

# Famine may return to Ethiopia if nothing is done

## Church embraces various cultures



By The Rev. Nancy J. Knox  
Minister of St. John's United Church, Georgetown and Glen Williams

As many Southern Ontarians returned from their March break excursions, whether to some place warm for sunning, or to loftier heights for skiing, or perhaps day trips to points of interest nearby, we were brought up short. After this time of pleasure and self-renewal, it is difficult to hear of the dire straits besetting the people in the countries referred to as "The Horn of Africa." Renewed appeals are being made to provide emergency relief in the face of severe drought and famine, particularly affecting northern Ethiopia and the Sudan.

Estimates are that approximately four million people will be affected in Northern Ethiopia alone as a result of the growing famine in the region. In addition to a devastating crop failure, the continuing civil war in the area has seriously hampered food delivery. If immediate steps are not taken, we could see a repeat of the horror of 1984-85 when one million people, many of them children, died of starvation.

The United Nations recently reported that 1,100,000 metric tonnes of food aid will be required in northern Ethiopia alone. Finances are also needed to deliver the food to the affected regions so people will not need to migrate in search of food, and will be in their home areas when the next farm season begins. If food aid does not soon reach the affected areas a mass exodus of Ethiopian and Sudanese is envisaged, which would necessitate additional funds for medical supplies and tents. Lee Holland, a United Church member active in World Outreach, said: "Any movement of refugees would be a disaster. People don't leave their homes by choice; they are forced to by circumstance. Our primary objective is to deliver relief supplies to where they are needed, not to subject desperate people to a difficult journey."

We have assurances from relief workers that food aid can be

delivered to the people who need it, even in areas where the war makes transporting relief supplies very dangerous. We have the will, there is the way. Now all we need is the means.

The starvation of our children is not something we are confronted with in Halton Hills. In North America in many households we are more concerned with weight loss, and the amount of fat and fibre in our diet than having to worry about where our next meal is coming from. What better way to celebrate the passion and resurrection of our Savior than by adopting the pattern of Jesus ministry who said the words, "unless you did it to the least of these, you did it unto me"? If you can offer some financial support to this special appeal donations can be mailed to: The Horn of Africa Relief Appeal, The United Church of Canada, 85 St. Clair Ave. East, Toronto, Ont. M4T 1M8. If you are a member of another denomination speak to your local pastor or priest to channel funds through your own church.

By THOMAS M. S. KINGSTON  
St. George's Anglican Church  
Churches in a local community have something to offer in the building up of a multi-racial and multicultural society.

The first offering is their inclusive attitude toward human community. A vital community consists of people of different backgrounds. In the Christian faith the central image of community is the table of the Lord, around which gather people of every language, race and nation. Also in the Christian initiation rite of baptism, parents and godparents promise to respect the dignity of every human being. The Church embraces a multicultural and multi-racial society because such a society upholds our vision of community life.

The second offering of the churches is their universal perspective. The local church is part of a universal community. The worldwide connections of the Christian community are evidenced within conferences on all continents, through development projects and in personal visitations. This sensitivity to the various races and nations of the world in addition to an openness to the great faiths of the world enables church people to be encouraging of a racially and culturally diverse society.

The third offering of the churches is educational. Some church people have extensive knowledge

of the cultural and political realities of various countries in addition to an understanding of the faith and family life patterns of dif-

ferent races and cultures. This experience and knowledge enables the churches to produce excellent educational materials that help members to be sensitive to the changing scene in Canada.

ferent races and cultures. This experience and knowledge enables the churches to produce excellent educational materials that help members to be sensitive to the changing scene in Canada.

We know from studying the history of the church in the Western world that there has not always been a sensitivity to other races and cultures. It was only 50 years ago in Canada when good citizenship was attributed to one who was British, white and Chris-

But the churches have changed and grown, rediscovering the cultural diversity within themselves. This renewed sense of the multi-racial and multicultural nature of the church by members means that churches have something to offer in the building

up of a new Canadian society. Their attitude of inclusiveness, their universal fellowship and their educational resources can all contribute to this emerging multi-racial and multicultural Canada.

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**COURTESY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**  
WARD 2/EIGHTH LINE

Council for the Town of Halton Hills will conduct a Public Meeting to examine and discuss a proposed amendment to the Halton Hills Official Plan to permit a plan of subdivision consisting of 20 estate residential lots.

The 41.69 hectare (103 acre) property is located on the east side of the Eighth Line, south of the Erin/Halton Hills Town Line, and is described as Part of Lots 30 and 31, Concession 9, Town of Halton Hills (Esqueving).

Further information is available in the Planning Department.  
ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS ARE WELCOME

Time: 7:00 p.m.  
Date: Monday, April 2, 1990  
Location: Council Chamber  
Halton Hills Civic Centre  
1 Halton Hills Drive  
Halton Hills (Georgetown)

Ad. No. 1224 File No: H-88-020

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**Town of Halton Hills**  
1 Halton Hills Drive - P.O. Box 128  
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873-2600

**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING**  
WARD 2/EIGHTH LINE

General Committee for the Town of Halton Hills will conduct a Public Meeting to examine and discuss a proposed amendment to Zoning By-law No. 74-51 to permit a temporary second residence, for a period of up to three (3) years.

The property is located on the south side of 15 Sideroad, west of the Sixth Line. The property is described as Part of Lot 17, Concession 6, Town of Halton Hills (Esqueving).

Further information is available in the Planning Department.  
ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS ARE WELCOME

Time: 7:00 p.m.  
Date: Monday, April 23, 1990  
Location: Council Chamber  
Halton Hills Civic Centre  
1 Halton Hills Drive  
Halton Hills (Georgetown)

File No: H-89-47  
Ad. No. 1229