



# The Anchor



A Publication of Vaughan Baptist Church

Easter Issue

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

April 2011



## Happy Easter!!

### From The Pastor's Desk Pastor Bill Adams



This week we celebrate Easter. Resurrection Sunday is like no other Lord's Day. Because of **J E S U S** resurrection, sinful man can experience a transformation. In this quarter's column, I want

to write about this transformation as I write on **"From Rags To Riches"** and three corresponding results Christ's resurrection can have upon the Christian.

#### SAVING

Isaiah characterized the unsaved as unclean and portrayed his way as filthy rags: *"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags"* (Isaiah 64:6). In Romans 3:12, Paul depicted the lost this way: *"They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one."* Salvation is a love story between a holy Saviour and a filthy sinner where, by the work of One, the sinner is miraculously transformed from rags to riches. Paul put it this way: *"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich"* (2 Cor.8:9). Christ's immeasurable riches of grace, forgiveness, mercy, and

goodness, overwhelmed our sins: *"That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus"* (Eph.2:7); *"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace"* (Eph.1:7); *"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us"* (Eph.2:4); *"Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to*

*repentance?"* (Rom.2:4). The soul-saving that Christians experience is because of His riches.

#### SUSTAINING

The riches of Christ continue to be bestowed upon the Christian throughout his life. In the context of the Philippian church's sacrificial generosity to him, Paul exclaimed: *"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus"* (Phil.4:19). As they were faithful in their giving to God, Heaven's treasure chest would sustain every need they had. As the people were faithful in giving their tithes and offerings, God proclaimed through the prophet Malachi: *"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in*



mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Malachi 3:10). Solomon put it this way: "The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich" (Prov.10:22). As Christians are faithful to the Lord, whatever they truly need in this life, will be sustained by the riches flowing from the throne.

## SHARING

Jesus said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). So Christians, now richly endowed by their Saviour, share that wealth. They give. Though they give financially to help others when they can, their true, spiritual giving finds its outlet in soul winning. Paul shared this with the church in Corinth: "As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things" (2 Cor.6:10). Christians share the riches they have received from Christ. They witness of His forgiveness of sin, mercy, grace, and goodness. They give that which has eternal value. The disciple of Christ does not want to hoard this wealth that he has inherited from his Father, but wants to share it with as many as he can. I can say it no better than the Apostle Paul: "Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ" (Eph.3:7-8).

Paul pled with the Christians in the church at Ephesus: "The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints..." (Eph.1:18). Christians are rich people!! But our richness is not measured according to earthly standards. Our most treasured riches are those that are spiritual and eternal. Without the resurrection of Christ, we are men most miserable (1 Cor.15:19). Without the resurrection of Christ, we are men most poor and in filthy rags. At this Easter season, may our eyes be enlightened to how really rich we are!



## YOUTH CORNER

Pastor James Hird

### Soldiers Of The Cross

*"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."*

**II Timothy 2:3-4**

A short time ago, I had the opportunity to see a military funeral. I came upon it as I was delivering flowers at another funeral. I do not usually wait around to see what was happening, but because the military escorts had the streets blocked off around, I stayed and waited. I saw the procession of the casket draped in the flag. I saw the man's wife and children following behind, weeping because they knew that it was their last opportunity to say good bye. I saw other family, possibly his mother, following behind weeping as well. When the casket arrived outside, all the people of the street stopped to see what was happening. The bugle began to play "Taps". I stood and waited as I watch other soldiers, some of them veterans from past wars, give a salute to a soldier who had lost his life in battle. They saluted him with their rifles. All of this was done to honour a man who gave his life for our freedom and the freedom of all Canadians.

As I watched this scene unfold before me, I could not help but think of the war that we as Christians are in. I often think that we forget that we are in a war. We focus so much on the things that are going on around us in the world. Paul tells us that this is not where our focus should be. He says in II Corinthians 6:17, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you." As a soldier of the cross, separation is required from the world. Paul wrote to Timothy and used these words in chapter two verse four, "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." Paul uses the word "entangleth". This word speaks to an in weaving with the things of this world. A

soldier of Christ must not be a part of the fabric of this world. As a soldier of Christ, we must be willing to separate ourselves from the things of this world. Our lives should be lived to please our Lord.

Paul knew that this would not be easy. This is why he told Timothy in verse three, "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." Paul is telling Timothy, and us, that we will have to suffer hardship in this world. We must endure, or suffer, for our Lord. Soldiers of this world battle for their families and for freedom. As a soldier of Christ, we battle for the freedom of the souls of this world. We fight against an enemy that will attack us from every side. We must not entangle ourselves in the things of this world. We must endure for our Saviour. We may lose our lives for the Gospel, but we know that Jesus told us this in John 12:26, "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." As a soldier of this world receives great honour, so a soldier of Christ receives honour from God the Father.

What kind of soldier will you be? Will you be one who is entangled in this world? Will you be one who endures hardness? You need to be a soldier whose focus is only on Christ and the cross.

## A Woman's Window

Mrs. Debbie Adams

### God, Are You There?

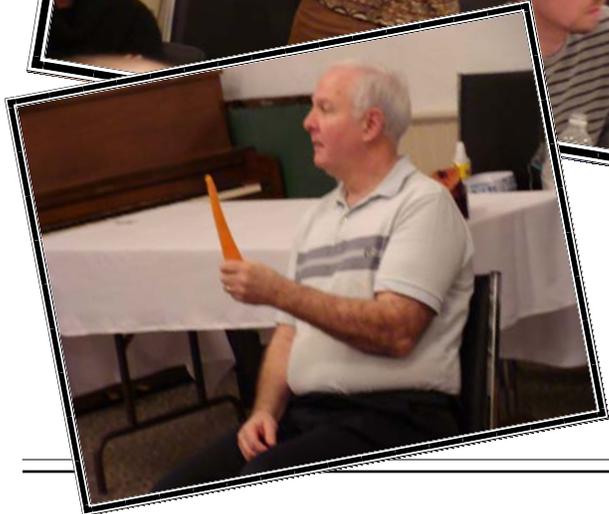
God and I had been spending lots and lots of time together. I felt so close to Him and was so filled with His thoughts and His words. So easily was I able to confidently share about His loving character, His faithfulness, His promises. And then.....busyness and extra responsibility came into my life and I found myself doing my "duty" with personal devotions, doing just enough to get by. And you know what I found out? Doing just enough to get by is not enough!

Someone once said, "shortening of private devotions starves the soul." It was a subtle thing. I kept telling myself, "Things are not the same with God and

*(Continued on page 7)*



# THE VBC PICTURE



# GALLERY





*(Continued from page 2)*

me.” Yes, I still loved Him. I was still going to Him, yet our relationship was not the same at all. The confidence I had days earlier about God...His care, His faithfulness, His promises...was weakened. A change had to take place!

There needed to be confession, “I am so sorry God for squeezing you out to where You are getting not my heart but just my words. I’m sorry for rationalizing that this was an okay form of time with You. It’s not. I acknowledge that I have not totally been plugged into The Vine and that was foolish and not Your will. I want things back to the way they were before.” I confessed all I knew that I was doing wrong.

I am back on the narrow way path with a watchful eye for “busyness” and “extra responsibility.” And, if they try to take over again, I hope to recognize them a little more quickly and put them where they belong...behind my Saviour.

**TESTIMONY**

*A Personal Testament  
Maggie Normand*

**P**raise the Lord! My story started with my ex-colleague, Hau King, who was a Christian who battled cancer four times in nine years. We were not really close friends, but I never saw her complain about her illness. Instead she always laughed, always being playful and joyful. Last June, her husband told me that Hau King passed away. She was about my age. The news was like a thunderstorm for me. But I believed that she went to heaven. This drew me to the church. In less than a month, two of my other friends passed away. They were about 30 and 70 years old. The news crippled me. My heart was empty. So, I continuously went to church to seek God’s comfort. I thank a lot of you who opened your arms and wholeheartedly gave me smiles while my heart was crying. But soon after that, I forgot your support and the grace that God had given to me.

One Sunday, I planned to skip church. It was the same weekend that my nephew, Beckham, was visiting me. I told myself, “alright, I wanted to be a good aunt !” so I decided to bring Beckham to church that Sunday. It turned out, that day was a test of my

faith in God and Beckham helped me pass it. Since then, I became a regular church goer. Meanwhile, I still had a lot of questions about Christianity, so I read a few Christian reference books about the difference between Christianity and Catholics, how to pray, evolution, etc. Last year, Lionel and I visited my hometown, Hong Kong. We met a pastor who reminded me to find out what was holding me back to be a Christian. Then I wrote down a few points: afraid of commitment, afraid of letting go of myself, pride, don't want to admit that I need Jesus and a hectic life.

Sometime the end of last year, my heart "kicked" suddenly. Not sure what it was. I had many sleepless nights. I didn't know why my heart "kicked" so hard, so I tried to read the Bible, from Corinthians to Philippians, but my heart didn't stop racing, didn't slow down at all. I started to pray to God for His guidance.

Around New Year, Pastor Adam’s sermon about “Be a Water Walker” just like Apostle Peter and Pastor Hird’s Sermon about “Making the New Year Resolution in the Bible Way” gave me a big boost. Like a pointer in a compass that set a clear direction for me. On Sunday, 6th February, my heart had been "kicking" for about six weeks. After the morning service, Seema and I chatted. When she found out that I was not saved yet, she shared with me what salvation is all about. One of the lines she mentioned, “For Christianity, Faith is the first thing.” I went home that afternoon. I thought thoroughly. I found out that I was the one who had little faith in God. I examined the past eight months I had been seeking God. I knew very well that God had answered some of my prayers. To me, some answers were

miracles. They are the proof of God’s grace and God’s power.

My heart raced faster and faster. I started to count and to number the sins I had committed. I knew that I was fully ready to pray the sinner’s prayer. I almost could not wait for the church Sunday evening service. That evening, I accepted Jesus as my Saviour. Pastor Adams and Lionel were there. Thank you Jesus for dying on the cross for me! Since then, my heart stopped "kicking." It is so peaceful, just like a lake.

As a new Christian, Psalm 56:3 *“What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee”* and Isaiah 58:11 *“And the Lord shall guide thee continually.”* Now that I look back, I see a lot of God’s followers who paved the road for me. My sister, Yvonne, and my brother-in-law, Bill, who bought me a Chinese / English bilingual Bible way before I felt I needed it. Lionel, who has been helping me to seek God, wanting me to be saved so much that a few times, he looked like he wanted to swallow me. I was born and raised in Hong Kong . I went to Catholic and Christian schools and I had the chance to read the Holy Bible at a young age. Throughout my life, a lot of my Christian relatives and friends, and many of you, have showed me a great example of being a Christian. Thank you for your fellowship, prayers and encouragement. Thank you to all the pastors I’ve met for the Bible Studies and sermons that helped me to grow. Last but not the least, I would like to thank Dragon, Hau King’s husband, and my family for their full support and encouragement.

*“Then, Jesus said unto His disciples. If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.”* Matthew 16:24–27





**Announcements and Events**

Since our last issue, the Lord has blessed us with some folks saved and a good number baptized. We had some of our own missionaries return on furlough and give report of the Lord's work in their midst and we were able to begin our support of three additional missionary families, the Van de Kemps in Malta, the Bohmans in Kenya and the Rubys in El Salvador.

In January, we rented the upper floor of the Swiss Chalet and had over forty in attendance for our Annual Workers Banquet. A very prosperous annual business meeting was held with new Officers being elected and plans laid before the Lord for a great God-honouring year. In February, twelve of our couples attended another of our Marital Enrichment Fellowships.

**Easter Saturation Week**  
Monday to Saturday  
April 18th-23rd

**Easter Service**  
Sunday, April 24th  
Crossing Cultural Boundaries  
with the Bible at 6:00pm

**Revival Services**  
**with Evangelist Alderman**  
Friday to Sunday  
June 3rd-5th

**Frank Maietta**  
**Missionary to Italy**  
Sunday, June 26th



**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**

A Ministry of  
**Vaughan Baptist Church**  
8274 Islington Avenue  
Woodbridge, ON L4L 1W8  
(905) 851-7100

Web:  
<http://www.vaughanbaptistchurch.org>  
E-mail:  
[info@vaughanbaptistchurch.org](mailto:info@vaughanbaptistchurch.org)

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.

**Easter Means Eternal Life**

*A perfect God demands a perfect justice;  
He cannot let us get away with sin.  
We used God's gift of our free will to trespass,  
So heaven's gates were closed;  
we couldn't get in.*

*Our sin required our blood, a sacrifice,  
To atone for all the wrongs that we had done.*

*"But I love them!" cried our Father, filled with sorrow;  
"I'll send my only Son to be the one."*

*Good Friday marks the slaying of our Jesus,  
The unblemished lamb, the perfect sacrifice.  
He took our guilt and blame upon Himself,  
So we could be with Him in paradise.*

*On Easter morning, he came back from death;  
He vanished from the tomb, the empty grave.  
His resurrection means eternal life  
For us, the ones he came to earth to save.*

*This summarizes all the Easter story  
And because of it, we'll be with Him in glory.*

Joanna Fuchs

