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Murdered man still a mystery to police

BY GIANNI COLAVECCHIA
Staff Writer

Police are no closer to identifying a murdered man found in northern Markham despite receiving many calls from the public after the release of composite photographs

York Regional Police recently released three facial photos of the man, whose skeletal remains were discovered April 19 on 19th Avenue, between McCowan Road and Hwy. 48, just south of Stouffville.

Despite receiving nearly 30 calls since the photos were made public, police haven't identified the man.

"I wouldn't say we are any closer," Det.-Const. Kevin Torrie said. "But we're certainly more optimistic. Tips had dried up."

Torrie, one of two full-time investigators on the case, said police have all but exhausted a list of 1,300 people missing in Ontario and have now asked for help from other forces.

They won't say what kind of trauma he suffered for fear of compromising their investigation.

They ask anyone with information to call them at 1-866-287-5025 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

Milliken woman mugged for purse

Two thieves whose identities were concealed by bandanas made off with a 54-year-old woman's purse during a mugging in a residential area of Markham.

The woman was walking near Winston and Brimley Roads around 7:15 p.m. June 14 when the two men grabbed her from behind and knocked her to the ground. A witness was unable to catch them after they ran from the scene.

Police say both suspects are in their late teens, weigh about 165 pounds and stand six-feet, two inches tall.

Both wore black bandanas, beige pants and running shoes at the time of the attack.

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Focus on Faith

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Love's Confusing Choices

Poets and songwriters assure us that "love is a many splendored thing." Perhaps it's because it is so "many splendored" that there is much confusion over what real love is.

In fact, the melodramatic soap opera imitations of love are probably responsible for ruining many a life by misrepresenting true love's choices.

Contrary to the paperbacks and TV parodies, love is not something one "falls into," it's something one chooses. The kind of relationship one can "fall into" is probably not love but infatuation or even self-centered lust.

The basic distinction between true love and any other pretender is how it relates to self. Selfishness wants to possess, to take and to use for its own gratification. True love gives to itself and makes itself available to be used for the benefit of the other person.

Love makes the heart tender, selfishness makes it hard. Love does not ask, "What's in it for me?" Lust lives by the motto, "I'll get what I want."

True love endures, whereas false love lasts only until the gratification of one's self-interest has been achieved. Our contemporary, sub-cultural emphasis on satisfying biological needs has all but obliterated the realization of the joy that results from love that is spawned by unselfish giving.

The emphasis of Scripture is always focused on the assumption that a person can exercise

his or her own will to love or not to love. Otherwise commandments such as "Husband, love your wife," "Love your neighbour as yourself," "Love your enemy," and "Love the Lord your God" would be meaningless. Nor could we be condemned for selfishness if this too was not a matter of personal choice.

How many young couples would save themselves untold heartache if they could learn to identify whether professed love offered to them is genuine or selfish. A key determining factor is whether respect for others and for oneself are evident.

Jesus set is straight when He declared, "Greater love has no one than this, that one would lay down his life for his friend" (John 15:13). This is what makes the love of God for us so dramatic. Jesus did "lay down His life" on our behalf. The cross represents His love for us, the just one offering His life for the guilty in order that we might be forgiven and set free to love Him in return.

First Corinthians chapter thirteen defines a clear and concise guide to true love: As God loves us, so we ought to love others - by genuinely caring about them more than about ourselves (1 John 4:11).

submitted by Paul Fawcett

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Keeping the Faith!

We humans are free. We are not irrevocably bound by circumstance, or by our past. We are free each moment to choose how we will act and what we will say. And, we are supported. We have an infinite resource of love to draw upon as we seek to live meaningfully.

For this Law which I am laying down for you today is neither obscure for you nor beyond your reach. It is not in heaven, so that you need to wonder, 'Who will go up to heaven for us and bring it down to us, so that we can bear and do it?' Nor is it beyond the seas, so that you need to wonder, 'Who will cross the seas for us and bring it back to us, so that we can bear and do it?' No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it. (Deuteronomy 30:11-14)

Every moment we are free to choose how we will respond to that enduring word within. Choosing carries its risks, of course. Countless historical examples, and probably personal experience, too, show that it is often easier and less risky to conform to societal norms, and sidestep the struggle of trying to decide in each situation what the will of God is calling us to do.

Choosing may be daunting, but it is in the making of those choices that we truly live. Where we have been is not nearly as important as what we are becoming. Each day we are blessed with a fresh chance to listen to the word of God, and to follow it, leave our past behind and dance toward a future in which we live more in keeping with the image of our creator, by loving others and supporting them in their quest to be the best they can be.

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