

## REMEMBERING HISTORY

I was very busy this past weekend celebrating both my mother's and daughter's birthdays. One of the things my daughter wanted to do for her birthday was to go to the Royal Ontario Museum (the ROM) with a friend. My daughter loves history and the friend she took appreciates it just as much. The timing for going was perfect for this "cheap" pastor because admission to the ROM was free last weekend.

When we got there the lineup to get in was longer than the eye could see. We probably walked half a mile or more just to get from the front of the line to the back. We were told it would take 90 minutes to get in but thankfully the line moved fairly quickly, and we were inside within 15 minutes. Despite the crowd the sections my daughter and her friend wanted to see first were not that busy. They spent the first two hours looking through the Greek and Roman exhibits. They just loved reading about each display and appreciated when they recognized something they learned in their history class together last year. By the time we finished all three floors of the exhibits at the ROM we had spent the better part of 5 hours there. My feet and back were sore by the time we left but I am glad we did it because it was a very special way for my daughter to be able to celebrate her 18th birthday with a dear friend.

Spending time remembering history this past weekend came at an interesting time for me as a pastor. I say this because Easter is a time when we look back in history to 33 AD to the events surrounding Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection. While these events happened long ago, what makes this story so different from the many moments in history we examined at the ROM on Saturday is that Jesus is still alive and with us.

During our visit to the ROM we read the accounts of what many people from history accomplished. Every one of these people we read about are no longer alive. Because Jesus has risen and is still with us, when we remember the events surrounding His death and resurrection each Easter, we are not just commemorating history but realizing we are part of His-Story. I wish I could take credit for this play on words, but it has been around for quite some time and is spoken about by many pastors. It is true that as believers we are blessed to be part of His-Story as we live our lives for Him. As we take time

this Easter to once again remember the love expressed by Jesus taking our place on the cross, and rising back to life, I think it is a good time for us to ponder this question: **Are we living our faith right now as part of His-Story or are we expressing our faith more like history?**

I imagine this is a question many of us have not stopped to consider. I think a helpful hymn that might help us to answer this question is "He Lives." As we reflect upon the words from this familiar hymn it may reveal to us ***whether we are living our faith believing Jesus lives***, or instead more in a way that He is just like any historical person from the past.

**I serve a risen Saviour, He's in the world today;  
I know that He is living, whatever men may say;  
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer,  
And just the time I need Him He's always near.  
He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.  
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!  
You ask me how I know He lives?  
He lives within my heart. (He Lives - v. 1)**

After reading this verse the answer should be very clear to us whether we are living our faith in a way that we are part of His-Story or not. Living our faith in a way that shows our risen Lord ***that we are thankful to be part of His-Story is the best way for us to thank Him for the gifts of Good Friday and Easter Sunday***. If we have been living our faith more like history, then let's resurrect ourselves out of that pattern by once again committing to "His-Story."

A trip to the ROM this past Saturday certainly enlightened me about history. A trip to church this weekend however will be even more enlightening for me to realize how blessed we truly are as believers to be living His-Story.

**Have a blessed Easter,**

**Pastor Dean**