

Baha'is have no clergy

Faith's Montreal rally had 1500 delegates

Herald Special
For the first time in the history of mankind, a revealed religion functions without a clergy. This religion is the Baha'i Faith, the adult members of which are asked each year at a convention to elect their national leaders from among their membership. The fact that these leaders

can be women as well as men is an indication of the profoundly innovative nature of the teachings of Baha'u'llah, the Founder of the Baha'i Faith. This year, the national convention of the Baha'is of Canada took place at Montreal's Windsor Hotel April 22 to 26, and gathered to-

her approximately 1,500 Baha'is from every corner of the country. On this occasion, 171 delegates, elected at regional conventions, chose the nine members of their new National Spiritual Assembly.

An innovative aspect of this election is the absence of nomination, thereby avoiding power seeking and partnership. In addition, all adult Baha'is in Canada are eligible for election to the National Spiritual Assembly. This fact is an illustration of one of the fundamental principles of the Baha'i Faith, the equality of rights for men and women.

"Hence the new age will be an age less masculine and more permeated with feminine ideals or, to speak more exactly, will be an age in which the masculine and feminine elements of civilization will be more properly balanced."

These profound words were pronounced at the beginning of the century by 'Abdu'l-Baha, one of the Central Figures of the Baha'i Faith.

As to the participation of Baha'i women as delegates, it should be mentioned that out of 171 delegates, 60 were women.

Four Baha'is of Halton Hills were present: Patsy Irving and daughter Shaelyn, Isabelle Weaver and Lynda Larsen.



IN THE CHURCHES

By Bob Ollivier

Christian education alive and well

Georgetown District Christian School has been operating for 16 years and is always growing. Besides the students' academic progress, the school is concerned with the character, social attitudes and the development of moral values within a Christian perspective.

Approximately 175 students are enrolled, with eight full-time and two part-time teachers. The school does not instruct the child in the faith of any one particular church, but has children from a variety of denominational backgrounds.

Located opposite the Halton Hills municipal offices, the Georgetown District Christian School has buses available to provide transportation to and from the school. The curriculum meets the standards set by the Ontario education ministry, with fully qualified staff members committed to the cause of Christian-based education. The principal, George Petrusma, is always willing to answer questions on the school and may be contacted at any time.

As can be seen, Christian education is just as

important as secular, and is also emphasized during Education Week in Ontario.

Halton Gospel Temple hosted the choir from Stewarttown school last Sunday, and even though only two-thirds of the choir members made it, they were excellent. Mrs. Ortolan, the choir director, put them through two numbers interspersed with a puppet show.

The characters, J.P. (Just Plain) Burford and his partner, Bowzer, introduced Buffy, Bosley and a host of other characters to bring an entertaining message. Congratulations to the Stewarttown School Choir for a performance well-done.

The Dobson series of family films have been showing at the Halton Gospel Temple. The last two are set for Wednesday (May 13) at 7:30 and 8:15 p.m. If you missed them, now's your chance.

The "Rainbow Express" comes into the "station" at St. Andrew's United Church May 8 and 9 at 8 p.m. each night. Described as a "serious fun musical" about Noah, it is well worth taking in. There will be an admission charge of only \$2. or \$1 for seniors and children.

A forum on Canada's constitution will be held at Maple Avenue Baptist Church hall tonight (Friday) at 8

p.m. There is no admission charge and lawyer Gwen Landolt will be speaking from her experience on this document of importance.

Mother's Day this Sunday, and some of the local churches are placing special emphasis for mothers. As of the writing of this column, I have information on only one. Maple Avenue Baptist Church is holding open session in Sunday School, where all ages will watch a "Gospel Magician". Every mother will be honored at the morning service, plus specials for the oldest mother present, the mother with the youngest baby and the mother with the largest family present in Sunday School.

Some Catholic theologians have suggested that infant baptism infringes on the freedom of choice of the child. This has been rejected by the Vatican.

Archaeologists in Israel have unearthed what they believe to be the palace of King David. The palace was built in the sixth century B.C., and many interesting finds tend to confirm the site as David's.

The Canadian Home Bible League is collecting used Bibles. If you have a Bible that you never use, or a new one that was a gift, and you are still using your old favorite (like me) then send them to P.O. Box 524, Station A, Weston, Ont. M9N 3N3, for world distribution.



CLERGY COMMENT

Helping — by doing the basics

By Rev. Jeff Davison, St. John's United Church Georgetown and Glen Williams

What can we do to help our suffering world? There are riots in London and bloodshed in Northern Ireland. Lebanon is torn apart by ten separate armies. There is guerrilla warfare in Latin America, Africa and southeast Asia.

Different groups of people seem to find it hard to live together in peace. Those of us who live in Canada are very lucky to be so far removed from these things but we should not be too smug for violence can erupt in our midst so easily.

As I meditated after Easter on the words of Jesus in John, chapter 21, to the disciple Peter, "Feed my sheep — Tend my sheep — Feed my lambs." I wondered how we could better care for people in our community and care for one another. Situations have turned violent in other areas of the world, in part at least, because people have not cared for others as they should. Governments, councils, other religions and even the church have, at times, been negligent in considering people as people instead of pawns to be manipulated.

A true pastor or church member, or just a good human being, is a person who cares for people and risks his life and faith to help them. As the Anglo-Catholic John Henry Newman said, "I am committed to people forever." Are you a person who is committed to people and encourages and stimulates them? In this regard, I like that portion of the Bayeux Tapestry which shows William the Conqueror at the battle of Hastings. William marches behind his soldiers and is prodding the last man in the bottom with the point of his sword. Underneath is the caption, "William comforts his soldiers."

Shepherding and caring for people often involves this kind of comfort, but another picture which I also like is that of the person who helps ordinary people to do extraordinary things for God. The person who does this is truly tending God's people. It is almost an extraordinary thing to be living in harmony with those around us but the way to achieve it is to care for the people around you at home, in your community and in the world.

MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
PASTOR EDWIN H. MITCHELL 877-6685; 877-0320
Sunday, May 10, 1981
Every Sunday 9:45 a.m. Family Bible School 11 a.m. & 6:30 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
25 Years and Growing

Something New in Halton Hills...
BARGAIN BAZAAR
See Next Week's Herald for further details

WE'RE OPEN ON Mother's Day
Gift Ideas for Mom....
FEMME FIT JEANS \$22.49
LADIES' SHIRTS \$19.69
— OPEN —
Mother's Day, Sun., May 10th - 12:00-4:30 p.m.
Tuesday to Saturday 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

DRIVE A LITTLE — SAVE A LOT
THE OLD **GLEN MILL**
OPEN SUNDAY 12 noon - 4:30 pm
586 MAIN ST. GLEN WILLIAMS 877-1351

HAPPY & BLESSED MOTHER'S DAY HALTON GOSPEL TEMPLE
1 Mile West of Georgetown on Hwy. 7
PASTOR ANGUS J. NICHOLSON
SUNDAY, MAY 10th, /81
9:45 — Christian Education Hour
11:00 — Morning Worship

EVERY MOTHER PRESENT RECEIVES SPECIAL HONOUR ALSO YOUNGEST MOTHER OLDEST MOTHER MOTHER WITH THE MOST CHILDREN (Present)

SPECIAL GUESTS
— REV. TOM WILSON (A.M. & P.M.)
"Uncle Tom of Famous Scarborough Camp — England"

SPECIAL MUSIC
— HUDSON SISTERS (TORONTO)

A FRIENDLY CHURCH COME!
GOD LOVES YOU BRING YOUR MOTHER

THREE IN ONE SALE! CONTINUES AT BROWN'S FURNITURE WAREHOUSE LTD.

May Sale on everything in stock!

— featuring —
SERTA SKLAR KING KOIL
DEILCRAFT STRATHROY
KRUG DAVELUYVILLE
UPPER CANADA

FINAL CLEAR-OUT of remaining appliances.
Ranges, Air Conditioners, Dryers, Spin Washers.
Hurry! Only a few left!

DINING ROOMS
This area's largest selection of solid wood furniture at **UNBEATABLE SAVINGS!**

Introducing: our new line of Sklar furniture

KITCHEN SUITES
5 & 7 piece suites m.s.l.p. \$349.00
Your Choice **\$249.00** ea.
SAVE \$100.00

Sklar
A long tradition of the highest quality in furniture making. Hand-crafted, hardwood frames, a wide selection of fashionable fabrics, flawless upholstery. And the strictest possible quality control to ensure that each and every item of Sklar furniture meets our high standards. And yours.

Sklar WARRANTY

THIS SALE ONLY!
\$299.00
Similar Settings on 12' x 8 Queen Size

SPECIAL PURCHASE
Complete 6 piece suite includes triple dresser, mirror, chest, full cannibal bed and 2 night tables.
\$1299.00
FREE DELIVERY
OTHER BEDROOM SUITES From \$329.00

NO TAX
20% to 40% STORE-WIDE SAVINGS

FREE DELIVERY TERMS AVAILABLE

BROWN'S FURNITURE WAREHOUSE LTD.
334 Guelph St. 877-2828

CHARGEX VISA STORE HOURS
Monday-Wednesday 9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
Thursday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.
Saturdays 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.