

MAHSEH NEWSLETTER

A quarterly newsletter brought to you by the Mahseh staff.

VOL. 1, ISSUE 2

APRIL 2017

Top stories in this newsletter



Greetings to you from the staff at Mahseh.



Spring at Mahseh



Book Review

Outreach at Mahseh

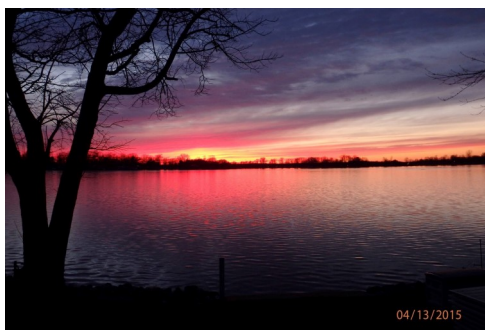
GREETINGS TO YOU FROM THE STAFF AT MAHSEH

We hope you all had a blessed Lenten season and a joyous Easter celebrating the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are now in a very busy time at Mahseh. Ron and Alison have been busy getting the water fall clean and flowing, weeding, taking out dead trees and planting new ones. Flower pots are brimming with annuals and the Resurrection is popping with tulips and daffodils. We are busy getting the outdoor furniture clean and back on the porches and replacing some that time has worn out. Spring brings ducks, herons, and sand hill cranes. Of course those peepers are always peeping!

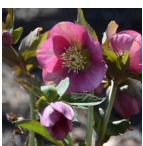
SPRING MONTHS AT MAHSEH

We still have week days open for your personal retreat. Just two weekends, 1st and 3rd in June open, all others booked through November

Week day rates: Individual \$50/ night, Double Occupancy \$75/ night



Mahseh has had several women's retreats this spring. We have welcomed groups from Antioch Church, Frankfort, West Lafayette Christian Church, and Faith Community Church in Osceola, Indiana. Trinity Wesleyan held their annual prayer retreat, and Church of the Heartland will hold their women's retreat in May. Prayer, teaching, and edification - it's all happening at Mahseh!



Since we opened Mahseh ten years ago, we have hosted a community church service on the three holiday weekends. This summer Rob will teach from the book of Proverbs. On Memorial Day weekend, May 28, our subject is "How's Your Thought?", July 2 is "How's Your Talk?" and September 3 we ask "How's Your Walk?" All are welcome and we start at 9:00 am in the shelter house by the channel. Coffee served.

MAHSEH Gift Cards



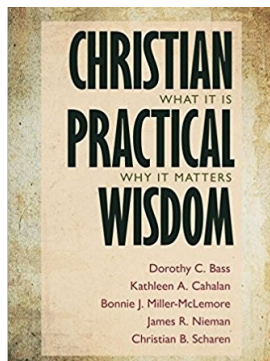
~Several folks have inquired about a gift card to give a retreat to a friend or pastor or spouse.

Great idea!

We will have those ready if you want to gift someone with a time for retreat.

BOOK REVIEW CHRISTIAN PRACTICAL WISDOM

This column is the first of a series of a regular feature of our quarterly newsletter. Mahseh is the home of an extensive library of over 7000 high quality volumes of non-fiction works available for anyone to utilize for research or personal enrichment. In a typical calendar month we will add ten to fifteen books to this collection. This feature of our newsletter will take a look at one such volume added since the last newsletter. The first review is of the book *Christian Practical Wisdom*. The book is the result of a Lilly Endowment Grant awarded to the Valparaiso Project on Education and Formation of People of Faith. Dorothy Bass, emeritus director of the institute is one of the five contributors to the volume.



From the publishers forward:

In this richly collaborative work, five distinguished scholars examine the oft-neglected embodied practical wisdom that is essential for true theological understanding and faithful Christian living. After first showing what Christian practical wisdom is and does in several real-life situations, the authors tell why such practical wisdom matters and how it operates, exploring reasons behind its decline in both the academy and the church and setting forth constructive causes for its renewal.

Aristotle believed all wisdom could be assigned to three categories. Theoretical wisdom was knowing for knowing's sake. The study of philosophy would be an example. Productive wisdom was knowledge for the benefit of creating something. Today's emphasis on constantly improving our technological world is such an example. His third category is practical wisdom. This is exhibiting the ability to exercise good judgement in making decisions in daily living. The authors of *Practical Christian Wisdom* focus on this last level of wisdom seeking. Collectively they point out the fact that in today's world little emphasis is given on nurturing practical wisdom as a serious area of study and comes in a distant third to the other two fields of knowledge. However, they point out it may in fact be the most necessary area in this complicated world quickly losing foundational institutions such as religious belief that provided this training to past generations.

The way that the authors address this material makes this book a fascinating read. It reads like two different works. In the first half, all five co-authors provide a story from their personal background about complex situations in their lives that required the exercise of practical wisdom. In this way the book reads like a biography. In Part Two, it radically shifts to read like a thesis dissertation on the fall of the study of practical wisdom in the academy and the church and what can be done to reclaim it.

All in all, *Christian Practical Wisdom*, is a fascinating and challenging read that explores a very practical aspect of how each one of us should lead our lives in a way that Aristotle would have deemed "the good life".

Rob

Thank you for giving us the chance to serve you and for your ongoing friendships with us. The following are comments that have been written in our book at the front hall table:

My husband and I loved this place and the retreat. It gave us steps to help pull our marriage through the death of our son. It was just what we needed ...

Thank you for providing such a lovely place to be calm and quiet. The views are soothing, the library impressive and cozy, the chapel inviting and all the options for places to sit and read and think and pray are comforting. Just the kind of place the soul, spirit, and mind needs to rest and be inspired.

It is such a blessing to get away to a place like this that allows for a “jump start” into the next level of healing. My husband found it so profitable to have a quiet and well-equipped place for writing that is away from ministry demands.



This was the perfect place for our church to retreat and refocus. Thank you for providing a beautiful and relaxing environment for our group. We will be looking forward to our return!

MAHSEH GARDENS

Another outreach at Mahseh is on June 3 when we host our second annual Garden Tour. The tour will run from 8:00 am until 1:00 pm. Alison and Ron have been working diligently to clean away winter debris and create a wonderful reflection of God's beauty. The tour is free and open to the public. The tour includes not only Mahseh but also the gardens at Sunset Cottage, Dunrovin and the A frame cabin and surrounding property. In addition to the tour, Mahseh is also hosting a Ladies Tea that morning starting at 10:00 am for ladies from the community. The tea will include a message by Debbie Wingerter on “Death and Life in the Garden” with references to Eden and Gethsemane. If you have an interest in attending the tea, please call the Mahseh phone number (574-653-3277) and leave your rsvp.



We'll love visitors! Please stop by anytime. Just contact one of us and let us know you are coming. Donations are always welcome as we have been replacing worn furniture windows, and other items. This spring begins our 9th year of operation.

Rob and Debbie

Ron & Alison

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