



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Newsletter of Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 9 No. 8

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

August 2010

There All the Time

From the Pastor's Desk

The Lord Is There

1 Samuel 1

I was reading this past week from the book of 1 Samuel. This is one of the best books in the Old Testament because it is a transition book from the time of the Judges to the time of the Kings in the history of Israel. One of the most dramatic figures in this book is of course Samuel who is the last Judge, but also a prophet of the Lord. What is interesting is the way Samuel came to be. Without going into details about the birds and the bees, let's just say that Samuel came about through divine means.

In the first couple of chapters of 1 Samuel, the faithful servant isn't Samuel, but instead Samuel's mom, Hannah. Hannah was one of the two wives of Elkanah, but she was unable to have children. Now I am not advocating this arrangement, but as they say, "It is what it is."

In the story, Peninnah, the other wife, had children, but Hannah did not have any. What is more interesting is that it is clearly stated that God Himself had chosen to close up the womb and, lest you say that such a term denoted an expression for simply being barren, you would be wrong. For the circumstances in this story do not allow us to write of such an uneducated theological understanding.

Now Peninnah constantly berated Hannah for not having children. This is just one of the problems that occur for a man who has two wives, but this berating was probably spurned on because the Bible is clear that Elkanah loved Hannah more, even though she had not bore him a child.

So every year the whole family would travel to Shiloh together to worship the Lord because that is where the Ark of the Covenant resided. On one occasion Hannah got up after eating and drinking and went off separately and she began to pray within her heart that God would enable her to have children. Obviously she could no longer take the pain of ridicule from the other wife, or the pain of not being able to produce a child for her husband. Now this prayer was not without condition or a vow to the Lord. She promised that if she was given a son that he would be dedicated to the Lord and to His service. This was quite a vow to the Lord and one that God would test.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Aug. 1, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Aug. 14, 10:00 a.m. – Hike up Oak Hill

Aug. 21, 10:00 a.m. – rain date for Hike up Oak Hill

Aug. 28, 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. – Outreach at Pembroke-Allenstown Old Home Day

While she was there Eli, the High Priest, saw her and thought she was drunk with wine because she was just moving her lips, giving the impression of not being right minded due to intoxication. After he found out that she was not drunk, but instead in great distress, Eli blessed her and sent her on her way with the hope that God did hear her prayer and would answer.

The Bible then tells us that she and her family went home and later Elkanah lay with her and she became pregnant. She eventually carried the baby full term and gave birth to Samuel. After Samuel had spent a couple of years with Hannah and was fully weaned she brought him up to Shiloh and presented him to Eli as a servant for God.

From that time on Eli raised Samuel as his son and Samuel served the Lord faithfully. Year after year Hannah would visit Samuel to see how he was doing and Eli was grateful for Hannah's faithfulness, so much so that after he blessed her she had five more children.

This story is a lesson to us that God is there. When we are alone He is there for us waiting for us to turn to Him. He is there waiting for us to submit to Him. He is there waiting for us to come to Him with a humble heart seeking His will for our lives.

You see God was working through Hannah's life in a mighty way to bring about a divine end. She endured pain and hardship so that she would grow closer to the Lord. She endured ridicule and pain so that she would come to the point of being ready and willing to commit her first – and for all she knew only – child to Him for His service. God was grooming, shaping, and preparing her to be an important component to fulfill His will for the future of Israel.

There are times in all our lives in which God seems silent. God might seem like He is nowhere to be seen or heard. Maybe at this moment in your life God seems that way and

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

Pastor's Message (from p. 1)

you're crying out asking Him where He is. You might be under some ridicule at work for your faith. You may be going through hardship financially. Possibly you are experiencing pain in your marriage. You might wonder where He is in regard to your children and the decisions they are making in their lives. It might be that you are going through a difficult time with your aging parents and you are frustrated from having to live in reversed roles. The list could be very long and, at some point, you feel as if you are about to break all the while wondering why He seems so silent in such dark times.

Know this, GOD IS THERE! He might seem like He is not, but He is, for our God is omnipresent. That is just a big word that means He is everywhere at all times. If you believe this to be true, then even when you may feel He is not there, you can know that He is. For often when our feelings fade or wane, our faith is supported by our knowledge of what His word says in regard to His divine being.

Perhaps the silence you are experiencing might be similar to that of our protagonist in today's passage. Maybe God is molding you and shaping you. Possibly He is preparing you for a greater task or ministry. Perhaps He is ratcheting you down a notch or two to keep you humble in His presence. Or maybe, just like Hannah, He is preparing you to sacrifice something so big and so important that you would not have been willing to sacrifice it before going through the trial that brings you to the point of submitting to His divine will.

If Hannah gave up her son to do His will, what are you willing to give up? I hope you are ready to give up everything and anything He desires of you for His glory and His kingdom.

I hope and pray that – if you are going through a hard and difficult time in your life right now – these words bring you hope and joy. Hope in knowing that God is there and that what you are going through is not arbitrary, nor is it useless. Joy in knowing that God is so interested in you as His child that He has carved out a special spot in His divine plan for you to fulfill and He is just waiting for you to catch up to it.

May you seek His will and His ways in your prayers and may you be ready to serve Him when He reveals to you that He has been right there all the time waiting for you to hear Him and to submit to His will in your life.

✠ Pastor Jim

Birth Announcement

On Sunday August first, Abi and Victor Lafa were noticeably absent from the worship service at Hillside. They had a good excuse because Abi gave birth to a beautiful girl, Kunmi Elizabeth, who weighed 6 lbs. 3 oz.

Abi was due to be released from Concord Hospital on Tuesday, August 3rd. Victor is to be there to take the family to their new home in Bedford.

Incidentally, the baby's birthday will turn out to be a helpful early reminder for Victor of his anniversary on the 12th.

Be sure to greet them warmly and make a big fuss over the baby when they come to church next Sunday.

Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast will resume on September 4th, the first Saturday of the month. It may be the Labor Day weekend, but we will labor to provide a tasty meal for those who attend.

Let's plan on identifying a Chef Du Jour between now and then. Let's also invite someone outside our fellowship who has not been to one of our breakfasts. A free meal is usually a good incentive.

Youth Group on the Trail

All youth are invited to bring their parents, brothers, sisters, and friends on a Hike to the Oak Hill Fire Tower on **Saturday, August 14**. We will meet at the church at 10 a.m. and roll on over to Loudon Village.

The fire tower sits atop Oak Hill (just over 900 feet elevation) which is on Oak Hill Road (where else?), a short distance west of the intersection of Routes 106 and 129 in Loudon. The summit is wooded but there are panoramic views from the top of the tower stairs, which are very steep. Hiking time is only about one-half hour each way.

Be sure to wear sturdy boots as the road is rough in places. Bring a canteen of water and some trail snacks. Also bring some bug spray to ward off mosquitoes and deer flies. Even though it's a short hike, it's best to be prepared.

For more information about the location check out <http://www.franklinsites.com/hikephotos/NewHampshire/oakhill.php>. For other fire towers in New England, see <http://www.franklinsites.com/hikephotos/observationtowers.php>.

Old Home Day

The Pembroke-Allenstown Old Home Day is only a few weeks away. It takes place at Memorial Field in Pembroke on **Saturday, August 28**. Hillside will again be there to hand out bottles of cold water, Bibles, and Bible tracts to hot and thirsty visitors.

Please help us spread the gospel by volunteering for a morning or afternoon time slot at our booth. Contact Pastor Jim.

Christmas Concert

It's been warm and sunny these past several weeks so you may not want to be reminded that winter is coming. But it's about something good.

We have had discussions with The Brunt Family Singers about a Christmas Concert in December and they are willing to provide one. We stipulated that we wanted the concert to include a majority of spiritually-oriented carols and songs in keeping with our faith in the Lord. That was one disappointment expressed by several attendees last year – that there were too many secular Christmas songs and too

many non-Christmas gospel songs (and maybe too much talking in between songs).

So mark your calendars for December 4th at 6:30 p.m. You enjoyed them when they ministered to us back in May and you will really enjoy them this coming December.

Property and Space Patrol

One project that needs some volunteer help is to paint the Nursery downstairs. We have cleaned up the room and discarded all the old toys and furnishings. If you would like to make a cash donation for the Nursery, please do so. If you have some nursery furnishings in good condition, please contact me.

✠ Pastor Al Page

Cowboy Code

A while back some friends gave me a little book of cowboy sayings called *Don't Squat with Yer Spurs On!* I had looked at it from time to time, scanning a few pages and the promising to read it later. When later finally came around, I read it through from cover to cover and discovered a lot of wisdom that seemed to evoke memories of various passages in the Bible.

Here are several quotations from the Spurs book saddled up scripture verses that seem to be riding the same trail. I hope you enjoy this comparison and that it gets you back in the saddle with God's Word or takes you back to passages worth mulling over again.

I do not claim to have made the definitive selection from scripture, but I leave that for you as your homework chore. Feel free to pass on to me any other scriptures that you think might fit the cowboy sayings.

We might not be so bad off if we had a little less of everything.

See Phil. 4:11-13

A good pard will ride with you till hell freezes over -- and a little while on the ice.

Proverbs 3:3

Some waddies take a little time to work it up and spit it out. Give it to 'em. Life ain't so short that you can't take the time to hear a man out.

See various passages on "patience."

When you're in the wrong and you need to set it right, how far you have traveled in the doin' of it has nothing to do with the rightin' of it.

Gen. 28-33, Jacob's life until he finally patched things up with Esau.

If you've got a voice like a burro with a bad cold -- the kind that makes a coyote cringe -- don't risk singin' to the herd.

This is more like a warning *not* to join the church choir.

It's the work, not the clock, that tells you when it's quittin' time.

Col. 3:23-24

You can't weigh the facts if you've got the scales loaded down with your opinions.

Advice is like a pot of chili: you should try a little of it yourself before you give anybody else a taste.

Matt. 7:1-5

See the heavens, smell the air, taste the dust and the alkali, hear the wind and the wild, feel the motion of your horse... On a good day, that's all you need. On a bad day, that's all you need.

Psalm 19:1-2, Phil. 4:11-13

A few sweet words and a little bit of kindness can coax the hottest iron outta the fire

Luke 6:27-28

When you forgive and forget, forget that you forgave while you're at it.

Col. 3:13, Psalm 103:12

Sorry looks back. Worry looks around. Faith looks up.

Matt. 6:31-34

If the job you did speaks for itself, don't interrupt.

Prov. 27:2

There's a high cost to low living.

Luke:15:11-31, The Prodigal Son

Cowboying would be a lot more pleasant if Noah had taken the time to swat a couple of mosquitoes on his ark.

Genesis 7:2

Just because you're following a well-marked trail don't mean that whoever made it knew where they were goin'.

Matt. 7:13-14

For these remaining sayings, I leave it up to you, dear reader, to get a Bible concordance and look up scripture passages that express similar sentiments.

Always walk tall and keep your head up -- unless you're walkin' in a cow pasture.

A week spent around a campfire will tell you more about a man than a decade spent living next door to him.

How long you live has nothin' to do with how long you're dead.

If there's a hole in your story or your fence, whatever you'd rather didn't get out -- will.

Money may buy you a dog but only love can make him wag his tail.

Happy trails!

✠ Michael Frascinella

Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

8/9 Nathan Frascinella

8/14 Kathryn Greenly

8/16 Brenda Thomas

8/25 Robert LaValley



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on the following couple celebrating their wedding anniversary this month:

8/12 Victor & Abi Lafa

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

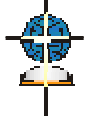
Go to the Hillside web site <http://www.hillsidebaptistnh.org/> for more information about our fellowship, including this newsletter in PDF format.

Next Issue

Deadline is Aug. 25. 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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