Summer 2016

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## Dear Friends:

Summer camp is always a highlight of our year as students from across the country converge upon Hardin, Kentucky. This year was no exception. This past summer we held not one, but two leadership camps in an effort to help maintain the original vision for the camp which began twenty six years ago. It is our greatest desire to spend time with campers and afford them opportunity to build long lasting relationships with one another, which we believe is best achieved in an environment with fewer people. One hundred and forty eight students attended this year along with many volunteer servants. Many gave up a week and in some cases two, teaching, guiding, working and hanging out with the kids. Our camp leaders are second to none. We have been blessed with mature believers who desire for Jesus' life to be poured out of themselves for the benefit of others. The following thoughts were sparked by a teaching session led by Rick Underhill. Thank you for allowing me to share them with you.

At one of our youth leadership camps this summer, Rick Underhill shared a story which perfectly portrays God's desire for us, as His sons and daughters, to know His voice. One day standing in the checkout lane at the grocery store, Rick watched the woman in front of him fumbling for change to buy her packet of gravy. Then, a voice in his spirit said, "Rick, buy the gravy."

Rick may have questioned the voice momentarily, but responded fairly quickly because he had come to recognize this voice as His Father's calm, assuring, quiet nudging. Without a doubt Rick understood that buying the gravy was to be the avenue through which His Father would express Himself in that particular moment. His actions as directed by God, surely blessed the woman, but I wonder what they did in Rick? Most importantly, how did this one simple act bring glory to Jesus and His Father?

Scripture describes that God longs for a relationship with us. From the beginning of time God wanted a family; he created man in His likeness that we might love, experience and know Him as well as experience being known, enjoyed and loved by Him. He wants to hear from us and loves revealing His heart to us. This relationship is abundant life.

Hearing our Father's voice and watching Him work through us in our daily walk can transform what can seem to be an ordinary life into the extraordinary just by His whispering, "Buy the gravy." God receives great pleasure from our being His willing vessel. He is honored and glorified when we live with the expectancy of hearing His voice.

I am grateful that as believers of the living God we have been given the God-breathed word which reveals His heart and character to us. We know Him more when we study and meditate on its pages. But perhaps even more astonishing and amazing is that God Himself, the Holy Spirit, came to reside in man and places in Christ those who believe by faith in His son Jesus as Savior. The very life of God dwells in us. I want His voice to be

so familiar in my spirit that I never miss the opportunity to respond when I hear Him say, "Buy the gravy."

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me;" (John 10:27)

Kim Warren

## Ministry News

## Romans "Lite"

Many of you have had the opportunity to go through the original Romans 1-8 course. The truths found there are the bedrock for everything we teach at The Hill. Over the years we've seen the Lord do marvelous things with that material, changing thousands of lives.

As a way to get that same Romans material into the hands of every teenager in leadership camp this summer, we created a smaller version of the Romans Course without all the questions. It contains only the commentary portion adapted to a smaller format. It really is the same material, but all who've read it love it in the smaller, shorter version

We thought it might also fit into a niche where someone who might not be inclined to participate in the 19 week Romans 1-8 Bible study would spend a couple of hours reading this little book. It seems to be doing that very nicely. Since we didn't originally intend to sell them beyond our use here at The Hill, they aren't available anywhere else for the time being except our website: www.lifeonthehill.org. Let us know what you think.

# **Bob's Teaching on USB**

Bob's audio teaching material has recently become more affordable as MP3 files loaded on a USB flash drive. By now most of us have either seen someone use a USB flash drive or own one ourselves. They are a super-convenient way to transport a large number of computer files, music, photos, videos, and even software. Virtually every computer has at least one port to insert a USB flash drive.

By loading audio teachings on USB flash drives we avoid the cost of CDs,



duplication, and packaging, making them a much cheaper option. In addition, you can then load the audio files on your computer and store the device away so that you always have them, no matter how many computers you go through. Many newer vehicles have USB compatible audio systems so you can listen to teaching series on the go. The USB

format also allows quicker transfer of audio files to your computer for loading to your phone or iPod.

## **Preston Gillham**

Preston Gillham has been a long-time friend of this ministry and recently spoke at our Men's Retreat. He has authored a number of books, two of which are currently available where fine books are sold (as Pres would say): *No Mercy* and *Battle for the Round Tower*. You can add our website to that list of places.

No Mercy and the sequel Battle for the Round Tower are fictional books that fit well into the Chronicles of Narnia genre. They explode with symbolism and pack an immense amount of truth between their covers. If you enjoy Christian fiction that conveys a life-changing message, get yourself a copy of these two.

#### Memorial

Some amazing craftsmen (Jerry Foster, Kenny Montgomery, and Brien Burden of Monster Stone Masonry) have created a stone memorial in remembrance of Bob Warren.



The richly colored sandstone pavement and seating make a perfect place to enjoy the company of others, something Bob took great pleasure in doing.

One of the first things you notice when stepping up to the memorial is either the cross that was skillfully carved to fit into the back wall or Bob's name and this statement etched into the stone pavement—"The essence of life is to know the heart of the creator."

Stepping up to the memorial

you quickly realize that there are Scripture references etched into many of the stones. These were some of Bob's favorite verses. You can almost hear him quoting them as you read over the references.

## **Upcoming Events**

The **Fall Retreat** will be **October 21-23** this year. Join us for a relaxing time in the word, worship and fellowship. Rick Underhill will be teaching, so you don't want to miss it.

The Winter College Retreat takes place on January 6-8, 2017 with speaker Steve Pettit and the Winter Youth Retreat will be January 13-15, 2017. Watch the website for WYR speaker information.