



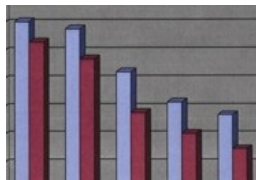
# the beacon



## Sickle anyone? - A few thoughts from Steve Authier

There are moments in history that are clearly hinge points, times where there's a transition from one era to the next. As we move forward into the second decade of the twenty first century some things are becoming very clear for Jesus Christ's church—it's changing. I'm not talking about small changes. I'm talking about cosmic shifts. There was a time when the Christian church held a great deal of influence in western culture, when it was able to draw people to it by its sheer size and role in society. It lost its significant influence in Europe in the late nineteenth century through to mid twentieth century. Today Europe is solidly entrenched as a secular society, and North America is quickly following this trend.

We could easily look at the church attendance trends over the past 50 years and say that the church in North America is on life support, if we're looking at numerical growth. There are various ways of measuring church attendance. Different methods



report numbers that range anywhere from 30% to 60% fewer people going to church today than there was in 1970. Not only has the

number of people going to church declined, it has also significantly declined as a percentage of the population because while the downward attendance

trend has taken place the population of North America has gone up by 50%, so without doubt fewer and fewer people are going to church. The situation is no different in the greater GTA, or more specifically in the area around Heise Hill. My point is not to warn about the decline in church attendance, because that's old news to say the least, but merely to state the obvious, and to say that these are exciting times.

I know what you're probably thinking. "What can Steve possibly think is exciting about the fact that fewer people are going to church and that the church is on life support?" I



say this primarily for two reasons: one, I love a challenge; two, I know that Jesus Christ is victorious in the end—I know how the story ends. I love history and there are times when I read about church history and think about how exciting those times were for the church in such and such an era.

For example, the shift in the 1950's within the Brethren in Christ that transformed them from a very legalistic and rigid church to one that intentionally wanted to respond to the Holy Spirit's moving; more on this at some other time. My point is that we often look at the past and long to have been part of the excitement of those times, those so called *Golden Years*.

We're living in exciting times today because we sit in the middle of a transition from the modern era into the postmodern world that is

We live in a world that needs to hear and experience the message of Jesus Christ.

... continued on page 2

## Sickle anyone? - A few thoughts from Steve Authier (... continued from page 1)

ripe for the courageous and Spirit filled follower of Jesus Christ. Sure, we live in a world where the church no longer seems relevant to much of our population, and sure we live in a world where Christianity has lost much of its credibility because of its behaviour, things like not playing a vital and leading role in the battle against AIDS, not leading the call to being good stewards of the earth, the seemingly endless cases of sexual abuse and cover-ups, and intolerant things like burning Korans. However, we also live in a world that needs to hear and experience the message of Jesus Christ. Do we simply walk away because the challenge ahead of us seems insurmountable?

Yes, it's true that there's been a significant shift in the church's influence on the world, or more precisely I should say lack of influence. However, that shouldn't stop us; it should encourage us to



engage. Jesus says in Matthew 9:37-38 that *the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few*. If ever there was a time that is like the one where Jesus

uttered those words it's now. The religious Jewish culture of the first century church had lost its influence

to teach the heart of God. It was more interested in the legalism and rituals of its day, and many people were turning away.

We live in a me-centric world where people are too busy and there's just no time for God. They're turning to anything but God because they view the church as judgmental and intolerant, and for them it has become irrelevant to their lives. I read the newspaper every day and it always amazes me how little we hear about God. Sure, there's the occasional piece thrown in here and there, especially around Christmas and Easter, but generally you won't read about God anywhere else. We can read about famine, war in the Middle-East, AIDS, poverty, injustice, yet we'll hardly ever see a connection to God or a request to God about guidance on such issues. Apparently, there's no room for God. The quickest way for a journalist to lose credibility among the masses is to start talking like he's a believer—enough said, I digress—my point is that the harvest is plentiful.

Jesus tells us in *The Great Commission* to go out and make disciples, baptizing them and teaching them to do what he has commanded us (Matthew 28:16-20).

What a great opportunity we have here at Heise Hill. We are a community of believers sitting in the midst of a broken narcissistic



world, in the midst of a flock of lost sheep, in the midst of shepherdless people, in the

middle of a field waiting for a harvest.

What an honour it is for us to be alive at this point in history, in this geographical location. God must have a lot of confidence in Heise Hill to have graced us to survive as a church for 203 years. It was his decision to put each of us on this planet and in this church at this precise moment in history. The question for us is, will we rise up to the challenge or will we be scared

"And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"  
~ Esther 4:14

by it? Will we retreat into our comfortable Christian world, while it fades away, or will we go boldly and courageously into the field and do some harvesting?

~ Steve Authier

We have to recognize that the presence of pleasure and the absence of pain cannot be the supreme and over-riding end for which the world exists. Rather, this world must be a place for soul-making. And its value is to

be judged, not primarily by the quality of pleasure and pain occurring in it at any particular moment, but by its fitness for its primary purpose, the purpose of soul making.

~ John Hick

Learn to worship God as the God who does wonders, who wishes to prove in you that He can do something supernatural and divine.

~ Andrew Murray

# What is the Fear of the Lord?

Please don't think only of terror when you think of the fear of the Lord. The fear of the Lord, like the fear of people, includes a spectrum of attitudes. On one side, the fear of the Lord does indeed mean a terror of God (threat-fear). We are unclean people, and we appear before the almighty God who is morally pure. We are rightly ashamed before Him, and punishment would be completely just. Terror is our natural and appropriate response. Such fear shrinks back from God. It wants to avoid Him as much as possible.



No one is excluded from this

fear, Christians or non-Christians. For Christians whose eyes have been opened to God's great love, this fear is fading. For non-Christians such fear is ever-present. The reason you don't hear people talking about it is that it tends to come out in "free-floating anxiety," low self-esteem, and a host of other modern maladies that have lost sight of their God-ward roots. But this fear will not be camouflaged forever. The day is coming when everyone will bow before God in the fear of the Lord.

But this is only one end of the fear of the Lord. At the other end of the spectrum is a fear reserved

exclusively for those who have put their faith in Jesus Christ. This fear of the Lord means reverent submission that leads to obedience, and it is interchangeable with "worship," "rely on," "trust," and "hope in." Like terror, it includes a knowledge of our sinfulness and God's moral purity, and it includes a clear-eyed knowledge of God's justice and His anger against sin. But this worship-fear also knows God's great forgiveness, mercy, and love. It knows that because of God's eternal plan, Jesus humbled himself by dying on a cross to redeem His enemies from slavery and death. It knows that, in our relationship with God, He always says "I love you" first. This knowledge draws us closer to God rather than causing us to flee. It causes us to submit gladly to His lordship and delight in obedience. This kind of robust fear is the pinnacle of our response to God.



~ Edward T. Welch

## May 2011

### Birthdays

- 01 ~ Kathleen Empringham
- 10 ~ Marla Maahs
- 10 ~ Matt Maahs
- 10 ~ Emily Wright
- 15 ~ Laci Wideman
- 18 ~ Jim Wideman
- 22 ~ Glenda Mercer
- 24 ~ Ken Brooks
- 24 ~ Marjorie Heise
- 24 ~ Don Wideman
- 28 ~ Braydon Pettifer
- 29 ~ Ruth Steckley



### Anniversaries

- 02 ~ Ken & Laurie Brooks
- 02 ~ Peter & Lynda Kentie
- 04 ~ Bruce & Mina VanderBent
- 11 ~ Steve & Cara Watson
- 12 ~ Rick & Joan Quinn
- 22 ~ Dave & Beth Foster
- 24 ~ Harold & Dorothy Wideman



### Roofing Day

May 14

We are looking for volunteers to help with redoing the asphalt roof on the church shed.

Please contact Steve if you can serve in this way.

## HOPE 55+ Monday, May 30th



HOPE 55+ welcomes Harry Nigh to our May 30 noon meal.

Harry works with MCC/Corrections Canada in assisting those released from our penal system to make adjustments into society.

It is very important to pre-register with Margaret 905.640.3522 by May 24 to enable us to purchase the right number of quiche and pie & ice cream for dessert.

MAY 2011		
1	10:00 am 10:30 am noon	Time of prayer for Heise Hill Worship Service ~ Licence to Sin #1 Soup Lunch Fundraiser—AIDS Kits
2-5		BIC Core Course here at HH
2	7:00 pm	Home Church Leaders Training
6	6:30 pm	Gospel Tide Dinner
8	10:00 am 10:30 am	Time of prayer for Heise Hill Worship Service ~ Licence to Sin #2
14	8:00 am	Roofing Day at HH
15	10:00 am 10:30 am	Time of prayer for Heise Hill Worship Service ~ Licence to Sin #3
16	7:30 pm	Church Board Meeting
20-22		HHYouth ~ Pitch 'n' Praise
22	10:00 am 10:30 am	Time of prayer for Heise Hill Worship Service ~ Licence to Sin #4
29	10:00 am 10:30 am	Time of prayer for Heise Hill Worship Service ~ Licence to Sin #5
30	Noon	HOPE 55+ Seniors Luncheon
SAVE THESE DATES		
June 4, Saturday		Pie Auction
August 6, Wednesday		BICWM Missionary Paul Kiss joining us for HH Summer Home Church
August 19, Friday		Urban Promise End of Summer Celebration

MOM

Happy  
Mothers  
Day

She is clothed with strength and dignity;  
she can laugh at the days to come.

She speaks with wisdom,  
and faithful instruction is on her tongue.



Proverbs 31: 25-26

## It is good

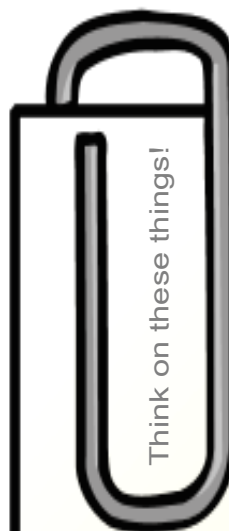
Holiness doesn't just deal with my spiritual life; it very much deals with my physical life as well.

It is good for God's people to be put in a place of longing so they feel a slight desperation. Only then can we be empty enough and open enough to discover the holiness we were made for. When we are stuffed full of other things and never allow ourselves to be in a place of longing, we don't recognize the deeper spiritual battle going on.

Satan wants to keep us distracted by chasing one temporary filling after another. God wants us to step back and let the emptying process have its way until we start desiring a holier approach to life. The gap between our frail discipline and God's available strength is bridged with nothing but a simple choice on our part to pursue this holiness.

~ Lysa Terkeurst

"To me the greatest privilege in all the world would be perfect holiness. If I had my choice of all the blessings I can conceive of, I would choose perfect conformity to the Lord Jesus, or, in one word, holiness."  
 - Charles Spurgeon



### **Humble yourself:**

"But He gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. ~ James 4:6

### **Love God:**

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ~ Deuteronomy 6:5

### **Love others:**

The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ~ Galatians 5:14

### **Rejoice in trials:**

Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character, and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us. ~ Romans 5:3-5

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ~ James 1:2-4



### A Heise Hill Core Value

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.

## Mark your calendar for Urban Promise at Heise Hill's End of Summer Celebration - August 19<sup>th</sup>



at  
Heise Hill's End of Summer Celebration



Last year's day in park with the kids from Urban Promise was such a great hit that we're going to be repeating it so make sure that you'll be around to be part of that day.

It's worth booking the day off work and having you being part of this great day. The day will run from about 9 AM to 3 PM and there'll be lots of opportunities for us as church community to serve the kids and the leaders from Urban Promise's summer camp.

Let Christ's love for you and your love for Christ --- COMPEL you! ~ Steve's "Compelled" sermon



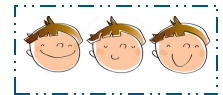
### The Chronicles of Kahquah

~ Camp Kahquah's  
50th celebration book ~

may still be purchased for \$25.00 from Harvey Sider. Sales have been brisk, but Harvey has an extra 5 copies he can make available on a first come basis.

*Camp Kahquah exists to evangelize and spiritually nurture people of all ages. . .*

## KIDZ WORSHIP



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

The virtue: **Forgiveness**

~ Deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay.

*(Bottom Line* Since God forgives you, you should forgive others.)



Memory Verse: Forgive the things you are holding against one another. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you." ~ Colossians 3:13



Wednesday, August 6



Paul Kiss will be speaking at Heise Hill about his ministry to Muslims — helping them see that Jesus Christ is indeed the “right path” to God.

## Pathway

Shining light  
in the pathway to Jesus.

## Homes for Haiti !



In April Hilltop Vocal Band participated in a concert to raise funds to provide homes for people in Haiti.

Through their ministry 3 Haitian families will be blessed with new homes to call their own ~ safe, secure and comfortable homes! Over \$20,000. was raised.

Thank you Dale & Cathy Wideman, Dave Foster and Judy Steckley for helping change lives in Haiti.

## We Shall See God

Consider this statement: “God himself will be with them” (Rev. 21:3) Why does it emphatically say *God himself*? Because God won’t merely send us a delegate. He will actually come to live among us on the New Earth. As Steven J. Lawson explains, “God’s glory will fill and permeate the entire new Heaven, not just one centralized place. Thus, wherever we go in Heaven, we will be in the immediate presence of the full glory of God.



Wherever we go, we will enjoy the complete manifestation of God’s presence. Throughout all eternity, we will never be separated from direct, unhindered fellowship with God.”

God’s glory will be the air we breathe, and we’ll always breathe deeper to gain more of it. In the

new universe, we’ll never be able to travel far enough to leave God’s presence. If we could, we’d never want to. However great the wonders of Heaven, God himself is Heaven’s greatest prize. Father Boudreau writes, “The beatitude of Heaven consists essentially in the vision, love, and enjoyment of God himself.”



In Heaven, we’ll at last be freed of self-righteousness and self-deceit. We’ll no longer question God’s goodness; we’ll see it, savor it, enjoy it, and declare it to our companions. Surely, we will wonder how we ever could have doubted his goodness. For then our faith will be sight—*we shall see God.*

~ Randy Alcorn

Wherever God puts you He has a purpose. ~ Elizabeth George

Remain in me, and I will remain in you. A branch cannot produce fruit alone but must remain in the vine. ~ John 15:4

God wants to be as close to us as a branch is to a vine. The branch isn’t connected only at the moment of bearing fruit. The gardener doesn’t keep the branches in a box and then, on the day he wants grapes, glue them to the vine. No, the branch constantly draws nutrition from the vine. This is the intimacy he desires. ~ Max Lucado

**HELP**  
**Fill the Box**  
*Heise Hill Cares*  
 Weekly Food Collection  
**Thank you!**



heisehillchurch  
LIVES CHANGED HERE

In partnership with  
UAC'S MASTER'S PANTRY

### Ministry Staff:

Steve Authier (Senior Pastor) [steveauthier@heisehill.org](mailto:steveauthier@heisehill.org)  
Harvey Sider (Assoc. for Seniors) [hesider@gmail.com](mailto:hesider@gmail.com)  
Christie Boake (Youth Director) [christie\\_boake@hotmail.com](mailto:christie_boake@hotmail.com)  
Roxanne Sheridan (Worship Director) [roxanne.f@sympatico.ca](mailto:roxanne.f@sympatico.ca)

### Contact Info:

11760 Woodbine Ave., P.O. Box 190,  
Gormley, ON L0H 1G0  
Phone: 905-887-5489  
[admin@heisehill.org](mailto:admin@heisehill.org)

[www.heisehill.org](http://www.heisehill.org) \* [www.heisehill.org](http://www.heisehill.org) \* [www.heisehill.org](http://www.heisehill.org)