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FALL 2019 NEWSLETTER

Five Years Later...

Early this past August I attended a two-day Leadership Conference, which was one of the highlights of my year. One speaker told about participating in naval aviator training exercises on the east coast. One of the most rigorous and dreaded operations is water safety egress training. He described it as a required activity designed to prepare a crewmember for surviving the most perilous experiences he or she may ever face. Every few years, the pilots renew their skills by demonstrating their ability to escape downed aircraft submerged in dark ocean waters. Each pilot is strapped into the cockpit simulator wearing vision blocking goggles, without an air tank, and dropped into several feet of water. As the contraption sinks it inverts. Disoriented and unable to see or breathe, the pilot must unbuckle the straps and find his way out of the dark cockpit. In some cases, he is responsible for ensuring others make it out safely as well. It's enough to give me a panic attack just thinking about it.

August 25th marked five years since Bob moved on to his forever home. I can't decide if it seems like a short or long time ago. But for a good while, after he left, I participated in my own water egress training. My world flipped upside down and I felt like I couldn't breathe or see very far ahead. I heard the question, "How will you all keep things going?" more times than I can count. "No idea," was my main answer. But looking back, how we managed is best explained by the speaker's statement, "The key to survival is maintaining your reference. You wait for the

violent motion to stop and then find your reference."

So with the most extraordinary committed team members, board of directors and close friends of the ministry we made a decision. Relying on our Father for vision and the Holy Spirit for guidance, knowing we could never work hard enough or come up with enough good ideas, we waited for the turbulence to settle and moved forward with Jesus, The Cornerstone, as our reference point.

Therefore thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, a costly corner stone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed." (Isaiah 28:16)

Five years later we continue to be astonished by God's opportunities for us. Two weeks ago we received our first shipment of Romanos, the Spanish translation of Bob's Roman's study. We are thrilled this dream has come to fruition. Our deep gratitude goes out to Sarah Cunningham who spear-headed the translation project. She spent many long hours pouring her heart into this effort to make the message true to Scripture and the English version. Also, working with Sarah were Jaim Masso, Jair Tapia, Leonardo Vargas, and Brent Armstrong. We appreciate all the input and time given.

We have four new additions to The Hill. These young adults, some students at surrounding colleges, some working jobs nearby, participate in the day to day life of the ministry, and provide the adventurous part of life for us all. We credit them with keeping us young, at least at heart. We are privileged to join with them in talking about the things of God, studying Scripture, and building lifelong relationships.

Walking alongside believers for the purpose of nurturing one another in the faith continues to be the motiva-



*New resident at The Hill,
Aaron Davis*



*Three of the four new additions at The Hill: Mattie Lee Guil-
lory, Erinn Finley, and Leah Harley.*

tion behind all we do. We are praying to be more accessible to Millennials and Generation Z. Please pray with us. We are developing podcasts as a more effective way to reach them with the truth of the gospel.

Thank you for your continued love, phone calls, and notes of encouragement, and for standing by us faithfully with your prayers and financial support. And thank you for remembering Bob. Our hearts have been touched by yours in a profound way and we are thankful for how you minister in your communities. We look forward to the next five years and beyond as we continue to listen for direction.

I pray The Cornerstone will be the reference point for your life.

Kim

Glenna Yuill Retiring

About nine years ago Glenna Yuill sat down for an afternoon phone discussion with Bob. She had recently, at the age of 59, come into a relationship with Jesus and had sought out the ministry at the urging of a friend. Glenna had attended church for several years prior but had never heard the message of grace. She quickly absorbed the concept of the finished work of Jesus through the cross—how she is free and has a life without fear—and began to discover how it meant a calmness of her soul, that she could rest in Him. Glenna continued attending Bible studies and retreats, asking countless questions. Meanwhile, God had been orchestrating the whole time and an opportunity opened for Glenna to join our team.

She has served as an office assistant, overseen the cleaning of the buildings, worked tirelessly at retreats and camps and has been a friend of every visitor. She has also found herself

stuck in the middle of a muddy cornfield one night in my vehicle with me, without a cellphone, vacuuming up gallons of water with Brent from a flooded office, running from Bob as he approached with a long, dead snake, and forced in front of summer campers and their video cameras. She is such a great sport.

Glenna plans to retire from The Hill this December. To say we will miss seeing her on a daily basis is an un-



derstatement. Her wise contributions, desire to go above and beyond what is required, and attention to detail of daily operations are only a small part of what will leave us. Monday morning meetings will be less joyful without her smile, laughter and humor. While things will be different without her, we couldn't be happier for her to spend more time with her husband Gary and pursue other interests. Of course, we will see Glenna often. She loves the people she has met through the ministry over the years and wants to continue serving. And we would never let her off the hook so easily. She belongs here. We will forever be grateful to this selfless, loving friend who has walked hand in hand with us and made our lives richer. We often hear Glenna encouraging others with her story of how Jesus took up residency within her. "It's never too late," she says.

Upcoming Events

Rooted & Grounded, January 9-12, 2020—Our annual gathering of young adults (post high school/18-25) that are hungry for truth, a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, and fellowship with others in a similar pursuit. Speakers for R & G are Michael Wilkerson, Brian Crall, and Rick Underhill.

Winter Youth Retreat, January 17-19, 2020—Our annual winter retreat for middle and high school students—39 hours filled with the Word, laughter, friendship, worship, fun, and a little bit of sleep. Speakers for WYR 2020 are Chris Holloman, Jim Dashiell and Mark Schmahl. Students must be 13 to attend.

Men's Retreat, April 24-26, 2020—Our annual Men's Retreat for fathers, their sons, and single men of all ages. The speakers for this event will be Steve Pettit, and Mark Schmahl.

Summer Youth Leadership Camps, June 7-13 & June 21-27, 2020—Our annual summer camps for ages 13-18—each camp is a week of intense Bible study, service projects, fun and fellowship. Space is limited to 100 campers for each camp, so reserve your spot early.

The Face of Grace Conference (AKA Romans Retreat), Sept. 25-27, 2020—Tim Chalas will be with us once again along with Andrew Farley. You will not want to miss this conference.

You may register or find more information about these opportunities at lifeonthehill.org.

Freedom to Fail

by Corrie Johnson

I was 15 when I first heard pastor Bob Warren tell me I was “free to fail.” I wrote it down like a mantra on the inside of my Bible cover, the black ink highlighted with pink, neatly shouted in all caps. I was on a youth retreat, tackling Romans 1–8 in the haze of August, deep in the Bible belt. I was justified. I was forgiven. I was free to fail. I wasn’t believing it. After all, I was the girl putting in twice the number of hours in the pool as any other kid on the swim team. I was coming to practice wearing four swimsuits (layered for resistance training), which I later shifted to T-shirts,

eventually swapped out for a sweatshirt, and finally traded for shoulder inflammation. At age 12 I was swimming four times as much at every swim meet as any other 12-year-old and twice as much as any 18-year-old. I was doing it for the team, I told myself, but I had the satisfaction of knowing I was unequivocally a coach’s favorite. By 14, all I had to show for my overachievement were a few awards affirming my standing with the coaches, and a shoulder constantly in pain. Legalism always exhausts. And it always hurts.

That wasn’t the only piece of my life well-entrenched in legalism. Where many struggle to accept God’s love because they look and feel like a washed-up mess, I spent years struggling to understand why I needed Christ’s sacrifice in the first place. I wasn’t just a good girl. I was a super good girl. The Pharisees had the right idea: If you’re going to do everything right, you need some “hedge laws” to keep you away from sins. But then you need something to keep you from straying too close to the hedge, and then something to protect even further. I was unaware that I was bound and determined to stay, well, bound.

Bob Warren’s grace-filled influence had years to go before cementing. He challenged my need to both justify and sanctify myself with Romans 5:10: “For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the

death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life” (NASB).

Justified through his death. Sanctified by his life. Filled with his living Spirit. My determination to stay bound slowly crumbled as I pored over the pages of Romans through the years, wearing the margins thin with my questions, notes, and cross-references. As the years passed, I came to a rooted understanding that my legalism was only injuring me. Legalism can never be satisfied, so all it ever did was reveal my failings, scorn them, and redouble the effort to measure up. Eventually, the truth of Romans 7:6 began manifesting in my life: “But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit” (NIV).

I found this freedom in the Spirit—freedom to not only serve the new way, in joyful obedience, but to fail a new way, too. My failures no longer condemned me, and I no

longer scorned them. The law reveals my sin, but it is powerless to save, justify, sanctify, or even condemn (Rom 8:1–3, 33). I finally accepted that the law was powerless to achieve any of those things.

Bob conscientiously warned against using grace as a license to sin, and his story of justification and sanctification paved the way to an understanding of my identity in Christ. I am free from trying to measure up where Christ has paid in full. I am free from the weight of sin already laid on his shoulders. I’m free to stop doing more and better where he said, “It is finished.” And where I fail deeply, daily, hourly, I am free to stand, confident in his inexhaustible grace.

Corrie Johnson is probably eating donuts in secret from her five kids at this very moment. She is getting better

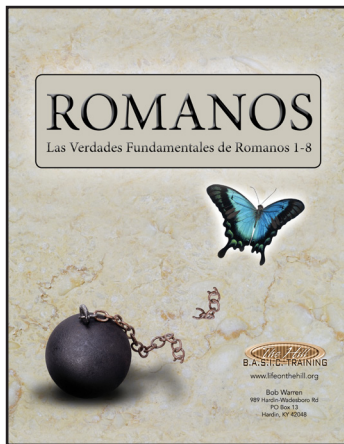
at failure and has never kept a single potted plant alive, although one time she did have a goldfish for two entire months. Follow her blog at [Facebook.com/PigInTheRiver](https://www.facebook.com/PigInTheRiver).

This article was originally published in Bible Study Magazine, November/December 2018 (<http://www.biblestudy-magazine.com/>).

***My failures
no longer
condemned
me...***



Corrie Johnson and two of her five girls, Violet and Charlotte.



Romanos

Las Verdades Fundamentales de Romanos 1-8

We have a burden to reach an underserved segment of the church whose first language is Spanish. Very little material exists in Spanish teaching the truths of grace and identity. We're excited to fill that void by offering *Romanos, Las Verdades Fundamentales de Romanos 1-8* to our Spanish speaking friends. The content is the same as the English version Romans course God has used to transform the lives of thousands. Consider sharing *Romanos* with Hispanic friends and neighbors in your community.

Romanos is available on the "Resources" tab from our website: lifeonthehill.org.

For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man; so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fulness of God.

Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:14-21)

Your Friends at The Hill