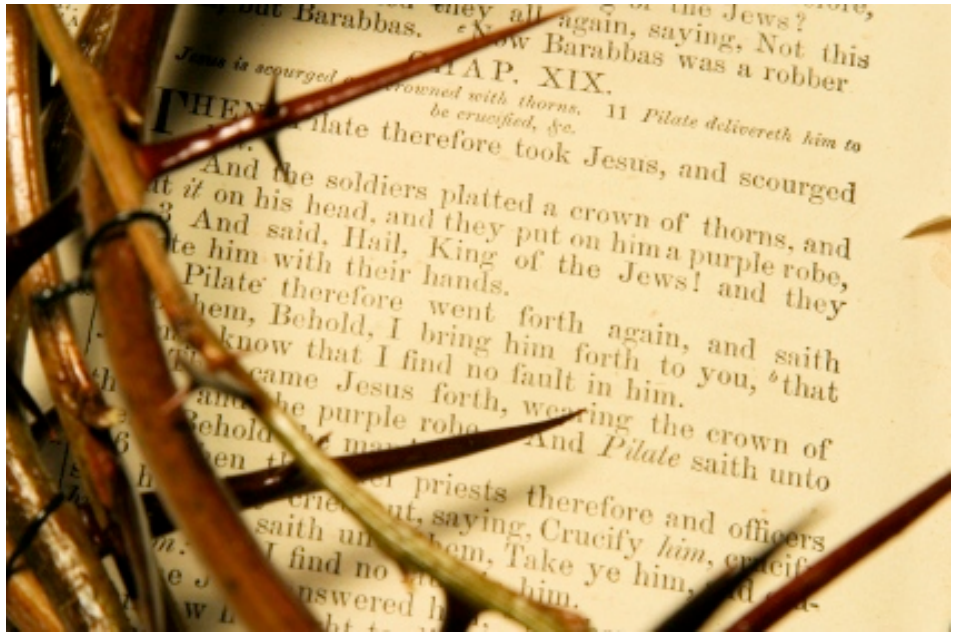


haven

THE HAVEN
NEWSLETTER



March 2009

Proverbs 1:7 reads "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge". By contrast, The New York Times on a daily basis reads something like this "Flee you fools and despair". I think we can figure where the beginning of foolishness starts...But I digress.

We are now in a time of real economic stress in our country and around the world. This obviously is not the first time this has happened, nor will it be the last. For so many people this has been a tremendous time of stress and fear. Corporations as well are shedding employees with every soundbite from the President or Congress. This cyclical wave of fear brings on even more of the same with many anticipating the worst, and then even acting in such a way as to insure their prophetic pronouncements. Not a time for the weak.

We are told in Proverbs several times to consider the ant. God has built into this creature the instinct to work and save. Winter is coming and the ants will make it through the hard times because of their hard work and foresight. This model propelled the early colonists of this country. Hard times will ALWAYS come - the wise creature will prepare accordingly.

However the New Testament gives us a different vantage point. In Luke 12 Jesus tells this story. "The land of a rich man was very productive. And he began reasoning to himself saying, 'What shall I do since I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'This is what I will do; I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul will be required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?' So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

Which way will you go?



2009

There are only two simple things that we are all called to do: Love the Lord our God and our neighbor as well. Some of those neighbors are very different and very far away. The American retirement ideal is not for the Christian. The Apostle tells us in Hebrews that our rest is in heaven. Until the day he calls us home, let us be faithful serving in every opportunity that the Lord opens for us. Sometimes we seek and find what He would have us do and sometimes we hide and hope it goes away. Which way will you go?

Two comparisons/contrasts explain this. Solomon was rich beyond all dreams and allowed his "stuff" to become his life. He walked away from the powerful relationship he had with the Lord at the beginning of his reign and replaced it with lame and sinful relationships and fools gold. His failure and lessons he learned are marked in Ecclesiastes for all to read. Howard Hughes was the modern day Solomon in some ways. Rich beyond belief and quite the adventurer in his early days, Hughes died a sad death terrified almost by his own shadow. Fear of even the smallest germs kept him from haircuts or trimming his nails. Consumed by fear of loss he died a lone and solitary death - one could argue that his physical death was preceded by many years by his emotional and mental death. Solomon came back to his relationship with God after his dissipation - sad but wise. Hughes never had a relationship with God - his security was in something that could never repay his devotion. His devotion to his money was similar to the Bhakti (Devotion) that one sees among the Hindus. A bhakti will bath the idol, feed the idol, lay the idol down for a nap, wake it up again, shine it and then repeat the process day after day. A piece of inorganic material (no matter how much they pretty it up) can never give back the emotion and service that the Hindu's put into it, but they will devote their entire lives to it. (Pet Rock owners during the 70s beware!)

The net result of these stories is that there is only one place where true financial security can be found - the same place where all security can be found - in the Lord God of Israel. I have seen this in many places that I have traveled to. Some of the most joyous people I have ever met are the Christians in the Philippines. As a people and as individuals they have so little. For many to just eat this day takes up a major part of their day. But Terri and I both noticed it that the joy that those people had towards the Lord was like nothing I had seen in the U.S. We both told the host missionaries that we didn't want to leave! It was an infectious love for the Lord that was so markedly contrasted by our rich toward - self lackadaisical churches so common here. One who has nothing in this world is keenly aware of the one thing that they can always have a "richness" towards God.

When we were called as missionaries some twenty years ago now - the one thing I truly dreaded was raising support. I had always been a big fan of the protestant work ethic (at least the secular version of it!) - if you need to make money go to work. If you need more money than that, go get a second job. If more than that, than by-golly get a third job as well. I did that a few times during seminary. And then to be told that I had to literally trust God to raise money from fellow Christians. That was way over the top for me. I would much rather talk to Buddhists or Muslims about the Lord than Christians about money!

All these years later the Lord has taught me a lot. We are still in His hands for all we have. We have a wonderful house that we couldn't afford, a wonderful family that we couldn't afford and a wonderful experience of God's grace and love from Him and His people that we could never imagine receiving. How God has convinced so many of you to support us is almost as mysterious as the workings of the Trinity! Yet we know that all of this is built on the Rock, on His faithfulness towards us despite our sin and doubt. It is strengthened by His mercy towards us sinners who deserve hell and yet receive heaven. It is governed by His loving sovereignty which lets me know that regardless of the direction of this country or anything else in this crazy, fallen world - He is in charge. He will take the economic situation and bring His people to where He wants them to be - secure in Him and Him only. Let us not be the lemmings crying fear and doom, but rather let us be a light of a different life - one that finds everything it needs not in the illusion of stuff here but in the incredible reality of the true riches of our relationship with our Lord Jesus.

Our neighbors need hope. Show them where its found!

Giving Opportunity!

We need about \$1200. Per month to balance our ministry budget. Please pray and see what the Lord would have you do. We know that everyone is apprehensive about the economic issues in our country but we know our Father is still in control and we ask that we all act in faith and not in fear.

Prayer Requests

1. Please continue to pray for the family. As always the Lord is continuing to work in our family and there is some good news. Joe has returned to the Lord and to our home and is doing well. He is working and taking Bible Classes at Horizon College Denver. He has been sober for over 11 weeks now and it is a joy to see him doing well. Johanna is doing much better. Her attitude is dramatically different and she is repentant for the disaster she brought about last summer. She gave birth to a little boy (Kevin William Honsberger) and both she and baby Kevin are doing well. Shawn is now engaged to be married to a wonderful girl (Kelly Tive) next May, and Gabe is engaged to be married to a wonderful girl as well (Shaina K Ediger) next October. Scott is finishing up his last semester at Metro and still plans on entering Officers Candidate School for the Marines this summer. We still wish his heart was more in touch with the Lord. Please pray for Rose and once again she has cut us out of her life for her boyfriend. So as you can see there is much to be thankful for and much to still pray for.

2. Pray that our extended family would believe in Jesus. Pray for my step-mom's niece who was kidnapped by her mother and taken to Indonesia. Pray for my youngest brother's marriage and family. Both my father and stepfather have finished their radiation treatments but there are other complications. My dad broke his ankle and my stepfather needs more surgery on his face and ear. Also my mother's cancer has not responded well and she has to try something different to head the problem off. Please continue to pray for my brother Mark who works for Bank of America and whose job situation is up in the air. And for Terri's mom who needs to sell her trailer.

Calendar

April 7,14,21,28 Home Bible Study - The Gospel of Matthew
April 1,8,15,22,29 - Home Bible Study - Matthew's Gospel
April 2,9,16,23,30 - Apologetics and Critical Thinking classes for Horizon College Denver
April 10-12 - Ministry to Mormon Centers in Independence, MO
April 16-18 - International Society of Christian Apologists - Deerfield, IL
April 18 - Colorado Springs Psychic Fair
May 2 - Shawn and Kelly get married!!! Praise the Lord!
May 9 - former Haven staffer Matt Nansel graduates from Seminary! Praise the Lord!
May 5,12,19,26 - Home Bible Study - The Gospel of Matthew
May 7 - finals for Apologetics and Critical Thinking classes at HCD.
May 17 - Northfield Evangelical Free Church - Colorado Springs.
June 2,9,16,23,30 Home Bible Study - The Gospel of Matthew
June 6-7 - The Peoples Fair in downtown Denver
June 10 - 14 - CESNUR conference at BYU in Salt Lake. Cult leaders and their academic fans and flunkies gather from all over the world. Very interesting time for us.

We are trying still to raise money for the Uganda trip and now have a marvelous opportunity to minister at the Parliament of World Religions in Melbourne, Australia this coming December. Please pray and consider the wonderful opportunities you can share in!



3. Pray for many friends who are sick with different conditions. Pray for Lori, Liz H, Sherry C, Rebecca G, Sheila H, Josh H, Jinjae, Sherry, Jim C and my dear professor Gordon Lewis. Pray for another dear professor Jim and Ossie Andrews whose daughter Julie's situation is chronically painful. We still need special prayers for a miracle for our friend Joan C, her husband Doug and their family.

4. Please pray for several whose marriages have been damaged and destroyed by sin and cultic beliefs. Pray for Bruce, Mike, Brad, Jeannette, Michael, Pam, Mike, Leah and many others.

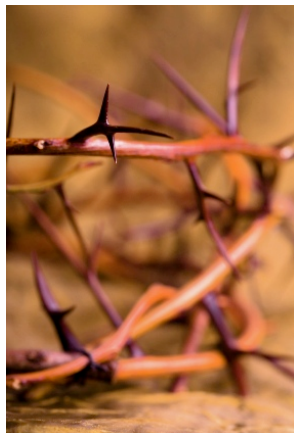
5. Pray for many we have witnessed to like Jonathan (Gnostic). Also pray for Sister WHO and Kamela at the psychic fair. Also pray for people I have spent time with recently whose loved ones have joined the 7th Day Adventist (Good news on this one - He has left the SDA connections at work and is doing well with the family and the Lord!) and the "Concerned Christians". Hindus (Lee and Meg), Mormons - (Elders Robert, Rollins, Lane, Roebucks, Adam, Cheryl, Sandra and many more). Jehovah's Witnesses (Bruce and Bianca and lots of others). New Agers (Tim, Zach, Denver, Ian, Fausto, Jason, Anuttama, Sukkacitto, and Wiccans). Muslims like Abdul and others. Please pray for Joey's friend Evan, whom we led to Christ this past month. Our house guest Stephanie also says she believed this past month so pray for her as well.

6. Please pray for our missionaries & interns with Haven. Pray for Mark and Rose, especially Rose who is now being lined up for a kidney transplant. Pray for Mark as he still considers the best time to retire from the Denver Police Dept. and go full time with Haven. Pray for Jeff and Sandy who still have pressing issues with their family's health and spiritual state. Also please pray for Rita Dominguez, who is taking on new responsibilities with the college and the church. Praise the Lord for her great ministry trip to Russia that she just returned from. Also please pray Jim and Barb Choury, who are now seeking to expand their ministry into several of their churches and have now expanded their opportunities through and ESL class for many Chinese professionals! We welcome them and ask you to lift them up often as they raise support.

7. Pray for our military sons and daughters. Lift up our son Gabe as his outfit will be shipped overseas in Jan. Pray for his fellow Marines, Matt and Chris C, Dan W. and for soldiers Josh P., Nick G, Carlos and Matt R. Pray for dear friends Josh N, and Chung H. who are now stationed in the Middle East.

The Haven Newsletter

Bill Honsberger
Writer



Non-Prophet Update

I have spent some time recently reading a very sad account of two people I grew up with who got involved in the late 1970's with a terrible new age cult leader Da Free John. Perverse beyond belief! The good news is that one of my brother's friends Mark, left the cult over twenty years ago. The bad news is that my best friend's little sister, Julie, is still in the cult. This is all terribly relevant as Franklin Jones died in November. It is even more relevant that prominent New Ager Ken Wilbur has repeatedly endorsed Da Free John as the preminent Guru for our times. It is also disgustingly relevant that supposed "Christian" pastor, emergent leader Rob Bell, heartily endorsed Ken Wilbur in his book Velvet Elvis. Not good days for the American Church!

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