

# Rev. Max is everywhere!

Listen! On the air! On tape! On a record! Is it a rock star? Is it a carnival sideshow? Is it a biscuit salesman? No, it's Max Solbrekken!

That, my friends, is the impression one gets of the Reverend Max — an image that hardly reflects the title of Pastor. He's real, though open and believable despite the super-salesman image.

Max Solbrekken did not intend to go into the ministry. He just planned to go to church on Sunday and enjoy himself the rest of the week like everybody else. Until, that is, his father had a miracle experience through a series of Oral Roberts broadcasts back in 1956.

It was a healing from God that shook up the entire family, because Mr. Solbrekken Sr. rarely attended church. This despite his belief that if he didn't want a tribe of heathens on his hands, his kids better attend Norwegian Lutheran Church with their mother.

Mrs. Solbrekken's advice to her family was "...don't listen to the Mormons or the Jehovah Witnesses, don't ever marry a Catholic and stay away from those strange Pentecostals."

They also figured the Baptists were kind of flipped out, sort of fanatic and always trying to drown each other in the river. All they knew was the Lutheran Church.

But Max Solbrekken is a "right-now" type of person, and when his father was healed, Max, then 24, wanted the gifts of the spirit, too.

If it works, bring it on. If it doesn't, out the door.

He was fed up with the inconsistency of the churches and what he calls the gap theory: Something a long time ago, something in the far off future, nothing for now.

He started telling people about God for now, miracles for now, and about the power he had found.

"We need that Power. The world is alluring, the flesh is powerful, and the devil is real."

Finally, in 1965, he was ordained in an old Russian order and now refers to himself as trans-denominational, preaching to all who will listen. And he isn't satisfied with just a few, he wants multitudes. He says he doesn't push himself, but he certainly projects an image of urgency.

Are the healings he claims real? Do they last? He maintains they are. After all, the entire life of Jesus was contrary to the laws of nature.

A supernatural life. God is God and you don't question what is written in the Bible, which Max knows like kids know commercials.



GLADYS  
ELDRIDGE

Laughing, he told stories of a couple of new converts to the evangelistic ministry. One preached from a Concordance. The other thought that the epistles were the sons of the Apostles.

"When miracles don't happen they don't happen. There are so many things about God that nobody can understand. If I didn't need Him I would be God. If He was a man I wouldn't need Him. Thank God we can't understand God!"

"Even if the cures were for psychosomatic ills, it would at least empty the hospitals of about 80 per cent of the patients. Love your doctor, pray for your nurse."

Yet there is case after case recorded of physical cures confounding the medical profession. Healing is making a person whole — spirit, mind and body. Jesus does the healing.

Solbrekken believes Jesus is about to return, that we are in the end of times. He backs that conviction with quotes from scientists and, of course, the Bible. He's not worried, though, he says he's waiting for the upptaker, not the undertaker.

How to keep up with all this — messages of hope and faith, crusades where thousands at a time are reached — can be read in his magazine, "Cry Of His Coming." It can be heard on tape and record in French and English or one can even attend the Canadian Bible Academy, of which he is president and founder. Even if he did clear a bundle, he wouldn't have time to spend it.

Soon to be seen on TV will be a series of interviews Reverend Solbrekken has arranged with seven of our nation's most powerful men in a program called Canada Turn Around.

Somehow, he still manages to keep up with the latest scientific, technical, social and political situations. He plays hockey and spends time with his lovely wife and six children.

There's no doubt about it. He's a most interesting brother. But if you happen to be troubled with insomnia, don't expect to go to sleep until you get home. Sleeping through one of his services would be like trying to sleep on the



Max Solbrekken





# Crackdown on teen-age sex

OTTAWA (CP) — Canadians may have to deal with a whole new set of sexual laws unveiled.

## Bill would ban child pornography

Monday January 12, 1981

The bill has a number of provisions dealing with sexual relations with teen-agers.

An official said the ground rule for adults will be: "If you fool around with anyone under 16, you're in trouble."

For teen-agers:

### Young Children Exposed to 30-40 Sex Scenes On Television Weekly

TV presents young children with scenes of sexual intimacy 30 to 40 times a week.

Two researchers found in a recent study that while explicit or implied sexual intercourse was depicted most frequently on prime-time shows, sexual encounters were shown in all program periods except Saturday morning.

kiddie shows. Sex acts between unmarried partners were portrayed seven times as often as intercourse between married couples.

Scenes of sexual intimacy were shown 1.7 times per hour.

### Sexual Offences.

A new set of offences relating to so-called "kiddie porn" would be inserted in the Criminal Code and would be aimed at anyone distributing films or magazines in which children under 16 were shown in sexually "explicit" positions.

"We're going after the producers, distributors, directors — everyone," Chretien said of the "kiddie porn" proposals. "There will be a presumption of guilt against some people, even if they were not there when the film or picture was made."

The most substantial provisions in the bill deal with the handling of rape cases, to be called "sexual assault" under the proposed law.

These proposals would limit questioning of women about their sexual past. A recent Supreme Court of Canada decision re-established the ability of a person accused of rape to

The proposals would also closely, allowing a jury to call an accused's belief was that consent.

The proposed package Chretien at a news conference. Democratic Party blocked Commons.

Normally, proposed legislation until it is introduced in the



J.R. Ewing

Edmonton's anti-porn Pastor Max Solbrekken is declaring war on Dallas' famous J.R. Ewing.

Solbrekken told The Sun yesterday he's "100 per cent in agreement" with a Winnipeg clergyman who labelled the Dallas television series "tainted meat — a case of spiritual botulism."

Solbrekken said the show's hero-villain, J.R., is a "scoundrel that repulses me. He presents the view that the more wicked you can be, and the more loose-living, the better you are."

He said the international popularity of the U.S. television show saddens him, since it portrays

## Max attacks Dallas 'disease'



Max Solbrekken

a world of broken relationships, adultery, lies, killing and evil "as if it were the norm — and it's not the norm."

He said shows like Dallas will be new targets in his growing attack on pornography — a battle he feels he's winning after the federal government announced it will be introducing a bill to ban kiddie porn.

The bill will jail anyone who produces, stars in or sells pornographic films involving people under 16.

"I can see now that even the government is concerned," Solbrekken said. "That's encouraging."

## Television Is Contributing to Teen Pregnancies

By BOB PRATT

Unrealistic TV shows about romance and love affairs are contributing to some teenage pregnancies, researchers say.

"Television is causing some pregnancies because teenage girls see their favorite female stars

having affairs without worrying about such matters as birth control," said psychologist Dr. Charles Corder-Bolz. "As a result, these girls think they don't have to worry either."

Conducting the study with child development researcher Cathy Radek, Dr. Corder-Bolz said, "We

found that young girls who thought TV portrayals were realistic were nearly 2½ times more likely to become pregnant than girls who did not believe the shows were realistic."

The results of the study, which involved 24 girls, "were alarming — I didn't expect it," he said.



**SATAN DEFINITELY EXISTS, SAYS MAN OF 100 EXORCISMS**

# The devil, you say

**T**he woman was "stark, raving mad — possessed by the devil."

For years, people said, she'd been running around Guntur, India, ranting and raving, ripping off her clothes, sleeping in parks.

In 1966 she — and about 3,000 others — attended a revival in Guntur's Freedom Park led by Pastor Max Solbrekken, of Edmonton's Faith Cathedral.

"As I was about to begin preaching this woman stood to her feet and began to scream and yell," says Solbrekken. "The interpreter said she was saying 'We don't like this man. We don't like this Jesus.' She shook and fell."

Solbrekken says he ran to lay his hands on her commanding "all foul spirits and demons from hell to leave."

She came to and tried to bite his hand, he says.

"She started to say, 'We are not leaving her. We have been here 10 years. You can not make us go.'"

He commanded again and "they" began to scream.

"The only way to describe it is like slaughtered pigs squealing. It came to a crescendo and demons coming out jerked her up," he says.



Pastor Max Solbrekken preaches to his faithful at Faith Cathedral on 96 Ave. in Edmonton. He says he's conducted 'hundreds' of exorcisms.



# Freudians raze the children

In Sweden-you can pay a stiff fine and even go to jail for disciplining your children.

And young people are suffering psychologically because of the loose lifestyle this sort of legislation encourages.

There is more co-habitation than marriage, abortion has become a popular form of birth control and mental illness due to stress is climbing astronomically among youth.

Psychiatrists have their hands full and the churches are almost empty.

When my son Ken married his Swedish fiancée last March in Laxa it made a big splash in the local daily newspaper.

Weddings are getting more and more scarce as common-law arrangements are totally accepted.

## Plan backfires

That socialist state's experiment with permissiveness and child-pampering has backfired and now psychologists, educators and the medical profession are declaring that they've made some mistakes.

Parliamentarians are saying it's time to tighten up the ship, turn things around and get back to more traditional values.

Dr. Douglas Kelly, chief psychiatrist at the Nuremberg war trials, declared, "spare the Freud and save the child."

He stated that the fear of repressing children has run wild through modern education and child rearing.

The result is "a generation of children who have not been taught the discipline required for getting along with the world

MAX

SOLBREKKEN



lems encountered with some philosophies of bringing up kids, several things come to mind:

1. Many child abusers were themselves abused. Their parents were permissive, abusive and undisciplined.
2. Many child abusers are addicted to drugs or alcohol.

3. Many child abusers are unwed mothers, or the boyfriends of the child's mother.

We have only to see the awful results of the Freudian philosophy on the children that were raised under his teaching.

The child abusers of today were the undisciplined children of yesteryear, raised under the watchful eye of Dr. Spock and the procedures of Freud.

Unrestrained permissiveness breeds contempt and lawlessness, but disciplined restraint produces responsible rationalism.

Let us teach our children that it pays to be honest, industrious and charitable instead of dishonest, lazy and self-centred.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral.)

***PASTOR MAX SOLBREKKEN'S column  
is now carried regularly in the***

**Edmonton Sun. Calgary Sun. Lloydminster Daily Times.  
Lethbridge Herald. and Prince Albert Daily Herald.**



# Life with God's super salesman

While many in the city of Edmonton perhaps try to analyse the person of Max Solbrekken, may I, his wife of 29 years, attempt to pinpoint some of the characteristics which make him unique?

Let's start with the summer of 1954. While holidaying at Sylvan Lake with two girlfriends, I happened to meet this tall, handsome man who was soon to change the course of my life.

It didn't take long to discover that he was, first of all, a top-notch salesman: by the end of the day, he had sold all three of us girls life insurance policies. Little did he realize he would be paying my premium for many years.

From there, he went on to sell meat for Swift's and, finally, biscuits for McCormicks. You name it, if it was saleable, he could sell it.

## 'Peace-loving man'

A year and some months after we met, we exchanged marriage vows and agreed we wanted at least the first 50 years to be a honeymoon.

And because he is a peace-loving man and very wise and tactful, we have had a very happy life. I can remember times when I would be really angry and upset about something, he would always be ready with one of his funnies. And by the time I'd laughed and had a good cry, the problem seemed solved.

He has a wonderful quality of making a quick comeback from disappointments and has always said he won't allow himself to be discouraged for more than five minutes at a time.

A short time after we were married, Max experienced a very dramatic change in his life when he became a born-again Christian. With the same zeal he'd had as a commercial traveller, he became a staunch promoter of the Gospel of Christ everywhere he travelled.

During the course of our first 12 years of marriage, we were blessed with six beautiful children — so while my husband travelled, did business and preached, I changed diapers, sterilized bottles, became a first class referee, judge, jury and all that goes with raising a family.

## DONNA SOLBREKKEN

### Behind the byline



How did Max Solbrekken have time to be a father, you ask? Every moment he spent at home was with his children, playing with them, spoiling them a little and loving them a lot. The children adored him, and I must admit he has been a very considerate, understanding and loving husband and father.

He is also an ardent sports fan, having been very athletic throughout his life — Max especially loves hockey and still occasionally plays with the church team.

This husband of mine is a human dynamo, with endless energy and a mind so active that before one idea can get off the ground, another is being born. He believes anything can be done if you make up your mind to do it.

In my travels about the city on errands for our church, and when asked to give my name sometimes, I get the reaction, "You're not uh ... related to ... Max Solbrekken?" One time I quickly replied: "And before you say anything that will embarrass you ... yes, I am his wife!" Although people have a variety of opinions, most agree they admire the fact he is not afraid to stand up for what he believes.

## Rich — in spirit

Others say he is rich — with Cadillacs and homes in the Bahamas! If that's really so, I wonder how all this wealth has eluded me all these years, since I have always handled the money — when there was some to handle. We have not lived our life for earthly riches, but rather those which are eternal!

Lastly, I'll touch on the author aspect — he has always been an ardent reader — staying up all hours reading, studying and writing. He has written a number of books and scores of articles and loves to write — perhaps I'm prejudiced but I think he does a very fine job; mind you, isn't that the way it should be?

Max Solbrekken, I think you're OK!





"As the demons came out of her, a spray of blood came out of her mouth and spurted on my chest."

She came to and sobbed, asking three questions: "Where am I? Who are you? Where are my children," he says.

"The crowd saw this. Officials stood open-mouthed."

Closer to home and more recently, a woman brought another woman into Faith Cathedral.

"She had been involved in Indian religion and had gone really squirrely. We prayed with her for several hours. We exorcised demons in the name of Jesus. The woman is perfectly normal today," says Solbrekken.

### **Not just horns and a tail**

Demons "very definitely" exist, says the pastor who claims he's conducted "hundreds" of exorcisms.

And don't look only for horns and a tail.

"Wherever there's deception or phobic fear, wherever there's unreal torment of the mind, Satan works."

Demons appear in tragedy, a death, or rejection.

He says a bachelor farmer from Cold Lake came to ask for help because no woman would live with him.

"A lot of the farmers there couldn't get wives because their houses were haunted. They'd hear eerie things.

"We went through his whole house with anointing oil. The last time he came to church he came with a woman."

## LINDA SLOBODIAN



Demons are the stuff of legends and Hollywood. Or are they? *Edmonton Sun* columnist Linda Slobodian talks to two area men who have conducted exorcisms, in her second of a three-part series on the supernatural.

Another man went to a white witch asking her to help him get rid of a woman who was trying to seduce him.

"The woman didn't bother him again. But he began to get demon visits three times a week.

"One night he fought with the devil. The devil got hold of his leg and twisted it out of joint. He went to see his priest and his priest told him to go see a psychiatrist."

He went to Solbrekken. An exorcism was performed. "The demons left."

In a voodoo temple in Haiti, Solbrekken says he saw a

man possessed who started dancing.

"His gyrations were not humanly possible. I saw him dance on hot coals. He plunged a knife repeatedly into his stomach and throat. There was no wound. I saw it myself.

"I laid my hands on him and he cried out to God."

But demons don't like being driven out, says the pastor.

"They become very angry and violent," says Solbrekken, who claims a physical attack on his life by the devil in 1967 at a Pentecostal Bible college in Quebec.

### **Attacked in hallway**

One night he was awakened by "an evil, heavy life in the room. I knew it was the devil. I immediately made my confession of faith to God and Jesus."

Before the night was over he drove Satan away again.

That morning, he was hurrying to deliver a service.

"No one was in the corridor. I was attacked in that corridor like someone doubled 10 fists and hit my solar plexus. The force took the wind out of me. I almost fell over, sweating profusely, weak as a kitten.

"I wanted to vomit. In the chapel the minute I read scriptures and prayed the power of strength came back to me."

### **Tomorrow: Spotting the fakes**

# Sometimes, it's a losing battle

When Rhea Thur tried to rip up her son's Satanic bible "the living room window just shattered."

At first the startled Lethbridge mother thought someone threw a rock. No one had thrown anything.

Thur's chime clock, in good working order, often "stopped at 3 o'clock (a.m.)." The dark side of the occult claims that as its witching hour.

When Thur told people she witnessed the devil at work, they politely told her she was crazy.

"I'm not. He's gone wild and is destroying families."

Thur fought a losing battle to get her son away from sophisticated devil worshipping. Chilton, 14, carried through a suicide pact and hanged himself Dec. 15.

By March, two of his friends, both 14 and both also heavily into Satanic ritual, did the same thing.

Meanwhile, not that long ago in Edmonton, Pastor Perry Bruno, of First Nations Assembly Church, went to the aid of the distraught mother of a nine-year-old.

"She said, 'My son's acting like a dog, barking.'"

Bruno paid a visit and saw the boy behaving like a dog.

"I said, 'Satan, you're gonna come out of here tonight.'"

When I said that he ran away on his hands and knees.

"I said, 'In the name of Jesus Christ I command you Satan.' He was trying repeatedly to get away from me.

"He snapped out of it and said, 'What're you doing. Get off of me,'" says Bruno, who had to hold the boy down.

Assembly Church services are held in the recreation complex of the Enoch Reserve, just west of the city.

"There are people who come into service and fall to the ground instantly squirming, often holding their stomach

area. That's where spirits often curl up," says Bruno.

Bruno definitely believes in ghosts.

"My view is 99 per cent of spirits that appear are demons manifesting themselves in the form of humans."

At 16, he had an experience on the Enoch Reserve.

"Four of us went to a drive-in and came back at about 1 a.m. We saw cop lights and a body on the side of the road with a blanket over it.

"A girl said, 'Tilla (a friend) got hit by a car. She's dead.'"

"About 3:30 a.m. we were at a friend's place at Enoch Village. But I couldn't sleep.

"I sat up and looked to the door. It was open. Tilla was about 10 feet past the door. I saw her face, her clothes—three hours after she was taken away."



# Cry Of His Coming!

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## Minister vows to escalate fight against pornography

By ALAN NORTH

Evangelist Max Solbrekken's fight against pornography, which began in July when he picketed the movie *The Blue Lagoon*, is by no means over.

Interviewed at his Revival Centre in the city's west end, he said it was his duty as a Christian to stand up for what is "decent and moral."

Since his July protest, Mr. Solbrekken has been on evangelical missions to Africa and Europe, and back home has recently begun building a \$500,000 addition to the Revival

Centre.

But the pornography issue just won't die, he says.

"They don't want me to stop."

He is referring to the response since he demanded that *The Blue Lagoon* be classified Restricted Adult. "It's astounding. Everyone is concerned."

Mr. Solbrekken is convinced that the western world is declining rapidly.

This is exemplified, he says, by increasing violence, and "moral decline," like teen pregnancy and venereal disease.

Moral decline and violence are both directly linked to pornography, Mr. Solbrekken says.

The main problem, he says, and one which he's attempting to correct with his evangelistic missions, is that people have forsaken God — something he blames mostly on the clergy.

"We've got a generation of young people who won't work and who know nothing of decency and morality.

"What we need is a tightening up."

Mr. Solbrekken says he wants laws passed everywhere making all pornography illegal.

He says if it's illegal to swear on a radio program, then it should be illegal to swear in a book, in a movie or on TV.

Mr. Solbrekken even objects to the word, strip-tease. "Why should it be a 'tease' — the very word is provocative.

"The bottom line would be, Let's protect children and women against that which would induce sadists, rapists and criminals to molest innocents."

When asked if he would go so

far as to ban such books as J.D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*, or W.O. Mitchell's *Who Has Seen the Wind*, Mr. Solbrekken says only that such books will always exist with man's propensity for evil.

"The Pope was criticized because he declared what he's supposed to declare. But a minister is supposed to take a stand. Without that, we wouldn't have a church."

How far is Max Solbrekken willing to take his campaign for change?

He says he/wouldn't go so far as to back any particular political candidate or group who'd bring in such legislation. But at the same time, he emphasizes the church's role as a social pressure group.

"We must be a conscience to the government and hold up a standard . . . The church as a conscience can affect legislators.

"I'm not a fanatic, an extremist. I know we can't cleanse the world totally. But we can take a stand on what we know is decent and right."



Max Solbrekken







# WHAT IS THE WORLD COMING TO?

"If we fail, the whole world ... will sink into the abyss of a new dark age made more sinister and perhaps more prolonged by the lights of a perverted science."

— Winston Churchill (1940)

I've seen it coming for a long time!

First, it was abortion on demand. Get rid of unwanted babies so you can play without paying. Destroy the evidence in the fast, loose game of lust and irresponsible loving.

Misled, selfish and uncaring women who claim "control over my body," totally violating the rights of the little baby whose heart pounds within their wombs.

And the spineless actions of young men who have lost their sense of direction and pride of fatherhood!

Abortion has been called the "crime of the century, the holocaust of the unborn and the murder of the innocents."

In my opinion, there is but a short distance between abortion and euthanasia and another small step to genocide.

In the past few years, investigations are proving that euthanasia is far more prevalent than what we believed. There have been lingering doubts about the deaths of some elderly, handicapped or terminally-ill people — but no proof.

Now, it's not unusual to read accounts of "mercy killings" or elimination of chronically-ill patients by nurses or orderlies.

Recently, four Austrian nurses confessed to murdering 49 elderly patients in a Vienna hospital, in what is termed "mercy killings."

Police are discounting any mercy in the killings because of the horrible way they died. Some of the patients had their noses plugged and water forced into their lungs. Others were given overdoses of insulin or tranquilizers.

According to police sources, the nurses admitted killing patients they considered a nuisance. And that each one knew

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Max

## SOLBREKKEN

Religion



what the others were doing and sometimes worked in pairs.

A Vienna newspaper quoted Nurse Waltraud Wagner as telling police: "If someone made me angry I gave them a free bed in heaven."

The 1971 movie *Dr. Cook's Garden*, starring Bing Crosby, portrayed the power of life and death in the hands of a small town doctor who quietly eliminated those he chose.

The movie medic believed he had the right to rid the town of inebriated wife beaters, the chronically ill and unproductive — like a gardener pulling out weeds.

He was finally found out, when the son of a drunk — whom he had disposed of — returned from medical school as his associate.

Sir Winston Churchill saw the "hand-writing on the wall" as early as 1940, when he called Nazi science "perverted science."

Adolph Hitler believed in Darwinian socialism — genetically inferior humans allowed to die out and those with superior genes encouraged to breed — thus developing a super race!

The process began by medical doctors sterilizing the "unfit." The next step was to kill "impaired" adults and finally full-scale genocide of Jews, gypsies and other "undesirables."

German scientists disregarded the Hippocratic Oath, seared their consciences and forsook Judaeo-Christian spiritual laws, in order to blindly follow a madman.

And so one of the world's most enlightened scientific and medical communities was plunged into the abyss of which Churchill warned.

Is "perverted science" taking over in the biotechnology industry? Will demands for higher living standards, less government restraint and a rise in secular humanism endanger civilization again?

Are we on the verge of opening a Pandora's box of uncontrollable forms of life or genetically-engineered viruses, which could ravage the planet — people as well as pests — through genetic research?

Thomas Jefferson wrote the first U.S. patent law in 1793. And in 1988 that country's Supreme Court applied the Jeffersonian measure, ruling that new forms of life created in the laboratory could be patented. The decision climaxed eight years of legal battles and has dramatically boosted the genetic engineering industry, which seeks to create new forms of life.

A *Time* magazine report, June 30, 1988, states: "The court's ruling also revived fears ... about the dangers of tampering with life. The centre of dispute was a new human-made variation of the common bacterium *Pseudomonas*."

Another scary side is the sale of kidneys, corneas and other human transplants, highlighted by the recent kidney-for-profit scandal in Great Britain — prompting a government investigation. As well as the trade in aborted human fetuses for cosmetics and other purposes!

U.S. author Paul Bowles, 75, was asked by *Newsweek*: "What is your view of the world?"

Bowles answered: "The world has gone to pieces in a moral sense. No one is honest anymore the way they were 60 years ago. There was a concept of what is a gentleman; it was a valued attribute of our Western culture. Now no one cares. There is also an enormous emphasis on money."

Yet, there is hope if we persevere!



# Max SOLBREKKEN Religion



# Christ's second coming is soon

*"The greatest danger of the next century will be: religion without the Holy Ghost, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, politics without God and Heaven without hell."*

— General William Booth

**M**ore than 80 years ago, William Booth — founder of the Salvation Army — prophesied the exact conditions which exist in the church world today.

His prophetic warning needs to be heralded and heeded even more now, as we near the end of this century.

Most people think of the Salvation Army in terms of dedicated Christians who sell their "War Cry" magazine in beer parlors, ring bells to raise money for Christmas cheer or operate soup kitchens for the down-and-outers.

For more than eight decades, they have reached out to the poor, hungry and sinful with "soup, soap and salvation."

But William Booth was more than just a compassionate clergyman, who rolled up his sleeves and tackled the problems of alcoholism and poverty. And his prophetic warning was "right on." Let us look at the six areas of concern he named.

- Religion without the Holy Ghost: The word "religion" bothers a lot of people. They know of religions that are pagan in belief and others that are Christian in name only!

Religion in its true sense however, means more than that.

True religion is a guard or protection against the devil, sin and wickedness.

It stands against pornography, abortion, homosexuality, incest, child abuse, rape and murder! And "undefiled religion" also helps the widows and orphans in their need.

Without the Holy Spirit, the church is lifeless.

- Christianity without Christ: Christmas is a good example of this. Everybody loves the holidays, gifts and good atmosphere generated at Christmas-time.

But how many believe in Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate? Unfortunately, Santa Claus gets top billing.

Two leading Anglican clergymen have proved William Booth's prophecy true. Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa doubts the virgin birth of Christ. "I always thought He might have been illegitimate," he stated. And Reverend Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury does not believe in the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- Forgiveness without repentance: All the prophets and apostles preached that repentance of sin was necessary for forgiveness. Repentance means "to turn around," to be sorry enough to change. But Jesus said, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish".

- Salvation without regeneration: Regeneration is that sovereign act of God, whereby He does a work of grace within us. We cannot save ourselves by our good works, which Prophet Isaiah called, "filthy rags."

Jesus said, "Except ye be born again, ye shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

- Politics without God: King David had a word of warning for politicians in Psalm 2: "Be wise therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling."

If we had more godly men and women in government in Canada, we wouldn't have the moral problems we face today. And we wouldn't have the bloody deaths of more than 60,000 unborn babies on our hands every year.

The Bible says, "When the wicked rule, the people mourn but when the righteous rule, the people rejoice."

It's no wonder the people of Romania and Panama are rejoicing, since the evil, ungodly dictators that ran roughshod over them for so long have been deposed.

- Heaven without hell: Scripture clearly points out that man is created in God's image. Man is a spirit being that lives in a house called a body and has a soul or mind. When death comes, the soul stops functioning, the body goes back to dust — to await the resurrection — and the spirit goes to stand before God.

In my opinion, the rapid developments in the East Bloc, the continuous turmoil in the Middle East and upheavals of all sorts around the world, point to the coming of Christ soon.

And the church must take to heart General William Booth's warning!



# How we love shapes us all

"We are shaped and fashioned by what we love."

— Goethe, German poet.

"The love of money is the root of all evil."

— St. Paul.

How true. And when people are snared by covetousness, their lives become unhealthy, warped and greed-filled.

Every waking hour is consumed by thoughts of making money and how to exploit each moment for that purpose. Other people's feelings, priorities and friendships are insignificant, as they ride roughshod over morals, principles and etiquette.

## A selfish lifestyle

Others are totally "pleasure-made" mad.

"Hedonistic" describes the selfish lifestyle adopted by many. But true love seeks to make others happy and gives joyfully without expecting anything in return.

A Christian missionary saved a young man from the streets of India some years ago. He gave him the name John Paul, as well as a splendid education. Today, John Paul is an excellent surgeon, sought after by hospitals across India and other countries.

He isn't interested in large salaries, fine titles or expensive homes. Together with his wife, a nurse, they've set up a sidewalk hospital in the slum area where he grew up. And the people are given the best care, by one of India's finest surgeons, because he once slept on their sidewalks, and hasn't forgotten.

Jesus said when making a feast, we should not only invite the rich and influential, but the poor, crippled, and blind.

In many countries the handicapped are on the streets begging, while the rich live in total luxury. Too many people love only themselves.

General William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, began his work in the slums of London; he had the word "others" painted on his pulpit.

Goethe so truly stated that we are shaped by the things we love.

Nature lovers seem to be caught up with nature and themselves. Animal lovers often spend more time with animals than fellow humans.

But people who love God seem to have an easy time loving their fellow man, as well as caring for animals and nature.

## Effects of love abound

The Bible states that we should love God with all our hearts, and our neighbor as ourselves.

Mother Teresa's labor of love among the homeless in Calcutta recently sparked a team of Harvard scientists to do a study on "the effects of love."

"There is no doubt that giving love bolsters the immune system and helps people resist all kinds of diseases," states James McKay, a member of the university team.

"We found that selfless love and caring for others is directly linked to good health. Also, a sense of humor and lack of cynicism seems to affect disease fighting capabilities."

McKay believes that if you feel good about yourself and others, the feeling is transmitted to disease-resisting lymphocytes in the blood, strengthening them.

Dr. Bernard Siegel, author of the book, *Love, Medicine and Miracles*, writes: "I don't believe it's a coincidence that angry people succumb to diseases; we have established that despair certainly affects the immune system."

girl's kind act.

As an incorrigible, he was being transported by train under armed guard to Sing Sing prison in New York. While waiting on the platform to change trains, the convict caught the attention of the five-year-old who was with her mother.

"Who is that man in the striped clothes? Why is he handcuffed to that policeman? Why is his hair shaved off?" asked the little girl.

Even after being told not to look at "that bad man," by his mother, she snatched the rose out of her mom's lapel and handed it to the criminal with these words: "Mr. Badman, maybe you don't love me, but God loves you, and so do I."

When he arrived at the penitentiary, he could think of nothing but the flower and the little girl's words, and he brought him in contact with God.

Truly, love conquers all!

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"I have seen ill patients recover when they've adopted a more loving attitude," adds the Connecticut surgeon.

A 75-year-old man died of natural causes in a U.S. penitentiary recently. He had been incarcerated for 40 years and his story is a blessing to me.

The unusual aspect is that for four decades he was a model prisoner and worked with chaplains to help others. His conversion from rebellion and hatred came about by a little



# *The Galilee rabbi died for us*

The Roman governor stepped out on the balcony. The atmosphere was tense and the air was charged with hostility toward the lowly Galilean rabbi with a crown of thorns on his head.

The blood had matted his hair and his beard had been yanked out. His back was raw and bleeding from the cruel cat-of-nine-tails the occupying Roman soldiers had masterfully laid upon his back.

The prisoner was a despicable sight. All night long without sleep in one kangaroo court after another. First before Caiaphas the High priest and Annas, his corrupt predecessor and father-in-law, who still wielded power behind the scenes. Then before King Herod, who was more interested in pleasing Caesar than seeing justice enacted.

The Bible says, "He was taken from prison and from judgment: And who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: For the transgression of my people was he stricken." (Isa. 53:8.)

Pontius Pilate didn't want to get involved in a Jewish religious argument. But he didn't want to see a miscarriage of justice, either.

He had ordered Jesus of Nazareth to be scourged and he fully intended to release Him. He didn't want to execute an innocent man.

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Every Passover the Roman government freed one prisoner as a token of good will.

He gave the crowd now the choice of Jesus the prophet from Galilee or Barabbas the murderer.

"Give us Barabbas," they chanted. "We want Barabbas."

"What shall we then do with Jesus that is called the Christ?" asked the governor.

"Let him be crucified," roared the mob.

Then Pilate called for water to wash his hands.

"I am free from the blood of this innocent man," stated the governor.

They laid the rugged tree upon his bleeding back and Jesus staggered down the cobblestone streets of Jerusalem towards Golgotha, the place of a skull.

As he stumbled and fell, Simon of Cyrene was com-

pelled to carry the cross of Jesus to Calvary.

There they crucified Jesus of Nazareth and the thieves.

They nailed a sign over His head calling Him King of the Jews!"

He looked down upon His accusers in loneliness. "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Meanwhile, back at the prison, the grinning guard unlocked the heavy doors with an oath. He had released Barabbas the killer.

Barabbas snarled at the guard.

"Get up," snapped the Roman. He turned to unlock the shackles.

"OK, get out of here! You're free to leave!"

"What do you mean?" gasped the prisoner. "You were taking me out like the other two."

"Have you heard of the prophet Jesus?"

"Yeah."

"Well, He took your place. He's dying on the cross right now. So you can go free!"

As the door swung open and Barabbas stepped into the light, the guard unlocked the dungeon a free man, Jesus turned to look at him and said, "This day you will be with me in paradise."

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith O'Connell Church.)



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## We must rebound from fiery blow

Anyone who has gone through a devastating fire will never forget it, especially if that which is being destroyed means a lot to you.

There is a feeling of hopelessness in trying to prevent that which you see happening before your eyes.

Jane Munro was there when it happened, and she will never forget nor will anyone else who saw our church burn.

I was in B.C. this past week so missed the action.

The emotional strain and the frustration of being away with commitments to keep in B.C. and a strong desire to fly back almost tore me apart.

### Cathedral was ablaze

The last thing I expected was a fire at Faith Cathedral — the \$1½-million structure on 156 St. — constructed of concrete blocks and brick, with a huge steel cross at the front.

But last Monday, at about 6 p.m., it happened. Apparently the fire had been smouldering for some time under the altar area in the electrical system.

Our staff had left at 5 p.m. Pastor Emil was doing phone counselling and stayed until 5:30 p.m. Only Jane Munro was still in the big building, deeply engrossed in her layout and art work.

Mary Cambal was returning home from work and as she passed the church, she saw smoke coming out of the roof near the huge cross. She tried all the doors, but they were locked!

She frantically pounded on the front doors, but no one answered. Jane was oblivious to what was going on. Mary then broke the door of the Keith Driver Hall to gain entrance.

By this time Jane heard the commotion and went to investigate. As she reached the church foyer, she smelled smoke and as she entered the sanctuary, the flames were leaping upwards.

The fire department responded quickly and the rest is history.

All the doors were swung open to allow smoke to escape, large plastic blankets were laid upon the grand piano, organ and other musical instruments.

Firefighters poured into the sanctuary with powerful hoses and water spraying everywhere. Within a few minutes they were on the roof with their saws and axes, leaving a gaping hole.

They were fantastic, reported onlookers who saw the Edmonton fire department in action.

I had just checked into the Biltmore Hotel in Vancouver and was preparing for the service when the phone rang.

It was Chris Nelson of *The Sun*.

"Pastor Solbrekken have you heard about the fire?" he asked.

"No Chris, which fire?"

"The one at Faith Cathedral! There's a massive fire raging there right now. I'm sorry to be the one to give you the bad news."

"That's terrible, I can't believe it. How could a fire break out amid all that brick and concrete?" I asked.

"The cathedral's quite old, isn't it?" asked Chris.

"Oh, no it's almost new. Was anyone injured, Chris?"

"No, pastor."

"Thank God no one was hurt."

"What will you do now? How does it affect you and the congregation of Faith Cathedral?"

"Chris, I don't know. I Surely hope it hasn't damage the sanctuary or my library of thousands of books and sermon notes."

### My wife was exhausted

I finally got my wife on the phone. She was exhausted. Our daughter Connie had called to say she had seen the news story on TV.

My wife said: "If it isn't one thing it's another."

"Yeah," I replied, "It's just like the Devil."

To wrap this up let me say that the insurance company has been just great, they've moved with precision speed in fumigating the building and cordoning off the burned section.

Calls have come from sympathetic folks across the nation. A wire came from Rev. Omar Cabrera in Santa Fe, Argentina, on Wednesday assuring us of his prayers.

And yes, we are going to have church today at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

What do we learn from this experience? There will always be time of testing and difficulties, but remember no battle, no victory!

Happy Mother's Day and see you in church.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral.)



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## Porn peddler has really gone too far

Larry Flynt has gone too far this time! Much, much, much too far.

I'm not just talking about nudity or hard-core pornography, I'm referring to rank blasphemy, necrophilia, sodomy and incest.

In a recent interview Flynt's daughter, Tanya, stated that her dad is insane. He drifts in and out of religion like a schizophrenic and at times is both a born-again Christian and an atheist, and at other times one or the other.

Tanya insists that pornography has made her dad go crazy, and I believe it.

There is no other way to even try to describe the May issue of *Hustler* magazine. The cover and 23 pages are dedicated to a naked woman on a glass cross, from various angles, as well as numerous other naked girls around the cross, lying on the floor, sitting, kneeling or doing acrobatic poses around the communion table — with Marjoe Gortner at the head of the table portraying Jesus, and Scripture text throughout.

If that isn't blasphemy, then I don't know what the word means.

### Supper is sacred

To the Christian there is nothing more sacred than the Lord's supper — the broken body and shed blood of our Redeemer. And this is what Marjoe Gortner and Larry Flynt conspired together with other ungodly men to use as a cheesecake setting to pedal nudity.

Marjoe Gortner, who conned people for years when he was a struggling, fly-by-night preacher, is telling us we ought to believe in him now.

How ridiculous.

Just before making his first movie, he tricked a tent evangelist and some pastors into letting him use their facilities to make his movie, saying that they would benefit greatly by all the good publicity his re-entering the ministry would bring their churches.

Now Marjoe tells the readers of *Hustler* he still believes in God and that he's really gotten it together.

Mixing Scripture verses and pornography?

In my opinion, both Larry and Marjoe are really out of it. What a pair of losers! And to think that millions of young people are reading this perversion.

What a sad commentary of today's society, that there would even be a market for this kind of literature.

### Feminist has changed opinions

Germaine Greer, who has been called the high priestess of the feminist movement, has written a new book, *Sex and The Politics of Human Fertility*.

She has changed her opinion on many of the issues she championed in the early 1970s.

In a recent interview in Toronto, she spoke of the after-effects of promiscuous sex and said female liberation had only given women the right to say yes to unrestrained sex.

She said we in the western world have become obsessed with sex and are a generation of children haters because they are messy, expensive, demanding and cramp our lifestyle.

She spoke of large numbers of unwanted pregnancies, venereal disease and cervical cancer among young teenage girls.

Greer advocates instructing young people in the value of using condoms, and said she was planning to ask Boy George to hang great numbers of condoms on his person.

Young people in multitudes would begin to use condoms during sexual intercourse, she said.

My point is this: Whatever a rock star, TV personality or public figure does carries a tremendous influence among those who idolize, respect and enjoy his act.

### Boy George image is dangerous

That's why Boy George's image is so dangerous.

Millions will follow his example. And we have far too many effeminate men in the world today who lean towards homosexuality, without instructing others to follow their unhappy lifestyle.

It is known that whenever there are suicides or attempted suicides on the soap operas, there follows a rash of suicides across America.

The same is true in real life when rock stars overdose on drugs.

The copycats follow.

Young people, let's get smart! And start copying the lives and habits of God-fearing, decent and upright men and women.



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## ***Hate, anger will make you a slave***

A grizzly bear sat in the forest eating with a skunk. The grizzly allowed no other animal to eat with him.

Although he resented the skunk, the bear would not pick a fight with him. He had no doubt learned the high cost of getting even.

Jesus Christ gave us a very valuable lesson when He said, "If someone sues you for your coat, give him your overcoat also. If he compels you to walk one mile, go with him two."

It's not always worth a battle to gain our so-called rights. We must determine if the issue is important enough to risk our peace of mind, health and general well-being.

It's possible to win a battle and lose the war.

There are times it is far better to walk away from a fight, even if we have to eat humble pie.

Jesus also stated, "Love your enemies, pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you."

The law of Moses was more rigid, "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth."

Sometimes it is far better, however, to walk the extra mile, turn the other cheek or give away a jacket or overcoat than to end up with a bad case of nerves, ulcers or sleepless nights.

### **Love is the solution to many ills**

In the past, many have criticized the advice Jesus Christ gave about loving our enemies as impractical and idealistic, but psychiatrists are now recommending it as a solution for many ills.

Booker T. Washington, a black American who became famous in spite of prejudices against his color and who was insulted on numerous occasions, wrote, "I will not let any man reduce my soul to the level of hatred."

The famous physiologist, Dr. John Hunter knew what anger could do to his heart: "The first scoundrel that gets me angry will kill me."

Some time later, at a medical meeting, a speaker made assertions that incensed Hunter. As he stood up and bitterly attacked the speaker, his anger caused such a contraction on the blood vessels in his heart that he fell dead.

According to medical researchers, verbal expressions of animosity toward others call forth certain hormones from the pituitary, adrenal, thyroid and other glands, an excess of which can cause disease in any part of the body.

The minute you begin hating an individual you become his slave.

### **Hatred holds you captive**

Hatred holds you captive and robs you of peace of mind, and your time is spent recounting unpleasant situations. Your enemy consumes your every waking moment and hatred holds your mind hostage.

You are tormented by the demons of hatred, jealousy and envy. It isn't worth it, let it go.

Release the hatred, bitterness and resentment, and the healing powers within you will begin to function.

King Solomon said, "Better a dish of vegetables served with love than the best bee, served with hatred."

Internationally-known psychiatrist, Alfred Adler, wrote, "The most important task imposed by religion has always been 'love thy neighbor.' It is the individual who is not interested in his fellow man, who has the greatest difficulties in life and provides the greatest injury to others. It is from among such individuals that all human failures spring."

Let us take a lesson from the grizzly bear and learn to avoid strife wherever possible.

In a complex world we must learn to co-exist remembering the scripture that says, "Love covers a multitude of sins."



# Money isn't everything in life

John D. Rockefeller was one of the richest men on Earth.

He was also very sick with a disease called alopecia. He had lost all of his hair including his eyebrows and eyelashes.

One of his biographers said he looked like a mummy. Ida Tarbell wrote: "An awful age was in his face. He was the oldest man I had ever seen."

His weekly income was a million dollars, but his di-

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gestion was so bad that he could eat only crackers and milk.

As a young man John D. had been healthy and strong and had become a millionaire at 33, and controlled one of the biggest businesses in the world at 43.

For all that, however, he had traded his own happiness and health. No one loved him since he had lost all ability to love.

In his lust to make larger profits, John D. Rockefeller had crushed the helpless into the mire as he climbed over anyone and everyone on his way to the top. He was so hated he needed bodyguards day and night.

He was sick and unhappy with no enjoyment of life — nor could he sleep at night. His doctors felt he only had a year or so to live and the newspaper writers had his obituary ready in the files.

Then something happened.

John D. Rockefeller began to think. He realized of all his billion dollars he could not take one dime with him when he died.

He suddenly realized money was not meant to be hoarded, but to be shared. And he began giving it away, by the millions, to medical research, hospitals, churches, universities and to millions of underprivileged children.

John D. had read the words of St. Paul: "It is more blessed to give than to receive" and he acted upon them.

His contributions helped rid the southern U.S. of its greatest economic scourge, hookworm. He gave millions of dollars to research, and saved millions from an untimely death by malaria, TB or diphtheria.

When he changed his philosophy from getting to giving, his health began to improve and a miracle occurred.

Rockefeller became one of America's most loved men and lived to be 98 years of age.

Being a devout Christian he asked to be buried with his arms sticking out of his casket with his hands open to let every one know that in spite of all his riches he took nothing with him when he died.

Let us return to a more simple lifestyle, reject materialism and put our trust in God to meet our needs.

St. Paul warns, "The love of money is the root of all evil."

Money is only a passport through life — a means to an end. Let's not make money our god, for one day all means of exchange will lose its value, while spiritual things will last forever.

The most valuable things in life, like family, friends, love, joy and peace are free.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral.)



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# Mr. Perry's column doesn't depress me

I guess I should be depressed after reading Fraser Perry's recent column, but I'm not, thank God.

As a clergyman I've always desired to be successful and, after 21 years, I must admit that even for an optimist I've had to take my lumps and there were times I've failed to please people — and even made mistakes.

Mr. Perry can't figure out where I'm coming from or where I'm going.

Possibly a little clarification would help him.

First of all, I am a born-again Christian of the John Wesley, D.L. Moody and Martin Luther variety.

And I read the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, the discredited prophet who went about doing good and healing the people.

Some of the advice I give and statements I make in my column may seem too simplistic and old fashioned for Mr. Perry but, in all due respect to him, the gospel does work and makes a dividing line between faith and unbelief, sin and righteousness and right and wrong.

St. Paul, one of the greatest logicians of all time, remarked: "The natural man does not understand the things of the Spirit of God for they are spiritually discerned."

Now, don't get me wrong, I'm not trying to put down Mr. Perry. I'm only quoting the great Jewish philosopher and theologian who wrote over half the New Testament.

Of course he was misunderstood too, thrown into prison and even beheaded.

Strange man, though. He said: "I count all things as refuse, in order that I might gain Christ."

Recently on a talk show a man called me a lot of names and loudly declared his atheistic position. I immediately thought of Rev. John Wesley and an encounter he had with a big burly fellow who positioned himself on a pathway directly in front of the preacher.

The founder of the Methodist church asked the man to move aside since he had an appointment.

The big man glowered down at the reverend and

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shouted, "I don't move aside for fools."

The preacher tipped his hat to the man and said, "Well, sir, I always do."

He then stepped aside and went on his way.

Just a couple of corrections I wish to share regarding Mr. Fraser Perry's column.

He objected to my advice "your clergyman will give you tips on courting."

"Yeah? What if I belong to a church with a celibate priesthood?" he asked.

I wonder if Mr. Perry has ever considered that in order to even enter the ministry a person must take courses in premarital counselling?

Also, Mr. Perry makes a gross error in stating Dr. Oral Roberts has stolen a phrase from the literature of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Oral Robert's statement was: "You must turn your life over to God and believe that tomorrow will be a better day than today, next month a better month and next year a better year."

I'm the fellow who gave the admonition, "Remember, today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday. And tomorrow is the first day of the rest of your life."

I did not know those words were contained in AA literature — thank you for enlightening me, Mr. Perry.

One final word: I personally don't believe the veteran columnist did his homework properly before writing his June 17 column.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral.)



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## Boy George corrupting our youth

Who and what is Boy George?  
Talented singer? Clever entertainer? Transvestite or drag queen?

He certainly has taken North America by storm. Thousands are packing in to see his act and hear his pleasant sounding voice croon out the old favorites.

There is no doubt about his talent. He can sing and you can actually understand the words.

Certainly he's put his act together.

Like the Newfoundlander would say: "Bye Garge -- he's some good!"

The only problem is, I don't think a real Newfie would listen to him ... after seeing a picture of his outrageous outfit and makeup.

Because most Newfoundlanders are either men or women and look like it, dress like it and act like it.

As a matter of fact, I don't know a red-blooded man who would go to see effeminate Boy George.

The thing that stirs me is that a lot of older women, not realizing how damaging his image is, love him as their little girlie boy.

And some young fellows, not realizing what this is doing to the manly image of the male gender, go along with it as a joke or fad.

### Girls are most upset

The people who are the most upset are the girls.

They can't stand a faggy guy. They are sick and tired of homosexuals, bisexuals and transvestites. The young ladies of this generation are turned off by guys who look like dolls.

And they are even more turned off by men who actually dress like women. The competition is too keen among women; now they've got to compete with girlish men.

Boy George, in my opinion, will appeal to lesbians and feminists but not to normal gals who like a man to be a man.

Like Johnny Cash, Pat Boone, or Marty Robbins.

When I was a young fellow, men were men and the

women were glad of it.

But today -- it's sick, sick, sick!

### Weird, we , weird!

Recently Ron Collister of CICA's *Talkback* asked me the question so many are asking: "Why do thousands of people of all ages flock to the concerts of this effeminate little cutie?"

Certainly it must be a reflection of our society.

We have become accustomed to the outrageous, and conditioned to accept the unacceptable.

TV coverage of strange lifestyles tend to make weird habits seem less abnormal.

At first we are shocked, then we seem to insulate ourselves against the impact by ignoring the obvious.

At a later date we find ourselves so conditioned to the unreal and abnormal that we fail to speak out against them.

Finally, we give in to pressure and even accept normal that which we know is off balance.

### Nursery stories losing ground

For as long back as grandma can remember, little children were rocked to sleep and entertained with nursery tales like *Little Red Riding Hood* and *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*.

Not any more.

Kindergarten teachers from Vancouver to Montreal tell me that five-year-olds are not so keen on nursery rhymes, but have taken up Boy George and know his songs by heart.

And the little girls are wearing Michael Jackson's glove.

St. Paul classes the effeminate in the category homosexuals, drunkards and rapists.

When asked to comment on his wide acceptance in the U.S., Boy George said, "Americans know a good drag queen when they see one."

Boy George, how sweet! The only thing sweet about Boy George is the large amount of money he takes from a gullible public.



# Question for the Pope

Wendy's fast food stores across the U.S. have made millions of dollars because of a highly successful ad campaign featuring Clara Peller asking bluntly, "Where's the beef?"

TV talk shows, news magazines and the media in general have featured the story.

And people piled into Wendy's restaurants in ever increasing numbers to buy a product that supposedly has more beef.

Clara Peller has done the general public a great service. Many people have gotten the message; that they may be getting ripped off, taken for a ride and generally short-changed, in many instances!

Someone had to do it!

## Great choice for a model

And Wendy's with Mrs. Peller did it in such a beautiful way. The American way — An older lady, not a model with a Hollywood smile, all dolled up — But a regular grandmother-next-door to whom everyone could relate.

Walter Mondale even brought the saying into the race for the Democratic nomination.

"Where's the beef?"

Mondale was asking the question, "How much real substance is there to Gary Hart and his policies?"

In Canada, Tory MP Tom Siddon applied the saying, "Where's the beef?" to the Macdonald royal commission on the economy. "If McDonald's ran their restaurants the way Don Macdonald wrote his interim report, it would be all bun and no beef," he told the Commons.

We can fault the medical profession, businessmen, politicians and even the school system by asking the questions; "Are we being double-billed? Do we get our money's worth? Are they telling us the truth, and is the quality of education we receive the best we can have?"

Is the government getting too nosy and big brotherly? Taking away individual freedoms and running our lives for us?

Are we as clergymen giving our parishioners the care, support, love and compassion they need?

Or have we sold people a bill of goods?

"Certainly," we say, "We are God's church and the servants of the Lord — and we represent God."

The Pope goes a step further and calls himself the Vicar of Jesus Christ; or the Vice-Christ, the representative of God upon the earth.

I'm sorry, John Paul II, but I didn't know the Blessed Holy Spirit had taken early retirement.

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Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to lead the church in His absence.

With such exalted titles and positions would it be fair for me to ask, "Where's the Beef?"

Would I be wrong in asking the simple, yet penetrat-

ing question Clara Peller asked on the TV commercials?

## A simple question

If you can't ask a preacher a question and expect a straight answer, who can you ask?

Do we teach the simple gospel to our people? Do we pray for the sick and suffering? Are we available to counsel partners in a troubled marriage or do we send them off to expensive marriage counsellors?

Are we hard-hearted and selfish or do we weep over the needs of the people? Are we lazy and self-satisfied, or do we give of ourselves?

God and His people have a right to know. Thank you, Clara Peller, for speaking to us all!



# 'Lion' Pope was unexpected

John Paul II was the first pope in history to visit Canada, and he took our nation by storm.

Never has there been such a love affair between a religious personality and the media, who are traditionally more callous toward the Gospel than most.

They seemed mesmerized by the Polish Pope. Some became speechless when the pontiff shook their hands and others had the experience of a lifetime when he looked their way.

Never mind that they didn't get an opportunity to ask him pointed questions about his involvement in politics.

Or why women are not permitted to enter the ministry or why priests should be forced to remain celibate.

Or why the Holy See has never recognized the nation of Israel.

Or why the Pope adamantly refuses to change his thinking on birth control.

Or why St. Peter, who Catholics claim was the first Pope, never sat on a throne or wore a crown, was a married man and certainly not infallible.

There was not one peep from among all those tigers we call the media.

They simply purred like kittens.

And I think it was just great. Pope John Paul II fooled them all.

What millions of Catholics and the media thought they were going to see was just another dull Pope dressed in his finery, going through the motions of a boring homily.

## Denounced 'every' sin

What they got was a fiery evangelist of the fundamentalistic variety, denouncing sin of every kind and speaking of personal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

Attacking drug abuse, alcoholism, abortion, pornography, and secular humanism.

In Montreal, he literally shouted, "Bow down to God, bow down to God as Moses did at the burning bush."

His youth rally was like a Protestant revival meeting.

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The media would not have been so charitable to Billy Graham or Oral Roberts. I hope his message has opened their eyes and taught them a valuable lesson.

It wasn't until his Edmonton address that John Paul said what they all wanted to hear.

For the first time, he got away from the aspect of personal salvation through Christ when he spoke of the north-south contrast and chided the superpowers for their nuclear buildups and attitudes of confrontation.

As well, he condemned the rich nations for an uncaring attitude towards the poor.

He criticized both the profit-making of the capitalistic world as well as the unemployment.

Does he not know that when profits go down, unemployment rises?

Really I don't think the Pope or his bishops have any mandate to preach economics, since the historical record proves a dismal showing in Roman Catholic-dominated lands.

Italy is habitually teetering on the verge of both economic and political collapse — and many feel the Vatican has something to do with it.

I would suggest the devout man Roman Catholics call The Holy Father read David Yallop's new book *In God's Name* which deals with the Vatican Bank's notorious and shady operation.

## Leadership a 'surprise'

I was pleasantly surprised, however, at John Paul's preaching ability and leadership. He says what he believes and he says it well.

He stirred and thrilled millions of Canadians. Let us now pray that the dead, lifeless sermons of many Roman Catholic and Protestant clergy will take on new life and power and that they will preach about Christ as personal Lord and Saviour.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral.)



## MAX SOLBREKKEN



### Positive attitude is key to success

The Canadian Mentality is by and large negative, depressing and pessimistic.

We see it almost everywhere and hear it even more — from the general complaining attitude we have of the weather to the sagging economy; from school children to businessmen, laborers and those in the professions.

Even our greetings are sour.

"Good morning!"

"What's good about it?"

The joy seems to be lacking as we plug away half-heartedly at our jobs, ready to strike at the drop of a hat.

#### It's different in the U.S.

No purpose, no goals, no pride of work and very little initiative.

It's different in the U.S. — people are glad to serve you, happy to have a job and proud to be an American.

Everyone flies a flag! But not in Canada — that would be a D-R-A-G.

The Canadian mentality is evident on the streets, in our schools and churches as well as in the press.

Like the time I was interviewed on CBC-TV by Eddie Keen, well-known media personality and fellow *Sun* columnist.

"Max Solbrekken, I heard you say that God had spoken to you. Who is Max Solbrekken that God would speak to him — a little preacher from Edmonton, Alberta?"

You're not from some great city in Europe like Rome or from the U.S. like Washington or Dallas. Why would God speak to you?"

I answered, "A wonderful thing about God, Eddie, is that He is interested in the individual — not like the communists who are concerned only about the masses or like the hard-nosed businessman who is interested only in the dollar bill.

God is concerned about little people like Eddie Keen and Max Solbrekken."

Some people make their mark in life by digging in the garbage cans of failure, negativism and tragedy.

But others take the high road of victory with faith in God, their neighbors and themselves.

We can blame the government, the world economy and even the weather.

I blame the average Canadian.

We have had the kind of governments we deserved, since we are the ones who put them in positions of power.

We have been, in the past, apathetic and left the job to others because we didn't want to get involved.

Then when things didn't work out, we complained and pointed the finger.

I hope we treat Prime Minister Mulroney with respect and faith — not like we treated Joe Clark for nine months.



# Miracles move modern man

Do miracles happen today?

Or are they to be relegated to the obscure distant past or only to the confines of antiquity or a library shelf?

Or to the pages of a book we call the Holy Bible?

After 21 years of missionary evangelism on every continent of the world and after praying for hundreds of thousands of people both personally and en masse, my answer is an unequivocal "yes, miracles still happen today as they did in Bible days."

John Wesley, the well-known founder of the Methodist Church, declared: "Miracles were to have remained in the church for the entire church age but have been lost to us because of unbelief."

A sad commentary indeed!

Jesus Christ said essentially the same thing, when asked by certain disciples why they were unable to cure the deaf and dumb, epileptic boy.

"Because of your unbelief."

Don't tell me miracles don't happen. I've seen too many to believe such foolish talk.

Fifteen years ago they carried an incurable 16-year-old girl into our crusade in Lewisporte, Nfld.

She weighed 25 pounds, was 2½ feet long and was a basket case.

She couldn't feed or dress herself and had never stood on her feet.

Her little body was twisted and had been broken in dozens of places with jagged bones sticking out of her crooked arms and legs.

Her mother and dad whispered into my ear that the doctor had said Geraldine wouldn't live past 17 years of age, but they believed that God would heal her.

## **She had faith**

I held her gently in my arms and looked down upon that small deformed body and asked quietly, "Geraldine, do you believe God will heal you?"

She smiled and said, "Yes, Pastor."

After I had prayed a compassionate prayer to God I put her to her feet and a miracle happened.

Her bones had strengthened immediately and she could stand and began to walk.

At the age of 21, Geraldine got tired of staying around home and asked permission to begin school.

The principal accepted her application and at the age of 21, Geraldine Rideout began in Grade 1.

Today she is 31 and in Grade 11 and has travelled all across Canada and into other countries giving her testimony for God's glory and singing the gospel.

## **MAX SOLBREKKEN**



Five years ago her doctor, who has known her since birth, appeared with her on a national CBC program telling her story.

Two years ago more than 200 Newfoundland doctors and specialists met with Geraldine just to touch her and look into her eyes and see if she was really alive.

But our blessed Lord made it very clear that if we could believe that He is the Son of God, put our faith in His promises and expect an answer to our prayers, He would do the miracle.

The Bible is replete with miraculous accounts, in the lives of the prophets, Jesus and the apostles.

The journals of the early church fathers, the reformers of the middle ages, and up to this very present day

report staggering, miraculous occurrences, in the supernatural realm.

My own mother, a semi-invalid for six years, was miraculously healed when two men of God prayed for her in Norway 59 years ago.

## **Heads were turned**

She was instantly made well and returned to her home district causing quite a stir as she walked 31 km from the train crossing.

She had been driven by her brother and accompanied on the train to Oslo as a semi-invalid.

Eight days later she returned well.

My father, who was seven years her junior, fell in love with a 33-year-old spinster who was an invalid no longer.

A simple deduction is that my father and mother would never have married if God hadn't performed a miracle, and I never would have been born.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral.)



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(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral.)



# Caldicott's way out on peace

Recently Edmonton publisher Mel Hurtig brought the Dr. Helen Caldicott road show to our city.

Caldicott retired from active medical practice several years ago to "save the Earth" by getting rid of all nuclear arsenals.

The Australian anti-war crusader castigated U.S. President Reagan for what she called his ignorant and pig-headed attitude toward Russia and atomic weaponry. She diagnosed the leader of the world's most powerful nation as being clinically paranoid.

Any sane person has to be against war, conventional or nuclear.

Rational people know, however, that in an imperfect world with arrogant, powerful and greedy people, wars are inevitable.

Jesus Christ promised that in the last days, "evil men and seducers shall become worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived."

There is a spirit of lawlessness in the world as power-hungry people have harnessed the energies of the universe to control those who are weaker.

## **Nuclear threat frightens**

It certainly is scary when you consider the terrible consequences of a nuclear war on this planet, to say nothing of a mammoth nuclear accident bringing contamination and death to millions.

There is no doubt that Caldicott and her supporters have a valid cause.

However, Caldicott is being irrational, unprofessional, irresponsible and even hysterical in some of her pronouncements.

But we are not concerned so much about whether she is irrational or Reagan is pig-headed.

The question is whether Caldicott's efforts will elimi-

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nate nuclear war any quicker than Reagan's.

Her approach would be through unilateral disarmament of Western nations, while his approach is through a strong West forcing Russia and its satellites to disarm simultaneously with us.

Peace appears to be President Reagan's No. 1 priority.

Let us review some history to get a better understanding of the psychology of war and peace.

When the U.S. dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Emperor Hirohito's war-like spirit was broken and the conflict ended with Japan's unconditional surrender.

What a terrible thing that was, you might counter, since more than 100,000 people died from these bombings. I agree. It was tragic.

However, experts say that if the U.S. had not dropped the bombs, the war would have continued a lot longer,

with millions more lives being lost.

Can you imagine what might have happened if Germany or Japan had got the bomb first?

For 39 years the Americans and their allies have kept the world free from nuclear war.

I would sooner trust President Reagan's approach of a strong West to Caldicott's strategy of unilateral disarmament.

There are more reasons why I would opt for Reagan.

## **Diagnosis questionable**

First, Caldicott has shown herself unfit as a medical doctor. How can she diagnose Reagan as paranoid after spending fewer than 20 minutes as a guest in his office? If her pronouncements on war are as flippant, it would be unwise to jump on her bandwagon.

Second, Caldicott is out to lunch when it comes to theology. She has accused Rev. Jerry Falwell and evangelical Christians of praying for a nuclear war to take them to Heaven. This she has called rapture.

The Bible teaches that Jesus will remove his followers from the Earth in a supernatural "catching away" before the end of this age. Rapture has nothing to do with war.

Any rational person would have to reject Caldicott's doctrines.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral.)



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## TV pews too comfy

Some time ago I received a call from an Edmonton rock station and was asked to appear on a talk show to discuss the electronic church in the U.S.

I agreed and asked who else would be on the panel.

A United Church minister, a psychologist and the moderator, I was told.

What position, I asked, would the minister and the psychologist take?

Against the evangelists, naturally.

My answer shocked the announcer.

"Please tell your other guests I'll be there, and look out because I'll be on the side of the TV preachers, all the way."

For one reason or another the program never got off the ground. I didn't hear another sound.

Possibly my fellow clergyman didn't want to tangle. I don't really know.

Pastors and evangelists are like Norwegians and Swedes. They have their differences and even the odd scrap, but don't let an outsider step in or they'll get more than they bargained for.

Now that I've settled that important question, let's go on.

Have the TV evangelists failed? Have our churches and pastors failed?

Is there something missing in the church locally as well as worldwide?

Why is it the church has not been able to stem the tide of immorality, corruption, drug addiction and pornography?

Why has the church not been able to stop the stampede toward the divorce courts, the flow of alcohol and the rush toward suicide?

### Thought's sobering

It's sobering when you think of all the money that flows into the coffers of the churches, the subsidies and the tax exemptions enjoyed by Bible colleges and seminaries, as well as the colossal wealth of the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches.

We evangelicals, however, have always felt superior, more spiritual. Now we're not so sure.

Get ready for the jolt.

Nine out of 10 evangelical Christians do not pray 10 minutes a day or read the Bible regularly at home.

You're not shocked? Let me enlighten you.

The very basics of Christianity are prayers and Bible reading.

They have always been the stable, sturdy, foundation of Bible Christianity since the First Pentecostal Church at Jerusalem under James and his associate Peter.

All evangelical Christian leaders — Martin Luther, John Wesley and D.L. Moody for example — espoused personal Bible reading and prayers.

Anyone who did not read the Bible and pray certainly could not be classified as a true Christian.

Roman Catholics have always said long prayers, even if by remote control using their rosary beads.

Now evangelical Christians also are doing everything by remote control.

### It's done for you

The television evangelist does it for them. All they've got to do is watch the program and write letters sending in their donations and making their prayer requests.

We can even take communion by remote control with the TV evangelists.

No personal Bible reading and prayer necessary. The evangelist does it all for us.

Let Oral Roberts pray for you and David Mainse handle your problems or one of Pat Robertson's counsellors give you spiritual advice.

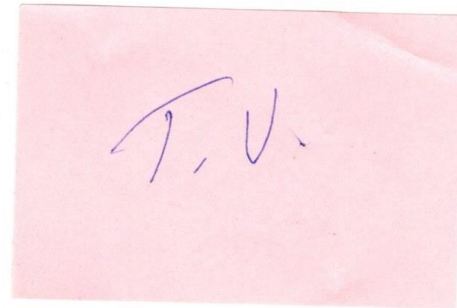
It's sad to consider that with all the TV programs costing millions of dollars and consuming much of our time, only one evangelical Christian in 10 has time to read the Bible or pray regularly.

It would, however, be a sad day, especially for the elderly and shut-ins, if Christian TV went off the air.

My answer is, let's get back to the basics.

The old-fashioned Gospel should stir us enough to get us on our knees in prayer with an open Bible, or it isn't the real thing.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral.)





# Sunday openings bad business

It's almost a foregone conclusion that soon all supermarkets will open their doors for business on Sunday.

Like a mighty avalanche, Canadian society is being moved toward a wide-open, U.S. style of liberality.

From open season on unborn babies, to putting wine and beer on supermarket shelves and legalizing prostitution — anything goes will become the philosophy of the future, unless the silent majority speaks up.

Are Sunday openings good or bad? Will they bring a blessing or a curse?

## Survey undertaken

Several weeks ago on radio station CKER's *Nightwatch*, we did a survey. Of 35 calls, 32 were opposed to Sunday shopping.

According to recent statistics, 30 to 40 per cent of Edmonton's population opposes the wholesale opening of local stores on Sunday.

Probably the same amount would favor the move, with the balance undecided.

Possibly a plebiscite wouldn't be such a bad idea, since the Alberta government is sitting on its hands.

But then the Lougheed government is notorious for playing the waiting game: waiting for interest rates to come down, for unemployment to go away, for the feds to act and for the expected spinoff from the U.S. economy.

There is definitely growing resentment from shop owners in malls who are being dictated to.

Employees are forced to work Sundays against their wills or lose their jobs.

Where is the freedom supposedly found in liberated Alberta? Being forced to open your shop or to work on Sunday is bondage, not freedom.

It is nothing short of economic tyranny by big business.

## Dreams will die

In the process the life-long dreams and security of dozens of small grocers in Alberta is destroyed.

It doesn't seem to matter either that hundreds of families will be upset on their special day of worship, fun, rest and reunion, since 80 per cent of those working in stores are women, and many are mothers.

What will happen to the already fragile structure of the Canadian family, now plagued by marriage collapses.

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The traditional family dinner, Sunday school and church, as well as times of fellowship, will be seriously affected.

We are being suffocated by the pressures of big business and weak-kneed governments.

For years Edmontonians have been able to order their lives so as to get their shopping done in six days.

The necessity for Sunday openings proves to me there are a lot of lazy, disorganized people around.

If Sunday openings become legal it won't be long until gambling dens will flourish and booze will flow in Alberta on the Lord's Day as well.

And that certainly won't be a blessing.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral.)



# Who remembers the doubters?

When all is said and done, who gets the credit? The doers or the critics, the believers or the skeptics?

Ronald Reagan recently won a landslide re-election as U.S. president by extolling the virtues of old-fashioned values and morals. He also campaigned on an upbeat theme proclaiming America's ability to be strong and great again.

And more than 55 million Americans rejected the message of doom, gloom and weakness by marking their ballots for optimistic strength, courage and prosperity.

## Who honors the critics?

In my travels around the world I have visited hundreds of city parks, university campuses, historic monuments and museums and seen numerous statues honoring adventurers, scientists, artists, men of war, explorers and religious leaders.

But not once have I seen a statue erected anywhere in honor of doubters, critics and skeptics.

Let's examine some history.

Galileo, the famous scientist, came out with a brilliant idea — the earth rotates around the sun, which is the centre of our galaxy. His fellow scientists ridiculed him, the church castigated him, but who was right?

Galileo is remembered fondly as the great scientific brain he was.

Where are the others?

Alexander Graham Bell was ridiculed by the scientific community as well as the press.

The *New York Times* carried an article about him in the late 1800s which said in essence: "There is a man in the area who is deceiving the people — a fraud who should be jailed — bilking people out of their money."

"He claims to be able to transmit your voice over a piece of copper wire from point A to B, a distance of 20 miles."

"Anyone knows this just can't happen!"

Today Bell is ranked high on the list of those with inventive and creative minds who with great ingenuity helped to shape the world.

Where are his detractors?

Oral Roberts has constantly been held up in the press to ridicule, regarding his stand on divine healing, his ability to raise money for his international ministry and recently the "City of Faith" and his crusade to find the cure for cancer, through prayer and research.

Today, Oral Roberts is the president of one of the finest universities in the world with one of the highest standards of education for the total person, academically, physically and spiritually.

## Facility second to none

The City of Faith is a modern hospital, second to none in its facilities, personnel and its growing achievements.

When Dr. Oral Roberts is dead and gone these many world renowned facilities that are reaching multitudes of lives for good, will still continue.

All the critics will have is some dusty old newspaper clipping of their biased, stupid statements.

Billy Graham and Charles Templeton worked together until the latter decided he could no longer believe in the deity of Jesus Christ.

Dr. Graham continued to preach the gospel, bringing truth and liberty to millions. His ministry has been a vehicle of good deeds for four decades.

Templeton went on to become Canada's leading agnostic.

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Who has he helped?  
His books certainly haven't enriched anyone but himself.

How many orphans does he feed? How many marriages does he heal and to how many sick people has he brought comfort?

Very few, I'm sure.

His message brings no joy, peace or tranquility.

Billy Graham's writings will continue to point men to Christ who can help them while Charles Templeton's books will bring only suspicion, distrust and uneasiness.

When it's all said and done, who gets the credit? The murmuring skeptics and critics or the people of faith and vision — the doers?

The answer is obvious.

Dec 16 1984



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## Season of peace and hope

It's almost impossible to find people who aren't excited about Christmas.

Young and old alike love this special time of the year; the rich and poor, businessmen, students, government officials and the elderly — because Christmas offers something to everyone.

It's a time of spiritual fulfillment and reflection, family reunions, fun and holidays, gifts, extra business and even a time to fall in love.

I've always cherished Christmas with all the festivities, services and caring-sharing spirit that accompany it.

I know there are people who say Christmas was borrowed from the pagan ritual, that Christ wasn't born on Dec. 25, and the Christmas tree is of pagan origin.

Most bible scholars will agree that Jesus Christ was born in September or October, in 4 or 5 B.C. and that Dec. 25 was in fact the date of an ancient Roman festival.

### Tree, carols from Luther

But we'll have to blame Dr. Martin Luther for the Christmas tree, and the carol *Away in a Manger*. The Protestant Reformation injected joy and happiness into the usual dull, sombre services.

I enjoy giving gifts to my family and friends, and also receiving a few. I love Christmas cards, turkey dinner, family get-together and worship services.

Maybe I'm sentimental, but Christmas means a lot to me.

I'm thankful I do not live in Russia, Iran or China. I'm glad I'm a Canadian and a Christian.

I salute the governments of our nation (federal, provincial and municipal) for respecting and honoring the birth of Christ.

As for the gift-giving, we'll have to credit almighty God by starting it all by giving his only begotten Son to the world, and to the wisemen for bringing gold, frankincense and myrrh to the Christ-child.

I'm impressed with the miracles and challenges of Christmas: the angelic visitation and the virgin birth of Christ, together with his life, death and resurrection.

The message of the angels has brought comfort and hope to millions down through the centuries.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men."

Mankind hopes sincerely and desires peace — inner peace during the turmoil around us; peace in our hearts, homes and communities.

And peace among nations.

Is peace possible, when you consider the staggering workload of pastors, psychologists and psychiatrists, with the frightening level of mental illness and nervous breakdown?

Is it possible to have peace in view of the increase of murders, abortion, rape, incest and other violent crime?

Dec 23, 1984

### Is peace possible?

Is world peace possible, when you consider the terrible escalation of the arms race, the aggressive record of the Soviets, the disunity of the NATO allies and the ever-increasing possibility of human error and miscalculation?

Humanly speaking it appears like an impossibility, unless there is divine intervention.

We all exult in the message of the angel band on the Judean hillsides that first Christmas morn but many have failed to listen to the entire message:

"Fear not, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be for all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour which is Christ the Lord."

The question I pose is, have we expected him to bring peace upon earth and goodwill toward men, without us giving glory to God?

While the world by and large has rejected him as Saviour and Lord?

If we invite Jesus Christ into our lives, our hearts will be healed and our communities will change, because He is the Prince of Peace.

The Edmonton Sunday Sun, December 23, 1984



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## There's hope for converting Morgentaler

I am praying for the conversion of Canada's No. 1 promoter of feticide, Dr. Henry Morgentaler.

I told him so last Wednesday morning at CBC-TV Calgary, where I was on a panel debating him.

He didn't appear offended even though he is past president of Canada's Humanistic Society.

The great Apostle Paul, who wrote more than 50 per cent of the New Testament, was at one time just as zealous and dedicated to eradication of Christians as Morgentaler is to the promotion of abortion.

Saul of Tarsus, the persecutor, became Paul the preacher and theologian. So Morgentaler also is a prime candidate for the grace and love of God.

About 12 years ago, one of America's leading exterminators of fetuses, Dr. Bernard Nathanson, after having presided over 60,000 abortions, was converted and went from taking life to preserving it.

From that day he has done his utmost to further pro-life work.

### Dirty tricks revealed

Nathanson reveals all the dirty tricks used by abortionists to make their work accepted and the slogans worded deliberately to mislead the public.

He also reveals the abortionists' deliberate attempts to smear Roman Catholics, who are among the strongest opponents of abortion.

Certainly Morgentaler (He said, "Just call me Henry") is a sincere, dedicated and determined person.

He really believes in what he is doing, just as Saul of Taurus did 2,000 years ago, until he encountered the blinding light of God's love on the road to Damascus.

Jan / 85

Saul was changed totally, as was Nathanson. As Saul's persecution and killing stopped, Nathanson's abortions also ceased immediately.

The same will happen to Morgentaler if he views a video or two of his grotesque work.

Also on the CBC panel for our discussion of abortion were *Calgary Herald* columnist Catherine Ford and *Calgary Sun* writer Carol Stein.

Ford asked why Morgentaler should move across Canada with his "abortion chain" when so many hospitals are available, and what is wrong with their procedures and facilities.

Stein came out strongly against abortion. Like a tiger she made her presence felt.

### Procedure crude

I challenged Morgentaler on his supposed compassion, concern and dedication to women. At his Toronto clinic, staff have been alleged to place a Kotex napkin in the mouth of a woman undergoing an abortion to stop her from screaming. It is the most crude, repulsive and degrading thing I've heard of.

I also found it repulsive that on Mother's Day in 1973, the CTV network showed an abortion carried out by Morgentaler — on Mother's Day!

That certainly shows little respect for mothers.

But then, of course, when you carry feticide to its logical conclusion, you notice that its underlying philosophy is anti-human and discriminates against women.

And anyone who doubts the pain the fetus suffers through abortion, should view the movie *The Silent Scream*.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral.)



# Frozen north refreshing

A preacher was being interviewed on television. "Which university did you attend?" the host asked. "The University of Hard Knocks," the preacher replied. "You must have attended a seminary or college, at least," the host queried. "Oh yes," the clergyman said. "I attended St. Mary's College." "Where is that located?" the host asked. "At the feet of Jesus," the preacher whispered. Last December I had the privilege of spending two weeks preaching among the Indians of northern Ontario and Manitoba. I feel that I got a refresher course in human behavior and public relations, as well as a post-graduate course in missionary training at the University of Hard Knocks.

## Region's isolated

The areas I visited can be traversed only by snowmobiles and small aircraft. There are no roads or cars.

Most city folks would experience culture shock seeing pot-bellied stoves or hearing the howl of timber wolves nearby.

I loved it all — the smoked fish and moose meat with lots of bannock (Indian bread) and tea; the wide open spaces; the long johns, thermal parkas, and fur caps and mits; the high-powered snowmobiles; and the spectacular northern lights.

The native people are friendly and beautiful.

Like Rev. Alex Beardy, who heads the Full Gospel churches, Joey Semple, a contractor from Kasabonika, and Titus Tait, Chief of Sachigo.

Their simple, easy-going and neighborly lifestyle is so refreshing.

They can teach us a few lessons.

Most of their reservations are alcohol-free.

And their community life is fantastic. Everyone gets involved and they are so caring of each other.

## Old folks revered

They especially respect the elderly, and value their opinions.

Each little village has its own radio station which church and social groups take turns operating, playing records or sharing information.

And one day someone came by with a bowl full of names for Christmas gifts. Everyone in the village of 600 had to pick a name and buy that person a gift.

The schools are new and well run and the people are

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happy and very progressive.

They're also deeply religious, with a good representation of Christian faiths.

Even though a number of the reservations are alcohol-free, another subtle enemy has taken control of

many lives — bingo.

And it certainly is a disease that takes bread off the table and consumes almost every evening for some.

The journey was a real eye-opener to my son-in-law, Merv Jeske.

He said: "The folks in Edmonton should see the pastor of Faith Cathedral riding on a sleigh behind a snowmobile in Ontario's frozen northland. They wouldn't believe their eyes."

"It would do every city preacher good to spend a week or two up here," he added.

I couldn't agree more.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral.)



# Recipe makes marriage cook

After conducting numerous marriage counselling sessions, I have compiled a concise list of do's and don'ts for a happy relationship.

It is my sincere belief that if this simple, straightforward "Recipe for a Happy Marriage" is adhered to, most marital problems will soon come to an end.

**1. Keep God in your lives:** One of the major reasons for marriage breakup is spiritual. As long as couples are faithful to God and loyal in church attendance and prayer, they usually stay on track in their marriage.

**2. Remain the best of friends:** In many instances, when young people meet and fall in love, they become inseparable. Daily, by telephone or letter, they share the many details of their lives and become the best of friends.

Then they get married and the friendship often seems to erode and they become only lovers.

They choose their own friends whom they confide in and tell their problems to, and soon a rift develops.

No two people should be as close as husband and wife. There should be an inseparable bond of fidelity, trust, admiration and compassion between them.

In order to be the best of friends, they must always keep the lines of communication open.

**3. Stay sweethearts always:** Diamond rings and wedded bliss always seem to go hand in hand. Just as diamonds are long lasting and even increase in monetary and sentimental value, so it is with marriage.

"True Love Never Tarnishes, But Rather Brightens With Age."

Millions of heartbroken husbands, wives and especially children are casualties in what I call the Love-Hate Syndrome of insecure, selfish people.

True love doesn't come easy.

It takes hard, consistent work. Considering the partner's feelings and putting the other's happiness first will do more for a marriage than anything else.

**4. Say and do nice things to and for one another:** Some men feel it is not manly to be nice to their wife in public, even if those men are tender and caring in private.

This will hurt the marriage.

Also there is a foolish new fad among young people today — using sarcasm toward each other. How sad. Both partners must drop sarcasm from their vocabularies even if it is used jokingly or lovingly. It could produce unpleasant side-effects.

Only words that build the relationship and one another's self-image should be uttered.

Never forget to be kind to each other. Remember special days such as birthdays and anniversaries with flowers, gifts and love notes or cards.

**5. Don't be selfish, stingy or domineering:** Many men as well as women have problems with selfishness. This is one of the "trouble makers" in a marriage, like separate bank accounts and separate beds.

An attitude of "this is mine and that is yours" can lead to jealousy between husband and wife.

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**6. Don't bring up the mistakes of your partner:** All marriages require adjustments. And there will be disagreements regardless of how good a relationship is. The secret is to rectify a problem immediately.

Do not seek to continue the battle or refer back to the disagreement.

**7. Do not wash your dirty linen in public:** If there are internal problems in the marriage, settle them internally. Do not involve outsiders unless it is absolutely necessary. Then let it be the pastor to whom you tell your story of grief, not your neighbor.

After the little battle is over and you have made up, you will be glad you haven't broadcasted your troubles.

Finally, work together in every area — budgeting, raising children, scheduling vacations, and visiting friends and relatives.

Any couple following this advice will make it.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral.)



# Man's spirit works wonders

The 1984 Nobel Prize for Literature was awarded to dissident poet Jaroslav Seifert, 83, of Czechoslovakia.

He had been chosen "for his poetry which, endorsed with freshness, sensuality and rich inventiveness, provides a liberating image of the indomitable spirit of man."

Seifert is an individualist who broke with the Communist Party in 1928 and took strong exception to the Soviet invasion of his homeland.

The communist government has criticized Seifert, who is regarded as the greatest living poet in Czechoslovakia, "for social ambition," but he has not been imprisoned because of his great popularity.

Hats off to Seifert and the indomitable spirit of man, and praise be to God in whose image man was created and by whose very life we continue to exist, even in tough times.

## Divine design

When you consider the historical record of humankind's flexibility, resourcefulness and ingenuity to adapt and survive, it's easy to believe that we were created by a divine design for a special purpose.

Consider God's directive to Adam and Eve: "Be fruitful, multiply and replenish the earth." What a charge Adam received, and today there are about five billion people on the planet. Not bad for one man and one woman.

The survival of the Hebrew race in itself is not only a miracle of God, but also a demonstration of the indomitable spirit of man.

And when you consider the great achievements of explorers who have blazed trails across the unknown, men of medicine who have pioneered heart, kidney and lung transplants, and ventured into space, it simply staggers the imagination.

The indomitable spirit of man has rid the world of smallpox and is working on cures for cancer, genital herpes and AIDS.

## Elements harnessed

The indomitable spirit of man has helped conquer frozen tundra, inhabit inhospitable jungles, and harness wind, water, fire and the atom.

The driving force of man's spirit has irrigated deserts, reclaimed land from the sea and scaled the highest mountain peaks.

Man has survived and will continue to survive because built into each one of us is a sophisticated defence mechanism, together with a natural desire to stay alive. There's also an intense yearning to know our Maker.

There are pitfalls, however. Hatred, greed and lust consume mankind through violence and war.

The indomitable spirit of man has also been har-

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nessed for selfish and unrighteous causes which have resulted in much waste, hurt and bloodshed.

But the end of slavery in America, the rebirth of

Israel after nearly 2,000 years, and freedom from the tyranny of religious leaders in the Middle Ages give great hope to those still in captivity in the world today.

And even now, the Russian Bear and the American Eagle are negotiating for a solution to the arms race.

For the sake of everyone, let us pray they will succeed in their quest for peace.

Man's indomitable spirit can become proud, self-sufficient and deceived in our quest to bypass the Maker in the clamor for prestige, position and power.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral.)



# Christ's suffering healed us

The prophet Isaiah gave a graphic picture of the coming Messiah.

"He was wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon Him and with His stripes we are healed." (53:5).

According to the prophets, the Messiah would suffer, bleed and die for His people. He would be cut off in death, but would rise again in power.

Jesus Christ received seven specific wounds during His week of suffering and death — a Biblical number that speaks of perfection and completeness:

- Contusions or bruises.

St. Matthew wrote, "They smote Him with rods."

## Whip tore out flesh

- Lacerations or torn skin.

The Romans used the cat-o'-nine-tails on criminals. On the end of the whip were nine pieces of leather to which sharp ivory or metal pieces were attached. As the whip was cracked, it would tear out pieces of flesh.

The Old Testament says, "The plowman plowed upon my back. They made long furrows." (Ps. 129:3). And St. Matthew records, "Then Pilot therefore took Jesus and scourged Him."

- The penetrating wound, caused by a sharp instrument.

The crown of thorns that was pressed upon the head of Jesus caused such wounds. The thorns were four inches long and sharp as needles.

- The perforating wound, piercing through.

"They pierced my hands and my feet" (Ps. 22:16).

At the time of David's prophecy, he knew nothing of crucifixion because the Hebrew method of capital punishment was stoning.

## Romans brought cross

The prophet Zechariah also foretold of the Messiah's death by crucifixion, saying, "What are there wounds in thy hand?" (Zechariah 13:6).

By the time Jesus was born, the Romans had conquered Palestine, and crucifixion had become the method of execution.

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The New Testament records, "And when they were come to Calvary, then they crucified Jesus."

- The incised wound — a cut produced by a sharp-edged instrument.

"But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced His side,

and forthwith came thereout blood and water."

As the Sabbath was approaching, the soldiers smashing their victims' legs to speed asphyxiation.

Jesus was dead already. But to make sure, a Roman soldier drove his spear into Jesus' side.

This fulfilled the Scripture: "They shall look upon Him who they have pierced." (Zech. 12:10). St. John was standing near the cross and noticed blood and water coming out of Jesus' side.

Christ received seven wounds in order to bring divine healing to us all and, "By His stripes we were healed."

Have a happy and healthy Easter as you accept His blessings.



# 'Russian' for Sunday trouble

The Supreme Court's decision to strike down the Lord's Day Act came as no surprise to me.

In my opinion it was inevitable in a nation that has been spiritually adrift too long.

The Lord's Day Act was in fact a day of recognition of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Ever since the early disciples came to the empty tomb of Jesus that first resurrection morning, Christians have traditionally honored Sunday as the Lord's day.

Now our Supreme Court has ruled it unconstitutional, but I am wondering if this ruling does not violate the rights of millions of Christians and churches across the nation.

The majority of Canadians are Christians — and in a democracy the majority rules.

If I went to live in Israel, I would have to accept their laws, which are based on the beliefs of the majority of their citizens.

The Jewish day of rest and worship is Saturday and everything in Israel is locked up tight then. In Moslem countries, Friday is the holy day.

## Majority should rule

That's the way it is — the majority has spoken.

What our Supreme Court has just told the world is that Canada is to be on the same basis as Russia or any other atheistic country — with no holy day.

I believe the Supreme Court of Canada has yielded to pressure from the big money people and large corporations in order to exploit Sunday in search of more profits.

They have also appeased the rantings of the handful of civil libertarians and secular humanists whose goal is to eradicate Christianity from our schools, governments and other institutions.

But the Tower of Babel of human secularism and materialism will only rise so high, until its worshippers are scattered in confusion as another spiritual revival shakes down their anti-God structures.

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The high court decision, however, will not adversely affect the evangelical segment of the church because we will see it as a challenge. But the national impact will be to lessen our consciousness of God.

That will be unproductive.

Church will not be as important, Sunday will become

more materialistic and some will seek to fill the void with the pursuit of pleasure.

If we are not careful, the family unit will become more divided and will suffer as a result.

Parents rushing off to work, special Sunday dinners and family outings will be put on the shelf as each member of the family does his own thing.

There is still hope, however, as we realize that judges are only human and fallible and that as the pendulum continues to swing, men and women with different views may rise to sit on the Supreme Court.

In the meantime, let us keep our families together and not allow the spirit of materialism and secular humanism to destroy our love for God and one another.

(Max Solbrekken is Pastor of Faith Cathedral.)

April 28, 1985

## Objections mere myth

The myth that Jews, Hindus and Moslems feel slighted because of the Lord's Day Act is only that — a myth.

I have never heard any of these minorities complain. The Supreme Court ruling is, I believe, a backward step — a slap in the face of Almighty God and the church.

Its effects will be far-reaching. In generations to come it will speed the further deterioration of the home and society at large.

Rather than tear down traditions that stabilize the nation, the courts of our land should be doing their utmost to protect them.



# The girl next door — a hooker?

The long-awaited Fraser Report recommends legalizing prostitution and allowing hookers to work out of their own homes.

An immediate concern is that prostitutes could set up shop virtually anywhere — right next door to any of us. If we didn't like it we could leave, but that would open the door for another hooker to move in, eventually creating a red light district.

Contrary to current thought, legalizing prostitution does not solve any problems and it creates new ones.

Last summer's syphilis outbreak in Edmonton was shocking indeed, and if this is any indication of what we can expect with a higher incidence of prostitution, we are in serious trouble.

The legalizing of prostitution would be another step down for an already-deteriorating civilization.

A survey was done recently on the rise and fall of civilizations, and every one of these societies began with strong morals.

The degeneration started slowly, but finally total corruption set in and destruction set in.

## **Cycle of immorality**

Here is the cycle: increasing pornography; a growing popularity of prostitution; a breakdown in law and order and a rise in organized crime; more sexual promiscuity; and finally, the development of a high rate of homosexuality.

All of these are with us today, and our civilization is beginning to teeter precariously as we near the end of this millennium.

Prostitution is against Bible teachings.

It is evil, carnal, sensual and lewd, and it is forbidden by the word of God.

The Bible teaches moral purity and condemns sensuality and permissiveness.

The Bible says, "A prostitute is a dangerous trap . . . Stay away from prostitutes. For a prostitute is a deep and narrow grave. Like a robber, she waits for her victims . . ." (Prov. 22:14; 23:27-28.)

Prostitution is also against recognized standards of decency. The community desires the elimination of this evil practice.

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There has always been a stigma attached to the scarlet sin of prostitution.

If we removed that stigma, we would be giving our stamp of approval to prostitution.

Legalizing hooking also would be an admission of failure.

Why not legalize rape, theft and murder, too? Why not

get rid of the problem by changing the value systems?

No, my friend, we will not give in to the modernistic clergymen, the liberal critics or the unsaved theologians of this generation who advocate a new morality of permissiveness.

No, we will not capitulate to those who seek to take away human decency.

## **Report a 'cop-out'**

We will continue to fight against perversion, pornography, drunkenness, wife battering and gambling as well as prostitution.

Government officials must look toward education, employment and rehabilitation for solutions to prostitution.

The Fraser Report is a cop-out with no real answers.



## JEWISH STAND ON REAGAN VISIT 'TOO TOUGH'

# Hard-line may be too much

Devout Jews observe Passover in recognition of God's protection and deliverance from the Egyptian pharaoh.

A hard-boiled egg is always a part of the meal, a reminder of the hard times Jews endured during their bondage and oppression.

The Jews have a saying, "The hotter the water, the harder we get."

They've had to stiffen their resolve and mobilize their people into a strong, effective lobby in order to stay alive.

### Getting too hard?

They are indeed a tough people and I admire their courage, endurance and determination.

But after observing the reaction of the American Jewish community during these past few weeks, I am wondering if they're getting too hard.

In my estimation, the Jewish outcry against President Reagan's visit to the cemetery in Bitburg, West Germany, was too harsh and too bitter.

After making their point, they should have backed off when they saw their president was unwilling to change his plans.

Instead, Jewish leaders boycotted Reagan's visit to West Germany and organized protests around the world against their best friend.

No country has done more for Israel than America.

Contrary to what American church leaders stated, Reagan's visit to Bitburg was a most honorable and Christian act, even though it may have been ill-planned and ill-timed.

There is no doubt Reagan meant well when he decided to reconcile officially with the Germans on the 40th anniversary of the Allies' crushing defeat of Germany in the Second World War.

Since 1945, West Germany has been one of our closest allies.

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it a crime for anyone to deny the Holocaust as fact.

Israel is a 20th century marvel, a survivor of wars launched by Arab neighbors with populations that vastly outnumber hers.

Many experts believe that should there be another

conflict in the Middle East in the near future, Israel will have a real battle on her hands.

### Opinion shifting

I would suggest that Israeli leaders put pressure on Jewish people around the world to begin using their heads and stop biting the hand that feeds them.

Public opinion in the U.S. is definitely beginning to shift toward establishing better relations with the Arabs.

This is particularly important because the Jews' frenzied outcry against Reagan's Bitburg tour, I believe, has harmed their cause in the eyes of the world.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral.)

And a cursory glance at the photograph of the seven leaders at the recent Bonn economic summit will show how ridiculous the protests were.

Of the nations those leaders represent, three were bitter foes of the Allies during the Second World War.

But shall we forever curse Italy because Benito Mussolini joined Hitler to plunder, murder and kill?

No, we have forgiven Italy, haven't we?

What about Emperor Hirohito and the Japanese nation?

Can we ever forgive them for Pearl Harbor, the battle of the Philippines and the tens of thousands of American boys who died in that theatre of war?

The Americans have forgiven. Why can't the Jews learn to forgive?

West Germany has accepted her guilt for Hitler's massacres.

That nation has publicly disavowed nazism and made



# Tutu sounds no bell of peace

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Almost everyone rejoiced when Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa received the Nobel Peace Prize last year.

Tutu quickly became the darling of the Western world as he championed the rights of his people.

Since then, however, a number of disturbing reports have surfaced that leave a question mark over his head.

Bishop Isaac Mokonea, the president of the 4.5-million member Reformed Independent Churches, worked with Tutu and the World Council of Churches but later broke with him, charging that he was promoting communism.

I realize the World Council of Churches has given Tutu its stamp of approval, but that body doesn't have a very good record either.

Over the years there have been numerous reports of the council funding radicals and revolutionary groups around the world.

Tutu's anti-American rhetoric is harsh and his statements to the press do not sound very Christian.

## Marked difference

In stark contrast is black Bishop Barnabus Lekganyane, 31, who presides over the more than four million members of the Zion Christian Church of South Africa.

This conservative denomination forbids its members to smoke, drink or disobey the law.

Recently, South African President Pieter Botha delivered an Easter Sunday address to members of Lekganyane's congregation.

There is no doubt Botha is seeking to gradually change the ridiculous and unfair laws of apartheid.

His words rang loud and clear: "We must make a new beginning ... we must get to know each other ... with trust and good will we can walk forward in faith."

Lekganyane replied: "It is not for the individual to judge the law, it is for the individual to obey the law."

In a veiled reference to South Africa's political unrest, which is destroying thousands of lives, he added: "The forces of darkness must be kept out of the country."

Lekganyane's Christianity is evident, while Tutu has taken the low road — the path of bitterness and hatred — against a less-than-perfect government.

It is certain that Tutu has more freedom in South Africa than his counterparts in the U.S.S.R. There he would not be allowed the freedom of travel, assembly, speech or religion.

Jesus lived in a world dominated by the corrupt and oppressive Roman Empire, but He never preached against the government.

Christ's followers were persecuted by the thousands, but in the writings of St. Paul and other church leaders

there is no animosity against the Romans.

Rather, the persecuted flock was admonished to pray for their leaders, seek to live in peace with all men and win them to Christ, through love.

## Wrong means to end

As I see it, Tutu is espousing a good cause but he is going about it the wrong way. Lekganyane, on the other hand, will continue to grow stronger and gain favor with the government and will be able sit down with its leaders and air his grievances in a peaceful atmosphere.

In any church it is hard for the parishoners to rise any higher than their spiritual leader.

I sincerely hope Tutu will not allow hatred to destroy his Christianity.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral.)



# Bible had warned of 'diseases'

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"Don't play with matches, you'll get burned. Don't cross the street unless you look both ways. Don't drink and drive. Don't ever let me catch you smoking pot."

Since childhood we have heard parents, teachers and preachers lecturing until we got sick of it.

"Why all the preaching? I can take care of myself; I don't need all that religion my mom and dad are trying to stuff down my throat," many youngsters think.

Preachers have been warned throughout the centuries about the consequences of sin and rebellion against God and one's fellow human.

For thousands of years Jewish prophets and Christian evangelists have declared the message of judgment and mercy to the multitudes. "Sin damns, God forgives; It's

Heaven or Hell — What will you have?"

Finally two preachers have arrived who are getting a serious hearing by the media, scientific community, church and the common, everyday citizen.

And the amazing thing is that the Holy Bible prophesied that they would come.

Nearly two thousand years ago the prophets declared that diseases such as AIDS and Herpes II would appear with a clear-cut message of warning that would have to be heeded or the consequences would be devastating.

"But," you say, "Where in the Bible do the prophets speak about the emergence of preachers, AIDS and Herpes II?"

OK, since you've asked, I'll give you chapter and verse.

"... professing themselves to be wise, they became fools. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves..."

"For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that

which is against nature.

"And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet..."

"Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them." (Romans 1:22-32).

AIDS and Herpes II are however making more converts to old-fashioned abstention from sexual sins than both Oral Roberts and Billy Graham have ever done.

The fear of death that accompanies the dreaded disease called AIDS, and the awful statistics certainly must be scary.

Yet there is hope.

Through faith in God and acceptance of His Gospel there is forgiveness, grace, understanding and healing.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral.)



# Seeking reason for soccer riots

Britons are again filled with shame and disgust as they contemplate the terrible happenings at this year's European Cup soccer match at Brussels.

Italians are shocked and angered because of the brutal rioting that left dozens dead and hundreds injured.

And the soccer world is in disarray.

England and soccer go together like tea and crumpets. However, all English soccer clubs have now been banned from the European continent indefinitely.

## **Followed fire disaster**

The tragedy of Brussels followed on the heels of the worst fire in English sporting history, when 52 people died and hundreds were injured at Bradford soccer stadium recently.

I was in London at the time of that disaster, and witnessed first-hand the outrage, frustration and grief over the tragic loss of life.

Is the soccer crowd a special type that thrives on violence? And are the English more prone to violence than those on the continent?

Psychologists, clergymen and sociologists are trying to pinpoint the reasons for the Brussels massacre, as well as previous soccer violence.

Since the seven-day "soccer war" that erupted during the 1969 series between Honduras and El Salvador, in which 2,000 people were killed, hundreds of others have died tragically during similar matches on every continent except North America.

## **Drinking often cited**

Many and varied were the responses of the experts seeking to analyse the reasons for the terrible riots.

The words "drinking" and "drunks" appear repeatedly in the reports of the police as well as the sociologists.

Heavy pre-game alcohol consumption by the Liverpool fans certainly set the stage for the riot.

Scotland had a terrible history of soccer turmoil until it banned the sale of alcohol at stadiums.

Hooliganism decreased dramatically — immediately.

George Gaskell, a social psychologist at the London School of Economics, says research shows alcohol loos-

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ens inhibitions against aggressive behavior.

Others believe television is doing even more damage than alcohol. By showing the excitement and turmoil of riots, TV is creating trouble-making copycats.

Although turmoil has plagued the sport of soccer almost universally, the British have been labelled hooligans, criminals and murderers.

Many street toughs have formed soccer gangs similar to street gangs in the U.S. The gangs live to fight.

They are organized troublemakers who champion a local team to achieve their own ends.

The majority of soccer hooligans come from the rougher sections of the working class and the unemployed, say the authors of *Hooligans Abroad*, a book

about English violence at European soccer matches.

Many young people are despondent and depressed with a feeling of hopelessness.

Although some have complained of lax security by the police, I see the pattern of increasing violence as a cancer in our society — from violence on the TV screen, porno movies depicting sadism and rape, child abuse, sex perversion and occultism.

## **Turned away from God**

It is no wonder when Britons have turned away from God.

Less than four per cent of the British population attend church regularly, while witchcraft, violent punk music and racial prejudice are growing.

The miners' strike, which lasted almost a year, caused hundreds of fights, injuries and several deaths.

When there is no respect and love for God, it reflects in the daily lives of the people.

What Great Britain and every country needs is a return to some old-fashioned values of decency, sobriety and brotherly love.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral).



# Unions licking Canada Post

The Canadian postal system is in the news again.

A recent national survey found that Canada Post handled more mail last year but turned in a worse performance than in 1983. Only 80 per cent of the mail was delivered on time — a definite deterioration. And since last September, the efficiency of Canada Post has been getting steadily worse.

Although England has about twice the population of Canada, it has a far superior postal system. The United States, with roughly 10 times our population, has excellent mail service.

And in Norway, you can mail a letter to any point in that country and be almost guaranteed of delivery the next day.

Canadians depend upon their postal service and become more disenchanted every year. Now they have to contend with another increase in rates. For what? Not for better service, but for worse.

## **Service was reliable**

When I was a boy we depended more on the mails. All rural dwellers could count the exact number of days it would take to get a mail order from Eaton's or Sears. Without fail the mails would bring the parcel.

According to a B.C. resident, in 1951 it took two or three days to deliver a letter from Princeton to Cape Breton Island. Now it takes 14 to 21 days.

In January our church office mailed the year-end receipts to a member of our congregation. Several weeks later she came in for a duplicate receipt since it hadn't arrived. The letter finally arrived in her mailbox two

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months after it was mailed.

On March 23 a letter containing \$800 worth of cheques was mailed from the Toronto airport to our mailing address in Edmonton. We are still awaiting its arrival.

It's probably buried in the tons of mail bogged down in Toronto's main post office.

Last year I was scheduled to preach in Vancouver and my office sent out an invitation card to our friends in the area.

The cards were mailed first class.

More than a month later my office received a call from the Edmonton post office. They had been cleaning out a bin and discovered a large bundle of first class mail at the bottom.

We were welcome to come down and fill out a form in order to get our money back.

I rejoiced when I heard the good news: First, because they had finally cleaned out the bin and found the cards; second, because whoever made the discovery had enough sense not to send them out at that time, about 45 days late.

At least this man admitted the post office had made a mistake and was honest enough to let us know.

It makes me wonder how many times our Canadian postal service has finally gotten to the bottom of their bin and, even though it may have been weeks after the date of mailing, sent out first class mail.

Like the posters sent to five different people scattered throughout the Yukon, to advertise a special event.

They were mailed first class from Edmonton March 15 and they still hadn't arrived by May 2.

## **Hard workers hurt**

It is certainly frustrating to use the mails in Canada, and it must be discouraging for the diligent people who work at the post office to have to put up with such disorganization and poor leadership.

I fault the postal unions' approaches, which have resulted in unnecessary strikes and specialized personnel being unable to soil their hands at menial tasks.

Many are getting top wages for too little work.



# Signs of recovery point right

Conservatism and old-fashioned ideals are sweeping much of the globe.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is still very much in control in that country, having won the Falklands War and recently thwarted the communist-inspired coal miners' strike.

U.S. President Reagan with his ultra-conservative leaning has breathed new life into his nation, spurring the greatest economic recovery since the Second World War.

In Canada, Prime Minister Mulroney decimated the Liberal party and left it in a shambles that could last for the next decade or so.

A few years ago, the rightist party in Norway drove out the socialists, who had been entrenched there for 40 years. That Scandinavian country is now booming economically.

## **Realism reappears**

It looks like socialist Olav Palme of Sweden will get the axe in the election there this fall.

Francois Mitterand is in real trouble with his socialist policies in France.

The pendulum has swung back to realism. The work ethic that made the Western democracies great is coming back into focus, and free enterprise is thriving.

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The communist bloc is in disarray as confusion reigns in agriculture and industry.

Communist China has definitely started to change its course, having lost faith in the ability of Marxism to deliver.

Russians, even with access to some of the best farm land in the world, are so inept they cannot grow enough grain to feed themselves, while we grow enough wheat on the Canadian Prairies to feed North America.

Reagan swept back into power on his record of wrestling inflation to the ground and improving the U.S. economy as well as on his policies of making America strong again militarily and morally.

He fought vigorously against abortion on demand, equating it with slavery. He stated that homosexuality is a sad, unhappy and unnatural lifestyle and took an unrelenting position for the Bible and prayer.

Millions of members of every age voted for him.

Recently a survey was made of students at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, who said their major concern was studying, not marching as their predecessors in the '60s did.

Lacking in the minds of our youth today is the gloom and doom, free-ride mentality of the hippie generation.

A recent poll of 452 Edmonton residents divulged the following attitudes:

- 75.5 per cent favor the death penalty for people convicted of murder;
- 81.4 per cent favor life in prison for habitual criminals;
- 61.5 per cent think the drinking age should be raised to 21.

## **Need spark of faith**

Also a recent University of Alberta study shows that Edmontonians have moved significantly to the right on the question of abortion.

More discipline in our classrooms, more direction, enthusiasm and challenge from our pulpits, and more compassion on the part of the banks on interest rates, and Canada could soon enjoy more prosperity.

It will never work, however, unless we have a spark of faith in ourselves, our system of government and God.



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## Coffee gets a roasting

In the early 1600s, European churchmen denounced coffee as "a satanic threat to the soul."

However, Pope Clement VIII decided on a private sampling. His verdict: "Delicious!"

Is this delicious drink a blessing or a bondage? What do churchmen say today? And is the threat still there, not so much to the soul, but to the body?

Is coffee drinking really dangerous to the health?

Are the millions of people across the world who just can't do without their coffee caffeine addicts?

And does excessive coffee consumption contribute to cancer of the bladder, ulcers, insomnia, headaches, anxiety and heart trouble?

Unfortunately, that steaming cup of coffee most of us love every morning is loaded with caffeine, and it is true that caffeine is a mind-altering drug, the same as alcohol, marijuana and cocaine.

Caffeine is also found in tea, cocoa and soft drinks.

### A real concern

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has done tests focusing on caffeine's affects on youngsters and pregnant women.

There is a real concern that excessive amounts of caffeine will cause hyperactivity in children and that pregnant women will absorb the drug in their bloodstream so that it enters the fetus.

Earlier studies on rats that consumed massive amounts of caffeine, proving that their offspring were born with defects, are controversial since the rats were saturated with 18 cups of coffee a day.

Very definitely women are advised by the FDA to refrain from coffee drinking completely or use it sparingly during pregnancy!

In late pregnancy especially, women eliminate the coffee in their bodies at a much slower rate, so the level in mother and fetus could be three times that in non-pregnant women.

If you don't think coffee is addictive, try giving it up cold turkey and you'll probably get socked with a severe withdrawal headache!

Coffee has traditionally been known as "Norwegian Gasoline" because of the high consumption and the strong brew they drink in that and other Scandinavian countries.

Just recently in Norway, medical scientists became concerned about the massive amounts of caffeine consumed by their countrymen.

They discovered that anything over six cups a day could in fact cause cancer in the bladder, as well as nervousness, insomnia and a number of other illnesses.

It could be argued, however, that Norwegian coffee is twice as strong as North American, so that would give us a threshold of 12 cups.

### A deadly build-up

James Nathanson, a neuropharmacologist at Massachusetts General Hospital, recently fed caffeine — or a similar synthetic compound — to tobacco hookworm larvae and found that the chemicals triggered a deadly build-up of cyclic AMP, a substance that conveys messages through the insect nervous system.

Used with certain commercial pesticides, Nathanson found the combination 10 times as potent as either of the toxicants used separately.

Caffeine in plants thus helps defend them against bugs by giving insects a chemical jolt that kills them.

"This doesn't mean you can take a cup of coffee and spray it on your plants," says Nathanson but adds that caffeine may be useful in developing some natural pest control.

I enjoy a good cup of coffee but also notice how easy it is to drink too much, especially when eating out.

Many restaurants keep refilling your cup throughout your visit, a gesture of fine hospitality.

At home we drink freeze-dried decaffeinated coffee. I used to think that was the answer. Now I'm not so sure.

Recent studies reveal that decaffeinated coffee may, in fact, be more harmful than regular, due to the chemicals (paint thinner) used in the decaffeinated process!

Probably the best advice is to cut out coffee altogether. Those who have testify of better rest at night and all around improved health.



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# **AIDS case horrifies Hollywood**

The gay plague has struck again.

News of Rock Hudson having AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) has hit Hollywood like a tidal wave. Fear and anxiety are gripping many of the loose-living, free-wheeling artists of southern California.

Many people are angry over Hudson's irresponsible actions. The actor knew he had AIDS and yet he continued to play TV love scenes, most recently with Linda Evans.

At the time it must have been a thrill for Evans to kiss the movie idol, but I wonder how she feels now, since it is feared that AIDS can be transmitted through saliva.

In future young actresses will be torn apart psychologically, desiring to take parts in TV series yet not knowing for sure if the actors they kiss are infected with AIDS, the disease now being called the Black Plague of the '80s.

There are those who feel that a person's sexual preference is a private matter, but if it involves contaminating others with a deadly disease, it becomes everyone's business.

Possibly no one will ever know except Rock Hudson how he acquired AIDS.

## **Rumors rampant**

Over the years the star has been plagued by rumors he is homosexual.

There is also the possibility he could have acquired the disease through blood transfusions he had in 1981.

Health officials suspect transfusions of AIDS-contaminated blood are responsible for many people getting the disease, including a B.C. wife and mother who is the 17th woman in Canada to get AIDS.

There are hundreds of similar cases.

There is some hope. New York's Cornell University Centre plans to begin testing on humans a drug believed to fight the virus that causes AIDS, officials report.

It is frightening when you consider how quickly AIDS is spreading.

## **Numbers frightening**

Next year, in the U.S. alone, 16,000 cases are expected to be reported, more than all the cases that have come to light since the disease was first detected.

AIDS has stricken nearly 1,000 people in Europe, killing half of them, and 14 new cases are being reported each week.

Unless lifestyles change or a cure is discovered for AIDS, humanity is in extreme danger.

No wonder Hudson's friends, neighbors and colleagues are trembling in their boots.

With promiscuity, drug abuse and homosexuality widespread in the artistic community, these people are more prone to the deadly disease.

Certainly the AIDS epidemic is going to mushroom like a nuclear cloud over the world, unless homosexuals are forced to be inspected by medical authorities regularly, AIDS carriers are quarantined and blood supplies are thoroughly screened and treated.

Even more important: The lesson we should learn is that the wholesome Biblical approach to life is much more satisfying and life protecting than promiscuity and perversion.

*(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral)*



# Christians surviving Marxism

Followers of Jesus Christ have faced severe tests of their faith for nearly 2,000 years and have made the grade.

It is true that some have faltered and others have failed, but a vast number have come through with flying colors.

Like Roman Catholic Bishop Gong Pinmei, who was released from a Chinese prison recently after being held nearly 30 years for refusing to compromise his faith.

His "high treason" included an implacable refusal to toe the partyline of the patriotic christianity imposed on believers by the communist government.

The 84-year-old cleric, accused of being a "traitor who used religion as a cloak," was paroled by a higher people's court as part of the government's gradual release of their people from the shackles of repressive Maoist/Stalinist communism.

The bishop's sins, according to officials, included opposition to socialism, contacts with foreign religious forces and warning his parishioners against joining the volunteer army.

## Government eases up

I am reminded of the early disciples of Christ who, when they were imprisoned, beaten and thrown into jail, replied, "We ought to obey God rather than men."

Reports vary as to the reason for the bishop's release. Some say he has changed his thinking about communism; others say the authorities set him free because he is old and sick.

During the past five years the government has allowed thousands of churches, mosques and temples to reopen, although those who conduct services or baptisms in private homes are still subject to arrest, since Peking wants to control all religious activities.

The state bureau of religious affairs asserts that more than 20 million believers have registered with the various patriotic associations.

There are also a great number of Christians who pray or worship privately and illegally with the help of Bibles smuggled in from Hong Kong.

## No trust for communists

Recent reports state there are more than one million born-again, spirit-filled Christians gathering privately for meetings. Like Bishop Gong, they do not trust the communists.

"Why has Christianity developed so rapidly in the past few years?" asks a party document. "There are many reasons. The most important one is that because of the serious damage and interference of Lin Biao and the Gang of Four, some people who are ill and depressed feel that they are ideologically empty and therefore accept religious belief as a spiritual sustenance and enjoyment."

The Marxist view of organized religion as "the sigh of the oppressed creature, the sentiment of a heartless world" was challenged by Chinese educator Zhao Fusan.

He described religion as a natural part of any civilization.

If more than 20 million Chinese feel oppressed after nearly 30 years of glorious communist rule, then certainly Marxism has failed.

The Kremlin also is becoming increasingly concerned about the large numbers of young people who are turning to religion and is calling on schools and youth organizations to step up atheistic propaganda, according to a recent article in *Pravda*.

tolerated by the commanders, the Soviet military political journal declared.

There have been cases of recruits who not only stood by their religion, but publicly refused to recant even if it meant standing up to their senior officials.

Joseph Stalin said in 1917, "Give me 50 years and there won't be one Christian left in Russia."

And Leonid Brezhnev declared, "By 1980 the church will be dead in Russia."

## No need to serve state

But Jesus Christ declared, "I will build My church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

One does not need to bow down to the state to obtain salvation.

As long as people are allowed to call upon the name of Christ and worship the living God they can be assured of eternal life.

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Research shows a significant portion of the population still holds religious beliefs, the article said.

"It is imperative to carry out more active propaganda about scientific-materialistic opinions and pay more attention to atheist education," the editorial stated.

Religious beliefs among recruits in the armed forces should be actively discouraged rather than passively



# Realism returns to the church

A definite change is occurring in the old-line denominational churches!

The pendulum has started on its long journey back, and old-fashioned realism coupled with the evangelical spirit is beginning to grip the stiff, starchy and orthodox among us.

And the missionary zeal that propelled the church forward in the past is evident again!

It has finally dawned upon us that the spiritual, social and moral changes we all desire will not come by themselves — or by our works alone.

We need an infusion of the Holy Spirit, as well as a return to prayer, Bible study and active witnessing!

A lot of people have lost touch with the church because in some cases it has shown little or no leadership.

## **Church talking in circles**

It is no wonder many folks have lost faith in the church!

Dr. Billy Graham stated recently, "The world is talking straight, while the church is talking in circles."

Most non-churchgoers are quick to criticize the church or the clergy if we do wrong. They speak disparagingly of the religious as "hypocrites" if they miss a step or two.

The reason for this is that even though someone is a non-believer, he still wants the church to hold up the high standards of moral conduct!

Reverend Clarke MacDonald, former moderator of the United Church, said the church's position on alcohol use is inconsistent.

"If total abstinence is the safest and wisest policy and we believe in safety and we believe in wisdom, then why aren't we practicing it," MacDonald was quoted in a recent issue of *The Observer*.

In the 1950's, the United Church had a temperance drive in which 200,000 people pledged not to drink, but the General Counsel's of the church since have pushed for moderation rather than abstention.

The dramatic rise in inebriation during the past 30 years, and especially the drinking and driving epidemic with its deadly results, has certainly proved that abstinence is the better of the two!

Very definitely the Holy Spirit is calling us back to the old paths of repentance and righteousness once more.

## **Four tasks of the church**

Recently Archbishop Edward Scott, primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, spoke of Christ's example and the four tasks of the church.

First, it must proclaim the Word and the reality of God to the world.

The second is to nurture its own members, so they can carry out the work of the church with faith and conviction, as well as action, Scott said.

"Jesus set out to help people grow. The church often urges people to do Christian things without teaching them to be Christian persons first."

The third task of the church is to liberate people and allow them to let go of priorities or external structures that bind them.

The fourth task, said Reverend Scott, is to transform society, because "speaking and being" Christian, though essential, are incomplete without "doing."

A very straightforward and basic set of guidelines is needed in order to change the complexion of society and alter the present destructive and degenerating trend!

Anglican primate Scott and former United Church moderator Rev. MacDonald certainly have given us

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exactly what we need.

During my recent gospel crusades in Great Britain I found a real resurgence of Christianity.

Although less than four per cent of the British people attend church regularly, thousands of enthusiastic, evangelical black people, formerly from the West Indian islands, are beginning to fill these churches.

And many of the Anglican clergy are seeing what is happening among the black population, which is reaching out to God for the baptism of the Holy Spirit, as well!

Billy Graham's British crusades in the 1950's left their mark on a lot of young men who later entered the ministry.

When the charismatic movement swept across the world a number of years ago, these Anglican clergy responded and now there are many spirit-filled Anglicans across the nation.

We often read in the press of some Anglican bishop who gets a lot of ink because he rejects the virgin birth of Christ or His resurrection.

Much ado is made of statements made by some homosexual pastor in some denomination, but not much is said about the thousands of hard working, spirit-filled, decent preachers filling the pulpits across the world today!

I have faith that the church will respond to the clarion call of the Holy Spirit as we draw nearer to the end of this century and the soon return of Christ!



# Russians masters of disinformation

How smooth and manipulative the Russians have become! How clever, polished and dangerous!

From the top to the bottom, the Soviet communists are No. 1 — from the premier of the U.S.S.R. to the KGB operative, they are masters of deadly deception, devious detente and elaborate espionage!

They are refined, cultured and confident, working around the clock to close the technological gap between themselves and the West.

So their watchword is steal, steal, steal!

What do they steal? Ideas, blue prints, photographs, secret codes and high priority military manuals!

And they employ Americans, West Germans and Britons, or whoever they can, to assist them.

Newsman are especially vulnerable, claims Malcolm Muggeridge, famous author, philosopher and clergyman, who spent several years in Moscow as a news correspondent.

A news tip may be delivered to the journalist to give the appearance they are doing him a special favor. The reporter then stumbles onto more information relevant to the case. He is ecstatic over the ease with which he uncovered the information.

But later he will discover he had been cleverly used to parrot the communist line, without realizing he was doing it.

A well known media man told me of his experiences in Russia. He had gone on a tour to the U.S.S.R. and was absolutely taken aback at the different view he got of the border guards than he had expected.

There were no hassles with the inspection at the border, anything he needed was provided without delay and the service was excellent!

His immediate reaction was, "Everything we've been told about the Russians is untrue — these people are as free and easy going as we are. There is no difference!"

One night, due to jet lag, he could not sleep so he arose at 3 a.m. and went down to reception. He was allowed to go anywhere he wanted, and met an old man walking his dog.

Upon his return to the hotel the newsman related the incident to the security personnel.

"Isn't it amazing," he said, "that in a large city like Lenin-grad an old man can walk his dog at 3 a.m. without being mugged?"

When he returned to Canada this very intelligent media man found himself telling the stories and repeating on T.V. the information he had received from his Soviet guides.

He was doing exactly what they wanted him to do. It was not until some time later that he realized he had been taken in and unconsciously was functioning as a mouthpiece for Moscow.

It is true we have far too much crime and the streets are not safe in some of our cities but it is also true there were no muggers, drug addicts or vagrants on the streets in Hitler's Germany.

He solved his social problems in much the same way as they do in the U.S.S.R. today.

Democracy certainly has its pitfalls and shortcomings but with all its ills, freedom is still cheap at any price!

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# No youngster's born to lose

It was 1943 and Canada was at war.

A fellow walked into a tattoo shop. He was young and felt tough — after all, he had just received his orders to ship out to the front lines.

The soldier had seen burly guys with hair on their chests and tattoos on their arms, and he was impressed. So, he decided to get a tattoo.

Two very different tattoos caught his eye: "Born to Win" and "Born to Lose!"

As he left the shop with "Mother" indelibly marked on his arm, he thought about the two slogans.

## **Fighting for right cause**

He was going to war to fight Nazism. Hitler was going to lose because the young soldier was on the team fighting for the right cause — freedom.

Yet there are a lot of people who are totally negative in their approach to life. When things are bad they broadcast it and keep saying, "I told you so."

The "Born to Lose" philosophy doesn't happen overnight. It is usually a slow process that develops by the company we keep, the literature we read, the movies we watch and the places we spend our time.

It develops in a child's mind through the kind of words spoken by his parents. Words like "Mommy loves you" or "you stupid brat, I wish you'd never been born!"

In more than 20 years of counselling as a pastor, I have seen the devastating results in the lives of children who have witnessed vicious arguments between their parents, been abused, screamed at and made to feel unwanted.

An eight-year-old boy who committed suicide recently in the U.S. explained why in the note he left: His dad had been laid off and his parents were always fighting about how expensive it was to raise children and they didn't know why Billy had to come along when they already had four kids.

He had decided to get rid of himself and solve the problem. There would be one less mouth to feed.

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## **Sons poles apart**

Some time ago I heard a rather crude but illustrative story about a mother who had two problem sons. One was an habitual pessimist and the other an eternal optimist.

School counsellors had tried to help without avail so she took her sons to a local psychiatrist. After hearing her story and checking the boys' records, the psychiatrist decided to use drastic measures.

Beginning with the pessimist, the psychiatrist brought him into a room filled with brand new toys. "You have two hours to enjoy yourself. Do whatever you want," said the psychiatrist.

When the psychiatrist returned he noticed the boy was sitting in a corner with his hands folded.

He hadn't touched anything!

The psychiatrist said, "Son, you haven't played with a single toy. Don't you like toys?"

The boy answered, "Yes, I like toys, but if I played with your toys I would very likely become attached to one and you would probably give it to me and I would take it home."

"Then there is the possibil-

ity that I would carelessly leave it on the stairs and my father would step on it, fall down the stairs and break his neck. Since my mother wouldn't be able to work because of shock, my brother and I would be taken to an orphanage!

"Your toys are nice but the pleasure isn't worth the risk."

In frustration, the psychiatrist turned to the other boy. How could he cure his extreme optimism? He struck on a strange idea. He ordered a small load of horse manure to be dumped in a room, brought the little fellow in and said, "Son, enjoy yourself. You have two hours, do whatever you like."

When the psychiatrist returned he was shocked. The little optimist had found a yardstick and was standing in the middle

of the room, excitedly digging in the manure.

The psychiatrist asked, "Son, what are you doing?"

The kid looked up and said, "Doc, I've had a lot of time to sit here and think and although I don't like the smell, with all this manure there must be a pony around here somewhere!"

Have an optimistic day.



# Ukrainian dissidents forgotten

Four Ukrainian intellectuals died recently in Camp Kutsjino 36-1 at Perm, 1,200 km from Moscow.

Their only crime was to speak, write or register their opposition to a tyrannical regime that enslaves and intimidates those who disagree with it.

Amnesty International has again brought to light the awful plight of religious, political and intellectual prisoners in the Soviet Union.

Alf G. Andersen of Norway's *Afternoon Post* blew the whistle on the Russians and their inhumane treatment of the inmates as well as the horrible living conditions in the camps, especially Kutsjino.

Andersen also pointed out the apathy of the western mass media towards these poor souls.

Amnesty's pleas to the media to expose Camp Kutsjino fell on deaf ears.

It makes one wonder. If the intellectuals had been black or Jewish would the media have picked up the story?

Certainly if they had been black it would have given the press a sensational opportunity and if they had been Jewish, their countrymen would have taken up the cause and forced the media to listen.

The four dead Ukrainians are Vasyl Stus, Valerij Martsjenko, Oleksij Tikhij and Jurij Litvin, human rights activists and members of a Ukrainian Helsinki Committee that had been formed after the signing of the Helsinki Accords.

## **Branded 'dangerous'**

The communists became so frightened of this group that they branded its members "extremely dangerous" and sentenced them to hard labor at the camp.

Kutsjino is a place of torture and death, and it is out of bounds to newsmen.

Letters the condemned men smuggled out give us a realistic picture of life at the camp.

Two to four persons are crammed into a single, un-ventilated cell so dark a light is necessary in the daytime.

Each group cell is isolated from the others and no conversation is allowed during working hours. Seldom do prisoners receive letters. The food is poor and very often rotten. Medical help is negligible.

Journalist Martsjenko was only 37 when he died. He was first jailed in 1972 because he wrote that the Ukrainian language was discriminated against in the Ukraine.

His punishment was eight years in prison. He continued, however, to help other political prisoners, and some of his articles were smuggled out to the West.

He was imprisoned again in 1984 and sentenced to Kutsjino for 15 years even though he had been suffering since 1979 from a serious, chronic kidney disease.

Amnesty also discovered Ukrainian poet Stus was deathly ill with tuberculosis, and the organization's members in many lands appealed to the Soviets for medical help. But the Soviets persecuted Stus even more.

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Last fall, all his poems were confiscated, his food rations were reduced, his wife was refused permission to see him and he was placed in isolation and died.

Martsjenko, Stus, Tikhij and Litvin were men who gave all to the cause of freedom. Their only crime was a love for truth and individual human rights.

"Their sacrifice, however, has not even caused a ripple among the mass news media in the west, who are considered guardians of freedom," writes journalist Andersen.

The warning cry from Amnesty about the inhumane conditions in camp Kutsjino attracted the attention of only a few Norwegian newspapers, states Andersen.

## **Willing to speak up**

Thank God for Amnesty International and newspapers as brave as Norway's *Afternoon Post* which are willing to champion an unpopular cause for a near-forgotten people, the Ukrainians in the Soviet Union.

And let us continue to pray for all who suffered privation, pain and persecution.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral.)



# Lessons learned by U.K. riots

There has been a state of siege in several communities in England these days.

Rioting has hit London, Birmingham and Liverpool.

At first, news commentators blamed the violence on the hopelessness of high unemployment and the heavy-handedness of police, but now the truth is coming out.

Police were clamping down on drug pushers and had vowed to clean up London's Brixton district, having made

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some major arrests. They were going after the drug kings when the trouble suddenly erupted.

When a police officer stopped a black driver to question him about an expired tax sticker on his windshield, the man protested. Immediately 100 black youth appeared and began to taunt the officer.

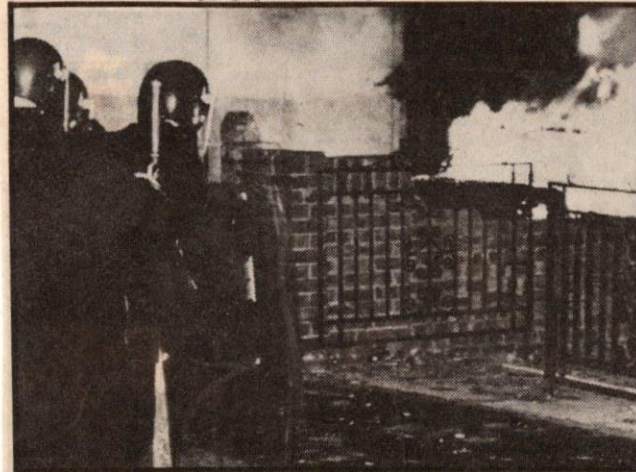
As police reinforcements arrived, two youths were arrested. That was the catalyst the drug barons needed and hundreds of youth went on a spree of burning, looting, stealing and killing.

What, if anything, do we learn from these riots? How do the English feel about the situation and what effect will it have on the general public's attitude towards immigration?

There will be some changes, for sure.

**NUMBER ONE:** The drug barons will be crushed.

The most sweeping powers any British government has



Flashback to the British rioting earlier this month

used in peace time will destroy the power bases of the wicked drug parasites.

High court judges will be able to freeze the assets of anyone recently suspected of involvement in drug trafficking even before arrest.

The new measures will bring life sentences to the "Dealer in Debt" and will allow confiscation of homes, cars, boats jewelry and even furniture of those convicted.

And there will also be a provision for a 14-year sentence for anyone handling the proceeds of drug trafficking.

**NUMBER TWO:** The British government is making available funds to promote a campaign against drug abuse.

**NUMBER THREE:** The government plans to introduce tougher laws to control street violence.

Home Secretary Douglas Hurd stated: "In former times a man might be forgiven for stealing to feed his starving family. But it is not poverty that leads people to burn down post offices, to loot television sets and video recorders and to make vicious attacks on the police."

The Metropolitan Police commissioner declared that groups of Trotskyites and anarchists had been identified as orchestrating the disturbances in London's Tottenham and Brixton districts.

Insp. Tony Brooks said: "They were not out to loot. The Tottenham rioters were out to kill."

And kill they did, luring police out to the Broadwater Farm Estates and sought to kill them.

Police reinforcements arrived just in time, but by then the buildings were on fire and the riot was in progress.

As firefighters tried to put out the fires they were brutally attacked by the mob. A police constable protecting the firefighters was hacked to death by the mob and firefighters were viciously beaten.

Anti-police videos by left-wing extremists to incite riot thugs are not illegal. These hate-filled video tapes depicting police as fascist pigs who hate blacks had been handed out freely by activists in the 24 hours leading to Britain's worst outbreak of violence.

I was in Europe at the time of the latest riots and preached to hundreds of blacks (with a sprinkling of whites) in the Brixton Town Hall, just days after the riot.

I am in total agreement with Lambert's black mayor Lloyd Leon, who attended our services. He said: "The gospel of Jesus Christ and these type of meetings is what we need to get people to love each other again!"



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# Praise the Lord for normal TV

I've got some good news for TV talk-show fans: there is an alternative to Phil Donahue and his usual cast of far-out guests with weird lifestyles.

And Donahue's overbearing personality. There's refreshing Sally Rafael with her wholesome approach to life and her "normal" guests.

I happened to catch her on TV last week talking about disabled children and their parents.

The guests were caring parents who opened their lives to the public in order help others.

There was none of the Donahue "get-all-the-publicity-you-can" hype! One of the guests was a young black woman named Teresa Lang who had carried her brain-dead baby to full term. She trusted God to bring something good out of it and He did when Baby Lorna's heart was given to a 13-week-old-baby with a congenital heart defect.

Teresa said the word "abortion" wasn't even in her vocabulary! And Sally didn't intimate that she was less than smart, or stupid, antiquated, not-with-it or old-fashioned.

She wasn't ridiculed or mocked by an arrogant talk show host with a studio full of militant lesbians or gays.

The studio crowd was impressive; mainly young people asking pertinent questions about the trials and benefits of parenting disabled children.

Anne and Brad Burdge commented on the birth of their disabled baby, Ricky, and the shock of learning that he was not normal. They talked about the looks on the faces of the medics and nurses in the delivery room; the awful frustration and bitterness that followed... as well as the love and growth they experienced because of the disabled baby.

Kathleen Meives was 34 and didn't expect to give birth to a Downs Syndrome baby. It was a real shock to her and husband Richard. This young couple told of the usual stages a person goes through when the bad news finally hits home, how they blamed the doctors, the health care system, each other's relatives, themselves and even God.

They also told how they finally came to grips with the reality of the situation and received help from parents, church and each other.

"My Dad threw his arms around me and said, 'Everything will work out,'" said Richard. "It was the first time he had done that because we are not a huggy-type of family. It has brought us closer."

Sally Raefel ended her most interesting show by saying "You are particularly special people, because of the particularly special births of your children."

Recently, I have seen a dangerous trend developing among talk-show hosts and their guests who seem to glorify divorce, belittle marriages of long standing and put faith in psychics.

I used to enjoy Donahue's show until he began to major in outrageous, extreme and weird off-the-wall guests and subjects. Rafael deals in bread-and-butter issues that interest the average North American... And I like that because it's a service to people rather than a time consumer!



# A blasphemous film

There would be no Christmas if God hadn't found a suitable vessel to bring forth the Christ-Child in a miraculous, supernatural way. The Virgin Mary was that vehicle.

A storm of protest has erupted over the French film *Je Vous Salue Marie* (*Hail Mary*) in which Jean-Luc Godard depicts Mary, Joseph and the Angel Gabriel in totally unscriptural and uncharacteristic roles.

What's new? Sacreligious money-grubbing movie-makers have done it before and will continue to demean the gospel, ridicule the clergy and humanize God.

George Burns' movie *Oh God*, in my estimation, was not funny. Burns will meet God soon and understand Hollywood has no clout at the Judgment Bar of Eternity.

Attacks on the person of Jesus Christ came early in his ministry when sterile religious authorities in Palestine accused him of casting out devils and healing the sick by the power of Beelzebub, the prince of devils.

When he arose from the dead, stunned religionists began the rumor that Roman soldiers had fallen asleep while guarding the tomb and Jesus' frightened disciples had broken the seal, rolled away the 2,000-pound stone and carried away the body of Jesus.

What would a handful of demoralized, frightened Galileans do with a dead body in Jerusalem and what good was a corpse to anyone?

## Puny men at work

The movie *Hail Mary* doesn't surprise me, as puny men always try to bring God down to their own level.

I believe in the virgin birth of Christ. The prophet Isaiah foretold the event 700 years before it happened: "Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign: Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Emmanuel." (Isaiah 7:14)

I know there have been those who have tried to discredit this scripture, saying it is not in the original manuscripts. But the Dead Sea scrolls have left the detractors with their mouths gaping.

The discovery of the scrolls by a Beduin shepherd

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in 1948 solved the controversy as the ancient manuscript of Isaiah contained verse 14.

Luke's gospel tells the exciting happening; The angel Gabriel visited a 16-year-old Jewish girl who was engaged to Joseph of Nazareth.

Her name was Miriam, but we call her the Virgin Mary.

The revelation that she was to be honored among all Jewish virgins to bear the Christ-Child startled her, but she was obedient, faithful and believing.

Together with Joseph her husband, she raised The Messiah, as well as caring for her six other children. (Matthew 13:55, 56)

After his resurrection, Jesus commanded his follow-

ers to wait in Jerusalem to receive the Holy Spirit. On the day of the Pentecost, when the spirit descended on the 120, Mary was there, rejoicing and speaking in tongues like the rest.

Mary was a devout woman of faith and it is indeed a shame that her name should be degraded as it is in *Hail Mary*.

## Join with Catholics

I join ranks with Roman Catholics in their displeasure at this film.

Protestants should be upset over the flick, as should be Jews.

The movie is blasphemous as well as anti-Semitic, since both Mary and Joseph were Jewish.



# Love sealed the fate of Jesus

*"I know men, and I tell you that Jesus Christ is not a man. Superficial minds see a resemblance between Christ and the founders of empires and the Gods of other religions, the distance of infinity."*

Napoleon Bonaparte

Nearly two million years ago a young Jewish virgin by the name of Miriam gave birth to a baby they called Yeshua.

Strange events began to occur after Joseph, a Nazareth carpenter discovered his fiancée was pregnant. Not having had sex with her, he became upset and prepared to end their marriage plans quietly. Espousal was a legal contract and infidelity, a serious matter. Mary could have been disgraced and even stoned under Jewish law, if found guilty.

While considering the dilemma, the Angel of the Lord appeared to him with assurance of her innocence and God's plan for their lives. "Fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she shall bring forth a son and thou shalt call him Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins."

The Bible says Joseph obeyed and abstained from sexual intercourse with Mary, until she had brought forth her first born son.

The Hebrew word Yeshua means 'salvation or Savior', which is translated Jesus, while Miriam is called Mary.

There were other unusual events like: "Wisemen coming from the East to worship him, and being led by his star," and "shepherds being visited by an angelic host and told of his birth in a stable in Bethlehem."

## Spoke openly

During his St. Helena exile, Napoleon spoke openly to Gen. Bertrand of his conquests, as well as those of Caesar, Alexander and Charlemagne.

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"Put on what did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ alone founded his empire upon love, and at this hour millions of men would die for him."

"What an abyss between my deep misery and the eternal reign of Christ who is proclaimed, loved adored, and whose reign is extending over all the earth."

Hebrew prophets had foretold his coming for thousands of years before he arrived. Isaiah prophesied his virgin birth 700 years before it happened. Prophet Daniel pinpointed the very year of the Messiah's death.

Micah named Bethlehem as the place of his birth, Zechariah foretold his wounding and both Daniel and King David prophesied his scourging and death by crucifixion hundreds of years before that method of execution was introduced to Palestine by the Romans.

## God's promise

God's first promise of "the Redeemer" was given in the garden of Eden, after Adam and Eve's transgression. Speaking to Satan God said, "And I will put enmity between her seed and thy seed, it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

The "seed of the woman" was Jesus Christ, King Messiah, and when he died on Calvary's cross Satan's dominion over mankind was destroyed.

God's prophetic word is documented hundreds of times concerning the birth, life, death and resurrection of Messiah, and these hundreds of prophecies have

come true in the person of Jesus.

God's promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob foretold Messiah's involvement in the salvation of all peoples. "... in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed."

Daniel speaks of "Messiah, the Prince." Haggai calls him, "The desire of all nations" and Zechariah declares him to be, "the shepherd against which men will lift their sword."

The writers of the New Testament add their testimony that Jesus Christ is Messiah according to the Old Testament.

St. John said that he and other disciples heard him speak,

saw his miracles and touched him, both before and after his death and resurrection. But like Napoleon, John was convinced that Jesus was more than a man. He is logos, the living word of God.

St. John wrote, "We have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known to you the power coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were ye witnesses of his Majesty."

It has been said that Jesus staged many events, including his death, in order to be hailed "Messiah".

How could anyone stage the following? 1) place of birth 2) time of birth 3) virgin birth 4) betrayal 5) method of execution 6) cruel mockings 7) piercing 8) burial.

Prophet Isaiah stated, "Unto you a child is born, unto us a son is given". And St. John's gospel records "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have eternal life."

I would now like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas.

Max is Founder of Faith Cathedral.



## MAN VS. GOVERNMENT

# Conscience should rule our actions

Should the church be involved in protests, politics or clandestine activities? What about civil disobedience and the breaking of the law in the pursuit of a just cause?

Do we have any scriptural precedent for clergymen disobeying the laws of the land in favor of God's law and one's own conscience?

The early disciples of Jesus Christ preached the gospel to the dismay of the Jewish rabbinical authority and were arrested, beaten and imprisoned. They were warned not to speak in the name of Jesus Christ.

His courageous followers declared, "We ought to obey God rather than man."

The so-called "Sanctuary Movement" comprised of ministers and priests is on trial in the U.S.A. on felony conspiracy charges, including counts of smuggling, harboring and transporting illegal aliens.

## Aliens sheltered

The movement has openly professed to sheltering about 2,000 illegal aliens, whom it says are fleeing for their lives from repressive regimes in Central America.

These concerned clergymen believe it is their moral and legal right to befriend oppressed aliens even though it means guiding them across the border and supplying them with fraudulent documents.

Don Reno, a special assistant to the U.S. Attorney-General, states, "The most fundamental issue is whether persons in disagreement with their government can take the law into their own hands and interpret that law in a way which is in clear violation of its purpose."

Numerous concerned Christians in Europe put their lives in great jeopardy during the Second World War to save Jewish lives that were condemned to death by the German S.S.

Lutheran pastor Richard Wurmbrand was imprisoned for 14 years and tortured for his faith in Romania. He took

because of terrible beatings the authorities gave him.

Thousands of Christians, Jews and others who have disobeyed the orders of oppressive regimes in communist lands languish in prisons and mental hospitals.

The laws of South Africa and other dictatorial right-wing countries have also had devastating effects on those who have dared oppose them.

Recently, in our Norwegian crusades, I prayed for a young lady from Chile who had been brutally beaten by prison guards and as a result was crippled in her legs.

Three evangelical Christians in Greece received prison terms recently for daring to do missionary work there.

Like St. Paul, they chose to preach the plain and powerful gospel and in a so-called Christian country have been judged as criminals.

Try preaching the gospel in the Jewish Orthodox Mia Sharem district in Jerusalem and you'll get stoned. Recently, an evangelical church was burned to the ground in Israel.

It's even worse in Moslem Morocco, Saudia Arabia or Iran. Just ask the Bahai's who are being killed by the fanatical regime of Ayatollah Khomeini!

We need only go to Quebec where a few years ago Jehovah's Witnesses were severely persecuted.

Or try to get equal reli-

you a lesson or two in human rights.

Reno calls the work of the "sanctuary movement" a criminal enterprise!

If I hadn't travelled a million miles in every continent and heard a thousand stories of abuse, I would agree with him.

Now, I'm not so sure.

I've visited the little log prison in Oslo, Norway where 100 years ago, Hans Nilsen Hauge was incarcerated for 10 years.

His only crime? Preaching the gospel!

The imprisonment of Hauge will always remain Norway's national shame and a blemish on the Lutheran church.

## Keep a balance

It's hard to see the need for a "sanctuary movement" in a land as free and generous to refugees as the U.S.A., but as a clergyman, I must agree with St. Peter and Martin Luther: "It's unwise to go against conscience!"

In the final analysis, we need to keep a balance with the scriptures that admonish us to "obey those who have the rule over us." If we break bad laws, however, we must be prepared to pay the price.

Like Hauge and Richard Wurmbrand.

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# Charter killing rights?

Are we losing our freedom of speech in Canada? Are civil liberties in jeopardy? Is the new charter of rights devious, dangerous and oppressive?

Many Canadians believe so.

Recently, I received a letter from David Suzuki, asking support for the Canadian Civil Liberties Association. He stressed that most Canadians have an uncritical faith in authority and social justice, but that there are many examples of neglect and abuse in our country.

The CCLA points out that under our new national security law, Canadian citizens might have their conversations bugged, medical records disclosed, mail opened, homes searched and tax files invaded even though there isn't a hint of lawbreaking.

One wonders why the government of Canada enacted an Order-in-Council requiring, among other things, that the federal Solicitor-General plan and prepare to "establish, administer and operate civilian internment camps."

Who are these camps for?

Since this happened during the *Trudeau reign of arrogance* was it meant to be a place of internment for enemies of a "proposed communist state" as some had advocated?

I do not believe so. Trudeau is too smart to be a communist and, besides, he has too much money and loves his freedom. He was an NDP dreamer whose goal was to infiltrate the Liberal party and transform Canada into a socialist Utopia, similar to the Swedish model.

The socialistic dream of Sweden and other European countries has, however, turned into reoccurring nightmares.

The Canadian people are not as naive as Suzuki thinks and millions of people are thanking God for John Turner and the true political platform and rebirth of the Liberal party.

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But why do we need the civilian concentration camps?

Some have suggested they are being prepared for "evangelical Christians" in the event of a one-world-government taking over, conveniently disposing of the "hated Christians" in the same way as Nero did in the first century A.D.

Ontario MPP David Smith was forced to resign from a committee post because he agreed with a statement made by Jim Keegstra about the Trilateral Committee and Committee on Foreign Relations, even though he totally disagreed with his racist position on the Jewish conspiracy.

The new anti-hate laws that convicted extremists Keegstra and Ernst Zundel, in my opinion, are anti-productive and dangerous. But any law that strangles freedom of speech and expression is anti-democratic.

The Jewish community is divided as to the beneficiality or harmfulness of the lengthy coverage and exposure given the recent hate-trials.

Let us not forget that Adolph Hitler enacted powerful laws of censorship in Germany, which paved the way for absolute power and eventual censorship of the Jewish race.

I believe a free press and freedoms of speech, religion and assembly are the greatest guarantees for all minorities.

And like Suzuki states, we must monitor the Canadian government before it monitors us all.



# he greatness of the American people

ver forget the day Martin Luther King was killed, a of the gospel gunned down in cold blood by a com- nal with hate in his heart and money on his mind.

f people hated Martin Luther King because he eclared his rights and stood against the ent.

ok help from wherever, because he was true to — to free Black Americans from the tyranny ist South, the ghetto of the North and the poverty ses, to give all Americans the same rights regard- color.

Luther King delivered his now famous speech "I ream" from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on 63.

entally, as a young preacher, I had that very month the ministry, and o every word he t day.

"I have a dream, that one day on the red hills of Georgia, sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood."

He was a very effective speaker, using repetitive phrases, with the ability to move one to action, unlike so many of the stereotype monotone and dry preachers with whom I was acquainted.

As his voice rose and fell with mesmerizing effect on his audience of hundreds of thousands, he continued, "I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice."

## God bless America

Last Monday night, as I viewed the tribute to the fallen preacher, I couldn't help but thank God for the U.S.A. and the swift transition Americans made in correcting injustices which were hundreds of years old.

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The very fact of the Martin Luther King national holiday being commemorated just 18 years after his death speaks volumes to me as to not just the greatness of the man and the cause he championed, but of the country that received him so graciously.

Long live America!

What about South Africa with their damnable laws of

Truly, President Reagan put his finger on the real truth behind the whole event while speaking at the Martin Luther King Elementary School. "He was a great man who wrested justice from the heart of a great country and he succeeded because that great country had a heart to be seized."

It is true that it wasn't all smooth sailing and it's impossible to legislate love and ban hate, but most Americans are God-fearing Bible believers, so they adapted quickly to the new laws.

It's nothing short of a miracle the way the U.S.A. functions as an example to the world of the ability of so many different people with varied languages, cultures and social stratas to lie together peaceably and amicably in one melting pot.

Their belief in God, democracy, the free enterprize system and in one another makes the U.S.A. great.

apartheid and ongoing bloodshed?

They are a Christian nation — why do they continue with such abominable practices?

## Give South Africa time

My advice to Western leaders is, "Give South Africa a little time to set their house in order! Don't push them too far and too fast or everything could turn into a total holocaust for all races and produce another Iran."

You cannot equate the Southern U.S.A. with South Africa. Martin Luther King and his followers were not looting, burning and killing whites or other blacks.

There is only a slight similarity between Bishop Desmond Tutu and Martin Luther King. The latter was a man of love and wisdom, while the Bishop is an emotional radical who won't rule out violence and bloodshed.

ED. SUN JAN 26 1986



# 'The wages of sin is death'

"The wages of sin is death!"

It is becoming increasingly more dangerous to play fast and loose, not just in terms of psychological scars, social stigma and alienation from God, but in terms of beatings, torturous disfigurement, damning AIDS and cold-blooded murder.

Homosexuals, prostitutes and loose-living promiscuous high-rollers are in a high-risk category to get hurt badly.

Life in the fast lane of perversion, drugs, loose sex and gambling is paying dividends in trauma, suicide and death.

About a dozen hookers have been murdered in the Toronto downtown area in the past year. Among the deaths being investigated is the killing of Susan Anne Siegel, 20, of Calgary, found strangled near the stockyards a year ago.

## Sexual diseases a danger

Hooking is dangerous business involving vicious pimps, weird sicko clients and AIDS-infected bisexuals.

A 14-year-old Vancouver prostitute was recently diagnosed as having AIDS, the first hooker in Canada to contract the deadly disease.

The constant threat of picking up syphilis, gonorrhea or genital herpes is always present.

Doctors now know of at least 25 diseases that are spread by sexual contact, whose effects can include sterility, cancer, chronic pain, problem pregnancies, abnormal children and even death.

Women, especially, bear the brunt of many of these diseases and even pass them on to their children since some go undetected for years.

Male prostitutes who service homosexuals are very vulnerable and invite a horrendous death from AIDS.

Alcohol addiction is just as bad. It's the civilized way to live, but an awful way to die . . . sclerosis of the liver, heart disease, bleeding ulcers, high blood pressure, DTs and blackouts.

My advice to social drinkers is, "Stop now — because if you keep on hitting the bottle, you surely will be sorry!"

Some time ago, I was confronted by a nice looking but very drunk lady on the streets of a little town in Norway.

## Help is there

I was walking to my hotel room from the downtown church when she came waltzing out of a bar into my path. Immediately I said, "I am a pastor. Can I help you?"

When she saw my clerical collar, she said, "You're one of those! I am not looking for a prayer meeting, I'm looking for a party!"

She then broke into tears, telling me she had been a stewardess, had married a fine, well-to-do man and retired. She was living in a beautiful home but alcohol had gotten a hold on her. She was very unhappy and wanted help.

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Just then, she changed her mind and darted across the street to a waiting taxi.

Alcohol had a powerful grip on her life.

There is hope, however. The same verse in the Bible that states, "The wages of sin is death" says, "But, the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

He gives us the power to change when we read the Bible and pray in faith.



# Blood transfusions and Angel Planes

Another Jehovah's Witness has died because of refusing a blood transfusion. Fifteen-year-old Danny Kennett, a hemophiliac, died in Winnipeg's Health Sciences Centre recently when he and his parents rejected a potentially life-saving blood transfusion.

Death came hours after a hastily called court hearing at the hospital to decide on an application by the boy's parents to restrain an apprehending order by Child & Family Services of Central Winnipeg.

## A tragic situation

While both sides were pleading their cases, he passed beyond help. Bruce Harder, hospital administrator, described it as a tragic situation.

Blood transfusions are against the Jehovah's Witness faith and yet blood can be a gift of life.

In the opinion of most Christian theologians and scholars, the JW position on blood is taken totally out of context.

The admonition of early church leaders "to abstain from blood" (Acts 15:20) was a directive St. Paul carried to the newly-converted gentiles "not to eat or drink blood" as was their custom.

Jews always took great precautions to drain all the blood from the animals they butchered so they would not disobey this law (Gen. 9:4).

The mistake the Jehovah's Witnesses make is believing the blood is the life; whereas we know that the blood carries life and nourishment to the various parts of the body and in that respect, the life is in the blood, but blood is not life.

The Bible says, "The body without the spirit is dead," therefore, the real life is in the spirit or inner man.

How sad to see a young life snuffed out, simply because of Bible teachers who have misinterpreted the Holy Scriptures.

While JW leaders and lawyers argue against saving lives of their members

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through blood transfusions, another group of people who have been dubbed "Angel Planes" have volunteered to fly blood, organs or ailing people to hospitals all over the United States in order to save lives.

The American Medical Support Flight Team is a public service no one can buy, yet 500 pilots from coast to coast are standing by to be of service in an emergency.

The pilots donate their services and the cost of the gas for the planes is paid for through donations.

With 30 chapters in 19 states, the Angel Planes are flown by dedicated pilots who are certified, experienced and able to land on the smallest and most remote landing strips when necessary.

## A healthy way of living

What began as an emergency delivery of blood to hospitals by a handful of private pilots has expanded into a service now used by blood banks, tissue banks for pathological and evidential sample transfer, biology and serum transport, transfers of vitally-needed medicines, antivenin and hospital equipment.

Christianity is not a strange, weird, anti-social lifestyle, but a sane, common sensical and healthy way of living.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral)



# A war-torn country gets a spiritual lift

EL SALVADOR — This is a war-torn, guerrilla-infested and overtly-riden land, with an uncertain future.

But the people are tough and used to suffering, so there is hope. And they have faith in God.

We have just concluded a gospel crusade at the stadium in San Salvador. Although the people are friendly, they are poor and very frightened. Gasoline prices went up 50 per cent two weeks ago and now it costs \$1.30 a litre. At the same time, bus fares increased.

Buses do not offer regular service after 7 p.m. and do not travel after dark. There are too many terrorist attacks.

And terrorists here kill for real, not like the Rambo movies. I have met many who have been abused, robbed and tortured. The father of my Jewish interpreter was gunned down in the old blood, and his mother was injured. Their goods were stolen and their house burned.

A leading pastor here was stopped at gunpoint by guerrillas and his 14-year-old daughter kidnapped. He refused to pay the ransom, saying he was trusting God. Later, she was released unhurt.

We visited the outdoor restaurant Chilli's, where four American Marines and nine local civilians were murdered by terrorists disguised as soldiers.

The Marines made the fatal mistake of visiting the same place nightly. Chilli's is only five minutes from the Presidential Hotel.

Last Saturday night, there were serious bombings close to the city, and on Sunday, three helicopters flew over the stadium, heading north. A few minutes later, we heard the unmistakable sound of big shells exploding.

A few days ago, a U.S. Merchant Marine died of a bullet wound in the chest. Peter Hascall had lived in San Salvador for five years and was acting as an adviser to the Salvadoran army.

Everyone suspects the guerrillas, who have clearly decided to increase their pressure on the army and the government of President Jose Napoleon Duarte.

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The army is strong and the guerrillas will not over-run the country ... soon. However, since Duarte caved in to rebel demands for the release of his kidnapped daughter, many who have lost children in the long strife feel betrayed, and, of

course, the 25 freed rebels are back on the job killing, bombing and terrorizing.

## Weep, pray and praise God

During the past seven days, we have seen tens of thousands from all faiths weep, pray and praise God at the stadium ... and although prevailing conditions have kept people at home, about 5,000 new decisions have been made for Christ and multitudes have heard the messages over national radio, direct from the stadium every night.

And many war-weary souls have received a new lease on life.

(Max Solbrekken, pastor of Faith Cathedral, has just returned from a crusade in El Salvador.)

## Services started early

We had to start services at 5 p.m. even though people work until 6 p.m. It takes a lot of courage to be on the streets at night.

Last week, we drove 35 kms to Colima and saw soldiers everywhere. There had been a battle there the night before, and large bullet holes, from rebel guns, pock-marked the cement bunkers.

Former U.S. president Jimmy Carter visited El Salvador last week, triggering protests and demonstrations. Some of the signs read: "We hate Carter," "Carter swallow your teeth," "Carter is a murderer."

Carter's human rights campaign was said by some to be naive and caused more harm than good in this part of the world. Many charge he gave away the Panama Canal and turned Nicaragua over to the Sandinistas, while cutting off foreign aid to friendly countries like El Salvador and Guatemala.

The former president received a hero's welcome last week in Nicaragua. Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega hailed him as a champion of social democracy.

EL SALVADOR



# The Pope takes a stand

Pope John Paul II, globe-trotting Bishop of Rome, seems to be losing his brilliance as a leading light in the ecclesiastical firmament of religious ecumenism.

The fly in the ecumenical ointment is the Pope's disciplining of Dutch theologian Dr. Hans Kung.

The World Council of Churches is concerned over the papal denunciation of Kung, whose liberal views of biblical truths are more in keeping with those of modernistic Protestants than the rigid orthodoxy of the Pope.

The WWC stated recently: "The action taken against professor Kung cannot be regarded as an internal affair of the Roman Catholic church, but has immediate ecumenical repercussions."

The *Anglican Church Times* declared the papal defrocking of Kung as a teacher of Roman Catholic doctrine aroused "widespread anxiety."

In my opinion, the WCC and Anglicans are troubled by this papal action because Kung is quite similar to liberal Protestant theologians who openly cast doubts upon fundamental Christian doctrines, and yet are permitted to hold positions of influence and authority within a Protestant church.

Anglicans fear if they amalgamate with the Roman Catholic church, they will receive the same treatment as Kung.

The *British Citizen* insists the WCC, Anglican churches and all other religious bodies feeling such concern have only themselves to blame.

It has repeatedly warned these Protestants to heed the admonitions of evangelical leaders who say Rome may change her approach, vernacular and window dressings, but she will never change her basic doctrines.

## Wishful thinking

The rallying cry of Protestant and Roman Catholic ecumenists is: "Let us join together to present a united front in order to combat materialism, communism and other enemies of Christianity."

This is only wishful thinking.

What were the reasons for Kung's disciplining? Was the Pope right in defrocking him, and was he too heavy-handed in his attacks on the Dutch theologian?

I don't always agree with Roman Catholic doctrine, but on the Kung issue, I must say if John Paul II had not disciplined him, he would have been totally out of order.

But, you might say, John Paul II has forgiven Martin Luther for the schism he caused 500 years ago. Why not be lenient to Kung?

John Paul is no fool! He knows, as do all honest Catholics, that Martin Luther was correct in his Bible doctrines — all he

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wanted was to cleanse a corrupt and backslidden church, while Hans Kung is preaching rank doctrinal error.

Kung's so-called progressive outlook includes his rejection of the miraculous elements in the Gospel as well as the virgin birth, deity and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## Not much of a loss

In my opinion, the Roman Catholic church didn't lose much when it dropped Kung, and the liberal Protestants can have him.



## HUMAN SPIRIT CAN ALWAYS BOUNCE BACK

# Life needs dreams

*"We grow by dreams; all big men are dreamers. They see things in the soft haze of a spring day, or in the red fire on a long winter's evening. Some of us let those dreams die, but others nourish and protect them; nourish them through bad days 'til they bring them to the sunshine and light which comes along to those who sincerely hope that their dreams will come true!"*

— Woodrow Wilson

All of us have dreams; some turn into nightmares and others into fulfilled desires, with great happiness and reward.

But some let the great dreams die . . . and that is a shame! It takes faith, courage and patience to see the fulfillment of one's aspirations, goals and dreams.

President Wilson was right — they don't happen without care and nourishment.

### Product of imagination

Many years ago, I attended an Oral Roberts gospel crusade. More than 12,000 people overflowed the great tent cathedral.

He made a remark that has remained with me. "This tent is a product of my imagination" stated the evangelist. "Many nights I laid awake imagining I had the world's largest gospel tent. I dreamed and I believed."

Not bad for a stuttering Cherokee Indian from Oklahoma, who at 17 was dying of TB.

After God healed him in a tent crusade, he entered the ministry. Today, Roberts is president of a university that bears his name, a medical college and an ultra-modern hospital.

Dexter Yager is more than a man. He is a system of motivation and self-help to hundreds of thousands of people around the world.

Recently, he published a new book, *Don't Let Anyone Steal Your Dream*.

He tells of being a \$95-a-week representative for a U.S. beer company. But he started meeting people who believed in God, the free enterprise system and themselves.

And he began to dream.

Today, just 20 years later, he has built a sales force of 300,000 people.

Martin Luther King was a dreamer.

He dreamed that one day, the oppressed black people in the Southern U.S.A. would be able to live like other Americans.

He charted a course of non-violent civil disobedience and with faith in the American democratic system, kept marching and dreaming.

Although he was cut down by an assassin's bullet, today blacks by the thousands are striving for excellence and reaching for the top in the the U.S.A.

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Sen. Robert Kennedy stated, "Some people ask 'why?' I muse 'why not?'"

Nearly two decades after his death, Robert's son, Joseph Kennedy III, has entered the political arena, in his footsteps and is about to challenge for a seat in the U.S. congress.

Two tragic deaths in the Kennedy family is not enough to keep them down. A new crop of achievers is rising from the ashes again.

G. Gordon Liddy, the only Watergate conspirator who did not turn state's witness in order to get a reduced term, is out of prison and in great demand on the university lecture circuit.

Liddy's new book *Will* is straight-forward. He says, "Most Americans have a deep and abiding faith in the Easter Bunny."

Liddy quotes an old Sicilian proverb, "If you cannot lose, you cannot win."

There is something about the resilience of the human spirit that helps us bounce back from the brink, and with renewed faith, begin once again.

Donald Nicholson, former head of a Minneapolis home entertainment conglomerate, bounced back from the brink of bankruptcy two years ago and today is worth \$2 billion.

### 'You've got to have heart'

And Nicholson has now waded into the troubled waters of Phillip Kives and K-Tel to resurrect this bankrupt company.

Kives, whose company made some bad business investments, among them a 150-acre parcel of vacant land in North Edmonton states, "You've got to have heart. You've got to have guts. If you don't, you'll never survive in this world."

I say amen to that!

Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral



*Sunday, April*  
*6, 1986*

MAX

SOLBREKKEN



## The lessons of The Philippines

It is difficult to grasp the immensity of the corruption, greed and full-blown arrogance of Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos. Their unashamed rape of the finances of the Philippines is shocking.

For years they systematically looted the treasury and spent money on themselves and their friends like drunken sailors.

Who were they seeking to impress? What were they trying to prove? And what joy did they derive from the billions of dollars of property and wealth they routinely deposited, invested or spent in various capitals of the world?

### **Conscience becomes seared**

I don't think anyone anticipated the magnitude of their total disregard for integrity, fairness and morality.

The Bible speaks of becoming so hardened against righteousness that the conscience becomes seared, as with a hot iron, feeling no remorse and possibly believing it was their right to take what they wanted, when they so desired.

Jesus said, "Beware of covetousness, for a man's life consisteth not in the things which he possesses."

Very definitely, power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely! And Marcos and his wife were post-graduates in that field.

During the election, I felt sorry for Marcos, who was repeatedly accused of murder by Corozon Aquino. My feeling was, "That isn't fair! Everyone is innocent until proven guilty! No wonder the masses turned against Marcos after repeatedly hearing that he had killed her husband."

And then the powerful Roman Catholic Cardinal Jaime Sin became her de facto campaign manager and adviser.

The cards were stacked against Marcos by the U.S. and the media while the near-hysterical Aquino took to the streets and Sin preached civil disobedience.

### **Election by uprising**

Personally, I didn't like the way the emotional mob forced its will upon the government. It was election by uprising and manipulation, similar to the tactics used by Ayatollah Khomeini.

But since the sordid truth about Marcos' corrupt behavior has been confirmed, I feel better about it.

However, now Aquino has disbanded the National Assembly and granted herself absolute power, for at least a year.

And that is very dangerous, since she and her friends may bring in a radical new constitution.

Being a novice, Aquino is vulnerable and Vice President Laurel cannot be totally trusted.

Granting amnesty to communist leaders against the wishes of military leaders may also prove troublesome in the future.

We must pray for wisdom for the new president and stability in the Philippines.

There are two things Aquino must remember: Twenty years ago, Marcos was the savior of the Philippines, rising to power while promising to run a clean house, but he got off track and became a despot. Also, what is gained by emotional rallies and mob pressure can be easily lost the same way.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral)



# The future of the dollar and OPEC

In the midst of all the gloom and doom of Alberta's oil patch and Canada's falling dollar, there are at least a couple of bright spots.

We'll soon get a new 11-sided dollar coin made of nickel and coated with brass.

A little larger than a quarter, it will be a real novelty, more convenient and less costly in the long run than the paper bill.

Charles Templeton and I disagree on a lot of things, but on the fall of the dollar, we see eye to eye.

Sometime ago, while I was interviewing Toronto-based Templeton on CKER's *Nightwatch*, he stated the world was heading into a depression that would make the crash of 1929 seem insignificant in comparison.

And, he added, we should let the dollar slide.

## Won't have to shore it up

My reasoning is this: If the dollar falls to 60 cents or even half-a-U.S.-dollar, we will be able to stop spending billions to shore it up.

Naturally, some areas of our economy would suffer because of the tremendously-increased cost of importing U.S. and Japanese products.

But since "necessity is the mother of invention" we would build our own factories and produce our own products, using our own raw materials. And put a million unemployed Canadians to work, instead of the continuing foolhardy policy of Canadian governments trying to keep up with the Americans.

Far better to live more realistically and lower our expectations than to continue spending billions of dollars to prop up our currency and keep importing foreign-made products.

Foreign investors would pour their money into Canada with a 60-cent dollar and a solid Conservative government, to say nothing of the potential boom in tourism.

## Self-sufficient and hard-working

Oh, I know it would affect our appetite for jet-setting international vacations, Japanese- and German-made automobiles and other foreign toys.

But it would make us a self-sufficient, hard-working people with some national pride, for the first time in 119 years.

What about the oil glut and the plunging oil prices? What will be the effect of long-term low-price oil?

In the short term, it will be devastating to Alberta's economy and other oil-exporting nations. But in the long run, I believe it will bring a global recovery!

It will bring down interest rates and spur an economic boom in the U.S.A.

And since we are so closely tied to our southern neighbor, it will spill over on us.

It will also greatly help Western Europe, as well as Japan and Israel, and bring the Arab nations into line.

OPEC had gotten far too big for its britches and needed to learn a lesson, since its 1973 arrogant policy of oil embargo and price fixing.

Nations like Mexico, Brazil, Norway and Britain will also feel the pain, but these nations have suffered before and made it by their own determination.

I personally wish to applaud our premier for his compassionate and timely intervention in this province's most serious farm crisis.

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There is no doubt he is doing exactly what needs to be done to save the family farm.

If Premier Don Getty feels a little squeemish about

dipping his hand into the Heritage Trust Fund, he should read the Old Testament and see how wisely Joseph stored grain for seven years, thus saving millions of lives during the famine which followed.

The Trust Fund was wisely instituted by Peter Lougheed. Now, Getty must follow the precedent set by Joseph in order to tide Alberta through the rough times, until the price of oil rises again and stabilizes.

If he follows this Bible pattern, we'll all be laughing.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral)



# Situation on farms demands action

Western Canadian farmers are facing a catastrophe, says a report by the Canada West Foundation. Thirty thousand farmers — nearly one in four — are in serious financial trouble.

Many farmers were caught in the squeeze when they borrowed. Low interest rates, easy access to large loans and rising land prices made farmers feel secure. But when high interest rates took effect and land prices dropped, farmers were strapped as incomes fell and costs soared.

Family breakdown, divorce, suicide and even murder is occurring more frequently as frustration and futility have replaced the usual peace and security of the farm home.

## **Cost is enormous**

In 1984, 555 Canadian farmers declared bankruptcy, a record since the Great Depression.

It would cost about \$2.4 billion to save all the Canadians burdened with debt too large for them, stated George Brinkman, farm economist at the University of Guelph.

While speaking to the 1986 Ontario Agricultural College's Conference, Brinkman said federal and provincial governments had pumped about \$2 billion into the farming industry in 1985.

Farm debt totals \$21 billion in Canada now, and many farmers are not making enough profit to pay the interest on their loans, so are borrowing more money to make their payments.

Not only Prairie farmers are suffering, but B.C.'s fruit and vegetable producers have been hit as well. For decades the Okanagan Valley boasted dozens of canneries, but the last one closed its doors a few months ago in Summerland. Importers claim they can buy canned fruit for 10 per cent less than they can process it.

With the closure of these canneries goes hundreds of jobs that people have counted on for years. By importing foreign-made products, we lose in the long run.

It is a shame our politicians and businessmen can't devise a plan to get Canada back to work.

What happens when farmers get sick?

In 1982, Jacob Obrigewitsch took early retirement because of health reasons after operating a grain elevator for 24 years.

He had inhaled so much fine grain powder for so many years that two-thirds of his lung cells were dead. This disease popularly known as 'farmers lung' is only one of a plethora of health dangers unique to food producers, stated Dr. James Dosman of the University of Saskatchewan.

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Most Canadians have taken the 'bread and butter' people of our nation for granted. Our farmers are indispensable.

Last fall, Ray Speaker of the Representative party warned that unless Premier Don Getty did something soon to rescue northern Alberta farmers, he would face a political revolt.

The need for assistance has apparently stirred the premier, and he is showing compassion toward the 'food producers' of Alberta.

His statement that even though oil prices are plummeting,

the government will not initiate a tax increase this year, and if necessary dip into the Heritage Trust Fund, is significant.

## **Concerned more with power**

In my opinion, Premier Peter Lougheed was more interested in the Heritage Fund as a lever for power than in the average Albertan's welfare.

Getty is far less political, more humanitarian and a true representative of the people.

If the Canadian farmer doesn't get help soon, the family farm will be a thing of the past, and the huge corporations will be in the tractor seat.

Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral



# God key to transplant hopes

Medical miracles are happening so rapidly these days it is becoming difficult to keep up.

Jack Burcham, 62, made history when he became the fifth person in the world to receive a mechanical heart.

He had to undergo a second operation soon after to stop internal bleeding, but is reportedly out of bed most of the day and spending some time watching television.

Leif Stenberg became the first European to receive an artificial heart when he underwent an operation in Stockholm just a few weeks ago.

## **First in Europe**

The 52-year-old Swedish businessman, the fourth in the world to receive a mechanical heart, was reported to be in excellent condition.

The world watched, waited and prayed for Baby Fae after her dramatic baboon heart transplant in California.

The debate raged hot and heavy, however, over the moral, psychological and medical implications of the operation.

Animal lovers objected because a baboon had been sacrificed to save a baby's life.

Some medical authorities were concerned about whether the hospital had made enough of an attempt to secure a human heart.

And some of the media were asking if the baboon transplant was a ploy to gain publicity and make medical history.

## **Concerned about effects**

Many people were concerned about the psychological effects, especially upon little Baby Fae if she should later have to deal with knowing she had an animal's heart beating in her chest.

Another question that kept popping up was how far will medical science eventually go in the field of heart transplants?

I thank God for the saving of lives and I rejoice with family members and congratulate medical science for their progress.

However, I am a bit apprehensive over a free-wheeling attitude among scientists that might eventually

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turn into a nightmare of confusion and disappointments.

In the final analysis, God is the giver of life, and we all have an appointment with death, sooner or later.

Which makes me wonder if the great amounts of

money spent, the pain and agony suffered and the long hours of waiting and hoping are really worth it.

Perhaps yes, perhaps no.

One thing is certain, the spiritual condition of our hearts is more important.

I guess the best way to get the answer to these questions about transplants is to ask the man whose heart is rapidly deteriorating.

But after medical science has done all it can do and there is still no hope, let us all remember, "With God all things are possible!"

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral)



# Men may become protected species

Women are outnumbering men in total births, but men still hold the political power, says a report issued by the United Nations!

By the year 2000, there will be more than three billion women on earth. They will outnumber men by 175 million.

However, the demands of childbirth and child-rearing will deny education and training to hundreds of millions of women, keeping them out of the halls of power.

"Women constitute the majority of poor and 60 per cent of illiterates in the world," says Rafael Salas, executive director of the U.N. fund for population activity.

## Women becoming literate

More women will become literate, he indicates, but the population growth will keep the proportions the same.

Again Bible prophecy comes to the forefront with a canny accuracy. Twenty seven hundred years ago the prophet Isaiah speaking of future events stated, "seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach." (Isaiah 4:1)

There have been times in the history of Israel and other nations when so many men have died in wars, that very few remained!

Wars will continue until the end of time and with it death; especially to the men!

Heart disease is also killing off men in large numbers and, coupled with lung cancer from cigarette smoking, many of the world's choice males are dying.

Sylvia Ann Hewlett, 40, holds a Ph.D in economics and has written four books. Her latest, *A Lesser Life: The Myth of Womens' Liberation in America*, says that women's liberation is a myth and the Women's Movement has ignored working mothers' problems!

Hewlett, who was part of the liberation struggle in the 70's, feels a whole agenda was missed, that of motherhood and family life.

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"I think it's true that for some of the early leaders, for instance Betty Friedan and Gloria Steinem, family was part of the problem, not part of the solution" writes Hewlett.

The former womens' libber states, "I think we were trying to clone the male competitive model, with our business suits and our briefcases. We were trying to be men. It was easy to forget that 90 per cent of women do choose to become mothers and that family life is still the most passionate attachment."

The Womens' Lib is also helping to fulfill a portion of this ancient prophecy. "We'll look after ourselves — pay

our own bills. Just service us so we can have a baby. We don't really need the men."

There is another powerful enemy stalking the male population of the world!

I believe the AIDS epidemic will kill more men before year 2000 than both the world wars combined!

In spite of so-called "safe sex," the numbers of homosexual men contracting the AIDS virus is dangerously high

## No stopping Gay Plague

There is no stopping the Gay Plague, at least for the present!

Scientists working feverishly to find a cure for this devastating disease see no hope of arresting it before the year 2000.

In the meantime, the exponential curve of mathematics will effectively reduce the male population by an unbelievable and staggering figure!

Women may eventually take over the world by sheer numbers and the male become a protected species!



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## Alberta Report 'losing the faith'

It has been said that "most people will do anything for money." There is no doubt that when a person is hungry he may steal.

And when businesses, corporations or individuals cannot pay their bills, they sometimes resort to questionable practices.

Even churches are vulnerable.

The selling of indulgences in the Roman Catholic church during the 1500s so infuriated Martin Luther that he distanced himself from and condemned the deceptive practice.

Buying indulgences is the practice of paying money or doing penance in exchange for forgiveness of sins and a lesser sentence in the fires of purgatory.

The temptation of compromise is ever present when the clergyman is confronted by his congregation to "water down" the message in order to build a larger congregation or appeal to a broader segment of society.

I have been faced with this temptation on a number of occasions.

### We all face temptation

Years ago a well-heeled businessman came to see me. He owned six businesses and was very prosperous. He liked my preaching style and results.

He did not however like my doctrinal position — I still believe in the virgin birth of Christ, the death and resurrection of Jesus as well as a literal Heaven and Hell.

The man gave me a book entitled *Edgar Cayce, The Sleeping Great* with the remark: "If you'll read this book and just change your preaching a bit, I'll put you on Main Street."

It didn't take me long to show him the door.

Some months ago when we were facing bankruptcy we received a lot of encouragement from various clergymen, the media and the rank and file population.

I thank God!

The very thing I feared — media exposure of our financial problems — became a great blessing.

And we have got our house in order, cut our staff, sold some property, done double duty and prayed harder.

Several advised us to open a bingo hall. "Other churches do it; why can't you? There is a pile of money to be made in bingo."

I replied by telling of smoke-filled bingo halls and the "bingo addicts."

### Byfield's balanced and moral

Gambling is not for me! I cannot see a Bible Church accommodating covetousness, to say nothing of elderly people who spend their food money on bingo.

No, I'd sooner go bankrupt than compromise Bible standards.

Now you'll understand my surprise and disappointment when I picked up the *Alberta Report* and saw Ted Byfield's picture on the inside of a cover peddling the Devil's Booze. The former Anglican Church paper (*St. John's Report*) is becoming a vehicle for the promotion of ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.

Some years ago the *Alberta Report* was in serious financial difficulties but Ted Byfield rode out the storm and this fine magazine increased its scope and popularity.

In my opinion, it is difficult to find a more balanced, moral and streetwise writer than Ted Byfield.

But I must hasten to ask, whatever has happened to his magazine?

As a clergyman, I think it would be in order for the board of directors of *Alberta Report* to pray with the rest of us: Lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil.



# Family unit society's glue

Will the family unit survive the trials and tribulations of the next few years? Sociologists, psychologists and clergy are divided on the issue.

With fathers unemployed, mothers working and children left to do their own thing — often getting involved with drugs — it is no wonder the family unit has been crumbling.

I certainly agree with the National Council of Women in Canada that human beings need a close relationship with others.

That the family unit is the foundation of the national structure is no secret. Weaken the family and you weaken the community, the school, the church and the government.

## Family a training ground

"The family is both a training ground and a metaphor for the kind of society we want," says American psychologist Elsie Boulding.

And the Government of Quebec's *Green Paper on Family Policy* makes a powerful statement: "We must strive toward a major objective: that of according as much importance to the role of persons as parents, as we would do to them as workers."

Technological change has made a permanent impact on family structure, particularly in this century as jobs in cities enticed great numbers to leave rural areas.

The large farm home with mom, dad, children, grandparents and hired help became a thing of the past. Children moved out on their own, got married and purchased a home and the nuclear family became the order of the day.

Around the early '60s, with the advent of "the pill" and relaxed laws on divorce, came more changes for the family. In their book *The Family: Changing Trends In Canada*, Anne-Marie Ambert and Maureen Baker write: "Until 1968 divorce was something that did not happen in one's family — it was something embarrassing that afflicted Americans, not Canadians."

Americans are still ahead, but we are fast catching up, sad to say.

And with all the divorces, we are seeing fractured, broken and sometimes irreparable economic, psychological and sociological damage to many members of families.

More than 11 per cent of Canadian families are single-parent units, the vast majority headed by divorced or separated women.

According to Statistics Canada, however, marriage is still in vogue: A higher percentage of the population is now married than at the turn of the century. And most who do divorce, remarry.

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In a recent survey, Reginald Bibby and Donald Posterski discovered that 85 per cent of young people plan to marry and have children.

The researchers state: "Most teenagers still believe their desire to be loved can best be fulfilled in marital relationships." And that is good news for Canada.

At the height of the post-war baby boom, women were bearing an average of four children each. By 1983, the fertility rate had dropped to an all time low of 1.7 per woman.

Our government should be concerned, as are the governments of France, Sweden and other European nations, at the dangerously low birth rates of our nations.

In some countries, women are being encouraged through grants and subsidies to bear children.

Several things have affected the Canadian birth rate: working women seeking careers, sometimes unable to bear children when they do want them; sterility due to venereal disease; impotency due to psychological pressures; the birth control pill; and the high cost of raising children.

The Vanier Institute for the Family, founded in 1964 to promote the well being of Canadian families, has said: "Family is the principle means through which we care for one another; the primary unit of learning, education and socialization; a source of emotional sustenance and support; and a significant unit of both economic production and consumption."

## Society weakening

And Robert Glossop of the institute states: "There is still something about the idea of family that is constant, even in the midst of profound changes within families."

I totally agree with Glossop's statement that families remain "the primary care-givers for children, and the primary providers of emotional support for adult members, and they will continue to be the primary context in which human values are cultivated."

In closing, I wish to pass on another nugget from the institute: "Whatever the time in history, and whatever challenges they face, families remain the foundation of society. If we lost sight of family as our richest resource, then our society is weakened."

THE EDMONTON SUNDAY SUN  
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# We still need standards and values

A generation ago, it was natural for a young man to look for a suitable lady to share his life.

Marriage gives men a sense of responsibility and fulfillment of dreams with even more reason to become successful.

Living common-law with no strings attached or leading a girl on with promises of marriage only to gain her favors is not ethical.

Young fellows who go from one relationship to another do not develop good traits and characteristics; stability is usually missing.

Thirty years ago, things were quite different. A person who lived as a hermit was an oddball and homosexuality was considered abnormal.

There's a wholesomeness about the pattern God laid out in His word to our first parents in Eden.

"Therefore shall a man leave his mother and father and cleave unto his wife" (Gen. 2:24)

It is still natural for a young man to search for a job, get married and contribute something to the community. Not just by his resourcefulness at factory, farm, laboratory or commerce, but also through his children.

## Natural lifestyle

For thousands of years, "the civilized community" respected this natural, wholesome lifestyle; parents encouraged it, schools taught it, medical authorities embraced it and the church sanctioned it.

Then came the permissive society with its promises of liberty and freedom. What was the result?

An influx of teenage pregnancies, a flood of pornographic films and literature, a stream of sexually abused and mentally disturbed youngsters, an increase of chemical dependence, suicide and the homosexual revolution with the accompanying AIDS plague.

Unfortunately, this generation has lost its way with no sense of direction, having cut loose its moral guidelines, leaving no real values of right or wrong.

## Situation ethics

Because we listened to liberal theologians with their "situation ethics," counselors like Benjamin Spock with his erroneous teaching on child rearing and psychologists like Sigmund Freud and his "it's-not-your-fault-blame-your-parents" doctrine.

We have sown to the wind

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and are now reaping the whirl-wind.

Nobody wants to discover their children have been corrupted by criminal drug pushers, weird religious cults that brainwash, or sexual perverts who enslave.

Sex is healthy within the marriage bond; having babies is normal and working diligently to support a family and contribute something worthwhile to the community is natural.

Being generous to the poor, kind to neighbors, loving to family and faithful to God and church is healthy and normal,

regardless of what anyone says.

Getting drunk, shooting up with drugs, beating one's wife and children is unhealthy, abnormal and wrong.

Although I agree with the Norwegian father 100 per cent, I wish to add something: For those parents who are suffering the shame, reproach and pain of seeing children of all victims, there is still hope.

Through compassion, love and a caring and forgiving attitude, they can be brought back to the right path.

And for young people who are desperately seeking to find their way in a confused cold-hearted and lonely world, my advice is, "Turn your life over to God through Jesus Christ."

He stated, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matt. 11:28).

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral.)



# Murder of the innocents

The abortion debate that rages across Canada is centred on a middle-aged doctor who is on a determined crusade to establish abortion clinics in major cities across the country.

Dr. Henry Morgentaler is a professional abortionist, hailed by some women as a modern-day liberator and Messiah.

But many others are up in arms about the tragic waste of life and the tortuous surgical holocaust which is draining our country of its greatest heritage — our children.

To many sensitive people who love their children and grandchildren, Morgentaler appears like another Adolf Hitler or King Herod.

According to Morgentaler, however, Canada's women can not stay away from his surgical knife, suction machine or saline solutions... Jewish, Catholic and Protestant women.

And yet the Jewish prophets, as well as Christian apostles, equated abortion with murder.

## Savior or despot?

What is Morgentaler? The savior of Canadian women or murderer of innocents? The greatest emancipator of thousands of Pope John Paul's slaves or a cruel despot on a power-trip, set on putting his own stamp on Canadian laws and conscience, as well as interfering with the clean-cut teaching of churches and synagogues?

Or is he a shrewd businessman with his foot in the door of a virtual goldmine, complete with nationwide media coverage?

One thing is sure — Henry Morgentaler is no man's fool. He is clever and totally sincere.

I really believe he has been brainwashed by the cries of thousands of self-willed, hardhearted feminists and frightened teenagers.

In my opinion, he is not doing them a favor at all. As a clergyman, I have had to counsel numerous young women who are now suffering anxiety, sleeplessness and terrible guilt because of their actions.

"Did I make a mistake?" they ask. "What would my son or daughter look like today if he or she would have lived?"

Psychological scars remain to haunt women, sometimes for life.

The U.S. Surgeon General recently stated that in the thousands of abortions he had personally checked, not one had been a life-threatening situation.

Dave Russell, former Alberta minister of health, said he was appalled by the number of abortions currently being performed in the province.

He felt there was ample provision for what medical people call "therapeutic abortions."

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We are so concerned about child abuse, kiddie porn and sexploitation, but what about pre-child murder?

Can you abuse a child more than destroying it? In my opinion, preventing a life from its natural progression and birth is the most cruel and abusive force of dictatorship and tyranny towards the innocent.

## Life is very precious

Abortion is most discriminating against the unborn baby who has no one to speak up for it if its mother, father, doctor, state and, in some cases, church, refuse to do so.

In my books, life is still very precious, and when history is written, this generation will go down as one of the cruelist.

Truly, abortion is the crime of the century.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral)



# Pornography law is what Canada needs

Former justice minister John Crosbie sure knows how to upset people.

Homosexuals, movie-makers, video artists and skin magazine publishers are all crying "foul." They are in "shock" over the government's proposed criminal code changes pertaining to pornography.

The amendments to the code define as obscene "any visual matter showing vaginal, anal or oral intercourse, ejaculation, sexually violent behavior, bestiality, incest, necrophilia, masturbation or other sexual activity."

The new code defines in detail the current, vague obscenity provision of "undue exploitation of sex."

Critics say the proposed obscenity provision is so broad, once-acceptable works could suddenly fall into the unacceptable category — with jail terms of up to five years.

Well, tough beans.

Maybe some of the garbage that film-makers have fed our young people for years was unfit for human consumption.

Others say a screen kiss or a perfume ad like Calvin Klein's Obsession, which does not fall under the definition of

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pornography as "undue exploitation of sex," could be suspect under "other sexual activity."

And they have a valid point. The justice minister should have been more definite in the wording of the phrase "other sexual activity."

The proposed new code, however, shows the government has finally come to grips with the devastating effects "porn" is having on our youth.

The silent majority of decent "family-people" has spoken, and the government has decided to act.

Liz Coffman of the Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women says: "Feminists don't mind erotica or sex-

ually-explicit materials, so long as it's not degrading or sexually violent."

"It's totally off-the-wall" states Penny Mitchell, another member of MACSW's subcommittee on pornography.

"It's like someone drew them up when they were delirious one night," she said. Dina Hoyle, executive director of the Canadian Periodical Publishers Association, says Crosbie's broad definition is causing the association concern.

She believes the Toronto-based gay publication *Body Politic*, which has a history of controversy and court cases, could become a victim of a broadened definition, as well as various art and political commentary magazines.

The bare facts are that finally it has gotten through to John Crosbie — the vocal conglomeration of activists, who seek to impose their extreme views on the nation, are only a minute percentage of the population.

In my opinion, sexual intercourse is a very private act and should never be photographed or videoed to make money, or to satisfy the unnatural cravings of a sexual deviant.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral)



## UFOs, spirits and the supernatural

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A number of years ago, CBC-TV carried a series called *The Unexplained*, with Toronto columnist Allan Spraggett. His TV and G-wesapper features dealt mostly with supernatural phenomena relating to the psychic or occultic domain.

I have personally witnessed voodoo priests beating their devotees until possessed by demons. They were then able to walk on burning coals in their bare feet and plunge knives into their stomachs without leaving a wound.

There has been an upsurge in voodoo, witchcraft, devil worship and parapsychology, as well as strange, weird and often fraudulent repetitions of religious images bleeding or weeping, and appearance by the Virgin Mary.

Most, if not all, have been fraudulent, or highly suspect, since the bottom line is always money.

The spectacular draws the crowds and lines the pockets of the promoters, whether they are independent merchandisers or relics of the established church.

The large crowds that gather at Lourdes and Fatima are a mix of the totally dedicated, holidayers and the curious.

Some crawl on their knees until blood oozes from their wounds, hoping to get a healing or blessing from the Virgin who supposedly visited the once-barren countryside. Others are contented by lighting candles to request prayers for departed loved ones or buying a few souvenirs.

### Hunger for the supernatural

I am convinced people have a hunger in their hearts for the supernatural and want to make contact with the unknown because everyone is born with an intense desire to worship.

The Bible states that man is a spiritual being who lives in a house called a body and has a soul. Of all God's creations, only man has the ability to communicate with supernatural beings — both good and evil.

Since Satan is such a liar, he easily deceives people into believing the voices which speak in a trance are those of departed loved ones, when they are in fact either trickery or a diabolical counterfeit.

Col. Bill Riddell spent 16 years researching UFO sightings for the Canadian Air Force, as well as independent American Study Groups. After intensive research, the Canadian Air Force was convinced there was no physical threat or danger from attacks by UFOs and the project was terminated.

The sightings and encounters are real, states Riddell — however, UFOs do not originate in outer space nor do they return there. The Colonel is convinced UFOs are demon spirits that suddenly appear out of nowhere on radar screens and then disappear the same way.

Working through well-meaning clairvoyants and psychic mediums, Riddell set up appointments to rendezvous with UFO spokesmen, but found them to be totally dishonest and liars.

Not once did they keep their word, states Riddell. That clairvoyants made contact is not in doubt, since scientific information fed them from UFO contacts was accurate even though the mediums were totally ignorant of the meaning of many technological and scientific terms used in conversations with Riddell.

Then, suddenly, there would be a total reversal, with misleading information as the demons played their UFO game with the researchers.

### Total liars

"Highly intelligent and total liars" are the words used by Riddell to describe UFO contacts, though he believed the clairvoyants were honest, but duped.

Truthful but almost unbelievable are the words that best describe the following incident I have researched.

Charlotte Lindgren is an American missionary operating in Guatemala.

One night, about four years ago, while she was driving home in a blinding rain storm, her car was swept over a steep 10-metre bank, coming to a stop on its wheels between two trees.

A passing car discovered the car and Charlotte unhurt but was unable to pull her up the steep drop.

As they left for help, Charlotte got into her car and began praying. When she opened her eyes, the car was sitting on the highway with the motor running.

The angel of God had lifted the automobile on to the roadway.

The Bible tells of Philip the Evangelist being transmitted bodily from Gaza to Antioch by the Holy Spirit, so this unusual event should not surprise Christians today.

St. Paul also declared, "Be not careful to entertain strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unaware." (Heb. 13:2)

The important thing is to check out any supernatural happening with the scriptures. If it doesn't line up with the Bible, throw it out.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral)



Sunday, July 20, 1986

## Give South Africa time to change

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The spotlight of the world's human conscience has recently focused on South Africa and its political dilemma.

The white minority government of P. W. Botha is being lectured, chastised and condemned for apartheid.

Everyone wants change, and they want it now. But a system that has been in place for decades cannot be dismantled overnight, and that's where I see the need for patience and tolerance!

Botha has gone on record that apartheid is an out-dated concept and that he wants justice, peace and reconciliation for all people!

The world-at-large and the restless young blacks, however, are through waiting. And you can't blame them.

The real danger, as I see it, is a revolt from within, toppling the present regime and replacing it with a far less flexible government!

During the past four years, Botha has revised South Africa's constitution to create a Parliament for Indians and coloreds and tried to build up local governments. He has also dismantled a major pillar of apartheid — the 73-year-old pass law restrictions, controlling movement of blacks.

A recent editorial in *The Economist* stated, "Don't Bash Botha if you sincerely want South Africa to change."

### Sanctions demanded

Church leaders, politicians and human rights activists are demanding that Great Britain and the U.S.A. impose economic sanctions on the racist regime. But would they work effectively enough to offset the negative impact?

England does 20 per cent of its trading with South Africa and stands to lose billions of dollars. Sanctions would also put tens of thousands of blacks out of work.

I am against such an imposition because I believe it would harm black people more than anyone else, and it will only serve to strengthen Pretoria's resolve to go it alone.

White South Africa would never relinquish power through an armed conflict or economic sanctions... they would fight to the last man!

Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's call for establishment of an African Defence Force to topple South Africa is a joke. They are armed to the teeth and can handle anything that marches.

The only one to benefit from economic sanctions would be the Soviets, who are sitting on the sidelines, licking their chops, waiting to pick up the pieces.

In my opinion, peaceful dialogue and negotiations are the keys to change in South Africa.

And there are responsible people in that country who feel the same way.

The powerful Zulu chief, M.G. Buthelezi, who opposes apartheid, also opposes economic sanctions and disinvestment.

Unlike Bishop Desmond Tutu, who constantly stirs the population with inflammatory rhetoric, the stately chief is well-balanced and opposes the communist-backed African National Congress (ANC), whose aim is the violent overthrow of the government.

Says Dr. Buthelezi, "If we destroy the productive capacity of the economy, millions of people will starve." Speaking in California, he told blacks and liberals to "stay out of South Africa's affairs."

In a speech quoted by *South African Digest*, he said, "When I see how many countries in Africa have not got enough food for their populations, I often wonder whether those who advocate the destruction of the economy... (want to reduce) South Africa to a state of economic ruin so that we can also look forward to a dependence of crumbs of charity from the West after liberation."

### Certain truths must be admitted

Harold Williams is a Black Economic-Development Consultant, born in Sierre Leone, who has strong views about the double standards of ignoring the horrible human rights abuses by black against black in Africa, while dwelling on the abuses of white South Africans against blacks.

In a *Newsweek* column, he writes: "It is a shame for me, as a black man, to admit certain truths about Africa. In many black African countries, there has been a systematic dismantling of such pre-independent institutions and a free press, independent judiciary, independent enterprise — and these have been replaced by one-party rule and state-controlled monopolies."

"The upshot has been a steady decline of the social and economic structures of each of these African states. The ironic fact is that in South Africa, blacks have steadily outperformed their counterparts elsewhere in Africa in such vital fields as education and employment."

Prime Minister Mulroney is foolishly calling for economic sanctions against South Africa. My advice to him is to do something for Alberta and leave the Africans to themselves.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral)



# Aryans defile Christianity

Terry Long of Caroline is way off track, and needs counselling.

According to his statements it is obvious he does not understand Christian doctrine.

His position is the same as the orthodox Jews of Jesus' time who considered Samaritans "dogs," and Ayatollah Khomeini, who quotes the Koran to prove it is the duty of devout Moslems, to kill infidels.

Infidels are Jews, Christians and anyone who is not Moslem.

One of the most important tenets of Christianity, is acceptance of all who believe the gospel — in love and fellowship no one is to be excluded.

The miracle in Christianity is the process of salvation, found in the new birth: Jews and gentiles becoming one in Christ.

## Anti-Christian

The antagonism is gone, the old nature dies and a "spiritual man" rises to challenge the devil and rescue others from his evil grip.

Apparently, adherents to the Aryan nations believe Jews are Satan's children, Adolph Hitler was a prophet sent by God and Anglo Saxons are the chosen race.

Such teaching is false, diabolical and anti-Christian. St. Peter stated unequivocally, "...God is no respecter of persons, but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him." (Acts 10:34-35).

Contrary to the Aryan teaching, St. Paul said, the Gospel is to be preached to "the Jew first and also to the

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Greek." He asks, "what advantage then hath the Jew? Much every way: chiefly because that unto them were committed the oracles of God." (Rom. 3:1-2).

That the nation of Israel and the Jewish race is special to God because of his covenant with Abraham — is clearly taught in the new testament.

Jesus Christ commanded his disciples to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to all nations." And in the book of revelation, it states the redeemed shall come from every nation, tribe and people.

Until recently, the homegrown doctrines of Joseph Smith and "The Mormons" excluded blacks from becoming bishops.

As a Christian minister, I totally repudiate any and all racist teaching, as a stench in God's nostrils and an abomination to the church.

The doctrines of the Aryan movement is a blemish on the teachings of Christ, and a satanic deception.

It is interesting to note in the Apocalypse, when the anti-Christ shall appear, he will seek to deceive the Jews. And Satan wars against "the woman and her

child" — referring to Israel and the church.

The closer we come to "the end of time," more and more hatred will be directed against Israel: Satan hates the Jewish race because it gave the world "the redeemer."

As far as white people feeling superior, please remember: Our first parents were not caucasians — they were probably more like our native Indians...

The word Adam in the Hebrew, means red — and don't forget, it was a black man who carried the cross of Jesus to Golgotha's hill.

## Cool heads

Hats off to Judith Goldstein and the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, who kept cool heads and repudiated militant Meir Halevi and the Jewish Defence League.

God will judge those who persecute his people ... he told Abraham, "and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curses, thee" (Gen.12:3).

If you don't believe it, look at the nations who have enslaved, persecuted and decimated the Jews; Egypt has never risen again, Germany is divided and Russia's credibility and economy are in trouble...

The Arab world is in total disarray: and the USA, who constantly stands up for Israel, is singularly blessed.

God has ways and means of judging those who persecute his people and if I were Terry Long, I would re-study my theology.



# Bible holds bad news for Russia

Chernobyl: Does it spell real trouble for the Soviet Union? Is this disaster only the beginning of the "nuclear nightmare" that lies ahead for this superpower?

Amid the news reports of the many who perished or were seriously contaminated by the explosion and radiation, something has been left out.

I'm not referring to withholding information about the accident. I'm referring to the pharaoh-Gorbachev parallel.

For those who are unfamiliar with the *Bible* and the history of Israel, this may sound far fetched. But for historians and theologians, it is exceptionally relevant and possible.

As a serious student of history, relating to *Bible* prophecy, I believe we are now seeing the beginning of the end of communist Russia.

Which brings to mind two portions of Old Testament Scriptures — dealing with Israel's deliverance from Egyptian slavery, and the 20th century rebirth of Israel, with the subsequent judgment of the Northern Confederacy, in Ezekiel 37-39.

Just as surely as God used Moses to deliver His word to the pharaoh, He is also speaking to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev today. His message then and now is the same: "Let my people go, that they may worship me."

## **Victory Israel's**

Just as the Egyptian king refused to let the Jews leave, so the Soviet leader also adamantly refuses to release them.

Ironical as it may seem, it will be the country Joseph Stalin described as "only a nation on paper," Israel, that will ultimately destroy Russia.

For as God hardened the heart of the pharaoh in order to reveal his great power against an "evil empire" that had kept His people in slavery for 400 years, so God is hardening the heart of the leaders of godless Russia.

By the hand of Moses, God brought 10 plagues on Egypt. It does not pay to disobey and mock God. The pharaoh found that out too late and Gorbachev's lessons have only just begun.

Chernobyl is probably lesson No. 2 or 3, with the 1958 nuclear accident at Kyshtym taking spot No. 1. In that incident — which the Soviets have never reported — 30 villages were wiped off the map. No one in the West knows how many people died.

The official death count following the Chernobyl accident is rising, and an estimated 100,000 people are expected to develop cancer over the next 20 years.

Egypt was devastated before the pharaoh was willing to let the Jews leave. Undoubtedly history is now repeating itself.

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The prophets paint a bleak picture for Russia. In describing its destruction, Ezekiel says:

"And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog (Russia's ruler) shall come up against the land of Israel, saith the Lord God, that my fury shall come up in my face. For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel." (Ezekiel 38:18 & 19).

Not only will there be a great earthquake, but the invading armies will be so confused they will fight one another.

God says, "I will turn thee back, and leave but a sixth part of thee . . . Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds . . . and to the beasts . . . to be devoured."

"I will send a fire on Magog (Russia)." (Ezekiel 39:2).

According to God's word, Iran, Ethiopia, Libya and the Soviet satellites will join the Soviet Union in a lightning strike against Israel very soon.

But God will destroy the invaders. This is all prophesied in Ezekiel 38:5-17.

## **Message for Mikhail**

Everything is now ready. Since 1969, Libya, Ethiopia and Iran have all turned against the West and Israel.

Their hatred for Israel is so intense they will march with godless communist nations. It will be their ruination.

God's command to Russia is, "North, give up . . ." God is saying, "Gorbachev, pay me now, or pay me later."

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral.)



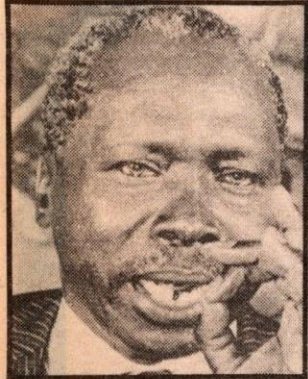
# Kenyan shows moral leadership

MOMBASA, KENYA — I'm impressed with Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi.

He is the people's choice and a sharp contrast from some leaders in Africa who are nothing but despots.

Kenya reflects its leader. It's clean, progressive and relatively democratic. This is not a police state like Angola, Mozambique, Ethiopia or Uganda.

Reading the newspapers one notices the fatherly image Moi exudes and his genuine concern for the people.



**Daniel Arap Moi**  
**Progressive leader**

"President urges lawyers to fight graft" and "Excessive drinking riles Moi."

It is refreshing to hear a national leader give sound, moral advice to the people.

Which brings up Queen Elizabeth. Since I was quite young, I can remember her highly principled, challenging and reassuring speeches.

During his presidency, U.S. leader Ronald Reagan has consistently spoken against the evils of our times and taken a stand for the *Bible*, prayer and family.

Referring to the Challenger explosion, religious leader Billy Graham said, "Reagan acted like a pastor to the nation during the tragedy."

It is vital for leaders in politics, religion, education, medicine and sports to be dedicated to fairness, truth and morality.

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A Hebrew preacher once said, "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral.)

But it is difficult to recall any worthwhile moral challenges uttered by Canadian prime ministers since the time of John Diefenbaker. Pierre Trudeau is remembered for his playboy image, arrogance and vulgar gestures. And, unfortunately, Prime Minister Mulroney is spending most of his time defending the scandalous actions of his ministers rather than rebuking them.

Moi, however, effectively and consistently purges crooks, grafters and questionable characters from his government. And being an ardent Christian, he often quotes the *Bible* on national TV to make his points.

I pray the day will come when we will have a man of the calibre of Moi leading Canada, one who will battle excessive alcohol consumption, illicit drug taking, and abortion.

I am not hoping for that strictly for religious reasons, but for dignity and survival.



# World awash in intolerance

Steve Rodriguez made a fatal mistake last week — he wore a yellow shirt to Manila's Rizal Park and died because of it; in front of dozens of witnesses, including journalists and Sunday strollers!

He was mistaken for a Corazon Aquino supporter and was beaten to death because Yellow was the color used by President Aquino during her election campaign earlier this year, and fanatical "Marcos Thugs" erroneously equated his yellow shirt with their opposition.

King Hassan of Morocco also made a terrible mistake recently.

He met with Israeli P.M. Shimon Peres at the Moroccan mountain resort of Ifrane, to discuss the possibility of a peace settlement between Arabs and Jews!

## Talking peace dangerous

Immediately, fanatical Arab extremists moved into action and fire-bombed the Moroccan Embassy in Beirut.

Syria broke diplomatic relations at once, Algeria denounced the Ifrane meeting as "an outrage" against Arabs, and King Hassan was pressured into resigning as Chairman of the Arab Summits.

All because he had the audacity to speak to a Jew!

Bishop Pablo Antonio Vega made a tragic mistake also, and it cost him his Nicaraguan citizenship!

The Roman Catholic Bishop had the gall to criticize the Sandinista Communists and their unfair, torturous and repressive regime. Vega, 66, escaped into Honduras where he was given political asylum.

The Managua government said it had banished the Bishop for his alleged involvement in a recent rebel attack on a bus, that killed 32 citizens.

They also stated the prelate openly backed President Reagan's campaign of aid to the contras, and thus was "an accomplice of the

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U.S. government's policy of terror."

I also made an unpardonable mistake several months ago when I criticized Anglican Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa!

Several black families angrily left Faith Cathedral, shouting "You are a racist."

My remarks had nothing to do with color, but with truth!

I criticized the Bishop for his refusal to renounce violence and to restrain the "young comrades" who were terrorizing the townships — holding on-the-spot court and instant executions by "necklacing."

"Necklacing" is a torturous form of execution. Rubber tires are placed around the necks and legs of the victims, then filled with gasoline and set on fire.

When asked about the executions, Bishop Tutu answered "The IRA execute their collaborators also."

"Collaborators" are policemen, government officials and businessmen who will not cooperate with the "Comrades!" A 69-year-old businesswoman who refused to close up shop in support of an illegal strike was "necklaced."

I have had vicious telephone calls from black people calling me "a racist," and predicting what will happen to both whites and blacks in South Africa who do not join the radicals!

Some of the calls have been intimidating, threatening and clearly bigoted.

Most North Americans do not know that Tutu has for years been involved with the affluent, predominantly white Anglican

Church — far removed from the plight of the average black!

While Bishop Barnabus Lekganyane presides over 4 million black members in the Zion Christain Church of S.A., and Bishop Isaac Mokone is the President of the Reformed Independent Churches; the largest black denomination in Africa with 4.5 million members.

Both of these clergymen with far more members than Tutu, disagree with the Anglican clergyman on sanctions, as well as violence!

Mokonea worked with Tutu and the South African Council of Churches, but broke with them charging that Tutu was promoting communism, with the aid of the W.C.C.

Powerful Zulu Chief M.G. Buthelezi who rules 6.5 million blacks also disagrees totally with Tutu and those who advocate the vio-

lent overthrow of the government of South Africa.

It is almost uncanny to realize that wearing a yellow shirt in the Philippines can bring death, visiting a Jew in Morocco can ostracize a king and speaking against repression in Nicaragua will bring banishment and imprisonment.

## End apartheid

And speaking your mind about a power-hungry Bishop in S.A. could brand you "a racist" in Canada!

I am not a racist and I have more black friends than any one of my accusers, but neither will I be a puppet of the communist backed African National Congress!

And I'm in favor of freedom for all people everywhere, and may God speed the day apartheid will end in South Africa.



# Your sins won't go

## unpunished

Sep. 7, 1985

*The thorns of the tree that I have planted, have reaped me;  
and I have bled! I should have known that such fruit would  
have sprung, from such a seed!*

— Lord Byron

Hindsight is always better than foresight; and the price of experience is often very costly! Lord Byron must have written out of personal experience, in order to drive home such a powerful message in so few words.

The poem is both a lament, a sigh of regret and a confession of a reckless, foolish and willful act.

It is also more than that; it is an admonition and warning to others who might make the same mistake.

Byron makes a lot of sense; too bad he couldn't have got through to Sigmund Freud before the latter put together his harmful "psycho-analysis" package and before he got hooked on the merits of cocaine-use among professionals and others.

### Whiners blame other people

Possibly then, we wouldn't today have an entire generation blaming other people for their problems, which in many cases are self-inflicted.

It's so easy to blame it on George or Mary; when in fact, "it's not my brother or my sister, but it's me, O Lord, that's standin' in the need of prayer."

"The buck stops here", stated President Harry Truman.

Lord Byron's choice of words is so notable: "The thorns of the tree which I have planted, have reaped me!"

He takes full responsibility for his own actions. And the thorns reap him, he does not reap the thorns, although we often say, "you'll reap what you sow!"

But Byron brings home even more powerfully — "And I have bled" — that the results of your wrong doings will follow you, track you down and punish you.

There is an old saying, "You've made your bed; now you must sleep in it."

### Promiscuity brings punishment

If you don't believe it, ask the homosexual who frequented gay bars and is now dying with AIDS, the promiscuous swinger who "slept around" and now has genital herpes or the teenager who has to sell her body to satisfy the craving in her veins and the demands of an "evil pimp."

John Evans celebrated his 109th Birthday a few weeks ago, receiving hundreds of congratulatory greetings — among them one signed Elizabeth R.

When interviewed on BBC Television as to the secret of his longevity, the Welshman stated: "I never drank alcohol or smoked — and I don't swear!" His mind was clear as a well, his speech impeccable and his manner polite.

As I tried to analyse the weight of his words, I suddenly realized the greatness of his philosophy.

When I was a teenager, it was smart to smoke: teachers, doctors, politicians and farmers smoked. Only prudes and religious evangelicals didn't smoke. Many athletes smoked. I must confess that when I won the Saskatchewan title for the half-mile, I had cigarettes in my locker.

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Things have certainly changed in the past three decades. Now, if you are a smoker, people shun you; you're considered an air polluter, a safety hazard and a poor insurance risk!

And if you continue smoking, the odds are good that the local undertaker will have your name on his files before long.

It's sad, but Byron warned us — didn't he? "*I should have known that such fruit would have sprung from such a seed.*"

Drinking is a scourge in our land. Even though it still seems popular to drink socially, the cost to our society is enormous;

thousands of highway deaths through alcohol-related accidents, millions of dollars spent on welfare due to broken marriages, as well as the poor job performance of the "half-man!"

What about swearing?

It took me a while to figure out that one. Why do people swear? Some swear because they have a poor vocabulary and use oaths as a fill in. Others think they are macho or with-it if they swear, and it gives them a sense of authority!

Most people however, swear because they are frustrated, angry, jealous or bitter.

And all these contribute to ulcers, heart trouble, insomnia, high blood pressure and death.

Finally, that ancient Jew, Saul of Tarsus gave us some good advice in the New Testament: "Be not deceived, God not mocked; whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

It seems to me that Evans, Byron and St. Paul must have got their good advice from the same source.

Edmonton Sun

SEPTEMBER 7, '86



# Kenya's Moi is a man of God

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**M**y visit with President Daniel Arop Moi of Kenya two weeks ago, was nothing short of a miracle. In recent months, the deteriorating situation in South Africa has given me much concern as have the years of poverty, tyranny and bloodshed in other African states.

We have the unjust rule of Pretoria's white racist regime and violent reaction of the communist-backed African National Congress. With the Cubans ruling the puppet states of Angola and Mozambique, it's no wonder South Africa is worried. But I feel better after meeting Moi.

The man who has spent 31 years in parliament, and has been Kenya's second president since 1978, did not disappoint me.

It seemed I'd be unable to meet him due to his campaigning schedule. Yet I needed to pray with the president of Kenya.

As I prayed about the matter, it came to my attention that one of the young ladies singing in the famous Jericho choir was a daughter of President Moi's personal manager. Within a few hours, the meeting was arranged for 5 p.m. Monday — a virtual miracle when you consider that Moi had been away from Nairobi for 10 days and was returning to the palace only one hour before our meeting.

Moi is one of the most gracious, God-fearing and wise men in Africa. Leaders across the continent seek his advice. Heads of State from Tanzania, Somalia, Sudan, Zaire and Rwanda listen to Africa's foremost progressive leader.

Recently, President Museveni from Uganda met with Moi and discussed the new lease on life given that ravaged nation. Moi is very optimistic about Museveni's chances of succeeding and is doing all he can to help. Even though he is opposed to communism, he still seeks to counsel the Ethiopian marxist dictators, who have bungled the economy of that country.

Moi said he had counselled Anglican leader Tutu to look at Kenya as a model for South Africa. East Indians and Blacks get along in perfect harmony as Kenyans; so Whites, Blacks, Coloreds and Asians must love each other and work together in South Africa, sharing power together.

Moi said that there are faults on both sides: "The whites are frightened of a black takeover because of what has happened in other African states."

Even though the African continent is in real turmoil, Moi is still optimistic.

When I asked if he was interested in becoming the next General Secretary of the United Nations, he said: "I love my country — Kenya needs me and I want to help Africa."

In my opinion, Moi would bring godly conduct, balance and sanity to a left-leaning, American-bashing and morally bankrupt U.N. Moi quoted St. Paul, Solomon and Moses, as he condemned graft, corruption and hatred as sins that have to be expunged from Africa and the world if God's blessings are to come. He is on a crusade to bring honesty, love and productivity to Kenya — and it's working. That's why other African leaders stand in line to see him.

Moi gave his personal testimony: "I received Jesus Christ as my personal Savior in Feb. 1934 and was baptized on Oct. 20, 1936 — and that has given me the strength to govern properly," he said. "Any good I have done, I attribute to Christ."



# If God is a crutch, let me have two

Are religious experiences only for weak-minded people? Is reading the Bible and praying really a waste of time? And is God only a convenient crutch for failures?

Some people refer to devout Christians as "dupes" who have been brain-washed by the church or "hood-winked by preachers." Others feel it is a sign of weakness to express one's faith in Jesus Christ and trust in God. They call the Christian experience "a crutch."

Still others say, "My religion is a private matter — I don't discuss my faith publicly."

Which reminds me of an ancient legend told among the American Cheyenne Indians, who lived in an isolated village on the edge of a forest. It was routine practice for the adults to sneak out of the village, one by one, and follow a path through the forest, to a little silvery stream.

Making sure no one was watching they would walk over the stream on a little log, made smooth by many moccasins, peer into the water at their own reflection, and begin to talk to the stream, pouring out their innermost feelings. Doing this made them feel good.

Although all the adults made the secret pilgrimage regularly, no one told anyone about it; however everyone knew that they all did it.

One day, two children from the village found the pathway and the little stream. Walking out on the log, they saw their reflection on the water and found themselves talking to the stream; and it made them feel very good also.

Full of joy at this new experience, they rushed back to the village to tell the adults what had happened. But the adults were offended and felt threatened. They picked up stones and chased the children out of the village.

The moral of the legend, according to the Cheyenne, is that everyone needs to talk to someone ... but since it is a sign of weakness to tell someone your innermost feelings, you dare not let anyone know.

We were created with a desire to talk and relate to others our deep hurts, desires and problems — but with whom can we discuss them?

Our fellow human beings are as weak as we, with as many hang-ups and troubles as ourselves.

In the Indian legend, the Cheyenne saw their reflection moving in the water and thought it was supernatural being — and poured out their heart in a form of prayer.

But because they were a very proud tribe, they wouldn't admit it publicly, much like us today.

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We do not pray to the water, sun, moon or stones; but to the living God who made us, as well as those objects.

And praise be to our Heavenly Father, who hears and answers our prayers when we approach him in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Recently a survey was done across the USA to ascertain who people turn to, when in a crisis. Not surprisingly, the majority sought counsel, solace and help from their personal friends, relatives, neighbors and minister. Very few received

help from professional counsellors or psychiatrists.

I think that tells us something; it is far more effective to talk to someone who knows you well and who cares about your life, than to a professional who is a stranger.

More and more, medical doctors are realizing that valium is not the remedy they believed it was a few years ago and that peoples' problems are often spiritually related.

One doctor, when asked by his hospital patients for sleeping pills, quietly asks, "why don't you read the Bible and pray, and then just relax?"

"Invariably they will fall asleep without needing the pills," says the wise doctor.

Prayer is a powerful stimulant as well as a great relaxant, depending on the need. Prayer is a two-way street, with us talking to God and Him talking back to us, giving assurance, peace and joy.

If faith in God and prayer is a crutch, then please Lord, let me have two.



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# Prayer is the answer

*"I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go."*

— Abraham Lincoln

A well-known slogan used by the Knights of Columbus states, "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."

Prayer is the language of the soul, reaching out to God in communion, fellowship and supplication, sometimes in thanksgiving and praise, but more often asking for help.

Jesus Christ's invitation is to us all, "Come unto me all that are weary and burdened and I will give you rest."

Jesus also said, "Ask and it shall be given you; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you."

According to a recent *Edmonton Sun* story, the distress lines in our city are swamped with cries for help, and will probably get busier this fall.

In the first six months of this year, calls to the AID services of Edmonton jumped 29 per cent over the same period in 1985, said executive director Fran Smith.

More than 4,000 calls were received in the months of June and July, traditionally the quietest.

### More people seeking help

There is no doubt that more and more needy, frustrated and concerned people are desperately seeking help over such things as marital breakups, alcohol- and drug-related problems and depression and frustration over economic troubles.

When a father can't get a job to feed his family, educate his children and keep himself busy, it gets him down. Then the frustration settles into other members of the family, nerves become frayed, tempers explode and fights erupt. And in too many cases recently, suicide and murder have been the finale.

And that is really sad, because I know, if someone could have gotten to them soon enough, a solution would have been found.

I have been deeply concerned recently about the deteriorating economic situation in our province and the tragic increase in murder/suicides.

We must get the message out that there is a better way.

Nothing is so bad that it cannot be resolved. Nothing! Nothing! Nothing!

There is always an answer, a solution, if only we have patience, talk to the right people, take time to read God's promises to us in the Bible and pray.

I encourage everyone to begin going to church soon and to make it a regular habit. Take the entire family to Sunday school and church, where you will find solace and peace.

### The sun is always shining

If you are discouraged or frustrated — do not give up. Behind every cloud, the sun is always shining, and time is a great healer.

Everything looks worse than it really is, especially when bad news arrives. But after a good cry and a talk with loved ones, friends and perhaps a clergyman, it is surprising how things improve.

In more than 23 years of counselling people from all walks of life on every continent of the world, let me say that no situation is hopeless and most cases are salvageable with patience, love and a desire to make things work.

If you don't have a church, look in the Yellow Pages of the phone directory.

Like Abraham Lincoln, I too have been driven to my knees many times because there was literally nowhere else to turn ... and God has heard and answered my prayers.

Don't be ashamed or afraid to pray. Remember that God loves you and wants to help.

Please let Him.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral)



## MAX SOLBREKKEN



# Pres. Robertson? Not a good idea

Pat Robertson is making some people in both the Republican and Democratic parties in the United States nervous, and left-lib columnists like Allan Fotheringham sweat.

The Washington-based Canadian newsman recently stated that most media people laugh at Robertson's chances of being elected president.

Fotheringham believes Robertson will splinter the Republican right-wing, much the same as Jessie Jackson did the Democrats in 1984.

Will the evangelicals eventually take over the world and usher in the return of Christ, as Robertson preaches? Is it realistic to believe that in this secular age, with millions bowing to the gods of materialism, sex and humanism, a Bible-believing charismatic evangelical could ascend to the White House?

One wonders, after checking the record of politico-religious leaders, if it is wise to elect a preacher for president.

Just a glance at the prophet Mohammed and his clone, Ayatollah Khomeini, and we know it can be a dangerous combination.

### Nationalism, religion and politics

One has to admire Mohammed's military genius. Much like Adolf Hitler, he wove nationalism with his own brand of religion into politics, and drove the message home in emotional rallies, exploiting the masses to strengthen his power base.

The shepherd leading the sheep, then driving them and finally fleecing them for his own gain.

Almost identical has been the pattern of the atheistic leaders of Russia, Cuba and Nicaragua, as well as dictators of the right, such as Mussolini and Franco.

The exploits of numerous popes through the centuries — especially during the Middle Ages — reflects the same hunger for power.

Lutheran state churches were also dictatorial and uncompromising when they assumed absolute power.

And many are beginning to fear the political power of conservative, evangelical Christianity in the U.S.A.

There is no record of Peter, James or John of the first pentecostal church in Jerusalem persecuting anyone, although they certainly disciplined those who strayed.

Religious leaders, including St. Paul, imprisoned and put to death many first-century Christians. But after his conversion, he was filled with the Holy Spirit and led thousands into the born-again pentecostal experience.

As a Jewish rabbi, he had put many to death; but as a pentecostal preacher, Paul constantly prayed for his enemies, and admonished his followers to do the same.

And even when the church became so powerful that it affected the Roman empire, they still conquered only through love.

Not until Christianity became the 'state religion' did persecution begin against purists by the 'corrupted church.'

And the cycle continues today, with history repeating itself — the powerful dominating the weak, the rich taking advantage of the poor, the fanatic terrorizing the docile.

I do not believe Robertson will become the next president of the U.S.A., even though he has the background (his father was a congressman), education (a law degree from Yale) and leadership ability (built a TV network from scratch).

With the backing of TV evangelists Oral Roberts and Jimmy Swaggart and the neutralizing of Jerry Falwell, Robertson is well on his way to capturing the large 'Christian vote.'

### Less effective than Ronnie

I believe, however, if he does become president, he will be less effective than Ronald Reagan in implementing conservative policies — every liberal would be on his back, screaming 'religious bias.'

I have no problem believing in Robertson's ability and fairness, but to believe we can legislate righteousness and totally change the world before Christ returns is a pipedream.

Christ spoke of evil, deception and 'persecution against his followers' increasing, in the last days.

All we are commanded to do is preach the gospel, and leave the rest to God.

I am thankful for the degree of freedom and prestige evangelicals have gained since the Reformation, and the good they have done.

But for the church to involve itself in full-scale political adventure, is out-of-bounds, and that is where I disagree with South Africa's Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Personally, I think Robertson can do more good preaching the gospel, praying for the sick and helping the poor, than he would in the Oval Office.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral)



# Compassion heals the wounds

There are a lot of hurting people ... unemployed, discouraged, lonely, suicidal, angry and confused people.

Only those who have gone through a traumatic experience can identify with others who are hurting, unless gifted with compassion.

Compassion is more than sympathy; it is feeling the pain, sharing the burden and reaching out to do something about the situation.

Compassion is finding an answer, bringing about a solution and easing the hurt.

Compassion brings a healing and a cure.

## **Many reasons for the hurt**

People are hurting because of many and varied reasons — spiritual, psychological, economic, social and domestic.

There seems to be so much strife, inequality, resentment, fear and frustration everywhere. Trouble is where you find it, however, and if you're looking for it, it's not difficult to make contact.

Many Albertans have been hurting lately with chronic unemployment, low prices for cattle, oil and grain, resulting in numerous bankruptcies.

And the government didn't seem to notice. It was too busy brushing off criticisms to care ... until it got

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slapped with a protest vote that cost them seats in the Legislature.

Former MLA Carl Schwynder made uncomplimentary comments regarding the Food Bank and those who used it. He hurt and angered many people who had already been embarrassed by their lack of jobs and the putdown of going to a free food store for handouts.

Now he himself is without a Legislature seat.

It's easy for those who have well-paid jobs and secure, comfortable positions to say no one else is suffering. But the wise old Indian chief said, "Don't criticize your neighbor until you've walked 10 miles in his mocassins."

Then the shoe is on the other foot, and sometimes it hurts.

Then there are the lonely people who are afraid to trust anyone again since they have already been hurt. Once bitten, twice shy! So they refuse to open their hearts to

anyone for fear of rejection, competition or simply being hurt again.

And the sick and diseased are also hurting.

Many feel like social outcasts — especially those affected with mental problems, cancer or AIDS. They need our support, comfort and help through the difficult hours, days and months that lie ahead.

The same goes for those who have been widowed or divorced.

## **Healing for the bruised**

And there is healing for the bruised, sorrowing and sick — healing through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Some fear the past, hoping the skeletons will stay hidden; others fear the present with its fast-moving, ever-changing complexities.

Then there are those who fear the future, old age and death.

An old gospel song, however, brings re-assurance: "Burdens are lifted at Calvary; so take your burdens to the Lord and leave them there!"

Jesus Christ said, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest!" (Matt. 11:28).

Drop that heavy load, friend, and let Christ carry it for you. He's a lot stronger than all of us!



# Flame of the Holy Spirit

SAO PAULO, Brazil — This city's 25,000 seat Ibirapuera Stadium was a beehive of activity last week as South America's Pentecostal leaders convened for their first united conference.

They came from 10 countries to be refreshed, challenged and edified in the most holy faith of Jesus Christ, and they were not disappointed.

The spirit of God ministered to their spiritual, psychological and physical needs — through preaching, prayers and praise — in five daily services.

## World's leading preachers

I had the privilege of working with some of the world's leading preachers — Hidekazu Takayama of Japan, Geziel Gomes of Brazil, Carlos Anacondia of Argentina, Thomas Zimmerman and Morris Cerullo of the United States and Costa Deir of Israel, as well as the president of South America's 20-million member Pentecostal federation, Manuel Ferreira.

Pentecostals stress the necessity of the power, presence and dynamics of the Holy Spirit in the church, as well as in the personal lives of their members.

Returning to the original formula prescribed by Jesus Christ is giving the Pentecostals a distinct advantage over other denominations as they grow steadily worldwide and by leaps and bounds in Latin America.

A recent *Newsweek* article reported their astronomical growth — 400 conversions per hour, around the clock.

The headline read *The Protestant push — Latin America turning from Cardinal red to Protestant black*.

The Pentecostals believe and practise their faith in much the same whole hearted way as "the early church" of Peter, James and John and men of faith such as Augustine, Magnus Patricus (St. Patrick), Martin Luther and John Wesley.

'Keeping the flame of the spirit,' was the theme of the Sao Paulo conference.

These modern Pentecostals don't want to lose their cutting edge like so many denominations before them. That is why they love, worship and reverence the 'blessed Holy Spirit.'

They are now in the third generation since the sovereign outpouring of the Holy Spirit, at the turn of the century, and they are vitally concerned.

History proves that every denomination born in revival fires since AD 29 has begun to slacken, get lukewarm and become institutionalized in the third generation.

Martin Luther wouldn't recognize the church that carries his name today, and John Wesley would undoubtedly dissolve

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the United Church of Canada at its next conference, were he alive.

And if Jesus Christ appeared in person, with eyes like flames of fire, we would all fall before Him saying, "I am nothing; my righteousness is like filthy rags; help me, forgive me and cleanse me."

Oh, how we need the burning, cleansing flame of the Holy Spirit in our lives, burning away the dross, healing the hurts and helping us press forward in greater endeavors.

We need the Fire and Power of God in order to function properly . . . and both are available to the church.

About 80 per cent of Brazil's population practises what is called synchronism, a mixture of Catholicism, spiritism and voodoo.

Although the Evangelicals are mushrooming (10 per cent of the population), the spiritists are growing even more quickly and communism is challenging, with three parties. And liberation theology is dividing the Roman Catholic church, and confusing the people.

This deceptive teaching does not bring liberty, but rather Marxist slavery, and is not theology — the doctrine of God, but rather atheistic ideology.

## Marx instead of God

Liberation theology does not teach God's love, but rather Marxist hatred.

Defying the strict commands of Pope John Paul II, thousands of young priests have embraced Marxism and are pushing for social change.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is the only hope Brazil has because the power of the Bible is stronger than the force of demons, occultism and communism. And the flame of the Holy Spirit will drive away the darkness.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral)



# Loved one's death hits home

Comedian Woody Allen doesn't think death is funny at all. In fact, it depresses him.

When asked, "Aren't you happy you will achieve immortality through your achievements?" Allen gloomily replied, "Who cares about achieving immortality through achievements? I am interested in achieving immortality through not dying."

Many people who think life is a big party — and preparing for eternity only a joke — start seeing things in a different light when the grim reaper draws nearer.

It is no wonder the prospect of dying bothers a lot of people, since so few have prepared spiritually to meet their maker.

## **'Prepare to meet thy God'**

Prophet Amos shook his countrymen with the solemn words: "Prepare to meet thy God." Isaiah commanded of King Hezekiah, "Set thine house in order, for thou shalt die and not live."

Strong words, indeed.

And why not, when death is sure and judgment certain.

The sad truth is, millions die unprepared. And many have no inkling of where they are going when they die.

Some have enough business sense to leave a will, to look after their loved ones — but neglect to secure eternal life for themselves.

Woody Allen is not alone when it comes to being frustrated by death. In his book *The Life Everlasting*, John Baille says: "It is not really the shortness of life that saddens and offends us; it is its temporality — not that it ends so soon, but that it ends at all; and still more deeply the fact that, even while it lasts, it is made up of nothing but endings of meetings and partings, of memories and longings, and one thing after another."

What really is life?

St. James compares life to "a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away." And King David refers to life as "a sleep" in the night and "the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven."

Last week, my 29-year-old nephew Mark of Lloydminster,

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was flying his little plane, when he ran into a snowstorm; he and his buddy never made it back alive.

At best, life is uncertain.

One look in the face of a friend or loved one lying in a casket brings the reality closer home.

For the Christian, the fear is gone, and all that remains is the knowledge that death moves us to a higher dimension, to be with God.

We know there is a final battle with the enemy called "death," but we will triumph because Jesus has won the victory for us.

And although the pain of leaving loved ones is always deep, we have the assurance that we shall be reunited in God's presence.

Time is life's training camp, the battlefield with the devil,

the world and the flesh; and our great opportunity to win.

An old poem puts it all in perspective: "Only one life, it will soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last."

## **Boy ready to die**

Sometime ago, a little boy was rushed to the hospital and everyday his mother and father visited him, but he grew worse.

One day, the doctor confided in his father — there was no hope; his son would soon die. "Have you told him?" asked the father. "No," responded the doctor. "I noticed how close you are to your son, so I thought it best for you to tell him."

Little Jimmy noticed the tears trickling down his Daddy's cheek as he entered the room. "What's the matter Daddy?" he asked. "Am I going to die?"

"Why do you ask, Jimmy?" answered his father. "Are you afraid to die?"

Holding his Dad tightly around the neck, he replied, "No Daddy, I'm not afraid to die; if God is like you, Daddy, then I'm not afraid to die."

No wonder the Bible states, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral)

death



# Another view of abortion

Recently, the "abortion war" has heated up, with some Alberta doctors refusing to do abortions at normal fees. And you can't blame them.

Their argument no doubt runs along these lines: "If I'm going to do an unpleasant job, be hassled by 'pro-life picketers' and live with a guilty conscience the rest of my life, I ought to be well paid!"

And don't think that doctors who do abortions escape guilt. It catches up with them, sooner or later. That may be one of the reasons there has been an increase of drug addiction and alcoholism among medics in recent years.

Stop and think: How would it affect you, working at a hospital that was built to save lives, knowing that in another wing, doctors were destroying little babies before they could be born? And what if you were that doctor?

## Guilt-ridden medics

There is no doubt, in my mind, that the harvest of "guilt-ridden doctors and nurses" working as fetus exterminators will keep psychiatrists, clergymen and psychologists busy. And please remember, Dr. Morgentaler is an atheist, with a seared conscience, so he may not have too much guilt.

In my opinion, the real reason doctors are refusing to do abortions is deeper than the financial aspect. They are looking for a way out, and the "extra billing dispute" gives them that opportunity.

Lets look at some realities. The high ethical standards of the medical profession demand that doctors save life rather than extinguish it; the Holy Bible and the church condemn abortion as the equivalent of murder; common sense dictates it is more humane to protect a mother and her unborn child than to harm them.

When Mother Theresa was honored at the United Nations for her life-long work among the poor, she labelled abortion a greater threat to world peace than the bomb.

This great humanitarian stated, "We are afraid of the nuclear threat because it touches us, but abortion is the greatest destroyer of peace, of the unprotected."

## Compared with slavery and holocaust

President Reagan contends that abortion is worse than the brutal "slavery" of blacks in past generations.

Many leading men and women of philosophy, science, medicine and religion have called the killing of defenceless unborn babies a "holocaust."

Speaking in the House of Commons in 1974, MP Don Mazankowski said, "I see the incredible increase in the incidence of abortion approaching a 30-per-cent increase on an annual basis. And to think that in this chamber we have a number of so-called progressive-minded people who promote the concept of free abortion on demand."

"This is a philosophy which contravenes all the laws of nature and God. The deliberate destruction of human life through abortion is without foundation in human reason. The destruction of human life for selfish motives is contrary to the laws of God and man."

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"Furthermore, the government must take firm and immediate action to stop the merciless acts which masquerade under the guise of therapeutic abortion... I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we have reached a... time where we will soon have to

make a choice, and that choice is clear.

"It is whether we shall stand and fight for a philosophy of life, or whether we shall stand idly by and surrender to a philosophy of death."

I would urge Mazankowski to check the statistics today, and then carry through with his intentions of 12 years ago, because life is still as precious today as it was then.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral)



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# Praise the Lord for normal TV

I've got some good news for TV talk-show fans: there is an alternative to Phil Donahue and his usual cast of far-out guests with weird lifestyles.

And Donahue's overbearing personality. There's refreshing Sally Rafael with her wholesome approach to life and her "normal" guests.

I happened to catch her on TV last week talking about disabled children and their parents.

The guests were caring parents who opened their lives to the public in order help others.

There was none of the Donahue "get-all-the-publicity-you-can" hype! One of the guests was a young black woman named Teresa Lang who had carried her brain-dead baby to full term. She trusted God to bring something good out of it and He did when Baby Lorna's heart was given to a 13-week-old-baby with a congenital heart defect.

Teresa said the word "abortion" wasn't even in her vocabulary! And Sally didn't intimate that she was less than smart, or stupid, antiquated, not-with-it or old-fashioned.

She wasn't ridiculed or mocked by an arrogant talk show host with a studio full of militant lesbians or gays.

The studio crowd was impressive; mainly young people asking pertinent questions about the trials and benefits of parenting disabled children.

Anne and Brad Burdge commented on the birth of their disabled baby, Ricky, and the shock of learning that he was not normal. They talked about the looks on the faces of the medics and nurses in the delivery room; the awful frustration and bitterness that followed... as well as the love and growth they experienced because of the disabled baby.

Kathleen Meives was 34 and didn't expect to give birth to a Downs Syndrome baby. It was a real shock to her and husband Richard. This young couple told of the usual stages a person goes through when the bad news finally hits home, how they blamed the doctors, the health care system, each other's relatives, themselves and even God.

They also told how they finally came to grips with the reality of the situation and received help from parents, church and each other.

"My Dad threw his arms around me and said, 'Everything will work out,'" said Richard. "It was the first time he had done that because we are not a huggy-type of family. It has brought us closer."

Sally Raefel ended her most interesting show by saying "You are particularly special people, because of the particularly special births of your children."

Recently, I have seen a dangerous trend developing among talk-show hosts and their guests who seem to glorify divorce, belittle marriages of long standing and put faith in psychics.

I used to enjoy Donahue's show until he began to major in outrageous, extreme and weird off-the-wall guests and subjects. Rafael deals in bread-and-butter issues that interest the average North American... And I like that because it's a service to people rather than a time consumer!



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# 'Tis the season for rejoicing

I love everything about Christmas — the nativity scene, caroling, scripture readings and concerts.

I enjoy the good food, praying, visiting, giving and receiving gifts, and the Christmas tree.

I love the warmth, goodwill and kindness generated.

And I'm glad families and friends can get together for fun and fellowship.

It is the birth of Jesus and His message that gives Christmas its meaning.

The message of the angels who heralded His coming still brings hope and peace.

Only Jesus could say, "Love your enemies, pray for those who spitefully use you."

Who else but Jesus could have given us the Sermon on the Mount and the Golden Rule?

I will never forget the great Christmases I've enjoyed since a child.

I still get a little sentimental and excited anticipating the next one.

Each year, I cherish this special time more and thank God for making it possible.

There were only 33 years between Christ's birth in a manger at Bethlehem and His death on the cross at Calvary.

And that gives added meaning to the words: "Joy to the world, the Lord is come; Let earth receive her king."

Christmas brings joy to a lot of people — especially families.

Wayward children find their way back home, relationships are restored and many discover new hope.

There is a closeness, love and sharing at Christmas that you have to look for amid the hustle and bustle.

We have all criticized the commercialization of Christmas.

Some argue Dec. 25 was the date of an ancient pagan festival and some suggest Jesus was probably born in October.

Others refuse to acknowledge Christmas at all.

To me, Christmas is a time to rejoice and be thankful for God's blessings and pause for a year-end accounting of our spiritual progress.

There are, however, two sides to every coin, and many people are unhappy at Christmas.

Although many have the comfort of home and friends, there are those who have no one to love or care for them.

The first Advent clearly teaches that we must share our love with the needy if we are to call ourselves Christians.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral.)



# Christmas tidings of great joy

Tomorrow we celebrate the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, the Jewish Messiah and the Son of God.

That's what makes Christmas special! Its message is electrifying, its supernatural dimension awesome and its dynamic affect upon society historic!

The fulfillment of the ancient prophecies, the message of Gabriel — the archangel — to Mary and Joseph, the wise men's "guiding star," the angelic visit to Judean shepherds and God's revelation of Jesus' identity to Simeon in the Temple underscore the significance of this great event.

I thank God for Christmas and the impact of its message on our lives; spiritually, morally and socially!

Christmas will always be special and exciting. A time for family and friends. A time for loving, sharing and relaxing. And a time for giving and receiving.

Every Christmas is basically the same. Scriptures outlining the Saviour's birth are read in our churches, sermons are preached and carols are sung. Bible texts are featured in newspapers, sacred music played over radios and Christmas cards exchanged by the millions.

Highlighted through it all, are the hopeful words of the angels to the lowly shepherds, that first Christmas morning.

"Fear not: for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men."

Christmas is a time to dispel fear, by sharing the Gos-

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pel in word and deed — helping lift someone's heavy load — and pointing them to the Saviour who will grant forgiveness, peace and joy!

The story of Christmas says that someday there will be peace on earth and goodwill among men because of God's great gift and Christ's sacrifice for us.

In my opinion, Jim Wolf's poem "The True Story of Christmas" says it all!

"It happened on a silent night  
Two thousand years ago;  
God sent to us His only son  
Because He loved us so.

"While angels watched from up above,  
The blessed babe was born,  
And laid into a manger  
On that first real Christmas morn.

"The shepherds came to worship Him  
The eastern wise men, too,  
To celebrate His holy birth  
As now all Christians do.

"The greatest story ever told  
Is not of shopping malls;  
It's how God's Son was born on earth  
To love and save us all."

Have a safe, peaceful and contagiously joyous Christmas!

*Boed  
Script*

*Boed  
Script*

*(Luke 2:10-12)*



# A big hand for the 'little' paper

Hey drunk! Get off the road.

As a clergyman, I'm thankful for the moral leadership *The Edmonton Sun* is showing in its anti-drunk-driving crusade. Undoubtedly, these efforts are helping to save lives during the festive season . . . and that's worth everything.

Indirectly, this well-organized campaign is helping fulfil the angelic proclamation "Glory to God, peace on earth, goodwill toward men."

We usually think of "peace" as the absence of war, but there is a lot more to it. Nothing is as important to our well-being as "peace of mind." And drunk drivers shatter that peace by destroying lives, property and relationships. Filled with the "devil's brew," intoxicated fools endanger loved ones and friends as well as strangers, because under the influence of mind-altering booze, they are not in control of their faculties.

## Laws too lenient

Canadian laws are much too lenient with drunk drivers who maim and kill. Our bleeding-heart politicians wouldn't think of offending the millions of drinkers in Canada . . . it might cost them some votes.

But in Australia, names of drunk drivers are sent to local newspapers and printed under the heading "He's drunk and in jail." In Malaya, drunk drivers are jailed; if they are married, their wives are also jailed. In the United Kingdom, Finland and Sweden, there is an automatic jail sentence of one year. In South Africa, drunk drivers get a 10-year prison term, a \$10,000 fine or both. And in El Salvador, the first offence of driving while drunk is the last — death by firing squad is the sentence.

I applaud the *Sun* for its highly-moralistic, life-saving campaign against this awful

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slaughter on our highways. It should receive the 1986 award for "Humanitarianism, high morals and balanced editorials." The "little paper that grew" has become a moral leader in the eyes of a lot of Edmontonians in these areas. I commend the *Sun's* editorial staff for taking an independent and often misunderstood position in order to make the facts known.

To highly principled and devoutly religious people, that seems like a paradox because of the scantily-clad SUNshine Girls that dominate Page 3. And I'm certainly not endorsing nudity in any form.

But like the old saying "beauty is only skin deep," let us not allow the SUNshine Girl to throw us off-track! There is much more to *The Edmonton Sun* than that one picture. This newspaper has developed into a well-balanced, conservative voice and is taking the initiative in much more than getting rid of filthy, smudging ink. The *Sun* is an well-informed newspaper with a positive attitude; I should know after 23 years of world

travel, reading everything I can lay my hands on. Compare editorials and columns on abortion, capital punishment, child abuse, AIDS, South Africa and Marxist aggression.

The "little paper that grew" also showed leadership in raising money for famine victims in Africa, the Edmonton Food Bank and Christmas Bureau . . . and now, the life-saving "Hey Drunk! Get off the Road" campaign. The timing was perfect; just before Christmas, when boozers use this blessed event to imbibe indiscriminantly.

## No goodwill with booze

The angelic message spoke of "Peace on

Earth, goodwill toward men." Alcohol brings anything but goodwill! When you witness the accidents, fires, violent deaths, broken marriages, ruined careers and failed businesses attributed to alcohol, you'll agree that drinking isn't all that great.

In my opinion, drunks should not only stay off the road, they should get some help and stop drinking altogether.

And there is help, through Christ; by counselling, prayer, friendship and your own will-power. And God gets the glory when our lives are changed.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral)



# The story of the miracle behind the miracle

Edmontonians were stirred last spring by the heroic actions of Jack Bauer, an unemployed construction worker. The dramatic rescue of 14-year-old Marlene Lajeunesse from the icy waters of the North Saskatchewan River was heralded by the news media as a miracle. And indeed it was. Marlene fell through the ice March 25 about 7:30 p.m. after trying to rescue her 70-pound dog, Gypsy. Bauer heard the girl's cries and single-handedly carried out a flawless rescue operation. Bauer, a member of Faith Cathedral, recently shared with me some details the media had missed ... like the miracle behind the miracle. He was involved in an accident on a construction site in 1978, falling 35 feet and breaking both legs. He had suffered excruciating pains ever since. On Jan. 6, 1986, Jack received prayer in our Wednesday Miracle service and was healed.

## 'God healed me'

"If God hadn't healed me, I wouldn't have been able to bring Marlene to safety," said Bauer. "My left heel was crushed and my right ankle broken in two places during the accident and I had to wear a brace.

"After prayer, my feet were so good I began taking the kids for walks. I believe it was God who prompted the boys and I to walk toward the river that evening at the exact time Marlene was struggling for her life.

## Only one chance

"Hearing her cries, I ran down a steep 50-foot bank, tore a 20-foot tree out of the ground by the roots — with no effort. I must have tapped into God's strength. I could not have done it by myself.

"I kept talking to Marlene, asking her to hold on just a little longer, as I edged my way toward her. Lying on my stomach on the melting ice, I crawled most of the 50 metres to the open water, pushing the tree.

"And I prayed, 'Jesus help me!'"

"She was so cold and tired I knew if she grabbed for the tree and missed the current would carry her under the ice. I told Marlene she had only one chance to grasp the tree, so she must be certain she could reach it.

"When she had grasped it securely, I pulled her slowly out of the water and, instructing her to lie down on the ice, we crawled back on our stomachs."

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When they reached solid ice, Bauer picked up the wet, frozen teenager and ran up the steep incline to a neighbor's house.

"If it would have happened two months earlier — before

the prayer meeting — I could not have done it; my leg would have given out," said Bauer.

"I am so glad I was able to rescue Marlene because I love kids and I also enjoy skating with mine, something I hadn't been able to do for 10 years."

Marlene's father, Norman, declared: "If he hadn't been there, that would have been it — she would have gone."

Bauer also credits his St. John's Ambulance training for keeping him cool. Like a true hero, he takes no honor for himself and feels he didn't do anything special.

"God master-minded the entire operation," said Bauer.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral)



# The devil's lies

The memory of the Peerless Lake tragedy will never die, especially for the Netawastenum family. They lost three children March 11 — William, Elisa and Raymond — when they got involved in a drinking party that included copier fluid.

About a month ago, another son, Simon, was injured at a party and ended up in an Edmonton hospital. A family member contacted us to pray fervently for God's intervention, but Simon did not recover.

Last week, I received an urgent call: "Come to Peerless Lake. We need you to conduct a gospel rally."

When we arrived, the building was filled to capacity with people needing assurance, comfort and a challenge to pick up the pieces and press forward.

Our gospel team moved into action — Wally, Jeanette and Gloria sang with great feeling, while Peter's steel guitar never missed a beat, and John praised the Lord for freeing him from alcohol and drugs and healing his drunken father.

My message was titled "Exposing the Devil's Lies." I stressed that Satan is ultimately to blame for all the evil in this world; he's the architect of sin, disease, calamity and destruction.

## 'Old Slewfoot'

The devil's signature is on drunkenness, immorality, rebellion and perversion. "Old slewfoot" is the author of confusion, fear, torment and death. Satan is our real enemy, and in the final analysis, guilty of engineering strife, murder and war. I challenged them to accept Christ and His gospel; to renounce the devil, his works and ways.

What a joy to see dozens of young people take a public stand for Jesus Christ and against alcohol, drugs and other evils.

And what a responsibility the Christian church has to pray for Peerless Lake and other places that have suffered devastating attacks from the "evil one."

Jesus said the devil not only lies, but steals and kills as well. What are some of the devil's lies?

Lie No. 1: God doesn't really care about us. He's too busy running the universe to bother with mere mortals. What a lie! God proved His love when Jesus came to this earth to forgive, teach and heal the human

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race and to die for our sins. No greater love can be exhibited than a man dying for his friends. Christ went further — He died for His enemies!

Lie No. 2: God isn't relevant; He's out-of-touch with modern man. His laws are archaic and the bible doesn't relate to the needs of the 20th century. Nothing could be farther from the truth!

God's word is as up-to-date as our morning newspaper. He stills heals the sick who put their trust in Him and answers the intellectual queries of "the learned."

Man has not changed; basically, his problems and needs are the same. Satan has not changed either, except for getting more bold, aggressive and desperate, since he's running out of time.

## God has not changed

And God has not changed, because He is the same yesterday, today and forever. He is still compassionate, loving and merciful toward sinners who repent. And He is understanding as well; forgiving, blessing and healing the worst among us.



Edmonton Sun - Feb. 15/87

# Words of wisdom

*I am wiser than the Athenians. They think they know everything — I know that I don't know.*

— Socrates

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St. Paul listed the nine supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit and it's no wonder the "gift of wisdom" leads them all since the desperate need in the Church — as well as other areas — is the ability to make the right decision, in any given situation!

## Great not always wise

The Bible states that a "great man" is not necessarily wise, and that has been verified again by the recent actions of U.S. President Reagan. The Iran fiasco proved that his heart was bigger than his head, and wisdom was sadly lacking in his dealing with the Mullahs...

His intentions were noble: trying to free the hostages and establishing contact with Iranian moderates.

If it were not for the Bible prophecy which outlines Iran's future alignment with the Soviet Union, no one would understand how an Iranian desert prophet could destabilize two U.S. presidencies.

If Reagan had read the Bible, he may have been clued in. And it might have helped if U.S. President Carter had studied the "Communist Manifesto" before meeting Leonid Brezhnev!

Carter's statement, "The most disappointing thing that happened in three years was to learn that Brezhnev lied to me," must be the height of naivety.

It is sad to see such a great nation writhing in turmoil, because of the lack of understanding!

It is also sad to witness the growing ineffectiveness of Prime Minister Mulroney's government, due to patronage, greed, inefficiency... And lack of wisdom!

There is, however, a danger that wisdom without humility will lead to pride — a study of Lucifer's disastrous fall teaches a volume

on arrogance! There is really no one to go to for instruction, outside of Christ, who is the fountainhead of all wisdom, learning and understanding!

St. James declared, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that gives to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

When King Solomon was given the opportunity to choose whatever he desired, he asked for wisdom to rule his people! The Lord was so impressed with his unselfish choice that He also granted him health, peace, riches and long life!

Once two women came to Solomon claiming the same baby; with great wisdom, he called for a sword to divide the infant and give half to each woman! The real mother cried out, "No. Don't kill my baby; let her have it!"

The test proved who the mother was, and Solomon's wisdom became known even to foreign nations.

## Troubles self-inflicted

Oh, how we need God-given wisdom in business, government, industry, labor and education... as well as research, law enforcement and family life!

How foolish and lacking in wisdom we all are at times. And most of our troubles are self-inflicted, because of our arrogance, pride, lust and prejudice.

One final word from the Bible: "Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will get wiser; teach a just man, and he will increase in learning."



# How we love shapes us all

"We are shaped and fashioned by what we love."

— Goethe, German poet.

"The love of money is the root of all evil."

— St. Paul.

How true. And when people are snared by covetousness, their lives become unhealthy, warped and greed-filled.

Every waking hour is consumed by thoughts of making money and how to exploit each moment for that purpose. Other people's feelings, priorities and friendships are insignificant, as they ride roughshod over morals, principles and etiquette.

## A selfish lifestyle

Others are totally "pleasure-made!" *mad.*

"Hedonistic" describes the selfish lifestyle adopted by many. But true love seeks to make others happy and gives joyfully without expecting anything in return.

A Christian missionary saved a young man from the streets of India some years ago. He gave him the name John Paul, as well as a splendid education. Today, John Paul is an excellent surgeon, sought after by hospitals across India and other countries.

He isn't interested in large salaries, fine titles or expensive homes. Together with his wife, a nurse, they've set up a sidewalk hospital in the slum area where he grew up. And the people are given the best care, by one of India's finest surgeons, because he once slept on their sidewalks, and hasn't forgotten.

Jesus said when making a feast, we should not only invite the rich and influential, but the poor, crippled, and blind.

In many countries the handicapped are on the streets begging, while the rich live in total luxury. Too many people love only themselves.

General William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, began his work in the slums of London; he had the word "others" painted on his pulpit.

Goethe so truly stated that we are shaped by the things we love.

Nature lovers seem to be caught up with nature and themselves. Animal lovers often spend more time with animals than fellow humans.

But people who love God seem to have an easy time loving their fellow man, as well as caring for animals and nature.

## Effects of love abound

The Bible states that we should love God with all our hearts, and our neighbor as ourselves.

Mother Teresa's labor of love among the homeless in Calcutta recently sparked a team of Harvard scientists to do a study on "the effects of love."

"There is no doubt that giving love bolsters the immune system and helps people resist all kinds of diseases," states James McKay, a member of the university team.

"We found that selfless love and caring for others is directly linked to good health. Also, a sense of humor and lack of cynicism seems to affect disease fighting capabilities."

McKay believes that if you feel good about yourself and others, the feeling is transmitted to disease-resisting lymphocytes in the blood, strengthening them.

Dr. Bernard Siegel, author of the book, *Love, Medicine and Miracles*, writes: "I don't believe it's a coincidence that angry people succumb to diseases; we have established that despair certainly affects the immune system."

girl's kind act.

As an incorrigible, he was being transported by train under armed guard to Sing Sing prison in New York. While waiting on the platform to change trains, the convict caught the attention of the five-year-old who was with her mother.

"Who is that man in the striped clothes? Why is he handcuffed to that policeman? Why is his hair shaved off?" asked the little girl.

Even after being told not to look at "that bad man," by her mother, she snatched the rose out of her mom's lapel and rapt to the criminal with these words: "Mr. Badman, maybe nobody loves you, but God loves you, and so do I."

When he arrived at the penitentiary, he could think of nothing but the flower and the little girl's words, and it brought him in contact with God.

Truly, love conquers all!

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"I have seen ill patients recover when they've adopted a more loving attitude," adds the Connecticut surgeon.

A 75-year-old man died of natural causes in a U.S. penitentiary recently. He had been incarcerated for 40 years and his story is a blessing to me.

The unusual aspect is that for four decades he was a model prisoner and worked with chaplains to help others. His conversion from rebellion and hatred came about by a little



# Time to conquer 'inner space'

Man has conquered outer space, yet failed in the conquest of inner space! We have split the atom, explored the galaxy, and landed men on the moon, but many lack peace of mind, direction or reason for living.

Hatred, prejudice, and fear has gripped others, producing violence, murder and torment. Mankind also needs inner healing from pride, jealousy and greed. In response to numerous inquiries on the subject, I have laid out a concise, effective and easy-to-follow plan:

## **Ask for forgiveness**

(1.) Ask God's forgiveness and cleansing! St. John said, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." God invites, "Come now and let us reason together saith the Lord, though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red as crimson, they shall be as wool."

Confession is good for the soul, since it presents opportunity for the release of pent-up and guilty feelings. It also involves a meeting with God, in prayer, and the assurance of sins forgiven.

(2.) Forgive those who have wronged you. In the Lord's prayer, Jesus taught us to pray: "Forgive our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." He added, that if we refuse to forgive those who sin against us, neither will our Heavenly Father forgive us!

We are admonished, "Grudge not one against another, lest ye be condemned." How foolish to hold grudges and refuse to forgive. By doing so, we lose in the long run, as bitterness eats like a canker!

## **Let God judge**

(3.) Leave the judging to God. Jesus said, "Judge not, lest ye be judged," and St. Paul stated, "But why dost thou judge thy brother ... for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ."

When the pharisees brought an adulteress woman to Jesus, demanding she be stoned for her sin, He said: "Let the one without sin, cast the first stone." Being convicted of their own sins, they left, without pressing charges.

(4.) Be generous with God and man. If we are merciful to others, we will receive mercy ourselves. But if not, that brings dividends too. Jesus said, "Give and it shall be given you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, shall men give unto your bosom."

It is only right to give back to God a little of what He has blessed us with, and help extend His kingdom! An unwritten law says, "Whatever you plant will return a bigger harvest than that planted." Try smiling at someone and see what happens; they'll smile right back at you!

(5.) Don't live in the past. St. Paul testified, "Forgetting those things which are behind, I press toward the mark." No wonder he could say, "I can do all things through Christ, which strengthens me."

It isn't healthy to dwell on past sins. Repent and confess them to God, then forget the matter, because He has! And it

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isn't wise to dwell on past successes, either. Let's get on with the job and do the best we can today!

(6.) Don't be too concerned about the future, either. Jesus stated that God sees the sparrow fall, and we are worth more than many sparrows. And since He clothes the flowers of the field, we need not be too concerned about the future.

St. Paul also advises against worry: "Be anxious about nothing,

but in everything by prayer. With thanksgiving, make your requests known unto God."

An Anglican Bishop was praying for his flock late one Saturday night, when God spoke to him: "You can go to bed now, Bishop. I'll take this shift!"

(7.) Be kind and helpful to others. The Bible says, "Love suffers long and is kind." And we are admonished to "bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."

No man is an island, and we all need each other; the more we reach out to those around us, the more friends we'll have and the less we will dwell on our own problems. And the more input we'll get from others, when a real need arises in our lives.

In over 23 years of counselling, I have discovered that a basic reason for people being upset and in turmoil, is their pre-occupation with themselves. By helping others, we may be solving their problem, as well as one of our own!











