

Do You Want to Get Well?



Imagine walking into St. Jude or Birmingham Hospital and asking this question. Is it really worthy of an answer? It is actually a question that our Lord asked a man who had been unable to walk for 38 years and was laying at a pool thought to have healing powers.

So why the question, Jesus? Isn't it obvious that the man wanted to be well? Maybe and maybe not. I used to wonder about the question, too. I thought it was a pointless sentence. Then I began working with clients as a counselor and realized that many people hold on to things that those around them think is crazy.

It is the idea of secondary gain. Even though the action or the problem is painful I gain attention from having it. People speak to me who ordinarily would not. People pay attention when I walk in the room, etc. Most human behavior is motivated by rewards. I do *this* because I can get *that!* I'm not saying that the man at the pool wanted to be lame. I'm also not saying that people who are in need of a doctor or counselor *want* to be sick. However, sometimes without realizing, we hang on to activities or thoughts or feelings that are hurting us, because it just simply works for us and we are afraid of what change might be like.

For instance, in this story of the lame man, he most certainly wanted to be able to walk. Who wouldn't? But think of the fears associated with him walking. He had his needs supplied for by laying at the gate. He ate, he had a place in society, and he didn't have to worry about getting and keeping a job. With healing came new responsibilities. He had to find a job now. He had to find a place in society again. Don't look past that. Those are some pretty significant fears for a guy who hasn't walked in 38 years.

The same is true for the addict. The pain of living with an addiction may be easier than facing the pain of overcoming and living without it. It has worked for them for so long now it will be hard to let go of. The truth is, most addicts will struggle with that temptation the rest of their lives. The addiction in many ways is easier but eventually the loss of family, friends, and income will drive the addict to change.

Jesus was really asking a brilliant therapeutic question:

Do you really want to be better? Do you want to be free? Jesus wants us to answer that question too? For many people in the world and in the church, being in control of our own lives is easier. Turning it over to Him may mean giving up some secondary gain that we enjoy. Yet, his invitation rings in our ears:

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

Notice the promise in this passage. "I *will* give you rest" and "you *will* find rest for your souls." Christ is confident that through Him and through His body, the church, you can find the healing and the help you need. He gave us one another to help bear the load (Galatians 6:1-5) and to be comforters like He is a Comforter (2 Corinthians 1:3-7; John 16:5-11). Don't try to go it alone against the struggles of this world.

Do you want to get well? Turn to Jesus. — Ben

South Florida Mission

So far we have raised over \$1400 through your generous donations. Because of the increased numbers in people going, we have decided to stay in a hotel in LaBelle while doing the VBS and door-knocking campaign. Therefore, we have had to add an additional \$80 per person. Our hopes are to be able to raise that through the congregations support. Your donations would go specifically for helping with these hotel rooms so there is no more added cost for those who are giving up a week of their summer for the work of the Lord. If you can help please give the donation to one of our elders, Rhonda, or myself. Thanks again for your support.

— Ben

Those going on the Mission Trip to Florida need to have made the first 2 payments totaling **\$100**. We need to get those in to make down payments and to make certain who is going on the trip. If you initially signed up to go and are no longer able to, please let me know ASAP if you have not already done so.



The Highlighter

Vol. 71 No. 14

April 10, 2011



Highland Park's Hidden Treasure

Pirates didn't steal it and bury it. Goblins and trolls don't guard it. "X" doesn't even mark its spot. Even so, it is a hidden treasure.

When I was working as a youth minister, I still remember vividly the many occasions when young people would bring to me their fears, successes, and trauma. As a minister, I was expected to provide them with wise counsel and guidance for their future. By virtue of my position, these young people placed great confidence in my ability to provide them with godly counsel that also was practical and would help them through their problems and their successes.

It wasn't just the young who sought advice. Men and women of all ages would need me to listen and provide counsel in times of death, great loss, sickness, marital trouble, and personal struggles with sin. They needed me. I did the best I could.

However, in the course of my Bachelor's and Master's degrees, I've had a total of **one** (yes, you heard that right) class on counseling. I realize that education isn't everything, and I learned a lot "on the job". However, we here at Highland Park have a "hidden treasure" that I would have paid money to have in those days!

Ben Hayes is a qualified counselor. He has a bachelor's degree in Bible and a Master's degree in counseling. He is an Associate Licensed Counselor working under Lonnie Jones, one of the most respected Licensed Professional Counselors in churches of Christ. He is certified in Prepare/Enrich marital and pre-marital counseling and also custody assessment (even working with local court cases). He has special training in PTSD and other anxiety based disorders. He works on a weekly basis for the Alpha Center in Florence, a Christian counseling center with 3 other active Christian counselors. He has done an internship at the Child Advocacy Center in Cullman, AL working with younger children doing "play therapy".

Ben would never advertise to all of you his credentials. His counseling expertise is our "hidden treasure". One of the most amazing things about this "treasure" is that it is **free** for all Highland Park members! I want all of us at Highland Park to be aware of this "treasure" because it is so important when we need someone to talk to. Counseling doesn't only have to happen in times of great difficulty or loss. Many people setup regular appointments because it is healthy to have someone to talk to about the everyday stresses and successes in life. The fact that these sessions are also kept confidential (see Ben for details) also provides assurance and comfort.

If you ever need or want some time with Ben, please call the church office or his cell phone at (256) 349-9017.

Michael Jackson

Elders

Tim Fulmer
Glen Grubbs
Russell Smelser

Ministers

Mike Brooks
Ben Hayes
Michael Jackson
Michael South
Jack Wilhelm

Secretary

Rhonda Cole

Contact:

Office: 381-8311
Fax: 381-8362

Email:

hpcc_office@comcast.net

SERVICE SCHEDULE:

SUNDAY:

9:00am Bible Class
10:00am Worship
5:30pm Prayer Session
6:00pm Worship

WEDNESDAY:

7:00pm Bible Class

The Record You Help Make

Bible Class178
AM Worship294
PM Worship177
Contribution.....\$10,344
Child Care.....\$ 90

OUR SICK: Bobby Denton went to Birmingham for tests Thursday. Betty & Austin Davenport are home. Mike Farris received encouraging news from his doctor's visit this week. Sheila Renfro is going for a 2nd opinion. Hannah Kate Skelton (Lola Vess' great-granddaughter) gained to 5 lb and has been released from hospital. Sonny Watkins (Jerr's Friend) will be having knee surgery soon. Keith Jones (Heather Morgan's dad) is struggling to recover from a badly broken leg. .



Helping Hands Meets Sunday, April 17th following PM worship.

Dorcas Workers

Meet 2nd & 4th Wednesdays each month!



Meals-On-Wheels Delivers April 18 - 22. See Donna Kimbrough to help!

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Lydia Kirchner in the loss of her sister, Katie Strickland. Her funeral was Wednesday.

Samaritan House is in need of plastic Wal-Mart bags!

Gospel Meeting at Mars Hill

April 10 -13 7:00pm Mon-Wed nights
Speaker- Marlin Connelly

Ladies Day at Eva Church of Christ

Saturday, April 30 Speaker-Cathy Turner
Theme: "Greet one another with a holy kiss"
8:00am - 2:00pm Lunch Served

Heritage Golf Scramble Benefit

April 29th at 8:00am Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail
See Janet Moon for entry forms & info



'He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver.'
Malachi 3:3

This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and

nature of God. One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible Study.

That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining Silver.

As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities.

The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot; then she thought again about the verse that says: 'He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver.' She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time.

The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, 'How do you know when the silver is fully refined?'

He smiled at her and answered, 'Oh, that's easy - when I see my image in it.'

If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has his eye on you and will keep watching you until He sees His image in you.

THOSE TO SERVE

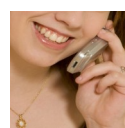
10:00 AM WORSHIP

Read Scripture..... Blake Hollimon
Opening Prayer..... Jim Dabbs
Closing Prayer..... Nick Berryman

6:00 PM SERVICE

Read Scripture.....Ernest Bechard
Opening Prayer..... Jack Wilhelm
Closing Prayer..... Dwain Hargett
Greeters... Bradley & Melinda Logan
Building Lockup Nick Berryman

APRIL CONTACT ELDER Glen Grubbs



Persons In Charge of Calling For Food In April:

Dot Crowden & Nelda Riner

Prayer Lists:



Mabeth Jones, Pauline Jackson, Harvey Hasha, Rayburn Moore (Melinda Logan's brother-in-law), Wylodean Dabbs, Vic & Margaret Addington, Lois Black, Opal Farris, Guy Jeffreys, Austin & Betty Davenport, Jimmy & Olene Hanback, Albert Sharp

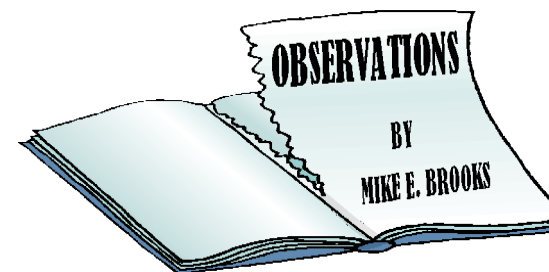
Please remember our cancer patients:

Robin McCollum, Brenda Pettus, Howard Jeffreys
Adrian West (Robin McCollum's mother), Norma Hallmark
Kenneth Harrison (Dot Crowden's brother), David Blazer, Ann Hargett, Betty Barnes, Mike Farris
Mozelle King (Faye Smith's friend)
Spruell Fretwell (Faye Smith's cousin)



Pantry item Macaroni & cheese

Widows & Singles
meet at Lenny's
tonight after worship



Classes are underway at KBC and everyone seems to be enjoying the new session. Our weather has been beautiful, with blue skies and temperatures in the mid to upper 80s. It is gradually warming up and

I am sure extreme hot weather is only a few days or weeks away, but for now we are enjoying it tremendously, especially after all those weeks in the teens and twenties at home this winter. We are not missing the snow at all.

About a dozen preachers visited us on Tuesday of this week. Simon Mallik showed us a picture of his new bride whom he married last month. Timothy Mondal invited us to his wedding scheduled for April 29. Both graduated from KBC last year and are working faithfully. Protap and Lilly Mondal, from Dasharkanda, have a new baby boy, born January 12, whom they have named Franklin Prince. He is their second son; the first is now 4 years old. Protap is a graduate from the class of 2005 and has been preaching at Dasharkanda ever since. He and Lilly also teach a primary school for the village children through grade 2 in the church building.

I am teaching a course for our faculty on Exegesis of the New Testament, using a book by Dr. Gordon Fee which I have given to each of them, with a copy also in the KBC library. This is part of our effort to provide continued education or professional enhancement training for our teachers. They do not have easy access to additional formal study, but these lessons help them continue to study and learn. We met for the first time this past Wednesday. This gives us time together as well, and we all enjoy that.

Juliet Halder prepared a wonderful dinner for us later Wednesday evening in honor of Baxter and Brenda's birthdays (Baxter's was the 5th; Brenda's the 6th). She is an excellent cook and put on quite a spread. She had invited all the teachers and other staff members as well so it was a good fellowship for us.

We continue to pray for you there, and request you to remember us in your prayers. We are healthy and safe, but miss everyone there.

MEB



MADNESS IN MAY

May 14th For ages K-6

We will leave around 8:00 am
and return around 6:00 pm.

I Need you to sign up and
pay the \$10 registration today!
After today you will have to pay \$15!