

THE CLOSING SESSION

The Very Reverend Dr. Findlay G. Stewart was the guest speaker for the closing session of the Conference.

"Twenty-five years ago the four freedoms — freedom of speech — freedom of worship, freedom from fear and freedom from want were the goals upon which men set their sights," said Dr. Stewart, the well-known Presbyterian minister of St. Andrews Church, Kitchener. He is also well known for his televised church services on Sunday morning; and he is presently president of the Kitchener Waterloo Council of Churches.

Dr. Stewart continued, "We have opted out on most of these great areas for lack of responsibility. Freedom of expression means a clear cut private opinion based on a fair evaluation of all conditions and then coming to our own conclusion. We want to base our decisions on the latest editorial or television documentary without assuming the responsibility of thinking it through. So there is no real public opinion because personal opinions are not sufficiently sound.

"Fifty per cent of the people today do not want to worship anything that is greater than themselves. The freedom to worship was not the freedom to ignore worship — it was the freedom to choose our own form of worship.

"Freedom from fear — We are the most frightened of all generations. We are afraid of tomorrow and a dozen other areas. Freedom from fear is gone.

"Freedom from want? We are a world rich in resources and technology, yet never have so many people been hungry, naked and without hope. What are the new freedoms?

"Freedom to excel in your home, in your school, in your work, in your organizations — We all have a potential, freedom to work up to that potential. This is a new and exciting freedom available to everyone. It is a great dynamic that will affect the future of this country.

"The freedom to believe is what makes human beings different from plants or animals. Freedom to believe motivates people and what a person believes will determine what history writes about him.

"Then there is the freedom to be ahead of our times in ideals. Young people are to be envied since they will determine the goals of the future.

"Perhaps the collapse of the old freedoms may give us a new exciting freedom tomorrow," concluded Dr. Stewart.



The Very Reverend Finlay G. Stewart, D.D., speaker at the 1973 Officers' Conference.

"You can't legislate integrity," said Dr. Stewart speaking on the Freedom of Moral Judgment, "but we can ask is it right? I am not saying that there is a clear right and wrong to every issue, but if everyone asks this question there will be an atmosphere of integrity."

During the Conference Mrs. Noblitt congratulated 142 Branches for having achieved the 20% membership gain that was the goal proposed for the 1972-1973 year.

Mrs. Weber announced that the final count showed that 650 delegates registered for the 25th Officer's Conference.

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"The most gladsome thing in the world is that few of us fall very low; the saddest is that with such capabilities, we seldom rise high."

Sir James Barrie

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