

Thought, not price, that counts

We now have nine days to Christmas, and the commercial rage has not hit yet.

That, of course, is a good thing for some, and a financial disaster for others. It all depends on where you put your priorities. No, I don't have the answer to the employment situation in Canada and the U.S., yet I am sure the answer lies waiting for some perceptive person to spring on us.

That is the time to watch, to pray for God's guidance, as this could usher in the anti-Christ mentioned in the Scriptures.

The word of God describes many things that must come to pass before Christ returns to Earth for His own, and much has been said and written concerning these things. Suffice it to say, we must be on our



IN THE CHURCHES

By Bob Ollivier

guard, and be faithful in giving out the word of God and the way of salvation. That is the essence of the Christian church and the reason for our being, along with the joy of praising our God.

Crass commercialism must be set aside, and an alternative to the employment situation must be found other than in the purchase and expectation of expensive gifts at Christmas. I

have said it before, and I will say it again here, a token gift is sufficient. 'Nuf said.

The opportunity to listen to good music and choirs at this time of year is excellent. Churches interchange their choirs and special performances such as the "Messiah" are a rare pleasure. Everyone has been raving about the quality of the Georgetown

Choral Society's performance, and my only wish is that it had been performed on a Saturday as my own (as well as others) church commitments kept me from it. Possibly Mr. Wood will keep this in mind for next year?

Once again I feel that I must thank all those who co-operated in the preparation of the program list for the various churches in the area. The response from the public has been great and the effort worthwhile.

It is hoped that the list was cut out and retained for the season, and please add the following:

Acton Baptist, Rev. Jean Stairs, Dec. 20 at 5 p.m. Christmas family night, Pot Luck supper and Christmas program including drama,

music with choir along with stories and a visit from Santa. Dec. 22 at 7 p.m. Youth Group will be carolling to senior citizens and shut-ins followed by refreshments. Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. Christmas eve service and communion. Special activities for children at that time.

Georgetown Christian Reformed Church, Rev. DeJong, Dec. 24, 8 p.m. candlelight Christmas celebration, Dec. 25, 10 a.m. Christmas day service with Sunday school classes participating.

If your church is holding services or special activities for New Year's Eve, would you please call and leave the itinerary with The Herald. Some I have already, and these will be listed in time for arranging to take part.

Books for Christmas, part of our regular book review series. End time news may be better understood by reading "Now You Can Understand the Book of Revelation". This is a long title for a relatively short book, but packed in its pages is a wealth of information. Jim McKeaver has obviously studied his material and knows the source. "Christians Will Go Through the Tribulation" by the same author will give another point on the book of revelation, and this is possibly a different view than the one you hold. These two books are of the "post trib" theory and must be understood as such, yet it is always good to read other ideas. Thanks to the Christian book room in Georgetown for the opportunity to review these books.



GUITARS AND GOSPEL SUNDAY

As the number of musical devices around them indicates, the Phillips family from Burlington includes some talented multi-instrumentalists. They'll entertain area residents this Sunday at the Evangelical Pentecostal Tabernacle at 33 Church Hill Road North in Acton. It's part of a special Christmas musical program the church is presenting starting at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

(Photo submitted)

Dutch church

Continued from page A7
"We attend each others' major meetings and there is lots of co-operation between us now."

Closely connected with the Christian District School just next door, the church emphasizes the education of young people and families, said the pastor.

Although the church doesn't operate the school, which is run by a separate parental organization, it supports various clubs for young people.

Clubs like the Calvinettes and Cadets meet at the church or in members' homes for the purpose of Bible study and social activities.

WORD OF GOD

Young people 13 years or older prepare to become full members of the church with weekly Bible instruction classes taught by church elders and the pastor. Rev. DeJong said about 140 young people are currently enrolled in the catechism classes.

As well, there is guidance and counselling for teenage girls through the "Sunflower" organization. Small groups of about ten girls get together in homes with a volunteer counsellor to talk about their problems, do Bible study, and do social things together.

Rev. DeJong said there are about 160 Christian Reformed congregations in Canada, with about 40 per cent of them in Ontario.

He said the Christian Reformed Church believes the Bible is the inspired Word of

God and has infant baptisms, although young people must profess their faith in the teachings of the church later, when they are spiritually mature. After a public profession of belief, the young people are considered communicant members and can take the sacrament.

Rev. DeJong said the eucharist is only given about four times a year to the Georgetown congregation. He said it was a matter decided by individual congregations, with some Reformed churches having it every Sunday.

Coming from a pastorate in Fruitland, near Hamilton, Rev. DeJong studied at a liberal arts college in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to get his bachelor of arts degree. He followed that with three years in a theological seminary for his bachelor of divinity degree.

His first charge was in a small town called Iron Springs, near Lethbridge, Alberta.

In 1968, Rev. DeJong came to Ontario to work for the Christian Reformed Church in Essex, near Windsor.

Rev. DeJong was born in Holland and came to Vancouver with his parents when he was 16. His parents, like many others who left Holland, became dairy farmers in Canada.

The church supports two missionaries in Nigeria and one in the Dominican Republic.



Pastor at the Christian Reformed Church on Trafalgar Road for four years now, Reverend John DeJong came from Holland with his parents when he was 16. Although he hasn't lost his ability to speak Dutch, he said he doesn't have much occasion to do so as pastor of an 850-member congregation made up mostly of first and second generation Dutch. Rev. DeJong said the last Dutch service performed at the church was in 1979.

(Herald photo)

CHURCH DIRECTORY

ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
80 Guelph St.
877-8044
RECTOR
Rev. Jim Boylee

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Prayer Book)
9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (New Rite)
11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9:45 a.m. Junior Church Christmas Pageant
7:00 p.m. Carol Service

HOLY CROSS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
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PASTOR
Father Dave Cote
ASST. PASTOR
Father Murray Kroetsch

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Rev. Peter Ralph, B.A., M.Div.

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6:30 p.m. Evening Service
7:00 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Meeting

CHRISTMAS EVENTS
Sun. Dec. 20, 11:45 p.m. Christmas Program
Thurs. Dec. 24, 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service With Special Music and Message.
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