



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Newsletter of Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

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Modeling the Truth of God's Word

May 2009

JOHN BUNYAN: A LEGACY OF SERVING

From the Pastor's Desk

Proverbs 22:1-4

The past few weeks I have mentioned in my sermons that I have been reading a biography of John Bunyan. "A Pilgrim Who Made Progress" is a book put out by Good News Publishers and written and compiled by William Deal. I finished the book today and immediately felt the impact of this simple yet profound biography.

John Bunyan was a humble man of humble beginnings. He spent his early life in sin and rebellion against God and God's calling on his life. It wasn't till after he married his first wife, Mary, that he finally knelt in heart and soul to Christ for salvation.

His start in ministry was simple and productive. He helped out the pastor of his church the best he could and continued to work in his shop as a tinker. Soon he began to preach and that brought some attention to him. He was known as a man who had command of God's word even though he was unlearned. Soon afterward, his preaching became a normal part of his life he began to write about the Christian life and the impact Christ should have on that life.

It was only a short time into his ministry that his wife died of a fever and he was left a widower with four children, the oldest being blind. For a year he did nothing more than just work in his shop, but God had other plans for him. He brought Elizabeth into his life and she would marry him a year after his wife's death. She encouraged him to continue to write and preach. So he found renewed strength in serving the Lord and did just that.

Soon after that England passed a law that all unlicensed preachers who were not recognized by the government-run Anglican Church were to be imprisoned for disobeying the law. Bunyan, being a man of simple means and no formal education, was not licensed and thus he was quickly thrown in prison. From there he began to write a prolific amount of books that he would not have otherwise accomplished. He spent twelve years in prison. He was given a short reprieve only during the great plague on England and then had to go back to jail when the edict fell for all prisoners of religious crimes to return to jail. Bunyan willingly went back and continued to write. All the while his second wife, Elizabeth, was recopying his books and sending them off to

Upcoming Events and Meetings

No Christian Chicks this month

May 3 – Lord's Supper Sunday

May 7 – National Day of Prayer

May 10 – Mothers' Day

Thank your Mom for all she has done for you, and thank God for your Mom.

May 10 – Baby Bottle Fund Drive starts

Get your bottle at the church.

May 16, 9 a.m. – Spring Clean Up Day

Rain Date: May 23, 9 a.m.

May 17, Noon – Business Meeting

Preceded by a Baptist Potluck Dinner.

May 25 – Memorial Day

Remember those who served in the U.S. armed forces and made the ultimate sacrifice. Traditional day: May 30.

London on his behalf. God provided an income for the family through his writings and they would make it.

It wasn't till later on in his life and during his second imprisonment that he put pen to paper to produce his most acclaimed writing "The Pilgrim's Progress." Some experts in literature consider it to be one of the greatest English writings of 17th century. Some might argue that it is the best ever. This children's story put into a novel form was an instant success due in part to his ever increasing popularity among those who came to know the Lord through his writings.

Soon after that book's release, he too was released. He continued to minister to those around him and he became the pastor of the Meeter's church in Bedford. His ministry was far and wide. It reached London and his writings reached the new world America.

He soon became ill and he died in 1688 in London with his wife by his side. He was only sixty years of age and he put out sixty books during his lifetime. The preacher that resided over his funeral commented that it stood for one book for each year of his life. Both rich people and commoners alike attended his service.

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On the web at <http://www.hillsidebaptistnh.org>

Pastor's Message (from p. 1)

Bunyan was a man who by all definitions of the word was a star. His friends and family loved him; his enemy feared his writings and respected him. John Bunyan was a man who would not be swayed by popular opinion nor by royal decrees. He was a true saint in our Christian heritage.

As I finished this book today I could not help but feel a profound sadness of such a loss. But our loss was his gain for he was finally home. When I closed the book it felt as if I had lost friend and colleague in the Lord. His story touched my life and made me evaluate my own walk with the Lord. Even after it has been more than 300 years since his passing, his work still impacts those who are willing to take the time to listen to what he wrote and how he lived.

When I think of his life I am reminded of several passages in Scripture. The one I chose to accompany this article is found in Proverbs 22:1-4. "A good name is to be more desired than great wealth, favor is better than silver and gold. The rich and poor have a common bond, the Lord is the maker of them all. The prudent sees the evil and hides himself, But the naïve go on, and are punished for it. The reward of humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, honor, and life."

John Bunyan was a man who was known as humble. He did not seek fame, fortune, or notoriety. He did not elevate himself, but instead he elevated his Lord. The number of people who came to know the Lord under his ministry was countless. Two to mention are those who were his jailers. They were both led to Christ through the constant witness and preaching they allowed him to continue *in the prison*. John Bunyan's name is indeed good. His legacy will be remembered for all time. And like the last verse says about the one who is humble and fears the Lord, such a person will have riches, honor, and life. Indeed John Bunyan has all three for he is with Christ for all eternity.

What kind of name are you leaving? What kind of legacy will be left behind? My hope and prayer is that you too are leaving a legacy of Christianity and service behind you. That you are doing all you can for the Lord. Unlike Bunyan we probably won't have to go to prison for twelve years, but would you if you had to? We cannot control the time of our passing from this world to the next, but we can control how we live it while we are still here.

Let me encourage you to live for your Savior and Lord. The Bible tells us to let us first seek His Kingdom and His Righteousness and all other things will be added unto us. If you are busy doing His work, then His name will be glorified. We may never carry such a great name as John Bunyan in Christian circles, but that is not why we serve our Savior. We serve Him because we love Him. May you go out of your way to make a name for the Lord and leave a legacy of serving Christ for all to read about for generations to come.

✠ Pastor Jim

Christian Chicks

There will not be a meeting this month. The next meeting will be on Sunday, June 21, after the Worship Service.

✠ Michelle Robertson

Men's Breakfast

As a slight change of pace, the Men's Breakfast is on Saturday, May 16 at 7:30 a.m. This will give us the energy to get right into the Spring Clean Up that starts right after breakfast. For details, see the article on this page.

Baby Bottle Fund Drive

Starting on Mother's Day, May 10, you can pick up a baby bottle and start putting your loose change in it. This project will help the Carenet Pregnancy Center of Concord. Carenet helps girls and women with unplanned pregnancies to seek life and hope for their babies. For more information about their services, go to <http://carenetconcord.com/index.html>.

You can help by picking up a baby bottle at church on Mother's Day and by filling it up day by day. Return the bottle to Hillside on Father's Day so we can delivery them all to Carenet.

Memorial Day



"...gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with choicest flowers of springtime....let us in this solemn presence renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us

as sacred charges upon the Nation's gratitude -- the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan."

--General John Logan, General Order No. 11, 5 May 1868

Let us renew our understanding of the true purpose of Memorial Day, which is to actively remember our ancestors, our family members, our loved ones, our neighbors, and our friends who have given the ultimate sacrifice.

We can do this in the following ways:

- Visit cemeteries and place flags or flowers on the graves of our fallen heroes.
- Visit memorials dedicated to fallen soldiers.
- Fly the American flag at half-staff until noon.
- Fly the POW/MIA flag as well (per Section 1082 of the 1998 Defense Authorization Act).
- Participate in a "National Moment of Remembrance" at 3 p.m. to pause and think upon the true meaning of the day, and for Taps to be played.
- Renew a pledge to aid the widows, widowers, and orphans of our fallen dead, and to aid the disabled veterans.

(This information was gleaned from the web site: <http://www.usmemorialday.org/>)

Property and Space Patrol

We learned recently that we need to schedule our annual spring work day about two weeks earlier next year. Mike and I worked on Monday April 27th. We removed and stored all the sand barrels, stored the remaining rock salt, and, in preparation for mowing, raked out the lawn areas that the snow plow had damaged. A particularly large area was on the abutter's driveway to the north. We also remove a pickup truck load of plastic tubing left over from VBS a few years ago.

Spring Cleanup Day

The work day is on Saturday May 16. We will start with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and go to work at 8:30 a.m.

Job Jar

Inside:

- Prepare two Sunday School rooms for new carpet and remove excess furnishings.
- Prepare the stairs to the baptistery for carpet and remove items stored at top of stairs.
- Install three air conditioners in the sanctuary.

Outside:

- Install handrail along ramp at building front. This includes installing 11 4x4 posts.
- Clean out the flower bed by the road sign.
- Move the flower bed near the front entrance.

✠ Pastor Al Page

Christmas Concert

The Campbells are coming ... in December. We have booked them to do their fabulous Christmas Concert for us on Saturday December 12 at 6:30 p.m. That should be enough advanced notice for everyone!

Be sure to mention it to your friends and relatives *now* to plant the seed. Concert promotion will begin in October.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

5/5 Shirley Upton
 5/16 Michael Russo, Jr.
 5/22 Rachel Page
 5/26 Michael Frascinella

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 Greenly, 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 May 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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