

Lessons from the Heart

The new hope of Spring

By Pastor Chad Hoesman

A few weeks ago, I noticed the hostas were starting to come up out of the ground. We have a long row of them by the driveway on the side of the parsonage. They were there when we moved in last summer, and with very little attention from me, they come back the same way every year. They go away in the fall and then jump back into life in the spring.

They must be hardy plants because we didn't do anything to them and they came right back on their own. The amazing thing to me is the speed of their arrival. On Monday when I walked down the driveway, there were no hostas visible anywhere. It might as well have been the middle of January. On Thursday when I was headed down the driveway to the front of the parsonage, hostas

were everywhere! That's really an amazing thing.

You see, the hostas weren't fully grown, just a few green shoots were popping up through the mulch. It's amazing, in just three short days we went from plain mulch to a long row of bright green shoots climbing out of the ground. Even more amazing is the fact that in just a few short weeks, the hostas will crowd each other along side the driveway until you can't even see the mulch. I "googled" hosta and found nearly 4 million sites dedicated to this plant growing in the parsonage yard. I also found out that hostas are considered the "friendship plant." What a great way to describe these plants that "fill in the voids" of our flower gardens.

I'm happy that the hostas came back so quickly. Winter in Northern Indiana seems to drag on forever, as if February had thirty extra days. But the hostas know something we don't know. You rarely see them poking their way out of the snow. When the hostas come up, that's the indicator that spring has arrived! This seems a lot like a parable to me. Life moves fast and changes quickly. Like in the case of our hostas, it can change for the better. One day all you see is last years mulch and dried up old leaves. That mulch and those leaves may stay there,

unchanged, all winter long. Then all of a sudden, there is fresh green growth all over. The real meaning of hope lies in this story of the hostas. We believe that beneath the old mulch - the fresh green shoots of the hostas are making their way to the surface. Just because you don't see them doesn't mean that they're not there.

The author of Ecclesiastes writes in chapter 3:1 "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven." God has a way of changing things - sometimes for the better, and sometimes He does it just in time. Jesus said, "If God gives such attention to the appearance of flowers - most of which are never even seen - don't you think He'll attend to you, take pride in you, do His best for you?" Spring is here and so is a new Hope. The hostas may wither and its flowers fall but we have a Hope in Christ that never fades.

Chad Hoesman is pastor at Camden Baptist Church.

Pray for our nation to seek God

And when they saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been looking for you anxiously." Luke 2:48 Pd. Adv.

Matt McCoy and Epic to be in concert at Hickory Grove

Hickory Grove Church invites public to see Matt McCoy and Epic in concert on May 21 at 6:30 p.m. The concert is free and no free will offering will be taken.

McCoy began to lead worship at the age of 13 in his church youth group. His band, Epic, began playing together in their church youth group and currently travel around the Midwest worshipping at conferences in between attending college full-time. He has written many songs and continues to express his love for God by

writing contemporary worship music.

McCoy currently resides in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he attends the University of Cincinnati and serves as worship leader for Student Ministries at the Vineyard Community Church.

This will be the last evening concert until fall. For more information or directions call the church at 574-965-2731 or Pastor Ken Smith at 574-826-4307. Hickory Grove is located in northern Carroll County at 9714N 700W.

DIRECTORY OF AREA CHURCHES

SS=Sunday School SW=Sunday Worship

AMERICAN UNION NON-DENOMINATIONAL: Vernon Stingley, pastor. SW: 10 a.m.
BRINGHURST UNITED METHODIST: Larry DeVos, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
BROOKSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST: 206 N. Prairie Street, Brookston. Ron Guzman, minister. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
BUCK CREEK UNITED METHODIST: 4915 Ferret St., Buck Creek. Joe Hornick, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.
BURLINGTON FIRST BRETHREN: 205 W. 8th St., Rev. Dr. Peter Roussakis, pastor. SW: 10:00 a.m., SS: 9:00 a.m.
BURLINGTON CHURCH OF CHRIST: Tim Pohlman, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Children's Church: 10 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m., Youth Groups: 6 p.m.
BURLINGTON UNITED METHODIST: Rev. Chuck Rockey, pastor. SS: 10:50 a.m., SW: 9:30 a.m.
BURNETTSTOWN FIRST BAPTIST: Second & Main, Burnettsville. SW: 10:00 a.m., SS: 11:15 a.m.
BURNETTSTOWN CHRISTIAN: Sixth & Washington, Burnettsville. John Wright, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.
BURNETTSTOWN CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: First & Main, Burnettsville. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.
BURROWS PRESBYTERIAN: SS: 10:30 a.m., SW: 9:30 a.m.
CALVARY CHAPEL CARROLL COUNTY: Will be meeting at the Delphi Middle School gym on Monroe Street. The worship service begins at 10:30 AM. All are welcome!
CAMDEN UNITED METHODIST: Dan Gottschalk, pastor. SS: 9 - 9:45 a.m., SW: 10 a.m. Sun. Nite Praise 6:02 p.m.
CLYMERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: 4003 W 400S. Clymers Kevin Drane, pastor. SW: 10:30 a.m. SS: Same as worship.
COLBURN ROAD BAPTIST: Bill Cadle, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
COLBURN UNITED METHODIST: Michael Ermil, pastor, SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:20 a.m.
COMMUNITY BIBLE MINISTRIES: 1/2 mile north of SR 22 on CR 1150W. Patrick Kamm, pastor. SS: 9 a.m. SW: 10:15 a.m.
DELPHI CHURCH OF CHRIST: 405 Cottage Street, Delphi. Lowell Kibler, minister. Sunday Bible study: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 & 6 p.m., Wed. Night 7 p.m.
CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN: 3570 E 200S, Bringhurst, Dan C. Butcher, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m. SS: 10:30 a.m. Youth group 6:30 p.m., Bible study Wed. 6:30 p.m.
CUTLER PRESBYTERIAN: Pastor Jim Long SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
DEER CREEK UNITED PRESBYTERIAN: Highway 29 in Deer Creek. Rev. Cheryl Montgomery, interim pastor. SW: 10:30 a.m. SS: 9:15 a.m.
DELPHI CHRISTIAN CHURCH: 315 E. Main St, Delphi. Andrew Paris, minister. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:45 a.m. Wed. Bible study: 7 p.m.
DELPHI COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GOD: 321 W. Main Street, Delphi. Rev. Virgil Moss. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
DELPHI PENTECOSTAL: Hwy. 25 East, Delphi. Tim Stewart, pastor. SS: 9:45 a.m., SW: 6 p.m.
DELPHI UNITED METHODIST: Union & Monroe Streets, Delphi. SW: 8:45 & 11 a.m., SS: 10 a.m., Todd Ladd, pastor; Sheila Wilimitis, youth pastor.
DELPHI WESLEYAN: North Union Street, Delphi. Rich & Carol Schenck, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
EASTLAWN UNITED METHODIST: SR 24 & Logan Street, Idaville. Ernie D. Elder, Jr., Pastor. SW: 10 a.m., SS: 9 a.m.
FAITH CHURCH OF CHRIST: SR 29, Burlington. Steve Cole, minister. SW: 9:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. a.m., SS: 11 a.m., Wed. Bible study 7 p.m.
FAITH LUTHERAN: CR 800 N, west of Hwy. 29. Thomas J. McShannock & Sandy Hutchens, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:10 a.m.
FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH: Hwys. 29 & 26, Middlefork. Jim Anderson, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
FIRST APOSTOLIC CHURCH: U.S. 421 North, Tippecanoe Township. Gilbert R. Ingram, pastor. SW: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD: US 421N., Pittsburg. Brent Oliver, pastor. SW: 9:30 am, Wed. Family Night: 7pm
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CAMDEN: Chad Hoesman, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:45 a.m., Sun. Youth Service 5:30 p.m. Sun. Bible study: 7:30 p.m.
FIRST BAPTIST: Indiana & Franklin Streets, Delphi. William Glenn, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN: Main & Indiana Streets, Delphi. Rev. Louis Sandos. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.
FLORA FIRST BAPTIST: 115 W. Columbia Street, Flora. Interim pastors. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.
FLORA FIRST BRETHREN: 115 N. Washington Street, Flora. Dan Herendeen, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
FLORA FIRST CHRISTIAN (Disciples of Christ) S. Center Street, Flora. Pamela Ditson-McCall, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.
FLORA GRACE BRETHREN: 103 S. Willow St., Flora. James Franklin, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m., Wed. Prayer Service: 7 p.m.
FLORA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 211 S. Center St., Flora. Charles Compton, pastor. SS: 9:15 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.
FLORA UNITED METHODIST: 107 E. Main Street, Flora. Larry DeVos, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:15 a.m.
FLORA VALLEY VIEW SOUTHERN BAPTIST: Route 2, Flora. Bill Godbey, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST: 1101 Dreifers Ave., Delphi. Danny Jewell, pastor. SS: 10 a.m. SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
HICKORY GROVE CHURCH: CR 700 W., Jefferson Township, Ken Smith, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.
HILLSIDE MISSIONARY BAPTIST: Hwy. 22, 2 miles E. of Burlington. Doyle Buckner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
HISPANIC CHRISTIAN CENTER: 108 W. Main. Delphi. Dimas Palacio, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW 12noon, Tue. & Wed. 7 p.m.
IDAVILLE CHURCH OF GOD: 11073 E 50 N, Idaville. Keith Raderstorf, pastor. SW 8:30 & 10:30 a.m., SS: 9:30 a.m.
JUBILEE FELLOWSHIP: CR 50 N, Flora. Scott Gamel, pastor. SS: 9:00 a.m., SW: 10:00 a.m.
LIVING FAITH CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: 310N 250W. Jeff Tomson, interim pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.
LIVING STONE CHURCH: Meets at the Freedom Center in Delphi. SS: 11 a.m., SW: 9:30 a.m. contact (765) 589-3507
LOCKPORT NON-DENOMINATION-AL CHURCH: East of Patton. Nord Zoolman, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.
LOWER DEER CREEK CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN CR 300 N, SE of Camden. SW 10:15 a.m., SS: 9:00 a.m.
MT. ZION INDEPENDENT BAPTIST: 102 N. Connelly Street, Delphi. Alfred Smith, pastor. SS: 10:15 a.m., SW: 9 a.m., & 6 p.m.
OAK GROVE CHRISTIAN: 11810 N & 900 W, Monticello. Interim pastor, Don Arterburn. SW: 10 a.m.
PINE GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH: Crooked Road, 1 mile E of Delphi. Justin Wagner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
PITTSBURG MISSIONARY BAPTIST: John Wagner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m.; SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Bible Study: Thurs. 6:30 p.m.
PLEASANT HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 5490 North SR 39, Frankfort. Donna Enerson, pastor. SS: 9:45 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. Everyone welcome.
PYRMONT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: Pastor. Howard Hendrickson SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.
RADNOR CHURCH: Ed Selvidge, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.
ROCKFIELD CHRISTIAN: Bob Cree, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.
ROCKFIELD PRESBYTERIAN: SW: 9:30 a.m.
ROSSVILLE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP: 16 Cason St., S. Corporate Prayer 9:00 a.m., S. Fellowship 9:30 a.m., SW 10:00 a.m.
ROSSVILLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: 109 N. Plank Street, Rossville. Pastor, Bob Pfeifer. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.
ROSSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 5434 W State Rd 26, Rossville, IN. Rev. Gretchen Schneider SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:20 a.m.
ROSSVILLE UNITED METHODIST: Main & Gaddis Streets, Rossville. Rick Jones, pastor. SS: 9:15 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
SHARON AMERICAN BAPTIST: St. Rd. 29, Carrollton Township. James Lund, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC: 207 N. Washington Street, Delphi. Peter Vanderkolk, pastor. SW: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH: 1301 S. Washington St., Delphi. Dale Larson, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN: Church & Cumberland Sts., Camden, 2 blocks West & 1 block North of SR218 and SR75. Dale Larson, pastor. SW: 8:30 a.m., SS: Same as Worship.
WHIRLWIND MINISTRIES: meet at Burrows Fire Department, Greg & Michelle Britt, pastors. SW: 9 a.m. (574) 652-2280
YEOUMAN UNITED METHODIST: Dave Inskip, pastor, SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.

Announcements

Delphi United Methodist Church will host a **MUSIC FOR MISSIONS CONCERT** on Saturday from 7 to 9 p.m. at the church, located at 118 N. Union St. The concert will feature local artists Malachi Jagggers, Lee Anna Atwell and Suzy Gustafson. Refreshments will be served and door prizes awarded.

Channel 2

Programming for May 10-15 is listed below:
Wed., May 10 - 7 p.m., Memory tape of past events.
Sun., May 14 - 9 a.m., Live worship service from Flora United Methodist Church.
Mon., May 15 - 7 p.m., Worship service from Delphi Wesleyan Church (if available, taped 5/14), followed by memory tape of past events.

Recycle This Newspaper

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

By Dr. James Dobson

Forgive parents for their flaws; they won't be around forever

QUESTION: I resent my parents. They've never abused me or anything like that, but they do such stupid things. My dad's work has been the only thing he's cared about. How can I respect people like that?



Dr. Dobson

DR. DOBSON: Let's assume that your complaints against your parents are valid - that they didn't do a very good job of raising you. Nevertheless, I urge you to cut them some slack. You'll learn someday just how hard it is to be a good parent.

Children are infinitely complex. In fact, I believe it is more difficult to raise children now than ever before. Be assured that you will not do the job perfectly, either. Someday, if you are blessed with children, one or more of them will blame you for your failures, just as you have criticized your parents.

Let me share one more suggestion with you and others who have been angry at their parents. Given the brevity of life and the temporary nature of all human relationships, can you find it within your hearts to forgive them? My mother closed her eyes for the last time on June 26, 1988. She had been so vibrant, so important to each member of our family. I couldn't imagine life without her just a few years earlier. But time passed so quickly, and before we knew it, she had grown old and sick and incompetent. The human experience is like that.

As I sat at her memorial service, I was flooded with memories and a profound sense of loss. But there was not the slightest hint of regret, remorse or guilt. There were no hurtful words I wished I could have taken back. There were no prolonged conflicts that remained unresolved between my parents and me.

Why not? Was I a perfect son born to flawless parents? Of course not. But when Shirley, my wife, and I had been married only two years, I remember saying to her, "Our parents will not always be with us. We must keep that in mind as we live out our daily lives. I want to respond to both sets of parents in such a way that we will have no regrets after they are gone."

Again, I urge you not to throw away these good, healthy times. Please be careful not to create bitter memories that will hang above you when the record is in the books. No conflict is worth letting that happen.

QUESTION: You obviously have a great empathy for kids who are in the junior-high years - especially those who are rejected and ridiculed by their peers. Have you always felt that way about that age group?

DR. DOBSON: My concern for early adolescents dates back

to the years I spent teaching in junior high school. I was only 25 years old at the time, and I fell in love with 250 science and math students.

The day I left to accept other responsibilities I fought back the tears. Some of the kids were hurting badly, and I developed a keen sensitivity to their plight. Let me illustrate how I saw them.

Years later, I was sitting in my car at a fast-food restaurant. I happened to look in the rearview mirror and saw the most pitiful, scrawny, dirty little kitten on a ledge behind my car. I was so touched by how hungry she looked that I got out, tore off a piece of my hamburger and tossed it to her. But before this kitten could reach it, a huge gray tomcat sprang out of the bushes, grabbed the morsel and gobbled it down. I felt sorry for the kitten, who turned and ran back into the shadows, still hungry and frightened.

I was immediately reminded of those kids I used to teach. They were just as needy, just as deprived, just as lost as that little kitten. It wasn't food that they required; it was love and attention and respect that they needed, and they were desperate for it. And just when they opened up and revealed the pain inside, one of the more popular kids would abuse and ridicule them, sending them scurrying back into the shadows.

We, as adults, must never forget the pain of trying to grow up and of the competitive world in which many adolescents live today. Taking a moment to listen, to care and to direct such a youngster may be the best investment of a lifetime.

Send your questions to Dr. Dobson, c/o Focus on the Family, PO Box 444, Colorado Springs, CO 80903; or to his Web site at www.family.org. These questions and answers are excerpted from books authored by Dr. James Dobson and published by Tyndale House Publishers. Dr. Dobson is the founder and chairman of the board of Focus on the Family, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of the home and Judeo-Christian values. Copyright 1997 James Dobson, Inc. All rights reserved. International copy secured.

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A STROKE OF GOOD LUCK.
 Know the warning signs. Early detection may save your life.
American Heart Association

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