



The Anchor



A Publication of Vaughan Baptist Church

Canada Day Issue

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

July 2012

From The Pastor's Desk Pastor Bill Adams



My TV viewing is primarily limited to news and sports but recently a new series of reality shows caught my attention and I have viewed several episodes. “Undercover

Boss” has the CEO of a company go undercover and in disguise, work with employees of the company. They are unaware of the boss’ identity and work alongside their CEO thinking he or she is filming a documentary of someone re-entering the workforce. “Secret Millionaire” follows the same script with the incognito millionaire volunteering for various charitable organizations. At the conclusion of each episode, their identities are disclosed and faithful employees and/or organizations are usually awarded luxurious gifts, including money. I have been moved to tears as needy employees are presented with unexpected and sometimes lavish gifts. I found myself making an application to Christian ministry and in particular, giving to missions. In this quarter’s column, I want to write on “Undercover Christian” and parallel three points to their script.

THE SECRECY

In obedient Scriptural giving, the tithe (10%) goes to the local church, not to Sears or MasterCard or the rent (Malachi 3:8-10; 1 Cor.16:1-2; Gal.6:6; 1 Tim.5:17-18). Above the tithe, I can also give God offerings, like to a local church’s mission’s fund (2 Cor.8:1-5; 9:1-7; Phil.4:15-19). When a Christian

gives, no one in the church knows or needs to know how much they gave. In our church, we have a rotating team of faithful workers, men and women, who record the weekly offerings and a Financial Secretary who notes this for charitable giving receipts. I have never in 21 years counted nor have I asked who has given monies. I don’t want to know so that I can preach or write on giving without partiality. If you don’t tithe, I pray that you will trust God enough to do what He calls for to support His local church and to share the financial load with your fellow church family members. Note what Mark witnessed, “And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury” (Mark 12:41). The Lord sees what you give and what you don’t give (Matt.19:20-23; Acts 5:1-5).

For most of the TV program, the identity of the CEO/millionaire is kept secret. The recipients are unaware until the end. Christian, besides

Happy
Canada Day

maybe the Missionary himself, almost all that you give to missions goes to folks who do not know your identity. Your sacrificial offerings remain secret to them until judgment day in heaven. Then, God will open His books, and the efforts made to reach the lost of the world will be disclosed. There, those globally you have helped hear the gospel and get saved by your mission’s giving, will openly and thankfully greet you. Paul wrote, “Some men’s sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after. Likewise also the good works of some are manifest beforehand; and they that are otherwise cannot be hid” (1 Tim.5:24-25). What God sees secretly (Phil.4:15-19), He rewards openly (Matt.6:3-4).

THE SPIRITUAL

The sad aspect of the show is that the focus is entirely on the earthly and physical. At the end, desperate and needy people have been helped physically. Truly, their life on earth has



been improved. Earthly and material needs are very important and, as Christians, we are to assist others when and where we can (Acts 11:27-30; 1 John 3:17-19; Gal.6:10; Matt.25:34-40). But one's greatest and most crucial need is spiritual! The church has been commissioned to preach the gospel to the world (Matt.28:19-20). Jesus said, "*For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?*" (Mark 8:36). Offering spiritual service should be our priority while we live with eternity in view. Mission's giving focuses on the lost and the spiritual needs of the world. In noting the life-choices of two Christian widows, Paul said of the one who wrongly placed an emphasis on earthly things, "*But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth*" (1 Tim.5:6).

THE SENTIMENT

Many times, the recipients on these shows share personal financial struggles and hardships. Sometimes they are suffering health and/or relationship difficulties. At the end of the show, when financial assistance is offered, it is followed by great relief and tears of joy and gratefulness. Just like there is no peace like God's peace (John 14:27), there is no earthly joy that can be compared to that spiritual rejoicing that comes to one who is saved and assuredly knows of his secure relationship with Christ and heaven (Luke 10:20; 15:10; John 15:11; Psalm 16:11).

Earthly joys come and go but spiritual sentiments endure for eternity! David said, "*For thou hast made him most blessed for ever: thou hast made him exceeding glad with thy countenance*" (Psalm 21:6). "Forever" verses "earthly" – that's why we put the emphasis upon the spiritual! No earthly benefactor can offer what God can, "*To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever*" (Psalm 30:12).

Only the Undercover Christian will consider giving regularly to missions. Of the episodes of these shows I've

watched, I've never observed a Christian, spiritual emphasis. Unsaved will naturally have an earthly focus but we Christians ought and need to do better. The individual Christian cannot compensate like the millionaire or CEO but they have a Chief Shepherd who can!! Jesus emphasized the spiritual priorities with His disciples, "*Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God*" (Luke 9:60).

Earthly sentiments can quickly dissipate but spiritual ones endure throughout eternity. Let me encourage you to get involved or stay involved in world evangelization by giving to missions. Give secretly, focus spiritually, and seek after that sentiment that will outlive this earth. Go undercover with a mission in mind!



A Woman's Window

Mrs. Debbie Adams

Summer Basics

It's those lazy, hazy days of summer - apply the sun screen, prepare the lemonade and bring out the iced tea. The days are longer; the weather is beautiful. Here's a reminder not to take a spiritual summer slide.

What is it about summer that it might be harder for us ladies to consistently walk with God? For any moms, it would probably be the change in routine. Kids are home from school. There are all kinds of distractions when the kids are home twenty-four-seven. There are more meals, more laundry, and more housework with the kids at home. Then, there is the extra yard work, gardens and grass, vegetables, weeding, etc. Home projects that were put on hold in the winter are considered. There are visits with family and friends, picnics and barbecues, and perhaps a vacation. And, whether you have

kids, or not, when work is done, we all like to be outdoors or just enjoy the longer days after the winter season, as much as possible.

To get your summer off to a good start, set a priority that your walk with God is a daily necessity, just like food and drink. The devil's goal for us this summer is spiritual weakness. He knows that if he can keep us away from our Bible, prayer and church, we'll live a second-rate Christian life. Now, if you do commit yourself to growing in the Lord, you will face daily resistance from your flesh as well as our arch enemy. It's our human nature to put some things off for later. We think we can get by if we miss a day or two here and there. How energetic are you when you are too busy to eat or drink just for one day? Could we get the picture if we liken this to the spiritual realm? Consider that we never know what's in a day or what difficulties may come. Sure, maybe good things are there also, but it is wise to always be strong and prepared for the unexpected. Our time spent with God imparts to us strength and energy as well as peace and confidence, come what may. Proverbs 3:1-26, (vs.26, "*For the Lord shall be thy confidence...*").

Let's enjoy these lovely days. Yet, embrace the time with the Lord as the best part of the day. If you are not feeling this way, pray about it and tell the Lord to give you a desire for Him and His word and His church. If you have children, build them up spiritually this summer. Make a prayer list with them and let each take turns to pray, and read some verses with them. Learn a verse with them each week, going over it each day. Do these things consistently. Teach them to depend on the Lord and to trust Him and lead by example. When something comes up, say, "Let's pray about it and see what God will do." Grow together this summer.

2 Timothy 2:15, "*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be shamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*"



THE VBC PICTURE



GALLERY





God is Faithful

Blair Cassidy

“God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.” 1 Cor 1:9

God is faithful. God never changes. He is immutable. *“For I am the LORD, I change not.” Malachi 3:6* God does not change or alter what He has said, done, or promised. James tells us, *“The Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” James 1:17* God does not vary on anything, ever! There is not even the slightest shadow of changing with God. This is why we sing, inspired by the words of Jeremiah in Lamentations 3:23, *“Great is thy faithfulness, Oh God my Father there is shadow of turning with Thee. Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not, as Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be. Great is Thy faithfulness.”*

What a contrast when we pit our lives against the character of God in this area of faithfulness. Many husbands are not faithful to their wives, wives not faithful to their husbands, children turning away from their parents, employers holding back that which is good and right from their employees, the list is endless. What an unsure world we live in. Who can we trust? Who will be faithful? We simply can never be sure about anyone. This is not so with God. He is faithful 100% of the time. God is faithful.

Our fellowship with Jesus Christ is based on this faithfulness. It is from this faithfulness that we have been called into fellowship with God's Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Confidence exponentially grows as we walk in this fellowship with Jesus Christ. The more we know Him, the longer we walk with Him, the more we do for Him and trust Him, we are made more and more aware of His faithfulness. What a wonderful fellowship we have with Jesus Christ. Our confidence is bolstered in this fellowship because we are called into it by God who is faithful!

On Prayer...

One day **George Mueller** began praying for five of his friends. After many months, one of them came to the Lord. Ten years later, two others were converted. It took 25 years before the fourth man was saved. Mueller persevered in prayer until his death for the fifth friend, and throughout those 52 years he never gave up hoping that he would accept Christ! His faith was rewarded, for soon after Mueller's funeral the last one was saved.

On persevering prayer: “I look at a stone cutter hammering away at a rock a hundred times without so much as a crack showing in it. Yet at the 101st blow it splits in two. I know it was not the one blow that did it, but all that had gone before.”

Eighteen-year-old **Hudson Taylor** wandered into his father's library and read a gospel tract. He couldn't shake off its message. Finally, falling to his knees, he accepted Christ as his Saviour. Later, his mother, who had been away, returned home. When Hudson told her the good news, she said, “I already know. Ten days ago, the very date on which you tell me you read that tract, I spent the entire afternoon in prayer for you until the Lord assured me that my wayward son had been brought into the fold.” [Hudson Taylor (1832-1905) was a famous missionary in China. He was founder of the China Inland Mission which, at his death, included 205 mission stations with over 800 missionaries, and 125,000 Chinese Christians. He spent 51 years in China].

Spurgeon's “boiler room.” Five young college students were spending a Sunday in London, so they went to hear the famed C.H. Spurgeon preach. While waiting for the doors to open, the students were greeted by a man who asked, “Gentlemen, let me show you around. Would you like to see the heating plant of this church?” They were not particularly interested, for it

was a hot day in July. But they didn't want to offend the stranger, so they consented. The young men were taken down a stairway, a door was quietly opened, and their guide whispered, “This is our heating plant.” Surprised, the students saw 700 people bowed in prayer, seeking a blessing on the service that was soon to begin in the auditorium above. Softly closing the door, the gentleman then introduced himself. It was none other than **Charles Spurgeon**.

“The great people of the earth today are the people who pray! I do not mean those who talk about prayer; nor those who say they believe in prayer; nor those who explain prayer; but I mean those who actually take the time to pray. They have not time. It must be taken from something else. That something else is important, very important and pressing, but still, less important and pressing than prayer. There are people who put prayer first, and group the other items in life's schedule around and after prayer. These are the people today who are doing the most for God in winning souls, in solving problems, in awakening churches, in supplying both men and money for mission posts, in keeping fresh and strong their lives far off in sacrificial service on the foreign field, where the thickest fighting is going on, and in keeping the old earth sweet a little while longer.” **S.D. Gordon**

“If we would pray aright, the first thing we should do is to see to it that we really get an audience with God, that we really get into His very presence. Before a word of petition is offered, we should have the definite consciousness that we are talking to God, and should believe that He is listening and is going to grant the thing that we ask of Him.” **R.A. Torrey**

“Many Christians backslide...They are unable to stand against the temptations of the world, or of their old nature. They strive to do their best to fight against sin, and to serve God, but they have no strength. They have never really grasped the secret: The Lord



Announcements and Events

Since the last Anchor, the Lord has given us great crowds and blessed special services on Easter, Mother’s Day, and our first Friend Day and BBQ. We rejoiced with several Singspirations and laboured tirelessly on work days. The ladies enjoyed a retreat and the men a BBQ at Pastor Hird’s. We have seen folks get saved, seven baptized, new members added, and a great number of visitors. Our four day 2nd annual Bible Conference with Evangelist Max Alderman was truly a spiritually arousing event with the altar overflowing each service. We have been humbled and enabled by God’s enduring grace. To Him be the glory!

Sunday, July 1st
Singspiration at 6pm followed by food and fellowship at Dairy Queen

Sunday, July 8th
Friend Day & BBQ
no evening service

Sunday, September 16th
21st Anniversary Service
Missionary Pastor Dennis Seely at 10am; Pastor William Adams at 11am; Daniel Bousquet, Principal, Vaughan Baptist Christian Academy, School Presentation



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

Would you like to share your testimony? Do you have a special story, event, prayer request or any other information you would

Jesus will every day from heaven continue His work in me. But on one condition—the soul must give Him time each day to impart His love and his grace. Time alone with the Lord Jesus each day is the indispensable condition of growth and power.”

Andrew Murray

“There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer.”

A.T. Pierson

“Intercession is truly universal work for the Christian. No place is closed to intercessory prayer. No continent – no nation – no organization – no city – no office. There is no power on earth that can keep intercession out.”

Richard Halverson

“Up in a little town in Maine, things were pretty dead some years ago. The churches were not accomplishing anything. There were a few Godly men in the churches, and they said: ‘Here we are, only uneducated laymen; but something must be done in this town. Let us form a praying band. We will all center our prayers on one man. Who shall it be?’ They picked out one of the hardest men in town, a hopeless drunkard, and centered all their prayers upon him. In a week, he was converted. They centered their prayers upon the next hardest man in town, and soon he was converted. Then they took up another and another, until within a year, two or three hundred were brought to God, and the fire spread out into all the surrounding country. Definite prayer for those in the prison house of sin is the need of the hour.”

R.A. Torrey

