



# HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Newsletter of Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 8 No. 3

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

March 2009

## OUR TIME IS SHORT

### From the Pastor's Desk

#### A Short Time

Psalm 39:4-6

Here we are and another month is already over, but didn't this month seem to slip by quicker than usual? Oh yeah, it's February! This year it was only 28 days long as opposed to last year's long drawn out 29 days. If you look at the calendar you can see that February 2009 was a nice neat compact four weeks with the first day starting on a Sunday and the twenty-eighth day ending on a Saturday.

Even though February is traditionally shorter than all other months of the year it still seemed to go by with lightning speed. The days may be getting longer, but the hopeful accomplishments of the day seem to fall short of allotted time. No question the older one gets the faster time seems to pass by and this with the knowledge that there is still sixty seconds in a minute, sixty minutes in an hour, and twenty-four hours in a day. Oh how time does seem to fly!

This past week I had the opportunity to overhear a few of the older guys at work talk about how the last twenty years seem to pass as quick as a snap of the fingers. These gentlemen are all above 55 years of age, and that decrepit age seemed to be so far away just ten years ago, but now it is closer than ever. What appeared to be something that would take an eternity to reach will come upon me within the next twenty years of my life. I once heard someone say that when you are older time passes quicker because there are fewer days behind than there are ahead. I know within a short time I will be one of those men standing in the corner sipping coffee and talking about how short time has been in life and how I wished I had done more with my allotted time. This little story reminds me of a couple of verses in Scripture that we should take to heart. In James 4:14 we are told "Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away." James was telling the readers to consider God in all plans for life, because unlike we who are finite in time and existence, God is infinite in time and existence. He was encouraging those who have ears to hear to place God at the forefront of decision making and to allow oneself to be led by God and His plans.

### Upcoming Events and Meetings

**Mar. 1, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper**

**Mar. 1, noon – Church Council**

Planning church activities and events for the next several months.

**Mar 7. Midnight – Turn Clocks Ahead 1 hour**

**Mar. 8, 7:30 a.m. – Men's First Prayer Breakfast**

The men share a meal, then discuss the book of Judges.

**Mar. 15, noon – Missions Dinner**

Enjoy a fine dinner and support missions too.

Hosted by the Christian Chicks.

**Mar. 29, 6:30 p.m. – Singspiration Night**

A time to sing hymns and songs to one another while praising the Lord. A quarterly event.

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I can't help but wonder if James was considering Psalm 39 when he wrote his letter to the Diaspora. I read this passage just last week in my Bible study. In verses 4-6 David says,

“Lord, make me to know my end  
And what is the extent of my days;  
Let me know how transient I am.  
Behold, You have made my days as handbreadths,  
And my lifetime as nothing in Your sight;  
Surely every man at his best is a mere breath.  
Selah.

Surely every man walks about as a phantom;  
Surely they make an uproar for nothing;  
He amasses riches and does not know who will  
gather them.”

In this passage David writes about how short time on this Earth really is. He uses words regarding his lifespan as transient, handbreadths, nothing, a mere breath, and a phantom. David understood that life on this planet is limited to a fixed, short time according to God's design and sovereignty.

We are not meant to live in this bodily state for eternity, but eventually we who are in Christ will know a glorified state.

We have only a short time to give unto our Lord and to

See A Short Time, p. 2

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others. It goes by quick and – before we know it – we will be like those guys standing in a circle talking about how time has slipped away.

When you think about it, you must ask yourself, “What can be done?” Actually nothing can be done regarding the passing of time and growing old. What can be done is how we live in the time we have. We only have one life to live and no, it shouldn’t be a soap opera. Our lives should be filled with joy and contentment in the Lord. Life should be filled with serving our Master and Savior Jesus Christ. We were given life so that we may glorify God and His majesty.

Let me encourage you to take time each day to point others to Christ. Take time each and every day to show others that the Holy Spirit resides in you. Make the most of every day for time is short here on this orb called Earth. Our Father who is in heaven is waiting for us at the end of our days to say “Well done good and faithful servant . . . enter into the joy of your master.” (Matt. 25:21) Those are the words we would indeed love to hear from our God and Father on the day we stand before him after we have lived but a short time this side of heaven and eternity.

May your heart find fulfillment in serving him. May God’s grace fall upon you. May you know the joy of the Lord in your life and in all your days. May you bring joy to the Lord with your service and love in the short time you have to do so. God bless.

✠ Pastor Jim

## Christian Chicks

The Chicks are planning to host a missions dinner on March 15 at Noon to benefit the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Donations will be accepted at the dinner and donated entirely to missions. Watch the Sunday Bulletin for details.

✠ Shannon Greenly

## Men’s Breakfast

The guys will be meeting on Sunday March 8 at 7:30 a.m. at the church. We had talked about meeting at a restaurant on Saturday but it didn’t look like all the guys could make it, we’re back to a Sunday schedule.

No matter since we always have a good time in the Lord together.

✠ Michael Frascinella

## Sunday School: Maintaining Spiritual Health

This month we will begin to study the books of Isaiah and Micah. The theme of this month is Maintaining Spiritual Health. We begin in the fifth chapter of Isaiah with the parable of the vineyard.

Isaiah is one of the most prophetic books in the entire Old Testament. There are many correlations between the main characters in this book and Our Lord Jesus Christ mentioned in the New Testament. This chapter deals with the judgment and righteousness of God towards the inhabitants of Judea. Hebrews 10:31 says, “it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

## Musical Chairs?

We are also changing the “look and feel” of our Sunday School class. We are gathering around the tables at the front of the sanctuary to better develop interpersonal relationships within our class. Additionally, I will be demonstrating the concepts and ideas we discuss on a brand new white board, and showing maps of the areas we are referring to.

We will be closing the doors to the sanctuary during class time to better facilitate learning with less distractions. If the doors are closed, please feel free to enter, but quietly.

I am quite excited to begin our next journey together through the Bible, as I hope all of you are. Please join us for an exciting adventure that we can all share in.

God bless and hope to see you there!

✠ Dale Greenley

## Property and Space Patrol

Snow plowing is now being provided by Chris LaValley of LaValley Farms in Hooksett. The driveway and parking lots have been plowed and sanded after each storm and we have had good access to the church. Oh what a relief!

✠ Pastor Al Page

## Why Give to Annie Armstrong?

What a joy it has been this past year to see all that God has done through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and Week of Prayer emphasis.

Some highlights of which we are grateful:

For the more than 60,000 short-term volunteers who came to serve in Appalachia

For the more than 5,000 estimated decisions made for Christ through the ministry of Southern Baptist volunteers

For the new churches that were started using volunteers including Iron City Church in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania

For the estimated 20,000 children who received school supplies this year thanks to Southern Baptists

For the tons of food donated to ministry centers across central Appalachia as a result of the Week of Prayer

For laypersons, like Lou Staples, of First Baptist Church, Matthews, NC, who, working with local associations and churches in the coalfields, brought in more than 50,000 blankets, Bibles, food, and a host of other needed items. They shared the message of Christ with all they assisted.

For the WMU and Ladies’ Groups from Alaska to Florida and from Maine to California that have collected new coats, made children’s clothes, sent toys, and participated in various other ministry projects to assist the ministry centers

For those who have given above their gifts to the local church to assist with the purchase of food, diapers, and personal items distributed in Appalachia

For the new church buildings constructed or the older ones that were renovated by volunteers during 2007

See Annie Armstrong, p. 3

**Annie Armstrong (from p. 2)**

For the homes repaired, city parks reworked, and multiple evangelism projects completed

For the number of potential MSC missionaries who have started the process of serving in Appalachia following the AAEO emphasis

For the young people, who while on a mission trip to Appalachia answered the call to ministry and missions

With the Psalmist we say, "I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever" (Psalm 86:12 ESV)

Bill and Arlene Barker  
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**Poem from the Heart**

This is one of many poems that my grandmother wrote. She passed away in 2000 and loved the Lord with all her heart.

✠ Sandy Pouliot

**My Special Guest**

By Evelyn Bissonnette

Each day I have a special guest

Who at my house always stays

Through breakfast, lunch and dinner

Helping me to trust and obey.

He teaches me everything to do

To be pleasing in His ways.

We walk together hand in hand

What a joy I have today.

Sometimes I get discouraged,

Withdraw my hand in haste

But He keeps on reaching

Till I take my proper place.

His name is Jesus Christ the Lord

My ever faithful friend.

He's always there beside me

On His grace and mercy I always depend!

**Missionary News**

February 25, 2009

After settling into our new home in San Miguel de Allende, in Guanajuato, Mexico, we have been going to the town of Dolores Hidalgo (north of San Miguel about 30 minutes) to get to know the town and make contacts there. Pray for us as we develop relationships with those around us. May our lives be a testimony of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Mark spent 4 days in Durango visiting the brothers and the work. We are excited that even in the midst of violence and persecution (the drug wars) the work is growing. We plan on taking leaders from Durango and Guanajuato to the IMB-

sponsored mobilization conference in Guatemala in April. Pray for our Fraternity of Churches in Durango.

A team with Mission Mobilization International worked here this past week. They do tactical training, working with military, police, fire fighters, and are involved in disaster relief. All of the team members have extensive law enforcement experience and have a passion for sharing Jesus Christ.

Along with the training, the Gospel and other topics were presented, including police ethics. We praise God that 150 of the officers prayed to receive Christ. All were given New Testaments or Gospels of John.

Mark had the opportunity to assist with the training exercises and get to know the officers. Pray with us as we decide how we can do follow-up for discipleship and use the relationships established in our church-planting efforts.

Mark and Pam Best and Family

Acts Alive Team

International Mission Board, SBC

marknpam@gmail.com

**Birthdays and Anniversaries**

This month, Hillside wishes a happy, happy, happy birthday to the following people for orbiting the sun one more time:

3/2 Natalie Carleton

3/13 Robyn King

3/20 Steven Sousa

3/28 Jamie Morgan

3/29 Abbey Lafa

3/30 Amanda Robertson

Hillside laments that we have no anniversaries this month. Somebody go and get married!

**Prayer Requests**

If you need us to pray for you—whether it be for a physical, spiritual, financial, marital, or other need – contact Pastor Jim, Pastor Al, Dale Greenley, or Michael Frascinella and they will get the word out to the membership.

It will be our duty and privilege to lift you up in prayer to Jesus our Lord.

**On the Web**

Go to the Hillside web site <http://www.hillsidebaptistnh.org/> for more information about our fellowship, including this newsletter in PDF format.

**Next Issue**

Deadline is Mar. 24. Send news items to News Wrangler Michael Frascinella, mfrascinella at comcast dot net.

Hillside Baptist Church is a member of the New Hampshire Baptist Association, part of the Southern Baptist Convention.



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*Modeling the truth of God's Word*

