

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

- 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. 22nd - 25th
- End of Fall Term Dec. 8th
- Start of Winter/Spring Term Jan. 4th
- Youth Retreat Feb. 24th - 26th
- Ladies Retreat Apr. 14th - 16th



Stay up to date with us on our podcast



FALL NEWSLETTER 2022

SUMMER CAMP 2022

Scripture calls the people of God to recall to mind or “remember” and meditate on the faithfulness of God in times of blessing and in times of disappointment or heartache. In both seasons, the Spirit of God recalls to mind the promises that are a delight to our soul, the presence of God that is the fullness of joy, and the plans of God that are always good, acceptable, and perfect.

These promises, His presence, and the reminder of His plans awaken our soul out of its slumber and spur us on to continue giving ourselves to Him as living sacrifices. The hilltop has quieted these last several months, and I can reflect on the many joys and eternal works wrought in my heart and witnessed in the lives of others and can confidently say this summer was a tremendous blessing.

There was love and harmony amongst the staff, and deep and faithful friendships formed; there were tears, lots of laughter, no rain (except one day), droughts, bugs, a dried up river, dancing every single day, and,

most of all, there was Jesus; amongst us, in us, working and moving all around us amid each other's lives. God's promises, presence, and plans don't always look how we expect them to look at the moment, amen?!

However, in hindsight, whatever didn't work as planned, whatever didn't meet my expectation, and whoever God sovereignly brought into my life, one thing remains: God is faithful. And because of Him and His character, we rejoice! Because of His faithfulness, I can write and say that this summer certainly was a blessing.

Remembering that He is the giver of all good things, we can move confidently into the future. As He was faithful, so He will be. (This is the part we all shout in unison, “DREAM JOB!”)



Connor Patterson, Camp Director



HIS HILL UPDATES



This year has held many changes for the hilltop (as every year does) and we have enjoyed each new gift that has come our way! Earlier this spring, our camp director Connor and his wife Jewel welcomed their third child, Joelle, into their family! We now have thirteen staff kids around the hilltop and love seeing them interact with the students throughout the school year. In addition, we are incredibly thankful to have four volunteers this year to serve in the kitchen, with maintenance and housekeeping, and at the barn. Peter and James

are helping with maintenance, Olivia on housekeeping and horses, and Evie is in the kitchen. James and Olivia planned their wedding between the end of summer camp and the start of the new school year and were married in August down in our meadow - what a wonderful time! All our volunteers are Hill alumni and we are thrilled to have them serve alongside us for this school year. We are thankful for all these changes and praise God for the good gifts He has given us through placing these people into our lives. He is good!

MISSION TRIP

This was our third year teaming up with MissionNAC which is an organization that seeks to help repair houses in the Nacogdoches community whose homeowners need assistance refurbishing their homes. Every year we've partnered with MissionNAC there has been a similar goal of working hard and showing Christ's love through the labor, but this year many of us had a new perspective

on our time spent in Nacogdoches after meeting the homeowners. Two out of the three homeowners we served were blind and could not see the condition they had been living in, but knew we were making the old new again, mending what was broken, and disposing of what held no life. They couldn't see the work we were doing, but they understood that what we were doing

was good and good for them. This served as a simple yet beautiful reminder as the week went on that we are blind to the condition we are in but God sees it, addresses it, and heals what is in despair. He is the Master Builder, Healer, and the Giver of Life. Overall, our time in Nacogdoches reminded us all that Christ gives life and IS life and that we all need Him to give us eyes to see.



"Throughout the week my team and I worked on a house which needed a new roof, siding, painting, and landscaping. I had many conversations with the homeowner and people in the neighborhood during our time there and we were able to relate on the joy of the Lord despite our differences. This trip truly made me grateful for everything I have and reminded me of the powerful yet simple God we all serve." - Alyssa Smith, Arizona

"Heading into this trip, I expected hard physical labor and essentially a free workout. However, I ended up scraping paint and repainting the house the entire week. While at first I felt underutilized, I slowly started to realize that "do all things for the glory of God" truly means ALL things. Even though I did not enjoy my work initially I kept doing my best and started appreciating it in the end." - Lukas Decker, Austria



BIBLE SCHOOL

Entering into a new school year, we are praising God for His kindness and generosity towards us in providing another group of men and women who have come with a desire to know Jesus Christ. There is much nervousness and reservation in the first month of Bible School, but as students grow accustomed to life here at His Hill and begin to dig into God's Word, they begin to relate to one another according to Christ rather than according to their background or past experiences. Praise God for the Body of Christ joining together in growing in the knowledge of the riches that are ours in Christ (Ephesians 1:18)!

We have welcomed sixty-nine students this semester, fifty-five First-Year students and fourteen Second-Year students. The year began with Kelly Doherty teaching through Genesis, followed by Shawn Lazar from Free Grace International going through the book of Romans. The student body then spent five days in Nacogdoches, TX partnering

with a local ministry serving the community there, and next month we will host our 47th Thanksgiving Conference.

As I consider the decades of ministry the Lord has done here, I am both grateful and humbled. Thank you for your continued prayers that Christ would be magnified in the hearts of staff, students, and other guests as we continue to encourage one another in the marvelous reality that we are in Christ and He is in us (John 14:20)!



Jon Forrest, Principal

ACTING ON THE TRUTH

TOO SOON TO SLIDE

"I guess I started my slide too soon." Those are the words of Jimmy Stewart in the movie about the life of professional baseball player Monty Stratton. Stratton's career nearly ended when he had his leg amputated after a hunting accident. Amazingly, he taught himself to pitch again, and returned to professional baseball.

At his first at-bat since his injury, his prosthetic leg gave out as he was running to first base. He stumbled and slid head-first toward the base, but never made it. He was out. In the dugout there was only awkward silence. Jimmy Stewart spoke and made everyone laugh with his line about starting his slide too soon.

A lot of Christians start their slide too soon. In fact, there isn't to be any sliding in the Christian life. Paul and Peter both knew when they were at the end of life although they were not old men (2 Tim. 4:6-8; 2 Peter 1:14). God revealed it to them. But they still ran to the end. Paul said that he had "fought the good fight, and finished the course, and kept the faith."

Peter spoke of being diligent to be found by Him in peace, holy and blameless (2 Pet. 3:14). And he exhorted his readers to be looking for and hastening, in holy conduct and godliness, the coming day of God (2 Pet. 3:11-12). It is interesting that although Paul was convinced that Christ who began a good work in him would also bring it to completion (Phil. 1:6), he also spoke of pressing on, laying hold of, and reaching forward (Phil. 3:12-13). For Paul, the truth that Christ will finish in us what He started was not a cause for complacency, or sliding too soon.

John wrote in his first epistle that when Christ appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is (1 Jn. 3:2). What an amazing promise! Yet that absolute truth of being like Him when we see Him should not breed complacency.

Just the opposite! In the next verse, John writes, "And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure (3:3)." Complacency, sliding, is a sickness of the soul. We see it everywhere. And it is nothing new.

Prior to the return of Christ, despite how terrible things will be on earth, most of the world will be living their lives as though nothing is wrong and with no sense of coming judgment – like in the days of Noah when "they were eating and drinking . . . marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark. They did not understand (Matt. 24:38-39)."

Whether you are eighteen years old or eighty years old, you are not meant to slide. Complacency has no place in the Christian life. We are in a spiritual battle (Eph. 5:10ff) with an enemy who shows no mercy and is constantly looking for an opportunity to destroy us (1 Pet. 5:8). There are many reasons for complacency. One is that we have been given too much, and we have forgotten God (Prov. 29:9).

Another is that we do not realize the imminency of Christ's return. Paul recognized this in the Roman believers and told them "it is already the hour to awaken from sleep (Rom. 13:11)." Sometimes the problem is that we don't realize the consequence of sin in a believer's life is the same as it is in an unbeliever's life: death! Not eternal death, but death, still. Physical death possibly; moral, mental, emotional, and relational death for sure.

We forget, or don't understand, that the statement "the wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23)" is written to Christians and pertains to their sanctification. The cure to complacency has both positive and negative aspects. Asaph seemed to express in Psalm 73 that he was ready to quit because life was so troublesome. But then he realized that doing so would have "betrayed the generation of Thy children."

So, realizing the negative consequences of quitting, he refocused on God and remembered that the nearness of God was his good (73:28). David was confident that he would be with the Lord when he died. Yet, life was hard for him, and he was keenly aware of his folly and wrongs (Ps. 69:5).

It seems that it was the fear of what he was capable of that led him to pray, "May those who wait for You not be ashamed through me . . . May those who seek You not be dishonored through me, O God of Israel (69:6)." David understood that more is at stake than just himself should he become complacent regarding sin and his relationship with God.

Fear of ourselves and fear of the damage we can cause in the lives of others and to the name of Jesus are healthy fears, but negative motivations, that can help us break out of complacency. On the positive side, we should ultimately be motivated by the love Christ has for us (2 Cor. 5:14), as well as the prospect of His soon return.

This will cause us to live for Him who died and rose again on our behalf, and not merely for ourselves. Putting on Christ is also key to breaking out of complacency (Rom. 13:14), for His life is Life indeed. We are to walk in the "newness of His life (Rom. 6:4)." There is nothing static or stale about His eternal and all-powerful life. A complacent Christian is not walking in the newness of His life!

It is good to take hope in the fact that He will finish the work that He began in us. But there is too much at stake to become complacent in our faith. Be encouraged to run to the end. It is always too soon to slide in the Christian life.



Charlie McCall, Director

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