

Jean Stairs heads Acton Baptist congregation

Lightning once hit church



It's a first in the history of the Acton Baptist Church to have a woman pastor. Jean Stairs took up the role of pastor early last month, meeting the challenge of leading a congregation of 60. A young enthusiastic woman, Pastor Stairs is originally from Ottawa.

(Herald photo)

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their horses, and the church tower.

Marjorie Landsborough, a long-time member of the congregation whose husband was organist at the church for 40 years, said she still has the metal loops and pole to which her father used to tether his horses Sundays.

However, the Acton fire brigade managed to save the rest of the church. Repairs were made, lasting until 1957 when lightning struck the church during a severe storm, splintering the ceiling. Luckily, no fire started.

The storm created a huge task for the 42 members of the congregation at the time. It meant a new electrical system, a new roof and a new

heating system were needed in the old church. The members still managed to bear the financial burden.

In 1964, renovations were made to the interior of the church and a large wooden cross was hung at the front, in the baptistry given by Rev. Stanley and Mrs. Gammon, a couple who had the longest ministry in the Acton Baptist Church's history.

Impatience prompts overuse of 'Xmas'

There have been enjoyable times in our local churches of late. Children taking part in the traditional Christmas plays and the participation of choirs and instruments have brought that familiar feeling of the season.

We celebrate the birth of Christ, and remember that this is the reason for the holiday. Yet even with this renewed faith there is still the push toward commercialism, the "hurry-up" attitude even among church members.

Why Christians among others still use the short term "Xmas" is beyond my comprehension. If people cared enough and would love Christ enough they would never use "X", but campaign as I have done for years. Give the Son of God His due, use His correct name and refuse to accept "Xmas" from anyone.

"Xmas" is not a word. It is an insult to the holiness of the God I love.

Please don't write or phone to tell me that "X" is Latin or any of that other nonsense. How many people do you know who speak Latin as an everyday language? Many people use the name of Christ only as a swear word, and cannot bear to see or hear the name of Christ as the Son of God. This only shows their ignorance and reminds them of their sin.

Still a chance to purchase that one last gift for a friend or relative. This one may be a little expensive, but is well worth the cost. The Victor Handbook of Bible Knowledge by V. Gilbert Beers is listed as help to teachers, pastors and parents. This book would be well used in any Christ-centered home, and its over 1,300 illustrations explain life in bible times.

I would love to hear from my readers over the Christmas week. Write to me at 25 Carole St., Georgetown, L7G 3X3, or phone 877-8290.

Did you remember to write to the missionaries listed in your church directory? These people are giving up their life in their own country and the closeness of family and friends and will feel it more so at Christmas.

Even though it may be late for the Christmas mails to get through, write anyway. Let them know you are praying for them, and think of them often. Then make it a habit to write regularly. Even I was late in getting one letter off. With the rush of extra writing for Christmas columns, it slipped my mind, but send it I did. I hope the Von Zubens in Rae Lake, NWT, will forgive me for that.

Take time this year to talk to children. Our kids do say the funniest things. Art Linkletter discovered a money maker in this, but we have always known it. Ask them about Christmas, and when you find yourself surprised by their inaccuracies, take the time to



IN THE CHURCHES

By Bob Ollivier

correct them. It will be time well spent. They may be funny, but they are the future of our nation and time spent now could have results in your future as well as theirs. It seems the children and youth

of today have no personal discipline.

Are we setting the example, either good or bad? Make an effort now, it will be the best Christmas present you could give.



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Child abuse workshop a success

Herald Special

The trainer's workshop on child abuse being sponsored co-operatively by the Halton Children's Aid Society, Halton board of education, and the Halton regional health department has been termed a great success. Attending the workshop are 33 people from the various service and education systems dealing with chil-

dren in the region.

Guest speakers at the workshop that is being taught by Dr. Donna Lero of the University of Guelph are Dr. Herb Sohn, provincial co-ordinator of child abuse services, Dr. Joe Jacobs, and Marg Kapuska, the managing director of Parents Anonymous.

The long range goals of the

workshop are to train professionals within the service and education systems to provide early detection and early intervention in cases of child abuse.

These professionals, in turn, will train others within their systems, and it will pay off in a wider community commitment to the prevention of child abuse.

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Goddo here Jan. 16

Canadian rock group Goddo, described in one recent poll as the most popular Toronto music group, returns to Norval for a second concert Jan. 16 in what is expected to become the first in a series of rock concerts at the Norval Junction. Formerly the Way-Jay, the club hosted about three rock concerts two years ago including one by Goddo and is currently lending its stage to Opry North live tapings for the popular CFGM radio program. Norval Junction holds a teen dance tomorrow night (Tuesday) and hopes Goddo's appearance Jan. 16 will draw an audience for ongoing rock concerts there.

season's best

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