

Crisis

PREGNANCY CENTRE

650 Broadway Avenue West
Winnipeg . Manitoba . R3C 0X3

800 665-0570 . 204 772-1923
love@pregnancy.ca
www.pregnancy.ca

Spring Issue, 2021

GO AGAINST THE FLOW



do not be conformed to the world
but be transformed ... romans 12

'Go Against the Flow'

(some thoughts)

It was the summer of 1977 and I had been a believer for almost two years. I was in 'Logos', a Christian bookstore in Calgary when I saw this white t-shirt with the design that is on the front of this newsletter. By this time, all of my old high school friends had found out I was a Christian and none of them were impressed.

Early in my conversion I vividly remember meeting one of those school buddies at a restaurant for lunch. He asked me what was new and I told him that I had become a Christian. Without exaggeration, he didn't say a word, stood up, and left. I've never seen him again.

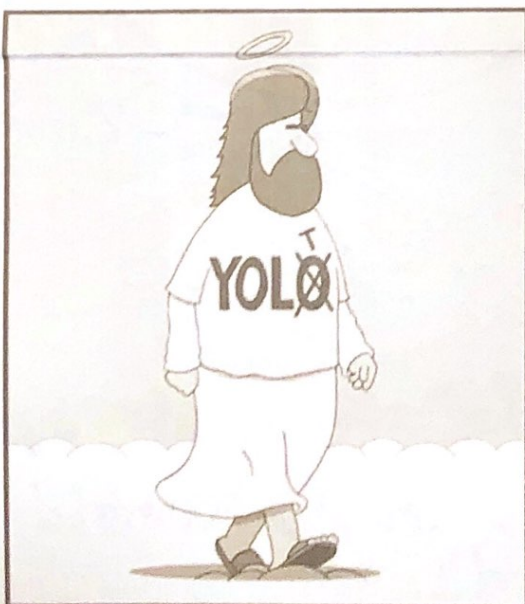
That was a defining moment for me. A recognition that the 'flow of life' that I had shared with my friends had changed direction. It surprised me.

I hadn't read very much of the bible by that time, and I didn't realize that my call to follow Jesus wasn't just a 'personal experience', but it was a 'public confession'. I was now representing the faith I had embraced; I was representing Jesus.

Saint Paul told the Corinthians that they were 'living epistles' ... that they were the representation of the 'Spirit of the living God'.

When my buddy left the restaurant he wasn't leaving 'me', he was leaving what I now represented. If it was 'just me' he would have stayed and we would have continued our lunch and friendship.

Whether I liked it or not, my friend disowned me because of my 'confession'. I was a Jesus lover and for some reason, who knows, he didn't like that.



Because of my position in ministry I have to pay close attention to cultural shifts, and it is my belief that it will not be long before all Jesus lovers will be 'disowned'; or what they now call 'cancelled'. I can promise you that no matter how kind we are, or how much we outwardly speak and act in love, the 'cultural influencers' will relentlessly reject us as believers.

Jesus performed public miracles and healed people, and still those in power rejected Him. Being an epistle of His means that we 'Go Against the Flow' of what this temporal world is all about; like it or not.

It is our emotionally-conflicting privilege to share in His rejection. If you're like me, I've become a lazy self-absorbed believer who enjoys the ease and leisure of this simple life too much. I need to psych myself up for this emerging cultural tsunami.

I loved my 'Go Against the Flow' t-shirt design back then. Ironically, or contradictorily, it made me feel like I belonged. It confirmed that I was moving in the right direction ... towards truth and love. True Truth and real Sacrificial Love; towards Jesus. It helped to keep me focused and emotionally resilient.

And all of these memories and feelings have returned because my gorgeous wife Jann and I started watching 'The Chosen'. If you haven't seen it yet you need to. It is one of the best representations of who Jesus is that I have ever seen. I have cried during every episode. And interestingly (to me) they use this same kind of 'Go Against the Flow' imagery in their introduction.

I do have to say, for clarity, that to me, 'going against the flow' isn't about being hostile, holier-than-thou, arrogant, or anything like that. It is about remaining filled with love and hope and kindness for everyone. And about dedicatedly and unreservedly following the 'Ichthys' ... the Risen (and soon to return) Christ.

sad voicemail from a client ...

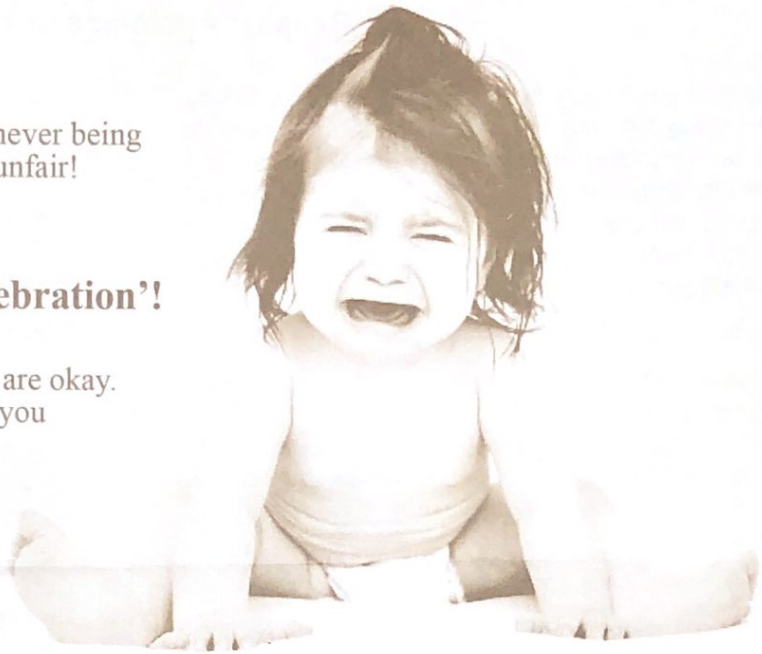
"I know you want to help but some people you just can't help. Thanks anyways. I'm sorry."

It's been a year ... a whole year of never being with you or seeing you. It feels so unfair! We miss you so very much.

And still ... no 'Spring Celebration'!

All we can say is that we hope you are okay. That you are being loved and that you are still able to love others well.

May the Lord continue to be present in your life, filling you with peace.



... insultet idiomatis ...

And to add salt to the Covid-wound, shortly after learning that we would not be allowed to have a 'Spring Celebration' this year I got this email about the last event we were able to have (our 1999 'Autumn Celebration', if you can, can believe it!) ... it read,

"Had a wonderful time at your 'Autumn Celebration' fund raiser. *I didn't know that Christians could have so much fun.* It's amazing what you do at the centre. I will continue to pray for all of you."

. . .

In the corrective words of Homer Simpson:

Bart: 'This is the worst day of my life.'

Homer: 'The worst day of your life, so far.'

Well, here's to hoping that we can have an 'Autumn Celebration' filled with wine, cheese, and belly-laughs courtesy of Matt Falk!

client quotes ...

"I'm Christine Kanayok and I'm suicidal from being away from my only son for 2 years. Can you help me."

"I'm going to be a single mom in September (I'm 12 weeks 5 days) and I keep getting recommended to contact you guys for help with counseling. I'm just hoping to try get my life together before this baby comes. Anything will help."

"Hi, I am from India, I am 21, I just took normal pregnancy test twice and it says pregnant, it is an unwanted pregnancy. Me and my boyfriend don't want baby right now so I want to know abortion options by you guys . I think I am 8 weeks pregnant. Thank you."

"We deeply appreciate you about the responsibility that you took to support my daughter. We really feel happy for your support."

"Hi, I just took a pregnancy test and it is not a good time in my life for this at all. I am newly sober and just getting back into the swing of things. I was wondering about abortion and how to get help."

"I am 33 and have never been pregnant. I need some help finding the best abortion options for me."

"I pray this reaches you in happiness with good health. I just wanna know if we can get some help for my friends who is a single mother and needs some support for baby items such as diapers, clothing and some food hampers."