

"LIFE THROUGH THE LENS"



BEWARE OF STANDING STILL

While God's word tells us, "Be still and know that I am God" (**Psalm 46:10**), sadly, there is the temptation to "stop" forever. It is easy to adopt an attitude of, "Good! I was still. I believe and trust God loves me, he forgives me, he cares for me, I am one of his saved children. Now I can relax and enjoy His blessings".

The picture above shows the wheels of a once necessary, vital, practical, and probably beautiful wagon. At some time, the wheels stopped moving forward. (not the wagon's decision) Its grandeur faded, spiked plants were planted around it, and it sits slowly rusting away, hardly noticed and no longer fulfilling its purpose, and would find it hard to move forward. I know, blame changing times, but some wagons still move forward as parts of living demonstrations educating the young and bringing joy to others.

One who trusts Jesus and all he offers is expected to move on, move forward in life and not stagnate or rest on laurels. Jesus himself says, "Go and make followers of me from people wherever you find them. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach them to learn and do all I have told you". (**Matthew 28:19-20**)

There can be the temptation to say, "But telling people about God and his love is scary. Also, I'm pretty confident I won't know what to do or say". Jesus replies, "Cheer up! I am with you always, even to the end of time." (**Matthew 28:20**)

There will always be someone happy to help you make excuses for not moving forward, but again, God says, "Hey! Don't let those around you stop you. Let me change and renew your way of thinking, and you will understand the good and acceptable plans I have for you." (**Romans 12:2**)

Moving forward –may not be earth-shattering. It could be time spent digging into and learning from God's Word, the Bible. Time spent talking with God, an act of kindness, helping a neighbour, talking to a lonely person over the road, a smile passed to someone in a supermarket.

Finally, when feeling "I can't go forward anymore." remember these words from God himself, "But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint." (**Isaiah 40:31**) Seen an eagle in soaring in free flight? That is the freedom God offers when we "move forward". Let the one who taught eagles to fly, teach you, and have fun.

Praying that you have an exciting week,
Kevin.