



the beacon



Build it and they will come? - A Few Thoughts from Steve Authier

For the longest time one of my favourite movies was *Field of Dreams*. I'm not sure how many times I've seen it. I'd guess that it's a minimum of at least a half dozen times. In it Kevin Costner plays a farmer who hears a voice telling him



to build a baseball diamond in his cornfield. At a certain point he actually hears

the voice saying "build it and they will come". So he does. He builds it, and they end up coming, thousands of people come to see and play in this field in the middle of nowhere, Iowa.

I bring up this story because the history of the church has had the same mentality for years, for centuries even; though I must say that this mentality has become much more pervasive in today's Christian culture. Yes, I'll admit that the concept of big churches has been around since Constantine in the fourth century, yet it's only in the past twenty five to thirty years that the mega church concept that fits 10,000, 15,000 or even up to 25,000 has

come to be. We're actually building churches that are as big as hockey arenas. Christians walk away from their small local church communities in droves to attend these churches. George Barna's research and the mega churches own data shows that much of the growth in these mega churches is indeed merely transfers from smaller churches. We're building it, and they're coming. The problem is that it's not real growth.

I mention all this because I want to highlight that as a North American church we have become driven by making the Sunday morning service, or the Saturday or Sunday evening service the core of what it means to be a Christian. It seems like the whole Jesus thing comes down to what your Sunday experience is like. The main objective seems to have become making

our services attractive to people—so that, of course, we can attract them. It seems like it's more about being an attractational church than anything else. It's not just about being attractational so that we might gain some new people into God's

kingdom. It's about being attractational so that we can keep our own people, so that we can provide them with a *good service* and *great programs* so that they can be *fed*. Otherwise, if you don't *feed* them, they won't stay—let alone come.

"...but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD.
~ Jeremiah 9:24

At which point in church history did being a Christian become all about the Sunday service? At which point did the focus move away from simply living for God by serving the poor, seeking justice, and merely being faithful to the work God was calling us to? At which point did being a Christian become all about mainly connecting with God on Sunday morning? At which point did being a Christian become about being *fed* and not mainly about serving others.

Don't get me wrong. I don't want to imply for one moment that

... continued on page 2



Build it and they will come? - A Few Thoughts from Steve Authier (cont'd from page 1)

we should not have Sunday services, or that we can't worship together, or that we can't put in a good effort to make Sunday services or our buildings appealing, or a certain size. I'm merely pointing out that it's become the main driver in church culture. The focus is all about Sunday morning and not about what God is doing in the world, or more specifically what he's *trying* to do through us.

I recently came across a saying for a church sign that epitomizes this issue. It reads: *We're no Dairy Queen but our Sundays are Amazing.* I don't doubt for one moment that the intent of the author of the sign is good, and that this person likely has a love for God and probably only really wants to bring more people to God's kingdom, to attract them to their Sunday service. The reason that I claim it epitomizes this issue is because of the basic fact that this person felt inspired by the attractional church culture they live in to write such a line, rather than write something like *We're no Dairy Queen but we're always here to serve*—my version is not so amazing, or "sexy" as the marketing term would say, is it—that's the problem.

It's not any single event or person that crystalized Christianity around this obsession with Sunday services. It's a long history of walking away from what God is truly calling his church to do. This didn't just happen overnight. We've lost

isGodcalling?

sight of what God's kingdom is about over a long period of time. We've become obsessed with thinking that God's kingdom is about Sunday morning—it's not!

Many of us have had the experience at the optometrist's office of sitting through the lens-flipping exercise to determine the right prescription for our glasses. With a single lens change objects that were blurry or even unseen become visible and clear. The lens change didn't create the letters. They were there all along. Nor did the new lens eliminate anything already seen. The correct lens merely opens up a richer field of vision.

Similarly, once we flip over to kingdom lenses and see what the



Holy Spirit is calling us to we see that being a follower of Jesus is about much more than just Sundays.

Sundays don't go away. We merely see them as what they are, and they're not the be all and end all that we've made them out to be. They're merely one of many resources we have to help us on our journey. We might even make a strong argument for the fact that they're only a small part in the bigger kingdom picture. If all we do is come to church on Sundays, and maybe even Home Church during the week, but yet we don't live like this kingdom stuff is real at every moment of our lives, then we're really missing the point of what God's calling us to.

In a recent sermon Bruxy talked about the fact that our lives should be the first piece of evidence to the unchurched that this whole Jesus thing is real—that by our lives people can see that knowing Jesus makes a difference, and by our lives we're not talking about the fact that we go to church on Sundays. The voice in *Field of Dreams* said that *If we build it they will come.* The Holy Spirit's voice has been telling us that *If we live it they will come.* We're all invited by God to submit our lives to him, and not just on Sundays.

Blessings, Steve

Every day—and throughout the day—we have a choice. Will we accommodate the flesh, or will we draw near to God in full dependence on His power to keep us?

If we take this second option,

- we will find that our words and actions will be different.
- We will crave times of meditating on the Word of God, seeking a closer relationship with Him.
- We will sense urgings to serve others and help them in their spiritual battles. These will not feel like obligations but instead like opportunities.

The source of these positive, holy cravings is not us. Rather, it is a case of "God who works in you to will and act in order to fulfill His good purpose." - Philippians 2:13

~ Jim Cymbala

September Birthdays

04 ~ Kevin Todd
04 ~ Les Wride
15 ~ Emma Watson
17 ~ Elda Ruegg
19 ~ Larry Hogg
28 ~ Dale Rennie
28 ~ Scott Russell



September Anniversaries

19 ~ Scott & Susan Russell
24 ~ Ron & Kathleen Empringham

YELLA 2012

A MIDDLE EASTERN LEARNING TOUR FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Are You:

Between the ages of 18 and 25?
Interested in Israel and Palestine?

Join Yella for a life changing learning experience!

May 6 to May 29, 2012

Goals:

- Interact with Christians, Jews and Muslims
- Encounter complex peace and conflict issues
- Consider the context for Jesus' life and ministry

Interested?

Visit: ontario.mcc.org/yella

Cost:

Approximately \$3,500. (A portion of these costs will be covered by group fundraising.)



An Opportunity to Share



Gently used winter coats, boots, hats and scarves are needed for our next Giveaway in Kin Village in late September.

If you can share in this ministry, please leave your gift beside the "Fill the Box" box by September 18th.

Also, furniture is needed: A love seat is needed for Kin Village. If you can help with this please call Glenda at 905-888-1026. Thanks!



COME AND EXPERIENCE HOME CHURCH

Home Churches are places where we spend time together in groups of 7 to 14 people—studying the Bible together, asking questions, encouraging each other to live what we are hearing and discussing, and caring for one another.

Every Home Church is open to new people coming to them and we will add new groups as needed. A Home Church typically lasts two hours from beginning to end, including a short social time.

See the bulletin board for locations. The Fall Home Churches will begin in the first few weeks of September.

Consider yourself invited!



September
11, 18, 25

Live Sermon Series coming...
THY KINGDOM COME

This series takes a hard look at the core teaching of Jesus Christ which boldly claims that the kingdom of God has arrived. Too often we lose sight of that fact and we merely live waiting for what is to come.

How can we live our lives like we indeed are part of God's

kingdom? This is a pivotal series as Heise Hill moves forward in its desire to follow the Holy Spirit's leading.

We encourage you to do all that you can to be present for these messages.

HOPE 55+ Seniors Luncheon



Making known the gifts of people with intellectual disabilities.

Monday, September 26 following a delicious 12:00 lunch, we will learn about and appreciate the ministry of L'Arche Group Homes in Richmond Hill.

This network, begun by Jean Vanier, is a ministry of compassion to handicapped and has spread across Canada and around the world.

Invite your friends to come to Heise Hill for this 2 hours (12:00 - 2:00) of food and fellowship.

We **MUST** have your reservations by September 22 to order food appropriately. Please phone Margaret at 905.640.3522.

A Core Value of Heise Hill

We are committed to being compelling examples of Jesus' love.



As followers of Christ we strive to live authentic lives with integrity and transparency so that others may see Jesus in us.

Three Kinds of Questions . . . (from "The Power of Questions" Bruxy Cavey's "Say What? Series)

Level 1:

Questions that help you learn about the other person's beliefs. You are asking for clarification of their beliefs.

e.g., What do you mean by that? Tell me more.



What?

Level 2:

Questions that help the other person discover/express their reasons. You are asking for reasons for their beliefs.

e.g., How did you come to that conclusion? What led you to that belief?

Why?

Level 3:

Questions that help you communicate your own beliefs. You are asking for their cooperation in examining your beliefs.

e.g., Have you ever considered ...? Do you think it might be possible that ...? Can you help me figure something out?



Sometimes in my feeble attempt to manufacture a compassionate heart, I replace the genuine article with gushy sentimentalism & insincerity.

In an effort to discover what I was missing, I looked up the word *compassion* in a concordance. There were no less than 120 references, and I read each verse in which the word appears. In the Old Testament, the picture emerges again and again of a compassionate father-figure, a God whose

"compassions never fail." In the New Testament, this same compassion seemed to be what motivated Jesus to stop, to listen, to touch, and to heal—over and over again.

As I wrestled with how to appropriate God's compassion and follow Christ's example, I happened upon 1 John 3:17-18:

"If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."

Wrapped up in these verses are the ingredients that mark genuine kindness and compassion: A readiness to share, an ability to recognize needs, a sympathetic heart, an openness to God's love, and a willingness to take action on behalf of others. These are the characteristics that marked Jesus' ministry on earth, and they are the ones I pray will mark our lives.

~ Jodie Berndt

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness . . .
~ Colossians 3:12

September 2011

4	10:00 am 10:30 am	Time of prayer for Heise Hill Worship Service ~ Say What? #8 Conclusion
11	10:00 am 10:30 am	Time of prayer for Heise Hill Worship Service ~ "Thy Kingdom Come" #1 ~ Steve Authier
11-17		Home Churches start up for the Fall
12	7:30 pm	Church Board Meeting
18	10:00 am 10:30 am	Time of prayer for Heise Hill Worship Service ~ "Thy Kingdom Come" #2 ~ Steve Authier
25	10:00 am 10:30 am	Time of prayer for Heise Hill Worship Service ~ "Thy Kingdom Come" #3 ~ Steve Authier
26	Noon	HOPE 55+ Seniors Luncheon ~ with L'Arche Group Homes

Heise Hill History



After the revival that began in 1876 it was

necessary to have a larger place to worship. A lot was purchased to the south of the cemetery which had been in use for almost 70 years on the Christian Heise farm. In 1877 a 40' by 60' brick church was built. Most of the building was done by David and John Byer though others helped as they were able. At that time and until 1896 the church was called "The Markham Meeting House." Though the name of the church was changed in 1896 to "Heise Hill Church" the church building itself was not changed for 50 years.

By this time most people had cars, so the stands that had been built for people to get in and out of their rigs were removed as well as the veranda. These were replaced with lobbies that were built over the entrance doors by D. W. Heise.

~ from "100 Years at Heise Hill"

Repair the Church Campaign

\$ 35,000.

\$ 30,000.

\$ 20,000.

we are here

\$ 10,000.

\$ 0

Thank you!

HELP
Fill the Box
Heise Hill Cares
Weekly Food Collection

Your donations are so much appreciated and they help many families. These are our current needs. Sugar (2.5 kg bag), Flour (2.5 kg bag), Cookies, Cereal, Large Canned Fruit, Sanitary Napkins, Shampoo, Canned Soups, Dried Pasta (specifically Spaghetti), Chunky soups

Christie Boake You Rocked!

Some of you might not recall that Christie's time with us ended at the end of August. She heads off to Redeemer University College in Hamilton.

Christie we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the dedication and effort you put into working with our youth. The *Heise Hill Urban Promise End of Summer Celebration Day* was a great way to cap off your time serving with us.

You did an absolutely great job organizing that wonderful day. Your love for Jesus and your willingness to give of yourself is an inspiration to all of us.

We wish you the best as you head off to school. May you know God's peace and love, and always know how much we love you.





Give a Gift to Your Marriage

Mennonite & Brethren **Marriage Encounter** Weekend
October 28-30 at Jericho House in Wainfleet.

Time: 7:30 pm Friday to 5:30 pm Sunday

Cost: \$50.00 application fee plus an offering received Sunday afternoon.

*Every married couple is welcome to an encounter. No one will ever be refused for lack of funds.

Visit www.marriageencounterrec.com for info and an application form.

If you have any questions or would like more details about what the weekend is like please speak to Kevin & Lynn Todd. They have attended and benefited from a Marriage Encounter weekend in the past.

It's a gift that keeps on giving!

Info for keeping in touch

Michael Hogg in Indonesia

michael.hogg@live.ca

Ellen Reesor in Brazil

ellen_reesor@hotmail.com



Continue to pray for their ministry with MCC, their well being and their spiritual commitment to God's kingdom as they serve away from home.

If you don't have access to email you can leave a note for Jenn Blair in the church mailbox and she'll scan it and pass it on to them.



THANK YOU to all who had a part in the Urban Promise Celebration on August 19th - - - all the volunteers, people who donated toys, gifts, money, and people who prayed. We really felt God's presence there with each UP kid, UP volunteers and the Heise Hillers. It was an amazing day and we look forward to another great day next year.

Save this date:

Saturday, October 22

Lazarus Rising will be having their
Fall Celebration & Fundraising
Dinner at Heise Hill ~ 6 to 9 pm.

LAZARUS
RISING



**Mennonite
Central
Committee**
Ontario

For we are God's workmanship,
(the works of God as Creator)

created in Christ Jesus
to do good works,
(excellent works)

which God prepared in advance
(in mind and purpose)

for us to do.
(be occupied with)

Ephesians 2:10
~ www.blueletterbible.org

...serve one another in love.

~ Galatians 5:13b

The entire law is summed
up in a single command:

"Love your neighbour
as yourself."

~ Galatians 5:14

Kahquah in the Fall



Fall Retreats at Camp Kahquah.

The four day retreats begin on September 9th and

continue each weekend until October 4th.

Northern fall colors, great food and a multitude of activities make for a wonderful experience.

For more information see the brochures in the foyer, the camp's website: campkahquah.com, call Nancy at the camp at 705-387-3923 or speak to Vi Williams our registrar at 905-834-5381.

KIDZ WORSHIP



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

The virtue: **Knowledge**

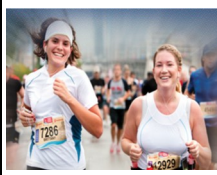
~ discovering something new so you can be better at what you do

(Bottom Line Since God knows everything, I should discover what God says.)



Memory Verse: And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

~ Luke 2:52 NIV



Heise Hill Runs for Urban Promise

Urban Promise is our compassion and mission focus. Consider how you can support UP on this October 16 — Run * Walk * Volunteer * Cheer



Relief . . . Development . . . Peace . . . In the Name of Christ

On Saturday, September 17th the Mennonite Central Committee is having their Relief Sale at Black Creek Pioneer Village from 10:00 - 4:00. Come for food and fun along with entertainment, learning, and much more. This is to support MCC's work of Relief, Development, and Peace in Ontario, in Canada, and in 60+ countries around the world. The quilt auction is at 12 noon. Location: 1000 Murray Ross Parkway (near Steeles and Jane)

CAMP KAHQUAH



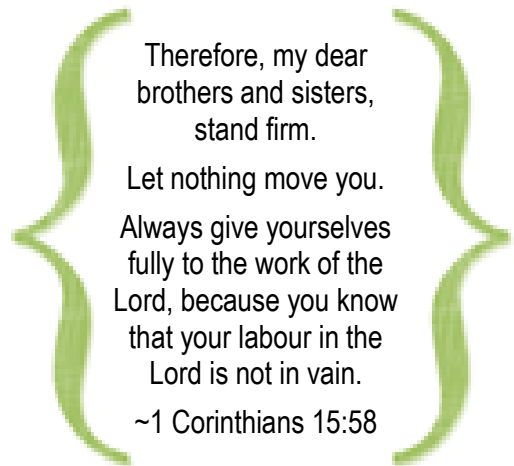
Christie Drew Kaleigh
Amber Krystle Tyler

WE'RE PROUD OF YOU!

This summer Christie Boake, Drew Hogg, Tyler Kwan, Kaleigh Todd, Krytle Todd, and Amber Wideman

served at Camp Kahquah in various roles serving the children and youth who spent a week or two at camp. They gave of themselves and served in Jesus' name.

We're proud of the sacrifices you made to be able to do so. May you continue to be a blessing to others as you have a great year at school.



Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm.

Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.

~1 Corinthians 15:58

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