



Current

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Equipping the church to reach the world
for the glory of God through Christ

Independence Day
Party

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WORSHIP

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REWARD(S) IN HEAVEN?


BY PASTOR BOB

I am frequently asked this question, “Are there rewards in heaven?” My answer has been uniformly, “Yes, but...!” We must be careful; Justin Taylor offers some needed perspective in his blog (<http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justintaylor/>):

In its most general sense, “reward”... is the appropriate consequence or consummation of a course of action. Sometimes it is rendered as “wages” (Matt. 20:8; Luke 10:7; John 4:36). Negatively, Judas’s blood money is called “the reward of his wickedness” (Acts 1:18).

Positively, “reward” (which is always in the singular in the NT) refers to entering eternal life. And the greatest joy of heaven will be seeing God face to face (Rev. 22:4). Every believer longs for the day when “we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is” (1 John 3:2), when we shall “enter into the joy of [our] master” (Matt. 25:21, 23). “They shall see God” (Matt. 5:8) and “your reward is great in heaven” (Matt. 5:12) are ultimately referring to the same thing. Jesus frequently appeals to reward as a motivator for righteousness—whether he is talking about persecution (Matt. 5:12) or love (Matt. 5:46) or giving (Matt. 6:4) or prayer (Matt. 6:6) or fasting (Matt. 6:18).

Five key passages reference believers receiving a “crown” (1 Cor. 9:25; 1 Thess. 2:19; 2 Tim. 4:8; James 1:12; 1 Pet. 5:4). Though it is popular to see these as different types of reward (crown of righteousness, crown of gold, crown of life, etc.) a majority of commentators believe



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these are different ways of referring to the one reward of eternal life.

... If there are degrees of reward, they would likely revolve around increased *capacities* and *responsibilities*.

Jonathan Edwards explains ... : “Every vessel that is cast into this ocean of happiness is full, though there are some vessels far larger than others; and there shall be no such thing as envy in heaven, but perfect love shall reign throughout the whole society.” Could the parable of the ten minas (Luke 19:11-27) imply that some believers will rule over more cities in the new heavens and earth? If so, this would mean that under our “great reward” (enjoying God himself) there are various roles and responsibilities. I am not certain this will be the case, but I see nothing inherently problematic in holding to this as a possibility.

In summary, all true believers will receive the great reward of seeing God face to face, and this should motivate all of our actions. The NT nowhere clearly and explicitly

teaches varying degrees of reward, though this may indeed be true. If so, some may have greater capacities as well as greater responsibilities, but all of us will experience “fullness of joy” and “pleasures forevermore” at God’s right hand (Ps. 16:11). Maranatha—come quickly, Lord Jesus!

~Justin Taylor



Independence Day Party

DISCIPLESHIP

Growing



“ALL IN” APPRENTICES OF JESUS

By Pastor Andrew

This July 10-16, TACCY (Taft Avenue Community Church Youth) had the opportunity to experience a week of Bible-centered teaching, radical recreation, and countless Jesus-centered conversations at Hume Lake summer camp. Summer camp is a great opportunity to get away from the distractions of day-to-day life and to seek God together. While there, we were challenged to continue the pursuit of becoming followers of Jesus, specifically, to be “All In” Apprentices of Jesus. Following Jesus does not mean giving Him a portion or part of ourselves but rather all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. As your youth pastor, I am pleased to share truthfully that God is working in the hearts of our

students. I am filled with anticipation to see what God will do in and through these students as they continue to find that Jesus is indeed their everything.

During the week, we were challenged with such a simple and



straightforward aspect of discipleship that oftentimes we pass right by. Specifically, we were called to take time to **listen** to and **watch** Jesus and then **do** what we hear and what we see. So many times, we are inundated with massive amounts of media, messages, and voices that we do not simply take time to hear the one voice supremely worth listening to—the voice of our Creator and Redeemer. Are you taking time to listen to Jesus, to sit at His feet, to watch what He does and says in the pages of the Gospels and seek to do the same? By God’s grace, we are seeking to do just that this year in TACCY. Come join us on the journey!

ELDER BOARD UPDATE: WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?

By Rick Hicks

Earlier this year at the Elders’ Retreat we read through all of First Timothy together. This was a powerful portion of our retreat as God revealed His plans for the coming year centered in 1 Timothy 1:5, “... [T]he aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and sincere faith.” This is a standard none of us can meet without the power of the Holy Spirit. Praise God He sent the Spirit to fill us the moment we put our faith in Jesus Christ. And He causes us to act out our faith by virtue of a pure heart, good conscience and sincere faith.

Over the last several weeks, we have had the joy of seeing Christians baptized here at TACC. Craig Alexander, Rick and Savannah Hicks, Bill Runion and Emily Wojtanowicz have all publicly confessed their faith in Christ and been baptized. If you have not been baptized and would like to be, please see Pastor Bob, any staff member or any elder.

At the July 10 Business Meeting held during the Connect Hour, six new members were added to our congregation: Adam and Erika Hill, Mark and Michelle Esposito, Mark Hicks, and Jennifer Leoncio. If you or anyone you know might be inter-

ested in membership or the next Connect class, please see Pastor Bob, any staff member or any elder.

Finally, home visits from elders and deacons will take place between now and March of 2012. Our desire is to encourage one another and ensure the spiritual health of our church. When we do God’s will, He promises to sanctify us. Hebrews 10:10 says, “And by that will, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” Praise be to God He has paid our debt.

MISSION

MISSION TO ORANGE, INDIA AND THE WORLD

BY STEVE HICKS



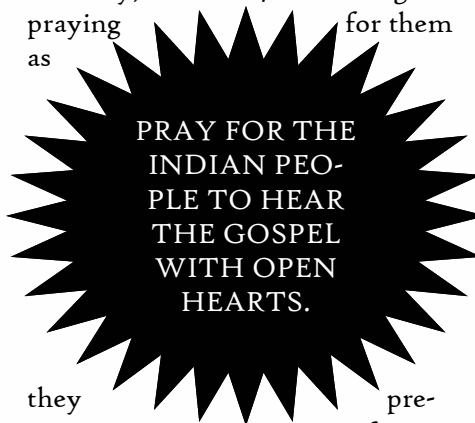
Going

This past month, the Missions Team selected the next group of short-term missionaries to go to Siliguri, India, to share the gospel with the Adivasi people. The team consists of:

- Pastor Bob Burris
- Katie Burris
- Kristie Koontz
- Gary Meier
- Bill Petersen
- Lee Ramlo
- Mary Beth Ramlo
- Bill Runion
- Cathy Tharp

It is exciting to have first-timers Bill Runion, Kristie and Cathy come and bring a new perspective to the team. The team is currently

undergoing training, and will continue to do so for the next two months. They will leave on Thursday, September 22, and return on Tuesday, October 4. Please begin praying for them as



they prepare to go. Pray for their families, and pray for the Indian people to hear the gospel with open hearts and to respond in a

way that brings them new life.

Check the *Current* and the church calendar online (<http://taftavenue.org/#/calendar>) for upcoming events related to the trip, including a rummage sale and send-off lunch for the team.

Our supported missionaries in England, the Hayes, will be here August 21. We look forward to their ministry update, and encourage you to take advantage of their presence and talk with them. Continue to keep all of our missionaries in your prayers, that God would keep them safe and healthy, and that He would make their ministries prosper for His glory.

CO-LABORERS IN CHRIST: AMY WILLIAMS

BY BILL PETERSEN



Amy writes to us to remind us that there have been many days to rejoice and countless times to thank God for all He has done and continues to do.

This month marks six months since she had her stroke while visiting us in Orange. Once the doctor cleared her to fly, she returned to Italy just in time for the Easter events. She helped organize and lead the Good Friday service and on Easter, the

church held their traditional outreach breakfast.

The church's fourth annual retreat was held in June. It was a day filled with smiles, good conversation, Bible study, games and great Italian food. One of the boys in the youth group shared with Amy, "My friend said that the retreat was very cool and he would like to come to other things. It was good to have my friend learn some things about Jesus." This was an encouragement to Amy and a great example to the church. She is pleased to see the courage of this boy reaching out to

his friend and boldly sharing Jesus' love. At the retreat, the youth started making parachutes that will be sent to help a mission work in Columbia through Voice of the Martyrs. Their goal is to complete ten by the end of the summer.

Amy asks us to pray for the following: summer outreach events, continued recovery of her health, opportunity to help with English courses at the local university, travel to Poland for the GEM Annual Conference, and prayer team arriving in October. Thank you for your prayers and support!

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SERVICE

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Knowing our great reward is seeing Jesus face-to-face, we exhort you to love and good deeds...

Our India Mission team is hosting an all-church rummage sale on Friday night, August 19 and Saturday August 20, at church. All donated items can be dropped off after 4p.m. on Friday the 19th by the Fireside Room. We need help sorting and selling Friday night and Saturday morning. All proceeds benefit our mission to the Adivasi people in Siliguri, India. Any questions please call Lee or Mary Beth at 714-633-1051. Jai mashi, Victory in Jesus!

Also, Mexico Mission: Our church is sending a team to Mexico August 12-14, led by Katie Burris. This is a great opportunity to experience God's kingdom work in Ensenada by partnering with Martha and Pablo Garcia, our missionaries in Mexico. The team will be leaving early Friday morning from the church. Have a passport and want to go? Give Katie a call to see if there is still space available: 714-606-3618. Dios les bendigas!

