



# The Anchor



A Monthly Publication of Vaughan Baptist Church

Volume 2009 Issue 5

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

May 2009



## From The Pastor's Desk Pastor Bill Adams

For those in our generation who don't know, believe, and practice the Bible, the topic of religion is very subjectively interpreted and understood. Without personal investigation, so many just accept what they have heard either from parents, friends, or some media outlet. In spite of the reality of death, others make presumptions and guesses based on nothing other than their own personal feelings. Assumptions are made that all religions are acceptable to God and that all roads lead to heaven. They like to "preach" that this discussion is a private one and that no one should make judgments on another's choice of religious preference. In this month's column, I would like to address a related subject:

### "Religious But Not Righteous"

#### THE DEEDS

There are a number of Biblical examples of religious men who lived good, moral lives yet were not saved. As a rabbi, Nicodemus held a very respectable and honourable religious position in Jerusalem (John 3:1-8). Jesus knew his religion would not enable him to enter heaven, so He explained to Nicodemus that he needed a second birth, a spiritual birth to enter heaven. Jesus questioned his ignorance of this Biblical necessity: "Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?" (John 3:9-10). God brought Peter across the path of another religious man, Cornelius. Acts 10:1-2 tells us that he was devout (pious, godly), God-fearing (even taught his family to be this way), a giver to the poor, and a praying man. Yet God would send Cornelius an angel to

tell him to meet Peter, "Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved" (Acts 11:14). God would direct Philip to another religious, but unsaved, man. Note the religious deeds of this Ethiopian official in Acts 8:26-35. This man was so religious that he was making the long journey from Ethiopia to Jerusalem just to worship. He had a Bible and was reading it. Yet these religious deeds would not save him and Philip was able to lead him to the Lord. As we journey among this generation, we will meet many who are sincere and dedicated to a religious system of beliefs. They may be honest, decent, family oriented folks. But for the sake of eternity, this is not enough.

#### THE DISCERNMENT

These unsaved religious people are usually very kind and considerate. In our eyes, their outward good deeds can cover their inward need for the Saviour. We can be fooled by an appearance or lifestyle. This is why we need discernment. We need to look deeper and consider the inner man. Jesus, Peter, and Philip were not deceived by the religious deeds of

Nicodemus, Cornelius, or the Ethiopian. The religious practice of an outward circumcision was not enough – an inward circumcision of the heart was needed (Romans 2:29). Jesus discerned and distinguished between the religious and the righteous. Many times we see Him identifying the religious Pharisees and Sadducees as vipers, blind, and serpents.

Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matthew 7:21-23). Those unsaved religious around us may be sincere, but they are sincerely wrong.

#### THE DUTY

It is our Biblical duty to reach out to these religious with the gospel of Jesus Christ. The book of Acts records numerous occasions of Paul and his missionary team entering a city and immediately going to the local synagogue. It was there they would find the religious of their generation. It

*(Continued on page 2)*



On Easter Sunday, April 12th, we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord.

*(Continued from page 1)*

is not the good or sincere person that will be in heaven, it is the saved man! Paul himself was zealous of his religious way and yet the Lord, in His goodness and grace, repeatedly reached out to save Paul (Acts 9:4-6). May our love for the lost propel us past their outward religiosity and seek the salvation of their precious souls.

It won't be easy to reach these for Christ. They may be offended or insulted by what they perceive to be our arrogance and audacity. But being led by the Spirit and the Scriptures, may we be devoted to this duty. Let's look beyond their emotional, intellectual, and traditional adherence to some religious rituals. God in the Old Testament required that any foreigners desiring to worship with His people, must follow the Law of God (Exodus 12:48-49). There were no exceptions.

Jesus said, "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him" (John 4:23). We live and work around the religious for a spiritual purpose! Let's take them from tradition into the Truth. "And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?" (1 Peter 4:18)



## GOOD TIDINGS

### Easter Sunday

On Easter Sunday, April 12th, we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord. There were very good crowds for both services. With a number of visitors at both services and with five hands raised for salvation, it was truly a day of

praise and adoration of our Living Lord!

### Missionary Pastor Seely

On Sunday evening, April 6th, Missionary Pastor Dennis Seely preached a soul stirring message. It's always a great time when Pastor Seely comes to visit our church.

### Debt Reduction: Goal - \$100,000

We have received almost \$10,000 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

### Parents Can't Live With Them Can't Live Without Them

Exodus 20:12

One of the major struggles in any young person's life is his daily dealing with his parents. You all know what the Bible says about how you are to treat your parents. God first addresses this topic in the Ten Commandments. He says, "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth

thee." (Exodus 20:12) When God says here to "honour", most of the time you may think that it means to obey, but it has to do more with having respect and affection towards your mother and father. God does not put any qualifiers on this verse. You may like to make excuses as to why you should not show your parents the honour that God has commanded, but you have none. Paul writes to the Ephesians and this is what he has to say about how you are to treat your parents. He writes, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise)." (Ephesians 6:1-2)

Your parents probably remember you as a little baby how perfect you were, and some of them even now are wishing that you could go back to that time of innocence. You have a responsibility to God to obey and honour your parents. There have been and will be many times that you struggle to do these things now, as you feel that you have reached the age when you can make your own decisions. The important thing to remember is that no matter how old you are, or how old your parents are, they are still due the honour that God commanded. That never changes. You may strive to live with them, but you truly cannot live without them.

Solomon writes extensively of how children should act towards their parents. Solomon treated his own mother with great respect. In I Kings chapter two, Bathsheba comes to Solomon to make a request of him. The next two verses show how you should treat your mother.

I Kings 2:19-20 says this, "Bathsheba therefore went unto king Solomon, to speak unto him for Adonijah. And the king rose up to meet her, and bowed himself unto her, and sat down on his

*(Continued on page 4)*



# THE VBC PICTURE GALLERY



**Mother's Day**  
Sunday, May 10th

**Ladies Retreat**  
Friday and Saturday  
May 22-23 in Ajax

**John & Romans Blitz**  
Saturday Morning, May 30th  
10am—12 noon

**Friend Day & Barbecue**  
Sunday, May 31st  
(No Evening Service)

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

(Continued from page 2)  
and caused a seat to be set for the king's mother; and she sat on his right hand. Then she said, I desire one small petition of thee; I pray thee, say me not nay. And the king said unto her, Ask on, my mother: for I will not say thee nay." This is how every child ought to treat his mother. She should be treated as royalty. Your mother loves you no matter what you have done. You should be willing to do anything for her. Too often, however, you do the opposite. Your actions say that you do not care for your mother.

Solomon says this in Proverbs 17:25, "A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him." Your mother may have told you many stories about the hours of labour she endured to bring you into this world. If you end up a foolish child, who shows

### 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.,**  
 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.

no care for things she has tried to teach you, you will bring her great bitterness. The opposite of this is found in Proverbs 23:25, which says, "Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice." If you obey, respect, and honour your mother, the pain of child bearing will mean nothing to her. If you are walking after God, she will rejoice. You need to first make God happy, and then your mother's happiness will follow.

At times, it may be a struggle to live under the rules that your parents have, but in the end, they will bring you happiness, and bring your parents happiness as well.

### FOR KIDS ONLY

There are names of 16 books of the Bible mentioned in the paragraph below. See how many you can find. Here it is:

"I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu, kept people looking so hard for facts.... and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized. But, the truth finally struck home to numbers of our readers. To others, it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen names of books of the Bible in this paragraph. I hope it didn't take more than one cup."

