



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 2012



Merry Christmas!

From The Pastor's Desk Pastor Bill Adams



Almost everyone has had a bank account at some time in their life. When you're young, it's exciting to make those small deposits and see the balance

slowly increase. You would save for something like a bicycle. As you get a little older, you might be saving to purchase an automobile or to help pay for some education. However, for most people, the older you get, that same bank account is not slowly increasing but is rapidly decreasing. As soon as monies go in, they go out! In this quarter's column, I want to write about a bank account that every Christian needs to have. Note three facts about **"The Faith Bank."**

THE DEPOSITS

The Bible tells us various ways in which we can make deposits into our own faith bank. Romans 10:17 says, *"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."* Thus, the more time I spend listening to the Scriptures, the greater the deposit will be into my own personal faith bank account. When I have my personal



devotional time with the Lord, when I listen to sermons while driving or exercising, when I attend church services and hear the preaching and teaching of the Bible, each and every time God's word goes in, my faith bank account goes up.

THE DEPENDENCE

When you make a deposit to your bank account, the monies are insured by the CDIC. Even if there are some irregularities or criminal acts by your bank, the deposits you made are protected and guaranteed. You can depend on those funds being there. Deposits and investments made with

the Lord are guaranteed and rewarded. No amount of faith you exercise will go unrecorded, unnoticed, or unrewarded. The deposits made in your faith bank are protected and guaranteed. They are there to depend upon. Churches have bank accounts safeguarded by God (Phil.4:15-19). What God sees, He records: *"Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?"* (Psalm 56:8). Jesus said, *"For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known"* (Luke 12:2). Your decision, by faith, to receive Christ as your Saviour, is recorded in God's books, *"And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life"* (Revelation 21:27). So, you can depend upon other faith-moves being likewise noted. And that is crucial because of the next fact.





THE DIVIDENDS

When you have a monetary need come up or a financial disaster hits, you are thankful that you have monies available to cover the costs involved. It is no different spiritually. When spiritual trials, testings, and tragedies come and you need faith to combat them and carry you through them, you are thankful that you have made deposits into your faith bank. Your previous deposits allow you to make faith withdrawals. Whether it be heartaches or headaches, disease or disaster, spiritual conflicts are endured and overcome by the dividends from a faith-fed lifestyle. To confront the spiritual challenges throughout his life Abraham kept withdrawing from his faith bank: Genesis 12:1-4 (leaving the land); Genesis 17:16 (birth of Isaac in old age); Genesis 22:1-2 (sacrifice of Isaac). *"He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God"* (Romans 4:20). Job, too, was an investor (Job 1:1). He kept depositing into his faith bank: *"Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food"* (Job 23:12). When challenged in this life with health issues, death of his children, and loss of worldly goods, he took a faith-withdrawal from his bank: *"Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly"* (Job 1:20-22).

The unsaved have no faith bank account: *"I will hide my face from them, I will see what their end shall be: for they are a very froward generation, children in whom is no faith"* (Deut.32:20). You can open a faith bank account today by getting saved (Ephesians 2:8-9). Every Christian needs one because the Bible says, *"The just shall live by his faith"* (Hab.2:4). You can have a



"little" bank account (Matt.6:30) or an "enlarging" one (2 Cor.10:15; 2 Thes.1:3).

How much a Christian has in his faith bank depends on the faithfulness of his daily, devotional walk with the Lord. No matter how much or how little you have in your earthly bank account, be sure your spiritual faith bank account is growing because you never know when you will need to make a withdrawal. Whether we respond like Job or Job's wife (Job 2:9: *"Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die."*), depends on what's in our faith bank!

YOUTH CORNER

Pastor James Hird

The Thief in the Night

II Peter 3:10

There are plenty of signs that Christmas is coming, but 2000 years ago when Jesus was born, there were no big signs to announce that it was going to happen. There were no ads on the radio or TV saying "Coming soon! A Savior will be born in a stable near you!" When Jesus was

born, many people were surprised! But as word of his birth spread, some people remembered that prophets had told them that God was going to send a Saviour. They knew that this baby, born in a manger, was God keeping His promise.

Just as Jesus came as a baby, where no one in the world seemed to know He was coming, it is the same today. The world around us is preparing for a secular Christmas. They have forgotten what Christmas is really about. It is about Christ coming as a baby to become the Saviour of the world. He gave His life for the sins of the world. But the world soon forgot what Christ did for them on the cross. They soon forgot the promise that He Himself had made. He said in Matthew 16:27, "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works."

We live in a world today that ignores Christ. Although each individual bears a personal responsibility for the decision he makes is regard to his relationship with Christ, we as Christians also bear a responsibility. Peter tells us in I Peter 3:15, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer

to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.” This is our responsibility. Like the shepherds and wise men, we are to proclaim the coming of the Saviour. We do not know when, but He is coming.

Christ is coming again, like a thief in the night. Many will say that they did not know He was coming. Is that because you and I did not tell them?

The Gift of a Tender Heart
Blair Cassidy

Ephesians 4:32

“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”

One of the ways in which a believer is to treat another believer is with a tender heart. Our behavior towards our brothers and sisters in Christ is to be tender hearted. This is especially true of the relationship that we have with fellow Christians within the local Church - for us specifically, The Vaughan Baptist Church. To be tenderhearted is to be compassionate one with another. God’s design for the Church family is that we have strong feelings for each other. This translates into dealing with our co-laborers in the work of Christ with a tender heart by being pitiful, courteous, kind, and forgiving. These emotional feelings for one another demand intimacy: an intimacy within the Church.

The apostle John laid his head on the bosom of Jesus. This took place in the upper room when the apostles ate with

Jesus for the last time before His crucifixion. Eating together always helps to inspire close relationships! The apostle John must have sensed a great deal of kindness and tenderness that emanated from Jesus. John certainly had a close bond with Christ in order to feel comfortable enough to lay his head in such an intimate fashion on our Lord’s breast. John knew Christ cared for him; John knew the kindness of Christ. John was living in the moment-by-moment experience of knowing that Jesus had forgiven him of all his sins. John was confident in this reality as seen in 1 John 1:9, If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

When John spent time with Jesus, he had no doubt that Jesus cared for him, that Jesus had an interest in his soul, and that Christ was concerned with his overall wellbeing. He knew that Jesus was kind and tender hearted. When talking to Jesus and being in the presence of the Son of God, he certainly would have sensed the forgiveness, kindness, and tender heart of Christ. Paul relates this in Ephesians 4:32. The other apostles and disciples of Christ also partook in these blessings.

As believers and brothers with Christ, the child of God today can also be in tune with the blessings of kindness, tenderness, and forgiveness. As Jesus is tender hearted, kind, and forgiving to each of us, so let us be to each other. By caring for one another, being sympathetic, and taking a genuine interest in each other’s lives, our trials, victories, and burdens will not be experienced alone.

As the Christmas season approaches, let us take the opportunity to be more Christ like one toward another and more tenderhearted. This mandates compassion and compassion mandates action. Especially as a Church family, let us give the gift to each other that Christ has given to us: the gift of tenderness.

Be tender, be soft, be sensitive, and be kind. In so doing, we shall become more like Christ.

A Woman's Window
Mrs. Debbie Adams

My Own Star of Bethlehem

Several years ago I found myself in an unusual trial that caused me great turmoil. It started out as despair when I realized that my spiritual muscles were not very strong at all. I found it a challenge to hang onto God’s truths and promises in His word. I timidly was trusting God, but I admit that it was due to the consistent encouragement I got from my husband. His faith was like a garment that he wore with absolute certainty.

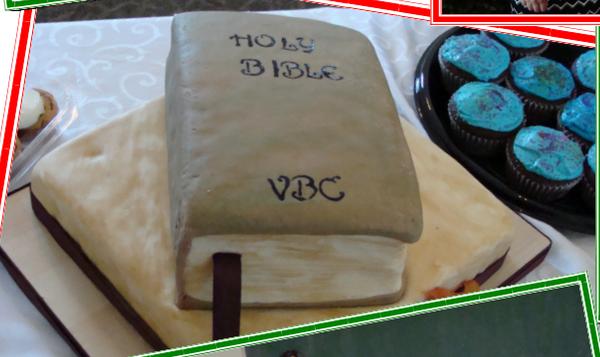
One day, as I walked around my yard, the trial was heavy on my heart. I found myself overwhelmed with discouragement and sadness as there seemed to be no relief in sight. A battle raged inside to trust my feelings, thoughts and emotions and find some way out instead of standing still and waiting on God to do His work. Yet, I did not want to let the Lord down. I found myself quoting some Scriptures

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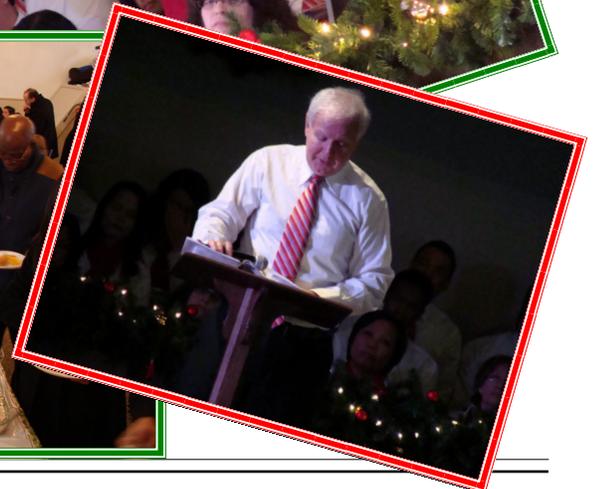




THE VBC PICTURE



GALLERY





(Continued from page 3)

of encouragement. I had come across them over the many months of the trial as I had my daily Bible reading, verses such as Eph.3:20: “He is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that we ask or think” and 1 Cor. 2:5: that our “faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God,” as well as, Gen. 32:26: “I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.” These among many others I had learned to lean upon for hope. Because of God, I said, “I will trust you, Lord, but it’s just so hard.” Tearfully, I asked, “When will this pass?” not expecting any answer.

As I walked by a cluster of oaks and looked down, I saw among a patch of ivy, the sweetest little flower. I knew that it was special. I went inside the house to get my mother-in-law, Mary. As I brought her to the spot and pointed out the lovely thing, she said, “Oh, yes, that’s a Star of Bethlehem.” When she said that, it took my breath away! God didn’t have a daisy grow there or a rose or a petunia or a geranium. It was a Star of Bethlehem. I took it as an encouragement from the Lord because I had never planted it, yet there it was like the star in the East that appeared in the sky out of no where, a celestial proclamation to guide the wise men. To me, it was significant; assurance that I was on the right path, boosting me to keep trusting God, to walk by faith. God didn’t have to do that, but He did. I have thought of it many times over the years.

Matthew 2:9-11 says, “And, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.



When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him.”

They worshiped Him—this, too, is our duty, even during the difficult times.

Foundations In Education

Daniel Bousquet
VBCA Principal

When a new building is being constructed, builders take great care to set a solid foundation because they know that soon the massive weight of the entire building will be resting upon it. If the foundation is weak, cracked, or crooked, the structure built upon it is in danger.

Similarly, parents recognize the importance of a strong academic foundation for their children’s futures. Many will make great sacrifices for their kids to receive a good education; but in the secular school system, that education is being presented from a humanistic and godless worldview. Obviously, solid academics are imperative; but have

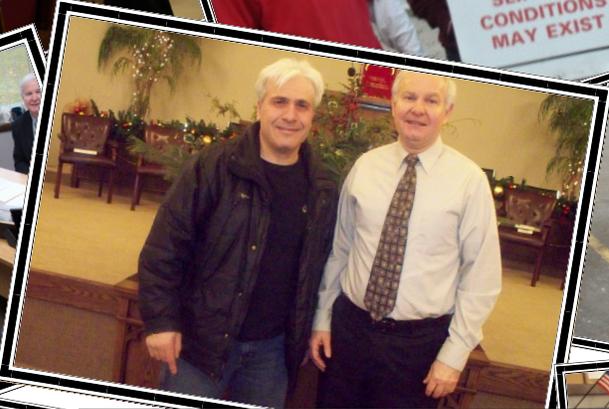


we undervalued the importance of a biblical perspective?

Both Psalm 111 and Proverbs 9 declare that “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” Secular education does not fear the Lord—it denies and defies Him. When a child receives 35 to 40 hours of training each week from a secular perspective in a secular setting, learning that man is an evolved being, not a created one; that all religions are social constructs and should be equally appreciated; and that there are no absolutes, only social expectations, it becomes challenging for a child to maintain a strong faith in the Lord, never mind in biblical truth. Ultimately, God holds parents accountable for the training they provide their children; that’s why Paul challenges fathers to bring up their children “in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4). When the home attempts to teach one world view but the school heralds another, the child’s worldview is on shaky ground; does he believe his parents and their “antiquated” Book or his professors with their degrees and years of experience? The best education that can be provided a Christian child is one from a true biblical perspective; after all, “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, Which is Jesus Christ” (I Corinthians 3:11).



Vaughan Baptist Church
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 A.M. SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:00 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M.
FRANK WE LOVE YOU, SAFE IN THE ARMS OF JESUS





Announcements and Events

The highlight of the past few months was our Christmas Cantata. With a cast of about 50 and a great crowd in attendance, this year's annual musical was a blessed event to the glory of God! The real meaning of Christmas was wonderfully expressed through the children in the play and our choir. Since the last newsletter, we have rejoiced in the souls that have been saved, baptized, and added to the Lord's church!

VAUGHAN BAPTIST CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Plans are being finalized as we prepare for the grand opening in September of 2013. Interested parents should contact the church and ask for Principal Daniel Bousquet. God has blessed and prepared Dan both academically and practically. He has a B.A. in English and a Master's degree in Christian School Administration from Pensacola Christian College (PCC). After working as a teacher for several years at Liberty Baptist Christian Academy (LBCA) in Florida, he became the Principal there where he served in that role for five years. His wife is my daughter Jennifer and she has a Master's degree in English from PCC and taught at LBCA.

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: 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 like to share with your church family? Please contact us at the church office by phone or email.

'T WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE

'T was the night before Jesus
came down from above,
To be born in a manger,
the gift of God's love,
Then Mary and Joseph
awoke The next morn,
Knowing the Christ child
soon would be born.

Angels with great joy
told of His birth,
And a star from Heaven
shone brightly to earth,
The Bethlehem shepherds
came out of the night,
They found the Lord Jesus
by following the light.

From a manger as a cradle
to the cross on a hill,
He gave up His own life,
He gave up His will,
He rose as the Victor,
so that all who believe,
That He is the Saviour,
will forgiveness receive.

And one day in heaven,
we'll walk with the King,
Who was born in the manger,
of whom angels did sing,
Do you know Him as Lord Jesus,
or a babe in the hay,
Will you ask Him to save you,
will you ask Him today?

Pastor Gordon J. Le Grow
Northside Baptist Church

