

St. Andrew's (JKP) Monthly Newsletter
March, 2011

Edification: In his 2nd scientific maxim Christian philosopher/mathematician/theologian Blaise Pascal states that "*Nature abhors an apparent vacuum*". He similarly observed in his spiritual reflections that man has a "*God-shaped-vacuum*" in his soul that must be filled, but only by God Himself. I wonder; does this vacuum principal apply in other disciplines as well, besides physics and anthropology? I'm thinking specifically about the discipline of Leadership. What if the vacuum is a vacuum of leadership? In other words what if the leadership that's leading you sucks...like a giant Hoover upright, what then? Will our nation "abhor a vacuum" of leadership and seek to fill the vacuum? Perhaps though a "*void*" of leadership is more descriptive of the current state of affairs in D.C.? It seems there's a total absence of leadership at the executive level. But however we parse it the question remains the same. Will the nation recognize the void for what it is i.e. a void of leadership? And supposing we do, to where will we turn to fill the void? Maybe Alaska? Maybe New Jersey? Maybe a tea party? But even before we discuss where to turn to find leadership we should be clear on what exactly leadership is. Is leadership being a polished successful entrepreneur? Is leadership being a smiling populist who has "broad-based appeal"? Is leadership being a folksy, feisty firebrand that speaks his or her mind? We need to get this right. The void of leadership we're suffering under right now is more than abhorrent. It is destructive and evil. It is ruinous. And into the ever-expanding void must step someone who knows what leadership is and is of enough substance to fill the void.

Events/Information: We'll be meeting for bible study on 03/23/11 at 7:00 p.m. at the meeting house.

"Even if I give the whole of my worth to Him, He will find a way to give back to me much more than I gave." — CHARLES HADDON SPURGEON (1834-92), ENGLISH BAPTIST PREACHER

Encourage: In Judges 5:2 we read; "*When leaders lead in Israel, when the people willingly offer themselves, bless the LORD!*" This short verse answers both of our leadership questions. First, we must look to God to provide us with leaders. Whether it's from Alaska or New Jersey, or even from a tea party it is God that calls and fits leaders. If stones in His hands can be made to worship, clay in those same hands can be made to lead. And remembering that all leaders are essentially clay helps fine-tune our expectations. So that's the 1st principal of leadership; God calls and fits leaders to the task and to the time.

Secondly, this passage answers the question of what exactly leadership is. Who among us at St.A's has not heard our own beloved Pastor say with regard to leadership; "Leaders lead. That's what they do."? That is precisely what Judges 5:2 teaches. Leaders lead. But we cannot say that the reverse is true, i.e. that those who don't lead aren't leaders. They may very well be leaders, they're just bad ones. Barak Obama is a leader, and he's a bad one. Perhaps the worst we've had in our brief history. In recent days he seems to have utterly abdicated his role as "Leader of the Free World". This creates a palpable vacuum because we yearn for leadership. We yearn for that to which we can *willingly offer ourselves*. While there is this void now in the world here in Israel we have no such lack. The LORD is our Shepherd and He has provided us with a leader, an under-shepherd to lead us on our pilgrimage. So let us willingly offer ourselves and bless the LORD!