

# YORKMINSTER PARK REFLECTS

**Friday, November 20, 2015**

## **A Reflection from Warren Paddon**

*"Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you"-Luke 6:38 (NKJV)*

Barbara and I were both brought up in wonderful Christian homes. Our parents were very generous with the limited funds that God had entrusted to them. My father was quite often talking about stewardship as it seemed to be a favourite subject for him. I guess that was one reason he was appointed to be the Stewardship Director for the BCOQ (now CBOQ) and then the Treasurer of the Convention.

It was ingrained in both Barbara and me that tithing and, even more, additional offerings, was something that a Christian should be involved in as thankfulness for what God had given to us.

While courting, Barbara and I were privileged to attend a spiritual retreat for a week and heard a Pastor talk on giving. He and his wife had increased their giving until (at that time) they were giving 45% of their income. What a challenge! We were able to talk together about giving even before we were married and sort out our thoughts and come to the agreement that we too wanted to regularly commit to tithes and offerings in thankfulness to God.

We have been blessed over the 57 years of our marriage and God has been very real to us, lighting our path daily through many difficult times.

Douglas LeBlanc, a religious writer from Virginia, tells this better than I ever could-

*"As we open our otherwise tight grip on what we think of as our money, we begin to realize it has come our way only by the grace of God. As we draw closer to people who need the compassion of Christ, we end up, perhaps even unwittingly, drawing closer to God. It is all God's idea and work, ultimately, but we may choose to become His instruments."*