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I HAVE THUNDERED OUT THE  
MESSAGE,*



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# 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 Monday, January 12, 1981.

## Bill would ban child pornography

The bill contains 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 at 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.

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

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.

Under 14 would be charged



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

It's scenes like this that have the city's Pastor Max Solbrekken hot under the collar about *The Blue Lagoon*. The film, which stars Christopher Atkins, 19, and Brooke Shields, 15, is due for release in Edmonton in a week — and Pastor Max says he'll be outside the Odeon Theatre.

See Page 6.

## Angry Max

### Protest march planned for film

### Max adds fire to campaign

Battling pastor Max Solbrekken has decided to fire up his anti-porn campaign. If you have some hocking girlie magazines in your basement which are too hot to handle, give them to Solbrekken and he'll make sure they go up in smoke. "We're asking people to bring in any filthy magazines they have and we'll burn them," the leader of a province-wide crusade against porn said. "You couldn't believe how filthy those hard-core magazines were," a stunned Solbrekken said. The anti-porn pastor is continuing his petition to get the province cleaned up. He claims he's had hundreds of signatures asking Premier Lougheed to tighten up censorship of movies and magazines. "I expect to have thousands within the next couple of weeks," he said. The anti-porn crusader and his followers are praying for the owners of strip clubs and girlie magazine stores. "We'd like to get these people converted. God can do anything," Solbrekken said.

By KEVIN STEVENSON

Anti-porn pastor Max Solbrekken has pledged to clean up Edmonton's pimps, prostitutes and pervers.

He'll begin his crusade against pornography this Friday when he leads a demonstration against the film premiere of *The Blue Lagoon* outside the Odeon Theatre.

Evangelist Max Solbrekken, condemning the film *The Blue Lagoon*, says he will stage a protest march in front of the city theatre showing it. "I am diametrically opposed to anything that pertains to filth, pornography or nudity," Solbrekken, of the Edmonton Revival Centre, said. The film — about a boy and girl marooned on a tropical island and their discovery of their sexual beings — opens a week from today at the Odeon 2. A preview showing will be held tonight. "It has been given a Restricted rating for scenes of full frontal nudity of its two stars, 15-year-old Christopher Atkins and 19-year-old Brooke Shields," he said. "In Alberta, contrary to a story in the Sun, *The Blue Lagoon* is classified as a '16' and over can see it — with or without parents." Solbrekken says he will meet with other clergymen to mount a protest — involving young people — at the theatre when the movie opens. He also lobbies the provincial government to ban the film in Alberta. "Drug addiction, alcoholism and divorce — aphic movies are partially to blame. We should be getting today's garbage — 'decent' people should rise up against children against it," he said. "His type before Canada sinks to the level of decadence" he has seen in Scandinavia.

Evangelist Max Solbrekken, left centre, leading a protest against the film *The Blue Lagoon*, and burlesque cabaret owner Pierre Cochard, right, who led a counter-protest.

## Story 'shocks' Max

By RUDY HAUGENEDER

Anti-smut evangelist Max Solbrekken yesterday denied reports that homosexuals and pervers are taking over city hall and the police department.

He said he meant to say

that he didn't want Edmonton to turn into another San Francisco where, he says, homosexuals and pervers have gained considerable influence. Solbrekken said he has nothing but praise for city hall and the police. The evangelist, who is spearheading a drive to

clean up Alberta movie houses and city streets, said his drive is aimed at preventing Edmonton from becoming another San Francisco, from which he claims most of the city's pornography comes.

He said he was shocked by the story that appeared in Sunday's Sun

in which he is quoted saying "There are even homosexuals on the police force." Solbrekken said he doesn't know much about the operation of city hall and the police department here, but intended his comments to reflect the situation in the California city.

## Pastor to picket opening of *Blue Lagoon*

EDMONTON JOURNAL, Wednesday, July 16, 1980 B3

While visiting Norway recently, Edmonton pastor Max Solbrekken was saddened to see youngsters "shooting heroin on the streets."

Now he's saddened to see the movie *Blue Lagoon* come to town, because, says Mr. Solbrekken, there's a connection between the two events. "Movies like this indicate a

loosening of morality. Society becomes so permissive that anything is legitimate. It scares me." It scares him so much that Mr. Solbrekken and his followers will protest the movie's showing in Edmonton Friday by demonstrating with placards and banners outside the Odeon Theatre.

Mr. Solbrekken said he had not seen the movie, which depicts two teen-agers in love on a deserted island. "That really burns me up," said Sam Binder, manager of Edmonton Odeon Theatres.

"He hasn't even seen the picture but he's already criticizing it."

## Pastor's

Pervers see these movies and then go out and rape somebody," he said.

The evangelist is demanding that the government change the classification of the movie from its adult status to restricted.

And that's just the beginning of Solbrekken's campaign — he also plans to protest outside city strip joints and pornographic book stores.

"It's not just *The Blue Lagoon* we're after — we want the whole ball of wax," he said.

## On Lagoon

# 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

Edmonton Sunday Sun, Sunday, April 16, 1989

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.

## 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 rap 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

# The Galilee rabbi died for us all

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's hill.

There they crucified Jesus of Nazareth between two thieves.

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

He looked down upon His accusers in love and prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do!"

Meanwhile, back at the prison, the grim jailor opened the heavy doors with an oath. He had no love for Barabbas the killer.

Barabbas snarled at the guard.

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

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

"What do you mean?" gasped the prisoner. I thought 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 for you on the cross right now. So you can go free!"

As the door swung open and Barabbas walked out of the dungeon a free man, Jesus turned to another thief on the cross next to his and said, "This day shalt thou be with me in paradise."

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral.)

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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 sort of nonsense.

### 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.)

# 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 CJC'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, are 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 nurse 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 uncar-

ing 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.)

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## 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.

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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.)

# 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.

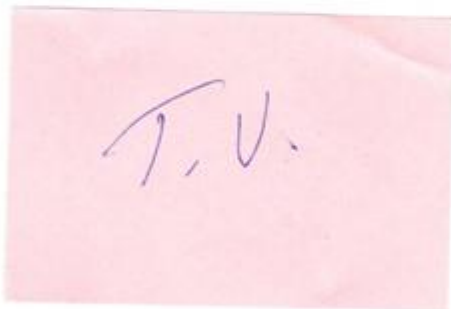
It's sad to consider that with all the TV programs costing millions of dollars and consuming much of our time, only one evangelical Christian in 10 has time to read the Bible or pray regularly.

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.)

Dec 16 1984

# 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.

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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

Jan / 85

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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 Tarsus did 2,000 years ago, until he encountered the blinding light of God's love on the road to Damascus.

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 mitts; 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 Pilate 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.

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# '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 abstinence.

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.

Newsmen 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 warts, 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 Vasyi 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

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

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 "Dealers 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.

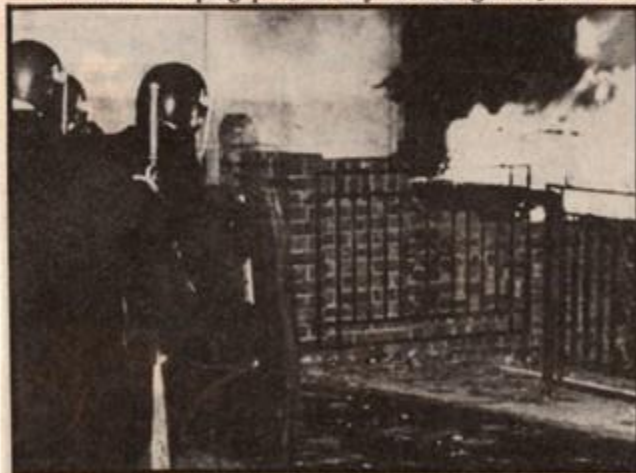
Police reinforcements arrived just in time, but by then the buildings were on fire and the riot was in progress.

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!"



Flashback to the British rioting earlier this month

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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 Rafael 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

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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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"But 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

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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, Saudi Arabia or Iran. Just ask the Bahais 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.

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.

# 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.

# The greatness of the American people

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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

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.

ever forget the day Martin Luther King was killed, a life of the gospel gunned down in cold blood by a coward with hate in his heart and money on his mind.

People hated Martin Luther King because he declared his rights and stood against the system.

He got help from wherever, because he was true to his cause — to free Black Americans from the tyranny of the South, the ghetto of the North and the poverty of the West, to give all Americans the same rights regardless of color.

Luther King delivered his now famous speech "I have a dream" from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on April 4, 1968.

Initially, as a young preacher, I had that very month in the ministry, and I heard every word he said that 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.

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 enterprise system and in one another makes the U.S.A. great.

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 walking 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 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 cold 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 hurt.

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 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.

# 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 U.S.A.

## MAX SOLBREKKEN



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

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## 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 Corason 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 Canadians 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!

# MAX SOLBREKKEN



## 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  
JUNE 1, 1986

# 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 exploitation, 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 newspaper features dealt mostly with supernatural phenomena relating to the psychic or occultic domain.

I have personally witnessed voodoo priests beating their drums 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 reportings 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 of relics or the established church.

The large crowds that gather at Lourdes and Fatima are a mix of the totally dedicated, holidaymakers 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 seance are those of departed loved ones, when they are in fact either trickery or a demonic counterfeit.

Cot. 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 15-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 Phillip the Evangelist being transmitted bodily from Gaza to Arotus 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 unawares." (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 30, 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 Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who constantly stirs the population with inflammatory rhetoric, the stateship 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 Sierra 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

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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 Mokonea 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.

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

# 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 pro-

# 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 path-way 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 any-

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)

# 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)

# 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!

# 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 Rafael 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!

*Bob  
Scrips*

*Bob  
Scrips*

*(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. 12/87

# 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."

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Religion



## Death threats speak volumes

Canada's largest book store chain has capitulated to threats of terrorism and is refusing to stock *Satanic Verses*.

The Ayatollah has spoken and the world waits in fear and trembling. And Muslim fanatics have taken to the streets, shouting death threats to Salmon Rushdie, the Indian-born British author of the novel, and his publishers.

"I call on all zealous Muslims to execute them quickly wherever you find them, so that no one will dare insult Islam's sanctity," declared Khomeini.

"Whoever is killed doing this will be regarded as a martyr and will go directly to heaven," he added.

### British flights threatened

Threats have been issued against all British Airways flights until Rushdie is "taken out of hiding." And a complaint from an Ottawa Muslim group was enough to temporarily block the book at our borders. Since National Revenue Minister Otto Jelinek announced that *Satanic Verses* was not hate literature, there have been threats against his life.

Coles, with 197 stores across Canada, said of the decision not to carry the book, "This difficult decision was made in the interest of employees' safety."

It's ironic that a religious leader — speaking in the name of God — would strike such fear in the hearts of people.

Anyone who believes that Ayatollah Khomeini is an aberration on Islam, had better read the Koran. He's the genuine article and almost an exact duplication of their prophet, Mohammed — a man of the sword.

You can't compare Islam and Christianity. Muslims are taught to fear God, but Christians are exhorted to love God, as well.

Khomeini doesn't seem to grasp the meaning of "compassion, forgiveness or pardon."

he stated, "those who follow the teachings of the Koran know that war is a blessing. It is God who incites men to fight and kill. A religion without war is an incomplete religion. To kill the unbelievers is one of man's greatest missions."

This month's *Christian Mission* magazine tells the story of Iranian Christians triumphing despite persecution. Many Muslims, disillusioned with fundamentalist laws, fanaticism and treatment of women are embracing Christianity.

And it's costing them dearly — rejection by family, imprisonment, painful interrogation and threat of death. Iranian authorities accuse Christians of being tools of imperialists who want to destroy the unity Islam has brought to their country.

During the past few years Iranian authorities have closed a number of Christian bookstores and churches, deported ministers, restricted printing Christian literature and confiscated books.

They have taken over all Christian schools, forcing children to study religious texts published by Muslims which state that Jesus is "one of 124,000 prophets," and must not be called the Son of God.

According to the German Evangelical Alliance, about 200 Christians have been executed in Iran since 1979.

It is the same in other countries where Islam is the dominant religion. Last year, mobs of Rizeigat Muslims, a warrior tribe from western Sudan, massacred more than 1,000 Christians in Diein, according to a report by two Muslim professors in Khartoum.

Violence started in Diein when about 25 Christian Dinkas, black refugees from the South, were driven from their evening prayer service by a mob of Muslims carrying axes, spears and guns.

They attacked again the next morning as Diein citizens tried to evacuate the town. Sudan officially declared itself an Islamic state in 1983.

### Attitudes are toughening

A recent sweep of arrests by Malaysian officials may signal a toughening of attitudes in that country as a part of "Islamization," according to the Open Doors News Service.

Indonesia is forcing almost half of that country's 95 Southern Baptist missionaries to leave and 12 Christians — an American, two Britons, a South Korean and eight Turks were imprisoned — last September for printing Christian materials.

The list of official Muslim repression against Christians, the Baha'i faith and others is endless. And now they want to impose their cruel brand of morality and philosophy on the Western world.

No thank you, Ayatollah Khomeini!

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Religion



The Edmonton Sunday Sun, Sunday, February 25, 1990

## Family Day: a wonderful idea

*"The average five-year-old spends only 25 minutes a week in close interaction with his father, yet spends 25 hours a week in close interaction with TV."*

— Focus on the Family

**L**arge numbers of Albertans enjoyed their first Family Day holiday last Monday, ignoring criticisms levelled at its architect, Premier Don Getty.

Anything that brings the family — as well as people in general — together, in goodwill, harmony and wholesome fun is a plus for our province and nation.

Cross country skiers, folks out for a stroll and families in general, enjoyed a time of closeness. Of course, there are always those who have to work on special occasions and others who are disadvantaged, with legitimate complaints.

Whatever reason critics used to harpoon the premier, the philosophy behind Family Day is of far greater worth than the monetary expenditure.

It was a great idea.

At least in Alberta, we don't need to hang our heads in shame like other places that

embraced Gay Pride Day, but can be proud that we still believe in families.

The old adage, "As goes the family, goes the nation" is still true in 1990 and I believe our premier is a God-send in this perilous time of family disintegration.

Don Getty is far from perfect, but he has done a good job of diversifying Alberta, negotiating Indian land claims, pulling us out of an economic quagmire and bringing back some basic values.

The rampant materialistic values of a warped humanistic philosophy has bred a contempt for decent and God-fearing principles which includes responsibility to our families.

According to a survey of business executives in the U.S., Canada, Britain, Australia and New Zealand, modern business executives spend little time with their children.

"Children are a very low priority in our society. We are seeing the effects of this already and it's going to get worse," stated Kathy Tait, a Vancouver family relations expert.

In 1988, 407 Albertans committed suicide.

Four per cent of the general population attempt suicide, 10 per cent of students try to take their own lives and for every successful suicide, there have been from 50 to 200 attempts.

The recent Suicide Awareness Week was targeted to reach young people from age 15 to 25, a high-risk group.

More than ever, families need to be made aware of the unique importance of each of its members. By God's help and through the gospel of Jesus Christ, suicide can be eliminated from the minds and actions of people.

The shocking reality is that our society applauds the evil and downplays and even criticizes the good. A classic example is the recent awarding of a Lasker Medical Research Award — America's most prestigious medical award — to Dr. Baulieu, French developer of the abortion pill RU-486.

When you consider that Canada's Federal Business Development Bank made 38 loans worth a total of \$17 million over the last nine years to strip clubs, the money Premier Getty used to promote Family Day, doesn't seem so outrageous.

# At odds with gambling

"Gambling is the child of avarice, the brother of iniquity and the father of mischief."

— President George Washington

**I**s gambling really wrong? If it is, why do so many do it? What causes the compulsive urge to roll the dice, spin the wheel or feed the slot machine?

And what about the "lotto addict" who spends thousands of dollars, hoping to win the jackpot?

Or parents who leave their children unattended in an automobile for hours, while they sit in a smoke-filled bingo hall?

Was George Washington's analysis of gambling correct?

In the early 1970s, *Time* magazine wrote, "Even if gambling is statistically normal, is it psychologically so? Is it economically and ethically desirable? A great many people are faced with the question of whether it was just good, deep fun for the family, a wasteful evil or a deeply-rooted part of human life."

Let's look at the history of gambling and its results in the community.

On March 13, 1964, the first legal state lottery ticket was sold in New Hampshire. Federal governments had frowned on lotteries since Louisiana was disgraced by one in 1894. New Hampshire's Governor John W. King allocated the profits from that first lottery to public education, and set the precedent for other states to follow.

States hard-pressed for funds turned to lotteries to lighten the tax load. But they haven't met expectations.

**B**ritish author Sydney Smith wrote: "Men prefer any load of infamy, however great, to any pressure of taxation, however light."

Gambling is as ancient as the Egyptian pharaohs who lived more than 4,000 years ago. Many of them were compulsive gamblers who had their dice buried with them in their pyramids. And archeologists state that often their dice were loaded.

Gambling was so rampant in ancient China that Confucius — who lived 500 years before Christ — condemned the practice.

Warlords and mandarins often gambled away vast empires and some bet their right arms. Alluding to this heinous practice, the great philosopher warned: "If you don't want your own right arm chopped off, don't chop off someone else's."

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Slavery got started on the African continent when tribesmen gambled away their wives, children and, finally, their own freedom as the "spirit of chance" gripped them.

The lottery may have been invented by Caesar Augustus, whose lavish parties featured gigantic sales where his guests were obligated to purchase items by lot, not knowing their value.

Nero included slaves and property in his lotteries and Heliogabalus sometimes surprised his guests with six dead flies, 10 ostriches or a dead dog as their lottery prize.

The Roman soldiers who crucified Jesus Christ gambled for His seamless robe as He hung on the cross. I have seen the various gambling games of the Roman soldiers engraved on the excavated floors of Pilate's hall in Jerusalem.

Jewish rabbis warned against gambling, calling it robbery. And Maimonides — the famous Jewish philosopher — stated that a gambler "spends his time in things which do not contribute to the well-being of his fellow man."

Las Vegas — America's gambling capital — is exploding!

According to a report in the *Los Angeles Daily News*, Las Vegas has 67,000 hotel rooms. And that figure will soon be history as the 4,032 room Excalibur opens this June.

Local authorities predict another boom by 1992, when that city will boast between 85,000 and 90,000 rooms, most of which will house eager gamblers from across the world.

In 1989, more than 18 million people visited Las Vegas — a 50-per-cent increase from 1982. And Clark County raked in \$3.18 million from gaming revenues last year.

There is no doubt that state-run lotteries have removed the age-old stigma from all forms of gambling.

But what are the results?

**D**r. Bernard Greenblatt, a Las Vegas psychologist, states: "Family life is not strong in Las Vegas. There is a great deal of instability. As a result, we have one of the highest homicide rates in the United States and one of the highest suicide rates, just about double the national average."

"We have all the classic signs of a breakdown in society: high alcoholism, drug abuse, prejudice against blacks, homosexuality, juvenile delinquency. This is not a healthy community. I am concerned about what happens to people who grow up in a community whose orientation is extremely materialistic."

Here in Alberta, recent statistics show that the amount of money people spent on gambling is up, while giving to charities is down. And that is a sad commentary.

The "money grubbing" gambling lords are not satisfied with only today's suckers. They are seeking to make slaves of tomorrow's generation as well.

WHEN THERE'S ONE IN A MILLION CHANCE OF BEING STRUCK BY LIGHTNING...



BUT WHEN THERE'S ONE IN 3 ZILLION CHANCE OF WINNING THE LOTTERY...



# Pray for South Africa

*"There is no grievance that is fit for redress by mob rule."*

— Abraham Lincoln

Americans celebrated Abraham Lincoln's birthday last week. The famous president made his mark, before he died from an assassin's bullet in 1865.

One of the greatest achievements of the man called "Honest Abe" was the abolition of slavery in the U.S.

It seems fitting, that last week South Africa's most famous prisoner Nelson Mandela was released and returned to Soweto in triumph. For nearly three decades, Mandela has kept faith, believing that one day the hated system of apartheid would be abolished.

The handwriting is now on the wall and soon the unjust political system that has ruled that country — with an iron fist — will be dead, as a new order emerges.

As the evil empires of ruthless communist dictators continue falling in Eastern Europe, so will apartheid.

Watching Mandela make his initial speech however, sent chills down my spine. Encouraging "armed struggle" at this present time, is like lighting the fuse of a dynamite keg.

Only someone who knows the history of the animosities and power struggles in that land, can understand the volatility of the situation. His message in Soweto however, proves he has more wisdom than many of his compatriots.

Condemning the recent violence and asking for discipline and self-control, Mandela said he wanted "no broken windows, no mindless violence."

If he is not able to keep the masses in check, Lincoln's words about mob rule will take on new meaning.

In our South African Gospel crusades (1974 and 1976), I protested the segregation ban — in Durban and Cape-town — by publicly inviting blacks to attend the whites-only services. I demanded that our team — my son Ken, Turnel Nelson (a black man), Dudley Fairbairn (colored) and myself, share a suite in the hotel.

And even though we were warned to stay out of the colored district, we broke those unfair laws by visiting friends in the restaurant and health studio, in Athlone.

President Fredrick de Klerk has taken a bold initiative, believing that Mandela understands the complexities of gov-

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erning a nation where deep hatreds have existed between numerous black tribes for hundreds of years.

And where animosities exist between business-oriented East Indians, coloreds (mixed bloods) and the much poorer blacks.

Last week, Mandela, who spent 27 years in prison was released, unconditionally. He looks, acts and speaks like a statesman. And so does Mangosutu Buthelezi, Chief of the Zulus.

These are the two men who will have to sit down with President De Klerk to hammer out the future of that nation.

We must remember that there is a greater hatred and mistrust between the various black tribes in that country than there is against the whites.

Although South Africa has 29 million blacks, only three million belong to Mandela's Xhosa tribe, while Buthelezi rules more than six million Zulus — who are highly trained, disciplined and loyal. And there are three million coloreds, one million Asians and five million whites.

Buthelezi is an educated man who is opposed to sanctions and the violent overthrow of the government, while the ANC use terrorist methods to gain their goals. More than 2,500 have died in that struggle during the last three years.

"There will be a conference table searching for the formula for a multiparty democracy. Mandela will be there. I will be there. The ANC will be there. Inkatha (Zulu organization) will be there," said Buthelezi.

If cooler heads do not prevail in South Africa, the next 10 years could produce the worst civil war in history.

May God help South Africa.

# 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.

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## Prophetic key to current affairs

**T**he secret ballot of Nicaragua's first free election in decades, told the real story about Daniel Ortega and the Sandinistas.

Even generous gifts of Canadian grain to the electorate could not buy people's votes. When they had a choice between communism and democracy, they opted for freedom.

The Nicaraguan decision and recent developments in Panama and Eastern Europe must be giving Cuba's Fidel Castro nightmares.

A half-million people demonstrating for democracy in Moscow — without police interference — is unprecedented.

The hatred of oppressive regimes, worldwide, is gaining momentum and it appears that nothing can stop it.

The unified "people power" of the marching multitudes toppled the evil, corrupt dictatorships of the Philippines' Ferdinand Marcos, Romania's Nicolae Ceausescu, East Germany's Erich Honecker and others.

Few political analysts saw it coming and only theologians and preachers majoring in eschatology — the doctrine of last things — recognized the writing on the wall.

**H**ardly anyone believed that the dismantling of communism would be so rapid and so widespread.

Jesus Christ's dramatic apocalyptic revelation to St. John on Patmos unveiled the prophetic key to what is now taking place.

He laid out the entire scenario for the seven prophetic periods of the church, which comprise the entire "Church Age."

Here are His words: "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."

His message detailed specific events which would come to pass, as well as admonitions to each of the churches.

In the scrutinous study of these verses, coupled with the historical record, we find that everything Jesus prophesied nearly 2,000 years ago fits perfectly.

Each of these seven churches in Asia Minor were microcosms of the seven periods of time which make up the total life of the entire Church Age.

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And in Greek, each city's name — where these churches were located — had a definitive meaning which corresponds to the spiritual happenings of that period.

Ephesus means "desirable." This is a word a Greek man would use when referring to his beloved. The early church was pure and pleasing to Christ.

Smyrna was connected with death. Myrrh was used in embalming, but it had to be crushed to bring out its fragrance. The church's second period coincides with pagan Rome's crushing persecution against Christians.

Pergamos has two meanings: "marriage" and "elevation." This refers to the time the church was elevated to a place of power and married to the world. This was fulfilled when the church and state were united under Emperor Constantine and his successors.

Thyatira comes from two words, one which means "to sacrifice, incense-offering." The other, "that which goes on continually." The 7th century saw the first recognized elevation of the Bishop of Rome to that of Pope. And this era introduced the new doctrine of the continual "sacrifice of the mass."

Sardis means "a remnant, those who have escaped." Many believe this speaks of the state-churches of the Reformation, which escaped from Rome's heavy hand.

**P**hiladelphia means "brotherly love." This could refer to the great awakenings and religious revivals which swept northern Europe and the British Isles after the Reformation.

And Laodicea, a compound word, means "the rights of the people." Many eminent Bible scholars and theologians, who are experts in eschatology, believe that we are now living in the final period of the Church Age before the second coming of Christ.

And in my studied opinion, I have to agree that the current happenings, together with the historical facts of the past 2,000 years, point that way.

If we are living in the seventh and final segment of the "Day of God's Grace," the name Laodicea is in total agreement with the recent uprisings of "people power" — all over the globe.

It seems only natural that the rulers of the Soviet Union, China, Albania, South Africa and other totalitarian nations should join Fidel Castro in nervous jitters.

And Christians should rejoice because "our redemption draws near."

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# Stripping: The bottom line

"The most significant thing about stripping is it strikes right at the heart of the husband/wife relationship. We think it can only be detrimental to the family."

—Douglas Russell

**T**he president of Alberta's Alcohol-Drug Education Association, Douglas Russell, is upset about nude dancing in this province's bars. And he wants Premier Don Getty's government to stop it.

There is probably nothing more degrading to a woman than taking off her clothes before a group of half-drunk, lecherous men.

To publicly prostitute one's naked anatomy for a pay cheque may impact a female more negatively than selling sex on a one-to-one basis in private.

Toronto University student Lisa Narbeshuber was so psychologically disturbed by the frequent stares of professor Richard Hummel while swimming, that she sued to have him removed from the Hart House Pool.

The real reason hotels feature nude burlesque shows is to attract more customers. Often, they display nude female dancers in sensuous positions with lewd movements in order to keep their cash registers ringing.

The bottom line is greed and lust.

Greed on the part of the hotel owner who is trying to edge out his competitors — in the beer-selling game — by advertising more vivacious women. And lust on the part of men who spend their welfare and unemployment cheques on booze while watching some stripper take off her clothes.

And that's dumb — because she is being victimized by a society that says money is more important than dignity. We live in a capitalistic system that will sell anything — even

virtue — to the highest bidder.

It's also dumb because she is attracted to a "loser-crowd" of afternoon beer drinkers, who should be out looking for work, or the evening set, who ought to be at home with their wives and children.

And worse, because of a rash decision to prostitute their naked bodies, many of these young women may suffer from psychological and spiritual turmoil for years to come.

Recently I spoke with Al, a former drug user and pusher, who hung around bars and strip joints for 10 years.

Although Al dropped out of school at 15, used and sold drugs and lived a sexually immoral life until two years ago, he was revolted by women on stage taking off their clothes. Often they confided in him how much they hated having to "strip" and how "degraded" and "used" they felt when it was all over. More than once, Al supplied them with drugs to help them "get up" for the act.

I have been approached several times by decent, moral hotel owners who feel victimized by being forced to employ nude dancers in order to compete and stave off bankruptcy.

Often, these employers are family men who suffer from inward shame and remorse because they are involved in the skin trade. Many would not allow their daughter to take off their clothes in public, yet they ask other men's daughters to do so.

This indecency haunts them and so it should.

Russell believes that stripping is a "gross exploitation of women" and that "our society is rotting out from this indecency."

Meanwhile, Audrey Jensen, who lives in Premier Getty's Stettler riding, continues to take flak for her courageous and sometimes-lonely crusade against the strippers and the hotels

where they operate.

"Naked dancing creates lust and alcohol reduces inhibitions," warns the crusader. The combination could lead to sexual violence or the spread of sexual diseases, states Jensen.

According to the Bible, Adam and Eve were naked in the Garden of Eden — before the fall — and were not ashamed. However, after their transgression they hid themselves because of their shame and made aprons of fig leaves to cover their private parts.

The Old Testament warns against adultery and "uncovering your neighbor's nakedness." And Jesus dealt with the problem of lust. He stated: "He that looks upon a woman to lust after her, has committed adultery with her already in his heart."

My first question is: What good can possibly come from striptease acts, when our generation is already struggling with the sins of lust and immorality?

The second question is: If no good will come, then what evil may be lurking in the shadows, because of our permissive society and the flaunting of nakedness?

When our Lord Jesus healed Legion — the naked, insane man who was possessed by unclean spirits — his mind returned to normal and he put on his clothes.

I wish to add my voice to those who champion decency, morality and freedom from the bondage of lust, greed and exploitation in this province.

Many would say, "why protest such a minuscule problem as nude dancers in Alberta bars?"

I'll let Moses answer: "You shall not follow a multitude to do evil."

# WE ALL COULD BE BETTER PEOPLE

**I**t is common knowledge that all moral and just laws on the earth today owe their existence to the Holy Bible. The Jewish prophet Moses received the lively oracles on Mount Sinai, written on two stone tablets by the hand of Almighty God.

The English Common Law — patterned after the Law of Moses — is the basis for the justice that multitudes of oppressed people have received for centuries.

St. John records: "The law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." Building upon the Psalms, the Law and the Prophets, Messiah Jesus brought us the grace (unmerited favor) of God.

He gave the world the Sermon on the Mount, the golden rule, the beatitudes and salvation through His substitutionary death on the Cross and His resurrection. The following poem takes its moral values from Christ's Gospel.

## YOU WILL NEVER BE SORRY

For thinking before acting  
For hearing before judging  
For forgiving your enemies  
For helping a fallen brother  
For being honest in business  
For standing by your principles  
For stopping your ears to gossip  
For bridling a slanderous tongue

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For harboring only pure thoughts  
For sympathizing with the afflicted  
For being courteous to all.

Jesus stated that an army does not go into battle against an enemy without first knowing its strength. He asked: "Which of you will build a house without counting the cost?" Before making any commitments, we should get all the facts and determine the consequences of our actions.

He said: "Judge not, lest ye be judged." It is important that we have all the information on any given subject before making a judgment call, remembering that God is the final judge.

Jesus stated: "Forgive and you shall be forgiven." Then He added that if any would not forgive those who have wronged them, neither will God forgive them.

The "Good Samaritan" parable is a classic example of true

Christianity.

Jesus spoke of suffering persecution for the sake of the Gospel and righteousness. He said, "rejoice in that day and leap for joy." When you have right principles, they are worth standing up for and even suffering for."

Gossip is always hurtful. St. Paul admonished the church not to be tale bearers or "busybodies in other men's affairs."

And St. James emphatically counselled Christians to "bridle their tongues." He said: "The tongue is a world of iniquity. He that bridled his tongue is a perfect man."

St. Paul wrote: "Whatsoever things are true, honest, just, pure ... think on these things." And the scripture says: "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ."

The gospels and epistles constantly remind us to "be kindly affectioned one to the other." Jesus said, "weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice."

The Canadian government spends a lot of money encouraging us to be friendly to tourists ... and soon federal civil servants will be offered courses to teach them to be more polite to the public.

A mother overheard her eight-year-old daughter praying one evening. Here is what she said: "Dear Lord Jesus — there are so many bad people in the world. Make all the bad people good and please make all the good people nice. Amen."

Not all good people are courteous and nice. May we all take this little poem to heart and be kind to one another.

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Religion



### Church teachings feeling some heat

Pope John Paul is in hot water again with some of his flock.

He's gone over the heads of local clergy by appointing new arch-conservative bishops. Liberals are angry and in Switzerland some have even blocked cathedral entrances during consecrations.

I believe the Pope must hew a hard line in doctrinal matters. Protecting their belief system is his right.

He's only doing his duty and yet a lot of Catholics refuse to listen. They want to belong, but don't like what their church teaches.

#### Wanted to cleanse church

Martin Luther was being true to scripture and conscience when he preached against indulgences and moral corruption in the church. His desire was not to divide the church, but to cleanse it.

Human nature wants to take the way of least resistance. Like exercise, we know it's beneficial but difficult to implement. So it's easy to envy and criticize those who do.

The same holds true in love, politics and religion.

When the United Church of Canada voted to allow homosexuals and lesbians to become members — as well as candidates for ordination — many protested. Why? The United Church of Canada has been a Bible-believing, Christ-honoring Church.

The Mormons also have problems. Some question the time, money and effort their leaders put into searching the family trees of their members.

*Newsweek* March 1, 1976 issue quoted that movement's founder, Joseph Smith: "The greatest responsibility in this world that God has laid upon us is to seek after our dead."

Mormons believe that being baptized for a dead relative, brings salvation to that person, regardless of their wishes, beliefs or conduct while alive.

Some say, "How foolish and unscriptural. Jesus said, Let the dead bury their dead. Go and preach the kingdom of God." Mormons however, are faithfully following the teachings of Joseph Smith.

Their intensive missionary program geared at reaching families, has also come under attack.

Some argue that Mormons are poor advocates of wholesome families, given their Utah record — where the church's headquarters are situated.

According to the Salt Lake Tribune, that city has 50 per cent more rapes than the U.S. average and for every rape reported, three to nine actually occur. And Utah's child abuse rate is one of the highest in the country ... with more instances of molestation and rape by the natural fathers.

Child abuse referrals show a 55.5 per cent increase since 1982.

The rate of suicides for males 13 to 19 increased 16.5 per cent in a 10-year period. And Utah's murder rate for children under 15 is five times as high as the national figures.

The world was shocked recently when the Ayatollah Khomeini condemned to death British author Salman Rushdie, for what was termed "blasphemy" in his new novel, *Satanic Verses*.

Khomeini, in the strictest sense, is obeying the commands of Islam's prophet.

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Mohammed claimed that God gave him the Koran. A voice dictated the words into his ear. A military genius, he appealed to the masses — in the name of God — to fight to the death, in order to conquer.

Joseph Smith used the same approach. Marani — an angel supposedly sent from God — gave him the Book of Mormon.

And it worked for them both. Strong leaders using the "so-called" Word of God to inspire their followers into giving "all" to fulfill a mission.

#### Book faces challenge

In Smith's case, his holy book has been challenged by experts who have proven that the handwriting in the original manuscript, is the same as that of U.S. novelist Spalding.

Spalding's unfinished manuscript, *Origin of the American Indians*, was stolen shortly after his death, about 10 years before Morani's supposed appearance.

A serious student can easily detect biblical plagiarization in both books, together with glaring contradictions!

I'm glad that I am a follower of Jesus Christ and not of Joseph Smith or Ayatollah Khomeini. And even though our record isn't perfect, the church has brought much understanding, compassion and salvation to a very troubled world, for nearly 2,000 years.

# Cigarettes: The killer amongst us

## Smoking kills!

Revulsion over second-hand tobacco smoke, its devastating effects in the lives of non-smokers and the animosity of the medical community towards tobacco has everyone talking.

Scarcely a day goes by without a report of some new discovery concerning the dangerous effects of cigarette smoke, active and passive.

A recent study of women who smoked during pregnancy provides strong evidence that chemical compounds in tobacco smoke damage human genetic material. Although genetic damage caused by tobacco smoke has been seen before in animals and cell cultures, the study provides evidence that damage occurs, and can be detected, in living humans.

Results from the study show that damage to genes is occurring in smokers, and because such damage is believed to be a crucial stage in the cancer process, the results reinforce the link between smoking and cancer.

Federal Health Minister Jake Epp says he hopes Canadian newspapers will follow the example of a Kingston, Ont. paper which banned most tobacco advertising last year.

The move, which is costing the paper \$50,000 annually in lost revenue, was praised by several health groups, including the Canadian Medical Association.

Epp said countless American and Canadian studies have shown smoking is "the single largest carcinogen that any of us face on a day-by-day basis."

Nearly 25,000 Canadians die annually from diseases attributed to cigarette smoke, while medical authorities believe that perhaps 1,000 deaths in the U.S. each day are associated with the habit.

## AMA wants advertising ban extended

The American Medical Association is lobbying hard to get Congress to extend to newspapers, magazines and billboards the ban on cigarette advertising that was imposed on television and radio 15 years ago.

About 50 per cent of the adult female population continues to smoke despite repeated health warnings. For the first time in history, lung cancer surpassed breast cancer last year as the leading killer of American women.

Among the most avid smokers — and perhaps the most vulnerable — are women in their prime child-bearing years.

According to Health and Welfare Canada, during any given 18-month period, more Canadians die at the hands of tobacco-industry products than were killed during the Second World War.

The *Royal Society of Health Journal* states that "the smoking 'epidemic' has death rates as high as those from cholera at the peak of the epidemics in the last century."

U.S. Surgeon General Dr. C. Everett Koop, who recently visited Israel, reports

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that 70 per cent of Israelis smoke, as compared to 30 per cent of Americans.

Koop says 3,000 Israelis die annually of smoking-related diseases, including cardiovascular disease, lung cancer and obstructive lung disease.

The epidemiology unit of Ben-Gurion University stated: "Smoking is the principal cause of lung cancer, the principal cause of heart attacks amongst younger people, the principal cause of crippling chronic pulmonary disease, an important cause of infertility, low birth weight and birth defects. The

smoking of parents is a major cause of respiratory disease in infants and children."

The American-Israeli Anti-Smoking Society, based in Los Angeles, is so concerned about Israeli apathy to the known facts of tobacco's dangers that they are spending \$250,000 a year for five years to educate Israelis, through TV ads, of the killer that is stalking their land.

## Smoke it again, Sam

Millions of North American kids saw Humphrey Bogart in the movies and learned how to hold a cigarette, how to inhale and squint through the smoke. And many of them are now dead.

North Americans are waking up to the real dangers of cigarette smoke and stopping the habit in droves, while young Israelis watch leading citizens on television with cigarettes between their fingers and think it is macho to smoke.

If the Israelis continue this suicidal habit, PLO terrorists will soon be able to retire.

Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral

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# The day of reckoning

**G**od's judgment is on those who pollute the atmosphere, contaminate the water and rape the earth.

That's what the Bible says. There's a payday coming for those who destroy God's creation. The warning is clearly given in the scriptures.

In the Apocalypse, Jesus Christ warns that "God will destroy them that destroy the earth" (Rev. 11:18).

And yet, infidels and pagans try to pin the blame for our endangered planet on Christianity and the Bible.

It's well documented that we have an enormous problem on our hands concerning the clean-up of the environment.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for an environmental research group, Worldwatch Institute, recommended recently that the U.S. set an example for the world by asking families to limit themselves to two children.

"Many American couples can afford more than two children, but the issue now is whether the planet can," said Lester Brown, whose goal is halving world population growth by the year 2000.

The Greenhouse Effect — gaseous pollutants in the atmosphere — could raise global temperatures by up to five degrees over the next few years, causing widespread drought or flooding, warn scientists.

A recent environmental conference, The Changing Atmosphere — staged by Environment Canada — drew 350 scientists, politicians, economists and environmentalists from more than 40 countries.

They called for industrialized nations to reduce by 20 per cent the amount of carbon dioxide produced by the year 2000 and 50 per cent by 2015.

Government should require the auto industry to produce cars 50 per cent more fuel efficient by the turn of the century, they demanded.

Acid rain is having devastating effects on fish as well as vegetation. And the deliberate destruction of Brazil's rain forests are of deep concern. U.S. Senator Albert Gore told a Senate panel recently that the earth's ozone shield is

on the verge of being destroyed, allowing cancer-causing ultraviolet radiation to flow in.

He called the ozone loss "a virtual time bomb" and a possible threat to national security.

Much of the world's waters are also polluted from Canada's Great Lakes — industrial effluents are killing the fish — to Europe's Baltic and North Seas, where decades of dumping human waste is attacking the immune systems of a large number of seals.

We have seen the terrifying destruction caused by Iraq's "poison gas" against Iran, and the systematic destruction of former Christian Lebanon by Syria and other Muslim factions.

Who or what is to blame for all the terrible atrocities committed against the earth?

The *Toronto Star's* Tom Harpur advances one of the most ridiculous theories I've ever heard.

He mentions the criticism against the Biblical passages in Genesis where God gives Adam "dominion" over the earth to "subdue it."

He believes some have taken this out of context and view themselves as lords over the planet and other species.

"But the malady runs deeper than this," he writes. "It can be seen in the basic creeds of Christianity recited every Sunday by hundreds of millions of people."

Harpur calls the Apostles' Creed "a remarkable distortion." Parroting Thomas Berry and Matthew Fox, he says Christians minimize the creation of the earth by God and emphasize too much the birth, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, as stated in the Apostles' Creed.

Harpur rationalizes that "to be 'saved' very often has meant being delivered from allegiance and commitment to our planetary home.

"Berry rightly says that Christianity has for too long been preoccupied with the role and personality of the Redeemer and not sufficiently tuned in to the fact that God has been revealing the divine nature for billions of years, ever since the big bang of creation," he says.

Berry and Harpur are both wrong. They do not understand the true nature of Christianity and the teachings of the Bible, concerning our responsibilities to the planet and our fellow men.

*Time* magazine's Jan. 2, cover story on the *Endangered Earth* made a lot more sense than Harpur.

"This last year the earth spoke, like God warning Noah of the deluge. Its message was loud and clear.

"But mankind has not accepted the warnings about the perils of ecological rape, just like people do not listen to the biblicists who insist that Armageddon is near.

"Pagan societies taught that the earth was endowed with divinity, and mortals were subordinate to it. The Judeo-Christian tradition introduced a radically different concept. The earth was a creation of a monotheistic God, who after shaping it, ordered its inhabitants, in the words of Genesis, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of the air and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.'"

God chose to delegate responsibility over the plant and animal kingdoms to human beings. And Adam named every living creature (Gen. 2:19).

This Scripture is one of the most powerful proofs showing that the Bible teaches ecological responsibility and accountability. The ancient reader would understand at once, that when God gave Adam the right to name all living creatures, he was also responsible for their care.

Prophet Hosea warned that if mankind defaulted in his responsibility to God and His creation, there would be judgment.

"Therefore the land will mourn; and everyone who dwells there will waste away with the beasts of the field and the birds of the air; even the fish of the sea will be taken away" (Hos. 4:3).

Christians, who are taught to be good stewards, should lead the way in replenishing and looking after God's property, for "the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof."

# WHAT IS THE WORLD COMING TO?

Edmonton Sunday Sun, Sunday, April 16, 1989

"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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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 humans 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!

# Looking homeward for heroes

SEP 15 1985  
ED. SUN

There are more heroes in Canada than we realize! Most of them are ordinary everyday folks who become giants in times of emergency.

Take Vancouver bus driver John Boyarski who rescued a 15-year-old girl from the grip of a crazed gunman recently. Police and passengers declared that Boyarski saved the young girl's life by getting off the bus and confronting the gunman who was spraying bullets at the terrified teenager.

As the 41-year-old bus driver made his approach, the deranged man started firing at him, but that did not deter Boyarski.

"I'm no hero," stated the bus driver later, "I'm just lucky to be alive."

Everyone wants heroes or role models to look up to regardless of age or station in life. All of us have a need to believe in someone and develop feelings of admiration for certain individuals.

Children and young people are especially vulnerable to the cult of hero worship!

The natural heroes in a child's life should be his or her parents, but with so many broken homes, single-parent families, rampant child abuse and drunken quarrels, the young often turn to TV personalities or rock stars as role models.

This is tragic when so many of those being looked up to are themselves having serious battles with booze, drugs, depression or suicide.

## Stable family

How important that society sees its responsibility in seeking to build a more stable family setting through monogamous relationships with an enduring, caring, sharing love in the home. And that we teach our children to respect our community leaders, clergy, teachers, police officers, medical personnel as well as senior citizens.

Often a child's Sunday School teacher can be a valuable role model to help inspire wholesome attitudes.

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baseball and hockey coaches, boy scout leaders as well as hard-working school teachers, nurses, social workers, pastors and elected officials.

hard-working school teachers, nurses, social workers, pastors and elected officials.

Certainly there are many Canadians who we can look up to and admire for their contribution to our society. We think immediately of giants like John Diefenbaker and our own Premier Peter Lougheed who have served their fellow man unselfishly.

## Picked up mantle

Steve Fonyo, the one-legged cancer victim from Vernon B.C., picked up the mantle from the fallen hero and raised over \$5 million for research with his 8,113-km "Journey For Lives" across the nation.

Wayne Gretzky has inspired a lot of young people to become clean-cut athletes while Steve Podborski refused to be identified with alcohol advertising!

Across the nation we can think of many fine people who every day of their lives give of themselves to help others. Like little league

Rev. Mark Buntain, a former Edmonton resident, who has spent the last 25 years helping the poor, sick and needy the slums of Calcutta, India. His work rivals that of Sister Theresa yet so few know of his magnanimous labors of love.

There are others like Rev. J.P. Harbarenko of Swan River Manitoba and Rev. John Spillenaar of Ontario, who as missionary bush pilots brought the gospel as well as tangible assistance to the Indians and Inuit of Northern Manitoba Ontario and Quebec for the best part of their lives. Both these men, now in their 70s, still actively continue their labors of love.

In the darkest days of the Second World War, Sir Winston Churchill told the world: "When great causes are the move in the world, we find that we are spirits, not animals. That things are going on in space and time, whether men like it or not, which spell duty."

I would to God that all of us sense our duty to defend the helpless, lift up the fallen, care for the sick and if demands, put our lives on the lines to save others.

# Death, taxes and God won't fail you

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Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin boasted he had spent 28 hours in space and hadn't met God.

A U.S. astronaut countered, "If Gagarin would have opened the hatch of his space craft, he would have met God in a hurry."

Ever since the beginning of time, death has monopolized the human race. At one time or other, everyone has to come to grips with the reality of dying.

Poets, philosophers and mystics have dramatized the subject while medics, pastors and morticians regularly deal with it, in real terms.

A group of air travellers were shocked when their plane suddenly lost altitude and the co-pilot made a terse statement wishing them well.

A passenger told of people praying, crying and some becoming hysterical. They were more fortunate than the thousands who have died in recent years due to war, famines, earthquakes and accidents.

Or the 26 who died last summer in the Edmonton tornado.

## **Everyone born with desire to live**

Everyone is born with a desire to live. Man has a natural instinct for survival.

We have all heard how we can only count on death and taxes.

Many live in fear and dread of dying, while others live as though they will never die. And most make little or no spiritual or psychological preparation for the event.

Where can we find hope and reassurance?

Certainly not the philosopher. He can only speculate about "life beyond the grave." The scientist is no help either. How can anyone measure "eternity?"

*The Bible* has the final word on death.

Solomon stated, "then shall the dust (body) return to the earth as it was, and the spirit to God who gave it."

And St. Paul said, "It is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgment."

God created man's body out of the dust of the earth and "breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living spirit."

*The Bible* teaches that our bodies are temporal but our spirits are eternal. Death terminates our physical life, but cannot destroy our spirit.

## **Spirit joined then separated**

In birth, God joins man's body and spirit into one unit. In death, the reverse happens; there is a separation of body and spirit.

As a pastor, I have often witnessed the pain, cruelty and unfairness of death; men, women and children cut down in the prime of life.

Jesus called death an enemy. Through his death and resurrection however, he defeated Satan, death and hell.

St. Paul said, "Through death, Jesus destroyed him who had the power of death, that is the devil."

Job asked, "If a man dies,

shall he live again?" What do we know about "life after death?"

American Indians showed their faith in the "happy hunting ground" by burying a warrior's bow and arrows with his body.

Vikings put a horse and saddle in the grave for the dead to ride, Laplanders buried flint and tinder to assist their loved

ones in making the passage from this life to the next.

When dying upon the Cross, Jesus prayed, "Father into thy hands I commend my spirit." Three days later, he arose from the dead and said to his followers, "because I live, you shall live also."

Max is Founder of Faith Cathedral

# THE LIFE AND DEATH CYCLE

*"And as it is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgment."*

— St. Paul

**T**he world's present population of 5.2 billion is still spiralling and will be one billion higher by the end of this millenium.

There will be more people on planet earth by the year 2,000 than have lived since the time of Adam.

Nothing is as fascinating as studying the cycle of life and death.

Philosophers have long pondered the origin of life, the purpose for being and the chilling realities of death.

Clergymen and theologians struggle with the mystery of life-after-death and the certainty of a final judgment.

And all of us are heading in the same direction — destination eternity. The grave is only a "way station" on the journey. For millenia, mankind has searched for, debated and agonized with the complexities of identity. We ask: "Who am I? Where did I come from? What am I doing here? Where am I going?" and "What shall my end be?"

After evaluating the inconsistencies of many ancient philosophers, the lies and deception of spurious cults, Eastern mysticism, the New Age Movement and the false promise of reincarnation, there is still unrest and emptiness.

In a state of depression, some seek consolation and comfort through clairvoyants, fortune tellers and spiritist mediums. And others turn to the bottle or needle for a quick fix, or commit suicide to end it all.

The Greek philosopher, Hypocrates, was the first to identify depression. In classifying the four temperaments, he labelled one "melancholia."

Aretaeus, who lived in the second century, spoke of the depressed as being "sad, dismayed," who wanted to die and complaining of a thousand futilities.

Blaise Pascal, the famous philosopher, stated: "There is a

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God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man that can be satisfied by none other than God Himself."

The only sensible approach is to go to the world's most time-tested and proven book — the holy Bible — for truth, peace and counsel.

Jesus warned: "What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

Death is all around us. We cannot escape it. Every day, someone who is near and dear, goes out to meet God. It touches us all.

The suicide deaths of three teenagers in Lethbridge, the arson-related deaths of 87 people at New York's Happy Land Club, and the AIDS-related death of fashion designer Halston, all remind us how brief life is.

Recently, death claimed two dear friends, who were buried on the same day. Rev. David Storry, 33, a counsellor who poured love and wisdom into his clients, left a grieving wife who carries his unborn baby. And trucker Art Campbell, 52, left a wife and six sons.

The only consolation is that they were both saved and ready to meet their maker. Here's a poem by Vivian Winslow, for all those who mourn.

## BEYOND

Beyond the smouldering ashes of your sorrow,  
Beyond those tears that glisten on your cheek,

Beyond the mists of doubt that haunt the midnight  
And shroud the dawning day so cold and bleak

Beyond the hollow echo of grief's questions  
That change the heart to stony canyon walls,  
Beyond the loneliness that lies before you,  
Like medieval castles' dreary halls

Beyond the hand that reaches out to comfort,  
Trying so hard to close the door of loss,  
Yet knowing well, though filled with deep compassion,  
This is the bridge that you alone must cross

Beyond this vale of human limitations  
Where loved ones fall and lie beneath the sod  
There is a balm that heals all grief and sorrow  
In the secret place alone with God.

His everlasting arms can still the tempest  
And bring the weary soul a peaceful rest  
Strength will return to climb tomorrow's mountain,  
Leaning on the gentle Savior's breast."

And finally, a warning for all of us!

## THE GREAT CLOCK

The clock of life is wound but once,  
And no man has the power  
To tell just when the hands will stop  
At late or early hour.

Now is the only time you own,  
Live, love, toil with a will  
Place no faith in tomorrow, for  
The hands may then be still."

Jesus said: "Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

God says to us: "Give Me some of your time and I will give you some of My eternity."

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## Put prayers back in school

**R**ecently in Vancouver, I had an interesting conversation with a Muslim taxi driver. When he learned that I was a preacher, he immediately began to discuss the escalating alcohol-drug-sex problems prevalent among our youth.

I asked: "What do you believe is the underlying reason for this senseless rebellion and permissiveness? And when did it begin spiralling?"

Without hesitation he answered: "In the 1970s, when they took prayer out of the schools in this province."

He continued: "When the Christian church was strong, we were stronger also. But when the church's moral position became weaker, it affected all religions. We all lost something."

He lamented the "stupid move" of some minority religious groups, which by demanding "equal rights" had removed prayer from the schools, thus weakening the moral fibre of the entire community.

Addressing 15,000 people in St. Peter's Square on Palm Sunday, 1974, Pope Paul VI stated: "Jesus Christ is the hope, light and salvation of this world."

I agree.

### Millions agree with me

So do the holy scriptures, as well as the congregate testimonies of millions — down through the centuries — who have received Christ's saving grace and healing power, by faith.

Shortly before His substitutionary death for us on the cross, Jesus sat on a hill overlooking the Holy City. There, He uttered these agonizing words: "Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem. How often would I have gathered thee as a hen doth gather her chicks under her, but you would not."

Because of their constant rebellion against the prophets, breaking of their covenant with the Eternal, and the rejection of Yeshua — their Messiah — Jerusalem was destroyed and Israel judged and dispersed for nearly 2,000 years.

On Calvary's cross Jesus prayed: "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."

About 700 years before, Prophet Isaiah had declared it would happen. "He (Messiah) is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised and we esteemed him not."

"Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God and afflicted."

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

A little girl got lost on her way home from school in London, England. For hours the police drove around the city trying to locate her home. Her name, Mary Smith and that of her parents — Peter and Annie — were very common, and the little girl was confused and frightened.

Finally, one of the officers asked: "Mary, is there a church near where you live?" Immediately the six-year-old stopped crying. Smilingly, she answered: "If you'll take me to the big cross, I'll find my way home."

Some years ago a hymn writer heard Mary's story and wrote the song: *Take Me to the Cross and I'll Find My Way Home*.

### The crowd wanted blood

Governor Pontius Pilate was convinced that Jesus was innocent. He was determined to release Him, but the crowd wanted blood. He had Jesus scourged with the brutal cat-of-nine tails whip, hoping this would satisfy the mob. They had plaited a crown of thorns and pressed it into his head.

According to custom, Pilate could free a prisoner at the time of Passover. He offered them a choice between Jesus and Barabbas, a notorious thief and murderer.

They cried out: "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Give us Barabbas."

The governor called for water to wash his hands, saying: "I am free from the blood of this innocent man."

The Bible says: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

# En-Gulf-ed with Revelations

After Iraqi warplanes struck Iran's air bases Sept. 22, 1980, the *Wall Street Journal's* Spencer Davidson wrote, "A large match was lit last week in a very flammable part of the globe."

Over seven years later, the war still rages in the Persian Gulf with no clear winner or end in sight.

This senseless conflict has pitted the forces of aggressive 44-year-old President Saddam Hussein of Iraq against the aging Shiite fanatic Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini of Iran.

The dispute centres around a broken agreement between the two countries and land area that Iraq wants to regain. The agreement signed in Algiers by the late Shah moved the border from the Iranian side of the Shatt Al-Arab Waterway and in return Iran agreed to stop supporting the Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq.

After the Shah's departure the dispute flared again and sensing an opportunity to retake the area as well as the rich oil fields, Hussein initiated the "War of the Gulf."

## Mullahs start 'holy war'

Even though Iran was disoriented by Khomeini's internal revolution and repression and deteriorating world opinion, due to the hostage taking of the American embassy in Tehran, the fanatical Mullahs spurred the people on in the so-called "holy war."

The conflict is the largest since the Second World War and has killed more people than any other since Hitler's infamous campaigns ... leaving 150,000 Iraqis and 500,000 Iranians dead.

Young Iranian boys gladly march to their deaths, flashing the victory sign as loud-speakers blast out martial music and moslem prayers. Soldiers, who die as martyrs in the war, have been promised by their mullahs (priests) that they will go directly to heaven and spend eternity on couches of silk brocade surrounded by all manner of fruit and virgin girls.

Does the *Bible* have anything to say about the "exporter of terrorism" — from Tehran and the man *Time Magazine* called "The Arab World's Newest and Most Determined Strong Man?"

Most emphatically, yes. Biblical prophecies detail the actions and destinies of these two nations.

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According to three biblical books — Isaiah, Jeremiah and Revelation — modern Iraq, which is ancient Babylon, will be the instrument that is used to rain destruction upon the world in the final days.

Encyclopedia Britannica refers to Babylonia and Syria as the two ancient kingdoms of Mesopotamia or modern Iraq. The book of Revelation makes it clear that Babylon (Iraq) will be an important player in the instigation of the battle of Armageddon.

"And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates ... and the waters thereof were dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared ... and he gathered them together into a place called Armageddon ... and Great Babylon came into remembrance before God to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath."

Iraq contains the great river Euphrates, is east of Jerusalem, and is the ancient land of Babylon.

## Protestant theory differs

Protestants have charged that Rome and the Vatican is great Babylon while Roman Catholics counter that it refers to ancient pagan Rome.

It is clear that there is a spiritual as well as a physical Babylon and both will be judged by Almighty God ... and that the city of Babylon has not yet been destroyed as the ancient prophet said it would in Isaiah 13:19-20.

When Cyrus captured the city in 540 B.C., it

became a provincial capital in the Persian empire. Alexander The Great loved Babylon and spent much time there. The present city is constructed of the bricks of the ancient city.

The oilfield war has catapulted Iraq into a nation of great significance again after two and a half thousand years.

Traditionally, Jerusalem is the holy city and Babylon the centre of satanic activity. The Holy Spirit came down in Jerusalem while Demon spirits descended on Babylon. From Jerusalem, the teachings of Jesus to love your enemies spread across the world, while from Babylon went forth the message of Mohammed to "fight those who disbelieve in Ali."

Iraq has come to life again in this decade and promises to draw the nations of the world into the bloodiest of all confrontations.

## The unofficial policeman

The British, French, Italians, Soviets and American natives have moved into the Persian Gulf with the USA recently assuming the unofficial role of policeman of the Waterways.

Daniel Pipes, specialist in mid-eastern and Islamic affairs of the university of Chicago says, "We are learning how terribly volatile this region is. I expect it to become more unstable in the future. There are too many arms, too many border disputes and too many detrimental effects of the vast oil wealth. It looks like trouble."

Pastor Solbrekken is the founder of Faith Cathedral

## MONTY LEWIS PREACHES GOSPEL IN PRISONS

# Former con delivers hope

"I was lying on the banks of the Atlantic ocean in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. My body was soaked in gasoline and my legs were ablaze with flames, but I didn't care. I was stoned on drugs, and got third-degree burns all over my body."

— Monty Lewis

Monty Lewis is in town this weekend, and he's not drunk, stoned or in handcuffs.

He's not fighting policemen. The man who was arrested in Edmonton more than a decade ago for robbery, assault and for skipping bail and escaping to the mountains of B.C., is now preaching the gospel in prisons across North America.

This past week, Lewis testified in several Alberta churches of his miraculous deliverance from a sordid life of violence, drugs and crime.

Lewis grew up in a rough coal mining town on Cape Breton Island and acquired a taste for alcohol at the age of five, while mixing drinks for his Dad.

### Trouble soon folowed

It wasn't long before he was in trouble with the law — fighting, stealing and pushing drugs. Lewis' testimony is challenging. He has ministered in prisons across the continent and on a radio program with great success.

New doors are constantly opening for the "born-again" Cape Bretoner who tells it like it is and warns young people about the devastating effects of drugs.

In his book *The Monty Lewis Story*, he states: "Before I was arrested I really thought I had it together. I had all the outward trappings of a successful law-breaker. I wore the gold earring, high leather boots, leather jacket and I drove a big car."

**'I made  
up my  
hate  
list ...'**

"But then some of the drug people tried to kill me. So I made up my own hate list ... going into bars, punching out people. Some I hurt very badly; others I kidnapped, holding them for several days while I beat and tortured them, making them confess."

Although Lewis was charged with several serious crimes, important evidence was lost in the mail and his lawyer successfully bargained for a reduced sentence.

"I was taken in handcuffs to the federal penitentiary in Dorchester, N.B. It is one of the toughest prisons in the Maritimes."

### His life was changed

While in solitary confinement at Dorchester, Lewis experienced a supernatural, spiritual conversion that changed his life. He felt the presence of God, fell to his knees on the cold prison floor and cried out for mercy and help.

"From the moment I made that prayer to God, I have not put another needle in my arm. I had been drinking liquor since I was five, but that night I was delivered. I have not had to steal or do any of those criminal things again."

"I was still a prisoner, naked, in a lonely solitary prison cell at the end of the line. The only friend I had in the world was that man from the Salvation Army. I had no money. I had nothing, absolutely nothing, but he was enough. What a

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miracle."

"In that prison cell, I found an old Gideon Bible that I was using for a pillow. I began to read it. But when I finished reading the second word, I couldn't remember the first one. Eleven years of drug abuse had affected my mind."

"I felt like there was a tight band around my head and I kept trying to take it off. But thank God, He has healed all that."

That night Lewis laid down on the cold slab in his prison cell and slept peacefully for the first time. The prison psychiatrists wanted to place him in a special prison for the criminally insane because of his violent behavior, but God and the warden intervened.

Monty Lewis is now free and full of love and compassion for others behind bars.

# PTL scandal hits home

"People enter the ministry because of a call of God."  
— Charles Templeton, CBC TV

It was painful to watch Rev. David Mainse on CBC's *Journal* last Tuesday, as Barbara Frumm probed Jim Bakker's fall from grace.

And agnostic, Charles Templeton took the spotlight, pontificating on the proper role of TV evangelists and the message of the gospel.

Templeton looked like a great white father and Mainse as if he'd lost his last friend. He had just released the news that his organization was withdrawing its application from this country's new TV network, for lack of funds.

I felt for him, and I hope others felt the same. Canada's leading religious TV communicator is feeling the negative impact of the PTL scandal and his close friendship with the Jim and Tammy Bakker.

Many people feel betrayed and you can't blame them, but they shouldn't take it out on Mainse or other ministers who are preaching the gospel.

All TV preachers aren't immoral just because Jim Bakker allegedly visited prostitutes, allowed wife swapping and had affairs with homosexuals.

People have soured on TV ministers, and 100 Huntley Street's income has dropped 30 per cent in the past two months. That's sad, because they are meeting a definite need in our nation. Everyone needs a spiritual uplift and TV ministers can help provide that.

If Jessica Hahn has told the truth, Bakker and an accomplice set up the 21-year-old for two sexual episodes, and later arranged to pay a bribe of \$265,000 to keep her quiet.

Outspoken TV personality, Phil Donahue, believes Bakker should be forgiven and restored, but PTL's new board has purged him and his friends from the leadership.

Even though Templeton disagrees with Christianity's basic doctrines — Jesus Christ's divinity and resurrection — he has a healthy respect for the Bible. He says Billy Graham is as "straight as a string" and Mainse — whom he usually opposes — is sincere, and should not be compared to Bakker.

The tragedy is that many people will lump all TV preachers in the same category — high living, undisciplined and irresponsible. And that's totally unfair!

There is a vast difference

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between Jimmy Swaggart — who studied, sang and preached his way into the hearts of millions over the past 30 years — and Bakker, who rose to fame as a Christian entertainer and talk show host.

One positive aspect of the PTL scandal could be an increase in church attendance and support of Canadian ministers. Mind you, there is a price to pay; it will mean exchanging the bedroom for the sanctuary on Sunday morning, and pyjamas for suits. And possibly changing the address on the envelope from Tulsa to Toronto or Dallas to Edmonton!

Maybe we should tell David Mainse we still need him!

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Religion



# World is watching Gorby

**C**racks in the Iron Curtain are widening as communism suffers a slow and agonizing death. As the gaping holes of glasnost and perestroika reveal the grim, hidden realities of the bankrupt socialist states, hope is dawning both inside and outside of the Eastern Bloc.

Truth always liberates, even though it doesn't change the situation overnight. And eastern Europeans now feel good, knowing it's no longer a crime to admit the failures of Marxism and the mistakes of former leaders.

Jesus said: "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free" and His bitter antagonists — the atheistic world — have again proved Him right.

"Communism is finished," announced British PM Margaret Thatcher during last year's meeting with former U.S. President Ronald Reagan. And Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini made sense in his letter to the Soviets' Mikhail Gorbachev stating that "Marxism belongs in a museum."

The world is watching Gorbachev's every move. Will he succeed? Will his opponents rein him in or depose him? Is he sincere or is it all a trick to milk the West financially, while they disarm?

U.S. Defence Minister Richard Cheney stated recently: "I bet Mikhail Gorbachev will eventually fail in his reforms and be replaced by a leader less friendly to the West."

But President George Bush and other members of his staff have made it clear that Cheney's views were personal and not the government's.

"We wish that Gorbachev will prosper with his perestroika," said Bush.

But will he? Only God knows and history will reveal what the future holds for Russia's "father of glasnost."

He has been heralded by the New Age Movement as "the perfect man." Some see him as the coming world ruler — the anti-christ — predicted by the Prophets.

Businessmen look to his reforms as their economic salvation, opening up large new markets. And some fellow communists see Russia's leader as a threat to secure "pork barrel" jobs.

Christians are praying for Gorbachev and his reforms, because of their love for people and the freedom to preach



the gospel.

And most Warsaw pact leaders view Gorbachev's reforms as an opportunity to get their economies out of the shambles. This past week, Hungary began tearing down the Iron Curtain between that nation and Austria, which has separated the two countries since the Second World War.

When the electronically-activated barbed-wire fence is completely torn down, "it will mark the end of an era in our relationship with western Europe and particularly Austria," said Andras Kovari of Hungary's State Department.

The dismantelling began at the town of Hegyeshalom on the main highway between Wien and Budapest.

In the meantime, Soviet authorities in Georgia used cloracetofenon — similar to the teargas used by Nazis — to put down huge demonstrations there recently.

And China's university students continue their demonstrations against that country's leadership. They are de-

manding more democracy and greater rights.

Absent from their May Day procession and Beijing's "Heavenly Peace Place," were portraits of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin. In their place hung the photo of Sun Yat-sen, the revolutionary leader of China's first republic of 1911.

The three main principles of the "old revolution" were democracy, welfare for all and nationalism. Very definitely, communism is on its last legs in China.

In Poland, Lech Walesa's "Solidarity Trade Union" used the opportunity to celebrate its recent victory — legal recognition — during its first parade in eight years.

About 100,000 marched behind red and white flags with banners saying, "Free Elections," "Down with Communism," "Solidarity Must Win" and "Russians Go Home."

Due to the unrest in Georgia and Armenia, May Day celebrations were cancelled there. Several thousand Armenians defied the ban and marched anyway in the streets of Jerevan shouting: "Down with the government."

And Moscow's traditional May Day crowd with a "sea of red" flags and signs was, this year, nearly overshadowed by pastels. Many among the 150,000 in Red Square held signs saying: "Let us know all the truth of Stalinism," "Bring back moral traditions to society" and "Referendum is life's norm."

Easter this year — in the Russian Orthodox Church — fell on May 1 and churches were packed across the nation, celebrating Christ's death and resurrection.

Thousands of Muscovites attended mass at Danilov Monastery — headquarters of Russian Orthodox Church — with many standing outside viewing the services on TV screens.

For the past three weeks I have been travelling throughout Europe, preaching the gospel of Christ to spiritually-hungry people in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Romania.

Today — May 7 — I speak at the large 5,000 member Pentecostal Church in Romania.

I believe God is about to bless eastern Europe with an unprecedented spiritual awakening, because — as thousands of Russians testified last week — Jesus Christ is alive and offers hope and life to everyone!

# Bible clocks inevitable rise of Israel

For nearly 2,000 years the Jews had been homeless. Their nation dissolved, their temple destroyed and their people decimated, killed and sold as slaves.

During the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, over one million Jews were killed and 89,000 taken captive to be used as gladiators or slaves...

The Jews are called God's chosen people, but there were conditions to the pact Yahweh made with them. Moses outlines that covenant in *Deuteronomy 28*.

It promised blessings without number if they kept the covenant, but severe judgment if they broke it.

The Israelites chose to rebel against God, and history proves to the minutest detail, how authentic the *Bible* is.

Jesus verified the authenticity of the scriptures when he prophesied the destruction of Israel and the temple, as well as Israel's rebirth in *St. Matthew 23* and *24*.

He spoke about two generations — the one that would crucify him and the final one just before his return. Jesus said the first would be responsible for all the righteous blood shed from Abel to Barachias.

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The symbol of Israel has always been a fig tree, and Jesus cursed a fig tree when he found no fruit on it. But he stated the fig tree would some day bear fruit.

Thirty-seven years after Jesus uttered these prophetic words, General Titus destroyed the Temple and the Holy City and terminated the nation of Israel.

But, the Jews never lost their faith, language or their hope of returning to Jerusalem.

At 4 p.m. on May 14, 1948, former prime minister David Ben Gurion hoisted the Israeli flag, proclaiming Israel a free, sovereign and independent state.

Jesus said, "now learn a parable of the fig tree; when

his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: so likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors."

Then he dropped a bombshell ... "Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things come to pass."

That "Israel is God's timepiece" is no doubt. And by the same token, "Jerusalem is the second hand" of the clock.

In 1920, Arabs attacked and partly destroyed two Jewish settlements at Metullah and Tel Hai.

Since that day the Arabs have challenged Israel's right to exist in their own land. For God gave the land to Abraham's seed, according to the book of *Genesis*. He later confirmed his covenant with Isaac, Jacob, Moses and Joshua.

This month Israel has come of age, since 40 in Biblical numerics is an adult generation, and 70 is a full generation. What will happen now?

I believe Israel will toughen her stance in a world that is becoming more hostile against her. I see Israel invading Lebanon and defeating Syria and Jordan in the future.

Max is Founder of Faith Cathedral

# Doomsayers have folks on the run

May 1988 has come and gone and we're still here. Los Angeles hasn't fallen into the sea due to a great earthquake as clairvoyants and astrologers predicted.

And the three days of darkness prophesied by more than a dozen religious seers over the last 200 years failed to materialize May 13, 14 and 15.

The two compelling voices behind these prophecies were 16th-century French doctor-astronomer Nostradamus and the Lady of Fatima who allegedly appeared to three children in Portugal in 1917 as the Virgin Mary.

Nostradamus made 1,000 predictions, of which more than 50 per cent have come to pass, say followers. And the virgin mother of Jesus has made several appearances according to religious Roman Catholics.

The fact that it didn't happen won't bother the eccentrics. They'll be back greasing the fortune teller's palms before too long.

Physicist Al Seckel stated: "It's all part of the whole New Age thing ... It just shows that people don't question anything anymore."

## Left California

A lot of the rich and famous — heeding the advice of clairvoyants — left California last month, among them Joan Collins and George Hamilton.

And Nancy Reagan's personal astrologer, Joan Quigley, who's been scheduling the President's movements, failed miserably in her prediction of a major earthquake in San Francisco May 5.

Equally astounding is a well-documented, but little-discussed prophecy: In the month of May, year 1988, there will be three consecutive night-less days.

Last November, a Brazilian priest began reminding South American Catholics what the Salesian Order's founder, St. John Bosco, and the Virgin Mary's 1917 Fatima, Portugal, apparitions to three children told the whole world in those times.

During several centuries at least 14 other saints, pious and beatified holy persons of the Roman Catholic Church had visions of three dark days on May 13, 14 and 15, 1988.

These include Polish priest Wladislaw Biernacki, Italian Sister Elena Aiello, German Sister Catalina Emerich and St. Gaspar of Buffalo.

## It's scientific

Here's their scientific explanation: A huge planet, only seen until now by very few astronomers and called hercobulous or Barna by the Gnostics and Masons and the "bitterness star" in Rev. 8:11, is approaching the Earth.

Carlos Alvarado Quiros of San Jose, Cost Rica, reports that 'Barna' is five times larger than our planet and was to come between the sun and earth on May 13, 14 and 15, creating a major eclipse.

According to the prophecy "no known power will ignite at all on all earth, therefore causing total darkness and total paralysis of civilized life. Water pumps, elevators, furnaces, engines, buses, trains, planes, ships will not be able to operate at all."

"Hospitals will not be able to function, drinking water will become scarce, weird sounds will be heard all over the earth and a vicious attempt to destroy and loot

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the Vatican was also seen by several for these particular dates."

I feel sorry for all the devout Catholics in Latin America and other countries who believed this prophecy and now feel let down.

One thing is certain: Not one word of holy scripture has failed; every word in the Bible has been proven for thousands of years and will stand the test of time and eternity.

Satan can come as an angel of light, to deceive with half-truths and trickery and people can make mistakes in predictions and prophecies, but Jesus never fails.

In my opinion, occultists, astrologers and clairvoyants are more than a nuisance — they are a blemish on society and prey on the grief, fears and tragedies of an unsuspecting public.

Max is Founder of Faith Cathedral

# We must deal with the devil

"This fight against the demon still goes on today because the demon is still alive and operating in the world."

Pope John Paul II fired this broadside at the devil on a recent visit to a shrine dedicated to the Archangel Michael. *The Bible* chronicles the rebellion of Lucifer and his defeat at the hands of Michael and other mighty angels who remained loyal to Almighty God.

Lucifer was cast down to the earth, and became the god of this world and the prince of the power of the air. Jesus Christ called him Satan, the enemy; Devil-liar and false accuser.

St. Paul labelled him, "the spirit of disobedience; that wicked one." Using biblical references, the Pope called Satan "the great devil, the ancient serpent who seduces the world."

Many modern theologians have compromised the scriptures and embraced the lie that Satan doesn't exist.

This popular trend pardons Satan for his evil past and relieves him of his present-day role as tempter, deceiver, and destroyer. Years ago, a large Protestant denomination did a one-year study on Satan that cost a million dollars.

## Protestant findings were a shocker

The findings were a shocker. The general consensus was that there was no real personal devil. The reasoning seemed to be that preaching about the devil makes people uneasy and may contribute to fear and nervous disorders.

How absolutely untruthful, unbiblical and deceptive. You can't wish away the devil any more than you can wish away the AIDS virus ... but we can educate people to be on guard against both.

Satan is a reality, set on corrupting everything that is good, decent and pure. It is his goal to pervert, steal and destroy. He hates the human race, since we are God's highest creation next to the angels, and because of his impending doom in the lake of fire, forever.

St. Peter stated: "Be sober and vigilant because your enemy, the devil, goeth about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."

Not that long ago American comedian Flip Wilson popularized the expression *The devil made me do it*, and everyone laughed. It sounded funny, but too many times since, the world has heard shocking testimony by psychopaths, murderers and rapists who declared that Satan actually made them do it.

The devil is the architect of evil sin, disease, torment and death. He is the author of lust, fear, hatred and war. His signature is found on every broken home, abused child, drun-

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ken father and criminal. He has spawned more infidelity, told more lies and broken more hearts than anybody.

In the Garden of Eden, Satan lied to the world's first mother and told her God could not be trusted. She listened to his lies and plunged the entire human race into rebellion, sin and death.

Last year, Pope John Paul called Satan "a cosmic liar," and blamed him for much of the world's problems. Liberal Roman Catholic and Protestant churchmen shuddered. "Oh, no, they said. 'We're not going back to that medieval myth are we?'"

No. Lets go further back to the Bible, like the Pope is

doing, in reference to the devil and all his evil work. And let us not be afraid of him, for St. James said, "Submit yourselves unto God, resist the devil and he shall flee."

In the Gospels is the record of Jesus "casting out" evil spirits. He also gave power and authority to his followers to do the same. Just before he went to Heaven, Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel ... and these signs shall follow them that believe. In my name shall they cast out devils ... they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover."

## Satan can't block the gospel

One hundred and twenty men and women were filled with the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost and changed the world with God's word, the power of the Holy Spirit and the name of Jesus. That's the history of Christianity, the living, vibrant, on-fire Church of God. And today there are hundreds of millions around the world, who bear the name of Christ, because of it. And the beautiful part is, Satan, as much as he tries, cannot block the spread of the gospel.

# Christianity booms in China

Communist China has relaxed its position against the *Holy Bible* for the first time since Mao Tse Tung's ruthless purges.

Chinese Christians joyfully dedicated a *Bible* printing plant — capable of turning out 500,000 *Bibles* yearly in Nanjing, last November.

The cost of the press (\$6 million US) was raised by Christian organizations throughout the world, and the equipment was obtained from Great Britain, West Germany, Italy and Japan.

In my opinion, this is nothing short of a miracle and another triumph for the Christian church, in its long battle with the devil and his forces.

When Mao Tse Tung consolidated power in China nearly 40 years ago, his anger was kindled against all adversaries and especially believers.

He decided to eradicate all mention of God and make China a pure atheistic state. And the purge that followed was brutal, in the extreme.

In his book *The Dragon Could Not Swallow Us* Dr. Moody Adams relates the testimony of the victorious church in China, throughout the persecutions.

According to Adams, Mao's brilliant strategy to eradicate the church failed miserably, because of the supernatural power of the gospel and God's intervention.

Stage No. 1. All foreign missionaries were deported. This proved an asset to the church, since it brought the local pastors into places of responsibility.

Stage No. 2. Pastors and evangelists were imprisoned, tortured and martyred. This got the lay people involved and the church grew as a result.

Stage No. 3. All churches were closed. The church multiplied rapidly, since every home became a place of worship with believers meeting secretly.

Stage No. 4. *Bibles* were confiscated and burned in large atheistic bonfire ceremonies in public squares. Mao had forgotten that the Chinese are masters at memorization.

At once, the Christians began copying and distributing scripture portions among themselves, and committed to memory as much as possible.

Mao's plan failed totally, although many Christian leaders had to pay with their lives. When the communists overthrew China in 1949, there were one million believers. Now there are an estimated 50 million, and that number is still growing.

Since 1981, 2.9 million *Bibles* have been printed in China, but with the new press employing 140 people, the flood tides are open for the gospel.

The first order for 100,000 *Bibles* was placed by the China Christian Council. Stated the council's president, K.H. Ting: "The *Bible* is an important book for all hu-

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manity . . . unless one studied Christianity, there would be no way of understanding western history, literature and philosophy."

Atheism is still China's official policy, but their leaderships learned that suppressing religion only strengthens the believers' resolve to practise their faith.

And, as in communist countries like Mozambique, Cuba and Russia — committed Christians are noted to

be loyal, productive and charitable citizens . . .

For when a person really believes the *Bible* and lives by its precepts, he will seek to love his neighbor as himself.

Anglican Canon Hague declared, "Therefore think not of the *Bible* as a good book, or even as a better book, but lift it in heart, mind, faith and love far, far above all, and ever regard it, not as the word of man, but as it is in truth, the word of God.

"Nay more, as the living word of the living God, supernatural in origin, eternal in duration, inexpressible in value, infinite in scope, divine in authorship, human in penman, regenerative in power, infallible in authority, universal in interest, personal in application and as St. Paul declares, inspired in totality."

Max is Founder of Faith Cathedral

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# Abortion foes make sense

**A**re abortion foes the disciples of Jesus Christ? Can we equate them with the persecuted Christians of the primitive church?

Are they to be pitied as weak-minded fanatics or applauded as national heroes?

Is God stirring these brave souls to forfeit reputation, friends and even freedom — some are now in Canadian jails — to publicize the murderous activities in our nation's abortuaries?

Are anti-abortion activists taking the place of Canada's clergymen and legislators as the "conscience of our nation" and upholders of justice in the case of the weakest and most vulnerable among us — the unborn baby?

And is the legal system wrong in hauling off to court and jail those who will not desist in performing what they believe is moral and just?

Is a jail sentence too high a price to pay in the "battle for life" and the race against the Henry Morgentalers of this world?

And is it just coincidence that Dr. Morgentaler's name in Hebrew means "Ish Bosheth" — a man of shame?

A lot of people are getting tired of demonstrators of any kind; whether they be anti-abortionists, nurses on strike or homosexuals interrupting an AIDS conference.

We're wary of salesmen at the door, Jehovah's Witnesses or Mormons badgering us on Saturday morning and kids selling chocolates or on a bottle drive for some charity.

And a lot of us are just plain indifferent. So what if kids are starving in Ethiopia? The world is in a spiritual mess, the nurses aren't making enough money, thousands of young homosexuals are dying of AIDS and more than 60,000

little Canadian lives are snuffed out every year — before they can live.

Abortion doctors are upset about demonstrators gathering in front of their homes. Hospitals are laying charges against "rescuers" who interrupt their daily schedule of "fetus-taking."

But who is really right in this ever growing debate about human life?

Speaking to about 8,000 supporters in Vancouver on Mother's Day, anti-abortion crusader Joe Borowski encouraged the aged and sick to join the sit-ins at that city's abortion clinics.

The former Manitoba NDP cabinet minister said that it would embarrass the Canadian government to jail old and sick people who joined the demonstrations.

"I'm not talking about 500 a week. If you can get some old ladies and old men in wheelchairs to get arrested it will drive the old guard and the Tories crazy," he said.

"I've been in jail a dozen times and I can tell you it's a nice place to be. You have plenty of time to pray, meditate and convert the guards. It's not a bad place," said Borowski.

Nothing weak or squeamish about that statement. He's putting feet to his faith and beliefs, whether he's using the accepted approach or not. And he's exercising his right of protest against something he believes will bring the wrath of God upon this nation.

Last month I received a heart-wrenching letter from Laird Swanson, who is currently serving a four-month prison term for attempting to rescue "those who are unjustly sentenced to death."

He tells of another 22 "rescuers in Greater Vancouver"

who are also confined.

Swanson enclosed a letter he had sent to *Faith Today* magazine. He uses 28 scripture references and a lot of common sense, defending his actions on behalf of the unborn. He is convincing, articulate and determined.

Here are some of his statements:

"Having read your three articles re: abortion ... I feel the heart of rescuing babies has been missed. Unborn babies are the heart. The heart is not affecting political and legal action, which is a byproduct. The heart is obedience to God's word out of love for Him and towards our neighbor."

Swanson quotes Ronald Reagan, the former U.S. president, who said "when the lives of the unborn are snuffed out, they often feel pain, pain that is long and agonizing."

He writes about our responsibility to those who cannot defend themselves, using Corrie Ten Boom — the Dutch lady who risked her life on numerous occasions rescuing Jews from the Nazis — as a prime example of a role model.

"If a mother was beating her baby to death on the sidewalk, would you write a letter or picket? No, you would act like a murder was about to be committed right under your nose, and place your body between the defenceless victim and the slayer," writes Swanson.

It's hard to disagree with that analogy.

In concluding, Swanson says, "I am a prisoner of conscience sentenced to four months for 'those who are unjustly sentenced to death. My next sentence will be my second, and shortly after my release on Aug. 2, 1989.'"

May God be with him!

# Merciful salvation

*"It takes no brains to be an atheist. Any stupid person can deny the supernatural."*

— Dwight Eisenhower

Some people have a hard time believing in God. Their lives are totally wrapped up in themselves, and what they can or cannot accomplish.

Others are more fortunate. They have been taught the Gospel, so they accept the good news of salvation readily.

And they have the assurance that they are not alone. God is with them; sustaining, directing and strengthening them, in the struggles of life.

Those who put their trust in God, become recipients of divine mercy daily.

Heidi Tufte of Findal, Norway suffered many years with a rare disease of the muscles, spending eight months in a wheelchair.

Being the director of Findal's 90-voice Barnegospel Choir was becoming increasingly difficult because Heidi was paralysed.

All that changed when she was taken to hear German evangelist Reinhardt Bonke.

After his message, Heidi registered a slight trembling within her body. The next two days she felt weaker and had difficulty doing her physiotherapy and choir practice.

The miracle happened at 5:00 p.m. on May 18.

Skien's newspaper *Varden* carried the dramatic story with the headline: "Walked out of wheelchair."

"Everything happened suddenly. I sat in the wheelchair at the supper table. Then my muscles began to function all at once and I suddenly rose from the chair and began to walk. My husband was in shock and tried to grab me, but I pushed him aside and started dancing around the room. I lifted my two-and-a-half year old daughter and we all began to hug each other and cry.

"Then we all knelt and thanked God."

Bill Woloschuk, a heavy duty mechanic in Calgary, was also miraculously cured.

He was cleaning motor parts when acid splashed across his eyes and face.

With his eyes tightly bandaged, Bill recalled the specialist's words. "We do not know how much permanent damage."

In the total darkness, Bill began to complain to God. "Why did this happen to me?" Then in desperation, "Lord, no one knows I'm here, please send someone to pray for me."

Thirty seconds later, an Orderly entered his room and said, "Bill, you probably won't remember me, but in 1974 you repaired our Sunday School bus. Give me your hand and I'll pray for you."

Today, Bill's eyes are perfect and there are no scars.

Max is pastor at Faith Cathedral

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# Graham saves souls

When I was a boy, we listened to Billy Graham's radio program, *The Hour of Decision*, which is still broadcast throughout the world today.

His closing words — "The Lord bless you real good" — have become a trademark. On a couple of programs, he deviated from that benediction and hundreds of people wrote to complain.

Graham, at 70, continues making an impact across the world. He is a true ambassador for Christ. Recently he preached in Russia in connection with that country's 1,000th anniversary of Christianity. After 40 years of preaching he is as popular as ever. And he makes a lot of sense, proclaiming the Word of God, calling people to repentance and faith. As the choir sings, *Just As I Am*, thousands stream forward to accept Jesus Christ as their personal saviour.

With Graham there is no middle ground. You are either saved or lost, on God's side or Satan's, on your way to heaven or hell.

He effectively quotes scripture, as well as statements of world leaders, scientists and philosophers, proving that the world is on a collision course with Armageddon, unless we repent, begin loving one another and living godly lives.

Graham makes it clear that we have no power in ourselves, but can be saved only through the grace of God, through our faith in Jesus Christ.

I heard him on TV recently from his Buffalo, N.Y., crusade and he was still as persuasive as ever. His strength lies in his reliance on the holy spirit and the authority of the scriptures, not in his own ability.

"The Bible says," is Dr. Graham's favorite saying. He's always relevant because the Bible is timeless and speaks to the ever-present needs of humanity.

This is one of the reasons the evangelical segment of the Church continues growing. People are looking for stability in an ever-changing world with deteriorating values.

Most people aren't interested in "politics from the pulpit" but messages geared to spiritual needs.

The vacillating liberal modernists shift their doctrinal positions to fit the fads and fancies of a restless, carnal populace and end up losing every time.

A prime example is the United Church of Canada, which is suffering unprecedented disunity because of waffling.

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In studying the lives of great preachers, one thing stands out: total abandonment to Jesus Christ and an uncompromising stand on biblical doctrine and principles.

Pope John Paul stated: "This world could use 100 Billy Grahams. He sees the need for spiritual renewal and realizes that only a return to the gospel will impact society."

That's why the pontiff has defied modernists within his

church, and taken his crusades to the streets of the world, in much the same manner as Graham.

Graham preaches the cross, the power of the blood of Jesus Christ to save, transform and deliver. He keeps it simple and easy to understand.

But he's no pushover. He's tough, like a prize fighter in the ring, the devil is his opponent and he battles fiercely for the souls of men.

And he doesn't stop until he's got them standing before the holy altar saying, "Yes," to Jesus.

Max is founder of Faith Cathedral

# Ample evidence of life on the street

"There used to be glamor in it, but now it's a lot of drugs, a lot of child pornography."

Annie Ample, former stripper

Annie Ample has decided to call it quits. She is through exposing her body before lecherous sex-hungry men, in strip-tease joints.

Ample, 37, was earning more than \$4,000 weekly taking off her clothes, before retiring to write a book, last fall. She now lives with her husband on a farm near Toronto.

"I have a 44-inch chest and didn't have to go bottomless," says the aging, former peeler. Ample's autobiography *The Bare Facts: My Life as a Stripper* which comes out next month, will no doubt keep the bucks flowing in as voyeuristic males continue drooling.

However, there may be a redeeming factor to this story—something good coming out of something bad.

Realizing the corrupting influence of street life, Ample is seeking to introduce a program that warns children.

"You have to warn them early. By the time they're 14,

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it's often too late," she emphasizes.

Because, in scummy strip joints children don't remain children very long and there are always those who find entertainment in defiling teenagers.

I guess "it takes all kinds to make a world," but I cannot understand how adult males find pleasure through sexual involvement with children.

The common denominator behind child pornography, drugs, prostitution and strip-tease joints is *sexploitation*... because of money and lust.

And this time it's "one of them" crying wolf, not one of the so-called "holier-than-thou" sector.

This will give politicians, police and social workers more ammunition to fight the corrupting flesh market.

Another thing about the Ample story that bothers me is: Why should a stripper make \$4,000 a week exposing her body while thousands live below the poverty line, in Canada?

Another question probably gives us the answer: Where do our priorities lie? In the final analysis, every person has their own perspective on life and the value of the individual.

Unfortunately, some think of a person only as a "piece of meat" to be bartered, while others believe each individual has intrinsic value and must be respected, as such.

I personally thank Ample for informing the public about the child pornography and drugs involved in the sleazy flesh traffic.

It's easy to ignore the sordid facts and leave the victims to stew in their misery, but that doesn't make it go away.

Max is Founder of Faith Cathedral

# Victory was so bittersweet

It was a long time coming, but when victory suddenly arrived for homosexual members of Canada's United Church, it was bittersweet.

Years of patient planning and politicking finally paid off for homosexual lobbyists, who feel they've been persecuted by "normals" for too long.

But the decision of the 32nd General Council of that denomination last month in Victoria has caused unprecedented turmoil and uproar among their 830,000 members and clergy.

The churches of Atlantic Canada and Newfoundland are threatening to withdraw from the Conference as are individual congregations across the nation, including one in Lethbridge.

Others are demanding a "remit," which allows local congregations to vote independently on the controversial issue.

Rumblings are everywhere and according to surveys, at least 65 per cent of United Church membership is opposed to the "railroad job" done by the pro-homosexuals.

Comments from United Church ministers and faithful indicate a large groundswell of disappointment and bitterness, and new courage to "retake the church for Christ."

Many believers feel betrayed, wounded and ashamed.

Some ministers intimate that this is only the beginning and they will soon be pushing for "covenant rights or homosexual marriages." And new allegations indicate that pastors have already performed some sort of "marriage ceremonies" for gay couples.

Edmonton's Rev. Arthur Cragg of Knox Metropolitan United was quoted as saying: "Let us be faithful with the *Bible* as our guide..."

I agree, but what does the *Bible* say about homosexuality and the proper lifestyle of ministers?

St. Paul emphasized: "Come out from among them, be

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separate and touch not the unclean thing." He warned, "male prostitutes and homosexual offenders" cannot enter Heaven.

Regarding God's judgment he states: "Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were enflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men and received in

themselves the due penalty for their perversion."

Paul stated that God has given homosexuals over to a depraved or reprobate mind, and that men who do such things are worthy of death.

*Romans 2:2* emphasizes, "Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth."

Paul confesses "such were some of you, but you have been cleansed..." The fact is, all of us were guilty of various sins, but have been cleansed by the blood of Christ through conversion.

Jesus died to save us from our sins and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. "...if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old is gone, the new is come."

Using the *Bible* as our guide, and drawing upon common sense, we conclude the United Church's new position to be unscriptural.

Max is Founder of Faith Cathedral

# Pastor wants abortion law scuttled

"Norway's abortion law has reduced to nil the worth of a human being."

— Rev. Borre Knudsen.

"It is shocking to realize that babies are being murdered."

— Ontario Tory MP Girve Fretz

TELEMARK, Norway — Men and women of compassion and integrity are speaking out against evil laws made by uncaring politicians and legislators worldwide.

Some are paying a high price like Jews in the USSR, Christians in Mozambique and black workers in South Africa.

And Rev. Borre Knudsen of Telemark, who gave up his Lutheran Church pastorate in protest of that country's 1978 Abortion On Demand law and the state church's attitude of obeying man rather than God.

Knudsen states: "The abortion law is a statement of lies and deception. It says that God is dead. It is rebellion against the Almighty, and since Norway's government and parliament has enacted this law, they are under Christ's judgment."

The preacher quotes a 1934 document on abortion signed by church officials and the king, warning against free abortion.

Recently, Knudsen, who has become a symbol of hope for the tortured victims of the "abortion holocaust," was fined \$1,000 because of his protest at a hospital abortuary.

The popular minister is respected by his former parishioners and fellow clergymen as a straight shooter, who will not compromise the truth.

Since Lutheranism is Norway's religion, the government pays the pastors. This makes it difficult for clergymen to oppose the government, however Knudsen's actions are rallying bishops and pastors to do so.

The church's "Do Nothing" position has also angered many in the medical profession, whose consciences are plagued by all the bloodletting.

Meanwhile, Knudsen is gathering large crowds in churches and auditoriums across the country. And the press is carrying his bold statements nation wide.

"The battle for the baby in its mother's womb, is a battle for the faith. Here truth confronts lies and I wonder how long the Norwegian church can continue to live with these lies," Knudsen preaches.

Abortion shows how cruel our civilization has become. The healthy baby is torn from its cosy home into an ice-cold milieu, by the physician's suction machine.

"The abortion law removes the right of life from a human being in its mother's womb. And since God is the giver of life, the battle for the unborn is a battle for the faith," declares Knudsen.

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Apparently, the Lutheran Church has another Martin Luther on its hands, desirous of further cleansing.

Meanwhile in Canada, a number of Tory MPs have been stirred into action after seeing Dr. Natheson's documentary film, *The Silent Scream*.

Ontario Tory MP Girve Fretz, advocated a motion put forward by several of his colleagues that would entrench the rights of the unborn in our charter of rights.

Fretz described the movie in these terms: "A camera probe was inserted into the woman's womb and it took

pictures of the unborn baby while it moved. Then we saw the surgeon insert into the woman's body forceps that crushed and then pulled the baby apart."

In my opinion, abortion is totally unfair, mercenary and uncivilized. It is inhumane and cruel. Sixty thousand babies are tortured and killed every year in Canada, ending their right to live.

It is legally, socially and morally wrong. In fact, murder by any name is a criminal offence against society, the unborn and God, the creator.

Abortionists refuse to accept that life begins at conception.

Yet, after the eighth day, the child's sex is certain; after the 10th, the veins develop; the mouth forms after 14 days and on the 21st day the heart starts beating. By the 64th day the child has all of its organs, eyes and hair.

No one but God can give life, therefore only God has the right to take it away.

Max is pastor at Faith Cathedral

# Beware Russian doves

*"When they shall say 'Peace and Safety', then cometh sudden destruction, as travail upon a woman with child and they shall not escape."*

St. Paul

*"Mikhail Gorbachev has a nice smile, but he has iron teeth."*

Andrei Gromyko

The eyes of the world are focused upon the expected summit meeting between President Reagan and Premier Gorbachev, and hopefully the banning of intermediate nuclear missiles in Europe.

Soviet exiles and intellectuals, anti-communist conservatives and prophetic Bible scholars however, are watching "tongue in cheek".

Gromyko's statement about Gorbachev's iron teeth should not be taken lightly.

Is it not strange that Gorbachev, creator of glasnost and darling of North American leftists, is the first Soviet leader to personally attack religion, publicly? Earlier this year he said: "We must be strict above all, with communists who take part in religious ceremonies."

His predecessors usually left "religion-bashing" to subordinates, but glasnost's promoter has personally led a vicious attack against religion.

Wives of world leaders often impact their decisions. Gorbachev's wife Raisa, is an avowed atheist; allegedly, Krushchev's was a Christian and Brezhnev's Jewish.

Natan Sharansky, who served nine years in Soviet prison camps, questions the West's love affair with Gorbachev. He insists, conditions are worse for Jews there now, than earlier.

Others wonder if Gorbachev is sincere, or if his approach is a clear ploy devised by Alexander Yakovlev, who spent 10 years as ambassador to Canada.

U.S. General Bernard Rogers, Supreme Commander of NATO, stated that Gorbachev is out to "denuclearize Western Europe and make it safer for conventional war".

The Soviet edge over the West, according to military insiders, is two times in tactical air support, three times in submarines, four times in artillery and five times in tanks.

Jesus spoke of "wars, rumors of wars and kingdoms rising against kingdoms" as identifying signs of the "end-times."

St. Paul warned of a false peace accord, paving the way for a paralyzing strike that will bring "sudden destruction".

And Prophet Daniel spoke of a peace pact that will deceive the Jews, delivering them into the hands of their enemies.

The "Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse" are getting closer; especially the rider of the Red Horse.

St. John saw the vision nearly two millenia ago dur-

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ing his exile on the Isle of Patmos. The white horse represents the Anti-Christ, a political leader who will brutalize the world for 3 1/2 years.

The black horse speaks of famine; the pale horse, death and hell; while the red horse and its rider spell war.

All four are designed to take peace from the earth.

In my opinion, war is inevitable. The only way to postpone it however, is for the nations of the world to turn to God and righteousness.

# Don't be fooled, Satan is a busy fella

*'Man's fiercest foe from the Garden of Eden right to the end of time is not cancer, communism, disease or death. It is the devil.'*

— Billy Graham.

BRASILIA, Brazil — Dr. Rebecca Brown wasn't doing research for a book on witchcraft when she met Elaine, nor was she thinking about evil spirits, demons or the occult.

Brown, a medical doctor, was shocked by Elaine's story of fear, torment and bondage. When therapy and drugs failed to help, Brown was amazed at her patient's recovery by her acceptance of Jesus Christ.

After Elaine's dramatic healing and escape from satanism, other tormented young people in similar straits began calling the MD's office, seeking similar assistance.

Dr. Brown's new book *He Came to Set the Captives Free* is the clinical report of many of her patients, who decided after deliverance, to publicize their traumatic encounters with the devil.

After seven years of medical and psychological research, the medic was convinced that satanism is a most destructive and evil power, a power that can only be conquered only through faith in Christ.

## Satan's slaves

Dabbling in the occult can open the door to possession and a controlled life, which turns people into Satan's slaves, observes Brown.

Elaine's story is one of sadistic and sexual bondage to evil spirits and a ritualistic marriage to the devil.

Other experts are also sounding the alarm, warning of the dramatic rise in Satan worship in the U.S. and the psychological damage it is doing to unsuspecting youngsters.

That is not to discount the terrible trauma it causes their relatives.

Earlier, satanism was dismissed as a harmless fad that would soon die out, but now sociologists and clergymen are encountering new, scary and very real problems linked to devil worship.

Police have been checking out reports that covens of young people gathering in wooded areas near Los Angeles to worship the devil. Sacrificial satanic rituals like killing cats and dogs have been confirmed and officials suspect humans may have been sacrificed.

## Serious problem

So serious is the problem, churches in the area sponsored a seminar last year on satanism and neo-paganism just to learn more on the subject.

The seminar featured a Christian response to evil, exorcism and satanic deception.

"Satanism is alive and well, and the sad thing is that it is growing among teenagers," states Roger Burt, a Christian authority.

Dr. Billy Graham declares: "A generation ago, when I began as an evangelist, people generally, and intellectuals in particular thought of the devil as an anachronistic symbol, a handy expression of profanity, or as a superstition believed in chiefly by religious eccentrics. Today, the devil is getting maximum exposure, precisely as the Bible predicted would happen prior to Christ's return."

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In his book, *The Second Coming: Satanism in America*, Arthur Lyons states "that from a scientific or secular viewpoint, the 1970's revival of devil worship witchcraft, sorcery and occultism in America was totally unexpected. Most intellectuals had expected belief in the devil to disappear within a

few years."

And Dr. John Wesley White warned: "The devil. We all wish he'd go away. But he's around today a lot more than he was yesterday, and he's going to be more visible and vocal tomorrow than he is today. Like a vast, vicious virus that won't stop, his iniquitous vices are on every hand. To be ignorant of his tactics is to lay our selves open to chronic peril."

According to prophecy, Satan will make a momentous comeback just before Jesus returns.

He will orchestrate the world's greatest confrontation, the "Battle of Armageddon." In the end Satan loses totally. Only one angel will be needed to cast him into the bottomless pit forever.

Max is pastor at Faith Cathedral.

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# 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)

## MAX SOLBREKKEN



# Gospel is spreading throughout Russia

'When freedom does come, I believe history's greatest evangelists will come out of the Soviet Union.

— Alexandyr Solzhenitsyn

Solzhenitsyn's words may come to pass sooner than anyone anticipates. News from the East Block is exciting; revival fires are burning and doors are opening for the gospel.

Glasnost and perestroika — after seven decades of economic failure, ruthless leadership and an unworkable philosophy — is doing wonders for the Soviet Union.

World opinion is shifting dramatically, international banks are arranging low-interest loans, the troops are coming home, and freedom of speech, press, assembly and religion are starting to become a reality.

Reliable sources who have their finger on the religious pulse of Eastern Europe, are ecstatic.

Rev. Jack Hunka of Slavic Missions reports: A rally was held in a park with a KGB official present. When he was handed a gospel tract, the agent remarked: "It has taken you 70 years to overcome communism. And you have done it."

Rev. George Derkatch, Ukrainian Pentecostal leader related the following: A drunken man approached a believer in an open-air gospel meeting in Russia and began beating him.

Immediately a nearby policeman apprehended the drunk. In the past, any one could have beat "schtundes" (nickname for believers) publicly and got away with it, but not anymore.

Dr. Terry Law and his Living Sound musical group, met with great success in Kiev, Ukraine last spring. He reported an unprecedented 20,000 were baptized in the Dneiper River.

Strange as it may seem, Soviet soldiers have been spreading the gospel in Afghanistan during the past eight years.

And these soldiers were spreading the gospel to the Moslems of that country, with gratifying results.

History repeats itself. *The Bible* records the testimony of early Jewish Christians persecuted by their own people. Fleeing the persecution, they preached the gospel everywhere.

While in Mozambique last April, I was informed that many fishermen on Soviet trawlers, outside Maputo, visited Bible vendors there, to purchase a *Bible*.

I have been invited to preach at the large Congress Hall — where the government holds their congresses — in Katowice, Poland next month. We will also visit Moscow and make plans for crusades in other Iron Curtain countries next spring.

Mikhail Gorbachev stated: "Jesus Christ alone knew all answers to all questions. I don't possess that skill."

Max is Founder of Faith Cathedral.

# Curse's days are numbered

Will Ronald Reagan die in office or will he beat the death cycle affecting U.S. presidents, since 1840?

In a strange cycle, the past seven U.S. presidents elected or re-elected in the year ending with a zero, have died while in office!

Author Gordon Lindsay introduced the subject in 1940, when President Roosevelt announced his candidacy for a third term. Lindsay called attention to the strange cycle and asked, "whether the president elected this year will also die while in the presidential chair?"

His death came about a month after his fourth inauguration; he was suddenly stricken while sitting for an artist.

In 1960, Lindsay wrote in *American Presidents and Destiny*, "If this cycle of the presidents continues, then the president elected in 1960 will die sometime between 1961 and 1969."

"If this occurs, we may ask ourselves: 'Will he die of natural causes? Will he die by the hand of an assassin? Will he die as the result of some tragedy?' Time alone will tell the story."

Columnist Paul Coates wrote: "This phenomenon of the cycles of the death of the presidents was noticed also by a writer named Harry Squires. He wrote to each of the presidential hopefuls pointing out this cycle, and if it would have an effect on their White House aspirations."

Coates reprinted Senator John F. Kennedy's reply dated May 27, 1959. Here are some excerpts: "The historical curiosity which you related in your letter of May 4th is indeed thought provoking."

"As to what effect, if any, this will have on my presidential aspirations, I feel that the future will have to necessarily answer for itself — both as to my aspirations and my fate, should I have the privilege of occupying the White House."

"On face value, I dare say, should anyone take this phenomenon to heart. . . anyone, that is, who aspires to change his address to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, that most probably the landlord would be left from 1960 to 1964 with a 'for rent' sign hanging on the gatehouse door."

President Kennedy died three years later by an assassin's bullet.

Here is a record of the cycle: Harrison was elected in 1840, Lincoln in 1860, Garfield in 1880, McKinley in 1900, Harding in 1920, Roosevelt in 1940 and Kennedy in 1960.

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Ronald Reagan was elected in 1980. If the cycle continues, he will die in office as well.

Is the cycle only coincidental, or is there a hidden meaning behind it all?

The cycle began after the death of those who fought in the Revolutionary War. Another interesting fact is that three of the presidents who signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, died on July 4 — two died together 50 years later.

John Adams and Thomas Jefferson died July 4, 1826 and Thomas Madison died July 4, 1831.

A study of world history reveals a definite design in the rise and fall of kingdoms. Investigation reveals that events occur in definite mathematical patterns — not by chance or coincidence.

The scripture states that God — the Creator — is the divine architect, who guides the destinies of the rulers of this earth.

The number seven in Biblical numerology is the number of perfection or completeness. In that case, the cycle may be over.

In my opinion, that is the only thing that will save President Reagan from becoming the eighth casualty of the strange presidential death cycle.

Max is Founder of Faith Cathedral

# All hail the Norwegian cabby

OSLO, Norway — Taxi drivers are often the best barometers of public moods in politics, business and sports.

To my delight, I met a taxi driver in Asker last week, who not only was talkative, but highly informed. During our 30-minute ride to the airport, I gained a wealth of information and noted the similarities between the Norwegian and Canadian mentalities.

Here is a bit of our conversation:

"How are things in Norway's business community?"

"Quite steady, even though there has been a slow-down the last couple of years."

I probed, "There is a 200 per-cent increase in bankruptcies this year. Is that due to low oil prices?"

When times are good, many jump into business ventures with very little backing and when the economy tightens up they can't ride out the storm. He wasn't concerned as this tends only to stabilize the nation.

"We need to diversify. We have been too dependent upon our oil riches. We must find our niche in the world market and excel in supplying those specialties to the world community."

The cabby continued. "We have a problem however, with the Norwegian mentality. We are not aggressive enough in marketing ourselves or our product internationally. The Swedes are much better at tooting their horn, so consequently we miss contracts we deserve."

"We are known around the world as nice people, well mannered and kind ... but that doesn't bring in business. We have a mentality that says because we are small, we don't amount to much."

I'd heard that story before, too. How similar to our situation with the United States.

"What about the Germans? Why are they so set on conquest?"

His answer made more sense than anything I had studied. He blamed the French and English for the Second World War. After defeating Germany in the First World War, they demanded reparations from that impoverished nation. They sucked every bit of blood from Germany. The French even took Germany's livestock to pay for war damages, leaving them bitter, poor and vengeful. When Hitler made his move, they were ready to strike back.

He continued: "Look at how the Americans treated the nations they defeated. Japan, South Korea and West Germany were rebuilt with American dollars and technology."

Had the U.S. won the Vietnam War, that country would have been on the way to becoming an economic miracle, instead of a pawn in the hands of ruthless rulers."

I told him I believed Canada needs a "week-long war" with the U.S.A. They would then feel obliged to pour billions of dollars into our country.

Then I asked why are the Americans like this.

"It all started with Abraham Lincoln at the end of the Civil War. There were those who said the government ought to impose a tax on the defeated rebels. President Lincoln vetoed the motion stating: Let's send the boys back to their families without any penalty and bring healing to the nation."

I then asked him why Lincoln would say those memorable words. He replied, "He practised true Christianity."

Saying goodbye, I thought: "It's refreshing to talk to a European who isn't bashing the Americans."

Max is Founder of Faith Cathedral

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# Embassy shift a capital idea

Should the U.S. move their embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem?

Senator Daniel Moynihan has 37 co-sponsors for his bill to do that and Rep. Tom Lantos of California has 213 co-sponsors for an identical bill.

Why the sudden outpouring of concern by democratic politicians? Is it only a campaign ploy to gain the Jewish vote on Tuesday or is there a noticeable change in the attitude of America's lawmakers towards the embassy question?

## A ridiculous situation?

How ridiculous that Canada, the U.S. and virtually every nation that has diplomatic relations with Israel has an embassy in Tel Aviv.

With the exception of Costa Rica.



**Joe Clark**  
Had right idea

That's tantamount to all the nations of the world moving their Canadian embassies out of Ottawa to Quebec City or Toronto.

Or Canada moving its embassy in Japan from Tokyo to Hiroshima.

The logical place for all embassies is the capital city.

How brazen for neighboring countries to meddle in the affairs of a sovereign nation. And yet the world is telling Isreal how to run its affairs.

Jerusalem has officially been the capital city of Israel since its re-birth in 1948.

When Joe Clark was elected prime minister of Canada he pledged to move the Canadian Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

I thought, finally we've got a man in Ottawa who is honest, fair and not just politically motivated.

It wasn't long, however, until Bob Stanfield was appointed to go on a fact-finding tour to check the feasibility of such a move. The PM had already been convinced it wouldn't work.

The oil producing Arab countries had spoken, as had

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the terrorist countries of the Persian Gulf and the Middle East.

How ironic. A handful of Arab nations had changed the mind of our PM and forced him with threats of boycotts, bombings and a cutoff of oil supplies.

We were being dictated to by outside influences and could not do what we as a nation had already decided to do.

Pope John Paul II is probably the world's greatest politician, having more influence on the nations than anyone else.

## Jews objected to comment

Recently he interfered with the internal workings of Isreal. The Jews registered their strong objection to his statement that Jerusalem must be internationalized.

I like Isreal's spunk, their determination and their ability to tell the whole world to fly a kite.

Since it was a Jew who rediscovered North America in 1492, I think it only fair that we in Canada and the U.S. recognize their capital.

In my opinion, the Jews are still God's chosen race and No. 1, even if the Norwegians beat them across the Atlantic by 500 years.

Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral.

# Brazil rocked by radioactive fallout

GOIANIA, Brazil — While the world's financial investors are reeling under the shock waves of last week's stock market collapse, the residents of this city are struggling with a climate of fear and death.

The news media is already labelling Goiania a Chernobyl, due to the four deaths already triggered by misuse of highly radioactive materials.

The meltdown of the nuclear reactor at Chernobyl in the Soviet Union stands as a warning to mankind, of the risks in harnessing the awesome power of the universe.

And the tragic happenings here began so ignorantly, when looters entered a vacated hospital and carted off obsolete articles to sell at a junk yard.

One of the items salvaged was an old X-ray machine.

Two young employees dismantled the contraption, opening the radioactive capsule. A curious crowd soon gathered, drawn by the luminous nature of the blue powder.

The proprietor's wife laughingly put some of it on her arms and face. Her seven-year old daughter swallowed some of the deadly substance while playing with it.

## **Within hours, their hair fell out**

Within a short while, their hair fell out, the agony of radiation burns racked their bodies. Since the Oct. 3 accident, four have died, another lies in a coma, and 250 have been declared contaminated.

Authorities have sealed off the area, demolished a number of houses, filled steel barrels with radioactive garbage, trees, and earth, which will be buried in a concrete grave, using 45,000 bags of cement to contain the dangerous materials.

But panic and fear has gripped the residents of Goiania. Last week a crowd gathered at the funeral of one of the victims and tried to prevent the burial.

Police had to disperse angry residents who feared contamination, even though the bodies were placed in bronze caskets and entombed in concrete.

Experts dealing with nuclear waste disposal arrived here recently from West Germany to evaluate the situation and advise local authorities.

The junk yard is located only a few blocks from the 50,000 seat Olympia Stadium, where we were to have conducted our Crusade for Christ. However, it is now sealed off to the public since some of those exposed to the radioactive materials visited the stadium shortly after becoming contaminated.

The clothes and other articles from the victims are kept in the stadium in 2,000 steel drums stacked at the entrance.

Our crusade has been moved to 20,000 seat arena, with a large outdoor screen to accommodate the overflow crowds... and expectations are high that God will perform a miracle for this troubled city.

The young lady interviewing me at TVS expressed the people's pain. Can God do something to stop this plague and remove the awful fear?

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My answer was yes. God will bring peace to this city, if the people will put their trust in him. Wherever the gospel is preached fear must leave and healing begins.

Among the many problems facing Brazilians is the utter hopelessness of spiritism and voodoo that has enslaved millions with superstition and fear.

On Friday I met with Governor Santieleo and prayed with him for divine guidance, help and peace. My meeting with the governor of Brasilia last week was a time of great spiritual uplift and enthusiasm.

Brazil is a troubled country with the ninth best economy in the world, but is ranked 56th in standard of living.

During the good times there was great expectancy with large loans... then came high-interest rates and they have not been able to recover. Last March, Brazil stopped paying the interest on its huge 110 billion-dollar debt.

## **Brazil has other problems**

Meanwhile, Brazil has other problems. My appointment with President Sarney was abruptly cancelled, after his return from Venezuela as his hands were full with five mutinous cabinet ministers.

In a country where 90 per cent of the people live under the poverty line, inflation is up to 500 per cent and interest rates are 30 per cent per month, only a miracle can turn things around.

The only hope for Brazil and every country in the world is a return to righteousness, morality and faith. Nothing else can take the place of a God-sent revival.

Max is pastor at Faith Cathedral

## MAX SOLBREKKEN



# Apocalypse stock is rising

"We see five areas of potential crisis:

1. The warming of the earth.
2. The water shortage.
3. The collapse of the physical infrastructure.
4. The global financial crisis.
5. A nuclear Armageddon.

William P. Neufeld

Two years ago, when the director of the American Council of Life Insurance's Trend Analysis Program reported his findings, few people listened. But when the stock market collapsed recently, the whole world was screaming.

Neufeld warned that "a breakdown of the international monetary and trading system would plunge the world into prolonged depression — and such a breakdown is far from a remote possibility. The greatest chance of a single event triggering a worldwide financial disaster probably lies in the threat of default on its debt by a third world or Eastern bloc country."

The Oct. 19 stock market crash has shaken investors.

And the refusal of Brazil to pay the interest on its huge \$110 million debt since March, could well trigger a domino effect.

Experts see the twin monsters of America's huge trade deficit and enormous national debt, as the chief causes of the Wall Street's nose dive.

People are asking: "What does the *Bible* say about the monetary system in the 'end-times'?"

1. Before Christ returns, it will be business as usual.
2. A financial wizard will arrive on the scene, paying the way for the Anti-Christ... Prophet Daniel calls him, "... a raiser of taxes."
3. St. John says, the Anti-Christ will consolidate power and cause "craft to prosper."
4. But, God's judgment will fall as the four horsemen of the *Apocalypse* ride across the earth.
5. The Anti-Christ will declare himself God and demand worship. He will initiate a system of totalitarian control, including a sophisticated marking system. Protesters will be unable to "buy or sell unless he has this mark, that is the Beast's name or the number that stands for his name" (Rev. 13:17).

Before long there will be a need for a new monetary system, world-wide.

It's a confusing and scary world, for most people. But for those who have put their trust in God and know their *Bible*, there is no fear.

(Pastor Max Solbrekken is the founder of Faith Cathedral.)

# Evangelism is blossoming in Poland

KATOWICE, Poland — I'm impressed with Poland — the land and its people — although I have met only a few thousand of its 37 million citizens and seen but a little of its 312,000 square km.

Anyone raised on a farm would be impressed with the picturesque countryside. Kilometre and kilometre of cultivated land as well as large tracts of timber.

Driving the 700 km from Swinoujscie to Katowice was delightful since the heavy frosts had not yet come, and the woods were alive with autumn colors.

Seeing horses deliver light freight took me back 40 years. And the small unpainted homes dotting the roadsides reminded me of the unpretentious buildings we had on the farm, when I was a boy.

Some of the villages seem unchanged since the Second World War, and the cities are mostly grey, dismal and uninviting. One city however, had an entire row of new high-rise apartments, beautifully decorated.

People have to wait in line for hours to purchase their ration of gasoline and the shops have a sparse supply of goods. Young couples must wait 20 years for a permit to buy a home.

Pollution is heavy with smog. Cars and buildings are covered with grime and the local population has a high incidence of lung disorders. The level of pollution in Chorzow — the highest in Europe — is 160 times higher than the suggested safe index.

That city also boasts the greatest number of miscarriages, premature births and babies born deformed and retarded. The Wisla River that flows through Katowice is so polluted that it doesn't freeze, even when the temperatures dip to minus 25.

The good news is that Scandinavian countries being affected by Polish pollution are making plans to help that country install safeguards.

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The Polish people however are strong, undaunted and hospitable. The service in hotels and restaurants is excellent and the prices extremely reasonable... \$20 U.S. for a single room with bath and \$5 for a delicious steak dinner for three.

It doesn't take long to discover that the Polish are a very proud race and purists when it comes to language. Being an uninformed Canadian, I thought Polish and Ukrainian were as compatible as Norwegian and Swedish, so proceeded to use the little Ukrainian at my disposal.

I was politely told to speak Polish since I sounded too

much like a Russian. After 43 years of Soviet domination, witnessing the Marxist dream turn into a nightmare, you can't blame them.

Katowice is 600 km. from Gdansk, home of Nobel Prize winner Lech Walesa, 80 km. from Krakow, former stamping grounds of Karol Wojtyla, the much-loved Polish Pope... and only 30 km. from Auschwitz. Our visit to the Nazi killing camps of Auschwitz and Treblinka so unnerved one member of our party that he was unable to eat supper.

Many here believe the visit of British PM Margaret Thatcher a week ago signals a shift of direction in the

present Polish government. There are high hopes that glasnost will result in more trade with the West bringing the needed finances to revitalize their economy.

A new English language newspaper, *Voice* — the only one in Poland — quotes Foreign Minister spokesman Stanislaw Staniszewski, "We are pursuing an open policy."

And the newly nominated prime minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski is known for his liberal and pro-reformist attitude.

In the past, evangelical Christians were discriminated against, but now they have been granted permission to build churches. The Pentecostals in Wroclaw are presently building a modern all-purpose church seating 1,000 and Katowice's new cathedral will seat 2,500.

The new freedom of worship and evangelism in Poland, is resulting in large crusades with thousands responding.

Our crusade in Katowice was a great success with a packed auditorium and numerous invitations to return to Poland, as well as to Russia next spring.

It's hard to find a more loving people than the Polish.

Max is founder of Faith Cathedral

# Camps are a horrific reminder

KRAKOW, Poland — I have finally visited Auschwitz and Birkenau and seen with my own eyes the remains of Hitler's infamous concentration camps, in which four million people were systematically liquidated.

I saw Block 11, "the prison within the prison," where thousands were starved, tortured and killed. Also "The Wall of Death" where 20,000 prisoners were shot. And Block 10, where 55 medical doctors performed sterilization procedures on slavic women, to exterminate that race.

Professor Dr. Carl Clauberg explained his objective in a letter to Himmler, June 7, 1943: "Should the investigations conducted by myself continue as expected — and I foresee

no obstacles — then in the nearest future I hope to be able to say that a properly trained surgeon working in a properly equipped surgery, with perhaps 10 medical assistants, will most probably be in the position to sterilize several hundred or even a 1,000 per-

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sons in the course of one day..."

I also saw the railroad tracks and authentic photographs of the area where the victims were transferred from trains to the extermination camps, as well as the actual gas chambers, mass graves, original bunk

houses and hundreds of proofs of Nazi atrocities.

I had seen films and read about the notorious Nazi killing camps, but when you see it first-hand, suddenly the plot to exterminate entire races of people comes crystal clear into focus.

The Nazis kept excellent records, including samples of fabrics made from human fat and hair, so we get a thorough picture of the Third Reich's German mind-set.

This is also documented in the autobiography of Rudolf Hess, commandant of Auschwitz: "Toward the end of the summer (1942) we started to burn bodies at first on wood pyres bearing some 2,000 corpses, and later in pits, together with bodies previously buried.

"In the early days oil refuse was poured on the bodies, but later methanol was used. Bodies were burned in pits day and night, continuously. By the end of November 1942, all mass graves had been emptied.

## 3 million perished

It is so sad to relive what actually happened at Auschwitz and Birkenau. For five years, trains bearing Jews from across Europe, poured into this Polish city. In all, three million Jews perished in these slaughter houses, as well as one million political and religious prisoners, gypsies, homosexuals and others.

Upon arrival, medical doctors decided who could join the work force and who could not. The aged, infirm, handicapped and small children were sent immediately

to the gas chamber.

One ex-prisoner, Dr. Berthold E. testified: "During the selection of children, the 55 men had placed a rod at the height of 1.20 metre. Children who had passed under the rod would be gassed. Small children, knowing only too well what was awaiting them, tried hard to push out their necks when passing under the rod, in the hope to escape gassing..."

All others were registered, tattooed and placed in barracks, to live in overcrowded, unsanitary and frightful conditions until their turn came to die of starvation or in the gas chamber.

An official sign written in German warns: "Keep Your Caps Off In This Room." My visit to Hitler's killing camps reinforced a couple of spiritual truths:

1) Satan exists. There is no way a human being could do the things the Nazis did without satanic inspiration and help from the devil.

2) The evolutionary theory is nonsense. Man is not improving or evolving into something better. Auschwitz proves man has sunk much lower than the animals he is purported to have come from.

Fifty years ago, the Nazis began their reign of terror against the Jews.

## Eisenhower's message

"May Kristallnacht — the night of broken glass — never happen again," is the cry of Jews and Christians across the world today. Seeing the piles of bodies in Nordhausen, General Dwight Eisenhower stated, "The task of those called upon to ensure peace will be to create conditions which will make it impossible for the Nazi monster to raise its head." Amen.

Max is Founder of Faith Cathedral.

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# Sanctuary has biblical origin

*"Appoint out for you cities of refuge...that the slayer who killeth any person unawares and unwittingly may flee thither."*

— Joshua 20:2,3

**M**any criticized the Vatican Embassy's papal nuncio in Panama, for giving sanctuary to Gen. Manuel Noriega.

Although the Vatican's decision should have been swifter, the handling of Panama's former strongman was executed properly.

Noriega was given sanctuary until the Pope had hard evidence of his drug dealing and other criminal actions. He was then pressured into surrendering to the Americans.

From time immemorial, the church has been an acceptable place of refuge for the troubled. And foreign embassies are also safe havens for those desiring sanctuary from their oppressors.

The precedent was set thousands of years ago (Numbers 35 and Joshua 20) when God differentiated between pre-meditated murder and accidental killing.

God instructed Moses and Joshua, to appoint six strategically located "cities of refuge," giving easy access to anyone seeking protection from the family of the dead individual.

In the Old Testament, we learn the value of human life. Since man was created in God's image, murder was a capital offence punishable by instant death.

It was incumbent upon the nearest relative of the murdered person to swiftly avenge the death. Although this practice is ancient, it is still used followed by some Arab tribes today.

The executioner is known as the kinsman-redeemer, avenger of blood.

If the involuntary slayer escaped to a city of refuge, he would be safe, until the death of the high priest — duly and officially announced — brought freedom and a release from banishment to the slayer.

The famous Jewish commentator Rashi states: "The exiled man gains his freedom through the death of the high priest, because the latter should have prevented this calamity in Israel by virtue of prayer. It is therefore only his (the high priest's) death that expiates the sin of the homicide."

The Old Testament is replete with pre-pictures, types, figures and shadows of the "Messiah, the coming One."

The six "cities of refuge" named by Moses all point to the Messiah, who is our refuge. And since he is "a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek" (Ps. 110), his death frees the guilty one.

In Hebrew, names always stand for something. For instance, Jacob's name which means "supplanter or trickster" was changed to Israel — "the prince of God" — when he had a character change.

The names of the "cities of refuge" were Kadesh, Shechem, Hebron, Bezer, Ramoth-Gilead and Golan.

Jesus Christ, Jewish Messiah and Savior of the world, fulfils every detail of all six cities, as well as the death of the high priest.

Kadesh is "sanctuary" and Jesus is our refuge in times of trouble. Shechem means "shoulder" and we "cast our cares on Him for He cares for us." He is the Good Shepherd who carries the lost lamb on His shoulder.

The meaning of Hebron is "friendship" and Christ is "a friend that sticks closer than a brother." Bezer means "fortress" and Jesus is "the captain of our salvation." He fights our battles.

Ramoth speaks of "high places" and St. Paul says, "we are seated in heavenly places with Christ."

There are some differences of opinion about the meaning of Golan; however, from the root, we derive "joy." And Christ brings peace and joy into our lives through the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We can all flee to Jesus Christ the Messiah, savior and eternal high priest and find sanctuary and freedom.

Emma Lazarus wrote the famous sonnet, *The New Colossus* in 1883. How appropriate are her words, which are enshrined on the base of the Statue of Liberty in New York.

"Give me your tired, your poor,

Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,

The wretched refuse of your teeming shore,

Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me."

# 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 perit-up and guilty feelings. It also involves a moaning 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, "Grieve 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 pharisee 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 fulfill 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 25 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.

# Opportunity for a fresh start

The last day of the year is a time of great paradoxes. A time of contemplation, meditation and remorse as well as motivation and new resolutions. A time of forgetting the past and getting on with the future.

The new year is an opportunity for a new start for us all. A time of wiping clean the slate and starting over.

New Year's should be a time to both remember and forget. A time to do everything and nothing about the past, as well as work vigorously to do better in the future.

A time to forget the heartbreaks, mistakes and blunders we've made in 1984, because we are unable to correct them or retrace our steps.

We cannot live life over, gather up spilt milk or unscramble scrambled eggs.

But thanks be to God, we can live differently from today, we can change our lifestyles, improve our attitudes and make positive plans for the future.

That's why we need to both remember and forget.

In order to realize our need for change, it is necessary to take stock of our lives. How did we do in 1984? How many hearts have we broken or healed? Have we contributed to the well-being of our fellow man or have we been a hindrance?

Were we kind, generous and helpful, or mean, uncaring and selfish?

Let us ask ourselves the question, "Have I been a stumbling block or a stepping stone, an asset or a liability, a part of the problem or the solution?"

Dec. 31 should be stock taking day in all our lives, so that we will not repeat our sins in the New Year!

Once we have faced the situation fairly and squarely, we need to do something about it — like repenting of the wrong, making apologies to the people we have hurt and forgiving those who have harmed us!

We must get it off our chests, humble ourselves and repair the damage our actions have caused, by saying, "I'm sorry!"

Let us not be stubborn, obstinate or stupid, but rather take the blame for our mistakes and seek forgiveness from God and our fellow men.

Then the healing power of God will flow into broken marriages, ruined relationships and troubled minds.

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It is not enough, however, to feel sorry for our past mistakes, we must resolutely make up our minds to chart a new course and stick to it.

It would be wise also to ask ourselves how we are doing intellectually and physically.

Have we let ourselves go? Are we merely existing or are we living to the best of our potential? Are we mentally and physically busy?

Let's get out there where the action is, and begin mixing with our neighbors and getting involved with life.

For those who feel they did their best in 1984, let's do better in 1985.

Have a happy, vigorous and prosperous New Year!

And we will forget all the unfortunate, sad and ill-conceived happenings of the past.

Our nation will then begin to rise out of the quagmire of hopelessness in every area of life — spiritually, morally and economically.

# All this violence heralds Lord's return

Is our society destined to become enslaved by violence and crime?

It is no longer safe to walk the streets of many North American cities. Our women are in danger of being raped and our children are disappearing in increasing numbers — with no relief in sight from this madness.

The criminal is a burden to the taxpayer. Either he's in jail or he's on parole, living on welfare, until he can plan his next bank job, attack another woman or kill a policeman.

Our police are hamstrung by red tape, and laws that favor the criminal.

It's no wonder young men with eight to 10 years experience are leaving police forces in frustration and disgust.

They're tired of putting their lives on the line to protect an apathetic public and they're fed up with elected officials who play politics with issues like tougher laws and capital punishment. And you can't blame them.

## Terrorists

A few kidnappings and terrorist attacks against our well-paid legislators would change their thinking in a hurry.

But let us pray that will never happen.

Violence is everywhere: On TV, in movies, books and magazines, and in rock and roll lyrics.

People are so conditioned by violence that it seems almost natural to them to solve their problems the same way as Rambo or Dirty Harry — with a gun.

Worse still, violence is a worldwide problem.

Recounting his terrible ordeal with the Mau Mau freedom fighters in 1952, Dr. Samuel Gatore said recently that it was God who delivered him from a Mau Mau firing squad.

## Fortresses

Gatore, a senior lecturer in psychiatry at the University of Nairobi in Kenya, was speaking at a seminar on Understanding Criminality.

Rev. Javier Bustamente of Peru said the increase in crime in his country had caused people to turn their homes into "fortresses — cages with big walls and fences."

"We have to accept crime as a normal fact of our society" he said.

Bustamente stressed that failure to do so would result in countries such as Kenya and Peru becoming police states.

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Though I understand the dangers of tight police control, I do not foresee that problem in Canada.

Jesus Christ emphasized that an increase in violence would signal the time of his return.

Jesus equated the violence that triggered God's judgment in the time of Noah, with the "Last Days."

But he also said "occupy till I come," so I'm not about to throw up my hands in despair and let the devil go unchallenged.

I cast my vote for tougher laws, less paper work for our police, and more citizen participation in helping keep criminals off our streets.

If we don't address this serious situation soon, we also may need "fortresses" to dwell in some day.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral.)

# Christian couple an example to all

Eileen Richards is a rare combination of businesswoman, missionary and wife. The Welsh-born Prince Rupert, B.C. lady is affectionately known to hundreds of poor, sick and alcohol-prone natives who end up in that city as Sister Eileen. She operates two small deli-style coffee shops to pay the bills and help sponsor the *Mission of the Good Shepherd*, a soup kitchen that feeds street children.

When Eileen discovered that about 40 teens live on city streets, she rallied concerned women from all churches to meet the challenge. The Prince Rupert Christian Women's Fellowship (PCWF) was formed and has 30 active members. They take turns serving meals to the runaways who refuse to go home because of alcohol, drugs and sex abuse.

These molested kids are frightened, do not go to school and trust no government agency, so PCWF is becoming a vital link between them and society.

Not only do they feed the hungry, they regularly visit the hospitals to pray for the sick. Such faith and compassion is exhibited that often the sick are healed supernaturally!

One such case was a lady suffering with severe Parkinson's disease. Agnes Chipman prayed daily for one week and while washing her feet, anointed them with oil. Two weeks later, Eileen received a scripture verse from

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the Lord for the sick woman. During her prayer, the shaking stopped and the patient was soon released from the hospital, well.

Eileen's millwright husband Manfred, a former soccer player and coach, is just as congenial and humanitarian as Eileen. And his philosophy of pulling your weight and if the mill breaks down at 2 a.m., it's your duty to get it going again — is refreshing indeed!

Manfred takes his involvement at the mill personally. If it isn't running due to a breakdown, there are no profits and the men will lose precious hours of work.

It's rare to find this kind of dedication today, but then Manfred was born in Wales and came here seeking a better life. Often those who are the most blessed, are the least appreciative and thankful.

It usually takes someone from abroad to make us understand the great opportunities we have in Canada. In analysing the lifestyles of the Richards, I find two very important and basic philosophies that will help build a better society.

First, Eileen's reaching out with love and caring to those in distress is so mean-

ingful. Too often, we become hard-hearted and it takes a tragedy like a famine or the recent tornado, to move us into benevolent action.

Second, Manfred's philosophy of 'keeping the mill working' is vital for our homes, schools, churches and nation. We should be willing to go out of our way, if possible, for the common good of all. Both labor and management ought to consider this aspect before a strike. We would have fewer broken homes, a higher morality among the young and more meaningful governments if this philosophy was adhered to nationally. And our churches would become 'Houses of Refuge' for all!

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## Deliver us from this Temptation

A lot of people are very upset about the motion picture *The Last Temptation of Christ*, labelling it blasphemous and untrue.

Anyone familiar with the *Bible*, Jewish history or Christianity knows the movie is totally out of sync with reality. Hollywood, however, often rewrites history to make productions more saleable, with a total disregard for truth.

They have the machinery to push the slanted views of novelists or producers. That happens regularly. And by the time the final version is ready, people close to the real story cannot recognize it.

Four-times-married Martin Scorsese, a one-time aspirant to the Roman Catholic priesthood, appears to be on a religious pilgrimage of his own.

His twisted views of Christ's humanity were born out of ignorance, believing that Jesus had the same struggles overcoming temptations as he.

### **Shown as fearful**

But that is ridiculous. Jesus Christ was the only person in history to be blameless.

The Hebrew Pharisees could lay no charge against Him, except that He claimed to be the Son of God.

Scorsese thinks he's done a great thing and cannot understand the uproar against the movie, but he has portrayed Jesus Christ as a fearful, weak, lustful and indecisive hypocrite.

He has brought Christ down to the level of "fallen man" and desires to create a savior who committed sin in the struggle, but triumphed in the end.

It's easy to see where he's coming from.

He is looking at Christ from a human perspective, saying, "If He could overcome — even if He made some mistakes — then maybe there is hope for me."

People can relate to that, if they don't know the rules of the game and if they don't understand the high stakes involved.

To understand salvation and the work of the Jewish messiah, we need to examine what the prophets said about Him and what was demanded of Him by God.

All the sacrifices in temple pointed to the messiah.

The innocent animal had to be a first-born male, less than one year old and without blemish. It had to be a perfect animal because the messiah would be perfect.

Jesus is the Jewish messiah and savior, so He had to be perfect. When He died on the cross, it was the righteous for the unrighteous, the holy for the unholy, the sinless for the sinful.

St. Paul stated, "He was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin."

How could this be? Sin is sin and temptation is temptation.

If Christ was tempted, He must have had evil, lustful, fearful thoughts — and that would be sinful.

True, but Christ was not born "in sin" of sinful parents as we were.

### **Untainted by sin**

Remember, that the blood flowing through His veins was pure, holy and untainted by sin, since God is His Father and He was conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Therein lies the difference. He was tempted by Satan, from the outside. We are tempted from the inside as well, for our human nature was contaminated by Adam's transgression.

Although the film is based on a novel by Nikos Kazantzakis, Scorsese relates very much to the character Jesus in the movie — troubled, confused, tormented and struggling against the temptations of life.

But Christ, being fully God as well as fully man, could not have become the savior of all men if He had sinned.

He could not have overcome Satan, death and hell, rising from the dead, if He had sinned.

In my opinion, Christ has been terribly maligned by the movie *The Last Temptation*.

(Max is the founder of Faith Cathedral).

# Don't think that God is angry

*'For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.'*

— John 3:16

Many people believe God is angry at them ... that He has their number and is waiting to bring them to justice.

They see God as a stern old man who has been roused from his afternoon nap by noisy young people.

But nothing could be further from the truth. God is kind, merciful and fair.

## Ancients saw many Gods

The ancients thought of God in different ways. To the Hebrews, God was holiness. To the Greeks, wisdom; to the Romans, power; to the Pagans, mystery. God is all that and more. He is love.

John 3:16 is the central verse of the New Testament and the inspiration for fundamental spiritual change.

Martin Luther called it the "Bible in miniature."

Some people believe God is portrayed as wrathful and uncaring in the Old Testament and loving and kind in the New Testament.

But that isn't true. The mercy of God is seen in his dealings with mankind from the beginning.

He gave Adam and Eve a second chance and instituted the sacrificial system that had the Messiah die to atone for our sins.

God's justice can also be seen in his dealings with Satan, who was once a trusted archangel called Lucifer. God could have destroyed Satan, but let him remain free until the final judgment.

God loves us all and allows the sun to shine and rain to fall on the just and unjust. His laws of gravity, life, death and salvation apply to everyone. The words of prophet Isaiah are relevant today: "Come now, let us

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reason together saith the Lord. Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow."

The love of God is constantly being revealed to us.

Take the case of Dianne Mottram, who became hooked on alcohol and drugs as a young person and spent most of her life in and out of de-tox centres and mental hospitals.

After years of failed marriages, psych wards and AA meetings, she became terminally ill with Reynaud's Phenomenon and was confined to a wheel chair. She also suffered with scleroderma, a rare disease that left her hands and feet severely swollen.

Her lungs were filled with fluid and her kidneys, bowels and bladder were infected. Dianne sought medical help from specialists in Canada, U.S. and England, to no avail. She was told repeatedly, "There is nothing we can do."

About 18 months ago a friend took Dianne to a Full Gospel Businessmen's meeting in Edmonton and she was healed.

## Today she is well

Today she is perfectly well and her two boys still have a mother. Amazingly, through all her trials, Dianne never read the Bible nor attended church, although she believed in God. But when she heard the gospel and accepted Jesus Christ, she was healed. That's the mercy of God.

Five-year-old Julio Diaz was brought by

his mother to our crusade in Santa Fe, Argentina, four years ago. He was born without urethers, as well as a number of other abnormalities.

He had suffered through six operations and spent three years in the Children's Hospital. There were thousands in the stadium when our faith touched God for Julio.

As the huge throng was led in the healing prayer Julio's mother believed. The next

morning his mother awakened to find the plastic tubes pushed out of his sides and her little boy urinating on the floor. They rushed to the hospital, X-rays showed two urethers; Julio is well today by God's grace.

It's not fair to blame God for the wars, storms, natural disasters or diseases that plague mankind. Most of our problems are self-inflicted because of greed, hatred, lust and disobedience.

# Golden rule: Do unto others...

*Peace on earth, goodwill to men... for unto you is born this day a Saviour.*

— St. Luke

The successful summit between the two superpowers has brought a sense of hope and peace to millions around the world.

And the Christmas season seems such a natural time to lay down arms and begin talking about peace!

Ever since St. Luke recorded the words of the angel on that first Christmas, the world has longed and prayed for peace; especially at this time of year.

A memorable old painting shows Jesus knocking at the heart's door, while a modern version has Him seeking admittance to the United Nations in New York.

The Prophet Isaiah called him "the Prince of Peace."

The message of Jesus was one of peace and goodwill. He stated, "My peace I give unto you, my peace I leave with you. Let not your heart be troubled."

Everywhere He went, people's hearts were touched with tranquility and joy. To the sick He brought healing, to the sinful forgiveness, to the tormented peace, and to the sorrowing hope!

## Jesus was teaching tolerance

Jesus said, "Love one another, forgive those who wrong you, pray for those who hate you, give to those who have need."

He spoke of "going the second mile," in order to demonstrate the Gospel.

When His disciples wanted to call down fire from Heaven upon those who rejected Him, He said, "You don't know the spirit you are of."

He was teaching tolerance!

St. John reported: "We saw someone casting out devils in thy Name and we forbade them." Jesus scolded him and said, "Hinder not the man. If he's not against us, he is for us."

The lesson was, "No one has exclusive rights to the Gospel."

When St. Peter began to lecture Jesus about not having to go to the Cross and suffer for the sins of the world, He very firmly rebuked him saying, "Get thee behind me Satan."

The gospel message cannot be changed to suit the occasion. That there is salvation only through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection, is an unalterable fact.

World leaders, philosophers and religionists allude to Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan and the "sermon on the mount." His teaching of peace and goodwill are heralded around the globe.

And yet we live in a world filled with turmoil, conflict and pain! A world reeking with prejudice, injustice and hate!

Moslems killing Moslems in the Persian Gulf, Catholics and Protestants fighting in Ireland, and the Soviet Union still im-

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posing its ruthless will on the people of Afghanistan...

While civil wars rage in Angola, Mozambique and Nicaragua, East Jerusalem is a powder keg just starting to explode.

So what is the answer to murder, hate, injustice and fear? What is the antidote to greed, lust and pride? Where have we gone wrong? What do we need to do?

Let us re-read the words of Jesus: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Jesus was asked, "What is the greatest commandment in the law?" His answer is still the solution to the world's problems, even today.

## 'Love thy neighbor as thyself'

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul and mind; and the second is like unto it. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

We see a little of the effects of the gospel, in the "Christmas ceasefire" in Nicaragua.

And possibly, due to the nearly bankrupt situation of the Soviet Union, economically and politically, we may see them at the negotiating table again!

The challenge that lies before us is enormous, but if we face it with faith, the mountains of hatred and fear will disappear.

And a Happy New Year to everyone!

# Gretzky scores big on drug testing

The Stanley Cup playoffs are history with the Montreal Canadiens taking the trophy.

The Oilers didn't make it into the finals, but Wayne Gretzky is still scoring points.

While some NHL officials, coaches and newspaper editors are screaming out against mandatory drug testing, Gretzky has come out flat-footed for it.

He's got nothing to lose. He's a straight-shooter on ice and off.

That's why he's such a great guy.

NHL president John Ziegler and Players' Association head Alan Eagleson announced recently that they will lobby their respective organizations to submit to mandatory testing.

## Separate the innocent

Eagleson felt such testing was needed "to ensure that the innocent are free from guilt by innuendo." Ziegler added that through scientific testing, those players who are not involved in drug use "will be able to prove their innocence."

Jim Taylor, sports columnist for *The Vancouver Province*, believes players do not need to run around defending themselves just because of the *Sports Illustrated* story stating that five Oilers were on cocaine.

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Borje Salming of the Toronto Maple Leafs has confessed to cocaine experimentation years ago, and I'm sure there are a number of other hockey players who have been involved, as have been many other athletes in other sports.

But No. 99 is embarrassed by the bad press the Oilers and the game of hockey have been getting lately.

It's refreshing to see someone with such a high profile make the kind of statement he did.

I agree 100 per cent with Gretzky. Any player with nothing to hide shouldn't be ashamed or afraid of taking the test.

Let's clear the air and the reputation of the majority of players who are clean. Why should a few irresponsible people be allowed to corrupt the image of a great team, league and game?

The Bible states, "The law is made for the lawless," so law-abiding citizens have nothing to fear when put to the test.

It's as simple as that.

"I would welcome it with open arms," Gretzky told a news conference at the Memorial Cup in Portland recently. "If the NHL wanted us to do urinalysis tests, I would be happy to do it twice a day."

Gretzky helped introduce mandatory drug testing for members of the Junior Hull Olympiques last September, shortly after he became team owner.

"Drugs are obviously an image that professional sports and hockey does not want to be associated with," said Gretzky. "We hope we can keep it right out (of hockey), but obviously some people make mistakes."

## Responsibility to the game

"I think as individuals we all have a responsibility to the game to do the best we can to keep the image of the game as positive and clean as possible," he said.

Three cheers for Wayne Gretzky as he scores again.

And when the smoke clears from the alcohol and drug scandals in the NHL, he will have made big points for the young people of North America, a ripple effect lasting for years.

# Is gluttony eating you?

Some people eat to live, some live to eat.

When the fridge is full the anxious overeater is confident, but when it is empty he is ready to push the panic button.

This past summer, friends of ours from Europe visited Edmonton and were thrilled at seeing grocery stores "with mountains of food."

I thank God daily for that abundance. But, unfortunately, many Canadians eat too much and exercise too little, although many of us are in better shape physically now than we were 10 years ago.

The old commercials saying the proverbial 60-year-old Swede was in better shape than our 28-year-old Canadians caused a lot of us to pull up our socks.

As a boy I was introduced to healthy living very early, with plenty of hard work, wholesome food and physical training.

I was always involved in sports and body building, and running was a natural since we lived only a half mile from town.

Something is missing in our society these days.

An old proverb bears repeating: An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

It works with alcohol, tobacco, sex and food.

## **Warn your children**

If we teach our children the dangers of addiction to alcohol, drugs and tobacco, we may keep them from these vices and they won't need therapy later.

If we warn our youngsters about promiscuity, genital herpes and syphilis, as well as the benefits of keeping themselves pure, chances are good they will lead moral, normal and happy lives.

The same is true with eating.

If we instruct our children about junk foods and have a regular schedule at meal time, they will become disciplined.

Much is made of dieting and losing weight.

But why don't we preach abstinence? It is not necessary to say "yes" to illicit sex, pot or that extra piece of pie. We have minds of our own. We can say "no."

Let's spend a little more time pushing away from the table and we won't need to diet so much.

Now I know some people can eat like a horse and still stay slim while others only have to eat a little to become overweight.

It really isn't fair, but that's life.

What we all need is discipline and persistence.

## **Fasting may help**

And it doesn't hurt to fast a little bit. In fact, it's very healthy and a great way to stay slim.

The Old Testament prophets fasted, as did the Jewish pharisees and the disciples of John the Baptist. Jesus Christ went without food, and predicted that his followers would spend time in fasting and prayer with great spiritual reward.

The early Methodists fasted two days of the week (from sunrise to sunset) in imitation of the early church.

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John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church, said if Christians were not fasting regularly they were backsliding just as much as those who were not praying regularly.

The Roman Catholic church, until recently, observed a partial fast, forbidding followers to eat meat on Fridays.

Fasting, whether partial or total should be undertaken with great care and proper

medical supervision.

I recommend a 24-hour, once-a-week fast with at least eight glasses of water to cleanse your system.

And a final thought: With millions dying of hunger in Third World countries, could fast a day a week and use the money to feed the starving.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral.)

# Jesus is real star

*"Now, when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod, the King, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem saying, 'where is he that is born King of the Jews, for we have seen his star in the east, and are coming to worship him.'"*

Who is the real star of Christmas - Santa Claus or Jesus Christ?

What is the real spirit of Christmas; revelry, drunkenness, commerce or love, joy and peace in the Holy Spirit?

What is the real message of Christmas; a temporary cease-fire in time of war? A thaw in international tensions? Giving gifts to patch up deteriorating relationships or permanent change in individual hearts by accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Who are the real wise men - the Gracchi or the magi? Those who seek solutions to their problems by conferring with one another — on the horizontal plane — like the ancient Gracchi? Or those, who like the magi approach God — on the vertical plane — for supernatural answers?

St. Nicholas was indeed an historical person who made an impact on society by giving unselfishly to the poor and needy. He, however, is not the star attraction of Christmas.

The real star of Christmas is Jesus Christ — whose birth we commemorate — because of the gift of eternal life, which he gives to all who make room for him in their lives.

There has been much speculation about the star that led the eastern wise men to Bethlehem. Scientists have varied opinions: some believe it was the planet Venus; others say it was a conjunction of several planets and heavenly bodies.

But probably, the real truth is that the guiding star was a supernatural sign from God — to the magi — testifying to the supernatural event taking place . . . God's son being incarnated in human flesh.

Seven hundred years earlier, the prophet Isaiah stated that a virgin would conceive and bring forth a son called Emmanuel — meaning "God with us."

The real spirit of Christmas should be one of peace, joy, love and humility as we bow before him in worship and adoration. We should begin our giving by submitting ourselves to his lordship.

Christmas is not a time for revelry, drunkenness and greed, but of sobriety, generosity and kindness.

Matthew 2:1-2

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The real message of Christmas is the "good news" of salvation; the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. That is it . . . there is none other.

Isaiah stated: "For unto you a child is born, unto you a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called wonderful counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the prince of peace."

The message of Christmas is one of goodwill, teaching mankind to embrace the life of God, which brings lasting peace; unlike the pseudo-peace that comes from deceptive New Age teachers with their transcendental meditation, spirit guides, yoga, channelling and spiritism.

The real wise men are those — who like the magi — seek Jesus Christ and find in him the answers to their problems.

The Gracchi's political philosophy was in competition with the spiritually oriented beliefs of the magi. And the danger in our society is adrift toward secular humanism.

Pope John Paul wisely stated, "the trouble today is they are trying to horizontalize the world."

Max is Founder of Faith Cathedral.

DEC 18/88

# Oil, the KGB and Norway

The coalition government of Prime Minister Kaare Willoch's Conservatives, together with the Christian Democrats and the Centrists, recently squeaked back into power in Norway, the first time in 104 years that a conservative prime minister has won two consecutive elections.

Norwegians had become accustomed to a free lunch after decades of the state paying nearly all the bills from the cradle to the grave ... and sticking it to the middle- and high-class wage earners.

But things are changing!

During the past four years, the conservatives have abolished more than 18,000 laws and regulations and encouraged the establishment of 15,000 new businesses.

Confidence is growing, the economy is booming and unemployment is going steadily downward.

The average annual wage is approximately \$16,000 — and even though Norwegians pay up to 50 per cent taxes, they still live very well, since they are swimming in oil.

Which brings up another subject: North Sea oil, the Soviets and Arne Treholt.

Norwegians were stunned a year ago when popular politician Treholt was arrested on the charge of espionage.

## Involved in oil talks

Treholt was secretary to Sea Rights Minister Jens Evensen, who was deeply involved in negotiations with the Soviets over offshore claims and the disputed zone in the North Sea.

Evensen had taken Treholt into his total confidence and while they sat on the same side of the table, the secretary was passing confidential information to the Soviets.

Norwegians should be glad he was arrested when he was, since Treholt — being groomed for the position of Foreign Minister — had been spying for the Soviets for more than 12 years.

When caught, he said, "I have done unforgivable things!" He tried to make a deal with the police, saying, "Shall we take those devils together?"

He has been demanding — and will probably receive — a new trial, however, on the grounds police have no proof of him receiving money from the communists and that they pressured him into making a confession.

Treholt has written a book called *Alone*, his publishers have honored him with an award for the best documentary and the press has given it a lot of coverage.

The clever politician is actively seeking sympathy from his countrymen, and Norwegians are beginning to look upon him as a folk hero.

Treholt is now saying he passed secret documents to the Soviets only to help better relations between the East and the West ... secrets that undercut Norway and weakened NATO.

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## Same thing in the '40s

This ideology is not new, however, since Vidkun Quisling said the same thing about his alliance with Adolph Hitler in the 1940s.

With the Soviet Union flexing her muscles in the North Sea and the scare of possible nuclear war, many Norwegians are beginning to buy the "Better Red Than Dead!"

Labor party leader Gro Harlem Brundtland stated publicly she does not trust the U.S.A. but she trusts the Soviet Union as a good neighbor.

Eighty-year-old Haakon Lie, one of the pioneers of the Labor Party (A.P.) and almost a legend today, stated recently, "I voted for the A.P. but had to hold my nose."

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral.)

# RELIGION BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN

Edm Sun  
MAY 14  
1989

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Otto Kakoschke is an evangelist in Kelowna, B.C., and was a Pentecostal Church pastor in Ponoka from 1962 to 1967. He became interested in Eastern Europe 22 years ago when he and his family embarked on a 17-month evangelical tour, which took in 11 countries. He visits the Eastern Bloc up to four times annually.

**O**tto Kakoschke should receive the Order of Canada Award.

He has been an outstanding citizen and ambassador to countries of Eastern Europe for the past 22 years for democracy, Canada and Christ.

On the dashboard of his car is a large Canadian flag, a maple leaf in his lapel and extra pins for the eager border guards.

Anything Canadian is especially welcome in Europe now, since Team Canada whipped the tough Czechs in Sweden to take the silver medal in the world hockey championships.

I recently spent two weeks with Kakoschke and Norm Schulz touring the Eastern Bloc, visiting pastors and preaching the gospel... and crossing 10 communist borders!

We helped him celebrate his 49th birthday while waiting at the Romanian border, munching on good B.C. apples.

For nearly a quarter of a century, Kakoschke has travelled 2½ million kilometers and crossed 420 communist borders in his campaign of sharing God's love and grace in word and deed.

He has been misunderstood, verbally abused, threatened and interrogated for hours at some crossings, but he has never lost his nerve nor his love for the people and the

## Max SOLBREKKEN Religion



insatiable desire to help the persecuted church in those lands.

Like John Wesley — the founder of the Methodist Church — Kakoschke believes the gospel of Christ should transcend national borders, bringing the fresh fragrance of God's mercy and Calvary's victory to the ends of the earth.

He has carried most of the responsibility and financial load himself all these years and has ferried 183 Canadians from various cities into Eastern Europe.

In turn, these have seen the need and contributed in sending money and goods to the poor and disadvantaged in specific areas of the communist world.

And several other major European outreaches — including Norm Schulz's Frontline Ministries — were birthed through Kakoschke's vision.

The book *Just In Time* is a thriller, chronicling miraculous events in his ministry behind the Iron Curtain as well as in Canada.

Three events are well worth reporting:

- The man he rescued from a car wreck, rushing him to the hospital in Ponoka.
- The suicidal man he pulled away from a speeding train

in Frankfurt, West Germany, just in time to save his life.

• A German lady in Karlsruhe, on her way to commit suicide, saw the sign above the gospel tent, "God is Searching For You." She attended the crusade, was converted and her life preserved.

An exciting chapter deals with the cruel treatment and 21-hour detention of Kakoschke and his group at an East European border, culminating in a huge fine and confiscation of property.

Canadian authorities were furious and wanted the press to report the shameful event. But the preacher declined, not wanting to impede the cause of Christ.

During my three weeks in Europe, I had the privilege of preaching to thousands behind the Iron Curtain, with hundreds responding to the gospel invitation.

I also worked with two Norwegian missions, bringing large amounts of food and clothing into Poland.

Several things stand out in my mind.

• Preaching in the large Polish Communist Congress Hall on the eve of May Day.

• The spiritual hunger of the thousands who heard the gospel in Romania.

• The three-hour search of our automobile when leaving one country and the look on the guards' faces as they heard the gospel on the video tapes.

Then there were the warm hand shakes and apologies from top officials when they realized they had goofed.

The people of Eastern Europe are warm, hospitable and resourceful. How sad that so many wonderful people have suffered so much because of an atheistic ideology! Let's hope and pray that the suffering will end soon.

EDMONTON SUN, MAY 14, 1989

# Smoking dangers alarming

When I was a boy the only voice raised against smoking came from the church.

Doctors, teachers, businessmen and just about every real macho man smoked.

Athletes were told not to smoke, most mothers avoided it and preachers were expected to refrain.

Otherwise, smoking was the in-thing. There was little talk of cancer 30 years ago.

The only voice of concern came from old-fashioned gospel.

When you accepted Christ, you gave up drinking, cursing, lying, fornicating and smoking.

If you smoked you were a sinner — you'd go to hell. And go to hell they did!

Isn't it strange how things have changed and how right the evangelical church was?

## **On the bandwagon**

How about a little applause for the church and the preacher. Now everyone is out there beating the bushes, scaring the smoking demon out of people.

Doctors warn, teachers lecture and sports personalities testify about the dangers of tobacco.

It's the same with war.

For hundreds of years the only voice speaking about the perils of world war came from the Bible preacher who knew eschatology (the doctrine of last things).

No one else had any thought about Armageddon.

Now they're all out in the streets, from the housewife to the scientist, with placards saying, "Ban the Bomb, Holocaust is coming, and Nuke the Cruise!"

I don't want to continually have to say, "I told you so."

We haven't always had the answers but you can mark it down, the evangelicals were certainly right in these two instances.

With smoking, you can warn people repeatedly, but many will still smoke themselves to death.

Lung cancer, caused mainly by smoking, is now the No. 2 cancer killer of middle-aged Canadian women.

By 1987 it will overtake breast cancer to become the No. 1 cancer killer of females aged 35 to 55, says a federal report.

## **Risks enormous**

David Wigle of Canada's Health and Welfare department says 90 per cent of all fatal lung cancer in men is caused by smoking.

Anyone smoking two packs of cigarettes daily runs a 25-per-cent risk of dying from lung cancer.

"It's one of the nastiest ways to die," Wigle says. "For

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many, it's just a slow form of suffocation.

"Basically, if you want to keep on living you shouldn't smoke," he said.

Edwin B. Fisher Jr., a psychologist with the American Lung Association, said more than 20,000 scientific papers have documented the relationship between cigarettes and cancer.

Officials of the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association and American Lung Association recently banded together to denounce the advertising campaign of the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. as "capricious, callous and irresponsible."

Statistics Canada reported that 562,000 Canadians suffered from smoking-related diseases in 1978-79.

## **It's no bargain**

According to Health and Welfare Canada, between 1971 and 1980 the death rates resulting from bronchitis, emphysema and asthma increased by 9.2 per cent for males and an astounding 34.2 per cent for females.

My advice to you: Quit buying cancer by the carton or pack, even if it's on sale.

*(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral).*

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Religion



# The real Christmas story

**T**omorrow, more than one billion people will celebrate Christmas.

The birth of Jesus Christ, the Jewish Messiah and the world's savior, is gaining in popularity each year.

The Gregorian calendar divides history into two sections from the time of His birth 1989 years ago.

There is BC (Before Christ) and AD (anno Domini — which is Latin for "In the year of our Lord").

Although there have been, and still are, other calendars, the Gregorian is used worldwide.

According to Dr. Ralph Winters, an expert on world religions, the message of Jesus Christ is a very viable and powerful force in the world today.

Here are some of his findings: In the year AD 40, there was only one Christian to 40,000 pagans. By 1900, there was a dramatic change — one Christian for every 100 pagans. In 1950, the ratio was reduced further — 1 to 26. And in 1989, the figure stands at one Christian for every 9.3 non-believers.

Great revivals of evangelical Christianity are now sweeping the Phillipines, Latin America, South Korea, Africa and parts of Eastern Europe.

With the coming collapse of communism, it will surely continue to escalate, garnering in millions more for God's kingdom.

And a growing number of imminent Jewish scholars and rabbis now believe in Jesus as their Messiah or at least acknowledge Him as prophet and teacher.

Ellis Rivkin, professor of Jewish history at Hebrew Union College, said: "Of these messianic claimants, only

one — Jesus of Nazareth — so impressed his disciples that he became their Messiah. And he did so after the very crucifixion which should have refuted his claims decisively. But it was not Jesus' life which proved beyond question that He was the Messiah, the Christ. It was his resurrection."

And even though Muslims do not accept Jesus as the Son of God and His substitutionary death on the cross for our sins, they believe in Him as a prophet.

History has a way of repeating itself and like the middle ages, the religious race is once again between Mohammed's Islam and the Gospel of Christ.

And with the enormous wealth of the Arab Gulf States — some of which heavily support Islam's missionary vision — and the fanaticism of Iran's Shiites, the religion of Mohammed is gaining ground. Although Christianity has made gigantic strides during the last two millenias, many believers have become lukewarm in their devotion to Jesus Christ and are Christian in "name-only." And unfortunately, some denominations have compromised their doctrinal position and denied "the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

St. Paul warned of those who "have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof." His admonition was: "From such turn away."

Three fundamental doctrines of the church, which have been under attack by liberal theologians, are the virgin birth of Christ, His substitutionary death and physical resurrection.

Let's go back to the beginning of Christianity and Jesus'

birth, in order to understand the phenomenon surrounding this great event.

Isaiah prophesied the Messiah's virgin birth 700 years before it happened. He also foretold His death on the cross.

Numerous prophets had revealed other aspects of His miraculous birth, perfect sinlessness, supernatural miracle ministry, substitutionary death and glorious resurrection from the dead.

Micah prophesied His birth in Bethlehem. This was fulfilled when Caesar Augustus, the Roman emperor, made a decree that all Palestinians must return to the town of their ancestry for a general census.

Although Joseph — the husband of Mary — lived in Nazareth, he had to return with his expectant wife for the enumeration. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, as the prophet had said.

Hosea foretold His flight into Egypt, where He and His parents fled from King Herod, who sought His life. Jeremiah prophesied the mourning of children killed by Herod in the "slaughter of the innocents."

Hundreds of Old Testament prophecies, identifying the Messiah, were fulfilled by Jesus of Nazareth.

The sad part is that today, multitudes of people celebrate His birth, but have no vital contact with Him. They've also forgotten the reason for His coming.

He came to give hope to the world, peace to troubled hearts and minds and healing to those who hurt. Jesus came to provide salvation for the entire human race.

He's the real reason for the season.

# West agog at Gorbachev's impact

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn Mikhail Gorbachev is in for several big surprises in the not-too-distant future. Whether he knows it or not, a great revival of evangelical Christianity is already stirring throughout the Soviet Union... and there is nothing he can do to stop it.

Having studied eschatology and travelled the world for 25 years, it is my opinion that glasnost and perestroika area very important part of the 'end-time prophetic scenario.' The free world is divided on whether or not Gorbachev's reforms are devised to lull the West into a state of relaxation, while they change their tactics, but not their goal of world domination.

Is Gorbachev sincere?

The Soviet Union is almost bankrupt economically, and morally. Marxism has failed world-wide and their satellites are rebelling. Gorbachev is desperately seeking to turn the tide.

## **I do not trust Gorbachev**

I do not trust Gorbachev. A recent Pentagon study revealed that the U.S.S.R. spent 80 billion (US) on military space programs in the last decade and is dramatically expanding its space-launch ability.

"The Soviets are up to something," says U.S. conventional arms expert Phillip Karber. Preparing to demand troop cuts in Europe, they are secretly chopping their own troops in the East Bloc while upgrading the fighting units with Moscow's most modern weapons.

Karber states that Hungary's army is the model and if East Germany follows suit, Western Europe could face smaller, but tougher blitzkrieg armies. While Gorbachev preaches disarmament. And in order to get hard currency and low-interest credits, the politburo has endorsed Gorbachev's reforms.

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And it's working. *The Daily News Digest* reports: "Congressman Toby Roth says that commercial banks in the U.S., Japan and Europe are now lending the U.S.S.R. and Soviet Bloc countries over \$2 billion each month."

Roth claims many of the loans are made at seven per cent no payment for six years. And that these debts now exceed \$100 billion with much of the money going to finance communist revolutions around the world.

The Soviets use arms control, Afghanistan and human rights "as bait simply to get what they desperately need - Western capital," says Judy Shelton of Stanford University's Hoover Institute.

"They'll use Western money to get their economy straightened out and then revert back to their mandate to rule the world," said Shelton. What does Gorbachev really believe?

Addressing a meeting of the Communist Central Committee early this year, Gorbachev stated: "We are not retreating even one step from socialism, from Marxist-Leninism." In an earlier speech, he said: "We are moving toward a new world, the world of communism. We shall never turn off that road."

A recent poll in the U.S. revealed that 71 per cent of the Republicans and 74 per cent of the Democrats believe

Gorbachev can be trusted. However, Fridrkh Neznansky, a fellow student of Gorbachev's at Moscow University, who defected to the West in 1977, discloses that Gorbachev was known as the university stoolie, a secret police informer who often sacrificed his colleagues so as to smooth his way to power.

In the book of *Ezekial*, the ancient prophet names Russia (Rosh) as the nation that will march against Israel eventually. Russia's chief leader is called Gog. The Russian spelling of Gorbachev may hold the key to his future. The first syllable, Gor... is spelled with four letters rather than three. The Russian spelling repeats the initial letter before the r. The Russians spell Gorbachev as GOGrbachev. Is this merely a coincidence? The first three letters of his name literally spell Gog.

## **Birthmark a supernatural brand**

And his first name Mikhail is the Hebrew-derived name Michael, which means "he who is like God." *Ezekial* states Gog will defy the authority of God, by attacking his people, Israel. Another unique feature is Gorbachev's flaming birthmark. Such a mark was considered by the ancients to be a supernatural brand placed by the gods.

The Arms Control Pact, the Afghanistan troop withdrawal, pressuring Vietnam and Cuba to leave Cambodia and Angola, are economic necessities as well as great public relation manoeuvres. Glasnost and perestroika however, will open a pandora's box of problems for the Soviet leadership with their many ethnic regions and large Moslem population. And don't underestimate the tremendous desire of most Russian citizens for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Max is Founder of Faith Cathedral

# Divine forgiveness

*"Father forgive them for they know not what they do." — Jesus.*

Hanging between two thieves upon a rugged cross, dying for the sins of the world, Jesus set the ultimate example.

He prayed for mercy for his enemies. In their ignorance and spiritual blindness they had crucified their own Messiah. Stephen, the first Christian martyr, exhibited the same godly spirit. In his agony and pain, he prayed, "Father, lay not this sin to their charge." It has been said that "to err is human and to forgive is divine."

Truer words were never spoken. The easiest thing in the world is to criticize, judge and malign another. That comes naturally to we humans, who are arrogant, selfish and proud.

And assassination of character is becoming commonplace in our society. What a sin and shame. Where do all these base, carnal and sensual thoughts and actions come from? What makes mortal man so vengeful, deplorable and mean? Is it not often because of jealousy, envy and a sense of insecurity; rather than a vindication of truth? Dragging a great person into the mud, undoubtedly makes gossippers and antagonists feel equal or even superior for the moment. St. John warned about the devastating affects of the lusts of the flesh. The Apostle Paul spoke of devouring one another through fighting and back-biting. And St. James, the pastor of the First Pentecostal Church in Jerusalem asked: "From whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?"

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Pope John Paul was following in Jesus' footsteps when he visited Mehmet Ali Agca in his prison cell and prayed for the man who had tried to kill him. Dr. Oral Roberts, who has been the subject of harsh ridicule in the press, delivered a powerful sermon on forgiveness to 5,000 ministers at a recent conference. St. John wrote, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." The Bible says, "Blessed is the man whose sins are forgiven, and unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity." Its great to know that the Lord has forgiven us and is satisfied with Jesus' substitute death for us. Jesus taught the Disciples to forgive our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

In his epistle, the half-brother of Jesus, spoke of lust and hatred as underlying causes of war and strife. Missionary statesman, Dr. T. L. Osborn stated, "Don't let criticism bother you. As a rule your critics admire you or they wouldn't talk about you. Criticism is really admiration in reverse."

Oh! How difficult for all of us to receive criticism, but how easy to dish it out. And for many, it is even harder to forgive and forget. Bitterness, hatred and jealousy will destroy the one who harbors them. Carrying a grudge can produce insomnia, nervous tension, ulcers and other illnesses. A forgiving spirit is beautiful and Christ-like while an unforgiving spirit is demanding, cold and uncaring.

# Surrogate babies morally wrong

Is it morally right to pay a woman to conceive a baby out of wedlock, even though there is no sexual intimacy involved?

And what are the chances of an illicit love affair developing between the husband and the woman who is being inseminated?

Can you blame a woman for falling in love with her new-born infant? And is it unusual that she should want to keep it?

Is it not immoral to take away her baby, just because of a calculated, hard-nosed business transaction? And what about the pain that strikes the hearts of prospective parents, if the mother refuses to give up the child?

## A raging controversy

The surrogate controversy raging in the U.S. centres around just that — the natural mother refusing to part with her baby, born several months ago, through artificial insemination.

Mary Whitehead, a 29-year-old homemaker with two children, was contracted to bear a child, in exchange for money, for William and Elizabeth Stern.

The Sterns wanted a baby of their own, but because Elizabeth has a mild form of multiple sclerosis, and because they were too old to adopt, they took the surrogate route.

Mary Whitehead fully intended to co-operate, but then changed her mind when her baby was born!

She states, "Seeing her, holding her. She was my child. It overpowered me.

"I had no control. I had to keep her."

The Whiteheads have named her Sara, the Sterns, Melissa, and the courts call her "Baby M!"

The custody phase of the trial in Hackensack, New Jersey, is already taking a heavy toll on the two families involved.

The Sterns have spent \$20,000 for a private investigator and about \$70,000 on legal fees.

As the fight for the child escalates, legal costs could skyrocket even higher for both parties!

Mary Whitehead has lost 70 pounds since March, their two children are so disturbed that they have missed school, and the private lives of both families are being aired publicly day after day in countless newspapers and on television.

Meanwhile in England, another unhappy surrogate episode has developed. A medic and his wife hired a woman for \$1,500 (U.S.) to produce a baby for them.

Three months ago she gave birth to twins, after falling in love with the biological father. She wanted him to divorce his wife and marry her, or he wouldn't get the twins.

The doctor refused, so now the surrogate is suing the husband for child support, while refusing both he and his wife the babies!

The father, who is still unnamed by the courts, says, "I hope that my experience will warn other couples, no matter how

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desperate they are to have a family, that it is dangerous to make private surrogate deals.

"If anything goes wrong, as in our case, there is very little you can do about it."

## Four changed their minds

Out of 500 cases in the U.S., however, only four surrogate mothers have changed their minds about giving up their babies following birth! Surrogates say they are responding to a desperate need for babies, since approximately one out of six couples is infertile.

A 1983 study of 125 surrogate candidates revealed three major motivations: money, a desire to be pregnant, and an interest in reconciling some past-related trauma!

Psychiatrist Philip J. Parker, who conducted the study, reveals that about one-third of the women had aborted a fetus or given up a baby for adoption.

Although the practice is taboo among Orthodox Jews, Roman Catholics, and Evangelicals, it is gaining in acceptance.

In my opinion, when you circumvent the natural processes of normal living, you will pay the price! Birth control pills sometimes cause harmful side-effects, abortions produce trauma and guilt, thalidamide — an answer to morning sickness — has produced malformed babies.

Surrogacy, like the fertility pill, tampering with genetics, and euthanasia, may be shortcuts to some problem, but there will be a price to pay in the end!

Some women have stayed on the pill too long, and young men have destroyed their pro-creative ability through drugs and VD, and now they're infertile.

In the Bible we have cases of barren women praying that God would open their wombs, and He did!

And if a few of the thousands of women having abortions yearly would carry their babies to full term, we'd have enough children for adoption!

# SHAMEFUL CHAPTER IN CHRISTIANITY

The first believers in Jesus were Jewish.

They were called Maaminim and comprised a spiritual movement within the scope of Judaism — with their own synagogues — and preached the *Besorah* (Good news of salvation.)

Dr. H.H. Goldberg states: "Besides the Perushim (Pharisees), Tzedukim (Sadducees) and Essenes, the Maaminim were an integral part of the Temple community and 'Ha-am Hayehudi' (the Jewish people.)"

For the first eight years after the resurrection of Jesus, the Maaminim ministered exclusively to Jews.

At the Jerusalem Council — A.D.50 — the Maaminim accepted gentile believers into fellowship — without embracing Jewish customs and disciplines — except refraining from idolatry.

The Maaminim grew so large that in A.D. 90, Gamaliel 11 called the "Yavneh Council" of rabbis to stem the growth of the new Jewish movement. It was decreed that a disparaging verse against the Maaminim be included in the *Amidah* (the central prayer in synagogue service).

Whatever happened to the Jewish believers? Why did the Maaminim — who continued until the fifth century — disappear?

The historical record exposes one of Christianity's most shameful chapters — the unrighteous treatment of Jesus' first followers and God's chosen people. What persecuting Jews failed to do — destroy the Maaminim — proud, biased and spiteful gentile Christians succeeded by their hate and rejection.

Jewish preachers had converted many pagans to Christ. But after the first century, gentile Christians — who had become dominant — began to persecute their Jewish brethren.

Church Fathers and clergy demanded that Jewish believers renounce their Jewish observances and practices. They forgot that the Maaminim in A.D.50 embraced them — on the basis of their belief in Jesus — without changing cultures.

Now they demanded that the Jews change their customs — as the basis for salvation.

The Nicean Council, with 318 bishops present but no Jews, changed the Resurrection Day from the 14th day of Nisan to a perpetual Sunday. Hence the gap between Passover (Pesach) and Easter.

Further humiliations were decreed against the Jews at

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the Laodicean Synod (A.D.343-381): "It is not lawful to receive unleavened bread from the Jews, nor to be partakers of their impiety" (Cannon XXXVIII).

The Third Synod of Orleans (A.D. 538) ordered: "From the Thursday before Easter for four days, Jews may not appear in the company of Christians."

The Quinisext Council (A.D. 692) stated: "Let no one in the priestly order nor any layman eat the unleavened bread of the Jews, nor have any familiar intercourse with them, nor summon them in illness, nor receive medicines from them, nor bathe with them; but if anyone shall take in hand to do so, if he is a cleric, let him be deposed, but if a layman, let him be cut off."

Tertullian (A.D. 150-225) stated that the Jews were the Cains, the murderers, and "were rejected as the chosen people of God."

Origen (A.D. 184-253) declared the Jews dangerous enemies of Christians, and stirred up the pagans against them.

Jerome (A.D. 342-420) wrote that the law was God's deliberate trick to destroy the Jews.

And Bishop Epiphanius declared Jewish believers heretics, because they observed Jewish holy days. St. Chrysostom (A.D. 345-407) called the synagogue "a brothel, home of vice, refuge of the devil, citadel of Satan." He stated "God hates the Jews and has always done so."

How contrary to the holy scriptures that remind us of God's great love for Israel and His chosen people, the Jews!

In A.D. 1236, Pope Gregory commanded all church officials in France, England, Spain and Portugal to confiscate Jewish books on the first Saturday of Lent. Subsequent to the decree of A.D. 1242, thousands of volumes — filling 24 wagons — were publicly burned in Paris.

In A.D. 1259, a synod of the archdiocese in Mainz ordered Jews to wear yellow badges. In A.D. 1434, Jewish men in

Augsburg had to sew yellow buttons to their clothes. Across Europe, Jews were forced to wear a long undergarment, an overcoat with a yellow patch, bells and tall pointed yellow hats with a large button on them.

Martin Luther — the great reformer — was no better than the popes in his treatment of Jews.

In A.D. 1543, Luther wrote: "What shall we do with this rejected, damned Jewish people? I will give my true counsel. First that their synagogues and schools should be set on fire. Second, that also their houses be demolished and destroyed. Third that their prayer books and Talmuds be confiscated. Fourth, that, under penalty of death, their rabbis be forbidden to teach, that their freedom to travel be restricted, and all their money and valuables in gold and silver be taken."

Hitler's holocaust was a culmination of 1,800 years of anti-semitism by early church bishops, medieval popes and protestant reformers.

May God forgive the church for all the hatred, bias and erroneous teaching that has fueled the perverse anti-semitic prejudices for so long.

Pope John XXIII prayed the following prayer of repentance, shortly before his death June 3, 1961:

"We now recognize that many, many centuries of blindness have covered our eyes so that we no longer see the beauty of Your chosen people and in their face no longer recognize the features of our first-born brother."

"We realize that the sign of Cain is marked on our forehead. For centuries.

"Abel was lying in blood and tears because we forgot Your love. Forgive us the damnation we pronounced unjustly upon the name of the Jews.

"Forgive us for having crucified You a second time in their flesh. For we knew not what we were doing."

It is most unfortunate, that after all the sufferings the Jews have experienced — much of it at the hands of the Roman Church — that the Vatican still refuses to recognize the State of Israel.

With the rebirth of the Jewish State however, there is also a re-emergence in Israel of the Maaminim.

Dr. H.H. Goldberg, rabbi of a Los Angeles' Maaminim congregation says: "A true Jew is committed to God, to the land of Israel and to the Jewish people. And many Jews today believe in Jesus as their Mashiach."

# A colorful visit to Yellowknife

A couple of weeks ago, wife Donna and I were in Yellowknife, N.W.T., to visit our daughter and son-in-law, Connie and Ron Beaudette and their girls. Included in the agenda was a four-day preaching mission at the Pentecostal Tabernacle, where Rev. Dean Steel is the minister.

Steel, who is being transferred to B.C. next month, has spent 4½ years in Yellowknife and will undoubtedly be missed because of his high profile.

The Pentecostal pastor was also prison chaplain and offered prayers at inductions for new members of the N.W.T. legislature.

It was a joy seeing again several families from Edmonton, including our personal friends Chris and Betty Robinson, Leon and Gale Jones and others.

Yellowknife is a booming city with an impressive skyline, a number of new subdivisions and modern supermarkets. And about 13,000 friendly residents.

We were afforded the best possible reception wherever we went and met an old friend, Tony Whitford, MLA for Yellowknife Centre.

Radio Station CJCD's Bruce Morgan, Tim Jaworski and Clayton West were refreshingly informed and invigorating in their interviews with me, as was Bev Gray of the *Yellowknife News*.

Unfortunately, CBC Radio — funded by taxpayers' money and owned by the people of Canada — were not interested in our presence.

As is common in many northern cities, alcohol consumption is exorbitantly high in Yellowknife, with the bars providing focal points for fighting and violence.

Recently, a man who was sitting in a local bar was brutally attacked by a stranger who poked two fingers in his eyes and struck him in the face.

The victim was a sheet metal expert. The attack cost him his right eye.

Earlier, a woman sitting alone in a hotel bar was viciously attacked by a knife-

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The Edmonton Sunday Sun, Sunday, October 15, 1989

wielding, inebriated woman who slashed her throat.

It is quite common to see people passed out from alcohol abuse, lying on the floor of the post office or other public buildings.

Along with the severe alcohol problem is that of child abuse. And in the North, it is the native population that takes the biggest brunt of these two societal enemies.

It was encouraging to see large numbers of people from every segment of the social, religious and ethnic community attending the crusade and listening to the testimonies of many who made decisions to serve Christ and live moral lives. There were also outstanding testimonies of divine healing, as God answered the prayers of the sick and suffering.

It was a joy to again meet 82-year-old evangelical preacher Rev. Gordon Bailey, with whom I had worked in crusades there about 20 years ago.

Prominent native leaders flew in to the services from many remote villages. Among those attending were Harper and Joane Singh, whose dramatic story of conversion and reconciliation was featured in the December, 1985, issue of the *Pentecostal Testimony*.

Liquor was destroying their family. Joane, a native, was addicted to booze from birth. Harper was also hooked.

The Singhs' marriage was on the rocks and they were in the clutches of an Edmon-

ton psychic — who was extorting large sums of money from them — when they were rescued by Christ.

Pastor Walter Anderson of Fort Good Hope, N.W.T., tells how Joane was impressed by a newspaper advertisement "stating that marital, money and love problems could be solved through tarot cards, crystal balls and palm readings."

The Singhs got conned by the psychic, who demanded \$1,200 to free them from the evil spirits, which she said were tearing their lives apart.

Since they had only \$850 in the bank, she agreed to make up the \$350 shortfall by sending money to each of 12 churches which would burn candles for the Singhs.

They were to send \$350 at a later date and were given a pink scented candle to

light whenever depressed.

There was no improvement, so they came to Edmonton to see the psychic in person, who promised to "break the spell."

After several weird rituals, they were informed that "the Lord had answered their prayers and they had been saved."

But there was a problem. The evil spirit wasn't satisfied and wanted the life of a Singh family member. A deal could be cut, however, by paying an extra \$3,500.

Since they had only \$160 in cash, they could appease the spirit by sending the psychic \$500 per month.

They had made two payments when their lives were totally changed through an encounter with Jesus Christ.



# Let priests be able to marry

*"A bishop must be blameless, the husband of one wife ... of good behavior, having his children in subjection."*

St. Paul

**R**oman Catholics are asking: "When will it ever quit? Is there no end to the pedophile priest scandal? How deep is the perversion pit?"

Straight, dedicated priests are getting worried. They dislike wearing clerical collars in public and are embarrassed to be identified as Roman Catholic priests.

Some are almost paranoid about talking to children — especially little boys — in public, fearing that someone will think they're perverts.

I know what that feels like. Evangelicals had a taste of it during the PTL and Swaggart "televangelist" sex scandals of the last two summers. Some preachers didn't want to be called by the time-honored title of "evangelist."

And some United Church ministers are embarrassed by their denomination's pro-homosexual position. "All of us are now suspect. And the jokes about trading pulpits for fruit stands is sick," said one preacher.

To those who labor in the ministry, the continuing priest pedophile scandal is not surprising. We have heard and seen evidence of it for years.

In seeking to solve this horrendous problem, we must confront two major obstacles: homosexuality and forced celibacy. And both are unscriptural!

According to the Bible, homosexuality is a deviant behaviour and the current priest scandal is revealing that. But we must ask: "If homosexual clergy will treat children in this manner, what will irreligious homosexuals do ... With seared consciences, no scruples and no one to give an account to?"

Up until 1967, the practice of homosexuality was illegal in Canada and punishable by law.

Melvin Anchell, MD, internist and psychiatrist, author of *Sex and Insanity* states: "Young boys are the ultimate sex objects of a homosexual. Homosexuals love the young children because they are most helpless and they are easily mastered."

Anchell writes: "The homosexual is a polymorphous pervert. He doesn't care for the child, only for himself. He cares for the child only as it will help him."

Penticton Roman Catholic priest Leonard Phillip Buckley — sentenced recently to five years in prison — was guilty of about 1,000 individual sexual acts with boys from the ages of seven to 15, over a 15-year period.

Crown prosecutor Vern Frolic had asked for an eight-to-12-year prison term.

Judge Gale Sinclair stated that Buckley, who used tutoring sessions and camping trips to assault young boys, had abused his position of power, authority and trust.

The aftermath of these multiple assaults has seriously harmed the victims, said the judge. They are suffering from shock, depression, disillusionment, low-esteem and confusion about their own sexual orientation.

To date, at least 30 Roman Catholic priests or church officials in Canada have been convicted or are awaiting further appearances on charges of sexual misconduct.

This malady isn't confined to the Roman Catholic Church. Several months ago, a Pentecostal preacher from Columbus, Ga., was sentenced to 2½ years in prison for sodomizing two teenagers.

Rev. Mario "Tony" Leyva admitted molesting at least 100

boys along the Southern revival circuit since the 1960s.

What about forced celibacy? Does it help to feed pedophilia? And is it right to force young virile men to refuse the natural state of marriage? And what do the scriptures teach on the subject?

There are no restrictions in the Holy Bible against clergymen marrying.

St. Peter was married, as were most of the early followers of Jesus. They were Jewish and it was customary for rabbis to be family men.

The prestigious body of Jewish elders called the "Sanhedrian" accepted only married men.

The gospels record that Jesus entered into the house of St. Peter and healed his wife's mother who was sick of a fever.

St. Paul was single, but in his letter to the church in Corinth, defended his ministry by enumerating his sacrifices for Christ.

He states that he also had the right to have a wife, as well as Peter and the other apostles.

The *St. Albert Gazette* recently interviewed a number of angry and upset Roman Catholics regarding the priest sex scandals. The majority indicated that priests should be allowed to marry.

I agree totally!

It certainly won't solve all the problems, but the love and fellowship of wife and children will go a long way in meeting the normal needs — both sexually and psychologically — of a young man in the ministry.

The Ukrainian Roman Catholic Church — which allows their priests to marry — has proved that. They are not suffering from a pedophile priest crisis!

# On the road to self-destruction

*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that he who was rich became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich.*

*St. Paul*

There is nothing more harmful to an individual, church or community than the sin of selfishness.

It causes friction in families, between husband, wife and children. It rears its ugly head in the classroom, among students and teachers, and its influence is felt in commerce and politics.

Selfishness has even caused strife and embarrassing divisions in churches.

This evil goes hand in hand with greed and covetousness. It is a blight that turns neighbors and best friends against one another.

## **It feeds on jealousy**

It feeds on envy, jealousy and pride and makes slaves of those so affiliated.

A selfish person has no compassion for others, so long as he gets what he wants. Other people's feelings are unimportant and inconsequential.

Such a person will ride roughshod over relatives, business associates and friends getting their way through pouting, intimidation or bullying.

St. Paul admonished Christians not to have an exalted

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opinion of themselves, but rather glory in Christ's victory.

He wrote, "Bear one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ." Again he said, "Let every man seek another man's wealth and not his own."

The Christian message is one of "Death to Selfishness," so that Christ can live his life through us.

Jesus Christ brought a new order, of repentance, humility and ministering to others, he instituted the principle of giving instead of grabbing, of helping instead of always wanting.

He trained people to be a part of the building crew instead of those who tear down things. Christ's message of love went against the grain of the power-hungry rabbis, as well as the powerful, political and ruthless Romans.

They considered Jesus a visionary and softie, whose beliefs brought no practical solutions. His messages cut to their hearts as he spoke of graft, hypocrisy, disbelief and love of one's neighbor.

*The Bible* speaks of love, forgiveness and sharing, not only toward Christians but to all mankind.

The love of God is unconditional and all encompassing, reaching out to everyone. Asking nothing in return. It con-

tinues giving even when there is seemingly nothing left to give.

The life, ministry and sacrificial death of Jesus teaches us to share with others. Our conduct should emulate him as we lend a helping hand to our fellow man.

But unfortunately, greed and selfishness are blemishes on our society and many suffer economic privations because of speculators, guilty of price gouging.

These greedy manipulators have contributed to inflation, which in turn has helped breed unemployment and recession.

And the ripple effect touches everyone, nationally and internationally.

## **Callous and cold-hearted leaders**

Powerful union leaders have become callous and cold hearted, putting their own vested interests before the people they represent and the country as a whole.

World powers, who lust for expansion at other nation's expense, are violating the law of God. The powerful and rich subjugating the poor, oppressed and uneducated, is the sad story of history.

Jesus Christ is the example the world must follow in order to create a better life for all.

The next time we are involved with a fellow human being, let us remember the words of St. Paul "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Max Solbrekken is Founder of Faith Cathedral.

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### Grace and work key to salvation

*"For by grace are you saved through faith, that not of yourselves. It is the gift of God. Not of works lest any man should boast."*

*"Work out your own salvation, with fear and trembling."*

St. Paul

Does the Bible contradict itself, as liberal critics say? Or is it so deep that laymen cannot understand it, like medieval Popes stated?

What about passages that declare the scriptures are so simple that even "a child or wayfaring fool cannot err thereby"?

To the casual reader, St. Paul seems to have contradicted himself. He states that we are saved by the grace of God, yet in another passage he says that we must "work out our own salvation..."

What did he mean?

Simply, that the initial step toward salvation was taken by God Himself and His grace gives it freely, but we must continue "in that faith," if we are to receive the full benefit of it.

It's like the ferry that takes you across the water. You still have the responsibility of making it the rest of the way on your own.

#### Debate has been simmering

A debate has simmered in the church for centuries about faith and works. Are we saved by faith alone, as Protestants declare? Or do we need works and tradition along with our faith as Roman Catholics preach?

St. Paul states, "For by grace are you saved through faith and that not of yourselves; not of works lest any man should boast."

And yet St. James says, "Faith without works is dead, being alone." He argues, "Show me your faith, without works and I'll show you my faith by my works."

The simple fact is that we are saved by the grace of God through our faith in His Word and Christ's finished work on the cross. However, when that transpires, we immediately begin doing good works to help others.

Good works cannot save us or buy our way into Heaven, but without the fruit of good works, how can one know there has been a spiritual rebirth?

Two theologians were on a fishing trip, together with a layman. While the clergymen were trolling, the third man rowed.

The preachers got into a heated debate on the subject of "salvation by faith alone or by faith and works."

The rower stopped rowing, the boat drifted and the lines got tangled. They both exclaimed, "Why did you stop rowing, we're going nowhere." The layman answered, "Faith is like sitting in the boat, but if you want to get somewhere you must put muscle to the oars."

Another set of passages troubles some people: St. Paul said, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Then he stated, "But let every man prove his own work... For every man must bear his own burden."

Again he said, "Let no man seek his own, but every man his neighbor's wealth."

What did he mean?

#### We must help our neighbors

Simply, that we must not stick our noses into other people's affairs or try to run their lives but be selfless and help our neighbors whenever possible, rather than grabbing the best for ourselves, at his expense.

In the famous redwood forests of California, there are trees that are more than 2,000 years old. They are still growing and no one knows how long they will continue to do so. These great giants grow to heights of over 300 feet. Most of them are strong, straight and magnificent. No insect or disease has been able to stop their growth.

When a storm threatens, they lean together against the wind and rain, so are impregnable against the elements. Yet, if two trees lean on each other, they will stop growing and begin to die.

So it is with the human race. We must be able to stand alone and make individual efforts for ourselves, our families and the good of society, but when a storm threatens, we must all stand together in order to survive.

It's the same with our children — when the time comes for them to try their wings, we must let them fly on their own, but if they face a crisis, we must be there to help them.

That's what Paul was teaching. We stand alone, together.

Max is Founder of Faith Cathedral.

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# White cross controversy

*In Flanders Field the poppies blow  
Between the crosses row on row  
That mark our place and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce hard amid the guns below.*

— John McCrae

**I** don't know if any Muslims are buried in Flanders Field at Wargem, Belgium, or how many Jews or Hindus rest under the sod in the many Allied military cemeteries across the world.

These cemeteries mark the burial places of thousands of brave men and women who died fighting for the freedom and democracy we all enjoy today.

I do know that many Christians lost their lives in two global wars in order to restore peace to a troubled world. And anyone seeing the acres of white crosses never forget the sight.

Two thousand years ago, the cross was an instrument of death upon which Jesus Christ was crucified by pagan Roman soldiers.

To the vast majority of Canadians, Americans, Europeans and others, the white cross is a symbol of death. And it is employed as such by the International Red Cross. It is not a religious symbol.

I've seen white crosses on dangerous sections of highways in the U.S. and immediately reduced my speed.

The same danger signs have arrested the attention of driv-

ers as they criss-crossed Europe.

Last week in Edmonton, we saw the white crosses on our television screens and in newspapers — then a few misguided zealots blasted the noble effort planned by Edmonton city police.

I say "misguided" because the complaints of a minority who do not know the facts have taken the juice out of a well-planned, highly-advertised campaign to save lives.

And regardless of the opinions of the few complainants, a white cross placed at the spot where someone was killed would be a strong warning to more our motorists.

A large number of people believe our new constitution is too divisive and will cause more harm than good to our nation. And the only real winners will be the small vocal minorities and the lawyers.

In my opinion, the Canadian Bill of Rights, introduced by Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, was a far superior instrument.

The respect for police, in general, has slipped badly in the past 10 years. Forcing them to back down on this issue doesn't help their image.

The alternate plan calls for a sign in the shape of a black coffin, with the word "fatalities" painted across it.

There is no doubt that can be effective also, unless some Hindus call city hall and the Alberta Human Rights Commission to object, saying they are still being discriminated against.

In India, Hindus do not use caskets and they do not bury their dead. They simply burn them on a pyre.

So in order to satisfy everyone, there should likely be another change. We should simply use the "skull and cross bones," being careful not to use the word "cross-bones," because that could also be offensive.

St. Paul wrote about "the offence of the cross." He stated that he "gloried in the cross" and through Jesus Christ he was crucified to the world (corrupt system of sin and unbelief) and the world was crucified to him.

It's not the cross symbol unbelievers hate, it's Jesus Christ Himself.

That's why, in the last 10 years, an average of 330,000 Christians have lost their lives at the hands of evil and wicked bigots around the world.

And that's why Christian missionaries are persecuted and harassed — even today — in Israel. Christians are relegated to second-class citizens in Muslim countries like Morocco, Saudia Arabia and Pakistan.

And that's why a Christian convert from Islam was beheaded according to Egyptian law and the gory execution shown on nationwide TV.

Incidentally, the religious symbol of the primitive church was a fish. Jesus called His disciples to become fishers of men.

The cross is still the symbol of death — to pride, lust, greed, hatred and bigotry!

# God's deliverance

"For by grace are you saved through faith . . . not of works, lest any man should boast." — St. Paul

Billy Sunday, renowned evangelist of the 1920's, observing a drunken man stagger down the street, said "There, but for the grace of God, go I."

Sunday, a professional baseball player before entering the ministry, was inebriated the night of his conversion. He later testified, "I literally staggered into the kingdom of God."

Similarly brought to the brink by life's poisons was William Cowper, who lived in the 1800's. Hopelessly hooked on booze, he became despondent and suicidal with nothing to live for. He had tried to shoot himself, but didn't have the courage to pull the trigger. He then lifted a glass of hemlock to his lips to end it all, but failed in his effort.

Drunk and disgusted, Cowper was about to leap from a bridge into Paris' Seine river when God reached out in mercy, sending someone to his rescue.

Cowper heard the Gospel, was gloriously converted and wrote the beloved hymn, *There is a Fountain Filled with Blood*. In Cowper's deliverance and transformed life, we again witness the grace of God.

St. Paul hammered the truth home repeatedly. Salvation is by the grace of God, through faith in Christ, alone. It is not a human effort of works, but God's unmerited favor toward us. The only thing sinful man must do is accept God's gift of eternal life with gratitude and humility. You cannot purchase or merit a gift. It is given freely and received without price.

Returning from Kenya last August, I stopped in London for a gospel rally. While awaiting the train, a young man carrying a packsack, asked me for money. He was not the usual pan-handler one meets on the street, but a clean-cut farm boy, hitch-hiking his way home because things hadn't worked out in the city.

I was lunching on some home-made oatmeal cookies and coffee and I asked if he'd like the same. After he had eaten, I bade him farewell with a "God bless you" and a few dollars. Thirty minutes later, still waiting for my train, I returned to where I had been earlier. A sad feeling came over me and I sensed failure. I had not spoken to him about his spiritual condition.

Thousands of people were coming and going. In vain I searched the crowds for his

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face. I bowed my head and prayed, "Oh God! Send that young man back to me, so I may tell him about Jesus."

When I opened my eyes, he was standing beside me. He indicated he was still hungry, so I ordered him a meal and while he dined, I shared the gospel. He gladly accepted both the food and my counsel, and a sense of peace came upon him.

He confessed discouragement, bitterness and an animosity toward God and the church. He had felt the Lord was not answering his prayers until our meeting. Only God's grace could have brought us together at that busy terminal.

Here are a couple of the comments I shared with that disconsolate young man.

1). We must acknowledge our sinfulness. St. Paul said, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

2). We must believe the gospel that Jesus died for our sins, rose from the dead, and offered us salvation. Jesus said, "He that believes and is baptized shall be saved."

3). We must repent our sins. the Bible says, "Let the wicked forsake his ways . . . and return unto God, and he will abundantly pardon."

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## Tornado was Satan's work

Did God send the tornado that killed 26 people and injured nearly 300 others in Edmonton?

Is God responsible for the recent deaths of 900 people in Greece, due to a killer heat wave that saw temperatures rocket to the high 40s?

Was God involved in the deaths of the thousands who perished in earthquakes, tidal waves and storms around the world? Is it fair to label these natural disasters, acts of God?

I do not believe that God sent the killer tornado. For centuries, preachers, philosophers and insurance men have discredited the Almighty, by labelling him a killer.

Although God is in control, and the world exists by "the word of his power," yet the scriptures teach that Satan is the "prince of the power of the air." God has no pleasure in destroying humanity, but is merciful and longsuffering not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. Satan however, is malicious and has an axe to grind. The devil is the culprit. He's the one to blame, because he is a rebel extraordinaire.

### Jesus talks about the devil

Jesus said "The thief (devil) has come to steal, kill and destroy, but I have come that you might have life and more abundantly." Don't tell me that a God of love would destroy mothers with babes in arms, children and the elderly.

No! A thousand times no. Jesus Christ came to seek and to save the lost, and to shed his precious blood for the human race. Anyone familiar with the teachings of Jesus and the New Testament is revolted by these false accusations. The parable of the good shepherd and the lost sheep tells us how much God cares for us, as does the one of the good Samaritan, who ministers to the victim of violence.

Jesus came walking on the water to save the doomed disciples in their storm-ravaged boat on the sea of Galilee. *The Bible* says, "Jesus rebuked the waves and the wind," on another occasion. His words of command to the raging sea were, "Peace be still." Who sent the storm that was trying to kill the disciples? Not God because Jesus wouldn't rebuke what God was doing... He came to do his father's will. It's the same with sickness and disease. For years, preachers have erroneously stated that sickness is a blessing sent by God to give us patience, to make us more obedient and to discipline us.

What a distorted doctrine. If the medical profession believed that, we wouldn't have any hospitals, doctors or pain killers. All through the *Bible*, we read of God performing miracles of healing, to help the sick and oppressed.

Jesus proved his love to the poor, needy and diseased; one-third of his time was spent preaching and teaching, and the remainder in healing the sick and casting out evil spirits from the possessed. Before Adam and Eve succumbed to Satan's temptation, however, there was no sickness, death or calamity on the earth.

### Jonah wanted God to wipe them out

When prophet Jonah had preached to the heathen of Ninevah, warning of coming destruction because of their sins, they repented and turned to the Lord. And the judgment was stayed. Jonah was angry that God didn't wipe them all out. Then God reminded him of all the little children who did not know "their right hand from the left," as well as "much cattle."

The confusion has come about because of Job's mistaken belief that God was punishing him, when in fact, it was Satan who "smote him with sore boils." It was Satan who sent a great wind from the heavens that destroyed his house and killed his children. And it was Satan who engineered the bands of thieves who stole his cattle. Then Job cried, "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. Blessed be the name of the Lord." Although Job lost everything because of Satan's evil work, and even though he thought God was responsible, he still didn't curse him.

Since the tornado, I have been asked, "Is God speaking through this disaster?"

My answer is, although God is not the author of destruction, I believe he utilizes every opportunity to bless people and bring them to him. God has a way of turning tragedies into unsuspected blessings. God is loving and kind, and always ready to comfort and bless those who come to him in faith and sincerity.

Max is pastor at Faith Cathedral

# Freud dishonest in final analysis?

Did the father of psychoanalysis have serious problems himself?

Were many of his celebrated opinions clouded by his addiction to cocaine?

Was Sigmund Freud an intellectual weakling who compromised vital truth to remain in the good books of his cronies and to appease his own conscience concerning his anger towards his father?

Is it true that many who enter the field of psychiatry do so to seek help for severe psychological problems in their own lives?

The Freudian bubble has finally burst.

Oh, it's true psychoanalysis and Freudianism have been attacked before, but never by one of their own clan; an intimate, devoted disciple of psychiatry and its high priest.

So loyal was Jeffrey Masson that he was allowed to study the private letters of the late professor.

Masson, 42, a Sanskrit scholar who became an ardent disciple of Freud, an analyst and eventually an archivist on Freud's papers, has seen too much and has left the Freudian camp in disillusionment.

He recently published a book he believes will be the death blow to psychoanalysis.

## Freud called coward

It is called *The Assault on Truth: Freud's Suppression of the Seduction Theory*. In it, Masson charges psychoanalysis was born out of Freud's moral and scientific cowardice in failing to continue declaring what he knew to be true.

In 1896, Freud delivered a paper — his new theory of the origins of hysteria — to the Society for Psychiatry and Neurology in Vienna.

He stated emphatically, "At the bottom of every case of hysteria there are one or more occurrences of premature sexual experience."

He reported he had found evidence of early sexual experience in each of 18 cases of hysteria — six men and 12 women he had analysed.

Within two years of his discovery, Freud had disavowed his earlier statements, declaring he did not believe the testimonials he had received were real.

He deduced they had all been fantasizing childhood sexual seductions.

Later, he concluded these fantasies were universal.

With this shift, declares Masson, psychoanalysis was born.

## Appeased colleagues

Masson charges Freud lacked courage. He decided, instead, to appease his colleagues, and his own conscience regarding his abusive father, as well as his own doubts.

Masson admonishes analysts to face "the real history" of their profession, and thereby to accept the real pasts of their patients.

"It is unforgivable," he writes, "that those entrusted with the lives of people who came to them in emotional pain, having suffered real wounds in childhood, should use their blind reliance on Freud's fearful abandonment of the seduc-

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tion theory to continue the abuse their patients once suffered as children."

Florence Rash spent 25 years as a psychiatric social worker. In 1980, she wrote *The Best Kept Secret: Sexual Abuse of Children*, in which she argues, like Masson, there has been a Freudian coverup of such childhood abuse.

Frank Sulloway a historian of science, states in his 1979 book *Freud: Biologist of the Mind*, "Freud's seduction theory of neurosis was based upon many true instances of traumatic seduction, instances confirmed by independent testimony of the seducer or by some other reliable witness."

In one case, Freud recommended Emma Eckstein, 29, seek medical treatment from his friend, Dr. Fleiss, an ear, nose and throat physician, who believed the lunatic theory that sexual problems could be cured by nose surgery.

Eckstein was subjected to nose surgery to cure her "hysteria" and her habit of masturbation.

In a classic act of malpractice, Fleiss left a large piece of gauze in her nose that caused her to hemorrhage badly. She nearly died.

Freud wrote Fleiss, telling him that Eckstein almost bled to death not because of the botched operation but because she wanted Freud's love and attention.

Elizabeth Thornton is a medical historian and a fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine. She has written a book called *The Freudian Fallacy*.

It is more damaging to psychoanalysis than Masson's book.

She calls Freud's theories "baseless and aberrational." She re-diagnoses Freud's patients, and Freud himself, in the light of modern medical discoveries.

She accuses psychoanalysts of often diagnosing patients wrongly.

## 'Nobody agrees'

Recently, 7,000 therapists from 29 countries attended the Evolution of Psychotherapy Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. There were at least 15 major schools of thought and dozens of splinter groups represented.

Said one psychiatric nurse, "All the experts are here, and none of them agree."

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral.)

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*Freudianism*

# Life is precious

What makes people kill? Are killers born or made? What kind of upbringing, environment or psychology is needed to reduce the spreading killing mentality?

Murder is becoming shockingly common these days, as we read the front pages of our newspapers and watch our television sets.

A retired sergeant-major systematically kills 14 members of his family during a period of several days, and then gloats: "I got them all!"

A prominent lawyer is charged with the knife slaying of his wife.

A 19-year-old father is charged with in the death of his baby. The list goes on and on

We ask: "What went wrong? Did something snap?"

Murder doesn't make sense. It's totally anti-social, counter-productive and anti-Christian.

Soldiers have to be trained to kill. I've talked to men who vomitted after scoring the first direct hit on their enemy at close range. But on the battlefield, it is kill or be killed.

It's not natural to want to destroy your fellowman.

You can argue, fight, demonstrate, scream or vent your feelings, but no one has the right to snuff-out a life.

Let's get it into our heads, murder is not allowed.

Life is sacred, a precious gift from God. And everyone has someone who loves them, regardless of how ugly, evil, or gross they may be.

The killing has to stop. It's gone too far. This insanity must come to an end, whatever it takes — tougher laws, harsher punishment or public execution.

We've got to learn that no one wins with a knife or gun. No one. Everyone loses.

When I was a boy we were taught early, that killers were executed. We were warned not to injure anyone in a scrap, because if you



killed someone accidentally, you could be executed.

And we learned to respect other people's lives and property.

But we've seen too many murder mysteries. Life is cheapened on the TV screen. The laws have no teeth.

The nation's conscience has died.

There is no doubt in my mind that we are reaping a harvest from the immoral, loose and permissive life-style of the last 30 years.

But we can turn things around and resolve to start loving each other, communicating, and talking over things.

The best place to start is in our homes. We must teach our children right from

wrong and to respect their teachers, authority and other people's property.

And if we clergymen got stirred up and put some thunder in our preaching, we could set the tone for a spiritual awakening.

Max is the Founder of Faith Cathedral

# Charismatics offer true racial harmony

The news stories that come out of South Africa bother and weary me for three reasons.

Firstly, the unfairness of apartheid. Second, the closed minds of President Botha's enemies, and thirdly, the news that doesn't get reported — the joyous, integrated services of evangelical charismatic Christians who comprise 35 per cent of South Africa's population.

I'm tired of seeing Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nelson Mandela, Oliver Tambo and the African National Congress dominate the news from South Africa.

And Prime Minister Mulroney and External Affairs Minister Joe Clark pursue a disastrous policy of "sanctions and disinvestment," destroying the black middle class and strengthening the communist ANC rebels.

The ANC do not want a prosperous black middle class. Poor people have nothing to lose and can be easily persuaded to pick up a rifle and join the revolution. Unrest and turmoil help rebel leaders anxious for power.

While in Mozambique, I spoke with long-term missionaries in the area. Their consensus: South Africa — recognizing the evils of apartheid — is changing, but like the Soviet Union, it needs time to implement its plans. And sanctions are "wiping out" the black middle class, hindering the dismantling of apartheid.

The one bright spot in the South African tragedy is the news that does not get reported — the mammoth rise of New Testament Christianity with love among all races and loyalty to government.

Irving Hexham and Karla Poewe Hexham, professors of Religion and Anthropology (University of Calgary), spent four months last year researching the charismatic movement in South Africa.

Last week in Calgary we discussed the astounding success of that movement and the change charismatics are bringing to the nation. Here are some of their findings.

Since 1979, hundreds of new, independent charismatic churches have formed throughout that country. They bridge racial barriers as no other groups do.

The Hexhams interviewed 150 charismatic church members and 40 pastors and were amazed to find great openness and desire to end apartheid.

Another exciting aspect is that 20-60 per cent of these congregations are black. Nowhere else did they witness such real integration. And not only do blacks attend these churches, they actually participate in running them.

The number of charismatic Christians is significant, say the professors.

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"If one includes traditional Pentecostals and the charismatic black independent churches, the total portion of South Africans involved in some form of the charismatic movement could well be as large as 35 per cent.

These churches reject sanctions and violence as a means to change South Africa. By contrast, the South African Council of Churches and the Roman Catholics — representing 22.5 per cent and 9.5 per cent of the population respectively — not only advocate economic sanctions, but recently endorsed violence as a "necessary evil" to "free" black South Africans.

Recent opinion polls reflect these differences. Approximately a third of all South Africans support non-violent change, another third are confused and the remaining third — white supremacists and black rebels — have opted for violence as a solution.

The Hexhams state: "The future of South Africa clearly lies with the undecided. This is a battle for minds and souls and the charismatics are determined to do their part.

They are not simply calling for a religious revival but are also very actively carrying out programs to help blacks, and initiate meaningful change."

In June 1987, 5,000 young South Africans gathered in Durban to celebrate "GO-FEST," organized by Youth With A Mission (YWAM). For one week, thousands of black, white, colored and Asian youths prayed, sang, ate and lived together.

And when they called a news conference, not one member of the press responded. There were no firebombs, necklacings or violent speeches, so it wasn't news.

Max is Founder of Faith Cathedral.

# Moral lessons in Mozambique

MOZAMBIQUE — Whoever thought Max Solbrekken would be celebrating Easter in Mozambique?

Why not? I've spent Christmas in India, Mothers Day in Trinidad and my birthday in Australia.

But isn't Mozambique a Marxist State with not too good a record in human rights, with stories of imprisonment and abuse?

And isn't there a civil war going on, that almost brought that country to a grinding halt?

We read in the western press, stories of terrible atrocities on both sides. The anti-communist rebels burning, killing, terrorizing, and the government soldiers doing the same.

## Should they fight?

What is the Christian position in any country? Are Christians to pick up arms and fight, demanding their rights? Are Christians to join the rebels in South Africa, Nicaragua or Mozambique?

We must remember that no power on Earth could govern for one moment, if it wasn't the will of God. He is sovereign and is working things out in His own way and in His own time.

And He called Pagan Persion King Cyrus, "My servant." And none was more of a demagogue than Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, and yet the scriptures show that God used him to judge His people sinful.

Nations usually have the kind of leaders they deserve.

The truth is that St. Paul never rebelled under the cruel regime of Caesar, even though the Roman Empire tried to extinguish the infant church.

He was beaten, stoned and imprisoned, but not once did he write his fellow Christians to start an insurrection or curse his jailors and persecutors.

He said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom was of this world, then would my servants fight."

History proves that in the beginning of Christianity, believers refused to go to war. Period.

And history has also proved that true Christianity always wins the hearts of those who fight against them, in the end.

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Twenty-five years after the worst persecution the early church ever suffered, the Roman emperor Constantine declared Christianity the state religion.

Within the last 35 years, the persecuted church in China has grown from one million to 50 million, and experts believe it will grow to 100 million by the year 2000.

A few years ago, some people questioned my meeting with Marxist President Caanan Banana of Zimbabwe, but last year German preacher Reinhart Bonke conducted the greatest African Congress there, ever.

And the doors are opening wide in communist countries like Hungary and Poland. In fact, in October, I will be preaching in the same 2,000 seat Congress Hall in Katowice, Poland, that the communist party uses for their conventions. And Billy

Graham is scheduled to preach in Russia, next year.

The Mozambique government has relaxed its position against the church and given them total freedom to preach the gospel within their churches without interference.

And with Pope John Paul II receiving permission to speak in the 50,000 seat stadium here soon, Christians are expecting even more freedom. Of course, in the countryside where the civil war rages, we hear of much suffering.

Today, I will be declaring the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, to a standing-room-only crowd of over 8,000 enthusiastic people, in one of the very large Assembly of God churches, in Maputo.

## A miracle

As I sat with this nation's General Executive of the Assemblies of God, as well as representatives from Angola, Portugal and Brazil, I thought, "The church in Mozambique and the freedom they enjoy today, is a miracle after what they have gone through."

My intention is to pray for Mozambique and do everything I can to help the poor and needy in this nation in the future.

A very blessed Easter to everyone.

Pastor Solbrekken is founder of Faith Cathedral.

# A WORLDWIDE PROBLEM

## The plague of AIDS

*The San Francisco Examiner* believes it has blown the whistle on the secret spread of AIDS among the Roman Catholic clergy.

At least a dozen of that denomination's priests have contracted the disease, stated the report. The report quoted church leaders and those who work with AIDS victims as saying priests and members of church brotherhoods have contracted the disease or died from it in Hawaii, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, California and Washington.

### **Keeping the problem quiet**

Some said the church has tried to keep a lid on the problem because of its stand against homosexuality and its prohibition of sexual activity for priests.

Male homosexuals make up a majority of patients with AIDS, which can be transmitted through sex, hypodermic needles and blood transfusions.

"There are an awful lot of men in that profession who test positive for the AIDS antibody," said Dr. David McEwan, a founder of Hawaii's AIDS task force.

This will come as a shock to many, who look to their priest as a spiritual leader ... but to those acquainted with Bible prophecy, it is no surprise.

Jesus warned, "As it was in the days of Lot, so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of Man." One of the prevalent sins of Sodom and Gomorrah was homosexuality. God's punishment was destruction of those cities by fire and brimstone.

One does not need to be a mathematician to calculate the tremendous loss of priests if the practice is common and the disease spreads.

Dr. Halfdan Mahler, head of the World Health Organization, announcing a \$1.5-billion campaign against AIDS, stated, "I thought, 'Wait and see — maybe it is not as hot as some are making it appear.' I definitely admit to a gross understatement. We are running scared."

### **Drastic action**

Nearly two-thirds of Britons believe everyone should be required to take a test to detect the AIDS virus, according to a recent poll. Drastic action has been taken by Norway's Health Director to curb the spread of the AIDS plague ... full-page ads have been taken out in all leading newspapers, warning people to practise "safe sex" by using condoms. And that government is issuing free condoms to young people at all discos, hoping to stem AIDS' deadly advance.

The spread of AIDS is like a runaway train, heading towards a tinder-dry ravine on the edge of a forest. Three million people could die of AIDS and up to 100 million be

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affected with the deadly virus in the next five years, stated the director general of the WHO recently.

Five years ago, AIDS was unheard of ... now this dreaded disease is routine street conversation, a high-priority subject at medical

conventions, a dominant item in the media and a funeral dirge in the once fiercely proud gay community.

An alarm is now being spread worldwide: "Change your free-wheeling, careless and immoral lifestyle, or the cost may be your own life."

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Religion



# Devilish practices

"The whole world lies in the lap of wickedness"

— St. Paul

**S**atan, the Prince of Darkness, is said to be on the loose in Lethbridge. By the very nature of his person, he stands indicted of collusion in the recent suicide pacts and deaths of several youngsters.

Since his defeat and ouster from heaven — for high treason — Satan delights in deceiving, confusing and injuring mankind, who was made in God's image.

Lucifer — the defrocked archangel — has a score to settle. He is striking out indiscriminately, knowing he has limited time to wage war against Jesus Christ and mankind.

He's ingenious, deceptive and dangerous. Like an escaped terrorist — with access to explosive fire power — this rebel extraordinaire is on a final kamikaze mission to regain lost power, position and authority.

According to the holy scriptures he will not succeed. His doom is sealed forever. In God's time, he will be punished for his evil deeds and banished forever in "the lake of fire."

**A**t present, however, he is deceiving and confusing a lot of people. Pope John Paul calls him "a cosmic liar." And that's what he is — a cosmic liar and terrorist.

The effects of his terrorism are felt across the globe. They're now creating waves in Alberta.

The suicides of teenagers Wayne Townsend, Ashley Merrick and Chilton Thur of Lethbridge are shedding light on the sinister world of heavy-metal music and Satanism.

Police are investigating an alleged suicide pact among teenagers in southwestern Alberta and reports that up to 60 Lethbridge adolescents are involved in occult practices.

Eight teens, claiming to be involved in the occult, have approached officials in that city and are in protective custody.

Speaking of her son, Rhea Thur said: "Once he got started in this, his grades started falling because of his truancy from school. His art work changed. He was cutting himself and writing in his own blood."

Townsend's mother stated: "Before he died, Wayne brought Satanism books home. This bothered me and I took them away because I believe evil forces exist."

According to the *St. Albert Gazette*, teenagers there are practising devil worship and at least one person has tried to kill herself as a sacrifice to Satan.

"I wanted to be closer to him (Satan) to prove I was one of his chosen," said a 15-year-old girl.

Lisa is part of a hard-core group of five teenage devil worshippers who claim to communicate with Satan. His message is to commit acts of violence to glorify evil.

Winnipeg police constable Russ Heslop is alarmed at the



spread of Satanism with its accompanying crime and violence in that city.

"If we were to write down things that we've seen, people would not believe it," states Heslop.

"We've got people who are eating raw flesh of animals, who are drinking blood — their blood and the blood of others. Believe me, there are a lot of cats and dogs and birds being ritually killed throughout the city in basements of homes, abandoned vehicles and in backyards."

Tommy Sullivan of Jefferson, N.J., seemed to be a normal 14 year old. Then he stabbed his mother to death, set fire to their home and killed himself.

Before these tragic events, he had become obsessed with Satan. He took out a contract to kill his family and spent a lot of time listening to heavy rock music.

Paul Hart, a detective with the Jefferson Police, worked on the Sullivan case and decided to study the issue of Satanism and teenagers.

He is convinced that Satanism does exist among teenagers and can have serious criminal, as well as moral, consequences.

Recently, New York City's Cardinal O'Conner denounced

rocker Ozzy Osbourne's tune *Suicide Solution* ("Suicide is the only way out. Don't you know what it's really about?").

The cardinal warned of "diabolically-instigated violence" and that heavy-metal rock music can be the vehicle that introduces youngsters to Satanic practices.

While preaching about the devil's temptation of Jesus, O'Conner confirmed that Satan is a reality and does possess people. He told reporters of two successful exorcisms that had taken place in his archdiocese over the past year.

It's no coincidence that 14-year-old Ashley Merrick wrote in his suicide note that he wanted the song *Fade to Black*, by heavy-metal group Metallica, played at his funeral.

Here are some lyrics from the album *Ride the Lightning*.

I have lost the will to live.  
Simply nothing more to give.  
There is nothing more for me.  
Need (death) to set me free.  
Things aren't what they used to be.  
Missing one inside of me.  
Deathly lost this can't be real  
I can't stand this hell I feel.  
Now I will just say goodbye.

Adolf Hitler, one of the most infamous men of this century, was a great believer in occultic practices such as astrology, fortune telling and witchcraft. And Manuel Noriega — one of Hitler's admirers — was allegedly involved in many bizarre occultic practices, including "palo mayombe," which involves human sacrifice.

**O**ne of Satan's names is Beelzebub which, in Greek, means "The god of flies." Now, archeologists think they have found the remains of an ancient city dedicated to the Prince of Demons.

Within the city limits of Aqqaron, Israel, are the nine-foot walls which scientists believe is a 3,000 year-old temple dedicated to the ancient god of evil.

The find has unearthed blue and red plastered walls, a large altar and an eight-inch knife believed to have been used for sacrifices.

The good news is that Satan has no legal right to harass anyone who has put his faith in Jesus Christ.

Before the Son of God gave His life to redeem mankind from Satan's grasp, He shouted: "It is finished."

The Greek word he used was "tetelestai," which is taken from the verb "teleo." This verb has three essential meanings: to accomplish something or bring something to an end, to fulfil something, to pay that which is owed.

Jesus Christ accomplished salvation's plan for us. He brought to an end Satan's dominion over us. He fulfilled all the Old Testament prophecies about the coming Messiah and He paid for our total salvation.

And that includes freedom from the devil.

## MAX SOLBREKKEN



### Amsterdam-nation and drug hell-fire

*"I'm afraid of waking up in the morning. But I am not afraid to die. When I die, I'll go to God. Then I'll be in good hands. Here there are no hands."*

— Cos Bellanox, 33, heroin junkie, Amsterdam

It's that time of year, when thousands of young people tour Europe.

Although the majority are Europeans using Inter-Rail, they come from all over the world; to see the sights, find love and try the drugs.

A large number end up in Amsterdam, the mecca for drug abusers. For a great many, it's the beginning of hell on earth.

Amsterdam is like a great magnet drawing young "drug-tourists." It is known as the city where "anything goes" because of its tolerance and freedom.

Half of Amsterdam's 8,000 heroin addicts are foreigners, some of whom came on a summer vacation, got hooked and never left.

In a heart-rending report of that city's drug scene, Ellen Svernaes and Odd Wentzell of Oslo's *Dagbladet* warns naive Norwegians to beware.

Svernaes writes, "I hadn't walked further than five metres with my Inter-Rail bag, when I was approached by a heroin pusher. The next person gave me the address to a cheap hotel."

#### **Hotel has an overdose line**

The hotel turned out to be one of Amsterdam's drug-hotels. In the foyer hung a large sign: "Ring 555-5555 for overdose. Ambulance will not inform police."

Just outside Central Station is where the action begins. Coffee shops galore, teeming with young people high on pot. The smell of sweet smoke hangs lazily in the air and the walls are adorned with green plants.

At the restaurant Future on open display, are dishes of cookies and cakes filled with hash.

Under the counter is a tray with nine different brands of marijuana and hash.

"The choice is yours: Afghan, Moroccan, White Netherlands. And the names speak of the hash-prophet's paradise," states Svernaes. Fancy Free, Milky Way, Ecstasy, Images, Grasshopper and Goa.

Twenty years ago, hippies flocked to Goa, India to purchase hash, and now they are flocking to buy it at Goa Coffee Shop in Amsterdam.

In a store window next door to Goa is a display advertising paraphernalia needed to smoke hash, with a postcard telling of Amsterdam's hash-tolerance.

Last year, the government gave out 700,000 one-time syringes in Europe's Drug Capital, Amsterdam.

In their report, Svernaes and Wentzell tell the sad stories of more than half a dozen junkies.

In their shocking expose, they not only warn of the dangers but outline steps for drug users to take.

#### **Five-point plan on drug advice**

1). Drug dealing is unlawful, so take your time when buying to make sure the quality is clean. You could be offered impure narcotics.

2). Heroin in Amsterdam is cleaner and stronger than the usual. You might overdose, so be careful.

3). Don't shoot-up in the vicinity where you purchased the heroin.

4). If you are shooting hard drugs, be sure to buy a new syringe at the drug store. Use less than you usually do and don't do it alone.

5). If you overdose: Keep awake, keep moving and stay out of doors. If you see someone overdose, keep him awake, slap and shake him and administer first aid. Call an ambulance.

Finally, they warn: "All the drugs are dangerous. Combinations of pills, heroin, methadone and alcohol are especially dangerous. A combination of alcohol and methadone or heroin can be deadly, as methadone remains in the body for 36 hours, even if there seems to be no effect."

In my travels to Europe, I have met with many young people from North America.

In a city like Amsterdam with so many thousands of tourists, all looking for a good time, it is easy to get messed up with the wrong people and drugs.

I hope this column will be a warning to anyone travelling abroad this summer.

Max is Founder of Faith Cathedral

The Edmonton Sunday Sun, July 17, 1988

# Depend on the Lord, not drugs

*'If there is a surrogate parent, it's probably a local drug dealer.'*

—US Labor Secretary Bill Brock

I'm upset, angry and burdened because of the influx of drugs into our society and the total slavery it breeds.

Bill Brock's remark about who's taking care of welfare mothers' young children in high-crime neighborhoods, as well as a gripping book on heroin addiction, has set my soul on fire.

At great risk, Jamie Buckingham spent two years interviewing Aaron Johnson, an ex-junkie and walking the streets of Harlem, before writing the bestseller, *The End of Youngblood Johnson*.

Although I had read the shocker years before, my mind had not fully grasped the cruelty and torture that heroin addicts suffer. The desperate world of the addict is one of mental anguish, physical abuse and a losing battle for survival.

I can't think of anything worse than being a mainline drug user except going to hell. It is estimated that there are 20 million marijuana users, between two to four million regular or occasional cocaine-takers, and about half a million heroin addicts in the US.

And that government recently launched an all-out war against the drug kings of Latin America who are eager to meet the desperate need of Uncle Sam's tormented druggies. While the booming business of shipping poppies, pot and cocaine are an embarrassment to Mexico, the desperate craving for them, remains America's shame.

Sensing the urgency of President Reagan's War on Drugs, Mexico finally joined the battle to stem the flow of the slave-making chemical dependants. In 1985, 54 members of the Mexican police and military were executed by drug gangs. In Veracruz, two years ago, drug traffickers shot 22 people in a single massacre.

A quarter of the Mexican Army, 25,000 troops, each serving six months at remote locations without leave, are on crop-destroying duty. Last year, 17,500 acres of poppy fields were destroyed by spraying, and 12,000 acres of marijuana uprooted.

The battle continues to rage, as criminals now employ genetic engineering to develop dun-colored poppies that blend into the shrubbery, to frustrate aerial surveillance.

Drug addiction is an international problem and Canada, too, is feeling the awful impact of this scourge.

I would like to relate to you the story of an American junkie

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who died in a phone booth recently. A note found on her body said:

*King Heroin is my shepherd, I shall always want,  
He maketh me to lie down in gutters,  
He leadeth me beside troubled waters,  
He destroyeth my soul,  
He leadeth me in the path of wickedness  
Yea I shall walk thru the valley of poverty and will fear all  
evil for thou,  
Heroin, art with me, the needle and capsule try to comfort  
me,  
Thou strippest the table of groceries in the presence of my  
family,  
Thou robbest my head of reason, my cup of sorrow runneth  
over,  
Surely heroin addiction shall stalk me all the days of my life  
And I will dwell in the house of the damned forever.*

On the reverse side was written: "Truly this is my psalm. I am a young woman 20 years of age and for the past 18 months, I have been living the nightmare of a junkie. I want to quit taking dope and I try, but I can't. Jail didn't cure me, nor did stays in hospital. The doctor told my family it would have been better, and indeed kinder, if the person who first got me hooked on dope had taken a gun and blown my brains out. And I wish to God she had."

Drug addiction is bad news, but the good news is that some clergymen are becoming informed and bringing hope, help and healing to these poor drug victims.

Johnson's story ends on an up note. He was supernaturally healed by Christ, led to a church and later to a Pentecostal Bible College.

He put it best when he said: "My heart cries out to God for the many who are still slaves to drugs. May we reach them before it is too late."

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# Drunk drivers *don't* have rights

**I**t's time to get tough with drunk drivers.

Really tough — like taking away their licences at the scene of an accident, putting “the boot” on their vehicles, and jailing those who injure or kill others due to inebriation.

Alcohol and driving don't mix. Those who ignore this basic fact should not be allowed on our highways. Period.

They are a threat to our society and are responsible for much of the carnage and death on the roads.

For far too long we have tolerated drunkenness, made excuses for inebriated people and covered up for them.

But that *has* to stop.

Intoxication is a serious matter, with long-ranging detrimental effects. It is not a joke, as some comedians would have us believe.

It's time to evaluate the enormous damage alcohol abuse has done to our society. To fully understand this devastation, one must investigate the tragedy of broken homes, battered wives, abused children and highway deaths.

The list is endless.

The statistics are overwhelming in their condemnation of inebriates who have gotten behind the steering wheels of high-powered vehicles — without any consideration for others.

There is nothing more dangerous than a motorized unit in the hands of a child, a madman or an impaired driver.

Manoeuvring in heavy traffic or on icy roads can be harrowing even for responsible drivers. How can one who has been drinking — unable to make split second decisions — do so without endangering his own life and those of others?

He cannot. And those who stubbornly refuse to accept these facts should be removed from our streets or incarcerated in order to protect the innocent.

We wouldn't allow drunks on the ski slopes or in hunting parties. It's just too dangerous.

Our thinking has to change. Driving while intoxicated is an offence. Such drivers are criminals.

They are not “good ol' boys” who have had one too many. They are potential killers of pedestrians and other motorists.

Solicitor General Marv Moore has proposed suspending the licences of people charged with impaired driving, who have caused death or injury.

Before going to the cabinet with the idea, he wanted to test public opinion on the matter.

Insp. Jules Rawlyk, head of the traffic division for the Edmonton Police Department, thinks it's an excellent idea.

The Civil Liberties Union is naturally concerned about the allegedly impaired person's right of innocence until proven guilty, in a court of law.

During 25 years as a clergyman, I have personally witnessed too many brutal family disputes, visited too many hospital intensive care units and officiated at too many funerals because of alcohol abuse, that I am not concerned about the rights of alleged inebriates.

In my opinion, we should be more concerned about getting them off the highways than fighting to preserve their rights.

So often we read reports of fatal crashes. Usually the headline will state “alcohol was a factor.”

The solicitor general has my vote.

# Foolish and sinful pride

I heard a young clergyman deliver a message recently on the subject of pride.

He stated that pride was the root or starting point of all sinning. But you might say "I thought money is the root of all evil."

St. Paul didn't say "money is the root of all evil," but that "the love of money" is.

Greed is certainly very closely linked with the sin of pride.

Satan is a classic example of how pride captures, ensnares and destroys a life.

*The Bible* chronicles the tragic fall of Lucifer, God's leading archangel who would compare with an army's highest ranking five-star general.

Lucifer was super intelligent, handsome, rich and powerful. God had given him the highest possible position a created being could hold.

But pride entered his heart clouding his reasoning. An evil thought of rebellion grew until it consumed his mind and deceived him into believing that he could dethrone God and assure control of heaven.

God had created his angelic host perfectly, with great wisdom and righteousness.

Yet the power of pride caused Lucifer to actually believe that he could defeat God.

Lucifer's statement of "Five I Wills" in Isaiah 14, shows how pride had given him a false sense of security and an exalted opinion of himself.

The prophet Ezekiel confirms Lucifer's fall:

"Your heart was filled with pride because of your beauty: you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. You defiled your holiness with lust for gain."

*The Bible* says, "There was war in heaven," and Michael and the loyal angels cast the rebels from paradise and God's most trusted angel became the evil devil, Satan.

Because of his disastrous ending, Satan knows how to deceive people with the same sin that did him in.

The young minister enumerated three fruits that pride produces:

1. Perfection puts one on a pedestal and then criticizes those who are unable to rise to that standard.

Many believe they can please God by their good works, giving large sums of money to the church and being kind to others. All those things are good but in the final analysis, only God's grace and mercy saves us.

2. Lack of forgiveness is also a fruit of pride because people often are unwilling to bend, to say "I'm sorry" or to make amends. Bitterness, discontent and hatred follow in the wake of unforgiving acts.

3. Lack of belief is that undesirable fruit of pride that keeps us out of fellowship with God. The nature of pride is to be self sufficient; "I don't need anyone to help me or give me advice."

Here are four ways to turn negatives into positives.

1. Ask God to allow us to see us as he sees us.  
2. Be willing to repent and change our ways.  
3. Release past grudges, jealousies, hates, disbelief and pride.  
4. Change the motivations in our lives from grabbing

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what we can at the expense of others, to beginning a life of servitude.

Jesus said, "If you want to be the greatest, become a servant." Incidentally, the young clergyman was my 28-year-old son, Ken.

Max is Founder of Faith Cathedral

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# Apocalypse stock is rising

*"We see five areas of potential crisis:*

1. *The warming of the earth.*
2. *The water shortage.*
3. *The collapse of the physical infrastructure.*
4. *The global financial crisis.*
5. *A nuclear Armageddon.*

*William P. Neufeld*

Two years ago, when the director of the American Council of Life Insurance's Trend Analysis Program reported his findings, few people listened. But when the stock market collapsed recently, the whole world was screaming.

Neufeld warned that "a breakdown of the international monetary and trading system would plunge the world into prolonged depression — and such a breakdown is far from a remote possibility. The greatest chance of a single event triggering a worldwide financial disaster probably lies in the threat of default on its debt by a third world or Eastern bloc country."

The Oct. 19 stock market crash has shaken investors. And the refusal of Brazil to pay the interest on its huge \$110 million debt since March, could well trigger a domino effect.

Experts see the twin monsters of America's huge trade deficit and enormous national debt, as the chief causes of the Wall Street's nose dive.

People are asking: "What does the *Bible* say about the monetary system in the 'end-times'?"

1. Before Christ returns, it will be business as usual.
2. A financial wizard will arrive on the scene, paying the way for the Anti-Christ . . . Prophet Daniel calls him, "... a raiser of taxes."
3. St. John says, the Anti-Christ will consolidate power and cause "craft to prosper."
4. But, God's judgment will fall as *the four horsemen of the Apocalypse* ride across the earth.
5. The Anti-Christ will declare himself God and demand worship. He will initiate a system of totalitarian control, including a sophisticated marking system. Protesters will be unable to "buy or sell unless he has this mark, that is the Beast's name or the number that stands for his name" (Rev. 13:17).

Before long there will be a need for a new monetary system, world-wide.

It's a confusing and scary world, for most people. But for those who have put their trust in God and know their *Bible*, there is no fear.

(Pastor Max Solbrekken is the founder of Faith Cathedral.)

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# The day of reckoning

God's judgment is on those who pollute the atmosphere, contaminate the water and rape the earth.

That's what the Bible says. There's a payday coming for those who destroy God's creation. The warning is clearly given in the scriptures.

In the Apocalypse, Jesus Christ warns that "God will destroy them that destroy the earth" (Rev. 11:18).

And yet, infidels and pagans try to pin the blame for our endangered planet on Christianity and the Bible.

It's well documented that we have an enormous problem on our hands concerning the clean-up of the environment.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for an environmental research group, Worldwatch Institute, recommended recently that the U.S. set an example for the world by asking families to limit themselves to two children.

"Many American couples can afford more than two children, but the issue now is whether the planet can," said Lester Brown, whose goal is halving world population growth by the year 2000.

The Greenhouse Effect — gaseous pollutants in the atmosphere — could raise global temperatures by up to five degrees over the next few years, causing widespread drought or flooding, warn scientists.

A recent environmental conference, The Changing Atmosphere — staged by Environment Canada — drew 350 scientists, politicians, economists and environmentalists from more than 40 countries.

They called for industrialized nations to reduce by 20 per cent the amount of carbon dioxide produced by the year 2000 and 50 per cent by 2015.

Government should require the auto industry to produce cars 50 per cent more fuel efficient by the turn of the century, they demanded.

Acid rain is having devastating effects on fish as well as vegetation. And the deliberate destruction of Brazil's rain forests are of deep concern. U.S. Senator Albert Gore told a Senate panel recently that the earth's ozone shield is

on the verge of being destroyed, allowing cancer-causing ultraviolet radiation to flow in.

He called the ozone loss "a virtual time bomb" and a possible threat to national security.

Much of the world's waters are also polluted from Canada's Great Lakes — industrial effluents are killing the fish — to Europe's Baltic and North Seas, where decades of dumping human waste is attacking the immune systems of a large number of seals.

We have seen the terrifying destruction caused by Iraq's "poison gas" against Iran, and the systematic destruction of former Christian Lebanon by Syria and other Muslim factions.

Who or what is to blame for all the terrible atrocities committed against the earth?

The *Toronto Star's* Tom Harpur advances one of the most ridiculous theories I've ever heard.

He mentions the criticism against the Biblical passages in Genesis where God gives Adam "dominion" over the earth to "subdue it."

He believes some have taken this out of context and view themselves as lords over the planet and other species.

"But the malady runs deeper than this," he writes. "It can be seen in the basic creeds of Christianity recited every Sunday by hundreds of millions of people."

Harpur calls the Apostles' Creed "a remarkable distortion." Parroting Thomas Berry and Matthew Fox, he says Christians minimize the creation of the earth by God and emphasize too much the birth, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, as stated in the Apostles' Creed.

Harpur rationalizes that "to be 'saved' very often has meant being delivered from allegiance and commitment to our planetary home.

"Berry rightly says that Christianity has for too long been preoccupied with the role and personality of the Redeemer and not sufficiently tuned in to the fact that God has been revealing the divine nature for billions of years, ever since the big bang of creation," he says.

Berry and Harpur are both wrong. They do not understand the true nature of Christianity and the teachings of the Bible, concerning our responsibilities to the planet and our fellow men.

*Time* magazine's Jan. 2, cover story on the *Endangered Earth* made a lot more sense than Harpur.

"This last year the earth spoke, like God warning Noah of the deluge. Its message was loud and clear.

"But mankind has not accepted the warnings about the perils of ecological rape, just like people do not listen to the biblicalists who insist that Armageddon is near.

"Pagan societies taught that the earth was endowed with divinity, and mortals were subordinate to it. The Judeo-Christian tradition introduced a radically different concept. The earth was a creation of a monotheistic God, who after shaping it, ordered its inhabitants, in the words of Genesis, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of the air and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.'"

God chose to delegate responsibility over the plant and animal kingdoms to human beings. And Adam named every living creature (Gen. 2:19).

This Scripture is one of the most powerful proofs showing that the Bible teaches ecological responsibility and accountability. The ancient reader would understand at once, that when God gave Adam the right to name all living creatures, he was also responsible for their care.

Prophet Hosea warned that if mankind defaulted in his responsibility to God and His creation, there would be judgment.

"Therefore the land will mourn; and everyone who dwells there will waste away with the beasts of the field and the birds of the air; even the fish of the sea will be taken away" (Hos. 4:3).

Christians, who are taught to be good stewards, should lead the way in replenishing and looking after God's property, for "the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof."

# No wonder Britain is spiritually slow

Great Britain is not spiritually dead yet, although church attendance there seems to convey that message.

And if the Anglican church continues having the misfortune of being led by men like Archbishop Robert Runcie, it won't be long.

Finally an evangelist has risen in that nation that really believes the gospel message that St. Matthew, St. Luke and all the other apostles believed — that Jesus Christ is alive.

Rev. Pal Slennet of east London, who says God whispered "postmark" in his ear, now has almost every envelope in Britain declaring that Jesus is alive.

On March 11, the post office started postmarking those three words on nearly every letter mailed in Britain.

Slennet paid the equivalent of \$112,000 for the privilege of having the message put on every letter mailed through 68 of Britain's 69 sorting offices.

The postmark also contains a small cross, so it was not surprising that a spokesman for Lord Jakobovits, Chief Rabbi of Britain, lodged a complaint.

What is surprising, but not out of character, is that Archbishop Runcie's office also complained.

Slennet said the slogan was chosen in the spirit of Easter. "Jesus is alive — that is the Easter message," he said.

Hallelujah.

It's about time the followers of Jesus let the world know that Easter has nothing to do with the bunny. It is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

And if we can date our letters from the time of his birth (A.D. in the year of our Lord), we should certainly have the privilege of announcing his resurrection.

The problem is that the church is plagued by a small, yet powerful group of left-leaning, liberal, modernist theologians and clergy . . . who do not believe the gospel, totally, and therefore pay only lip-service to the resurrection of Christ.

It is no wonder then, that Runcie made the following statement recently: "We must renounce claims about the exclusiveness of the church . . . we must recognize the work of the same spirit at the centre of all our faiths"

Can you imagine St. Paul making such a statement? A thousand times no.

Then you know why the church has fallen on hard times in Britain, where less than five per cent of the people attend services. In fact, most of those attending protestant churches in that nation, are blacks who have immigrated from former colonies, converted by missionaries who believe Jesus is alive.

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ever remains behind."

Mohammed died June 8, 632 A.D. at the age of 61, at Medina, where his tomb is visited annually by millions of devout Moslems.

All the millions and millions of Jews, Buddhists and Mohammedans agree that their founders have never come up out of the dust of the earth in resurrection.

Theodosus Harnack says, to me Christianity stands or falls with the resurrection."

Theologian Michael Green emphasizes: "Christianity does not hold the resurrection to be on among many of its tenets of belief. Without faith in the resurrection of Christ, there would be no Christianity at all.

"The Christian church would never have begun. Christianity stands or falls with the truth of the resurrection."

And in a world of uncertainties, it is good to know our eternal destiny is secured by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, himself.

Max is Founder of Faith Cathedral

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### Sexual revolution led to new restraint

The young hostess at a hotel coffee shop was fascinated with my TRS-80 portable computer. I had finished breakfast and was busy writing a column.

"What are you writing, Reverend?"

"I'm commenting on former stripper, Annie Ample, who has decided to leave her clothes on and write a book. She's blowing the whistle on the sleazy world of strip tease."

I was staying at a hotel in Winnipeg. I could sense the hostess wanted to talk.

"Marne, would you take your clothes off in front of a group of men?" I asked. "No. I think it's repulsive." Then she confided, "I've just returned from a tour of Europe. Every second guy I met was homosexual. It's weird! And with so many carrying the AIDS virus, I'm scared!"

Then I dropped a bombshell. "Are the loose sexual habits of young people beginning to change, due to AIDS?"

She then blurted out, "There's no way I'm going to take a chance. The next guy I have sex with is my husband."

The message is getting through. What the church has not been able to do, the AIDS plague is doing. It is raising the level of understanding in realistic terms — life and death.

Moses spelled it out 4,000 years ago: "Choose life that you and your seed may live; for why will you die?"

He warned that the diseases that plagued Egypt would also befall the Hebrews, if they broke God's laws.

The free-wheeling sexual revolution of the past 20 years has taken its toll. It has brought heartbreak, stress, sexually transmitted diseases, sterility and death.

Rock musicians, heroes of youth, have advocated freedom from all restraints. Their lifestyles have not been desirable role models. The same danger exists with movies and videos.

And yet in the final analysis, it is the committed preacher who holds the key to people's deliverance, through the liberating power of Jesus Christ.

God understands us and has provided for all our needs. That's why He ordained marriage and family; for fellowship, love and procreation.

Concerning the sanctity of marriage, Jesus quoted the words of Moses: "He which made them at the beginning, made them male and female. And said, for this cause shall a man leave his mother and father and cleave unto his wife: and the twain shall be one flesh."

Then he warned, "What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder."

Max is Founder of Faith Cathedral.

# Liberal clergy no help on AIDS

God's judgment upon a wicked generation has begun in the form of AIDS, says Roman Catholic Cardinal Giuseppe Siri.

Siri, archbishop of Genoa, Italy, made his point recently during an interview with the weekly Catholic magazine *Il Sabato*.

The deadly immunity-destroying disease is entirely a revealed punishment from God, since it strikes directly at sinners and then later can affect the innocent, said the churchman.

Since AIDS has not affected the human race before, the cardinal is convinced it is divine retribution.

It's refreshing to hear a man tell it like it is instead of lying to make himself a human rights hero.

Dr. Graham Leonard, bishop of London, recently criticized the Church of England and others in Britain, for having been mesmerized by 1960s-style permissiveness and for having tolerated the moral degeneration of that nation.

## **Disagrees with boss**

Leonard, the second-highest official in the Church of England, has had numerous disputes with ultra-liberal Robert Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury and leader of the church.

The bishop's statement was carried by *The Daily Mail* under the title "AIDS, Promiscuity and Moral Cowardice."

The Church of England has let the people down.

And we are now reaping the fruit of the extreme permissiveness of the '60s, when people thought they could do what they liked and somebody else would

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deal with the consequences, stated Leonard.

The bishop focused on the "plague of the '80s — AIDS."

AIDS will also, I believe, bring the Church of England to its senses.

At least we can use it as a focal point for good, although at great human sacrifice.

There is a fundamental distinction between good and evil, between right and wrong, stated Leonard.

Very definitely, AIDS is bringing people to their senses.

The Bible says: "Be not deceived, God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap."

In my opinion, both Cardinal Siri and Bishop Leonard

are right.

The church needs to clean up its act, wipe the dust off the Bible and begin warning our generation about the wages of sin.

James Anderton, chief constable of Greater Manchester and president of the Association of British Police Chiefs, told an AIDS seminar for British police officers that the chief factor in the spread of AIDS was moral degeneracy among people.

## **Moral leaders needed**

Anderton's office received more than 1,000 calls — nearly all positive — within 48 hours of making the statement.

Where are the spiritual and moral leaders in Canada today? Where are the Martin Luthers and John Wesleys? Are we afraid to speak the truth lest we offend someone?

It will take more than informing the general public about AIDS, or giving free condoms to teenagers to turn things around.

What is required is a revival of righteousness, and that begins in the church and among the clergy.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral.)

# 7 tips for happiness and health

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Many people have asked me why I am so healthy and youthful. My answer is: "The Lord has been good to me."

Let me share with you some tips on staying healthy.

**Be content:** The greatest commodity in life is peace of mind. Busybodies who pry into other people's lives and persons who worry about all the problems of the world are usually hyper and afflicted with many ailments of body and soul.

Be thankful — so many people today are unthankful. They feel the world owes them a living.

That is a fallacy. There are no free lunches.

**Keep close family ties:** There is an old adage that says, "The family that prays together stays together." And that applies to families that "play together" as well.

We are responsible to our families. The scriptures attribute health and long life to those who honor their parents.

Keep close family ties. Enjoy your children and grandchildren. Be kind to your parents and loved ones.

If you ever find yourself in the position of needing help, your family will be right there. In good times and tough times, stay close to your family.

**Enjoy your work:** In these days of high unemployment, pray to find gainful employment that you enjoy.

I enjoy my work, although it is very demanding and I'm on call nearly 24 hours a day. I enjoy meeting people and being of help to them. I also enjoy studying, reading and writing, so my work is not laborious.

For approximately 10 years, I worked as a commercial traveller. I was earning in excess of \$10,000 a year in 1963.

I was very happy until God called me to preach the gospel. Then I became restless and finally gave up my lucrative position for \$50 a week, doing what I enjoyed doing more than anything else.

**Stay active:** Some people are old at 40. They lose interest in everything and are content to sit and vegetate, putter around the house or watch senseless TV for hours, accomplishing virtually nothing.

Others are young at 75, with great mental health and wholesome attitudes.

It is very healthy to have some extra-curricular activities or hobbies such as an exercise routine, a jogging schedule, reading, upgrading your education, learning a new language or meeting some new friends.

Become a volunteer. Do some humanitarian or social work; visit shut-ins or hospitalized people. Spend some time helping others and you will become a recipient yourself.

**Learn to relax:** Take time out for a rest. It's so important to take a day off once in awhile.

God instituted the Sabbath in order that His people could have one day out of seven to rest as well as to worship Him.

One of the difficulties I have is not being able to take time off, to do nothing. I am so comfortable with work.

Due to financial pressures and the tremendous needs around me, I find myself working excessively.

God has to help all of us take time off with our families.

Early in life I learned to relax while working by catching a 15-minute catnap on trains, planes or sitting in my office.

**Don't fear growing old:** Enjoy every year of your life. Look forward to the changes they bring in you and your fellow men. Unfortunately, many people become health freaks.

They prepare their own specialty foods, carry their own health drinks even when they are invited out.

Some are so health-conscious they become bores or general nuisances. Let's put our faith in God and eat sensibly, but not fanatically.

Let us not be afraid of death or growing old.

**Keep your faith strong:** Don't give up your faith or belief in God. Be a firm believer in God's grace and goodness to you. Believe in God's power to heal and keep you well.

Follow my seven-point plan for health and prosperity and you will be happy and blessed.

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral.)

# Resolved to aid the sufferers

Every new year brings new hope.

And while some resolutions have already been dashed in the first week, many people are winning the battle to turn over a new leaf.

This is due to the indomitable human spirit, the in-bred optimism and resilience that is necessary for survival; without which there would be no human race.

Because most of us are grateful for a fresh chance to "make everything right, put things together, live up to our own expectations and be successful at what we are doing."

That's healthy, providing we don't become slaves to unreasonable goals that may destroy us, if we fail to achieve.

For some people, however, the new year brings only more remorse, anxiety, fear, hunger, and a lot of pain.

Try to tell the mourners of the recent Pan Am crash victims that everything will work out, or those who lost family, friends and homes in the Armenian earthquake that 1989 will be a great year.

## Hope lost

It's difficult for someone starving to death to have faith when they don't know where their next meal is coming from. The same is true for the heroin junkie, the AIDS victim or anyone stricken with a terminal illness.

But life goes on. And we must learn to smile through our tears, grit our teeth and mush forward, despite the reverses.

My brother Fred — who lives at the coast — recently lost his wife, Marion (a native Edmontonian) to cancer. He said, "Nobody can understand the pain involved in losing the one you love so dearly."

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I reassured him that Marion was better off now, time was the best healer and that he would meet her again one day in Heaven. He answered, "I know that, but that doesn't help me now, it doesn't take away the pain and the fact that she's never coming back."

## Family support

Fred is fortunate because he has a close family that helps share his grief and deepen his faith in God.

Others aren't so blessed.

Like the young lady who approached me at a recent Vancouver crusade. She was originally from Quebec, had failed at love and had no more desire to live.

Somewhere she had gotten involved with Eastern New Age mysticism and was con-

vinced she should commit suicide in order to help the angels bring help to all the struggling people on earth.

I was able to edge her back to reality. The young lady is now seeking a position as a French interpreter.

Suicide is a scourge in our land and a drain on our economy, as some of the brightest lights are opting out.

As we enter this new year, let us seek to help someone who may be struggling with guilt, grief, depression or gotten involved with the occult.

Cain — the first murderer — asked, "am I my brother's keeper"? *The Bible* records that God held him responsible for his actions against his brother.

Max is Founder of Faith Cathedral

# Re: solutions and resolutions

*"Who would use old wineskins to store new wine? For the old skins would burst with the pressure, and the wine would be spilled and the skins ruined."*

Jesus of Nazareth

**1** 987 is now history and so are many of the New Year's resolutions that were made with such sincerity.

You'd almost think we'd been brainwashed with the philosophy of Lenin: "Promises are made only to be broken."

Year after year a lot of people make New Year's resolutions, some with great pomp and others in the quietness of their private chambers — only to suffer the disappointments of failure, all too soon.

"I'll never smoke another cigarette; I'm going to lose 20 pounds; I'm going to break off this illicit sex affair; I'll never touch another drop of liquor."

Here's the shocking truth: You can't reform your life by yourself. You can't do it alone. We all need help from above.

Jesus said, "Only new wineskins are used to store new wine. That way both are preserved."

He also said, "And who would patch an old garment with unshrunk cloth? For the patch would tear away and make the hole worse."

What did he mean? Is there no hope for those who have messed up? Is the gospel only for goody-goodies?

On the contrary . . . there is all the hope and help we need. However, Christ does not want to give us a "patch job," but rather change us by the supernatural process called the "New Birth."

We are the old wineskins. God's righteousness is the new wine. In our sinful state, we are unable to receive the new wine until he creates within us that capacity.

This comes through repentance and faith.

St. Paul said, "If any man be in Christ he is a new creation; old things are passed away and all things become new." He also writes about conversion, as passing "from death unto life."

If anyone should know, he should.

Paul, the apostle, was once Saul, the persecutor, who delighted in torturing and killing the followers of Christ.

On his way to arrest Jewish Christians, Saul was confronted by Jesus himself on the Damascus road and was converted.

It was Saul who personally carried the gospel message to every major city of the civilized world . . . and who wrote more than half of the New Testament . . . and died a martyr's death.

Not many have such a dramatic conver-

sion as Saul, but everyone can be just as drastically changed by the supernatural power of God.

Men like Augustine, Luther and Wesley all went through conversion experiences that transformed their lives and changed the course of history for the better.

Almost everyone knows the great gospel hymn, *Amazing Grace* written by John Newton in the 1700's. Not many however, know the tremendous story of his conversion.

The epitaph on his tombstone, in his own words, tells the story better than I could.

**MAX  
SOLBREKKEN**



"I was an infidel, libertine and slave trader, but by the rich mercy of Jesus I was preserved, restored, pardoned and appointed to preach the faith I long labored to destroy."

A hopeless drunk with a wet brain, Newton was incarcerated in a basement room. He was naked and crawled on "all fours" like a dog, and ate his food from a plate on the floor.

But someone told him of the love and power of Christ and through prayer he was converted and healed.

Thousands have been blessed through his preaching and gospel songs these past 200 years.

Jesus said, "With all the earnestness I possess I tell you this: Unless you are born again, you cannot get into the Kingdom of God."

Nicodemus was a ruler of the Jews who was spiritually inclined, but he did not fully understand what Jesus meant by being "born again."

He exclaimed: "Born Again! What do you mean? Can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?"

Jesus replied, "Man can only reproduce human life, but the Holy Spirit gives new life from Heaven; so don't be surprised at my statement that you must be born again."

The futility of mankind to reform itself, by its own efforts, is chronicled by legions of failed marriages, dissolved partnerships and broken accords.

Two world wars, an enormous global military build-up, together with a climate of greed, prejudice and fear all add up to "human failure," in reform.

Personal tranquility and peace of mind begin with a personal relationship with the giver of peace, Jesus Christ.

The answer is not to "patch up" the old life, but to receive a new life through faith in "the

*The Bible* says, "He who has the Son of God has life and will not come into condemnation."

Now is a good time to zero in on spiritual things, even if your New Year's resolutions have fallen through.

Max is Founder of Faith Cathedral.

## MANY PEOPLE SLAVES TO GET-RICH-QUICK NOTION

# At odds with gambling

"Gambling is the child of avarice, the brother of iniquity and the father of mischief."

— President George Washington

**I**s gambling really wrong? If it is, why do so many do it? What causes the compulsive urge to roll the dice, spin the wheel or feed the slot machine?

And what about the "lotto addict" who spends thousands of dollars, hoping to win the jackpot?

Or parents who leave their children unattended in an automobile for hours, while they sit in a smoke-filled bingo hall?

Was George Washington's analysis of gambling correct?

In the early 1970s, *Time* magazine wrote: "Even if gambling is statistically normal, is it psychologically so? Is it economically and ethically desirable? A great many people are faced with the question of whether it was just good, clean fun for the family, a wasteful evil or a deeply-rooted part of human life."

Let's look at the history of gambling and its results in the community.

On March 13, 1964, the first legal state lottery ticket was sold in New Hampshire. Federal governments had frowned on lotteries since Louisiana was disgraced by one in 1894. New Hampshire's Governor John W. King allocated the profits from that first lottery to public education, and set the precedent for other states to follow.

States hard-pressed for funds turned to lotteries to lighten the tax load. But they haven't met expectations.

**B**ritish author Sydney Smith wrote: "Men prefer any load of infamy, however great, to any pressure of taxation, however light."

Gambling is as ancient as the Egyptian pharaohs who lived more than 4,000 years ago. Many of them were compulsive gamblers who had their dice buried with them in their pyramids. And archeologists state that often their dice were loaded.

Gambling was so rampant in ancient China that Confucius — who lived 500 years before Christ — condemned the practice.

Warlords and mandarins often gambled away vast empires and some bet their right arms. Alluding to this heinous practice, the great philosopher warned: "If you don't want your own right arm chopped off, don't chop off someone else's."

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Religion



Slavery got started on the African continent when tribesmen gambled away their wives, children and, finally, their own freedom as the "spirit of chance" gripped them.

The lottery may have been invented by Caesar Augustus, whose lavish parties featured gigantic sales where his guests were obligated to purchase items by lot, not knowing their value.

Nero included slaves and property in his lotteries and Helioabulus ones — or a dead dog — as their lottery prize.

The Roman soldiers who crucified Jesus Christ gambled for His seamless robe as He hung on the cross. I have seen the various gambling games of the Roman soldiers engraved on the excavated floors of Pilate's hall in Jerusalem.

Jewish rabbis warned against gambling, calling it robbery. And Maimonides — the famous Jewish philosopher — stated that a gambler "spends his time in things which do not contribute to the well-being of his fellow man."

Las Vegas — America's gambling capital — is exploding!

According to a report in the *Los Angeles Daily News*, Las Vegas has 67,000 hotel rooms. And that figure will soon be history as the 4,032 room Excalibur opens this June.

Local authorities predict another boom by 1992, when that city will boast between 85,000 and 90,000 rooms, most of which will house eager gamblers from across the world.

In 1989, more than 18 million people visited Las Vegas — a 50-per-cent increase from 1982. And Clark County raked in \$3.18 million from gaming revenues last year.

There is no doubt that state-run lotteries have removed the age-old stigma from all forms of gambling.

But what are the results?

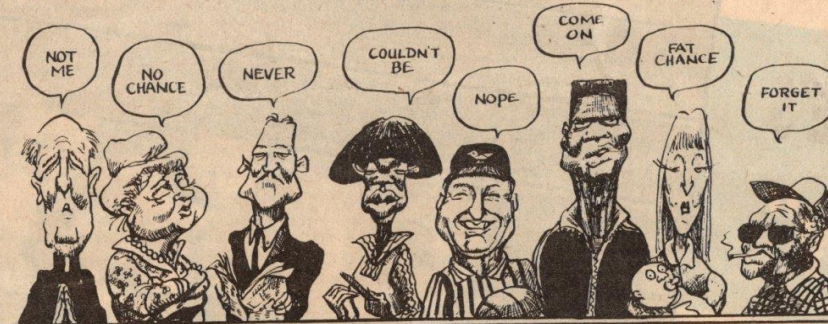
**D**r. Bernard Greenblatt, a Las Vegas psychologist, states: "Family life is not strong in Las Vegas. There is a great deal of instability. As a result, we have one of the highest homicide rates in the United States and one of the highest suicide rates, just about double the national average."

"We have all the classic signs of a breakdown in society: high alcoholism, drug abuse, prejudice against blacks, homosexuality, juvenile delinquency. This is not a healthy community. I am concerned about what happens to people who grow up in a community whose orientation is extremely materialistic."

Here in Alberta, recent statistics show that the amount of money people spent on gambling is up, while giving to charities is down. And that is a sad commentary.

The "money grubbing" gambling lords are not satisfied with only today's suckers. They are seeking to make slaves of tomorrow's generation as well.

WHEN THERE'S ONE IN A MILLION CHANCE OF BEING STRUCK BY LIGHTNING...



BUT WHEN THERE'S ONE IN 3 ZILLION CHANCE OF WINNING THE LOTTERY...





# Can we trust Gorbachev?

**H**as Mikhail Gorbachev misled us all? What are the real motives behind his dramatic moves of the last few years? Is glasnost, perestroika and the new freedom just good business sense? A ploy to harness the West with an enormous debt load, while the U.S.S.R. rebuilds and rebounds to threaten the world again?

The total cost to rebuild the bankrupt East Bloc is unfathomable. The U.S. and many of her allies are already straining under national debts and budget deficits that are insurmountable.

And the East Bloc may be the overload that will blow the West's economic fuses beyond repair.

Should we trust Gorbachev totally? I know, it must seem archaic and out-of-step to consider such a question. We all want perestroika and glasnost to succeed. Everyone desires peace — but at what price?

"Yes, he's for real," wrote Newsweek's Walter Isaacson in a recent article. "By loosening the Soviet grip on Eastern Europe, Gorbachev proves once and for all that he seeks a different world."

**B**ut *Herald Tribune* guest columnist, Ernest W. Lefever — senior fellow at Ethics and Public Policy Centre — says that Gorbachev's Russia is still a formidable adversary. Here are the facts.

- According to the CIA, Soviet efforts to steal U.S. defence secrets have not abated.

- Soviet military spending under Gorbachev has not decreased.

- In the first quarter of 1989, Soviet tank production rose to a rate of 3,500 a year, compared with 600 for the U.S.

- Moscow's huge submarine fleet is growing rapidly. A new nuclear submarine is launched every seven weeks. It now has twice the number of NATO's 350 vessels.

- MiG fighters and other Soviet arms shipped to Afghanistan this year total almost \$2 billion.

- Last May, Gorbachev promised President George Bush that he would halt arms shipments to Nicaragua. The Soviet Bloc has delivered arms for \$175 million to that country this year.

Despite Gorbachev's achievements and enormous popularity, there are a number of other cool heads urging caution. These include Admiral Torolf Rein, Nor-

Soviet explanations to obvious doubletalk.

Rein says he is unable to interpret what Gorbachev says because his actions do not match his words.

"There are indications that the Soviets have offensive plans for their naval fleet in the northerly area," says Rein. "We believe the Soviets plan to dominate, not only the Barents Sea but also a large part of the North Sea."

Commenting on Gorbachev's recent initiative on naval military reductions, Rein said he feared for Norway's safety if NATO's capabilities are reduced.

Earlier this year, Henry Kissinger cautioned, "the cold war isn't really dead. The Soviet Union is still a bear and may only be hibernating. Gorbachev may fail or fall, so the West must still keep up its guard."

**C**anada's External Affairs Minister Joe Clark said that "despite announced reforms, the Soviets are still spending 15 to 17 per cent of their gross national product on defence, compared to 6 per cent for the U.S. and 2 per cent for Canada. They still launch nine new submarines every year. They still produce almost twice as many tanks as all NATO put together and they still maintain a significant advantage in most major equipments over NATO."

And finally this warning from Manfred Woerner, secretary general of NATO: "The West allies should resist the temptation to lower their guard against the military powerful Soviet Union. We are striving for a European continent where military forces exist only to prevent war and to ensure self defence. Soviet forces are designed for attack. They possess more tanks and artillery than all the other members of the Warsaw Pact and NATO combined. It is these weapons, together with armored troop carriers, that are ideally suited to large scale offensive operations with little or no warning."

We thank God for glasnost, perestroika and the demise of the hated Berlin Wall, but it's too early yet to tell the Soviet



GORBI DREAMS

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## Bible verse can cure ills

Having any problems with falling hair? What do you do to cover up that bald spot and receding hairline?

Probably the only solution is to massage your head, comb your hair forward, get a toupee or just simply let it fall.

If you had lived about 3,500 years ago you would have gotten very different advice — not from a pastor but from your physician.

He would have quoted from the famous medical authority of that day, Papyrus Ebers.

"When it falls out, one remedy is to apply a mixture of six fats, namely those of the horse, the hippopotamus, the crocodile, the cat, the snake and the ibex. To strengthen it, anoint with the tooth of a donkey crushed in honey."

The Papyrus Ebers was published about 1552 B.C. and occupied a dominant position in the ancient medical world and was one of the leading guides for practicing physicians for a very long time.

There are literally hundreds of remedies for diseases in this book, such as lizard's blood, swine's teeth, putrid meat, stinking fat, moisture from pig's ears, milk goose grease, asses' hooves, animal fats from various sources, excreta from animals, including human beings, donkeys, antelopes, dogs, cats, and even flies.

About the time the Papyrus Ebers was written in Egypt, Moses was born, educated in their best schools and raised as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

God's call to Moses was to lead his persecuted people out of bondage. Here was God's promise to them: "I am the Lord that healeth thee" (Exodus 15:26.)

### Advice found in Bible

God did not borrow medical advice from the Papyrus Ebers. His advice to Moses was contrary to the most highly respected medical thought of that day.

Millions of Europeans died of leprosy for hundreds of years. Some physicians thought the cause was eating hot food or the meat of diseased hogs. Others blamed malign conjunction of the planets.

Approximately 60 million people died from the Black Death in the 14th century. Dr. George Rosen of Columbia University writes: "Leadership was taken by the Church, as the physicians had nothing to offer. The Church took as its guiding principle the concept of contagion as embodied in the Old Testament..."

Once the condition of leprosy has been established, the patient was to be segregated and excluded from the community... it accomplished the first great feat... in methodical eradication of disease."

For centuries in Europe, multitudes perished because of improper hygiene, sanitation and sloppy hospitals. In many villages, human excrement and waste was dumped into the streets, bringing deadly epidemics of typhoid, cholera and dysentery.

The solution to the problem, the burying of wastes, had been given by God 3,500 years before (in Deuteronomy 23:12-13.)

Vienna in the 1840s was famous as a medical centre. One of the most famous teaching hospitals of that day was Allgemeines Krankenhaus. In its maternity ward, one out of six women died.

### Hygiene cut mortality rate

Dr. Ignaz Semmelweis discovered that if doctors washed their hands well, after doing autopsies and before examining expectant mothers, the mortality rate dropped drastically.

Dr. Semmelweis was not applauded by the medical profession, however. He was ridiculed by his peers, discredited, lost his position and eventually succumbed to the pressure, dying in a mental hospital.

Moses had given the same advice many centuries before (in Numbers 19.) It wasn't until 1878 that the method of cleaning hands and instruments was introduced by men like John Tyndall, Louis Pasteur, and Sir Joseph Lister that the mortality rate began to drop.

The New York State Department of Health, in 1960, issued a book describing a method of washing the hands very similar to that found in Numbers Chapter 19.

Medical science has come a long way since Papyrus Ebers was published in 1552 B.C. and even since the 1840s in Vienna, but I still think that when your family physician advises you to get a second or third opinion about an operation, it's a good idea.

Now if anyone wants to try the remedy for falling hair, don't let me discourage you. But then where would you find a hippopotamus these days?

(Max Solbrekken is pastor of Faith Cathedral.)



## Laughter is the best medicine!

**L**aughter is a natural antidote for discouragement. It accelerates the healing process in those suffering with heartache, grief and stress.

It destroys depression and deals a death blow to disease. Depression leaves when the mind becomes free from fears and anxieties. Often sickness and diseases are cured as a result.

In many cases, a hearty laugh is better than pills.

A jovial, laughing person is making a statement that the cares and pressures of life are not getting him down and that he will not become a slave to stress, or intimidated by changing times or the pressure to conform.

Wholesome laughter speaks of a good attitude and a free spirit.

Preachers are often called "prophets of doom and gloom" because of the seriousness of life and death, as well as the biblical message of repentance, faith and eternal salvation.

But there is a lot in the Bible about joy. In fact, it is listed as a "fruit of the Holy Spirit," indicating that all Christians should have it.

Jesus said: "In the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world...and your joy no man taketh from you."

We are often reminded that Jesus was "a man of sorrows and acquainted with griefs" but the scriptures record that He also "rejoiced in spirit."

A family that laughs a lot gets along and feuds are few and far between. Being able to laugh at yourself is a great

quality. And that sometimes includes joining those who are laughing at your expense.

It takes the wind out of the sails of those who may be habitually picking on you.

The Bible says: "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine" and "the joy of the Lord is our strength."

Dr. C.M. Ward, internationally-known Bible scholar and revivalist, tells of a conversation he had with his father, Rev. A.G. Ward, just before his father's death.

Bending down to hear his famous father's parting words, Dr. Ward recalls that he was experiencing some very profound, intense, spiritual advice.

The elderly clergyman whispered: "Son, don't take life too seriously," and he was gone.

Although the Bible disapproves of foolish jesting and frivolous talk, there is plenty of room for laughter, joy and clean humor. However, jokes that belittle, insult or demean are rude and impolite.

But no one should think himself so holy or sanctified that he can't laugh or enjoy a funny story.

More than 20 years ago, I learned of an unusual miracle that had happened in a Norwegian hospital.

A Lutheran minister was called to the hospital to administer the sacrament of Holy Communion to a dying man.

The funeral service had been planned and the casket prepared. Death was imminent. The gentleman's wife was faithfully sitting at the elderly man's side, waiting for "the end."

As the clergyman was giving the supplicant the "bread and wine," he felt a tickle in his throat. A strange feeling of unsuppressed joy was bubbling up and in this most serious of moments, he had the greatest desire to laugh.

He realized it was totally out of place to do so, but he could not help himself. The preacher finally burst out laughing and the dying man's startled wife exclaimed: "Pastor!"

The nurse rushed into the room as the minister doubled over with unrestrained laughter. She asked: "Have you lost your mind, reverend?"

Just as more nurses and doctors came pouring into the room, the dying man began to smile. A tickle was coming to his throat and in a few moments he had joined the pastor in laughing. Soon he was laughing so hard that he was rocking back and forth in bed. Then he rolled on to the floor, perfectly well.

The "spirit of laughter" gripped the nurses and doctors and within a few moments, the death room was transferred into a place of jubilation and rejoicing.

What had happened?

The Holy Spirit had manifested Himself in a seemingly routine pastoral duty — administering the elements of the Lord's Table to a dying man — and brought healing and life.

A Vancouver billboard currently carries this message: "Laughter is a tranquillizer without the side effects."

I agree.

# SOLBREKKEN

Religion



## U.S. faces awakening

**T**he U.S. Senate's refusal of alleged boozier and womanizer John Tower as defence minister was a good thing.

President George Bush should have known better. Nominating Tower was naive, knowing his record. And stubbornly defending him — when the writing was on the wall — shows he lacks discernment.

The Republicans who are supposedly "a cut above" their liberal opponents, on moral issues, miscued badly.

Americans want moral leadership and to their credit, the Democrat-controlled Senate, responded.

Is this a sign that the U.S. is about to experience a spiritual awakening?

I believe so. History proves that moral trends usually precede religious awakenings and a study of America's revival cycles indicates that one is due.

Americans — reared on gospel preaching — have a deep faith in God. And even as western Europeans and Canadians are showing a marked disinterest in the church, they are as committed as ever.

To understand this phenomenon, one must know the huge part religion played in the birth and evolving of that nation. Their pledge of allegiance reads, "One nation under God."

President Calvin Coolidge stated: "America was born in a revival of religion." And Franklin Jameson wrote: "Of all the means of evaluating American character, religious history is the most complete."

The United States — especially the 13 colonies of New England — actually started as a group of churches: The Puritans in Massachusetts Bay, the Roman Catholics in Maryland and the Anglicans in Virginia. Declared the Puritans: "We shall be as a city upon a hill, the eyes of all people are upon us. We are entered into covenant with Him for this work."

The "First Great Awakening" began in 1719 with the preaching of Theodore J. Frelinghuysen in New Jersey. Jeremy Rifkin graphically summarizes his fiery style, in "The Emerging Order."

"The reason why congregations have been so dead is because dead men preach to them," thundered the Reform Church preacher, newly arrived from Holland.

Yale graduate Jonathon Edwards, a dynamic evangelist, joined the revival in 1737 and pushed the movement forward.

In "The Church in History," Kuipers writes: "With great vividness the tall, slender, grave young minister pictured the wrath of God, from which he urged sinners to flee. Strong men fell as though shot and women became hysterical."

Commenting on a sermon delivered by Dr. Edwards —

July, 1741 in Connecticut — the historian says: "His subject was 'Sinners in the Hands of An Angry God.' He had to stop and request silence that he might be heard, for there was such loud weeping."

In 1739, the fires of evangelism were fuelled by the arrival of England's George Whitefield, a Wesleyan Methodist.

Whitefield "introduced the second stage of continental revival. College exercises had to be suspended while the students had prayer meetings," says the *Oxford History of the American People*. "Whitefield made violent gestures, danced about the pulpit, roared and ranted, to the huge delight of those tired of gentlemanly highbrow ministers from Harvard and Yale."

It is the consensus of sociologist Robert Bellah as well as historian Jeremy Rifkin, that revivalism was uniting the 13 colonies, 30 years before the "spirit of '76."

And that radical social change was happening, and "the force of Christian evangelicism provided the initial liberating drive."

"The Second Great Awakening" was even more powerful and paved the way for the abolition of slavery by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863.

Preachers crusaded against slavery, declaring that Christ makes everyone free and equal.

As a backlash to secular humanism and modernism, about 25 Holiness and Pentecostal movements sprang up between 1880 and 1926.

The Charismatic Movement, which had infiltrated most Christian denominations, breathed new life into American revivalism.

By the late 1970s a new religious radio station was opening across the U.S. every seven days. And there are now three major Christian TV networks, with religious programs 24 hours a day.

Commenting on America's greatest strength, Paul Harvey said: "If there is one thing that keeps the ship of state from drifting on to the reef or shoals, it is that our country was rooted in a great faith in Almighty God."

"Rooted there. Every one of our great cornerstone documents with the specific exception of the constitution — which purposely confined itself to civil law — but each of those great documents first sought divine guidance."

"The further we get away from that, the more I worry about whether we are smart enough to do it on our own."

Taking the presidential oath Jan. 20, George Bush placed his hands on two Bibles — one belonging to his family and the other used 200 years ago to inaugurate George Washington, that nation's first president.

NBC's Peter Jennings, covering the Inauguration, interviewed Russia's well-known Gennady Gerasimov in Moscow, via satellite.

When asked what he thought was the highlight of the inauguration, Gerasimov said: "That Bible on which the oath was taken, the same as was used 200 years ago."

And the clergyman asked by President Bush to offer both the Invocation prayer and the Benediction, was Billy Graham.

# Max SOLBREKKEN Religion



## Soviets respond to preachers

Three thousand years ago, Israel's King David stated, "The fool has said in his heart, there is no God." The word "fool" in the original Hebrew writings is "idiot." And Vladimir Ilych Lenin made the statement, "Religion is the opiate of the people."

But, after 70 years of ruthless and repressive communist rule, the Soviet Union is beginning to explode with ethnic violence and strikes, as the people are agreeing with Secretary General Mikhail Gorbachev, that "it's time to change."

Gorbachev also apologized recently, for the terrible treatment given religious believers these many years.

Driving across this large country last week, I couldn't help but reflect on the brutal atrocities committed by Stalin and the communist system, against millions of helpless Ukrainians.

### Terrible pain inflicted

What pain, agony, death and destruction, that wicked man inflicted not only upon the proud farmers of the Ukraine, but on millions of Russians as well.

Only the devil himself, could have invented the sadistic, cruel system that Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin used to terrorize, enslave and liquidate so many people.

The "gloves are off" and we now can read — in the Soviet press — of the evils of Stalin, Brezhnev and other past leaders.

According to *Ogonyok*, an outspoken Soviet weekly, the present leadership is discrediting Stalin in order to change the centralized and inefficient economic system he created.

States Gorbachev, "To remain faithful to historical truth, we have to see... the abuses committed by him and those around him, for which our people paid a heavy price and which had grave consequences for the life of our society. This is a lesson for all generations."

But Radomir Bogdanov, deputy director of a Moscow think tank warned, "What is really at stake here is whether there will be guarantees that the past will not be repeated."

And last June, the official Soviet literary magazine *Oktyabr*, attacked Lenin, who until now has remained off-limits by critics.

Lenin — all victories of the party and the state are linked with the name of Lenin," stated Vasily Grossman in a posthumously published work. "But all cruelty committed in the country has become the tragic burden of Vladimir Ilych."

Grossman states that it was Lenin — not Stalin — who began the political terror and dictatorship, which Communist party doctrine has maintained since 1956.

Lenin, who led the Bolsheviks to power in the October, 1917 Russian Revolution, was elevated to near godlike status by the Kremlin following his death in 1924.

The feet of multitudes of devotees desiring to see his remains have worn a path into the cobblestones of Red Square, where the Soviet founder's preserved body lies in a shrine-like mausoleum.

Although it will take years to undo the devastation and plunder that godless communism has wreaked upon this country, there are signs everywhere that change has really begun.

It is reflected in the more relaxed attitude of Russian people to foreigners, the greater freedom to emigrate and the surge of vocal expression found in strikes and demonstrations.

It's also reflected in the unhindered preaching of the gospel and the spectacular growth among evangelicals.

For the last couple of weeks, our gospel team sang and preached to 5,000 at a river baptismal service, to 2,000 packed in and around a Pentecostal Church, a standing-room-only Baptist congregation of 1,000 and overflowing crowds in other churches.

### Great doers are believers

"Atheism has never founded empires, established principles or changed the world's heart. The great doers in history, have always been men of faith," wrote E.H. Chapin.

Thomas Carlyle stated, "I believe you will find in all histories that no nation that did not contemplate this wonderful universe with an awe-stricken and reverential belief that there was an unknown, omnipotent, all-wise and all-just being superintending all men in it, ever came to very much, nor did any man either who forgot it."

And a French historian wrote, "Let us not deceive ourselves, man is governed by nothing but his conception of the future. Any nation which en masse gives up all faith in what lies beyond the grave will become utterly degraded."

A number of years ago, Alexander Solzhenitsyn stated, "When freedom does come, the greatest evangelist of all time will come out of the Soviet Union." Russia's greatest commodity is the revival of evangelical Christianity, which is now beginning a gigantic sweep across the nation.

# Will gay issue split church?

"Be ye clean that carry the vessels of the Lord."

Prophet Moses

The Holy Bible was written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek. The New Testament word church means "called-out-ones" and is translated from the Greek word ecclesia.

What is the church called out of?

Jesus said to His disciples, "You are in the world, but not of the world. The world hates you, because it hated me. But be of good comfort for I have overcome the world."

St. Paul said, "Come ye out from among them and be ye separate, and touch not the unclean thing."

It is evident that both Jesus and Paul were referring to the world system, that is manipulated by Satan.

Which brings us to the recent United Church of Canada report recommending that homosexuals be ordained into the ministry.

"Toward a Christian Understanding of Sexual Orientation Lifestyles and Ministry," caps a four-year study commissioned by that church's General Council.

The report states, "Sexual orientation is not a barrier to participation in all aspects of the life and ministry of the church, including the order of the ministry."

It also condones sexual activities, both heterosexual and homosexual outside of marriage, as long as it is within "a committed relationship with the intention of permanence."

Rumors are rampant that if the United Church "goes homosexual," it will split that body down the middle.

How does Christ view this new development?

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With great sadness, I'm sure.

Derrick Sherwin Bailey's book, *Homosexuality and the Western Christian Tradition* broke with Biblical Christian teaching, and makes room for the sexual deviant within the church...

This book provided a stepping stone to the modern "homosexual theology." To do this, they twisted five key passages dealing with homosexuality. Let's look at the one in Genesis 19, that deals with Sodom and Gomorrah.

God destroyed these two cities because of their perversion. The word sodomy comes from this event.

Bailey contends that the men of Sodom only wanted to "get acquainted" with the strangers visiting Lot.

There are three things wrong with this interpretation:

1. Lot calls their request "wicked."

2. Lot offered them his virgin daughters to "know," if they would refrain from trying to rape his two male guests.

3. St. Jude lists "perversion" (strange flesh) as the reason God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

In St. Paul's epistle to the Romans, he devastates "homosexual theology." Bailey weakly states that Paul did not understand the modern distinction between "inverts (those inclined toward homosexuality) and perverts (those who are actually committing the sin)."

How ridiculous! *The Bible* says, "all scripture is inspired of God." And the Holy Spirit knows everything.

I am praying that in the August debate and vote on the subject, United Church clergy will rise up against this evil sin.

Max is Founder of Faith Cathedral

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**SOLBREKKEN**  
 Religion



# Nothing lasts forever

**E**aster is traditionally a time of new life, new purpose and new beginnings. It is that time of year when much of the world celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

An angel standing outside His empty tomb — on the first resurrection morning — asked: "Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here. He is risen, as He said."

The Book of Acts says: "He showed Himself alive after His passion, by many infallible proofs, being seen of them 40 days after His resurrection."

Easter is a time of worship, gladness and new hope. And so it should be, for Jesus is alive and grants forgiveness and healing to those hurting in body, soul and spirit.

Christ's resurrection coincides with the time of spring — in this hemisphere — and that seems only fitting.

My heart is a bit heavy, however, since this is my final column for *The Edmonton Sun*. I've had six good years — that's more than 300 columns — writing every Sunday and I've enjoyed doing them all.

David Bailey, Randy McDonald and other staff with whom I have worked have been very kind and supportive.

I have filed columns from every part of Canada, as well as Africa, India, Europe (East and West), South and Central America, West Indies, the U.S.A. and other areas.

In February 1984, I called Elio Agostini, then publisher of the paper.

"Mr. Agostini, this is Reverend Solbrekken," I said.

"Yes, Pastor," he answered.

"God spoke to me about you last night," I continued.

"What did He say?" Agostini asked respectfully.

"He told me to write a column for *The Sun*, in order to give your paper some respectability," I answered.

He seemed relieved and said: "Bring me some of your columns. I'm interested."

My first column carried the headline "Pre-Marriage Counselling is a must," and ran April 8, 1984.

But nothing in this world lasts forever. All of us — as well as the universe — is subject to the "second law of thermodynamics" — that of aging.

Last words are important and so I'd like to share some of my own, as well as those of Jesus and others.

Here are Jesus' seven last sayings from the cross:

1. "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." Even in agony and pain, He was mindful of those who had placed Him on the cross and forgave them.

2. "Woman, behold thy son." He realized that His mother would have no one to support her, so he gave her to John, thus breaking forever their natural tie. Then He turned to John saying, "behold thy mother."

3. "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." He freely forgave the repentant thief on the cross, accepting his "confession of faith."

4. "I thirst." There is nothing worst than craving water and not being able to receive any. On the cross the pain was so intense that often soldiers would give their victims vinegar mixed with a drug. Jesus refused to drink it.

5. "My God, My God. For this purpose I was spared." Most Bibles have translated erroneously. Because portions of Psalm 22 is messianic, they translated the words of Jesus thus: "My God, my God. Why hast thou forsaken me?" No one at the cross fully understood what He said, even though many knew Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic. Dr.

George Lamsa, an eminent scholar, points out that the words are from an Aramaic dialect, unique to the area near Nazareth, where Jesus was reared. He thanks God, His Father, for sparing His life, so He could fulfill redemption's plan.

6. "It is finished." Jesus had completed His work on earth, ended Satan's dominion over believers, fulfilled the prophetic scriptures concerning Messiah and paid for the salvation of humanity.

7. "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit." Jesus was entrusting His spirit to Almighty God as He closed His eyes in physical death for us. He spent three days in the region of the dead — parades — and rose again victorious.

Here are some last words uttered by infidels.

Thalyrand, the French statesman, cried "I am suffering the pangs of the damned."

Hobbs, the celebrated atheist, said: "I am taking a fearful leap into the dark."

"O Christ!" cried Voltaire. "O, Lord Jesus! I must die — abandoned by God and men." Just before his final breath he exclaimed, "Thou hast conquered, O Nazarene!"

"Stay with me," pleaded Thomas Paine, the founder of 'The Age of Reason.' "Stay with me, for God's sake. I cannot bear to be left alone."

I will continue my work on several theological text books which I am authoring. For more than 25 years, my life has been consumed with helping others through the gospel of Christ.

And if *The Edmonton Sun* feels the need for my input again — in the future — I will be happy to respond.

Have a blessed Easter!