



the beacon



The Choice is Yours! A few thoughts from Steve Authier

If you were not at last Sunday's service at Heise Hill you are not likely aware that there were technical difficulties that led to an impromptu live sermon in place of our planned video



teaching from *The Meeting House*. We were supposed to start the *My God Why?* series which takes a look at the hard questions that we might have for God.

The first part in this series examines the question of suffering. On a much, much smaller scale I was asking myself "My God why is this happening?" as we struggled to get sound for the video. It was becoming increasingly clear that we were not going to find the solution to our technical issues any time soon, so I had to make a decision—do I continue to try and solve the problem when there is no evident lead as to what it might be, or do I just bite the bullet and head up to the podium and deliver a live sermon. We had quite a few visitors that Sunday; otherwise, I might have spent a bit more time trying to solve the problem. When you have

company in the house you try to resolve things as fast as you can—at least that's the way my mind was working that morning.

So I made my choice and headed up front. It is amazing how much can run through your mind in just a few short steps. Even though I made the decision to do a live sermon I had no idea what I would say. As I stepped towards the podium I told God that I had nothing, and that it was all up to him. I told him all I had was one simple opening line: "I knew that this would happen one day. It was inevitable that we'd have some



technical difficulties and that I'd have to do an impromptu live sermon." During my entire first year here at Heise Hill I had a back up sermon ready for such an occasion. However, I had incorporated much of it into my recent *Invitation to Radical Living* series, so I did not have anything ready. Again, my thought was, "My God Why?" I had planned on writing another back up sermon soon. Why

couldn't this problem happen after I had written it? Unfortunately, life doesn't always happen the way we want it to. So, there I was that morning sitting behind the sound-board with a choice to make. I made it and then relied on God's help.

I was able to make the decision to do an impromptu sermon because I truly believed that given the circumstances if I put my faith in God he'd bail me out, and he'd deliver the message he wanted delivered that morning, or that needed to be delivered. I stress that this reliance on God was based on circumstances. God expects us to do all that we can to prepare for life and the work that we do in partnership with him. I suspect that if my plan was to wing it every Sunday we would likely end up with some pretty lame sermons. God helps us out when we have been

You are my strength, I sing praise to You; You, God, are my fortress, my God on whom I can rely.
-- Psalm 59:17

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The Choice is Yours!

loyal and obedient, when we have done our due diligence and preparation for the task ahead. Where is the loyalty or obedience in not being prepared as we attempt to use our gifts to partner with God? But when stuff like this happens, he will be there, one way or another.

And be there he was. After my quick opening line the words began to flow. Not only did he let the words flow but he let the sermon be shaped in a way where the thoughts that followed supported the previous ones. The sermon had sound structure and practical applications that I drew from my personal experiences. On more than one occasion during my message I felt that I had nothing left to say, but I knew that I still needed to extend the message; otherwise, we would end up with a ten minute sermon. God continued to fill my mind with thoughts and



images that I was able to build on. I am not going to say that it was the best sermon I have ever delivered, if there is such a thing, but I can say that it is clearly the one where I most relied on God. It helped me

understand how important it is for us to rely on him. The glory in this experience does not go to me, it goes to God. He's the one that made it all happen. He created me, gave me my particular gifts and sensibilities, and then on that morning put the words in my mouth. All I did was make a choice to let him do his part.

One of the concepts that I spoke about that morning and has remained with me is that the world we live in today is not the world that God created, and by that I mean that God's original plan for us is quite different than the world we experience today. We do not live in paradise. There is plenty of evil around us and lots of suffering, and too many unanswered questions. I talked about how Adam and Eve made a choice to walk away from that original plan, and that because of it we now live in a fallen world. Some people look around them and when they see the suffering and brokenness of our world they feel that they cannot help but point the finger at God and wonder what kind of God would create such a world.

I talked about how a spiritual leader like Charles Templeton, who at the time was an equal colleague of a young Billy Graham if not even more renowned back then, had turned away from his faith because of these tough questions. He made a choice to walk away from God because he could not

believe in a God who he felt had abandoned us.

God did not abandon us. He continued to want to partner with Adam and Eve even after the fall. He continued to reach out to humanity. He chose the nation of Israel to help redeem and reconcile the world, and then he sent his Son to make the ultimate atonement for our choices. We


Help us,
LORD our
God, for
we rely
on You...

-- 2 Chron. 14:11

can see plenty of evidence of his love all around us. Yes, there is suffering in this world, and yes, there are things that we do not understand, but also, there is hope. We can put our faith and trust in Jesus Christ. We can watch him work in our lives through those around us, and we can choose to let him work through us in the lives of others. Jesus Christ is very much alive. We can choose to step forward and put our trust in him, or we can choose to sit back and watch. We may feel like we have nothing, but if we choose to partner with him, we'll be surprised at what we have. More than anything, we have a choice. What's Jesus doing in your life, or should I say, what are you choosing to do with Jesus in your life?

-- Blessings, Steve

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. -- 1 John 4:16

 I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out Your precepts. -- Psalm 119:45

THANK YOU!

to the Home Churches who helped sponsor The Bailey Family to attend last week's Junior High Retreat.

The kids really enjoyed themselves - some positive connections were made - with youth and youth leaders.

Relationship building at its best!!

THANK YOU!

Glenda

A Heise Hill Core Value

core (kor) n The basic or most important part; the essence

val·ue (val' yoo) n A principle, standard, or quality considered worthwhile desirable (thefreedictionary.com)

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



We believe that lost people matter to God and therefore they ought to matter to us.

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

- - Psalm 19:14

Annual Council Meeting ~ Sunday, March 6 ~ after the Carry-in-lunch

For the **Carry-in-lunch** — please bring 2 food items

- a 1/2 loaf of sandwiches (or some wraps)
- some veggies or a finger dessert



Seniors please note: you may wish to join with a friend in bringing your contribution.

If you have any questions about the 2010 Annual Report please forward them, prior to the March 6th Annual Council Meeting, to either Steve Authier or Jim Wideman. You can reach Steve at (647) 987-5983 or steveauthier@heisehill.org and you can reach Jim at (416) 616-0315 or jim@calibredesign.com

March 2011 Birthdays

03 ~ Jessica Steckley
 05 ~ Steve Authier
 07 ~ Susan Russell
 07 ~ Scott Steckley
 09 ~ Miriam Shropshire
 09 ~ Barbara Wride
 11 ~ Karen deZwaan
 19 ~ Keith Steckley
 19 ~ Cara Watson
 20 ~ Natasha Deacon
 25 ~ Velma Brillinger
 25 ~ Ashley Blackstock
 25 ~ Margaret Emmerson
 26 ~ Sydney Wideman
 26 ~ Carter Wideman
 29 ~ Erma Sider

KIDZ WORSHIP



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

The virtue **Courage**:

~ Being brave enough to do what you should do even when you're afraid.

(Bottom Line When you're afraid, remember God is with you.)



Memory Verse: When I am afraid, I will trust in you.
~ Psalm 56:3 NIV



HOPE 55 +

March 28 at 12:00 Noon

Plan to come to the March 28, 12:00 noon pot-luck meal at the Heise Hill Church. Singles should feel free to connect with another so that 2 singles and couples plan to bring food for 6 people -- **either** a salad **or** hot dish **or** dessert.



The focus will be on Urban Promise (UP), a ministry to Toronto's marginalized young people, with

Peter Kentie leading. Peter will also be bringing Jordan's mother for an interview. Peter has been involved with UP for many years.

The total offering will go to the Urban Promise ministry.

Please inform Margaret at 905.640.3255 to help facilitate arrangements.

Sunday, April 3

*after the service
there will be a **bridal shower** for*

*Sarah Quinn
&
Vernon Taylor*



*All are welcome - come for
a light luncheon
before the shower.*



*Dear children, let us not love with words or
speech but with actions and in truth.
-- 1 John 3:18*

Our new Director of Youth Ministries...



Christie Boake wasted no time jumping in with both feet. In her first weekend in her role she participated in our BIC Junior High retreat as part of the leadership team. She says that it was encouraging to see the great response the youth had to the retreat. Not only did they have lots of fun, they were able to learn about Jesus.

Christie will be leading our Thursday night youth program as well as overseeing our Junior High program, led by Drew Hogg, our young adults Home Church, and this summer's Urban Promise End of Summer Celebration as well as all other activities involving our youth.

Christie devotes about twenty one hours per week to this role and is fulfilling a contract that will take her through to the beginning of September. Please keep Christie in your prayers as she provides leadership to our Heise Hill youth.

Camp Kahquah Summer Programs 2011 brochures are available in the foyer.



"Camp is a special place that has generated so many wonderful memories.

A refuge where you are able to leave your everyday life behind as you step into a vibrant faith based community. For many it was at Camp

Kahquah where this faith was first awakened in the midst of leadership opportunities and daily activities which instill character."

~ from the Camp Kahquah flyer

Ages 8 to high school - - - Register early and take advantage of early discounts.

Activities include:
Swimming, fishing, kayaking,

canoeing, volleyball, archery, tether ball, crafts, tubing, kneeboarding, waterskiing, wakeboarding, ropes and the wall, sailing, drama, wilderness skills, sports and games, mountain biking, traditional campfires and "The Underground"
Bring a friend! There are rewards for bringing first time campers to Kahquah. 😊

March 2011		
3	7:00 pm	Heise Hill Youth
6	10:00 am 10:30 am	Time of prayer for Heise Hill Worship Service ~ Steve Authier preaching Carry-in-lunch Annual Council Meeting
10	7:00 pm	Heise Hill Youth
13	10:00 am 10:30 am	Time of prayer for Heise Hill Worship Service ~ My God Why?
17	7:00 pm	Heise Hill Youth
20	10:00 am 10:30 am	Time of prayer for Heise Hill Worship Service ~ My God Why?
21	7:30 pm	Church Board Meeting
24	7:00 pm	Heise Hill Youth
27	10:00 am 10:30 am	Time of prayer for Heise Hill Worship Service ~ My God Why?
28	Noon	HOPE 55+ Seniors Luncheon with Peter Kentie
29	7:00 pm	Home Church Leaders Training
31	7:00 pm	Heise Hill Youth
April 3	Around noon	Bridal Shower for Sarah Quinn and Vernon Taylor

IS IT SPRING YET?

We hope it's around the corner!!!



Here's something that should help you feel like the warmer weather is coming. In early spring we'll be asking for gently used winter coats/boots/scarves & mitts for Kin Village and Trinity Square.

We'll let you know when the actual collection dates will be as we get closer to the date.

Thanks heaps, *Glenda*

HELP

Fill the Box

Heise Hill Cares

Weekly Food Collection

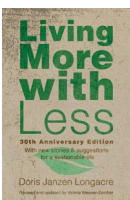


 heisehillchurch
LIVES CHANGED HERE

In partnership with
UAC'S MASTER'S PANTRY

Living More with Less

Living More with Less
30th Anniversary Edition,
written in 1979 by Doris Janzen
Longacre, edited by Valerie Weaver
-Zercher in 2010, Herald Press,
Waterloo, ON.



Don't use plastic bags. Eat green. Eat local. Burn wood, not oil. Use your bike for work and shopping. Driers use too much electricity. Over-consumption of gas will destroy the environment.

We are bombarded with environmental concerns. How does the ordinary Christian decide how to conduct his/her life in the midst of such dire warnings?

Thirty years ago Doris Longacre wrote *Living More with Less*, a book designed to help us to get more joy out of life while using less of the earth's resources.

Weaver-Zercher, supported by MCC, has written a very readable review and update of the book using

current research with lots of ideas about how folks like you and I can live joyfully while living with less. You will be challenged and instructed.

Buy a copy for your own home and one for a friend.

Herald Press, 490 Dutton Drive,
Unit A2, Waterloo, ON N2L
6H7 Ph. 519/747-5722

-- Read and recommended by
Erma Sider.

Prayer is the turning away from ourselves to God in the confidence that He will provide the help we need. Prayer humbles us as needy, and exalts God as wealthy. -- John Piper

Do you see what is going on here? When we respond to God's love invitation, we are satisfied - and God is glorified! Our neediness exalts His provision. Our weaknesses give attention to His power. Our inadequacies highlight His sufficiency. When we are weak, then He shows Himself to be strong. We say along with King David,

*"My soul finds rest in God alone;
my salvation comes from him.
He alone is my Rock
and my salvation;
He is my fortress, I
will never be shaken."
Psalm 62:1-2*

*...helplessness is the very essence of prayer.
-- Ole Hallesby*

This is a life-changing text. It orients our soul's confidence around God and "God alone." But these words stretch us because we look for rest and rock (security) and salvation (deliverance) from so many other things. We're well practiced at seeking to have our needs met through relationships, our work, and all sorts of pleasures our culture offers.

But, we ask, aren't these things gifts from God as well? Can't God use them to soothe our souls? The answer is "yes", He can. But, before we go run to turn our TV on, check the Dow average, and expect our spouse to meet our every desire, we need to ask ourselves

some hard questions - questions like: To whom (or what) do I turn for rest *first*? And To whom do I *ultimately* turn? Yes, God may use sunsets and music and a loving embrace to meet our needs, but these things can never be the ultimate source of our satisfaction.

These earthly blessings must be seen as gifts *from* Him, not substitutes *for* Him. One way we know if we are seeing them as gifts and not substitutes is to see what happens to our hearts if they're gone. Was it to God that we were *really* coming for help - or to the gifts?

-- Fred Miller



Come to Home Church and spend time asking questions and studying together, caring for one another's needs and encouraging each other to live out the teachings of Jesus.

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*Check the bulletin board or online to find a home church near you.*

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. -- Colossians 3:1 NLT

**If** you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. The Apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman Empire, the great men who built up the Middle Ages, the English Evangelicals who abolished the Slave Trade, all left their mark on Earth, precisely because their minds were occupied with Heaven.

It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth 'thrown in': aim at earth and you will get neither."

-- C.S. Lewis

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