

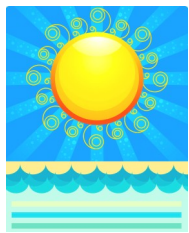


the beacon



Is God on vacation this summer? A few thoughts from Steve Authier

Last year, as we headed into summer, I wrote a short note in my *Scoop from the Hill* about whether or not God is on vacation in the summer. I'd like to take the opportunity this year to expand on that note.



I love the summer. I often think that few people love to soak in the hot summer weather like I do. I say this because when we get a heat wave invariably I hear people complaining about the heat—not me. I'll take a scorching hot summer day over a cold winter day, wet spring day, or breezy fall day anytime. There is something about the sun's warm rays that makes my heart soar and fills my soul. I love to sit out on my back patio or front porch reading with the warmth of the sun all around me. I love to have breakfast outside on a sun filled morning. Judi and I have often rented a cottage in Bala for two weeks in the summer, and for me there's no better way of relaxing than to spend a few weeks on the edge of Lake Muskoka in the middle of a heat wave. It's by far

my favourite way of unwinding and applying the biblical principle of the Sabbath.

I fully realize the importance of resting, and despite the fact that I always keep myself busy I seem to have this built in mechanism that tells me when to slow down and rest. Our lives are filled with all sorts of responsibilities that demand our time and energy. Whether it's working, raising a family, or being an active member of God's kingdom, it all takes time and energy. If we don't take the time to rest we cannot possibly expect to be able to be as effective as we can be in meeting our responsibilities. A balanced and healthy life requires rest.

God's expectation is not that we'll drive ourselves into the

Is God on VACATION this SUMMER?



ground by working around the clock, be it to earn a living or to share in the work of his kingdom. The concept of rest is woven throughout

Scripture. From *Genesis*, where we see that God rested after creating the world and blessed the seventh day because on it he rested from all he had done, through to the *Book of Revelations* where we sense God's peace and rest when the New Jerusalem comes to earth. The *Book of Joshua* has an overriding theological theme of rest. The Israelites, after wandering in the wilderness for 40 years, finally entered the rest God had prepared for them in the land of Canaan. In *Isaiah 30:15* we hear God telling us that in repentance and *rest* is our salvation. *Hebrews 4:1-11* is one of the key passages in the Bible where the concept of rest is highlighted.

Rest is not just stopping activities and slowing down; it also means freedom from whatever worries that distract us and tire us. Rest means to be inwardly quiet, composed, and peaceful. To enter

Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
- Matthew 11:29

... continued on page 2

Is God on vacation this summer? (cont'd from page 1)

God's rest means to be at peace with God, to experience good rest involves remaining confident, keeping trust, to rest in God means to maintain our confidence in him.

Somehow Christian culture has taken the secular concept of rest and applied it to our relationship with God. We've taken the concept of summer is for rest and relaxation to mean that we don't have to do much in God's kingdom come summer time.

We talk about how we're God's hands and feet, and how God has chosen to partner with us to be his instruments of compassion and care. If we don't actually take action to reflect this responsibility, to many people it might just look like God goes away on vacation during the summer. If there's no one around to connect



with people in need, it might appear to some that God doesn't care. Hey,

I'm not saying that we can't enjoy the summer and relax with our friends and family. I merely want to point out that too often we, as a Christian community, lose sight of what it means to be a follower of Jesus, and all because it's *summer*. *Jesus didn't say, "Come follow me from September until May."* We

might just be the only opportunity some people have to experience the love of Jesus Christ this summer—let's not lose sight of that.



Here is a small example of how our summer mentality might be manifesting itself here at Heise Hill. Since we started the *Heise Hill Cares* food box last September we generally take about two to three weeks to fill the box. Now that we've moved beyond April and our thoughts are moving towards the warmer weather the box has remained virtually empty for the month of May. Statistics from most food banks show that once the warmer weather comes around we forget about helping those that need food. I know that the reason that our food box has remained empty is not because the people at Heise Hill don't care. It's been proven time and time again that Heise Hill is a very generous and caring congregation. I suspect that, in part, it's because we're also susceptible to being distracted by thoughts of upcoming warmer weather—I know that I can be.

Canadian culture has a well established behaviour pattern that the summer months are meant to be spent enjoying the outdoors with our family and friends. It's understandable considering the long fall,

winter, and spring seasons that we go through. I know that I sure look forward to the warm weather—it's a real blessing. However, does that mean everything we believe God is calling us to comes to a grinding halt just because the thermometer has gone over 16 degrees? Isn't there a middle ground? There's no doubt in my mind that we are God's hands and feet, that we are the way people can see that Jesus is very much alive. Sure we need a rest from the long winter, but does it mean that we pull back completely from engaging with the world like followers of Jesus Christ?

The summer months provide us with many

wonderful opportunities to go out into our communities and engage. On Sundays at Heise Hill we have our *What's Jesus Doing in Your Life* segment to

remind us of how we're trying to listen to God's promptings in our lives; let's tweak that a bit for the season and focus on *What Jesus is Doing in our Life This Summer*. Enjoy the sun and God's warmth.

~ Blessings, Steve

The highest form of worship is the worship of unselfish Christian service.
- Billy Graham

You can whine or you can shine! Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe.
~ Philippians 2:14-15



Thank you for bringing in your milk bags so people in Haiti can receive mats to sleep on.



HOPE 55 + concludes the spring programs with our

Annual Strawberry Social
Monday evening at 7:00
June 27

The Springvale Boys present their music following strawberries, cake and ice cream.

Invite your friends and confirm attendance with Margaret at 905.640.3522.

GIVERS

Tears come to my eyes when I think about some people I have had the privilege to meet in the past few years. These are people with families, with dreams, people who are made in God's image as much as you and I are. And these people are suffering.

Many of them are sick, some even dying, as they live out their lives in dwellings that we would not consider good enough for our household pets. Much of their daily hardship and suffering could be relieved with access to food, clean water, clothing, adequate shelter, or basic medical attention.

I believe that God wants His people, His church, to meet these needs. The Scriptures are filled with commands and references about caring for the poor and for those who cannot help themselves. The crazy part about God's heart is that He doesn't just ask us to give; He desires that we love those in need *as much as we love ourselves*. That is the core of the second greatest command, to "love our neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22:39).

He is asking us to love as we would want to be loved if it were our child who was blind from drinking contaminated water; to love the way we would want to be loved if we were the homeless woman sitting outside the café; to



love as though it were our family living in the shack slapped together from cardboard and scrap metal.

When Christians sacrifice and give wildly to the poor, that is truly a light that glimmers. The Bible teaches that the church is to be that light, that sign of hope, in an increasingly dark and hopeless world. Matthew 5:16 says, "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

~ Francis Chan

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New address as of May 28

Congrats to the happy couple!

Welcome to the 2nd
"Old Time Hymn Sing"
Sunday, June 26, 2011
2:30p.m.
to be held at the



The Historic Cober Church

Circa 1888

Dufferin Street, City of Vaughan
between Langstaff Rd. and
Carrville/Rutherford Rd.

Sponsored by the Trustees
of the Cober Church

June Birthdays

- 04 ~ Taylor Watson
- 05 ~ Dale Wideman
- 07 ~ Amber Wideman
- 09 ~ Velma Carter
- 09 ~ Landon Wideman
- 14 ~ Ava Roberts
- 14 ~ Connie Masci
- 15 ~ Gulabi McCarty
- 17 ~ Ron Empringham
- 17 ~ Bruce VanderBent
- 20 ~ Harvey Sider
- 22 ~ Tim Pettifer

June Anniversaries

- 14 ~ Hubert & Tina Roberts
- 20 ~ Scott & Lauren Steckley
- 20 ~ Gordon & Joy White
- 26 ~ Don & Faye Wideman

June 2011		
4	6:30 pm	Pie Auction and Mission Focus Service
5	10:00 am 10:20 am	Time of prayer for Heise Hill Worship Service ~ Licence to Sin #5
6	6:30 pm	Deacon Meeting
12	10:00 am 10:20 am	Time of prayer for Heise Hill Worship Service ~ Licence to Sin #6
19	10:00 am 10:20 am	Time of prayer for Heise Hill Worship Service ~ Licence to Sin #7
20	7:30 pm	Church Board Meeting
26	10:00 am 10:20 am	Time of prayer for Heise Hill Worship Service ~ Licence to Sin #7
27	7:00 pm	HOPE 55+ Seniors Strawberry event
August 19, Friday	Urban Promise End of Summer Celebration 9AM to 3PM - - Consider booking the day off work to be part of this celebration!	



Happy Father's Day!

It is God who arms me with strength and keeps my way secure.

- 2 Samuel 22:33

Look to the LORD and His strength; seek His face always.
-1 Chronicles 16:11



Suffering is a magnifying glass and, like all magnifying glasses, it works both ways.

When you look at God through the glass panel of pain, He appears bigger than you have noticed before. If you look at yourself through the other side of the glass, you appear smaller and more inadequate.

One thing I have observed is that because pain drives me to refocus on God's "size" - His might, power, and ability - I am more ready to cast my care in His direction, more ready to trust that He knows what He is doing, whatever happens to me.

~ Jill Briscoe

Continue to pray for the churches and pastors in C u b a .



Thoughts from "Going Missional" by William Metzger and Karen Stiller

Our involvement should be with people who are unlikely to show up at church on a Sunday morning. Pray and ask God to show you your gifts and how they can be used in a new way.

What are the relationships God wants us to develop in our community and the world so God's justice and peace can flourish?

What kind of community would we need to be so that God's love for the world can be known?

How can we share the story of Jesus with people who haven't heard?

If the church disappeared would it make any difference in the community?

Being missional puts us out on the street on purpose for a much higher purpose. A call from God! Not just volunteering.

Who are the marginalized in our community? We need to be in relationship with the poor and marginalized - beyond token service projects. How could we lead our congregation towards greater engagement with the poor?

2011 Directory Additions



Hubert & Tina Roberts

Please add apt #305

Marjorie Heise

Luella Lofthouse

Please add room number 311



The Annual BBQ at Kin Village is on Saturday, June 25th from 12 noon to 2 pm

Come and hang out with people in our community.

The Union Street Home Church will be there as part of the hosting team.

Thank you for remembering to . . .

HELP
Fill the Box
Heise Hill Cares

Weekly Food Collection



heisehillchurch
LIVES CHANGED HERE

In partnership with
UAC'S MASTER'S PANTRY

Q UOTES

Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts (*to have confidence, be bold, be secure*) in the Lord is kept safe (*inaccessible, safely set on high*). - Proverbs 29:25



...no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. - Daniel 6:23

The Apostle Paul makes clear that the church has a responsibility to rebuke, correct, and restore those in the fellowship who claim to be believers but live like nonbelievers.
- Linda K. Taylor



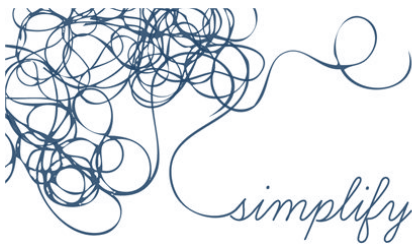
For we are God's workmanship, (*the works of God as Creator*) created in Christ Jesus to do good (*excellent*) works, which God prepared in advance (*in mind and purpose*) for us to do (*be occupied with*).
- Ephesians 2:10

So much of our confusion, our pain, our indecision, and our wrong decisions come because we do not know God. We may know about Him—we may know what others know or say about Him. Do we know for ourselves who He really is and, therefore, how He conducts Himself in the affairs of mankind? Daniel 11:32 assures us that "the people who know their God will display strength and take action." In other words, when we know God as He really is, there's a power in our lives—the ability to stand firm.
- Kay Arthur

I gain understanding from Your precepts. - Psalm 119:104



Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.
- Corrie ten Boom



Someone once said, "we often become preoccupied with the superficial at the expense of the meaningful." What are these superficial things in your life? What are meaningful things you may be overlooking?

Does generosity go hand in hand with living a life of simplicity? Why or why not?

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Do you seek simplicity primarily for practical reasons (to be better organized, less hectic, more economical, etc.) or to replenish your soul? Why? Is it possible to have one outcome without the other?

~ Jerry D. Jones



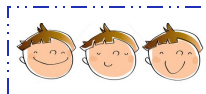
A Heise Hill Core Value

As personal

We are committed to extending God's grace and forgiveness to others.

recipients of unearned forgiveness, we will strive to be a grace-giving church. We will emphasize God's unconditional acceptance & full forgiveness made available through Jesus Christ, and we will seek to build relationships in light of that reality.

KIDZ WORSHIP



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

The virtue: **Faith**

~ Trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see.

(Bottom Line You can trust in a God you can't see because you can see what He's created.)



Memory Verse: Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see
Hebrews 11: 1



Heise Hill's Annual Pie Auction ... with musical guest Ellen Reesor



On Saturday, **June 4th**, we'll be hosting our annual Pie Auction. This is a great opportunity for us to get together & support our Compassion and Mission initiatives. We'll start the evening with a service at 6:30 PM that will focus on Urban Promise and Cuba. The funds from the pie auction will go towards our partnership with the



Cuban BIC Church. We will also have an emphasis on increasing the number of people from Heise Hill who support Peter and Lynda Kentie's Urban Promise ministry as regular monthly donors. During the time leading up to that evening please give prayerful consideration to becoming a monthly Urban Promise supporter, & come prepared to do some serious pie bidding.



HAVE YOU MARKED YOUR CALENDAR or STARTED TRAINING?



On October 16th Heise Hill will be running for Urban Promise and doing church a little bit different that day. We'll be running, volunteering, cheering, and celebrating with Urban Promise. It's a privilege for us as a church community to take part in Urban Promise's fundraising and awareness effort again this year.

For those that are running you'll have the chance to run or walk in the 5K, run in the half marathon, or maybe even the full marathon as part of the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon.

We encourage you to read the article *Why Bother?* in last October's issue of *The Beacon* as a reminder of why we're participating in this event. If you do not have a copy you can read it online at <http://www.heisehill.org/publications.php>



Heise Hill History

Heise Hill Church has seen a lot of changes take place in its 202 years. The church was originally founded by a group of Brethren in Christ families that migrated from Pennsylvania. These sixteen families met in homes for the first three generations, and



then in 1877 they built the original 40' x 60' part of the building that still stands here today. The church bought land from part of the historic Christian Heise farm, one of the founding members of the church.

Originally, the church was known as *The Markham Meeting House*. The church changed its name to Heise Hill in 1896. The Heise Hill cemetery that sits to the north of the church dates back to the early 1800's. The earliest grave marker reads 1811.

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