



The Anchor



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

March 2009



From The Pastor's Desk Pastor Bill Adams

In Acts 7, Luke records the stoning of Stephen in the very presence of Saul: *"And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep"* (Acts 7:58-60). The early church philosopher Augustine is reported to have said, *"If Stephen had never prayed, Paul would have never preached."* I am assuming that Augustine meant that if Stephen had not lived and died in the graceful way he did, Saul would have never become Paul. The death of Stephen must have contributed significantly to the conversion of Saul. Old movies like *"It's A Wonderful Life"* and *"Scrooge"* depict men who were taken back in time and shown the influence they had in the lives of others. Their actions set in motion the events affecting many other lives. Without their presence, the course of local history would have been dramatically different. This month, I would like you to consider,

"What if...?"

STEPHEN AND PAUL

Stephen preached a stirring sermon to the Jewish religious leaders (Acts 6:8 – 7:50). His Spirit-filled message caused an uproar among these unsaved. They resisted his wisdom and words and rejected his invitation to be saved. They hardened their heart and ears (Acts 7:51). He would pay the ultimate price of persecution – death. What if Stephen had been shy and timid instead of bold and courageous? What if Stephen really didn't care about the souls of these religious unbelievers?

What if he had caved in and capitulated to the threats and public embarrassment? If Stephen had just walked away or been a silent witness of the Lord, maybe Paul would have never been saved! You never know how many lives, lost and saved, you may be influencing by your bold and brazen stand for the Lord – at school, in your neighbourhood, at work, or in your family. There may be many lives you are swaying by your spiritual zeal.

PAUL AND TIMOTHY

If Paul would not have received the Lord, Timothy's life would have been different. Timothy was active in the church at Derbe and Lystra (Acts 16:1-2). He would be a spiritually profitable asset to Paul's missionary ventures (Acts 16:2-5; Phil.2:20). Paul was Timothy's spiritual father (1 Tim.1:2) and example (2 Tim.3:10). Paul, bearing his thorn in the flesh (2 Cor.12:7-10), was a model of ministry for Timothy who had to bear his own thorns in the flesh (1 Tim.5:23). Without Paul's example of serving through suffering, maybe Timothy would have resigned his pastorate. Paul also continuously confronted and encouraged Timothy with his fearful

tendencies (2 Tim.1:7). If Paul had not been there, Timothy may not have gotten the missionary experience that fit him for future pastoral ministry. If Paul had not been there, I wonder if there would have been anyone to disciple and mentor Timothy. How many young Christians are there today who don't have a spiritual father, who don't get ministry experience, who battle fear, who don't have spiritual examples because there is no Paul? And maybe there is no Timothy because there was no Paul. Paul would still be Saul if Stephen had faltered in his calling.

TIMOTHY AND HIS MINISTRY

Paul wrote to Timothy and said, *"Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee"* (1 Tim.4:16). Without Paul's constant challenges, what if Timothy had been too fearful to pastor? None would hear him and he would save none. Without Paul, Timothy's ministry may have never started. He would have missed the greeting and blessing of the brethren's fellowship, that of Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, and Claudia (2 Tim.4:21).

In closing, Stephen's faithful testimony had rippling effects all the way to a man he would never meet on this earth – Timothy. Because of Stephen's spiritual actions, God could impact Paul's life by

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Our married folks enjoyed a time of marital enrichment! The pizza was a bonus!

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his observance of how a Christian lives and dies. Because of Paul's spiritual actions, God could make and mould Timothy. Timothy, in turn, could make a spiritual impression on those who would sit under his ministry. Because of one man's spiritual actions, many lives were touched. So it will be in your life. It all starts with a Christian living right. In the movies, you can change how you live in the present by having an opportunity to view the past. In real life, you cannot go back. So let's live spiritually right each day, realizing how our lives can and do influence others.



..GOOD TIDINGS

Baptism of Vince

On Sunday morning, February 1st, our church family rejoiced together in the baptism of Vince Fillon.

Marriage Enrichment Seminar

On Saturday, February 7th, 25 of our married folks enjoyed a time of marital enrichment. We laughed and cried in the sessions, had a lot of fun and fellowship, and feasted on pizza and gourmet desserts.

Debt Reduction: Goal - \$100,000

We have received over \$6,000 toward our 23 month debt reduction goal of \$100,000. Thank you for your sacrificial offerings! We are praying for a mortgage burning service in December, 2010.



YOUTH CORNER

Pastor James Hird

Follow The Leader Mark 1:14-20

"...Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men. And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him..."

Have you ever played "Follow the Leader?" Of course you have! You probably played the game when you were a child -- your father played the game when he was a child -- his father played the game when he was a child. Follow the Leader is a game that is played and enjoyed by people all over the world. The rules are very simple. You choose a leader and you follow him wherever he goes -- and do whatever he does. You stomp through puddles, climb over fences, swing from a tree -- all to stay in the game because nobody wants to be "a quitter."

Follow the Leader is a great game, but in our daily lives we play follow the leader too. In school, in church, in sports, in any activity we are in, there are always leaders. Every day we are faced with making a choice of which leader we will follow. We must be sure to choose a leader that will lead us in the right direction.

Peter, Andrew, James, and John were found by the Leader. When Jesus found them, they were fishermen. Jesus called out to them,

"Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men." These men were given a choice. They could continue to fish for fish, or they could become fishers of men. They had to decide who they would follow. They made their decision. Mark writes in verse eighteen, *"And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him."* These four men decided to follow Christ wherever He went.

Following Christ is never easy. It was not easy for the disciples. Jesus told them in Luke 9:23, *"And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."* It will not be easy for you as young people. You will have many things calling out to you saying, "Follow me." You must be willing to deny your physical needs, your personal wants, your heart's desires. You must give up all to follow Him. Jesus tells His disciples in John 12:26 that the requirements for following Him include service. He says, *"If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour."*

If you as a young person are going to follow Christ, He will require service. You cannot expect to follow Christ without fulfilling His commands. He tells us to tell others about Him. He expects us to show His love to others. All of the things that Christ has done, He expects us to do. That is what it means to follow Him. I think that Peter summed it up best in I Peter 2:21, *"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps."*

Christ wants you to follow in His steps, walk the road that He walked. Then, and only then, will you truly understand what it means to **"follow the leader"**.



Some of the husbands got a "close shave" from their wives during the marriage enrichment seminar! It was certainly enriching!!

THE VBC PICTURE GALLERY



Men's and Women's Bible Study
 Wednesday Evening, March 4th
 7:00pm at the church

Youth Activity
 Saturday, March 7th
 At the Hird's house

Baptisms
 Sunday Morning, April 5th

Bible Conference
 April 6-7 in Ajax, Ontario

Easter Sunday
 Sunday, April 12th

✝ Please keep praying for open doors in our new property search!!

Don't forget to set your clocks, it's 'Spring Forward' on Sunday, March 8th.

TESTIMONY

A Personal Testament
 Leo & Sandra Campanella

Leo's Testimony

I was born and raised in a middle class Italian family with the ceremonies and traditions of the Catholic church. As the years passed those traditions did not guide me, I became lost in the world

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 5 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.,
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James Hird, B.Th.,
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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.

and got caught up in the devils pleasures. In my late teens and early twenties I had a lot of time on my hands due to a motorcycle accident that left me with serious long term injuries. In between pain killers and street drugs, I developed an addiction as I tried to suppress my pain and a childhood tragedy from my past. My life was out of control.

On November 9th 1994, I got down on my knees and asked the Lord to become my Saviour. I was searching desperately and found my Lord - "But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul..." Deut. 4:29-31 . I tried to enter a new way of life - "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat..." Matt.7:13-14. I wandered around the world with a burden in my heart and no church or Bible to turn to.

In 1996 I met my wife and found we had the same burden. Together we searched and found Vaughan Baptist Church, and have been there ever since. We married and have five children together. What a blessing from the Lord, Amen!

