



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Newsletter of Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 9 No. 6

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

June 2010

May We Hunger for God's Word

From the Pastor's Desk

The Light of the Word

Psalm 119:105

Recently on the doorstep of the church I received a plastic bag full of literature. This gift bag was given to me by an organization called *Grace to You*. One of their representatives has been supplying me with these bags of treasure for the last few years. In them tend to be books (which I have gladly read), pamphlets, and other material from the *Voice of the Martyrs* (VOM).

These magazines from VOM are insightful and revealing. They reveal the tremendous strife that our brothers and sisters are going through in the rest of the unknown world. I say unknown because these are reports that you will not find in your local paper or on the evening news. The VOM has been serving to reveal the truth of Christian persecution since 1967.

When I was a child I can recall several times my father would mention this group and their work from the pulpit as he preached God's word. What isn't surprising though is that the times around us might have changed, meaning we have become more civilized and cultured, but the stories of persecution and death for Christ have not changed in these places devoid of the knowledge of Him.

I was struck today by a story I was reading from their special issue of 2010. This issue is titled "Dare to Die/Live." In the title the word "Die" is crossed out and the word "Live" is written next to it. In other words those who are willing to lose their lives for Christ will in fact find life in Him. There was story after story in this edition of people being killed for the sake of Christ. In it is a quick glance at the various countries out there that are predominately antagonistic against the Christian faith.

Less you think it is all because of Muslims, think again. Since I opened the magazine this morning I did read one article in the Philippines that was Muslim related. It was about a group of Muslims who attacked a couple of young Christian guys publicly in the street and killed one of them in broad daylight without receiving any criminal charges or punishment. Another story from Nepal told of a woman

Upcoming Events and Meetings

June 5, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

The men share a meal, and then continue their discussion of the Book of Luke.

June 6, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

June 19, 10:00 a.m. – Mini-Golf Outing to Chuckster's

June 20 – Father's Day / End of Baby Bottle Drive

who delivered a homemade bomb to a church, killing several and wounding others. This attack was by a Hindu Extremist group. There was a story in Columbia in which the local militant guerrillas who kill Christians for the sake of control and for an attempt to establish atheism in their country.

The one story that I want to focus on though is about Phan who is a pastor in the upper remote regions of Vietnam. Phan is a faithful minister who, by the grace of God, has done a tremendous work for Christ in his home country. He goes faithfully up to Ha Giang to witness to others about the grace and love of our Lord.

He went up there in 2008 and no sooner did he step into a home than he was surrounded by the police. Interrogated and harassed, he was reprimanded and all his Bibles and materials were confiscated. He was warned to not come back, but such tactics did not stop him.

A year later he went back up and he was immediately met with opposition. He did not have the proper certification, which only ten percent of pastors are given, and so he was fined 200,000 dong, which is ten dollars in American currency. If he did not pay it he would have gone to prison immediately.

Phan is partnered in ministry with his wife. She is a constant encouragement to him and to his work for the Lord. She believes in the victory in Christ over the communist country they are serving in. In the couple of years he has served the Lord he has seen an entire village of people who were steeped in sin and debauchery come to know the Lord. The funny thing is that while this community was this way the police were fine with it, but now that they are Christians the police are going out of their way to make things hard on the town.

(See Light on page 2)

In This Issue: Pastor's Message · Upcoming Events | Men's Breakfast | Mini-Golf | Concert Wrap Up | Property & Space Patrol | Meeting Changes | Cell Phone Vs. Bible | Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Light (Cont'd. from page 1)

In 2007 Phan lead 50 people to the Lord and in the first six months of 2008 he baptized 46 people. His work is part of a greater work that the Lord is doing in the jungle-infested land. There are an estimated 600,000 new Christians in Vietnam, which is a far cry better than what was going on there nearly half a century ago.

The government and its communist perspective are the oppressors of Christianity in this country. They even forbid Christians to own Bibles and confiscate them when they find them. There was a picture in the magazine of an elderly woman who was reading her Bible. The picture showed her reading her illegal Bible by flashlight lest someone see her reading in a brighter lighting. Did you catch what she was doing? Reading her Bible by a flashlight!

When I saw this picture and read this article I was reminded of the importance of the Word of God. Often when preaching I encourage the congregation to read the word of God and spend time in prayer daily with Him. One of the reasons I do this is because of the words found in Psalm 119:105. The writer of this terrific psalm says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (NASB) In this world of darkness and strife His word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. If we live by the word of God then we will have clarity in our steps. If we read the word of God then we will see the path of righteousness more brightly.

This woman who was reading the word of God by a flashlight was reading the very word that would help her endure the conflict and trials she was facing from her own government. The word of God she read by the dim light of a flashlight would come back to her in brilliance one hundred fold. What she read in the midst of surrounding darkness would be lit by the illuminating word of God. This woman truly loved the word of God so much so she was willing to face criminal charges for possessing one.

In a society such as ours in which many of us have multiple Bibles stacked in our bookcases, can you imagine a time in which it is illegal to own them? We have the word of God at our fingertips any time we want without concern of punishment, yet many still refuse to pick it up and read it. May a revival for a hunger for God's word sweep across this land so that we will want to read it, so that we will have the light of the Word shining upon us and within us.

I have to ask – do you love the word of God as much as the old woman in the picture? She loved it so much that she made sure she had a copy and that the authorities did not take it from her. Do you love the word of God as much as the old woman? She loved His word so much so that she was going to read it no matter what the authorities would do to her for having it. Do you love the word of God as much as her? She loved it so much so that she went out of her way to spend time with the Lord to gain insight and wisdom and direction in her life.

Do you love the word of God? If so, read it. Devour it. Consume it. Live by it. Hunger for it. For if you love the word of God this much then you will know His counsel as a

lamp to your feet and a light to your path. May you grow from the daily reading of His word and know what it means to walk in the light of the word.

God bless,
✠ Pastor Jim

Men's Breakfast

We'll meet once more for breakfast on June 5th at 8:00 a.m. before we break for the summer months. So bring your appetites and your Bible and feed your body and your spirit.

The word is that Pastor Al is the Chef du Jour. He's a former Navy submariner so he might prepare a Sonar Soufflé, Periscope Pancakes, Torpedo Toast, and Depth Charge Coffee. You never know.

Mini-Golf at Chuckster's

On Saturday June 19, we have another family event lined up for you: Mini-Golf at Chuckster's on Route 4 in Chichester.

Meet at Hillside at 10:00 a.m. and we can car pool over to Chuckster's for some great fun on the putting greens. Remember: don't putt too hard or you'll bounce your golf ball into the rocks or send it down one of the streams that meander through the golf course. And also note that a high score is not a good thing in golf.

Concert Wrap Up

If you missed the Brunt Family Singers Concert back on May 22nd, you missed a good time. Scott, Gary, and Alan put on a fine performance for over 50 people in attendance. They also engaged us with a few solos and duets.

The concert lasted 1 ½ hours and we got to hear another group, The Bensons, during the intermission. After the intermission, yours truly played backup guitar while Scott and his daughter sang Josh Turner's "Long Black Train," a great country song for bass singers.

The fellowship was well attended too, and many people lingered until well after 9:00 p.m.

Their next concert is on June 19 at Hope Community Chapel in West Franklin (hopefully that is the correct date and location). That is not too far north so you will have another opportunity to attend and help support their ministry.

✠ Michael Frascinella

Property and Space Patrol

No major repairs or renovations were undertaken this past month, so praise God for that. We have rented a small dumpster to help deal with trash from fellowship events and renovations projects as an alternative to buying four of those big gray trash bins from the town.

✠ Pastor Al Page

Business Meeting Changes

At the May 16 business meeting, **it was decided to reduce the number of business meetings from one per quarter to two per year.** We *do* have a good time of fellowship at the

dinners that precede the meetings but often do not have a great deal of church business that needs to be voted on.

So the new schedule looks like it will consist of one meeting in May and one in October. At the October meeting, we will need to vote on the budget for the following year, so that will be the more critical meeting and the one for which we need the greatest preparation and attendance.

We can always call a special meeting to handle special situations that arise in between the regular meetings. So you don't need to worry about a situation dragging on for months for lack of a business meeting in which to discuss the matter.

Cell Phone vs. the Bible

Have you ever wondered what would happen if you treated your Bible as you treat your cell phone?

What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?

What if we flipped through it several times a day?

What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?

What if we used it to receive messages from the text?

What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?

What if we gave it to our kids as gifts?

What if we used it when we traveled?

What if we used it in case of an emergency?

This is something to make you think, "Hmm ... where is my Bible?"

Oh, and one more thing. Unlike your cell phone, you don't have to worry about your Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill. And no dead zones and no dropped calls!

(From an FYI e-mail message.)

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Hillside wishes a happy, happy, happy birthday to the following people who are celebrating a birthday this month:

- 6/1 Tim LaValley
- 6/8 Gail Frascinella
- 6/10 Mary Anne Richards
- 6/10 Ryan Pouliot
- 6/23 Roch Pouliot
- 6/28 Justin King



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on the following couples who celebrate their wedding anniversaries this month:

- 6/1 Dale and Shannon Greenly
- 6/6 Jim and Michelle Robertson
- 6/6 Dennis and Laurie Wasp

Prayer Requests

If you need us to pray 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

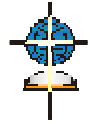
Go to the Hillside web site <http://www.hillsidebaptistnh.org/> for more information about our fellowship, including this newsletter in PDF format.

Next Issue

Deadline is June 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

