



Retreat centre

Bezek Centre is a way of life

By Lorraine

It is not just a home, nor is it merely an edifice to God, rather, Bezek is a way of life, housed in a structure built on the faith of two people who enjoy spiritual knowledge that God is our Maker and that Jesus Christ is His son and He is Love. Bezek, then, is a place of love and understanding and its magnetism already has been felt by hundreds who have visited.

Following my instructions I turned my clunky old Chev down the Campbellville Road, turned right at the Brookville cenotaph and made a left hand turn at the little stone school house. "Drive straight down the road for about a mile," said my informant. However, according to my battered speedometer, it was only about half that distance and there it was, a rustic sign reading "Bezek", a biblical name straight out of the old Testament. I turned into the laneway, wondering where people could live in what to me, resembled an underground shelter of sorts with an outside frame obviously in the process of being erected.

As I shut off my motor, a nice little kid about 12 or 13 came shyly up to me and said to "Just walk in, mom and dad are downstairs." I pushed open the door which was suspended above the ground of the cellar level quarters and fleetingly looked at the "Come in" sign which hung on the outside portals. I called out before ascending the steep basement stairway and voices called back "We're down here."

Immediate friendship

And they were. You have to like Bernie and Dorla Warren on first meeting. They're outgoing, friendly, warm, and exude absolute hospitality and openness.

What seemed to me to be a rather odd entry with the outside door "come in" invitation, evolved into a wonderfully hospitable session of chatting over a cup of coffee. It wasn't just a one-sided interview either, because the Bernie Warrens are as casual about their own lives as they are interested in reaching out to help others. They make Jesus Christ seem like the friendly neighbor next door to whom you just have to call out and He will be there to help you.

To understand what Bezek is all about, it is first of all, important to know how it all began. It would seem that Bernie and Dorla never had been two absolutely ordinary individuals. They had been a couple, one of whom served in the United Church ministry, with both sharing an inner conviction that the shackles of the orthodox church as confined within a building, was not enough. They felt that there had to be something more far reaching and satisfying that would envelope people from all walks of life.

Turn to God

Together this had been their dream and it was not until they were faced with terrible spiritual turmoil in their own lives that, in

turning to God they were inspired and, in putting aside the comforts of a gratifying ministerial post with all its security and position, delved into a campaign to build the divine ministry of Bezek.

To talk to Bernie and Dorla, one has the impression of casual simplicity which is often a reflection of a life of ease without problems. But it is because they have had difficulties and the fortitude to accept, understand, and roll with their punches that they have survived to become masters of the destiny which they themselves began.

Biblical name

The couple who have three children, Cindy 16, Stephen 14, and Danny 12, had served in the ministry for 15 years before embarking on their vision.

Even the name Bezek (pronounced bee-zack) was inspired during a session of group prayer and, in investigating in a Bible Concordance, was found in Samuel, Chapter II, verse 9. It was the story of King Saul who, in the midst of crisis promised the children of Israel refreshing deliverance in battle, renewal of the Kingdom, and rejoicing, if they would gather at Bezek and move out from there.

Recognizing the import of the name and how it applied to their ambitions, the name stuck and the Warrens, in their own words, "Know that the promises are still good."

Started on faith

To date Bezek is growing strong. Leaving their Toronto pastorate and practically cutting all ties, the Warrens with loans from outside sources, and the help of a handful of friends, literally started up their new establishment on absolute faith. On 50 acres of field and bush which offers a place to stretch and breathe, Bezek is Christian hospitality in a natural

surrounding. It is a retreat to which, since its 1970 beginning, many people of all ages from 5 to 90 have visited regularly; sharing, learning, working, playing and praying together in spiritual fellowship, thus enjoying fulfillment in the true meaning of Christianity.

Since May 9, 1970 when over 100 people from everywhere dug, laid cement blocks, matted flooring, installed plumbing, cooked meals, and worked constructively together, generous contri-

butions reaching approximately \$11,000 have been made available for materials and special things that volunteers couldn't accomplish such as well-drilling, power line installations, and excavations, etc. It has been an uphill survival ever since Bezek began and the Warrens can tell stories of 20 workers with no money for even coffee when, out of the blue, someone would arrive with a pound of coffee, milk and

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Santa has many different names

He's Santa Claus in America but he has many different names around the world. He is called "Father Frost" in Russia. Children call him "Kris Kringle" in Germany. "Nice Old Father" is what the Chinese children call Santa Claus and in Norway children expect gifts from an elf called "Jul Tonten." "Pere Noel" is who the French youngsters receive presents from and in Holland the name is "Sinterklaas." The world has many more "Santans", but whatever his name, wherever he exists, he brings happiness to children.



Howdy,
and
Merry
Christmas

We're sending mighty big Christmas wishes your way, with a hearty "Thank you" for your loyal support.

Don, Roy and Charlie
LAKEVIEW CENTRE

GREETINGS
Here's wishing you the fulfillment of all your dreams for Christmas.

MANAGEMENT AND STAFF
THE BANK OF MONTREAL

A Prayer for Peace and Hope

With you, we pray for hope and peace, everywhere.
To you, our heartfelt greetings.

Management and Staff
Custom Cleaners

Christmas Greetings

Reflections of Christmas fill the air with Santa, children, gifts and smiles. Hope they're all part of your holiday.

Acton Home Furnishings



REV. BERNIE WARREN



Greetings

Out of our yesterdays come the Yuletide traditions of happy greetings and cordial hospitality. In this spirit, we extend to all our good friends, a wonderfully warm and truly old-fashioned "Merry Christmas!"

From
The Management & Staff
at
The Acton Free Press

Along time ago the first Adoration was in a manger. Now, we add our voice to the joy of the world... to all men, and especially you, our heartfelt wish for happiness on this Noel.

F. L. WRIGHT