



the beacon

Heise Hill Church

July/August 2010

It's NOT about YOU! A message from Steve Authier

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. Call me Ishmael. These are two of the most famous opening lines in English Literature from two of the most studied books in University English programs. The former being from Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities*, and the latter from Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*. In university I loved English Literature classes. I enjoyed studying both of these classic novels and I always had a fascination with opening lines.

However, it wasn't until years after graduation, when I read Rick Warren's *The Purpose Driven Life*, that I came across what I consider to be the best opening line of any book I've ever read. In this edition of *The Beacon* you'll find a series of recommended summer reading. There was a time when I likely would have put Warren's book on the list; however, I have now come to appreciate others ahead of it. But, what hasn't changed is my opinion of its opening line, or in

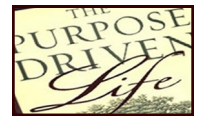
fact, its opening chapter. It's a short opening line and a short chapter, but very much to the point. *It's not about you.* This line has echoed in my mind for years. I often come back to it as a reminder in my own personal journey but also in respect to what I often see going on around me.

The God-centred life works. And it rescues us from a life that doesn't.
-- Max Lucado

We've become such a *ME* focused culture where narcissism has become an accepted part of our society. It's become acceptable to put our needs ahead of the needs of others. We've become a consumer driven people who are driven to have our needs satisfied above all others. It's all about *ME*. Unfortunately, this mentality has become imbedded into Christian culture too. There are the more blatantly obvious sins of the *Prosperity Gospel*, a trend where Christians see their own earthly gains in personal wealth and power as being something to strive for, or worst yet, to be expected as



what comes with being a Christian; however, there's also the less obvious sin of being driven by too much of a desire for personal satisfaction from what I can get from being a Christian, a *what's in it for me* mentality. We go to church with a *what will I get out of this* attitude. Sunday service has become an opportunity for me to feel good, for me to be fed, for me to be inspired by the music, for me to be moved by the sermon, for me to find myself, for me to get something out of this, for me, for me, for me. I'm not saying that personal fulfillment and growth are bad things, that it's not good to be fed, that it's not good to be inspired by music. I'm merely pointing out that it's not our main purpose. Hey! It's not about you.



Warren writes in his opening paragraph, "The purpose of your life is greater than your own personal fulfillment, your peace of mind, or even your own happiness. It's far greater than your own . . . Continued on page 2

It's NOT about YOU! . . .Continued from page 1

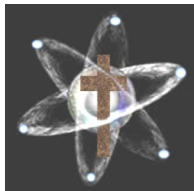
family, your career, or even your wildest dreams and ambitions." The focus of our lives is God. We were created to reflect his image, and that image is not a self-centered one but an other-centered one. We were made for God's purpose. We were made to bring him glory. We were not created just so that we can attain a certain level of personal fulfillment. Jesus reminds



us in Matthew 20:28 that he did not come to be served but to serve. He modeled for us what it means to have a

servant's heart. In Luke 13 we see how Jesus models servanthood by washing the disciples' feet. If our Lord and Saviour can humble himself by making himself human and serving us, and dying for us, why can't we see that our purpose is not about making ourselves the focus? Our purpose is to bring glory to God by being other-centered.

Recently I've introduced the *Atomic Cross* as a symbol of our need to keep our focus on Jesus Christ. Keeping our focus on Jesus means that our focus is NOT on us. There are so many things that can distract us from



Jesus, and usually those distractions are rooted in a self-centeredness. We can be distracted by what happens at a

But all of us
who are
Christians . . .
reflect like
mirrors the glory
of the Lord.
2 Corinthians 3:18
(Phillips)

Sunday service, by the order of service, by a live teaching versus a

DVD teaching debate, by a hymn versus contemporary music debate, by how we dress, by so many things that don't really matter in the big picture. Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that these things can't be discussed and that there's no value in understanding how they impact us. What I'm saying is that when that discussion becomes a distraction and takes us away from our purpose to bring God glory, when it takes our focus away from Jesus, when it puts the focus on *me*, there's something wrong. Jesus is not so much concerned with what we're doing during a Sunday service as much as he is with where our hearts are when we're doing it.

There are a lot of changes that are taking place at Heise Hill. During a recent announcement time before the service I've reminded people that the direction that


Heise Hill is taking is based on a decision made by the search committee in partnership with Bishop Darrell Winger, on our recent vision committee's findings, and after prayerful consideration, and all in response to the desire to revitalize our church community. So, let's be clear that this direction is based on what we feel God's will is for Heise Hill. This isn't about personal objectives or self-centeredness. This is about submission to God's will. Our purpose is to bring glory to God's name.


I invite you and encourage you to view our times together on Sunday mornings as an opportunity to worship God, to come to this time prepared to open our hearts to hear his message so that we can apply it, to sing praises to him so that we can glorify him, to be glad to be sitting alongside our brothers and sisters in Christ, and to remember that it's not about you.

Blessings, Steve

When our
deepest desire
is not the things
of God, or a
favor from God,
but God Himself,
we cross a
threshold.
- Max Lucado

The sheep listen to the voice of the Shepherd. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.
—John 10:3

 WHEN I SEE a flock of sheep I see exactly that, a flock. A rabble of wool. A herd of hooves. I don't see a sheep. I see sheep. All alike. None different. That's what I see. But not so with the Shepherd. To him every sheep is different. Every face is special. Every face has a story. And every sheep has a name. The Shepherd knows his sheep. He calls them by name. Every face is a story.

Every face is a child. Every child has a name. The Shepherd knows you. He knows your name. And He will never forget it.
"I have written your name on My hand."
(Isa. 49:16)
Quite a thought, isn't it? Your name on God's lips. Your name on God's hand. -- Max Lucado 

July Birthdays

08 ~ Jennifer Hearn
 10 ~ Nicole Blackstock
 11 ~ Faye Wideman
 12 ~ Laura Hogg
 17 ~ Tyler Brooks
 19 ~ Laura Deacon
 19 ~ Kaitlin Shropshire
 26 ~ Tara de Zwaan
 26 ~ Beth Foster

July Anniversaries

07 ~ Glen & Jean Wideman
 10 ~ Gary & Wendy Shropshire
 10 ~ Dale & Kathy Wideman
 11 ~ Tim & Jolana Pettifer
 14 ~ Lorne & Elda Ruegg
 19 ~ Tom & Leslie LaBonte
 20 ~ Harvey & Erma Sider
 25 ~ Lorne & Sharon Somerville

Have you ever thought about what it means to be "known"? Though I'd been telling people for years that I "knew" God, only recently have I explored the concept of being "known" by Him. It's breathtaking to picture almighty God say, "I know Francis Chan. He's my son. I love him!"

Are you confident this is what God would say if I asked Him about you? Do you know God or just know about Him? Are you acquaintances or intimate friends?
 -- Francis Chan (see Galatians 4:9)

KIDZ WORSHIP

Things our kids are learning!

Character Virtue for July

SERVICE ~ Lending a hand to help someone else.

*"Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men."
Ephesians 6:7 NIV*

Bottom Line:

- What in the world are you doing that's more than you have to do?
- What in the world are you doing to help someone others won't help?
- What in the world are you doing to put others first?
- What in the world are you doing that only God knows?

Character Virtue for August

PEACE ~ Proving that you care more about others than winning an argument.

*"So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build each other up."
Romans 14:19 NirV*

Bottom Line:

- The best way to stop a fight is never to start one.
- Making peace doesn't make you weak.
- It's better to let go than to get even.
- Just because you didn't start a fight doesn't mean you can't stop it.

~252 Basics

August Birthdays

04 ~ Jean Wideman
 04 ~ Eileen Wideman
 05 ~ Melody Potter
 10 ~ Madison Bennett
 10 ~ Nicholas Wright
 12 ~ Ryan Blackstock
 13 ~ Glenda Kerr
 13 ~ Dorothy I. Wideman
 20 ~ Krystle Todd
 21 ~ Trevor Bennett
 21 ~ Harold Wideman
 22 ~ Jolana Pettifer
 23 ~ Gladys Stickley
 23 ~ Alli Todd
 25 ~ David Hogg
 25 ~ Bonnie Brillinger
 28 ~ Milly Sider
 28 ~ Maureen Steckley
 28 ~ Michael Hogg
 30 ~ Margaret Mashinter

August Anniversaries

01 ~ Bill & Francesca Wright
 04 ~ Harvey & Gladys Stickley

Surely You desire truth in the inner parts, You teach me wisdom in the inmost place. -- Psalm 51:6

Summer Home Church ~ Wednesdays at 7:00 PM

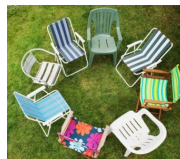


IT'S BACK!

You thought you were going to have to wait until September to experience more Home Church, or to try it out for the first time.

We'll be having Home Church during the summer months every Wednesday evening at 7 PM starting on July 7th right here at

Heise Hill. Steve Authier will lead the first night and we'll have other Home Church leaders lead on other nights. So, come on out and take part in our common Home Church this summer. It's a great opportunity to dig into the teaching from the previous Sunday. No need to



call, just show up. Come and see what all the fuss is about!

As His love grows in us, His love flows from us.

Camp Kahquah this Summer

Pray for Heise Hill's young adults at Camp Kahquah this summer.

Get their latest updates, prayer requests and praises on their blog. And...send them a message.

- Christie Boake
- Drew Hogg
- Sarah Quinn
- Kaleigh Todd
- Krystle Todd
- Amber Wideman



<http://summeratkahquah.wordpress.com/>

Urban Promise Summer End Celebration

Friday, August 20th



Save the Date!

A minimum of 30 people are needed to help out on that day and before in preparation. We really want to bless these kids as part of our ongoing support of Urban Promise. Consider taking the day off and make a difference in some kids lives! Talk to Tom LaBonte about ways you can help.

Operation Christmas Child



Operation Christmas Child is a fun and simple, hands-on project of Samaritan's Purse that anyone can participate in. Each gift-filled shoe box is used to bless the life of a child living in a desperate situation. When culturally appropriate, children are also offered

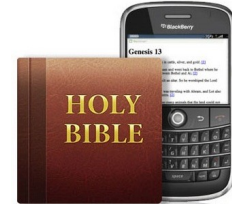
"The Greatest Gift of All," an illustrated storybook in their local language explaining how God sent His only Son. Children can learn more about having a personal relationship with Jesus through a voluntary discipleship program that is offered.
~ Samaritan's Purse website



July and August are a great time to pick up summer sale

A Core Value of Heise Hill

We are committed to teaching and preaching the timeless truths of God's Word.



We believe the Bible is the final authority in regard to faith and how we should live and therefore we seek to have a godly leadership team who will proclaim it with boldness, teach it with passion and live it with authenticity.

up
lift you
may
He
that
hand,
Mighty
God's
under
therefore,
yourselves,
Humble

1 Peter 5:6

items for your "shoebox" - - baseball caps, t-shirts, skipping ropes, etc... School supplies are starting to arrive in the stores also—with good choice and prices. Picking up a few things here and there will soon make a full box.

The shoebox deadline is November 15

Contact person:
Kim Wideman 905-474-3768.

July 2010		
4	10:30 am	Worship Service and UP Fundraiser
4	3:00 pm	Baby Shower for Ken & Carla @ Larry & Laura Hogg's
7	7:00 pm	Home Church at Heise Hill
9 to 12		General Conference in Grantham, PA
11	9:30 am 10:30 am	Abuse Prevention Training Session Worship Service
14	7:00 pm	Home Church at Heise Hill
17	6:30 to 1:00	Garage Sale for Urban Promise
18	10:30 am	Worship Service and UP Fundraiser
21	7:00 pm	Home Church at Heise Hill
25	10:30 am	Worship Service
28	7:00 pm	Home Church at Heise Hill

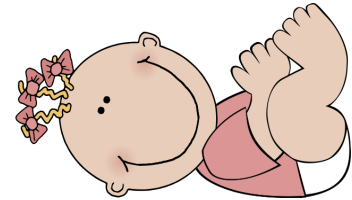
Congratulations to Tina & Hubert
on the arrival of
their sweet baby girl!

Welcome to

Ava

Genevieve

born on Monday, June 14th
weighing 8 lbs 6 oz



We can never praise God too much.

Another Counselor

It makes sense that Jesus would say it's to our advantage to have this "other counselor." After all, Jesus merely walked beside the disciples; the Spirit would actually enter their human bodies (John 14:17). You've probably heard this truth a hundred times, but have you marveled at it? Would you be willing to take thirty seconds right now just to dwell on the fact that God is *in* you?



Astonished? This is not a distant, loose connection. This is the Spirit of God choosing you and me to be His dwelling place. That means that as I write, the Spirit of the living God is inside me. I might wake up on a

particular day feeling physically tired or stressed or impatient, and humanly speaking, those things would probably define my day. But the reality is that I am indwelt by the Holy Spirit. And because of this reality, stress and tiredness and impatience don't have to define my day.

If you have received by faith the promise of the Holy Spirit, you are also His temple. As you drive your children to school. As you go to work every day. As you embark on a new, unknown season. As you go to school. As you face tragedy and pain. As you buy groceries. As you give of yourself in relationships. As you walk the dog. As you make decisions. As you live your life, the Holy Spirit is dwelling in



you.

Please don't let this reality slip past you like an interesting piece of trivia that might catch your attention for a minute but that you'll never take the time to really investigate. You are a temple of the Holy Spirit. You are not just a person living your life by human power. The Spirit of God is in you; that is why Jesus said it was better for Him to go and the Spirit to come. Don't walk away from this. Delve into it and let it impact you deeply, first internally and then outwardly. -- Francis Chan

*You are a
temple of
the Holy
Spirit.*



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Pastor's Picks for Summer Reading

Steve's Picks

- The End of Religion: Encountering the Subversive Spirituality of Jesus (by Bruxy Cavey)
- You & God: An Invitation to Radical Living (by Fred Miller – Fred is a Brethren in Christ pastor in Pennsylvania)
- The Great Omission: Reclaiming Jesus's Essential Teachings on Discipleship (by Dallas Willard)
- The Irresistible Revolution: Living as an Ordinary Radical (by Shane Claiborne)
- The Blue Parakeet: Rethinking How You Read the Bible (by Scot McKnight)
- After You Believe: Why Christian Character Matters (by N.T. Wright)
- The Story of Edgar Sawtelle (by David Wroblewski - This is a novel about the human heart, friendship, and a great read for dog lovers.)
- The Shack (by William P. Young)



Erma's Picks

- The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind (by William Kamkwamba - story from Malawi)
- Stones into Schools (by Greg Mortenson)
- Three Cups of Tea (by Greg Mortenson)
- The Book of Negroes (by Lawrence Hill)
- Black Berry, Sweet Juice: On Being Black and White in Canada (by Lawrence Hill)
- The China Years of Dr. Bob McClure (by Munroe Scott)
- Beyond the Horizon: The First Human Powered Expedition to Circle the Globe (by Colin Angus)
- Between a Rock and a Hard Place (by Aron Ralston)
- Sword and Scalpel (by Lorry Lutz)



Leslie's Picks

- THE BIBLE— no book is worth reading before the Bible.
- The Shack (by William P. Young)
- Just Walk Across the Room: Simple Steps Pointing People to Faith (by Bill Hybels)
- One Thing You Can't Do in Heaven (by Mark Cahill)
- God Chasers (by Tommy Tenney)

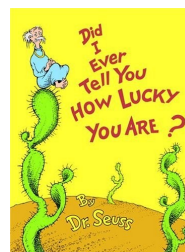
Harvey's Picks

- Crystal Clear: The Inspiring Story of How an Olympic Athlete Lost His Legs Due to Crystal Meth and Found a Better Life (by Eric LeMarque - his conversion)
- God Sleeps in Rwanda: A Journey of Transformation (by Joseph Sebarenzi)
- God Grew Tired of Us: Lost Boys of Sudan (by John Dau)
- The Boy in The Moon: A Father's Search for his Disabled Son - (by local Globe and Mail columnist, Ian Brown - simply human interest but how a secular man showed huge compassion)
- Growing Up bin Laden (by Jean Sasson - story of how bin Laden became so evil his first wife and one of his sons left him - gives a sad picture of evil personified)
- The Deserter's Tale: the Story of an Ordinary Soldier Who Walked Away from the War in Iraq (by Joshua Key as told to Lawrence Hill)
- Tug of War: A Judges Verdict on Separation, Custody Battles and the Bitter Realities of Family Court (by Harvey Brownston)
- Tears of the Dessert: A Memoir Survival in Darfur (by Halima Bashir)
- All Nature Sings (by local Margaret Clarkson)



Tom's Picks

- Worldliness: Resisting the Seduction of a Fallen World by C. J. Mahaney
- Confession of a Reformation Rev.: Hard Lessons by an Emerging Missional Church (by Mark Driscoll)
- Unceasing Worship: Biblical Perspectives on Worship and the Arts (by Harold Best)
- Angels and Demons: A Novel (by Dan Brown)
- Did I Ever Tell You How Lucky You Are? (by Dr. Seuss)



Check for some of these books at your local library.

Happy Reading!