



the beacon



Looking Forward - A few thoughts from Steve Authier

Judi and I are coming up to our two year anniversary at Heise Hill this January. It was actually at this time of the year two years ago that we affirmed God's call for us to come to Heise Hill. We put in an offer on our house during that Christmas break. It seems like it was just yesterday, and now here we are. The both of us have come to love you Heise Hillers. We recently spent a week on vacation where we took time every day to pray and talk about our ministry together. We remain committed to serving you and serving with you. We sense it deep into our core that God wants us here. It is a privilege to be among you.

It's good for all of us as followers of Jesus Christ to take the time to assess where we stand on our journey in becoming more and more like the disciples Jesus wants us to be. Part of my intentionality in wanting to be more Christ-like is learning more about Jesus. One of



the tools I use to do this is reading. I love to read so this is not a hardship for me. I just recently started reading N.T. Wright's *Simply Jesus: A new vision of who he was, what he did, and why he matters*. I have yet to be disappointed with an N.T. Wright



book, and this one's beginning to look like it might become my favourite. He's clearly one of my preferred authors. It's not without reason that he is considered one of the leading theologians of the past one hundred years, and arguably the leading theologian of the past forty years. Even more than his approach to theology, I love his ability to help us understand what Jesus calls us to and what Jesus' message to us is.

One of the reasons that I really like N.T. Wright is that he is very direct about challenging himself and us as postmodern Christians to reflect on Jesus' message and where we stand in relation to it. In the opening

chapter of *Simply Jesus*, when he's talking about the need for Christians to get Jesus right so we can maybe compel others to bother with Jesus he writes, "We want someone to save our souls, not rule our world!" He writes this because we seem reluctant as Jesus' followers to really *follow* him, to choose to be disciples rather than just followers. There are followers and there are *followers*. In this context I'm saying that followers kind of just agree with what Jesus



teaches; they might even change some things in their lives but they won't actually make Jesus the Lord of their lives. Real *followers*, also known as disciples, on the other hand make Jesus the Lord of their lives; they make him King AND try

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to live accordingly. Anyone can claim to make someone their king; it's another thing to live like you mean it.

I am tempted to say that living in this postmodern world it's hard to be a real follower of Jesus Christ, but I don't want to say it that way because I know that it's always been hard. I think back to what I consider

one of the saddest lines in Scripture in Matthew 19:22 when the Rich Young Man walks away sad because he had great wealth. He walks away from becoming a true follower, a disciple. He walks away from Jesus' invitation to follow him, because there's just too much to give up. Some two thousand years later it's still hard to follow Jesus. However, let's not kid ourselves, Jesus is still making the same type of demanding challenge he made to the Rich Young Man. We figuratively, and often literally, need to give everything up and make Jesus the one who rules our lives. Anything short of that type of surrender just isn't honouring what Jesus calls us to, let alone what he did for us.

There is a recurring theme that comes up in many of the conversations I have with people I meet with to talk about their

journey with Jesus. We seem to beat ourselves up for not being able to measure up to what we know Jesus wants from us. So what we tend to do as a coping mechanism is unconsciously convince ourselves, since we think we're not capable of pulling off the real disciple thing, that it's OK to just kind of coast, to be a follower, and not a *follower*. We convince ourselves that given our difficult circumstances and the world we live in that what we're doing really measures up to Jesus' expectations. I love N.T. Wright because he's not afraid to call us to the accountability we need and remind us it's not OK to merely want someone to save our souls, and not have him rule our world.

Some of you might remember the old "I'm OK, you're OK" teachings from the mid-seventies. The premise was, in part, that we're all OK. Whatever it is

We want someone to save our souls, not rule our world.
~ N.T. Wright

that we do or who we are as people is OK. We're all good people and we shouldn't expect too much from each other. Well, that kind of mentality just doesn't cut it if we

want to be real *followers* of Jesus Christ. We're called to a higher standard and nothing short of complete surrender to God is what Jesus is looking for. The reality is that complete surrender is hard, but that doesn't mean that we should settle for less as our target, which is what we do way too often.

I am convinced that deep down most of us here at Heise Hill really want to be true *followers* of Jesus, that we want to be disciples. We want to be a place where lives are changed, where Jesus' kingdom is tangible to every person who



wants to walk among us. I don't want us to get caught up in looking

backward too much, whether it's at what doesn't quite honour Jesus or what really does, let's build on who we are today as a part of Jesus' kingdom and look forward to who we can be. Let's not accept that just following Jesus is OK. Let's live like following Jesus is the only way we're willing to live. I invite you to join me as we choose to *live* like we already know that our souls have been saved and that Jesus rules our world.

Blessings, Steve

Just as water ever seeks and fills the lowest place, so the moment God finds you abased and empty, His glory and power flow in.
~ Andrew Murray

God always has and always will look for men and women who say to Him, 'I trust you so much, I'm all in. I want your way not mine. I am willing to live by faith!' ~ Chip Ingram

If my life is surrendered to God, all is well. Let me not grab it back, as though it were in peril in His hand but would be safer in mine!
~ Elisabeth Elliot

January 2012

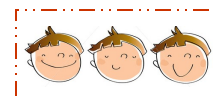
- 01 ~ Kim Wideman
- 05 ~ Lauren Steckley
- 09 ~ Melissa Wideman
- 10 ~ Aaron Pettifer
- 11 ~ Francesca Wright
- 14 ~ Patricia Rennie
- 14 ~ Harvey Stickley
- 18 ~ Eleanor Thompson
- 19 ~ Shannon McMullen
- 26 ~ Anna L. Heise
- 30 ~ Sarah Russell



I say we start by making it our goal to have a heart that's as grateful toward God as the abounding grace He has poured out into our life.
~ Nancy Leigh DeMoss

The grateful heart that springs forth in joy is not acquired in a moment; it is the fruit of a thousand choices. ~ Nancy Leigh DeMoss

KIDZ WORSHIP



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

The virtue: **Self Control**

~ choosing to do what you should do, not what you want to do.

Bottom Line

- * God can give you the power to control yourself
- * Pause before you lose your temper
- * Select your words carefully
- * Know when to stop
- * Use the Bible to guide your thoughts

Basic Truth

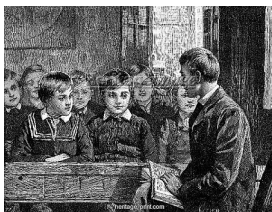
- * I should treat others the way I want to be treated
- * I can trust God no matter what.
- * I should make a wise choice

Memory Verse: "My dear brothers and sisters, pay attention to what I say. Everyone should be quick to listen. But they should be slow to speak. They should be slow to get angry." ~ James 1:19, NIV



Heise Hill History

In 1879 our church - along with the other Ontario districts - Bertie, Nottawa and Waterloo joined with the Brethren in USA. The following year, 1880, the first international Brethren in Christ General Conference was held in the new Heise Hill church. General Conference was also held here in 1889, 1898, 1908, 1923 and in 1935, a total of 6 times.



It was around 1885 that they first held revival meetings. Near 1890, when the Sunday School was started, Deacon David Lehman was the first superintendent.



In 1914 the Women's Sewing Circle was organized, and does much to help in the MCC, of which we became a part during World War II. Earlier in 1918 we were part of what was

the 'Non-resistant Relief Organization'. D.W. Heise and Reuben Heise were the representatives from our church.

In 1911 the first foreign missionary, Lewis Steckley (and wife) went to Africa and spent 30 years there. First to go to India was Annie Steckley in 1918. She spent more than 30 years there.

~ from 100 Years at Heise Hill Church



January 2012

1-8		BIC Week of Prayer and Fasting ~ "Following Jesus"
1	10:00 am 10:30 am	Time of prayer for Heise Hill Worship Service
8	10:00 am 10:30 am	Time of prayer for Heise Hill Worship Service
15	10:00 am 10:30 am	Time of prayer for Heise Hill Worship Service and Communion
16	7:30 pm	Church Board Meeting
22	10:00 am 10:30 am	Time of prayer for Heise Hill Worship Service
29	10:00 am 10:30 am	Time of prayer for Heise Hill Worship Service
30	Noon	HOPE 55+ Seniors Luncheon with Mark Cullen



Sunday @ 10 AM Our prayer must not be self-centered. It must arise not only because we feel our own need as a burden we must lay upon God, but also because we are so bound up in love for our fellow men that we feel their need as acutely as our own. To make intercession for men is the most powerful and practical way in which we can express our love for them. ~ John Calvin

One thing that praying does to my fears is take my focus off them (after they've been identified) and place it back on God. Prayer is a God-ward activity. At the risk of insulting your intelligence, let me point out that it is impossible to pray without bringing God to mind. And once God is in the picture, he puts our troubles in perspective.

Have you ever taken a camera shot that makes it look as if one person is holding another in the palm of her hand? My kids got a kick



out of this. I'd position Rachel in the foreground, with her arm held out to the side and her hand palm up. Then I'd have Andrew stand about fifty feet behind his sister, directly over her open palm when viewed through the lens. It's all about perspective.

When we're worrying, our problems move to the forefront of our thinking—dwarfing all other considerations. But when we're praying, God is front and center. Our troubles are diminished and seen to be in the palm of his hand. This is why Paul encourages us to pray about everything that makes us anxious. ~ James L. Nicodem

Greetings to Heise Hill Church from Camp Kahquah



Our yearly newsletter, *The Quill*, has been printed once again. We have sent you a copy that you can read.*

We want all of you to know what this last year has held for us and all the amazing things that happened.

The Quill is also available for viewing on our website at www.campkahquah.com

~ The Kahquah Staff

*Note—The newsletter is on our Heise Hill bulletin board.

A special thank you from your pastoral staff:

On behalf of your two pastoral couples, Harvey & Erma, and Judi and I, it is with much humility and joy that we thank you for your extremely generous monetary gift.

Once again you have demonstrated that the people at Heise Hill Church are an extremely giving and appreciative group. Your love, support, and encouragement through Jesus Christ is a genuine source of strength for us.

It is an honour and privilege for each of us to be able to serve you.

Blessings, Steve



HELP
Fill the Box
Heise Hill Cares
 Weekly Food Collection




heisehillchurch
LIVES CHANGED HERE

In partnership with
UAC'S MASTER'S PANTRY

Believe 
OUTLOUD™

A Core Value of Heise Hill Church

We are committed to reaching unchurched people inside and outside of our community with the gospel of Jesus Christ.



We believe that every person matters to God and therefore they ought to matter to us.

“reaching” - to succeed in getting in contact with or communicating with, to succeed in having an effect on, contacting, getting in touch with, getting through to, to make contact with, getting a message to, connecting with . . .

~ www.thefreedictionary.com and microsoft word thesaurus

Why Choose Gratitude? ~ Nancy Leigh DeMoss

Gratitude draws us close

God inhabits the praises of His people. ~ Psalm 23:3 KJV

God lives in the place of praise. If we want to be where He is, we need to go to His address. See if the practice of intentional gratitude doesn't transport you even nearer to Him - not just where your faith can believe it but where your heart can sense it. It paves the way to His presence.

Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. ~ Psalm 100:4

Gratitude is a gage of the heart

When you catch yourself being grateful to God for His obvious and even His more subtle (or hard to understand) forms of blessings, it's an indication that your heart is being drawn to His, and that you believe He is good, faithful, and can be trusted.

Surely the righteous shall give thanks to Your name. ~ Psalm 140:30

Giving of thanks is an indicator of our true heart condition. Those who have been made righteous by the grace of God will be thankful people.

~ ~ Following Jesus through 2012 ~ ~

Embark upon 2012 by joining thousands of BIC believers from across North America for the Week of Prayer and Fasting -

January 1 to 8

A weeklong devotional, "Following Jesus" is provided for you to help guide you.

It includes 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.

Pick up a copy of the booklet in the foyer.

HOPE 55+ Seniors Luncheon - January 30



HOPE 55+ begins its 2012 season (our seventh) on January 30, with Gardener and T.V. Personality, Mark Cullen.



Our noon meal will be our well loved soup/sandwich combo with apple blossoms for dessert.



Again, we will limit this to the first 70 registrants, so please inform your friends now, with registrations to either Margaret 905-640-3522 or Erma 905 - 642-5623 (cut off date is Jan. 24).

Christmas Hampers ~ One Becomes Five

Our congregation sponsored a wonderful hamper for a dear grandmother and her 2 children. Kim Wideman coordinated it with



clothes, toys and gifts for grandmother, canned goods, toiletries, dry goods, snacks, desserts, fruits

and veggies. Then a food voucher was added in to the mix to provide for turkey or ham and all the fixins!

And that was just the beginning! The Preston Home Church provided 2 hampers for 2 physically challenged adults (male and female). Kevin and Lynn made a



personal visit to the 2 homes to deliver the surprise packages. More

visits may come in the future - we'll just see how God works.

A well-loved teacher in Stouffville and one of our own coordinated a hamper with about 24 student participants. Laura Hogg and her many elves provided a single mom and teen age son and young daughter with a wonderful surprise package.

Now we're up to four! So along comes a man from Aurora who provides a donation for another

hamper and Lauren Steckley became the hamper organizer and creates hamper #5.

Helping as well were a former Gormley resident along with a Gormley business - the result being an additional \$2,000.00 to purchase food vouchers for 80 more hampers being looked after by the "Community Churches Care" Committee chaired by Glenda. We pray that the nearly 500 families who receive hampers from this effort will be blessed and will know that they are loved.



It's Much More ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Home Church is much more than just a study group. It is much more than just the 2 hours we spend with a small group on a given night every week. It is much more than just one more thing that we add to our *How to be a good*

Christian checklist. It is much more than just a program in our church. It is church. It's how we become intentional about being Jesus' church. Just showing up on a Sunday morning for service or showing up on a week night for Home Church isn't church. But taking those two elements and, in community, applying what we learn there is church. The best way for us to do church is in community. God created us as relational beings, not to pursue Him alone, but to pursue Him with others. ~ Steve (HC Manual)



Thank You . . .
 that I have a place in You and Your kingdom that is eternal...that nothing can separate me from Your limitless, intensely personal love—the one love that is not the least bit based on how much I deserve it, the one love that can never lessen or fail. Thank You that You will never be disillusioned with me, for You already know all about me: past, present, and future.
 How great is Your love toward me, Father, that I should be called Your child, and such I am. How amazing that I am precious in Your eyes and that You love me!
 Colossians 1:12; Jeremiah 31:3, Romans 8:38-39, Psalm 139:1-6, 1 John 3:1, Isaiah 43:4 ~ paraphrased by Ruth Myers

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