



# The Anchor



A Publication of Vaughan Baptist Church

Christmas Issue

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

December 2010



## From The Pastor's Desk Pastor Bill Adams



One day in soul winning class in seminary, my professor, Dr. E. Robert Jordan, read “The Parable Of The Fishless Fisherman.” This was the story of a man who had done

just about anything and everything to prepare himself to be a fisherman. He had graduated from the most prestigious fisherman's college and had bought the finest fishing gear. He read all the books he could on fish and fishing. A boat was purchased and sonar equipment secured to help locate the fish. But sadly, he never actually went fishing! Jesus said to his disciples, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19). In other words, follow My example and you will learn how to catch men's souls. Today, if we spend time with Jesus, in a deep, daily, devotional walk with Him in His word and in worship of Him, we will acquire the heartfelt means and mindset to actually lead lost souls to salvation in Christ. Wisdom was associated with not just telling but winning souls (Proverbs 11:30). The verb here “winning” carries the idea of seizing. Are you following? Are you fishing? Are you actually winning souls? In this quarter's column, I want to write to you on: **“Seizing Souls.”**

### THE BARRENNESS

The fishless fisherman caught no fish. Likewise, Christians can live out their entire lives and never lead a soul to Christ. They can attend church, Sunday school, and seminars on witnessing and yet never get out into the people pond and win souls. Christians can carry tracts or pocket Bibles and yet never witness. If there are no soul winners, the lost cannot hear and without hearing, they cannot be saved (Romans 10:13-15). At the judgment seat of Christ, some

Christians will enter heaven, but will have no earthly worthwhile works with which to prove their love for Christ (1 Cor.3:15). Likewise, some Christians will enter heaven's gate having seized no souls on earth. Jesus' message did not stop at just witnessing but went on to winning them. Christ did not want His disciples just to fish but to catch, just as He had: “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). It is God Who saves but we are His fishermen working the ponds, lakes and streams seeking for lost souls to seize.

### THE BURDEN

To actually seize souls, a Christian must be overwhelmed by the lost condition of a soul. The reality of hell, its





eternality and finality, compels the soul winner to go. When our car keys cannot be found, they are misplaced not lost. The word lost should be reserved to the hopeless and helpless condition of the unbeliever like Jesus' parables of the lost coin and the lost sheep. The fisher of men seizes every opportunity afforded him to seize a soul. His desire to see souls saved drives him to tears (Psalm 126:5-6), fasts (Matthew 17:18-21), and heartfelt prayers (Romans 10:1). This one witnesses to win a soul. There is a passionate pleading and urging to salvation – a compelling, not just a telling (Luke 14:23). Soul winning becomes a driving desire not just a compulsory duty (Philippians 4:17).

### THE BLESSING

There may be no greater feeling or experience than seizing a soul for Christ. There is no work by man that is so life-transformational. Greeting you throughout your heavenly journey will be those souls you've led to the Lord. Recently, we all rejoiced as we saw the rescued Chilean miners, one by one, make it to the surface. With all the tears, joy, and hugging, it surely gives us a glimpse of that heavenly scene when we are reunited with those with whom we either planted or watered the seeds of salvation.

The fisher of men is not prosperous because of his education or economic status but because he follows the footsteps of His Saviour into the fishing ponds of life flourishing with people. Soul seizers shall shine bright in heaven (Daniel 12:3). Every Christian has been given the keys to the kingdom with the awesome privilege of opening heaven's doors to all who will come in God's way (Matthew 16:19).

Christians can live barren, empty lives with nothing to show for their salvation (2 Peter 1:8). There are many causes today – from saving the whales to saving trees but there is no greater cause a Christian can give himself to than the saving of souls. Let it be your heartbeat. Let God's saving grace propel us to rescue the perishing. May we witness to win souls. May we win many to the Lord.

The Christmas season is upon us. Luke wrote: *“And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a*



*Saviour, which is Christ the Lord”* (Luke 2:10-11). As Luke said, Jesus is a Saviour to all people. He came to save. Let's make it our business to lead as many people as we can to the Lord. Let me challenge you with a New Year's goal for 2011 – go fishing and catch some fish!! Keep a notebook this year, writing down the name of each soul saved.

Satan has snared the lost and taken them as captive prisoners (2 Timothy 2:26). May we seize the unsaved out of Satan's grasp before it is too late. God help us not to enter heaven's gate with a dry fishing line and an empty hook.

## Confirmation, Exhortation and Tribulation

Blair Cassidy

Acts 14: 19-22

**T**he unbelieving Jews, motivated by their hatred for the Biblical Gospel, had in Acts 14:19 persuaded a number of the Lystrians to stone Paul. This they did and dragged him out of the city thinking Paul to be dead. No doubt these men were satisfied with the false assumption that their pestilent adversary was

expired. Content that this bastion of truth and love would irritate them no longer, Paul was left by these men, having been treated worse than a criminal. Left to die with a few of his brethren gathered around him, the great Apostle rose to his feet.

Remarkably the day after being stoned, Paul, together with Barnabas, continued his mission of evangelism. They departed to the city of Derbe and there, as their manner was, they preached the Gospel.

What was the motivating factor that lay within the Apostle Paul to continue preaching a message that he had just the day before been stoned to death for? Paul was energized with the realization that men must repent and trust Christ in order to one day be in paradise with Jesus. In paradise where there subsists elements so wonderful they are not lawful to utter. On the Contrary he knew that the day was and still is near when the *“Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power,”* 2 Thess 1:7-9.

With these powerful truths embedded in mind and heart, the Apostle Paul preached the eternal message to the

citizens of Derbe. Following the preaching and teaching that took place in Derbe, Paul and Barnabas returned again to Lystra. This is the very same city where the attempted assassination had just taken place. What astounding faith in God and in His will that Paul would have the courage and the assurance to return to the city that was home to his desiring murders. Our brand of Christianity finds it nerveing to hand out a Gospel tract or to tell a loved one or co-worker about the Saviour's love. Paul was so confident in his Redeemer that returning to the habitation of those that would have him dead seemed not to stir him at all if it meant doing the will of God.

As well as Derbe, Paul and Barnabas also made stops at Iconium and Antioch. We read in verse 22 how they passed the time while in these cities. Here, we are told that they were **"Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God."** The intent of their stay at these cities was to further the faith of these believers through Confirmation, Exhortation, and the vital warning of inevitable Tribulation.

### CONFIRMATION

The souls of the disciples in these cities were Confirmed. A priority of Paul and Barnabas was to strengthen these believers, to give them a firm and established grounding in their relationship with Christ. Further teaching and explanation of various vital doctrines may have been necessary to ratify the faith of these disciples. Derbe, Iconium, and Antioch would certainly have had a number of new believers/new converts to Christ. The work of Paul and Barnabas would have been to confirm these young babes, giving them a solid foundation for their faith that would yield the kind of Christians desiring to abound in the

work of the Lord. The disciples would have learned more of the great privilege and responsibility they now had in Christ. The privileges of grace, mercy, prayer and eternity, the responsibility of Holy Christian conduct, giving, brotherly accountability, and evangelism just to name a few.

The early Churches were not immune to doctrinal error. Paul and Barnabas would have sustained these believers so as to not be tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine.

All of this would have demanded much of the Apostles' time. This kind of biblical confirmation would have required a great deal of patience and sacrifice.

Tragically, many souls are said to have come to know the Lord in our midst, yet such a confirmation as would have been given by Paul and his good partner Barnabas is lacking today. When a soul is won to Christ the work of confirmation must take place. These great labourers for Jesus would not be found guilty of the same negligence that takes place among new converts in ministries today. The souls of the disciples were Confirmed.

### EXHORTATION

To exhort means to be near, to be beside for the purpose of bringing comfort. The Christian walk can be tiresome. The Christian walk can be lonely. The world and the Devil can weigh down a believer and have a negative impact upon his/her effectiveness as a disciple. Circumstances such as persecution, health problems, or financial struggles can weary the child of God and dampen his/her fire for service. Exhortation is many times the perfect remedy for such low times in the Christian experience. Paul and

Barnabas came along side of the believers in these cities and with words and acts of Charity, lifted their spirits, enticing them to continue in the faith.

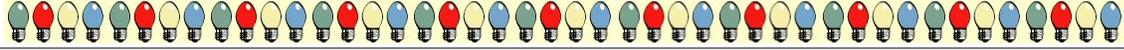
Who better to aid Paul in the work of exhortation than Joses. Joses who was surnamed by the apostles in Acts 4:36 as Barnabas, meaning the son of consolation, the son of comfort, the son of exhortation. He was thereafter referred to by no other name. Barnabas was the perfect partner in the work of exhortation. It was Barnabas, in Acts 11, who was sent to the Church at Antioch *"Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord."* Barnabas was the kind of guy that would get excited seeing God at work within the lives of believers. This kind of attitude is what will bring needed exhortation. Someone who is glad to see the grace of God at work. Let us also be mindful of the need to exhort one another, and so much the more, as we see the day approaching.

### TRIBULATION

Paul and Barnabas informed these Christians that their walk with Christ would not be without tribulation, in fact, there would be much tribulation. This is not in reference to that great tribulation period that will come upon all mankind as God's judgment for their rejection of Christ. Rev 3:10 *"Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth."* For this great tribulation, we have no appointment 1Th 5:9 *"For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ."* Our engagement during the world's tribulation will be with our Lord

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# THE VBC PICTURE



# GALLERY





# THE YEAR IN REVIEW





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at the marriage supper of the Lamb.

We shall doubtless, however, have many tribulations in this life. This speaks of trouble or trials in general. We are told by Jesus, *“In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world”* John 16:33. The Christian life is not difficult, it is impossible, but praise be to God He desires to do the impossible by living through us.

Paul and Barnabas would not have these disciples to be deceived; hard times would come. We are told by Paul in 2Ti 3:12, *“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”* Paul was the authority; he had just been stoned for preaching the Gospel! Problems do not go away when we get saved; in fact they could get worse. We rejoice, however, because we have a Saviour that no matter what the tribulation, He has promised to never leave us nor forsake us.

Let us be mindful as a Church that as we are busy about many things not to lose sight of that which has paramount importance: to **Confirm**, to **Exhort**, and to be equipped for much **Tribulation**.

## A Woman's Window

Mrs. Debbie Adams

### I Am Covered

**P**salm 32:1 says, *“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.”* Psalm 85:2 says, *“Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people, thou hast covered all their sin.”*

Recently, I had to do some painting. I really did not want to do it because I am not the best painter. I feel like I end up with more paint on myself and on things I don't mean to paint than I do on the room I am trying to paint. Anyway, when I was finally finished, I stepped back to take a look. I thought about how neat and spotless and clean the room looked now that I was done applying that fresh coat of paint. No matter how chipped, stained, soiled and marked up the walls had become, the paint covered everything completely. The room became fresh and new.

I thought about how it is like that with the Lord. It is a blessing to me that no matter how I have messed up... how I have failed... let the Lord down... sinned against Him... not followed His Word, in a sense become chipped, stained, soiled and marked up, He will apply His “coat of paint” in the way of forgiveness and make me spotless when I tell Him that I am truly sorry and I turn from those ways that displease Him. How grateful I am for this. He lets me begin fresh and new. I don't have to think about the old ways, the past, and the way that I was. He loves me unreservedly. He accepts me completely. He is always willing and ready to receive me whenever I come to my senses. It is a humbling thing to ponder. I don't think that I will be painting for a while now and that is okay with me. But, I am sure that every time I look at the freshly painted room, at least for a while, I will have a word picture of God's sweet grace of covering in the lives of His own.

## TESTIMONY

### A Personal Testament

Remi Tuck

**T**he little sleepy village where I grew up was far from the modern civilization of the city - deprived of the conveniences that electricity could provide. Our little nipa hut was among several dozens that dotted alongside the dirt road that slices through the middle of our village. We were rice farmers. I am one of four children – the only girl. My brothers and I grew up doing our share of farm chores before and after school. We were poor, but we were

privileged to have a happy and fun-filled childhood.

Being second to the youngest, I stayed with grandma while my parents worked daily in the field. Grandma was religious and devout. She herded me every Sunday to go and attend mass with her. Like every one in our family, I was baptized when I was a baby. I was taught early on that my baptism secured my place in heaven and taking the communion would get my sins forgiven. We recited a litany of memorized prayers regularly. I accepted these teachings and believed them too.

I was 13 yrs. old when a group of missionaries came to our village and shared the Gospel to all who would listen. One of them opened his Bible to me and read John 3:16 – *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him, should not perish but hath everlasting life.”* Then he popped the important question – “Remi, if you died today, do you know where you would spend eternity?” Suddenly, I realized that I did not have any honest and sure answer to this simple question. I felt lost. I dug deep into the religious teachings that I believed and practiced since I was young but I soon found out that none of them could give me assurance where I would spend my life after death.

I listened to the missionary as he read and explained the Gospel to me. I was given a Bible. I read and studied it and asked questions, listened, asked more questions, studied more and listened more. My heart burned as I learned about the good news of Christ's mercy, love, forgiveness and salvation. God took hold of my heart. I asked Him to forgive me and I received Christ as my Saviour and Lord. I was baptized according to the scriptures not long after this.





**Announcements and Events**

Since our last issue, the Lord has blessed us with a great anniversary service with about 300 in attendance. We were blessed by having Pastor and Vickie Seely with us from Carbonear, Newfoundland. We have seen two more baptized and two new missionary families taken on for support. The annual open house at the Adams' saw many church folks visit.

**Christmas Cantata**  
Sunday, December 5th

**Christmas Eve Service**  
Friday, December 24th  
6:00 PM

**Church Services**  
Sunday, December 26th  
10:00 AM and 11:00 AM  
(No Evening Service)

**New Year's Eve Service**  
Friday, December 31st  
7:00 PM

**Church Worker's Banquet**  
Saturday, January 15th

**Marital Enrichment Fellowship**  
Saturday, February 5th

Keep fasting and praying for open doors in our new property search!



**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.

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I thought a Christian's life was without trouble, or if there were troubles, they would be minute because God wouldn't allow such to His children. But I was mistaken. Right after I was baptized, my mother, who was determined that no other "religious group" would invade her family, would stand at the front of our house with a bamboo stick in her hand waiting for me to come home from Bible Study or Sunday worship – for I attended against my parents' wishes. I got beaten openly as mother tried to stop me from going to these gatherings, which one of my brothers called "bagtiit" (meaning crazy) as a synonym for Baptist. I was a teenager being treated this way so I felt embarrassed to our neighbours especially to my friends who had witnessed it. But during these times, I had already read and retained in my heart several verses regarding suffering wrongfully for Christ, so I was not deterred by my brother's name calling nor mother's whipping. I prayed for my whole family to come to know the truth in the scriptures as I did. My parents wouldn't accept anyone belonging to the "Baptist group" to share the gospel to them in our home. The missionaries went back to their homeland and a new pastor and his wife came to minister. God, in His mercy, used this couple to witness to my family about Christ. My parents and one of my brothers were saved and baptized. Praise the Lord!

