve.
You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

Reminder:

Committee Chairs -
Budget request sheets
are due back on
December 4th to either
Rick or Steve.

Heise Hill History



During the first 50 years of the founding of the church,

the services were conducted entirely in the German language, including their hymn books and of course, the Bible. In 1860, Bishop Peter Cober was the first one to preach in English. Then he, along with the others, would preach in either language. Little of the German was used after 1870.

~ from 100 Years at Heise Hill

KIDZ WORSHIP



Here's what kids are learning at HH in December. Pray for our kids!!

The virtue: **Generosity**

~ making someone's day by giving something away

Bottom Line

- * People are always more important than stuff
- * Don't let stuff get in the way of loving Jesus
- * God gave us the greatest gift when He gave us Jesus
- * When you give, it shows others how valuable they are

Basic Truth

- * I should treat others the way I want to be treated
- * I can trust God no matter what.



Memory Verse: "Be rich in good deeds ... be generous and willing to share." ~ 1 Timothy 6:18, NIV



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