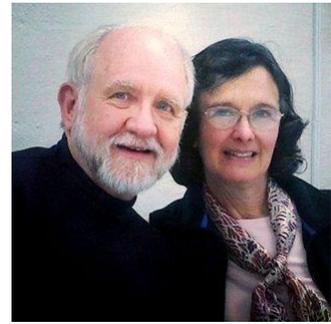


Dr. Bill and Susan Morehouse 2018 Banquet Closing Reflections

Susan

How deeply grateful we are to each of you for your support and encouragement. This evening has been a look back to see how far we have come and a look toward the future and where His Branches is going. It has been very inspiring! Thank you to the banquet committee for a great evening! My comments will be brief.



Dr. Bill and Susan

To those who are here as supporters of His Branches, let me say thank you. We are so very thankful for your faithful support.

We could not do this work without your prayers, encouragement and financial investment. Thank you for standing with us through change and transition. Thank you for trusting us to invest wisely in the lives of people in Rochester in the name of the Lord. We live in a broken world and our only hope is that Christ will bring healing to our brokenness. We want to be healed ourselves and help in the healing process of others.

To the His Branches Board and staff, I would like to say a few words. First of all, you are awesome and your sacrificial giving of yourselves in this work does not go unnoticed! I would like to share a couple things that you already know and are doing. So it is more like the baseball umpire dusting off home plate-“This is where you are heading! This is your goal!” Or the runner in a relay handing the baton to the next runner and pointing to the finish line.

Ok, here is the finish line, the goal, home base:

- *“Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you”* Matthew 6:33

He is the King - Seek him and his ways and all the rest will come.

And second:

- *“Let all that you do be done in love”* 1 Corinthians 16:14
- *“Make love your aim”* 1 Corinthians 14:1
- *“The greatest of these is love”* 1 Corinthians 13

He’s the King of Love - His ways are ways of love and if we ask him he will teach us how to love most effectively.

Thank you all, thank you HBI Board and staff! We love you and appreciate all you are doing!

Thank you supporters, we are so grateful to each of you!

Dr. Bill

What a wonderful evening we've just had together, thanks to our awesome staff, volunteers, Burgundy Basin crew, and you! And what a privilege it is to stand here at Susan's side before you with 40 years of shared ministry behind us, right on the verge of our "graduation into retirement" this coming July! Your prayers, encouragement, and support through thick and thin over the years have made and are making it all possible. Our hearts are filled with joy and gratitude!

We want you to know that the best is yet to come for all of us. Through 5 years of careful and prayerful planning, the ministry we've helped found is now established on a solid foundation to mature, grow, and expand to meet the needs of our community in the years ahead. As you all know if you've been reading the news, we're in very troubled times with serious moral problems and leadership issues in our nation and world that cry out for God's grace, but – mark my words – revival is on its way!

Now the word "revival" implies that those affected have already been "vived" and that means us. God is seeking to purify His people by His Spirit so that we can live lives of such vitality and love that the world wants to draw close and emulate us. Then he can pour out His spirit on unbelievers because the church will be ready to show them the way by our lives and actions. That's what we're praying for and looking forward to when we ask for revival – for His power of conviction to fall on us. Are you ready?

-o-o-o-o-o-o-

I like the words "found" and "founder" and have played around with them a bit lately. It all started in 1974 when I discovered how lost I was and then got "found" by the Lord Jesus, the Creator and Redeemer of the universe and head of its "Lost and Found Department." I was a mess, a Hot Mess, and He's been cleaning me up and guiding my life and work ever since.

Here are some early foundational instructions He gave me: *"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock."*

The next major work He did was to bring Susan into my life during a summer Bible study in 1975. You might say that it was then that your future founder "found her!" I can honestly say that without Susan at my side, none of what we've seen God grow in our midst could have happened. We've been a team from the get-go in love, family, success and failure, loss and victory. Here's an encouragement from the front lines to you: Don't ever give up!

And now we're graduating... graduating forward into the next stage of our lives, not moving away into retirement. Over the past 2 years we've been progressively letting go and transferring the major pieces of what we've been doing here into the gifted hands and hearts of many very capable brothers and sisters who are more than able to carry the Lord's ministry at HBI into the next generation.

Our Board, with Avik at its helm, is imbued with renewed vision and commitment. Dr. Mack has become well established as our Medical Director, Valerie as our Practice Manager, Maria as our Office Administrator, John as our Care Manager, Jen as our Nurse Manager, Gloria as our Billing Specialist, Diane as our EO Director, and Jan as our Executive Director, along with many others who are growing in key leadership and management positions. We have a great team in the air and on the ground. You've met many of them tonight; please don't slack in your support, we're going to need more and more of it in the days ahead...

So what's left for us? For the next several weeks I'll still be seeing patients part time as I hand over their care to Eric, Kristi, Ali, Karen, Matt and their teams, leaving me with one role to finish strong with, that of a Founder helping to wrap up some projects, pack up, and greet you at my community graduation party on July 1. If you'd like to join in sharing our mixed emotions on July 1, just ask.

What will we be doing after July 1? Well, we'll still be living in the neighborhood in the same home we raised our family in two blocks away from the office. We'll be praying for you all and staying far enough away to let the ministry grow with its well-established new leadership while still being remotely available, staying active in the community, and welcoming guests into our home. I'm sure I'll be missing my patients for a while. We'll be visiting our far-flung extended family members, brothers and sisters, 4 children and 7 grandchildren, even cousins.

We'll be taking what we've learned and applying it in broader ways. Building friendships, reading, writing, and doing some speaking engagements. Traveling some and hopefully visiting the Scandinavian lands of my first birth heritage and holy lands of our second birth heritage. Hanging out at the cabin, pond, meadows, and woods of our property in the Southern Tier. Exercising, skiing, camping, canoeing. Gathering, sorting and arranging old and new photographs. In short we'll be finding out what's next on His plan and growing older together.

Don't worry, HBI will thrive, we'll keep blooming as long as He keeps pruning us, and we promise to miss you when you're not right nearby...

God bless you all!

Please join us in giving Him thanks as we close this wonderful evening together...