

A Fresh Perspective

I love January and celebrating the start of a new year. Beginnings are empowering, but I'm not big on resolutions. Don't get me wrong, I want to be in shape, live with less stress, and have organized closets as much as the next person. I even took the first week of January to clean, throw out and organize, which included sitting to ponder what I should do with odd pillowcases and books I will never read.

Although I'm not a fan of resolutions, I may have one for this year. At our Christmas party in early December I was invited into a circle of girls. A glob of whipping cream was squirted on top of my hand which I was supposed to catapult in the air and then catch in my mouth. After several unsuccessful attempts and eager coaching, I performed some contortionist-worthy moves, and the white fluffy stuff finally landed somewhere on my face. Then for the next three or four days I walked around feeling like I had whiplash and I resolved I would never play that game again—not in 2020, not ever. And I'm sticking to it.

Resolutions may not be my thing but I do believe hitting the reset button, looking forward to what lies ahead and releasing the past is quite rewarding. "Good-bye closet clutter and boxes that have lived in my house way too long." Clutter doesn't only happen in our homes. It also crowds our minds when we listen for too long to what the world tells us about ourselves and who God is. When we let others and experiences define how we think about ourselves the result is often the exact opposite of who our Father tells us we are.

One evening not long ago a young friend and I began talking about her childhood at my kitchen counter. "I was really difficult," she said. I laughed in agreement because we both remember her escapades growing up.

"I could be quite manipulative. That's just who I am by

nature."

"Hang on a minute," I said, "let's talk about that last statement. Think about what you're saying."

This young friend grew up hearing and knowing that when she invited Jesus to come into her life she became a new creation in Christ; her old nature was eradicated. She knew that with His life indwelling she was forgiven, beautiful, loved, and a partaker of the divine nature.

"Right," she said, a minute later, the light coming on in her eyes, "That's not really who I am."

It's easy to recognize and point out when someone else has a mixed up or cluttered view of himself or herself. It's much harder to catch it in ourselves. While we are on earth we will sin and have lingering bad habits but that does not define who we are by nature. It's important to recognize the difference. I, for one, need daily reminding.

Jesus died and was raised to life to give us that brand new nature. January is a great time to hit the rest button by asking

God to help us remember that at our core, He has made us righteous.

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we may know the things freely given to us by God... (1 Corinthians 2:12)

The Hill is committed to telling and reinforcing this message of grace and new life. We love providing opportunities to gather throughout the year for the purpose of encouraging one another, and invite you to be a part. We also hope to provide a solid biblical foundation through the materials and resources offered through this ministry. What a great time of year to gain a fresh perspective.

Kim



The "Circle of Girls" — Kelly Tyner, Kacie Tyner (not pictured), Danielle Martin, Jesse Swehla, Hanna Ellis, Leah Harley, Oakley Warren, Erinn Finley (not pictured), and Mattie Lee Guillory.

Danielle Martin

We are excited to introduce Danielle Martin as the newest smiling face of our ministry team. Danielle, a pro at Word, Excel, and Access, will help plan and run events



Danielle Martin, our resident “pro”!

and oversee the cleaning of all the buildings. We are amazed at her knowledge of Human Resources and administration and she is already saving us time with her computer skills and organization. Danielle is no stranger to The Hill. She came to Murray State from her hometown Carmi, Illinois in 2014 and soon after began spending time here with other students. She then moved to the property and has remained while completing her master’s degree in business. She graduated this past December and we all agree she is the perfect choice to help us with our many ministry opportunities.

On top of everything, what makes Danielle the perfect fit is her love for Jesus and people. She has a gigantic, compassionate heart and celebrates others. You’ll be able to find her planning most of the many birthday gatherings we have; she loves a party! We can’t wait for you to meet her and enjoy her gift of hospitality and her fun-loving nature.

and oversee the cleaning of all the buildings. We are amazed at her knowledge of Human Resources and administration and she is already saving us time with her computer skills and organization.

Danielle is no stranger to The Hill. She came to Murray State from her hometown Carmi, Illinois in 2014 and soon after began spending time here with other students. She then moved to the property and has remained while completing her master’s degree in business. She graduated this past December and



Olivia Robison, Mattie Lee Guillory, and Julia McCarty between sessions of the Rooted & Grounded Retreat.

Testimony

When I remarried, I thought the Lord brought us together to lead him to Christ. I invested all my energy in my husband, to the point of idolatry. Yet, instead of him coming to Christ, I was met with resistance, which left me anxious, frustrated, and sorrowful. I felt like a failure and defeated, but never alone. Jesus was always there and knew my situation would draw me closer to Him for help.

After discovering who I am in Christ, I now walk in such wonderful grace living by the life of Another. I quit trying to save my husband and now trust God with his future. God knows what is ahead and I can trust him with our relationship and in every circumstance.

Amy P.

Upcoming Events

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. Mark and Steve are both long-time friends of The Hill.

Summer Youth Leadership Camps, June 7-13 & June 21-27, 2020 (Yep, they’re both in June)—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. If you’d like to help with camp as a volunteer, please let us know. It takes a huge team of volunteers to host a successful camp. We would love for you to be a part.

2020 Grace Conference, “Awakened to Grace,”

Sept. 25-27, 2020—Andrew Farley and Tim Chalas will be speaking at the 2020 Grace Conference, Awakened to Grace. Tim Chalas spoke last year at the Discovering Grace Conference, but this will be Andrew Farley’s first trip to The Hill. Conference sponsors are The Hill, First Missionary Baptist (the host site), Murray Family Church, and Grace Fellowship (Paducah). Registration

will open soon on our website. Sign up early to secure your spot. Seating is limited.

Fall Retreat, Oct. 16-18, 2020—Frank Friedmann will join us again for the Fall Retreat to teach from Paul’s letter to the Galatians. You will not want to miss this conference.

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

Walking with God

by Keith Tyner

Your birth was your first great life celebration followed closely by the day you first walked. That is as simple as life gets. Spiritually, it's the same. The day you first trusted Jesus the heavenly celebration broke loose. Then came

I believed keeping rules was key to walking.

the celebration when you first walked by the Spirit. I spent many futile years of my journey crawling around like an infant when in fact I should have been walking. I believed keeping rules was key to walking. I believed studying the Bible, quiet times and a variety of other disciplines were the key to walking. But in fact, those were the result of walking.

Isn't it interesting God walked in the cool of the day in Genesis 3? Isn't it interesting Daniel's friends were thrown into the furnace and walked out without smelling



Caitlin Tyner walking the Inca Trail with her father, Keith Tyner. Machu Picchu serves as a backdrop.

like smoke? Isn't it amazing the nation of Israel walked through the Red Sea and the Jordan River on dry ground? How spectacular is it that Jesus and Peter walked on water?

Walking is a natural aspect of life. It isn't something

we have to manipulate or strategize. It is an elementary part of living and once you learn, it just happens. Paul suggests our choice is to either walk by the Spirit's power or not. In other words, we can simply enjoy the presence of God connected to our spirit each day in the cool of the day or not. We can experience His presence in our good, bad or indifferent circumstances. We can rejoice during our journey.

Consider some of the amazing walks of your life. My daughter, Caitlin, asked me to celebrate her college graduation four years ago and walk the Inca Trail. How long do you suppose I had to consider her invitation? I immediately said, 'I would love to join.' I had no idea what I committed to; I just knew I would get to walk with Caitlin.

Our heavenly Father longs for us to simply walk with Him.

Our heavenly Father longs for us to simply walk with Him. Walking sounds passive, but it is an aggressive and adventuresome activity. Do you know Enoch's story in Genesis 5?

He walked with God and was no more!! What? What does that look like?

Let 2020 be a time of simply walking with God. You will be amazed by the journey. Our guide on the Inca Trail trained us to stop walking when we were tired and turn around and look back at where we have been. Take advantage of your slow times this year and reflect upon how God has walked with you in the past through some amazing times, and then...walk on!

Keith Tyner is a long-time friend of The Hill and Warren family. He is founder of Gimbal Financial and walks through life with Jesus, his wife Connie, daughters Kristin, Caitlin, Kelly, Kacie, and son Caleb.



Caitlin with her father, Keith Tyner.

Romanos, Las Verdades Fundamentales de Romanos 1-8

Sunday evening, January 26, 2020 marked a significant event in the history of The Hill—the capstone to a dream in Kim Warren’s heart. Kim’s dream was far greater than simply translating the Romans course into other languages, but for thousands more to experience the freedom of its life-changing truths.

Sixty-five men and women from two Hispanic churches came together with 17 staff, residents and friends of The Hill to dedicate the newly published *Romanos, Las Verdades Fundamentales de Romanos 1-8*. Pastor Jaime Masso of First Hispanic Baptist Church of Mayfield and his congregation hosted the celebration, joined by Pastor Julio Acosta and others from the Hispanic ministry of Paducah First Baptist Church.

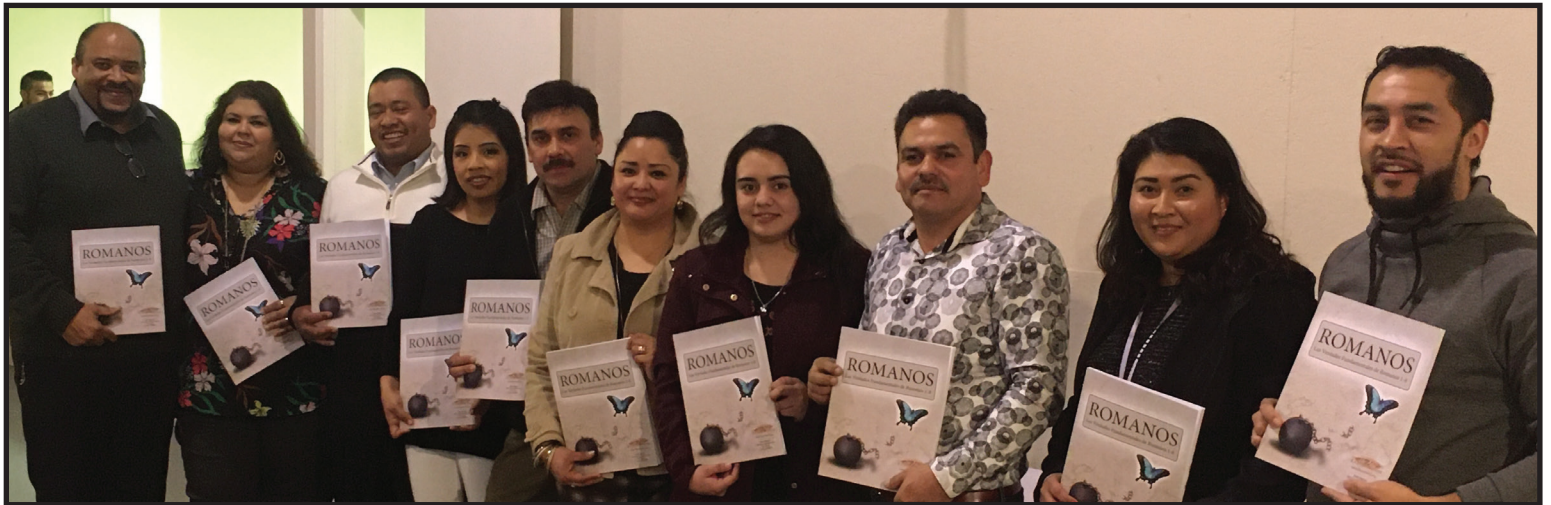
The celebration was grand—with worship, words of encouragement, prayers, Mexican food and a huge cake with “Seremos salvos por la vida de Cristo (Romanos 5:10)”

inscribed into the icing. Our main translator, Sarah Cunningham, was there to speak along with translators, Jair Tapia and Pastor Jaime. In the end, each of those precious saints in attendance received a free copy of the study and the Lord intensified the work of knitting our hearts together.

We intend to continue supplying *Romanos, Las Verdades Fundamentales de Romanos 1-8* to Hispanic brothers and sisters at no cost as God provides. Let us know if a Hispanic ministry in your community is interested in receiving copies of *Romanos, Las Verdades Fundamentales de Romanos 1-8*.



Pastor Jaime Masso, Kim Warren, Sarah Cunningham, Jair Tapia, and Brent Armstrong praying for God’s blessing upon the Hispanic churches.



Pastor Jaime and Ana Masso and several members of their congregation who received a copy of “Romanos, Las Verdades Fundamentales de Romanos 1-8” at the dedication service.

For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. (Colossians 1:9-12)

Your Friends at The Hill