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HIS HILL NEWS



Prayer Requests

- The hearts of the students to absorb the truth being shared this Fall term
- Travel/border crossing for international students at the end of term
- Those preparing to attend Bible School in January

Upcoming Dates

- Thanksgiving Conference Nov. 23rd - 26th
- End of Fall Term Dec. 9th
- Start of Winter/Spring Term Jan. 5th
- Chill at the Hill Feb. 25th - 27th
- Ladies Retreat Apr. 1st - 3rd



Stay up to date with us on Facebook & Instagram



ACTING ON THE TRUTH

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

On September 8th, we welcomed seventy students to His Hill from around the world. They are packed with potential: young, hopeful, talented, sharp, and even good-looking (most of them)! It is exciting to think of how God might use them in the future. Our prayer is that they will all become disciple-makers and laborers in the harvest for souls. It would be wonderful to hear in the future that some of them became missionaries, church planters, and pastors. But all this hope that we have for them begs the question: who does God use? Is it the talented, the smart, the able? Those that spend a year or two studying at a Torch-bearer school? Or is there something else for which God looks?

Five ingredients are baked into the recipe for being used by God. First, availability. God doesn't force anyone into His service. He is looking for those who are yielded to Him, those who will present themselves to Him as a living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1).

Second, dependence. The true reason why a believer should make himself available to God is that he knows in the depth of his soul that he can do nothing apart from God (Jn. 15:5). Christ and His grace are the sole explanation for his life. He knows that in himself dwells no good thing. He knows that any and everything that originates from himself, even his service to God, is doomed to failure and is displeasing to the One he seeks to please. For good fleshly intentions bring no pleasure to God.

Third, faithfulness. God uses those who never forget their desperate need for Him and remain dependent upon Him throughout life. That is the essence of faithfulness. It is "the long obedience in the same direction (E. Peterson)." It is consistent obedience to His will in faith and dependence upon Him.

trolled by the love of Christ, meaning Christ's love for him. The result of that controlling reality was a motivation to no longer live for self but to live for Him who died and rose again on his behalf (2 Cor. 5:14-15). God uses those who are motivated by Christ's love for them and who stop putting themselves first.

Third, faithfulness. God uses those who never forget their desperate need for Him and remain dependent upon Him throughout life. That is the essence of faithfulness. It is "the long obedience in the same direction (E. Peterson)." It is consistent obedience to His will in faith and dependence upon Him.

Fifth, ambition. Selfish ambition is a dangerous thing. God hates it. But there is a good and godly ambition – the ambition to know Christ, to gain Him and to be found in Him; to know Him and the fellowship of His sufferings and to be brought into conformity to His death; the ambition to lay hold of that for which also we were laid of by Christ Jesus (Phil. 3:8-12).

The one thing that binds these five ingredients together is the conscious and expressed need for God's grace. Nothing qualifies a person to be used by God except the acknowledgment that nothing qualifies him except God's grace. Education, intellect, life experience, aptitude, and even good looks will never be qualifiers for God's use. God uses people who qualify for nothing but His grace. Russell Kelfer put it this way, "If God is using us, it is because we are the least likely candidates He has to succeed on our own. And if He blesses what He does in spite of us, what right do we have to claim title to His victories?" Let me paraphrase the first sentence of that quote: If God is using you, it is because He couldn't find anyone less qualified.

Isn't that great! Talk about a bubble buster! We long to be used by God. I long for God to use our students. But God uses those who recognize that they can do nothing in their strength and have nothing in themselves to merit God using them.

Paul never forgot this. Our temptation is to think that God called Paul to be an apostle to the Gentiles because he was the best suited due to his education, intellect, and life experience. Try telling that to Paul! He said that it was because of God's grace that he was made a minister (Eph. 3:7) and that he was the least of all the saints (Eph. 1:8). He said that he was foremost among sinners (1 Tim. 1:15). He told the Corinthians that he was the least of the apostles and was not fit to be called an apostle because he persecuted the church of God (1 Cor. 15:9-10).

In the words of Kelfer again, "Paul discovered that God chooses the least likely success story so when the story is complete, it could have been authored only by God. Paul was not holding up his hand in class saying, "I'm the one, Lord, I'm a communicator, an administrator, and a theologian. Gimme a shot at it." No, Paul's head was buried in his hands as he wept before God at how unusable he seemed to be."

Only by God's grace can we be used, and only His grace qualifies us. "All God needs is nothing so that when something comes out of it, He is to be glorified . . . The grace of God, by its very nature, is the life God poured through sinful flesh until the vessel becomes transparent and the nature of God becomes visible." We have great expectations for our students. Parents have the same for their children. There's nothing wrong with that. The danger we face is the temptation to motivate and build them up based on potential measured by giftedness. It is imperative that we instead measure by the potential of God's grace extended to those who see themselves qualified only by the grace of God.

Quotes from [The Character of God](#), by Russell Kelfer, at [dtm.org](#)



- Charlie McCall, Director

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MISSION TRIPS

On September 26th we made a caravan of buses and set out across Texas for our mission trip destination of Nacogdoches. This was our second year teaming up with MissionNAC, which is an organization that seeks to help repair homes in the Nacogdoches community whose homeowners need assistance refurbishing their homes.

His Hill students and staff worked on houses nominated by the community to get a renovation. We had four workdays to revamp three homes with better drainage systems, crisp gardens, fresh paint, and new roofs. The week consisted of hard work, learning new skills, adhering to leadership, paint-speckled skin, and the sound of operating saws and sanders.

We left October 1st with a closer group than we had when we first arrived, as is always such a beautiful thing to see after a week spent out of the classroom and serving those in need. The week was encouraging and very good, as all gifts from God are.



"This mission trip I experienced and learned a ton about grace and patience. The leaders of our group gave me the opportunity to learn new skills and it was awesome to glean from them. The way the leaders showed grace and patience towards me when I messed up was very impactful, as there was a lot going on and a lot that needed to be done and yet they took time for me to learn." - Joshua Schievink, Florida

"I went into this week of work making it about me and how I could impress myself and others. But God reminded me that this was not the goal of this mission trip and this is not the goal of my life either. Instead, it is about God and wherever He wants us. Wherever He wants us is where we should be. We should serve Him regardless of whether the task at hand is our favorite thing to do or not and regardless of whether our work is impressive to this world or not." - Zippora Rentschler, Germany



BIBLE SCHOOL

Bible school has started up again, and we are exceedingly grateful to God for the students He has brought this year! They have come from all over the world - from South Korea to Panama to Canada - having a desire to know Christ and His Word. What an encouragement it is to witness brothers and sisters in Christ come from around the globe and quickly connect with one another as they collectively sit under the Word of God. It's a little taste of heaven, and the only explanation is Christ.

A.W. Tozer writes, "Each generation of Christians must look to its beliefs. While truth itself is unchanging, the minds of men are porous vessels out of which truth can leak, and into which error may seep to dilute the truth they contain." This resonates with us as our students are digging into the Word of God and coming to an understanding that Christ is their life. Just as the roots of a young plant stretch into the soil in search of nutrients and stability, we pray that

in a similar way these young people would extend their roots of faith and find great assurance knowing Christ to be their eternal source and foundation. As the next generation looks to its own beliefs, may they come to know that the house built on the rock of Jesus Christ has nothing to fear. As David writes in Psalm 62:1-2, "My soul waits in silence for God only; from Him is my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I shall not be greatly shaken."



- Jon Forrest, Principal

SUMMER CAMP 2021

There is a mantra I try to communicate to the staff week in week out, "this is what the Lord has for you." I say it in just about every context of camp. It's not a new concept to our staff if they have been through a Torchbearer center. It's what Romans 12:1 says, "present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice acceptable to God...."

All that is sown in our camp ministry is an extension of what we believe in our Bible school ministry.

Nothing new, nothing special, nothing spectacular. What is revolutionary for so many of our staff is the practical understanding, some for the first time, that Christ truly is enough; He is more than enough when I entrust myself to Him. If you have been a part of the Summer staff team at any point, then you know how much camp takes. The heat, children's constant needs, the activity schedule, and games that almost all require running for five and a half days, all this and more take so much out of you. But after all that camp takes, it also shows us all we have left, Christ. The faithful and constant source of eternal life, if we let Him be.

I know camp takes much from us, but consider how much more the Lord gives to us through it all! In these moments of recognition, I see our staff's knowledge of God's written word becoming obedience to the Living Word of Christ. To be on the first row of this practical change of heart is a gift that I will never take for granted. It is the beauty of camp. And it is from this change within that week after week we all with one accord believe we have the "dream job"!

- Connor Patterson,
Camp Director



NEW His Hill Podcast



The His Hill Podcast is up and running! We post a new episode every Thursday and can be found on our website as well as Spotify, Apple Podcast, and iHeart. Just search for "The His Hill Podcast". Here are just some of the comments we've received in response to this new ministry.

- Kelly Doherty, Alumni Ministry



"I have been so encouraged hearing from you guys regularly. I look forward to the podcast each week and listen to it while I am working. Even just hearing those familiar voices I haven't heard for years brings back precious memories. Your podcast has also helped me refocus on the main message of the Bible and has shed new light on it as I study it and teach Sunday School. Please keep it up!!" - Luke

"Hello from Australia! We are still currently in a lockdown as we are writing this. There have been many times where we have become disheartened. Through all of this we have come to a much deeper understanding of what it means when it says our hope is in Christ. It is really great to be able to hear how life is going there and what the Lord is doing in the alumni community. In a time where we are restricted from going to our churches, and meeting with other people, this podcast is a way in which we can feel we are a part of a community. Thank you for what you all do. We will be listening in!" - James and Amy

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