



The Anchor



A Monthly Publication of Vaughan Baptist Church

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“Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast...” Hebrews 6:19

June 2008



From The Pastor’s Desk Pastor Bill Adams

In February of 2006, we dedicated our new sanctuary to the Lord with a then record 250 people in

attendance. After everyone had left, I sat on the back pew and reflected upon the day. Two things immediately came into my mind.

First, our church family was really growing! But more people meant greater parking issues and more children meant a need for more suitable Sunday school classrooms. Secondly, even though God had overwhelmingly blessed us with a beautiful new sanctuary, some of our future ministry goals, including an all-grade Christian school, would not be able to be accomplished on our present site. All were good problems to have but they needed to be addressed. So, in June of 2006, on Vision Sunday, I preached about a five year vision. We would focus on debt reduction, numerical and spiritual growth, and the training of leaders through our new Bible Institute. At the same time, we would fast and pray that the Lord would direct us as it related to property expansion or relocation to a larger site within the Woodbridge area. In this month’s issue, I would like to speak to you on: **“Revisiting The Vision.”**

THE DESIRE

I don’t believe it is wrong or sinful for us to seek to do more for the Lord. In fact, I think we ought to! I believe it is sinful for a church to be lazy, content, or just maintain the status quo. God is about growth and growing when it comes to His church: Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:41,47; 5:14; 11:24. Once the promised land had been conquered, Joshua would lead the people in casting lots to determine each tribe’s portion (Numbers 26:52-56; 34:16-29; Joshua

14-19). Upon receiving their inheritance (Joshua 19:40-47), the tribe of Dan desired more land: *“And the coast of the children of Dan went out too little for them”* (Joshua 19:47). They would fight for more land and get it! No condemnation of their desire for more is recorded. I’m convinced that good, God-honouring desires are worth fighting for.

THE DEVISING

Proverbs 16:9 says: *“A man’s heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.”* There are two parts to this proverb. Each is vital. First, God enables, entrusts, and encourages man to plan and prepare to do spiritual things. Man is not to sit still and do nothing. This is the principle found in Jesus’ parable of the talents. The Lord condemned the man who buried his talent and did nothing with what God had given him (Matthew 25:24-30).

The second part of the proverb



compels man to deposit those plans into the hands of the Lord for His dispensing. Man’s finite state is overshadowed by God’s infinite wisdom and will. Simply put: man proposes, God disposes; man devises, God directs.

THE DEPENDENCE

In Matthew 9:28-29, we have the story of two blind men asking to receive their sight. Jesus said unto them, *“Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you.”* Faith opens eyes and doors! The Church thrives and is thrust forward by faith: *“Remembering without ceasing your work of faith”* (1

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Our John & Romans blitz team about to hit the streets. Six different teams covered new housing developments in Maple, Woodbridge, and Brampton.

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Thes.1:3); "But without faith it is impossible to please him" (Heb.11:6); "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone" (James 2:17).

A church relying upon faith will attempt the impossible, not the probable. We may not know His will but we can believe that He is able!

When a family enlarges, they look for a larger residence. As a business expands, they hunt for a larger facility. It is quite natural then when a church grows, that it seeks a site where it can fulfill its ministry desires. I don't believe that thoughts of adequate Sunday school class rooms, sufficient on-site parking spaces, a Christian school and gym, etc. are unspiritual or unreachable. We can be short-sighted and just meet our present needs or we can look to the future, our children and grandchildren, and attempt a faith-fed venture.

The Lord has closed the door for any further building on our present site. Many churches have had to move several times to secure that final resting place. So we devise a plan, depend on Him, and seek His will. First, we pray. Our Wednesday evening family has been praying about this since October of 2005. Then, like the tribe of Dan, we seek. We actively look around our community for a place that would meet our ministry needs. Thirdly, we wait upon the Lord's direction. If He says stay, we stay. If He says wait, we wait. If He says move, we move. We devise, He directs. Fourthly, while we wait - we work! We continue to aggressively pay down our debt. We seek to win souls. We endeavour to nurture and mature those who are saved. We train those desiring to be in local church leadership.

We are a church of miracles. From the get-go, we have seen the almighty hand of God. From changed lives to



the construction of buildings, we have witnessed the windows of heaven opened wide upon us. None were deserved or earned. All were a result of His grace and goodness! As we await the outcome of this vision, may we faithfully worship and work for His pre-eminence in all things.



GOOD TIDINGS

Friend Day Weekend

On Friday, April 25th, a hearty group of hard working men filled a dumpster, cleaning up the church inside and out. Then on Saturday, 26 adults and teenagers accompanied by some small children hit the streets with gospel literature. Six different teams covered new housing developments in Maple, Woodbridge, and Brampton. Then on Sunday, with a record Friend Day attendance of 170, we enjoyed a great day in worship. Marisa hosted a fulfilling feast for us. It was supposed to rain almost the whole weekend, but all we got were showers of blessings!



Hello? Can you hear me now? This cell phone antenna really works!



Some "slippery" characters during cleanup day! And our "blitzers" hard at work sorting through and organizing gospel literature...

TESTIMONY

A Personal Testament
Blair & Crystal Cassidy

Blair's Testimony

In 1999, I became interested in the Bible and its many teachings. I had previously been under the common false impression that the Bible, God, church and all that kind of thing was just a bunch of boring religious mumbo jumbo. After attending some Bible studies, church services, and doing some reading of my own, I became gripped with what the pages of scripture actually teach. I became very aware of the fact that I was a sinner on my way to hell. Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

I was 20 years old. I was drinking heavily and using drugs on a daily basis. I was living a life of destruction until I cried out to the Lord Jesus. So almost 9 years ago I trusted Jesus to save my soul from eternal condemnation. Jesus saved me, and for 9 years now I have been living a new life with the one true and only living God. Romans 6:4 "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." II Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

I was born again. I started a new life in humble obedience to this world's only true spiritual authority, the BIBLE, God's Holy word. God has blessed me with a full and abundant life. I have been given a wonderful wife and three

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THE VBC PICTURE GALLERY



We had a record Friend Day attendance! Folks enjoyed a great day in worship — with spiritual food followed by physical food and fellowship. We also had hard working men who cleaned up the church inside out that same weekend.



Brother Roy Pustam

Wednesday Evening, May 28th. Steve and Seema's pastor from Trinidad will begin a series of special preaching services with us. Pastor Pustam will preach again on Saturday evening, May 31st and then twice on Sunday, June 1st.

Picture Day

Sunday, June 1st.

After morning service and right before we eat, we will take a group picture of our entire church family on the stairs to the hill. Please mark this Sunday down—we want everyone to be here for the family portrait! It will be a great day of preaching, picture taking, and appetizing food!

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beautiful children, all of whom are a pure joy. I could never have dreamed of being so blessed. Nothing in this world compares with knowing the LORD. Nothing in this world compares with knowing your sins have been forgiven by God, because he paid the full price for sin upon the cross.

I count it a great privilege to serve God, and thank Him for the many opportunities to do so here at Vaughan Baptist Church.

Crystal's Testimony

As a young child I had attended a not-so-strict Mennonite church. I don't remember much about the church. In fact, all I remember are the crafts, one in particular being a heart-shaped pillow saying "Jesus loves me." I believed in God, and I would always say a repetitious prayer before I went to bed: "Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep..." So in a sense, one could say I was



THE ANCHOR

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Would you like to share your testimony? Do you have a special story, event, prayer request or any other information you would like to share with your church family?

Please contact us at the church office by phone or email.



Our Schedule of Services

MINISTRIES ON SUNDAY

Sunday School	
for all ages	10:00 am
Morning Worship	11:00 am
Evening Service	6:00 pm

We have fully staffed and supervised nurseries at all services.

MINISTRIES ON WEDNESDAY

Bible Study and Prayer Meeting	7:00 pm
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We are an Independent Fundamental Baptist Church, located in the heart of Woodbridge, Ontario, Canada. The Church is located 10 minutes north of Metropolitan Toronto and 20 minutes from Toronto Pearson International Airport, and only a 40 minute drive from downtown Toronto.

William E. Adams, D.Min.,
Senior Pastor
James Hird, B.Th.,
Youth Pastor

Personal Testimony continued...

religious but lost.

I always had an emptiness within me that no matter what I did the world could not fill. I was smart in school, I excelled in sports, and I had my close-knit body of friends. Why did I still feel empty? So at the age of seventeen, when I first started attending church, my emptiness began to be satiated. I was fascinated with the true Biblical teachings of the church. There was nothing other than the pure Word of God that kept me there. It was a small church with zero teenagers besides my sister and I.

Unfortunately, I put off getting saved because I was approaching the legal drinking age and because there were several things I wanted to do first before I became "committed." However, one evening after my family and I visited the Pastor and his family, I left their house with a great sense of urgency to be saved. "[Life] is a vapour that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" (James 4:14). The reality of this verse persuaded me that I needed to accept Christ as my Saviour, "...behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

Sure, the Christian life has not been easy. But I'd rather live a life with Christ than a life without him. After all, only Christ can satisfy the sinful soul. My God has richly blessed me, more than I deserve. I only pray that my children will find the joy in Christ that I have found. I've never ever felt empty since accepting Christ in 1994. "Hallelujah! I have found Him, Whom my soul so long has craved! Jesus satisfies my longings; through His blood I now am saved."

