



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 20 No. 8

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

August 2021

SIXTY YEARS SERVING THE LORD

From the Pastor's Desk

A Legacy of Service to the Lord

Proverbs 22:1-4

I have in my possession a biography of John Bunyan written by William Deal called *A Pilgrim Who Made Progress*. Years ago when I finished the book, I immediately felt the impact of that simple yet profound biography. John Bunyan was a humble man of humble beginnings and spent his early life like many of



us do in sin and rebellion against God before yielding to the Lord's calling into a life of service to Him. It wasn't till after he married his first wife, Mary, that he finally and fully knelt in heart and soul to Christ for salvation.

His start in ministry was simple, but productive by helping out the pastor of his church the best he could and continuing to work in his shop as a tinker. Soon Bunyan began to preach and that brought some attention to him because he was known as a man who had command of God's word even though he was unlearned. Soon after that, his preaching became a normal part of his life and he began to write about the Christian life and the impact Christ should have on a life devoted to Him.

It was only a short time into his ministry that his wife died of a fever and he was left a widower with four children, the oldest being blind. For a year he did nothing more than just work in his shop, but God had other plans for him.

The Lord brought Elizabeth into his life, a kindly and saintly soul whom he would marry a year after his first wife's death. She encouraged him to continue to write and preach, so Bunyan found renewed strength in serving the Lord and did just that.

Soon after his marriage and restart in ministry, England passed a law that all unlicensed preachers who were not recognized by the government-run Anglican Church were to

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Aug. 1, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Weekly:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School and Bible Discussion

Sundays at 10:45 a.m. – Worship Service

Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. – Weekly Bible Study

Continuing to study verse 3:16 in each Bible book..

be imprisoned for disobeying the law. Bunyan being a man of simple means and no formal education was not licensed and thus he was quickly thrown into prison. From there he began to write a prolific amount of books that he would not have accomplished otherwise.

He spent twelve years in prison, however, he was given a short reprieve only during the great plague in England. But then had to go back to jail when the edict fell for all prisoners of religious crimes to return to jail.

Bunyan willingly went back and continued to write. All the while his second wife, Elizabeth, was recopying his books and sending them off to London on his behalf. God provided an income for the family through his writings and they were able to survive despite his being in prison.

It wasn't till later in his life and during his second imprisonment that he put pen to paper to produce his most acclaimed writing *The Pilgrim's Progress*. Some experts in literature consider it to be one of the greatest English writings of the 17th century and others argue that it is the best ever. This children's story put into a novel form was an instant success due in part to his ever increasing popularity among those who came to know the Lord through his writings.

Soon after the book's release, he too was released. He continued to minister to those around him and he became the pastor of the Meeter's Church in Bedford. His ministry was

See Pastor's Desk on p. 2

In This Issue: Pastor's Message | Upcoming Events | Property & Space Patrol | Letter to NH Churches | Where Are You Headed? | Gospel Radio | Birthdays & Anniversaries

On the web at <http://www.hillside-sbc.org>

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

far and wide, so much so that it reached London and his writings reached all the way to the new world in America.

Not too long after that Bunyan became ill and he died in 1688 in London with his wife Elizabeth by his side. When it is all said and done, in the sixty years of life he lived, he put out sixty books. The preacher who presided over his funeral commented that it stood for one book for each year of his life.

Rich people and commoners alike attended the funeral service, for Bunyan was a man who by all definitions of the word was a star. His friends and family loved him; his enemies feared his writings and respected him. John Bunyan was a man who would not be swayed by popular opinion nor by royal decrees for he was a true saint in service to our Christian heritage.

I remember years ago when I finished the book I could not help but feel a profound sadness of such a loss to Christianity, but our loss was his gain for he was finally home. When I closed the book it felt as if I had lost friend and colleague in the Lord. His story touched my life and made me evaluate my own walk with the Lord. Even though it has been more than 300 years since his passing, Bunyan's work still impacts those who are willing to take the time to listen to what he wrote and how he lived.

When I think of his life, I am reminded of several passages in Scripture. Perhaps the most apropos passage is Proverbs 22:1-4, "A good name is to be more desired than great wealth, Favor is better than silver and gold. The rich and poor have a common bond, the Lord is the maker of them all. The prudent sees the evil and hides himself, But the naïve go on, and are punished for it. The reward of humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, honor, and life."

John Bunyan was a man who was known as humble for he did not seek fame, fortune, or notoriety; he did not elevate himself, but instead he elevated his Lord. The amount of people who came to know the Lord under his ministry was countless. Two who need mentioning were his jailers; they were both led to Christ through the constant witness and preaching that they allowed him to continue in the prison.

John Bunyan's name is indeed good; his legacy will be remembered for all time. And like Proverbs 22:4 says about the one who is humble and fears the Lord, such a person will have riches, honor, and life. Indeed John Bunyan has all three for he is with Christ for all eternity.

What kind of name are you leaving? What kind of legacy will be left behind? My hope and prayer is that you too are leaving a legacy of Christian service behind you in which you are doing all you can for the Lord.

Unlike Bunyan we probably won't have to go to prison for twelve years, but would you do it if you had to? We cannot control the time of our passing from this world to the next, but we can control how we live it while we are still here and how we leave it when we go. Let me encourage you to live for your Lord and Savior, for the Bible tells us to seek first His Kingdom and His Righteousness and all other things

will be added unto us. If you are busy doing His work, then His name will be glorified.

We may never carry such a renowned name as John Bunyan in Christian circles, but that is not why we serve our Savior. We serve Him because we love Him and He knows our name and that is enough. May you go out of your way to make a name for the Lord and leave a legacy of serving Christ for all to read about in generations to come.

✠ Pastor Jim

Property and Space Patrol

Mowing continues with the new John Deere machine trimming the front and rear lawn areas.

The Sanctuary has been staying cool with just one A/C unit operating.

Blessings,
✠ Pastor Jim

A Letter to New Hampshire Church Leaders

Having merged with the Baptist Convention of New England, the new platform for New Hampshire churches is: <https://www.bcne.net/new-hampshire>

The Regional Coordinator, Rich Clegg, is here to support you and your ministry. Rich penned the following letter.

Having pastored in New Hampshire for more than fifteen years, I know what it's like to serve here in one of the least religious states in the nation. I've seen firsthand the challenges, as well as the amazing opportunities. I have also seen the difference a healthy, encouraging community can make in the life of a leader. That's why I'm here to partner with you, equip you and encourage you.



Partnering: A Team Sport

Ministry is a team sport, and over the years I have seen God move mightily through partnerships. Connecting through pastor/leader fellowships can be a tremendous blessing. Maybe God is leading your church to engage in foster care/adoption ministry, recovery work, prison ministry, or another ministry to show the love of Christ to your community. Or maybe you're interested in hosting mission teams or developing a church partnership. If you need a hand in taking your next steps, I'm here to help.

Equipping You to Equip the Saints

I look forward to helping you fulfill your call of equipping the saints for the work of ministry. Through the BCNE, there is help available for leadership development, pastoral

See *Letter* on p. 3

Letter, from p. 3

transitions, small group/Sunday School training, evangelism training and other regional training events. As a pastor/leader you don't have to do it all alone – the BCNE family is here to help.

Support Through Encouragement

As Regional Coordinator, my goal is to be an encouragement to you. I love meeting with pastors and leaders for fellowship, coaching, consulting, celebration or just to be a safe listening ear.

As a local pastor and a father of six kids, I would never survive without the team of support God has placed around me. The BCNE wants to be a part of your team so you can see the ministry God has entrusted to you thrive for the sake of the Gospel.

✠ Rich Clegg, New Hampshire Regional Coordinator
Baptist Convention of New England

<https://www.bcne.net>

Where Are You Headed?

The following essay comes from the *Our Daily Bread* devotional booklet for January 2020. Remember the story from June 2018 about the soccer kids trapped in a cave in Thailand?

Read 2 Samuel 12:1-14 in which the prophet Nathan confronted King David, and then turn to the following essay written by staff writer, Mike Wittmer.

In northern Thailand, the Wild Boars youth soccer team decided to explore a cave together. After an hour they turned to go back and found that the entrance to the cave was flooded. Rising water pushed them deeper into the cave, day after day, until they were finally trapped more than two miles (four kilometers) inside.

When they were heroically rescued two weeks later, many wondered how they had become so hopelessly trapped. Answer: one step at a time.

In Israel, Nathan confronted David for killing his loyal soldier, Uriah. How did the man “after [God’s] own heart” (1 Samuel 13:14) become guilty of murder? One step at a time. David didn’t go from zero to murder in one afternoon. He warmed up to it, over time, as one bad decision bled into others.

It started with a second glance that turned into a lustful stare. He abused his kingly power by sending for Bathsheba, then tried to cover up her pregnancy by calling her husband home from the front. When Uriah refused to visit his wife while his comrades were at war, David decided he would have to die.

We may not be guilty of murder or trapped in a cave of our own making, but we’re either moving toward Jesus or toward trouble. Big problems don’t develop overnight. They break upon us gradually, one step at a time.

Tune in to Gospel Radio

In the Concord area, get more of God's Word by tuning into New Hampshire Gospel Radio at 99.1 FM or 104.3 FM. For example, on Saturday nights at 6 p.m. the locally produced "Saturday Night Gospel Hour" offers a wide variety of southern and country gospel music. During the week, tune into well known speakers such as Alistair Begg, Chuck Swindoll, Dr. David Jeremiah, and Dr. Jim Daly.

Learn more at <http://www.nhgr.org/>.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Hillside wishes a happy, happy, happy birthday to the following people who are celebrating another orbit around the Sun:

8/9 Nathan Frascinella



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on any people who celebrate a wedding anniversary this month. If that's you, let the editor know about it.

Prayer Requests

If you need us to pray for a physical, spiritual, financial, marital, or other need, contact Pastor Jim, Pastor Al, or Michael Frascinella and they will get the word out to the membership. It is our duty and privilege to lift you up in prayer to Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hillside on the Web

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

Submissions for Next Issue

Deadline is Aug. 25. Send news items to News Wrangler and Editor, Michael Frascinella, mfrascinella at comcast dot net.



Hillside Baptist Church is a member of the Baptist Convention of New Hampshire, part of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Hillside Baptist Church
547 Pembroke St.
Pembroke, NH 03275

Modeling the truth of God's Word



On the web at
<http://www.hillside-sbc.org>

