

Indy, Wilbur and You

Last weekend, I saw the latest action and adventure movie, *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*. It has been 19 years since the last Indiana Jones release. With this new release, Spielberg and Lucas once again demonstrates incredible creative genius.

For all the **ENTERTAINMENT** value, this movie is just a fictional story. It's a good way to enjoy popcorn in a dark theater on a hot summer day. But once the movie is over, there is little life transformation for the audience.

In contrast, there are some people who have lived lives of great action and adventure through the context of adversity and resistance. For many, the name, William Wilberforce, jumps off the page of history time lines. If ever a man whose personal life **ENGAGEMENT** changed a nation and its values, it was William Wilberforce. He would not retreat on the matter of England's slave trade in the 18th Century. Like "Indy," Wilberforce's true-life mission was captivated on the screen through the movie, *Amazing Grace*.

"It is not revolutions and upheavals that clear the road to new and better days, but someone's soul, inspired and ablaze." —Boris Pasternak

Information included is taken from the book, **Creating the Better Hour: Lessons from William Wilberforce**, by Chuck Stetson (© 2008 Stroud & Hall Publishers).

Seven principles that mark the life of William Wilberforce and illuminate the significance of his work:

1. Faith

"Wilberforce's entire life was animated by a deeply held, personal faith in Jesus Christ."

2. A Sense of Vocation

"Wilberforce had a deep sense of calling, which grew into the conviction that he was to exercise his spiritual purpose in the realm of his secular responsibility."

3. Common Effort

"Wilberforce was committed to the strategic importance of a band of like-minded friends, devoted to working together in chosen ventures."

4. The Power of Ideas

"Wilberforce believed deeply in the power of ideas and moral beliefs to change culture through a campaign of sustained public persuasion."

"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports... In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens... Let it simply be asked, where is the security of property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation desert the oaths? ...let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education of minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."
—George Washington

5. Personal Endurance

"Wilberforce was willing to pay a steep cost for his courageous public stands and was remarkably persistent in pursuing his life task."

6. Genuine Humanity

"Wilberforce's labors and faith were grounded in a genuine humanity rather than a blind fanaticism."

7. Strategic Partnerships

"Wilberforce forged strategic partnerships for the common good irrespective of differences over methods, ideology, or religious beliefs."

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"Are there issues to be tackled in our time? Is there a role today that only a vital faith can play? Are we each prepared to find our part and work with others? Are you conceivably a man or woman in your own sphere of influence on whom God has placed his finger and said, 'This is your time, your cause, your calling?'"

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" —Luke 10:19

"Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?"
37He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."
—Luke 10: 36-37