

"True meaning" of Christmas

Perhaps the years of "Jingle Bell Rock" and "Frosty the Snowman" plus the tinsel, lights and artificial snow have hidden the true meaning of the holiday beneath the shimmering glitter that has now come to mean Christmas for so many.

Crowded stores, last minute bargain hunting and endless mailing lists all help in obscuring the true meaning of Christmas.

Rev. Walter Ridley, Huttonville-Norval United Church. It is good to celebrate the birth of Jesus, although not necessarily in the way we do. Christmas has become too commercialized with too many excesses in spending eating and drinking.

Something is really wrong when the day becomes a nightmare of drinking and fights, or when we are paying in July for the presents of last Christmas. Nevertheless it would in no way, throw it out. Rather we should put more effort into correcting the problems.

Festive occasions are an important part of living and even some of the non-religious or semi-religious aspects of Christmas are good. Sending cards, family reunions, children's concerts, bright lights and gay music add to the joy of living during an obtrusive, bleak and cold time of the year.

The Biblical records if examined in a rational, scientific, historical perspective would make it impossible for a word for word interpretation.

We are poetic, feeling, emotional people who live, not only by reason, but also by faith. I therefore accept those accounts as told in the Bible and the profound faith of those

The Bible tells us: And there was in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, 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.

draw rebellious sinful humanity unto God through His sacrificial life and death. Christmas must centre around a personal Saviour, available to us all.

Christmas is a reminder of God's Eternal love in bringing God down to the needs of sinful man. It was love that gave the world a tiny babe who is God's Son. It was love that let Him die for you and me. It was love that raised Him to life, the living word. It was love that answers love and opens for us eternity.

This love is expressed in the inspired word of God which I accept.

The Christian faith can only be founded upon and centered around the miraculous birth and conception of the Saviour, who was God incarnate in human flesh.

The Bible declares "In Him dwelleth all the fullness of the God-head bodily."

REV. HAROLD PATZER, IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH. I believe in Christmas, but not in the external way; if it is not limited to this commercial sense of gifts, holidays, parties, but in the Biblical sense of the celebration and observance of the most important event for the world; the birth of Jesus Christ, the Saviour.

The Bible tells me the true story of the wondrous event of the Saviour coming to earth, according to God's plan.

Christmas is God fulfilling His promise of the Old Testament, given through the prophets, to send a Messiah or Saviour as promised in Genesis 3:15 "her seed"; through Abraham in Genesis 12:3 "in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" and in Isaiah 9:6 "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder and his name shall be Wonderful Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace."

Jesus came to redeem the people of the world. We are sinners, unrighteous before God since the disobedience of our first parents and are under His eternal condemnation for sin. God promises eternal life for all those who believe in Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

That is why Christmas has joy and gladness. The angels sang "Glory to God in the highest," for his gift of Jesus, our hearts respond this way at Christmas and always.

FATHER O. DEVENT, HOLY CROSS CHURCH. The story of the birth of the Saviour has many elements that may not necessarily be historical. The important consideration is what the author was trying to portray in his writings.

The birth as recorded in the Bible is mainly to show the important significance of the Saviour as pertaining to the information as told in the Old Testament.

The account could be a theological reflection of the old testament that specifies the conditions of the birth of the Saviour.

Jesus often spoke in parables as a means of reaching his people with his message. Since much of the writing of that time were of the parable style then possibly the Nativity story could be.

Christmas is a remembrance of the birth of Christ and God's unbelievable love. Time is unimportant. He is our redeemer.

Jesus became one of us in everything but sin because mankind needs redemption. We are all children of God and Christ is the head of mankind.

REV. RICHARD RUGGLE, GLEN WILLIAMS AND NORVAL ANGLICAN CHURCH. Christmas is God sharing in human life, both the good and

And this shall be a sign to you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly hosts praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men."

The Herald, looking for a little better understanding of what Christmas should be or could be, asked ministers of various churches in the local Huttonville area what their interpretations of this special season are. This is the first of two parts, which will be concluded next week.

person of Jesus Christ. Scripture, I believe bears witness to that fact, in a very authentic way, and like a child, I must submit myself to that account.

I believe that the Incarnation (the word becoming flesh) took place as the Gospel writer records it. That is, the manger scene, the appearance of the Magi and so on.

The synoptic problem, namely that each writer records events in such a way that they seemingly contradict each other, still reflects the message of the writer. That Christ was born to deliver His people from the bondage of sin.

The Christmas story clearly conveys that message, which forms the basis of believing in



REV. RIDLEY



REV. RUGGLE



REV. POSTMAN



FATHER DEVENT



REV. FRIESEN



REV. PATZER

Legion Lines

Jimmy Murphy presents cheque

By Roma Timpon
Our Saturday evening got us busy with the Legion Pic and giving us a few selectio and they were greeted most enthusiastically. And why not, they're the greatest. They also played during the intermission and left the hall with echoes of 'more, more' ringing in their ears.

Our guest of honor was Jimmy Murphy who came up from Milton Manor to spend this most important evening with us. Mrs. Murphy was also with us. Other guests were Berie Greenfield, our Zone Commander and Mrs. Greenfield, of Mississauga Legion No. 562 Joe Ashton, Deputy Zone Commander and Mrs. Ashton of Brampton Legion No. 15.

On the back of our match packages are printed the words...IF A VETERAN, WHY NOT A LEGIONNAIRE. A good number of veterans must have thought that made pretty good sense as we had 13 candidates initiated into our Legion membership. Due to the illness of several, having to work or being out of town we would have had many more initiated. However we were pleased to accept into Branch No. 120 the following: Bob Rolph, Ray Forsyth, Harold Fobert, Ray Wright, Dave Trefrey, Frank Langley, Joseph Cox, Michael Michalski, Dave Dixon, Steve Hillier, Robert Kall Meyer, Gord Johnson, David Frazer.

The Initiation Team, under the sharp eye and crisp order of Sergeant At-Arms Harry

Bottoms did an exceptionally fine job. Many people commented on the ceremony. We are very happy that we have this team in our Branch. They have been invited to other Branches in our Zone to participate for their new members. Harry Savings, Pres. of the Initiation Team did his usual outstanding job of reading the initiation ritual to the candidates and, in return, listening to them take their oath, 'loyalty to our Sovereign and Country, and obedience to our general bylaws.' Jim Collier acted the purposes and objects of the Legion.

President Norm Ward, Membership Chairman Jack Timpon gave out the Legion badge and bylaw book to each new member as they were welcomed personally into our Branch. It is hoped that all new members and their wives will make full use of our facilities and join in on all activities.

The main purpose of bringing Jimmy Murphy to the Legion on Saturday was to have him take part in the burning of the mortgage. Jimmy said he was happy to be here with all his friends and that it was a great pleasure to burn this mortgage, adding that this was the first that he has helped to burn in his 40 odd years in this Branch. Jimmy is Past President of our Legion.

Well, a good deal of credit must go to those hard working Imperials. When they say they are going to do something, they get busy and do it. When the new lounge was being discussed they decided they wanted to do something for the lounge. They came up with the banquet which is seen from the entrance into our lounge and it is quite beautiful and most comfortable. On Saturday while Jimmy (who is also an Imperial) was up front and centre, he presented Branch President Norm Ward with a

cheque for \$2,600 for the banquet. President Wright Smith, Imperial Section said a suitably inscribed plaque will be situated over the banquet. The Imps have been looking after the transportation and well-being of Jimmy Murphy the past month in bringing him down to the Branch. Many thanks follow.

The annual competition for the Rifle Range trophy was presented to Floyd Schwartz and his men on Saturday. This is a competition between the Lorne Scots and the Police Department. Congratulations fellows. Other trophies presented were, the Fred Glimmer Trophy for Darts. Winners were Jim Randall and George Gaskill. The Sam Tennant Trophy went to crib winners, Harry Atkinson and Glen Waites. Ken De Rose and George Finlay were winners of the Dean Harley Trophy for euchre. Nice going men.

Peter Edge provided the music for the evening and many spot prizes were won. I saw quite a few doing the Gay Gordon and they looked to be having a pretty good time. A buffet was served towards the end of the evening that was the handy work of Harold Badham and his crew. Most enjoyable, Harold, but where did you get those HOT banana pickles? WOW!

The cutoff date for the New Years tickets is December 17. Then they go on sale to members' guests. These tickets are only \$20.00 complete with nothing to pay once you arrive in the hall. Other places are \$20.00 plus and \$30.00 plus. Some places are \$50.00 complete. Now you are getting an evening of dancing, merry making, hats, horns refreshments and a buffet plus being with your friends for \$20.00. How can you beat that?

Surely, with 500 members and 100 auxiliary members and only 80 tickets, we should be able to fill our hall with Legion members. Please sign for your ticket at the bar.

Well, how about those Auxiliary darters? They did it again. A week ago, they came first and last Saturday they came first again.

Ticket stubs and money to be in as soon as possible. The draw takes place this Thursday night after Santa leaves to go back to the North Pole. Can't be a winner if you haven't got a ticket in the drum. If you or your child cannot be at the Christmas party, please make some arrangements to pick up their gift by 6 p.m. Saturday. Anyone wishing to send Jimmy Murphy a Christmas card his address is Milton Manor Martin House, 185 Ontario St. S., Milton, Room 203. Others: Frank and Doris Hale, RR 1, Engleby, British Columbia; Helen Bauer, 49 Burns St., N.E., Medicine Hat, Alberta.



LEGION PRESIDENT, Norm Ward and Legion member Jimmy Murphy watch the mortgage go up in smoke. The mortgage for \$24,000 was originally taken out when Mr. Murphy was an active member of the Legion. It has finally been paid off, an event which was officially celebrated during Saturday night's initiation ceremonies at the Legion.



PAST GEORGETOWN Police Chief, Floyd Schwartz, accepts one of the trophies presented by the Legion for marksmanship

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