



The Anchor



A Monthly Publication of Vaughan Baptist Church

Volume 2008 Issue 11 "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast..." Hebrews 6:19 November 2008



From The Pastor's Desk Pastor Bill Adams

The world is facing an economic crisis not seen since the Great Depression.

While the stock market and the Canadian dollar fall, the number of housing foreclosures, bankruptcies, and job losses rise. There is uncertainty and instability. How does all this affect Christ's church? This month, I would like to address a timely subject: "The Church's Economy."

THE PROBLEM

Faith is one of the foundational spiritual building blocks of the church. But faith does not pay the bills – money does. The mortgage, utilities, gospel tracts, Bibles, paper, teaching materials, salaries, missionary support, hymnals, etc., are all paid for by the giving of God's people. When a Christian withholds his money, Christ's church suffers. In financially tough times, a Christian is at the crossroads. One fork cries out to pay the credit card, the mortgage, the car payment, and give God what's left; the other fork calls for him to give God what's right! When a Christian chooses the first fork, the church faces a problem.

THE PLAN

God has protected His church with a plan. If you attend His church, then support it Scripturally. The Apostle Paul taught it to the Church in Corinth, "For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen? If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?" (1 Cor.9:9,11) Here, Paul explains that these Christians had been taught spiritual things, so it was appropriate that they reimburse Paul with earthly things (money to support

his ministry). He likened it to Moses' teaching about feeding the ox who is working for you. Paul told Pastor Timothy to use this plan with his congregation (1 Timothy 5:17-18). Paul reminded the Galatian Christians of the same plan, "Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things" (Gal.6:6). The word "communicate" means to share, in a financial way. In other words, if you are attending church and are thus being fed spiritually, you have a Scriptural obligation to compensate the church for what you are receiving.

THE PRIORITY

What is the compensation Christ requires? I believe the Scriptures teach tithing (giving 10% of your gross income). God called the Jews who didn't tithe, robbers and said He would curse them if they didn't give it (Malachi 3:8-10). Lev.27:30 says, "And all the tithe...is the LORD'S: it is holy unto the LORD." Proverbs 20:25 says, "It is a snare to the man who devoureth that which is holy..." Don't devour God's tithe on yourself. It is His to sustain His church! Give God all His tithe. Jesus commended it (Math.23:23). In this New Testament age of grace, tithing ought to be the basis but not the bounds of our giving. In the NT, tithing was neither condemned nor overruled. The priority – make God the first One you give to. Proverbs 3:9-10 says, "Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine."

THE PARTICIPATION

"God loveth a cheerful giver" (2 Cor.9:7). We should look at giving as a joyous privilege of helping the work of God. God's plan is for all to participate. "Now concerning the



collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come" (1 Cor.16:1-2). There should be equal sacrifice, not equal giving. "For I mean not that other men be eased, and ye burdened: But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality" (2 Cor.8:13-14).

In other words, it should not be in the church where some are giving and others are not. It's not fair that only some should sustain the church! It should be equality – we all share in the financial needs of Christ's church by giving our tithes. Some may think that if they are away for a week, they don't have to give their offering. But, remember, whether it be a snow storm or a summer vacation, the church bills still come!

Folks, as your pastor, I do not know who gives in our church. I don't want to know. It is between you and your God. But I must preach, teach, and write what the Scriptures say. I love you and our church and I, like you, want to see it prosper. Christ's church should not struggle financially because some are not giving. We're a family here – let's all carry the load together. God has a plan. If we all participate, there will be no financial problems facing His church. Don't yield to the temptation to withhold from God; pass the test of obedience and faithfulness. You give God what is right and He will

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bless you abundantly (Haggai 1:3-11; Ps.37:25). Let's learn to be content with 90%. Remember what Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). While the world struggles with economic stability, may the Lord use us to strengthen the financial testimony of His church.



GOOD TIDINGS

Missions Conference

On Sunday, October 19th, Missionary Pastor Denis Celestine from Grenada, West Indies preached and poured out his heart to us to go to the uttermost to reach the world for Jesus Christ. It was a great day filled with vigor and vision.

Harvest Party

On Saturday, October 25th, the children of the church enjoyed a wonderful day of fun and fellowship with our great teaching staff.

Teen Fellowship

On Saturday, November 1st, the teenagers and all the youth workers met at Pastor and Debbie's home for some sweet fellowship together in the Lord.

2008 Debt Reduction: Goal - \$39,000

Over \$12,000 has been sacrificially given toward this project. Only two months remain—let's keep giving, praying, and hoping!



YOUTH CORNER

Pastor James Hird

What Does The Future Hold For You I Corinthians 2:9

Like every other person in this world, you as a teenager will continue to get older. Although you may think that you have the rest of your life in front of you, you may only have tomorrow. You must prepare yourself for what the future holds for you. The decisions that you make today could determine the actions that you may have to take in the future. You must first put your future in the hands of God. Paul wrote in I Corinthians 2:9, "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." God knows what the future holds for you, but you must be willing to put that future in His hands. David wrote in Psalm 143:10, "Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness." Even as David prayed here, you need to ask God for His guidance in making decisions in your life. God wants to lead you in the right way, but the first decision you have to make is to be submissive to His will. David again wrote in Psalm 40:8, "I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart." If you first put your delight in God, He will take care of all your needs.

Jeremiah wrote in Jeremiah 29:11-12, "For I know the thoughts that I

think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you." The plans that God has for your life are far greater than anything that you could desire for yourself. God wants what is best for you, even as Jeremiah said here, "thoughts of peace, and not evil." If God did not want what is best for you, then you should put your trust in another source, but what other source is there?

There is the world; but the world does not care for your future, but will rather drag you into the dark depths that it is. John wrote in I John 2:15-17, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." If you don't follow His will, you as a teenager will disappear into the world and become just another young person who **could** have done great things for God. If you do as Jesus commanded in Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.", you can know that whatever the future holds for you, that God will be there right beside you helping you to follow through on what His will is for your life. Paul tells us in Philippians 1:6, "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Know this, young person, God will follow through with you on what His will is for your life. He truly loves and cares for you. He wants you to find what the future has in store for you.



THE VBC PICTURE GALLERY



Ladies Craft Night
Friday, November 7th
at the church

Christmas Open House
Saturday, December 6th
At the Adams' house

Christmas Cantata
Sunday, December 14th

Christmas Eve Service
Wednesday, December 24th

TESTIMONY

A Personal Testament
Steve & Seema Satoo

Steve's Testimony

I was born in Trinidad and Tobago and grew up following the Hindu religion. I used to go to the Hindu prayers because my parents told me I had to go, including all my brothers and sisters. My parents did not even know much about the religion. It was more tradition for them. Over the years, my eldest brother started going to church and because of that, the church people started visiting us and encouraging us to come to their church. I started going to youth group on Friday evenings, but that was only to play sports. Most of the time I would leave before the church service started. The youth leader invited me to a Christian camp that runs through the carnival period (Friday-Wednesday). I had never been to carnival and in my mind I thought that this would be a good opportunity to leave the camp grounds and attend

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

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

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.

carnival. This was my plan but God had His own plans for me. The day I reached the camp grounds, that very night I got sick really bad. I lost my voice, I could not talk and was too weak to walk. So for that whole time, I was in bed sick and could not go anywhere or do anything. The last day for the camp, the director came to my room and saw the condition I was in and asked if he could pray for me. While he was praying, my voice immediately came back and I felt stronger and was able to stand up and walk. God in his mercy and grace touched me and took away my sickness. I told the director that I wanted to accept Jesus Christ as my Saviour. So at the age of fourteen years old, I gave my heart to God and since then God has been good to me. At that same Christian camp a few years later I met my wife Seema. I thank God everyday that I am saved and still serving him. John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." I thank God for this verse - as a Christian, whatever the world throws at you, whether it be good or bad, you can rest assured that in Christ you have eternal life.

Seema's Testimony

To be continued next month...

