

# YORKMINSTER PARK REFLECTS

**Friday, November 27, 2015**  
**A Reflection from Nikhil Celly**

*"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."- Matthew 6: 21*

I have often heard and read these verses but have never really stopped to reflect on them. I did not think I had any treasure and certainly was not seeking 'treasures'. Surely I was not a pirate or Alibaba or Indiana Jones seeking treasures.

As life turned out, I ended up working in Hong Kong the last six years and was often alone there as my wife Mary was in Toronto. Being alone and lonely and at times depressed, I attended a church and joined various life groups in Hong Kong. In fact, that's where I became a regular church goer. Amongst the various activities, I attended a course on Faith and Money where a question came up about what our treasure is? The most popular answers turned out to be our money and our time. I'm sure most would agree that this is the case. Where and how we spend our time, and what we do with our money reflect what is most important to us, in other words, our treasure.

I led a bible study in Yorkminster a few years ago about Fear and how the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Preparing for the study required me to invest about 3-4 hours each week for about two months. This was a very small investment in terms of time, but was the most I had ever done in terms of 'contributing' to a church or any activity that might be remotely termed 'doing something for God'. As it turned out that small study benefitted me greatly. At the time I was still working in Hong Kong and travelling back and forth between Toronto and Hong Kong and fearful of being away. The study helped me to really identify that I only need fear God and somehow I found the strength to keep going and continue and with much less fear than before.

I followed up on that study two years ago and decided to start a Life Group-the Bay Street Life Group that my wife Mary and I lead in downtown Toronto. We have read the book of Job, Hebrews and Joshua since we started in March 2014. We only meet once a week on Fridays, and preparing for the study has again required about 3-4 hours of time each week, but the reward has far exceeded my expectations. Reading Job, Hebrews and Joshua has taught me to have faith, perseverance and patience and to know that God has plans for us- plans to prosper us and has already prepared the way for us. But of course, we have to do our part. Talks with our small group members also confirm how much this study has impacted their lives and faith and trust in God.

As we go forward, I look forward to more opportunities to really put much more of my time (and money) to serving others and serving God. I truly believe this is what God wants each one of us to do – to store up treasure in heaven. A part of me however is selfish and I do admit Malachi 3:10 (NIV) best captures this:

*"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me says the LORD Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."*