



BLISTERING SPEECH?

Premier Davis' "blistering" speech Wednesday before breakfasting Conservatives at the North Halton Golf and Country Club not only singled federal and provincial Liberals, but apparently managed to peel the PC posters off the wall behind him as well. Liberals in this election have complained about not being able to "pin" down the PC's on the concrete issues facing the province.

Nobody's perfect: - but remember the wages of sin

By Dr. John M. Drickamer
Immanuel Lutheran Church
Nobody's perfect. How often have you heard that said?

It's usually said with an attitude of resignation: "Oh, well, nobody's perfect."

People are willing to admit to a lot of mistakes: "After all, I'm only human." This is an old idea, for the ancient Roman philosopher Seneca said, "To err is human."

People admit mistakes of many kinds. Do they admit mistakes in their relationship to God? Yes, most people are willing to admit that they have not been perfect in their relationship to God. At least, they're willing to admit to a few small sins: "Oh, I haven't been the best person, but I'm not the worst either. And anyway, God is loving and forgiving, isn't He?"

The problem is that the attitude doesn't take God's Law seriously. The Ten Commandments are very strict, and they were interpreted very strictly by Jesus in His Sermon on the Mount (see Matthew 5). It's not as if God doesn't care that people sin. He has forbidden sin. And we are all sinners — with not just a few small sins but with quite a few pretty

serious sins. Is there no hope?

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, St. Paul put the situation very precisely and concisely: "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23).

God loves sinners, but He does not just forgive them for no reason at all. Sin must be punished. Christ has given God the only possible reason to forgive us our sins. He suffered the punishment for our sins in our place. Jesus Christ, Who is true God as well as true Man, never sinned. But He became guilty with all the sins of all of us. He suffered the punishment for them — for us! — when He suffered and died on the cross. He satisfied God's anger against our sins. He established peace with God.

The forgiveness of sins was earned on the cross for you. The forgiveness of sins is there, ready to be believed in. You will not care about it if you do not know how serious a problem sin is. God's Law tells you that it is serious. But the Good News of the forgiveness of sins for Christ's sake, that is God's means to bring you to faith in the forgiveness of sins. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

CLERGY COMMENT

Friday at 8 pm in the above location for the next seven weeks. Personally, I feel that both parents should attend these films, since they cover many aspects of family life and the problems of raising children and keeping a marriage fruitful and exciting. Tonight: the strong-willed child. Don't miss it.

Charity begins at home? A recent release gives the salary of a "middle-income executive" of the United Church head office at \$32,000. Even some of the executives feel it is too much. "How can we face the poor as we endeavor to assist them," they say.

Lutheran Bishop James Crumley is head of the Lutheran Church in America. The Bishop recently indicated the Church will hold "intercommunion" with the Roman Catholic church. Some congregations are already practicing this form of communion, although unofficially. Martin Luther broke away from the Roman church due to many differences in belief. Are these now being swept away, or just overlooked as Christians endeavor to understand each other better?

A recent editorial by the Toronto Stars' religion writer shows the state of faith in the modern church. Tom Harper uses the Scriptures to make the statement that the Apostle Paul was an agnostic.

Even more appalling he states that Jesus Christ himself was also agnostic. The word means "unknowing", but the general definition and understanding today of the word agnostic is "one who believes in a supreme power (as opposed to a Supreme Being), and for want of a better name, calls it God."

The two come nowhere near agreeing, and a person that believes this way (Christ is an agnostic) can never while thinking this way, be called a Christian. The name Christian was given to the disciples or followers or Christ at Antioch. These followers were dedicated enough to give their very lives. All this for someone who did not even know if God was God? I find that very hard to believe.

"Sharing our Faith" was the theme of the 15th Annual Meeting of the Brampton Presbytery Feb. 4 at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Brampton.

The WMS Hymn "Faith in Action" was sung. Devotions were taken by Mrs. S. McClure of Norval WMS, reading from Hebrews Chapter 11 and followed by two poems written by Mrs. McClure based on "Faith".

Rev. John Duncan from the Board of Congregational Life spoke on the principles of Church Growth and how they relate to the Society. In order for Church Growth, you have to have a purpose, realistic goals, developed strategy, clear plans, shared decisions, commitment of people, which all are not beyond the capability or power of God. A question and answer period followed.

After a delicious lunch served by the Brampton WMS ladies, the annual reports were accepted and a report of the Nominating Committee was made.

Delegates to Synodical Annual Meeting at Georgetown April 28 and 29 for Brampton Presbytery are from Acton and Dixie Presbyterian Churches.

Rev. Graeme Duncan from St. Andrew's installed the new Officers and pronounced the Benediction.

1980 was a very rewarding year both spiritually and financially for Ballinafad United Church Women.

From their many catering functions, fall bazaar and quilting receipts, members were able to make many monetary contributions to worthwhile projects like the Fred Victor Mission, Halton Women's Place, the Contact Centre of Halton, Good Neighbor Service and the local Cub Group. There were also donations to Cedar Glen Conference Centre, the Church Treasury and the UCW's M. and S. allocation.

The UCW had many interesting speakers throughout the ten meetings held in 1980. Elaine Sales spoke and showed slides on Australia. Reverend Stiles talked on the "Healing Ministry". Mr. Dorian of the department of citizenship and immigration showed a film and spoke on his work.

Mrs. Stevenson and Mrs. McEneaney gave a presentation on Japan through readings and the film "The Currents Moving to be Christian in Japan." Members even dressed Japanese-style and sat down to a banquet of Japanese food.

Mrs. Balkind spoke on Women's Legal Rights and told us of the work of Halton's Women's Place. Norma Whitmer attended the November meeting.

Two meetings were given on the topics of Christian Education and Stewardship with the help of cassette and reading presentations followed by open forum discussion reminding everyone of their responsibilities as a church group in these areas.

Members joined with the Women's Institute on a bus trip to Toronto and Oshawa and helped with the community's program on Canada Day by having a lunch booth. They also supported the Youth Group in their activities.

The Christmas meeting was an evening of fellowship with a Pot Luck Supper and an exchange of gifts among Sunshine Sisters. This was followed by an inspirational program of devotion, carol singing, a movie and skills.

Another, exciting, challenging, supportive and inspiring year!

The UCW meets every third Tuesday of the month at Ballinafad United Church at 8:30 p.m., and extends a warm welcome to anyone to attend.

All blood donated in Canada is used for the treatment of Canadians. Whether you're a hemophiliac, a victim of shock, burn or accident, or someone undergoing an operation, the Red Cross works hard to ensure that the blood or blood products you may need will be available.

You are invited to see and hear America's leading Christian authority on the family...

James C. Dobson, Ph.D.

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY FILM SERIES

- Feb. 20 Film 1: The Strong-Willed Child
- Feb. 27 Film 2: Shaping the Will Without Breaking the Spirit
- Mar. 6 Film 3: Christian Fathering
- Mar. 20 Film 4: Preparing for Adolescence: The Origins of Self-Doubt
- Mar. 27 Film 5: Preparing for Adolescence: Peer Pressure and Sexuality
- Apr. 3 Film 6: What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew About Women: The Lonely Housewife
- Apr. 10 Film 7: What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew About Women: Money, Sex, & Children

TIME: 8:00 p.m.

PLACE: Georgetown Christian Reformed Church

FREE ADMISSION

Sponsored by Georgetown & District Christian School

IN THE CHURCHES

Baptists urge more control over gambling

The Baptist Federation of Canada, the United Church and the Salvation Army have joined to implore the government to investigate the current state of lotteries, casinos and off-track betting in Canada, which their brief states are harmful to persons, communities and nations.

It will be interesting to see what the government will do about it. I think it goes without saying, though, that they will probably reply gently and then ignore it.

The Halton Hills Christian Women's Fellowship meeting last Tuesday saw well over 100 women in attendance. The speaker, music and features were very well received, but that's old news. The exciting part is they are held each month. March 17 at 1:15 to 3:15 p.m. is the next date to reserve. Speaker is Nancy Byles, a single parent from Elmira. The feature will be Laura Stinson on "Hidden Art in the Home" and the secrets of making housework simple. Of course, there's the ever-present music at these fellowship meetings; next month-Elizabeth Stieritt. Reserve at 877-4158.

A note of interest, the Organ Console in Holy Cross Church has been moved to the lower level. This should facilitate the choir and enable them to participate to a greater degree in the service. In a recent bulletin of Holy Cross were found these words: "Father give us the power to keep your law. Help us to see the wisdom that dwells with you and is poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Then we will be willing and able to keep the ideal JESUS places before us."

May I add "AMEN" to that.

Today (Friday) at The Christian Reformed Church on Trafalgar Road, a challenging film series by James Dobson, Ph.D. - Focus on the Family. This series will be run every

Reminder: chimneys often need cleaning

How often should your chimney be cleaned out? It all depends on the type of fuel you are burning, reports Inspector Harold Penson of Milton Fire Department, who is the 1981 Chairman of Halton Region Fire Prevention Committee.

Recent telephone solicitations of Halton residents by chimney cleaning firms prompted the Fire Prevention Committee to issue a statement on chimney cleaning. Insp. Penson said some solicitors are making statements that fire protection agencies are recommending all gas and oil fired chimneys need cleaning.

All oil fired furnaces should be cleaned and adjusted yearly, he added, and at this time you should ask the service man to check the chimney. Gas fired furnaces do not require annual cleaning, but should be checked by a qualified service man every three years, he added.

Check (and change, if necessary) the filters in a forced air system once monthly during the heating season, he said.

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9:45 a.m. Family Bible School
11 a.m. & 8:30 p.m. Biblical Preaching, Praise and Fellowship
Weekly
Boys & Girls Clubs, Youth Activities, Ladies Coffee Hour, Recreation & Prayer Meeting
Monthly
Jolly Seniors—Missions Fellowship
Visitors Always Welcome
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WATCH FOR IT IN THE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25th EDITION OF the HERALD Home Newspaper of Halton Hills