

UC moderator's 'Christian allies'

By MARK CLAIRMONT
Herald Staff Writer
Dr. Robert McClure, a former moderator of the United Church of Canada, says, "Canadians no longer feel urged to give to the Lord. They're too practical."

Speaking to a group of delegates at the annual meeting of the Dufferin-Peel Presbyterian United Church Women Wednesday, the retired surgeon and missionary said the "invisible army of Christian sister churches in every country around the world shouldn't have to be self-supporting," because

they can't be. He told the more than 400 women present that the Christians operating "underground" to spread the word in the distant corners of the globe are "the kind of Christian allies we need in the 80's." The dynamic, little 79-year-old, retired since 1967, the year before he became moderator for the United Church, says since he left that position after 2 1/2 years, "nobody seems to want an ex-moderator." But, that's okay with him. He says he has a hang-up about retirement and thinks that once you

quit active work you shouldn't make money, "just spend it." Today, he involves himself in the projects he has been connected with over the years. "I organize aid to different countries. Just last week, we sent out \$13,000 worth of radium to Zaire, the former Belgian Congo, for the first women's cancer clinic. The ironic part about it is that that's (Zaire) where the radium comes from." "However, when the radium got to its destination, it disappeared," said Dr. McClure. "Someone must have thought it was gold it was so heavy. So just the other day we sent another plane load."

Dr. McClure describes himself as an optimist, "a glacial optimist," he says. "I don't think a Christian can be a pessimist." He told the women he wasn't there to inspire them because "if you weren't inspired you wouldn't be here today." He says the whole new idea of Christian dominance means you "have to give it flavor."

The son of a Canadian medical missionary in China, Dr. McClure came to the University of Toronto to study and graduated in 1922. He then spent many years on mainland China as a surgeon and missionary until 1949 when the Communists expelled him. After a year and a half back here, he spent 4 1/2 years working along the Gaza strip for the Arabs on a United Nations missionary assignment. He then went to India for 13 years before retiring in 1967.

Speaking of his experiences abroad, McClure said the purpose of missionaries is "to spread the flavor and not Western culture." He said it is "a lot of junk" when people say missionaries ruin the culture of a country when they move in.



THEY'VE GOT THE ANSWERS

Ann Hunt (left) and Carol Snow demonstrated the phenomenon of condensation as it applies to atmospheric precipitation during Centennial Middle School's day-long science fair last week. Numerous student projects informed and entertained visitors with a variety of fascinating exhibits and experiments.



Breaking something of a "popularity barrier" at Centennial School in Georgetown last week were students James Erskine (left) and Andrew Berry, who captured attention at the school's science fair with their demonstration of the how's and why's of sound barriers and, yes, how to break them.

Georgetown's Centennial Middle School saw 120 students from Grades 6, 7 and 8 involved all day and all evening last Tuesday with exhibits in life science, physical science and chemistry.

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Jehovahs meeting for convention

"Please God By Our Obedience" will be the theme of the next circuit convention of Jehovah's Witnesses, March 15 and 16 at their assembly hall on Highway 7 in Norval. The two-day meeting will stress the importance of reflecting a co-operative spirit in daily living. Saturday's session will include a 60-minute Bible discussion on the importance of obedience within the family circle. Sunday's session will feature the discourse, "To Whom Does The Obedience Of The People Belong?" The 2,000-seat convention centre is open to the public. Seats are free. No collections are taken. Further information regarding times and transportation to the site may be obtained by calling 877-4794 at 6 p.m.

CLERGY COMMENT 'Slow me down, Lord'

By the Rev. David Sinclair, St. John, Stewarttown, and St. Stephen, Hornby
It has been said of our generation that we will never leave footprints in the sands of time: only tire tracks. Such addiction to the wheel may arise, not from laziness, but from trying to cope with the pace of modern life, which has become a headlong rush to who knows where. We do much, but see little and savor less: always passing, rarely meeting, striving so hard to get somewhere we have no time to understand where we are. In the Bible, the usual word for progress through life is "walk." For most ancient peoples that was the only way to get about. Thus men of the Old Testament were instructed to walk in God's way, and according to His law. Followers of Jesus were encouraged to walk as He walked, in honesty, in wisdom, in love, by faith, in the Spirit, and worth of the Lord. Can we really imagine Jesus, or a prophet, or an apostle speaking in our day and telling us to ride, or drive, in these classic-virtuous ways? To be certain we must drive according to the law, but somehow the Highway Traffic Act lacks the grandeur and impact of the eternal law of God. There is a prayer that begins "Slow me down, Lord..." An excellent thought - why not try it? Seize a space of time today, and go for a walk. Walk a path you normally drive. Notice how much there is to see: the beauty of the earth, the intricacies of light and shadow on roads and trees and buildings great and small. Speak to the people you meet: a cheerful "Good morning" will brighten the day for both speaker and hearer. And think: think of the source of all beauty, of the creator of all men, and savor the goodness of it all. You might even find yourself praying: thanking God for your life, your surroundings, your family, your friends and your neighbors: and by such thanks your life and theirs will be enriched and enlarged. Egress on the road to God, which is our true goal, is never accomplished at a rush. Walk, go slow, see, meet, talk, think and pray - and as the pace of life slows we can again appreciate its glory. The cultivation of inner quiet, seeking knowledge of life's smaller joys, prevents being overwhelmed by the hurry and hustle of our world. Take time to walk: and walk with God.

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