



Moment
With
Mark

SICK AND TIRED

Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:14 - 16

Three life insurance agents were having dinner and bragging to each other about the speed of their companies service. The first told about a client who had died unexpectedly on Monday. The company got the news that night and the check was in the mail Wednesday. The second agent said, that's nothing, we had a client die on Monday also. Within two hours we heard about it and I handed the family a check that evening. The third agent said, boys, let me explain speed to you. Our office is on the thirty fifth floor of a skyscraper. One of our clients was washing windows on the fifty second floor when he slipped and fell. We handed him a check as he passed by our floor.

I've been a part of many debates concerning James chapter five. I do not want to address those discussions in this article. In my reading of this passage it has far more to do with "faith," and with "prayer," than it does with "oil". Some debate whether James is talking about spiritual sickness or physical sickness. You don't have to look too far to see examples of both. Satan is like a roaring lion and he is seeking those he can devour. And the sad conclusion is he is having his way with far too many who possess the power to resist him.

But it's not just spiritual sickness we are seeing. Many in our church family have been battling physical illness. There's always a number of folk in the hospital. It gets hard for many to deal with ongoing sickness and poor health. And there are always too biblical truths that we need to be reminded of when it comes to sickness. **#1. It's not God's will that everyone be physically healed.** Remember Paul's thorn in the flesh. He asked God three times to remove it and each time God's answer was no. As a matter of fact God told Paul that his grace was sufficient. Many of us have been where Paul was. Asking the Lord but not receiving the answer we want. This is one of my concerns with professional faith healers. The come into a city put on a crusade and set the expectation that it is God's will for everyone to be healed. Now I believe in faith, and I believe in healing, but I believe it's Almighty God who holds the power. If these healers were authentic miracle workers, why don't they go to the floors of Children's hospital, or Christ Hospital or Good Samaritan and do it humbly and free of charge. It is not God's will for everyone to be physically healed. **#2. Ultimate healing is to go to heaven.** If I did not believe this I couldn't do my job. Some of the most compassionate heartfelt prayers I've heard were those asking the Lord to take someone and end their suffering. Whether you are speaking of spiritual healing or physical healing - James writes a prescription for prayer and faith.

Mark

Senior Minister
Mark Fugate

Pastoral Care
Charlie Scott

Youth Minister
Darrick Willoughby

Director of
Children's Ministries
Beth Walker

Counseling Minister
Rick Smale

Secretaries
Priscilla Stevens
Jamie Strunk

Sunday Services

1st Worship
8:15 AM

Connection Studies
9:30 AM

2nd Worship
10:30 AM

Evening Worship
6 PM

Wednesday Schedule

5:45 PM
Family Fellowship Meal

6:15 PM
Kid's Choir

6:30 PM
WNA

6:45 PM
FOG

7 PM
Adult Bible Studies



BLESSING

UPON BLESSING

We praise God for the decisions made during the past month.

Baptisms

Maggie Perkins

Transfers

Greg & Audrey Edwards

Please keep them in your prayers and encourage them as they become a part of our church family.



Dear family in Christ,

I am so thankful that March has arrived! Now I'm looking forward to Spring and warm weather (with sunny days, hopefully). Our weather has limited some of the activities here recently and that likelihood is diminishing as the weeks go by. I hope you have not been really hindered by the elements in the past couple of months.

We are seeing great days here at HCC as evidenced by the attendance of Sunday. When we have almost 400 in worship on a cool Sunday morning, it is encouraging. Our Easter Worship and Praise will be at Schafer Auditorium again this year and we hope to have all our normal attenders and many guests. Start inviting now since we are only a month away from this Celebration of HIS Resurrection.

Let me encourage you to do a personal "appreciation assessment" to check on this area of your life that only you and God see fully. Do you have a healthy appreciation for all the blessings of our loving Heavenly Father? Have you told Him how thankful you are for the many good things in your life? Even if you have major problems or challenges, are you regularly expressing praise and thanks for the areas that are good. We often get focused on the unpleasant parts of life and miss the many good parts that He provides faithfully.

I find when I hear the news of things like the earthquake in Haiti, and now in Chile, I am more aware of my many blessings. Even so, I know gratitude should not come only as a comparison with people in great trouble, but out of a heart of love and devotion to our Great God! May appreciation, love and devotion grow for each of us.

If you are an attender of Senior Saints in the Smokies, please put May 24th-28th on your calendar for this fantastic week. I can explain the reasons for this time frame if you are interested, but sign up before April 15th to get the best deal. If you are traveling on your own, you can go a different week, but please let me know so we can have an accurate total.

Glad I'm HIS with You,

Charlie.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast at Arby's

The second Wednesday of each month, men from Hillcrest meet for a fellowship breakfast at Arby's in Bedford.. Men are invited to join this group at 8:30am on March 10th.



Helping Hands

All ladies are invited to attend Helping Hands on March 16th at 6:30 pm. Roxana Oliver and Ricki Willoughby will be co-hosting at Ricki's home, 240 White Lane.

March MAC Outing

The MAC Outing this month will be to Freetown, IN to attend Senior Adult Day on March 23rd. We will plan to leave at 8AM. Watch the bulletin for more details.



March Prayer Focus

Matthew 6:28--Consider the lilies of the field...how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin; And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these...

Fog Help Needed

A preschool teacher is needed for Wednesday nights. This position is on a rotation schedule and uses a DVD curriculum with little prep time. If interested please see Beth Walker.



Small Groups

Todd Hout, leader

This group meets at different homes. They begin the evening with food and fellowship. They are studying "Crazy Love" by Francis Chan.

Terry Willoughby, leader

This group meets in different homes and begin with a meal and fellowship. They are studying "Crazy Love" by Francis Chan.

The above-mentioned groups meet the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 6 p.m.

Jamie Strunk, leader

This group meets on Wednesday Evening at 6:30pm, at Hillcrest in room N3. Their topic is "You Matter More Than You Think", by Dr Leslie Parrot.

Priscilla Stevens, leader

"Friday Friends" will meet twice a month at Priscilla's home. This is a discussion group which uses "Too Busy Not to Pray" by Bill Hybels. Our purpose is to lift each other up in prayer and thanksgiving!

Charlotte White, leader

A ladies' Bible study meets at Hillcrest in The Gathering Place on Tuesday afternoons at 3pm. They are studying "The Other Side of Youth".

Led by Bev Martin & Nina Rhoda

A Cancer Support group meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm at Hillcrest. For more information contact Bev Martin at 275-8945 or Nina Rhoda at 278-8245, or the church office at 279-3994.

Would you like to be a part of a small group? For more information contact Alan Phipps at 279-1002 or email akhipps@comcast.net. Or call the church office at 279-3994.



Sonshiners Quartet
In Concert
March 14th - 6PM
Hillcrest Christian Church
1130 Hillcrest Road
Bedford, IN