



the beacon



Let's Move Some Trees - A few thoughts from Steve Authier

I'm going to cheat a little bit. If you read my blog you'll recognize parts of this article from a blog entry I made on January 18th. My blog entries are about half the length of these Beacon pieces so there will be some new material for you, my Heise Hill family. My blog is aimed at a different audience so there will also be a different twist to what you will read here.

I was reading a short while ago about when Jesus told his disciples that if they had faith as small as a mustard seed they could say to a Mulberry tree to be up-



rooted and be planted in the sea, and it would obey them. Really, that

boggles the mind. I do not even know how big a Mulberry tree is or even how small a mustard seed is. It does not really matter I guess since it seems that my faith is not anywhere near the size of a mustard seed because I cannot even

get a feather to move let alone a tree, of any kind. I haven't really tried to move a feather, but I'm pretty sure I can't do it.

I am not going to discuss whether or not Jesus really

meant that his disciples, or us for that matter, could really move a tree. Let's assume, rightly or wrongly, it was hyperbole to make a point about the fact that we do not need much faith to accomplish great things. That seems to make me sort of feel a little bit better because I do not see myself moving trees any time soon. However, it also can be discouraging because there are lots of times when it seems like my little bit of faith is not accomplishing much. I really wish that I had more faith. I wish that I had faith that was so compelling it could inspire others to learn about Jesus. I wish that my faith was strong enough to help me consistently overcome my weaknesses. I wish that I had faith that...You get the picture.

Being a follower of Jesus

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" ~ Luke 17:5

can be hard at times, especially if we put these high expectations on ourselves about what we should be able to do, and I'm not talking about moving trees. We would love to be able to pray for someone who is sick and see them instantly healed. Sure, I understand that God's healing sometimes happens in ways we do not see, or it happens in his time—I get that. But, there sure are a lot of healings that happen in the New Testament. Why can't we heal like that, or why can't we bring people to God like we see in the book of Acts? I am not going to get into all the theological explanations for why things do not always work that way, for now I will simply say that God's plan is often a mystery to us, as are his ways of executing his plan.

Let's not beat ourselves up about how small our faith is; that it must be inadequate, or that we just are not good



enough. Let's try and keep our focus on what we do know. We know that

... continued on page 2

Lets Move Some Trees—A few thoughts from Steve Authier (continued from page 1)

God does have a plan; sometimes we understand or see some of it and sometimes we do not. One of the amazing things about God's plan to redeem this broken world is that he wants to use us as the instruments

God's instruments in a broken world

to execute his plan. It is not just one of the options for his plan, it is the only option. There is no plan "B". There is only plan "A"—the one that involves you and me. We know that Jesus Christ is victorious and that God's plan does work so let's stop thinking that our faith is not good enough because God clearly thinks it will get the job done. The faith we have can be built on, and God's counting on us making that happen. As insignificant as our faith may seem at times it is enough to make a

significant contribution to God's kingdom. Maybe when Jesus said to the disciples that if their faith was as small as a mustard seed they could tell a tree to plant itself in the sea and it would, he meant that if they used their collective faith they could accomplish great things, greater things that if they simply relied on their individual faith.

We might often think the challenge in front of us is too big, that we are simply too small a church, that we do not have the right demographics, that we are too isolated, or too scattered, that the issues of this postmodern world are just insurmountable for us to overcome, that Satan has overcome the world, and so on, and so on. There is no doubting that there are real and significant challenges before us, as there are for every church today, yesterday, and always; but let's not forget that we are not alone. God is with us. Jesus told us that he would send his Holy



Spirit and that he would be with us

always. What Jesus said is so very true, without him we can do nothing. But we are not without him, so let's not be overwhelmed by our small faith.

Let's remember that we know who Jesus is and what he did for us. He freed us from our brokenness; he ushered in his kingdom, called us to love God, to love others, and to help people learn about his great story. Let's not lose sight of the confidence that God has in us. He has chosen to redeem this world with us weak, fallen, and formerly broken human beings. Let's have faith in his redeeming story. Let's as church body have faith that screams out that we are ready to move some trees.

Blessings, Steve

Quotes to think on ~ from Francis Chan

- Lukewarm people think about life on earth much more often than eternity in heaven.
- Has your relationship with God changed the way you live your life?
- We have to believe it enough that it changes how we live.
- ...you have to stop loving and pursuing Christ in order to sin.
- Our greatest fear as individuals and as a church should not be of failure but of succeeding at things in life that don't really matter.
- I believe He wants us to love others so much that we go to extremes to help them.
- He wants all or nothing. The thought of a person calling himself a 'Christian' without being a devoted follower of Christ is absurd.
- True faith manifests itself through our actions.
- We don't get to decide who God is.
- Are we in love with God or just His stuff?



A grateful heart



It is striking to me how many times in Scripture—particularly in the book of Psalms—we are exhorted to give thanks, to praise the Lord, to sing to the Lord. Even more so to realize how many of those passages were penned by someone in dire straits.

that springs forth in joy
is not acquired in a
moment; it is
the fruit
of a thousand choices.

~ Nancy Leigh DeMoss

I truly believe a grateful spirit, rooted in the soil of God's goodness and grace, will radically impact how you view and respond to *everything* in your life.

When gratitude becomes your default setting, life changes.



There are home churches available Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays. See the bulletin board for one that works for you.

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.
~ 1 John 4:11

February 2012		
5	10:00 am 10:30 am	Time of prayer for Heise Hill Worship Service ~ Inside Out Series #3
6	7:30 pm	Church Board Meeting
12	10:00 am 10:30 am	Time of prayer for Heise Hill Worship Service ~ Inside Out Series #4
19	10:00 am 10:30 am	Time of prayer for Heise Hill Worship Service ~ Inside Out Series #5
26	10:00 am 10:30 am	Time of prayer for Heise Hill Worship Service ~ Inside Out Series #6
26	Noon	HOPE 55+ with John McIntyre, Curator of Sharon Temple

The Annual Council meeting will be held on Sunday, March 4th, 2012 following the worship service and a carry-in-lunch.

HOPE 55+ Monday, February 27



Sharon Temple

HOPE 55+ welcomes retirees to our noon fellowship meal on Monday, February 27.

John McIntyre, curator of the Sharon Temple, comes as guest to share the story of this historic building, founded by the Quakers.

Invite your friends and make reservations by phoning

Margaret at 905-640-3522 or Erma at 905-642-5623.

The meal and honorarium are provided by your generous free will offerings—with excess supporting charities.



~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Heise Hill History ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The second foreign missionaries from the church were Clarence Heise and his wife. They left in 1919 to spend one term in India. Others went in later years. Velma Brillinger served overseas until 1978. Velma was in Zambia and Zimbabwe. Many also served in Home Missions and later in Voluntary Service on this continent, and as far away as Nicaragua and Haiti.

The following is some of Velma's story (as written by Erma Sider in Heise Hill's "Time Out for Missions" booklet in 2008)

We know her today as Velma but her friends in Zimbabwe and Zambia still recall her fondly as Nkosizana Brillinger. Velma Ruth Brillinger grew up in Gormley, worshipped at the Heise Hill church, and studied at the red brick schoolhouse just down the road from our church. An excellent student at Richmond Hill High School, one year she received the highest marks for the region.

Thrilling stories of missionary life told by Aunt Annie (Steckley) Lehman, also from Gormley, must have caught Velma's attention as a child. Small wonder then that Velma felt a call to be a missionary in India too. Studies at Messiah College in Pennsylvania prepared her to receive a bachelor of education degree. Surprisingly, Velma ended up on a ship bound for Africa, not



India. One can imagine that Velma's sense of humour helped in the choosing of the name the five lady missionaries gave themselves, "The Big Five."

More importantly Velma and her friends carried the Gospel of Christ with them to Zambia and

Zimbabwe. Trained as a skilled secretary Velma became a trusted assistant for several missionary bishops. One bishop commented, "Her work in my office is superb...a model missionary." Her friends benefited from her gift of hospitality and all were recipients of her gracious and humble way of serving the Lord.



A dedicated Sunday school teacher in Bulawayo, she initiated teacher training for her assistants. Velma knew most of the 400-500 Sunday school children by name. Her teachers and students still remember her use of visual aids and sharing of special treats.

Velma returned to Gormley in 1978 and now resides in Parkview Nursing Home where she still welcomes her friends.

~ from 100 Years at Heise Hill and "Time Out for Missions"

A Core Value of Heise Hill

We are committed to being culturally relevant.



We will strive to offer an environment that is meaningful to the people who are part of our local community.

God is first. Always.

Our longings must find fulfillment in Him. There's nothing wrong with delighting in a new sofa, a song by a favorite artist, or a compliment. But if our fundamental delight isn't in the God who satisfies our deepest longings for significance, love, and security, then these earthly delights actually become idolatrous in our hearts. They act as substitutes for the primary satisfaction of our souls in God. *"Delight yourself in the Lord. . ."* (Psalm 37:4)

~ Fred Miller

Gratitude is born in hearts that take time to count up past mercies.
~ Charles Jefferson

If there is any single principle in the New Testament concerning winning others for Jesus, it is this:
We must be in contact - real, meaningful contact with non-Christians if we are to influence them for Christ.
- Dr. Ted S. Rendall

February

Birthdays

- 07 ~ Christopher Boake
- 07 ~ Lloyd Hogg
- 12 ~ Cathy Wideman
- 19 ~ Gord Patton
- 19 ~ Gord White
- 21 ~ Judy Steckley
- 22 ~ Dave Foster
- 22 ~ Ruth Wideman
- 27 ~ Kaleigh Todd



Anniversaries

- 07 ~ Denis & Jan Charron
- 13 ~ Larry & Laura Hogg

Sunday, April 1st Urban Promise Sunday at Heise Hill

The service will be led by Urban Promise and it will include music, testimonies, and the message.



The Lord has appeared to us
in the past, saying:
*"I have loved you
with an everlasting love;
I have drawn
(to draw, lift out, lead along) you
with unfailing kindness.*
~ Jeremiah 31:3

But I trust in Your unfailing love;
my heart rejoices in Your salvation.
~ Psalm 13:5

Let the morning bring me word of
Your UNFAILING LOVE,
for I have put my trust in you.
Show me the way I should go,
for to You I lift up my soul.
~ Psalm 143:8

The greatest use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it.. - William James

KIDZ WORSHIP



Pray for our kids as they learn these truths this month: ~ ~ ~ Virtue: **HONOUR**

~ Letting someone know you see how valuable they really are.

Bottom Line:



- * Honour those who are overlooked.
- * Honour others more than yourself
- * Honour those who are over you.
- * Honour God in front of others



Memory Verse: "Love each other deeply. Honour others more than yourselves." Romans 12:10

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