

His Hill
P.O. Box 9
Comfort, Texas
78013

830-995-3388
bibleschool@hishill.org
www.hishill.org

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HIS HILL NEWS



Prayer Requests

- Travel/border crossing for international students at the end of term
- The hearts of the campers and summer staff as they prepare to join us this summer
- Financial provision for our new gym
- The 2022 - 2023 student body that is preparing to attend in the fall

Upcoming Dates

- End of Term | May 19th
- Summer Camp | June 19th - August 5th
- Fall Term | September 7th
- Family Retreat | October 14th - 16th



Stay up to date with us on Facebook & Instagram



SPRING NEWSLETTER 2022

BIBLE SCHOOL UPDATE

At the conclusion of our Fall term we had our largest December graduation to-date — eleven first-year students and one second-year student completed their program! In January we welcomed nine new students, and they've been a great addition to the community here. A few of the highlights from the semester so far have been getting to enjoy a Passover Seder together that was led by one of our guest speakers, Wayne Weissman, along with getting to have a "student day" enjoying the San Antonio rodeo (always a great Texas experience!).

For spring break we had a number of students travel to Crossroads, the Torchbearers Center in Albania, and we had a larger group participate in our Temple Tours spring break trip in San Antonio. While it was nice to have the change in schedule,

we're eager to jump back into the final months of Bible School.

We as a staff want to spend this time encouraging students in our Lord Jesus Christ. It has been a wonderful group, and our prayer is that all of us, both students and staff, would continue to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 13:14). Regardless of where the Lord has us, whether in Bible School, raising a family, or working at our jobs, God has blessed us with the gift of Himself. May this reality not just be something that is cherished during a nine-month Bible School program. Rather, let us live according to the truth that Paul speaks of in Titus 2:14, that in Christ we have been called to be a people who are pure, zealous for good deeds, and empowered by the life of Christ in us.



Jon Forrest, Principal



SPRING BREAK TRIPS



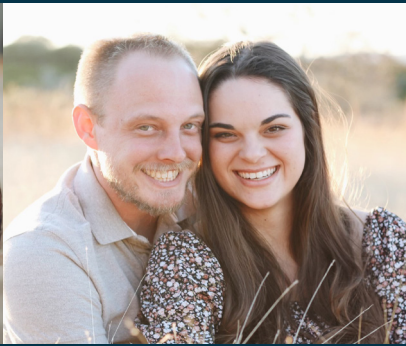
"Over spring break we had the opportunity to learn about and see the beliefs of people from various religions, as well as help out in some of the communities of San Antonio. Learning about the origins and details of other religions was really interesting, but also sad to see how deceived some people in our world are. It was evident to us that these people knew their beliefs really well, which convicted me to study God's Word more so that I can defend my Faith, and tell others about Christ to the best of my ability. Overall, it was hard to see people put their trust in things and people that bring them false hope, but it was also a reassuring reminder that the hope we find in Jesus is true and that through Him we can find salvation and eternal life."

Ryan Van Herk, First Year, British Columbia

"During spring break a few students had the opportunity to go and serve in the local churches and ministries in Albania. The students were able to participate in multiple youth organizations, a local soccer ministry, tutor children in English as well as stay at the Torchbearers center there. The trip was a beautiful experience as our group was welcomed into the arms and homes of the body of Christ in Albania. The love of our Lord was so clearly displayed in the hearts of the believers there as they faithfully served and ran with endurance the race that was set before them. How beautiful is the reality we live in that one day we will stand together again with these fellow believers in the presence of our Savior; all glory be to Him."

Suzannah Praytor, Second Year, Illinois

HILLTOP HAPPENINGS



Sometimes change can be a daunting thing, but change can just as much so be a gift, if we choose to receive the change that way. We have had quite a few changes around the hilltop the last few months, and we have been tremendously blessed by the changes that have met us here.

In September, we welcomed James Peters, our maintenance volunteer, back to the Hill to join us on staff this school year. James was a student with us for two years from 2017 - 2019 and we are elated to have him back again.

The Thanksgiving season came with the joy of welcoming Teo, Kevin & Alina Martin's third child, to our growing bunch of staff kids. There are now twelve staff kids (ages four months - eleven years). It is a delight to watch them grow and a joy to see them invite students to be a part of their lives through simple gestures like climbing a tree or throwing a baseball around with them after a meal.

December was a joyous time as Rachel Gibson and Levi Wohlge mut, two of our staff members, announced their engagement! Rachel has been our housekeeper

for five years and Levi has been on maintenance for eleven years. They will get married in April and continue serving here on staff.

We have just wrapped up the construction of a new building located between the library and Emmanuel. It will primarily function as a classroom for our second year students while also being utilized as a student study area and a meeting place for retreats. We are thankful for all these changes that have come, and count them all as gifts from the Lord! He is good!



SUMMER CAMP

One of my favorite parts about camp is interacting with parents who enthusiastically express to me, "this place hasn't changed!" When I first heard that, I recoiled and tried to explain our work "improving the facilities and the grounds." However, I'm always quickly met with a rebuttal. They mean that the heart of His Hill has remained the same since they were campers until now. While their kids are here, they know that they will hear about Jesus just as they had when they were kids.

The years have passed, counselors have come and gone, "but the word of God endures forever" (1 Peter 1:25). I can testify to this; from my formative years as a camper until now, His Hill has not changed in the singular pursuit of proclaiming Christ as Life. As a staff, we often meet and discuss how camp can be improved physically, made more efficient for parents, or how God is changing us further into His likeness. Yet, despite all this change, our message remains the same: "Jesus is the source, means, and goal of the Christian life" because we recognize that some things should never change.

Oswald Chambers once said, "The most important aspect of Christianity is not the work we do, but the relationship we maintain and the surrounding influence and qualities produced by that relationship. That is all God asks us to give our attention to, and it is the one thing that is constantly under attack." Jesus and the Word of God don't change. Rather, He changes us so that we may see Him as He is. So we pray this summer serves as another opportunity for the right things to change and the main thing to remain the same.



Connor Patterson, Camp Director

ACTING ON THE TRUTH

CEASE STRIVING AND KNOW

The Word of God brings peace to the troubled heart. Psalm 46 was meant for that purpose.

Verses 1-3 tell us that God is our protection. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, and though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains quake at its swelling pride. Selah."

God is our refuge and strength – not "might be" or "will be" but "is." He is our place of security. Not home, savings, friends, or family. God is our refuge.

He is Himself our strength. He doesn't just impart strength to us, He gives us Himself. We are weak, He is strong. That will never change.

When we are insecure, frightened, even terrified, the one to run to for refuge is God. When we are weak and helpless, our strength is God Himself.

He is "a very present help in trouble." He is not a distant hope. He is a present help. A very present help. How present? For the Christian, He actually indwells us. Do we believe this?

If we take refuge in Him and find strength in Him who is very present, "we will not fear." Even if the world is falling apart around us, we will not fear if we reckon on God who IS our refuge, strength, and very present help.

Selah – the Psalmist is saying, "pause, reflect, absorb, ponder" these things. Don't hurry past these truths. Let them settle over you and in you.

Verses 4-7 speak of God's provision for us. "There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the Holy dwelling places of the Most High. God is in the midst of her, she will not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.

The nations made an uproar, the kingdoms tottered; He raised His voice, the earth melted. The Lord of Hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. Selah"

The Bible tells us that in the New Jerusalem a river will flow out from His throne, through the city, and into the ocean -- purifying the whole ocean (Ezek. 47; Rev. 22). This river is a river of life and brings life wherever it goes.

This city is the dwelling place of the Most High, the God above all gods. He is in the midst of her. Therefore, she will not be moved. She is absolutely secure and safe because of His presence. Jerusalem wasn't safe because she was situated on a mountain and surrounded by a wall. She was safe because God was in her. Likewise, our protection is ultimately only Jesus.

The nations may all be in an uproar against God's holy city (or against His holy people – which includes us), but God simply raises His voice and the earth melts away.

The Lord of Hosts – the God of all that there is – is with us. The God of Jacob – who is the God of Israel – is our stronghold. Again, not "shall be, or will be, or might be." He IS with us. He IS our stronghold.

Selah – once again, take time to pause, reflect on, and absorb this. God's presence with us keeps us safe and provides us with all that we need. He is our river of life. He is our stronghold.

Verses 8-11 exhort us to Come, Cease Striving, and Know that the Lord is God. "Come, behold the works of the Lord, who has wrought desolations in the earth. He makes wars to cease to the end of the earth. He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariots with fire. Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord of Hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our stronghold. Selah"

"Come, behold the works of the Lord . . ." What works? His works to end war and bring peace. The day is coming when Jesus will do exactly that. He will bring everlasting peace and put all His enemies under His feet. God will do this, not men.

"Cease striving." The battle is His. Rest. Stop fighting. Stop trying to win. Stop defending yourself and your interests. Stop the anxious striving to keep your world from falling apart. Stop striving to bring peace by your own strength. Stop!

Have you come to the place where you recognize that you can't win the battle – the battle against sin, the world, the devil? The battle against difficult people? If there is nothing more you can do, and you are utterly powerless to bring victory in any area of your life, you are in a good place. God can now be your refuge, strength, very present help, and stronghold.

His call to you is, "Cease striving and know that I am God." You really do not need to fight. It is doing no good. Stop defending yourself. Die to yourself. Put yourself in the hands of the One who when He speaks the earth melts away, the One who brings an end to all war.

God will be exalted in this earth. It is an absolute certainty. We may not see it in our lifetimes, but God will be exalted. Thank Him for who He is, for His power, His presence, His protection, His provision and His peace. He is Himself the answer to the conflict around us and within us. Come and behold Him and His works. Cease striving. Know that He is God. It isn't complicated! Will we trust Him, believe Him to be God, to be our very present help in trouble? The alternative is to continue on in fear, weakness, and restless, endless striving.

"The Lord of Hosts is with us. The God of Jacob is our stronghold. Selah."

Pause. Reflect. Absorb these things.

God can now be your refuge, strength, very present help, and stronghold.



Charlie McCall, Director