

Hillsdale Herald

JUNE-JULY 2017

Grace Givers

We “widows” met together June 4 for a picnic lunch at Peggy Goodrich’s home. There were 11 of us present for an outdoor picnic.

We each received a blank “Grateful Journal” with the challenge to write in it each day things we are thankful to our God for, with the goal of reaching 1,000 ways to give thanks.

This new ministry is available for those in and outside of church family who feel this may meet special needs in her life.

We gather together every six to seven weeks for a Sunday luncheon, which is held at different homes or in the church Fellowship Hall.

It is not our desire to be self-centered but to reach out and extend grace to others who may appreciate being thought of.

In 11 Corinthians, we read: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”

— Ginny Wilcox



Women gather together for the new widows’ ministry through Hillsdale Bible Church called Grace Givers. (Photo provided)

Who Am I?

You’ve probably noticed the newsletter has a new look. My name is Ruth Ann Replogle and I’m the back row Baptist who started coming to Hillsdale Bible Church one year ago. Ginny Wilcox recently passed the baton to me to carry on our church newsletter.

You may have heard of me if you’ve lived in northwest Oklahoma for a while. I was a reporter and editor for the Enid News & Eagle for 10 years and continue to write for them a faith column called Just Hold On, which comes out on Fridays.

I look forward to meeting you—if I haven’t already!

Easter Cantata



Hillsdale Bible Church’s choir and dramatic narrators presented the Easter cantata “Amazing Love: How Can It Be” during the Sunday morning service on April 16. (Photo by Ruth Ann Replogle)

Stability

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines “stability” as “the quality, state, or degree of being stable: such as the strength to stand or endure: firmness.”

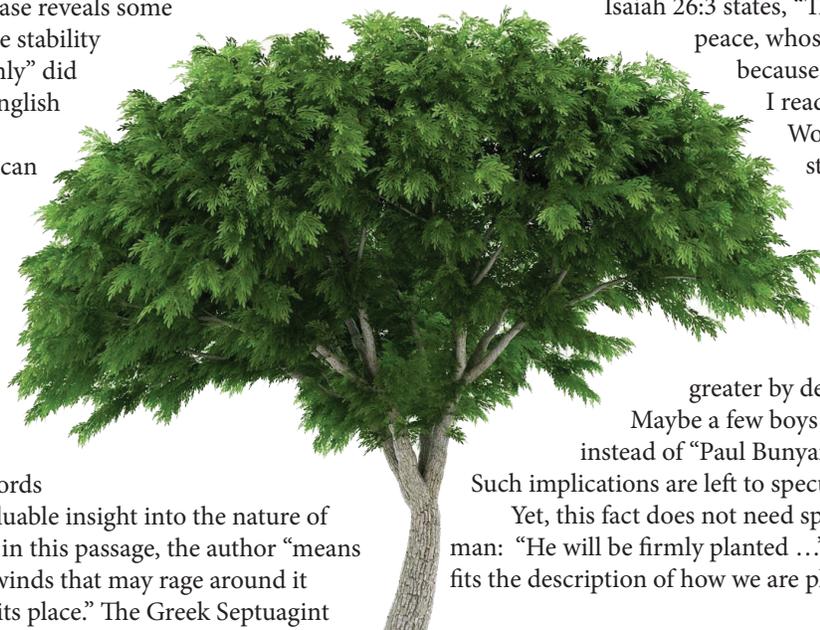
I recall a time when I was a young boy of 10 or 12 years old that beside our house was “the field,” a small ½ acre of land where we as children would play baseball, ride our bikes, or dig holes. Around the perimeter of the field was Indiana forest on the east, west, and south sides. Many of the trees were tall oak and maple.

But, on the edge of the field, were the small sassafras trees. They had a beautiful green leaf and slender trunks and limbs. For most people, they were attractive to behold and wonderful to smell. For a couple of young boys, they were easy to bend over and pull up from the ground. It didn’t help them to be planted in a sandy-soiled field occupied with boys who had allusions to being Paul Bunyan.

I think of the portion of Psalm 1:3 that speaks of the blessed man as being “like a tree firmly planted by streams of water.” A deeper look into the phrase reveals some fascinating things about the stability mentioned. The word “firmly” did not appear in the typical English Bible translations until the 1970s with the New American Standard.

The Hebrew word had a simple translation of “planted” for centuries. Then, in the mid-1800s, Hebrew scholars Keil and Delitzsch produced a monumental commentary on the Old Testament.

Their research into such words as “planted” provided invaluable insight into the nature of the meaning. Particularly, in this passage, the author “means firmly planted, so that no winds that may rage around it are able to remove it from its place.” The Greek Septuagint



“He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water ...”

— PSALM 1:3

confirms the impression of firmness by putting the word “planted” into the perfect tense. Sometimes I like to relabel the perfect tense as the “permanent tense.”

How does this apply to the blessed man? The text stated that he is planted. He does not plant himself. Rather, something or someone else has planted him where he is. The simple statement is that the Lord has planted him. The avenue that has made such stability possible is that the blessed man has been in the Word day and night and meditating upon it (Psalm 1:2).

His life has found its stability in God’s Word and God’s work. Without the saturation of Scripture in one’s life, stability in behavior, thinking, and living is not possible. Spiritually, the mature man will be blessed by his time spent in the Word. Emotionally and mentally, he will also find his stability there.

Isaiah 26:3 states, “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee:

because he trusteth in thee.” Years ago

I read that “seven days without the Word makes one weak.” Read that statement a second time and you will see a profound truth.

Maybe the sassafras trees would have held up better if they were taller or had larger trunks. Maybe they would have benefitted

greater by denser soil or deeper roots.

Maybe a few boys playing “Johnny Appleseed” instead of “Paul Bunyan” would have helped as well.

Such implications are left to speculation.

Yet, this fact does not need speculation about the blessed man: “He will be firmly planted ...” I wonder if the word “firmly” fits the description of how we are planted.

— Pastor Bob Courtney

Doulos
Language and Bible Institute
τῷ γὰρ Κυρίῳ Χριστῷ δουλεύετε
It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.
Colossians 3:24

Introducing DOULOS LANGUAGE AND BIBLE INSTITUTE.... We have just begun, incorporation papers are official, and the work to provide an excellent education is the task before us. Initially, 2 diplomas are offered: The Certificate of Biblical Research Skills and The Certificate of Biblical Language Studies. Our goal is to begin classes this fall. Classes will have the flexibility of video classroom and/or actual classroom. Information on programs, classes, and costs are available now. Much needs to be still accomplished, so we covet your prayers. More information will follow, but if you have questions or interest in DLBI, you can contact us at office@douloslanguagebibleinstitute.org or Pastor Bob at 635-2214.

Have an idea for the newsletter?

We would love to hear how you’re spreading the gospel or about any talents you’d like to share with us.

Email all ideas, news briefs, and photos for consideration to justholdonrr@gmail.com along with your name and a phone number where you can be reached.

— Ruth Ann Replogle

Junior Sunday School Report



Hillsdale Bible Church youth. (Photo provided)

The excitement of Junior Sunday School continues.

- Each Sunday the children are reunited with friends they may not have seen all week.
- There's the anticipation of whose name will be drawn out of the bag for a prize.
- We have begun a new segment for the older kids— Sword Drills!
- We had “Teacher Favorite Songs” week.
- A few of the children recited Bible passages they had memorized in school.
- The teachers have prepared interesting and informative lessons for their class.
- Currently we are learning the songs and motions for VBS. Thanks to Sue Hoffsommer for her time with this.

Continue to pray for the children of our church.

— Gretchen Streck

Youth Report

The youth has been busy as always. This time of year we always have a group of seniors that graduate, but we look forward to the new group of seventh graders coming up.

We have been busy with graduation parties, glitter parties, and gaming parties. The youth also look forward in the summer to Orpheus.

Orpheus was started at least eight years ago as a time in the summer that the youth could hang out and bond over the summer. They play basketball, swim, and other games at Jeff and Sue Hoffsommer's house.

Thanks Jeff and Sue for the chance for the youth to hang out.

We will be helping with VBS and there are many other activities that we have planned for the summer.

— Kelly McCoy

Deaconesses

These last few months have been busy. We have been visiting and sending cards to quite a few members and families.

We have also provided some homecooked meals to several who have been under the weather. Most importantly, we have been praying for you!!! We are honored to serve you, our church family.

— The Deaconesses (Wendy Little, Linda Shipley, Ginny Wilcox, Peggy Goodrich)

Ladies Missionary Ministries

The Ladies Missionary Ministries (LMM) April meeting results are:

1. The meetings will be changed to the SECOND THURSDAY of each month instead of Tuesday. This will begin in September 2017 and meet each month through April 2018.
2. Our lunches will be “covered dish” each month.
3. Each month will be led by a volunteer lady (who becomes President for the day) and will select the projects to be worked on as well as the program that day.
4. Ginny Wilcox will continue to print out the prayer requests received from our missionaries.
5. Judy Chasteen will continue to

mail out the birthday and anniversary cards each month.

6. Nancy Hayes will continue to be our treasurer.
7. We will continue to give support of \$50/month to the Evans family as well as sponsor two students in Nigeria.
8. Charlotte Bowen will keep minutes of each meeting and will appoint someone to take her place when she is away.

We have also cut the number of missionaries we correspond with monthly due to constraints.

However, we will continue to print out everyone's prayer requests for those who may know them and wish to keep up with their ministries.

There is a clipboard at the back of the sanctuary so you can sign up for the month you would like to be “President for a month.” You can be creative and have a speaker, or a demonstration of something, a new project, or a devotional.

Our priority at each meeting will continue to be selecting a missionary letter, reading it, and writing a note to them. We will still ask our missionary families if there are projects we can be doing for them.

Enjoy your summer with the extra time you have, but please consider making a commitment to be involved with LMM this fall.

— Ginny Wilcox

Missions

In his book “To the Ends of the Earth: Churches Fulfilling the Great Commission,” Jerry Rankin makes the following observation: “We have discovered the world is not a pancake but a waffle. When you pour syrup on a pancake, it will flow all over a smooth, round surface, but not so with your waffle. It is a matrix of squares separated by ridges. If you want syrup all over your waffle, you have to very deliberately pour it into each little square. The world is not a monolithic collection of homogeneous peoples, like a pancake, but instead it is made up of more than 12,000 diverse languages, tribes, and ethnic identities. Like the ridges on a waffle, there are barriers that keep the gospel from flowing cross-culturally.”

We have such a privilege at Hillsdale Bible Church to participate in this “syrup pouring.” In addition to our own “square” here in northwest Oklahoma, we get to see how our missionary friends are obeying the Great Commission by adapting their approach to fit the cultures they are trying to reach for Christ. This was demonstrated in a striking way back in April when Jackson and Blessing Rowland were here on the same day as Shoshannah Weinische.

The Rowlands are reaching a village that is small and desperately poor, uneducated and forgotten. The Weinisches are reaching the Jews of New York City, one of the capitals of the world filled with people who are educated and affluent. Yet it’s the same Gospel message! The substance of the message is unchanged, but the approaches used to spread that message are countless.

— Jeff Hoffsommer

VBS



Hillsdale Bible Church held its annual Vacation Bible School June 5-9. This year’s theme was “Operation Arctic.” VBS Director Jenifer Lloyd said on average 80 kids attended daily and more than 40 teens and adults volunteered that week. In addition, \$1,160 was raised on behalf of the mission work at Jubilee Youth Center in Minnesota to pay for 22 inner city children to go to camp. See more photos on our Facebook page. (Photo provided)

Elder Report

This year we will be celebrating 100 years of gathering together in this venerable old church building. 100 years of fellowship and service. 100 years of singing and praising. 100 years of steadfast teaching and preaching from the Word of God.

We will be celebrating this milestone **October 20-22**. (Save the dates!!!) While it will certainly be a time to celebrate and to reflect upon God’s blessings over the past generations, the question that will need to be asked is this: Now what?

It is instructive to study the churches that Christ addressed in Revelation 2-3. These were literal churches that had been founded during the apostolic era, which at the time of writing was drawing to a close. They were likely second-generation churches whose original members had largely passed.

What kinds of things were said to them? There were certainly many commendations for their patience, their discernment, their perseverance and love. There were also many messages of rebuke regarding their tolerance of false teachers in their midst, their immorality, their pride and

tepidness. But there were many chilling imperatives given: “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” “Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have.” “Be faithful until death.” There was a message conveyed that whatever had gone before, there was a call for action right now! Vital, decisive action.

The Archbishop of Canterbury famously said, “Christianity in Britain is just a generation away from extinction.” While I do not believe that is true here, there are certainly trends in the church in America that should drive us to our knees. So the answer to the question “Now what?” is certainly not to coast and rest on our laurels. We have been handed a great heritage, and it is our responsibility to be faithful to our Savior, and to work with great diligence to uphold His truth for our generation.

Timothy, who also inherited a great spiritual heritage from his mother and grandmother, was given this command by the Apostle Paul: “Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” (2 Timothy 1:6-7)

It is time to stir up the gift of God which is in us.

— Jeff Hoffsommer