

# The Messenger

Living Hope Baptist Church

June 2011

*From Pastor Dave's Heart . . .*

## Praying for Community Change

We are going to have a community prayer walk on June 12, Pentecost Sunday. The Mid-East County Pastor's prayer group plans this event. We will be meeting at Freedom Four Square Church at 2:00 PM for a brief worship time and instructions, and then we will walk an assigned route and pray. There are about twenty churches represented in this gathering and together we will pray for the whole 97233 zip code area. A very troubled area of our city!

Our theme this year is from 2 Chronicles 7:14, *If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*

In our pastor's meeting we talked about what kinds of things need to be healed. We made a list of marriages, families, addictions, finances, physical healing, etc. Each pastor is then to take one of these areas and write a paragraph giving a scriptural basis and how we can pray for that need for healing. I was assigned the need for **spiritual healing**. Here is the paragraph I submitted:

We need to pray for **spiritual healing** for the individuals in our community. Jesus told the very religious Nicodemus that "You must be born again"—literally "be born from above" (John 3:8). The result is spiritual life as we become "new creations" in Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old is gone, the new has come." When our spiritual deadness is transformed to spiritual life, we are enabled to live the godly kind of life that we were created to live. The Spirit of God can then produce the very nature of Jesus Christ within us. We need to pray for individuals in our community to put their faith in Jesus Christ; this is a foundational need. Without God's Spirit transforming individuals in our community all the change we work up will be superficial and temporary.

I am always encouraged to meet with the pastors and church leaders in our area on a monthly basis. I realize we are not alone in our effort to reach the people around our church. Many good and godly people have the same concern to see our community changed for God's glory as we do. I hope you will take a few hours on the Sunday afternoon of June 12 to join me in this prayer walk. I know your heart will be encouraged and our community will notice that God's people care about them.



*Pastor David Schutjer*

## Summer Sermon Series on Answering the Hard Questions

As a follow up to our "radical commitment" series, I thought it would be helpful to talk about answering questions that we might hear nobody asks. We have an increasingly un-Christian climate in which to live out our faith in Jesus Christ. As we share with folks who are antagonistic to the Christian faith, we need to think through some helpful methods and answers. 1 Peter 3:15 *Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience.* This summer as I have opportunity to speak, I hope to handle some of these hard questions with answers that folks currently outside the faith can understand and respond to. This is not an easy task and I encourage you to pray for me as I prepare. The following is a list of subjects I am currently considering:

What makes you so sure God exists?

Didn't evolution put God out of a job?

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Why trust the Bible, a book based on myths?  
Why should we think Jesus Christ is God?  
How could a good God allow so much suffering?  
Why is abortion such a line in the sand for Christians?  
Why condemn homosexuals when God made gays and loves all people?  
How can I trust Christianity when so many Christians are hypocrites?  
Why should I think heaven and hell really exist?



## Bringing Glory to God as We Partner With the Heffners

As we think about developing meaningful relationships in our lives, we know that they take time, good communication, sacrifice, and work. It's not always easy, but it sure is worth it! So as Living Hope begins its long term, in-depth partnership with the Heffners to make the gospel and the glory of God known in Taiwan, we thought it would be best to get to know our partners first.

We as the leadership team have been communicating with the Heffners these past months so we could create resources and opportunities for everyone (child to senior) to truly know them. What a privilege it will be for us to share what we have learned. This is one amazing family who truly believes in an awesome God!


Our goal is to be able to pray specifically for their personal and ministry needs, to give thought and action to ways of caring for them, and to catch their enthusiasm and heart for Taiwan.


Beginning in June our team and volunteers will be providing a variety of ways to accomplish this goal. We are asking for your commitment to have your eyes, ears, and heart open to all that will be given and to take "ownership" of this first goal. Please take the time to read, pray, and begin thinking of how you, your family, and/or ministry group can become involved. If you have questions or ideas, please see us!

In September as we continue to get to know the Heffners, we will begin Phase II of getting to know Taiwan and the Taiwanese people. You don't have to wait, though. Find a map and begin researching. 😊


Serving together with you,  
Roxanna Miller, Kay Padilla, Barb Pierce, Heike Work

### *Heffner Requests and Praises:*

 The Shin She Covenant Church - praise for real growth spiritually this last year and pray for passion to reach out to their community (only 2% Christian).

 Bible Distribution Ministry - Bibles/tracts/DVD's in the hands of tourists from Mainland China - some who have never had a Bible of their own.

 Vocational School that has no active Student Christian Fellowship - pray that God would direct in the planning of one.

 To walk close to Christ, grow in His love, wisdom, grace, holiness, power and discernment; to grow in Chinese speaking ability; to be good spouses and parents.

## YOUTH

Summer fun, having a blast! At least that is what I hope that the kids in our youth group will be saying in a few weeks. I am excited for the summer. We are working on a few fun things (some of which are not fully planned yet so I can't divulge much). We will be continuing our Wacky Wednesdays this summer. Hopefully we will be adding to them though by doing a few of them with another church in the area. Nothing like having a good time with other Christians! We will be doing everything from short Bible studies/readings to going on hikes in the Columbia River Gorge. Do you have any ideas for a Wacky Wednesday? Something you think our youth might enjoy? Let me know. I Love to hear new ideas!

Pastor Andrew Miller

Also, we are planning to attend another Seattle Mariners game this year. Unfortunately it will not be a Yankees game, but it will be fun none the less. We are still trying to set a firm date for which game we will be going to, but make sure you let me know if you are planning/would like to come to the game. We have to buy the tickets and get them paid for. The tickets will cost around \$35 again depending on which game we choose.

There are other things we are working on, so make sure you pay attention to your worship folder and keep talking to those kids so you can find out what they are doing, and how much fun they are having!



***Taiwanese Tidbit:*** The population of Taiwan is more than 22 million. Taiwan is one of the most densely populated countries in the world, second only to Bangladesh.

## *Women Connecting to the Vine*

*Ladies, you are invited to join together on Saturday, June 18, @ 9:00AM for "Ladies Time Out" breakfast at Francis Xavier's restaurant on NE 181<sup>st</sup>, north of Halsey, at NE San Rafael. Bring a friend with you and enjoy a time of fellowship and fun.*

*Our Bible Studies have concluded for the summer and will begin again in the fall.*

*July 15 - 17, is Women's Camp at Tadmor. This year's theme is "In Times Like These, We Need Each Other" and the featured speaker is Bev Hislop. She is an author and is involved in developing programs and courses at Western Seminary aimed at ministering to women. Brochures for camp are available. Registration deadline in June 26.*

Registration for our fall retreat, "Standing on His Promises," is underway with just a few spots left. Be sure to check with Sam at the Information Center if you are interested in going.

