

# Religion

## Rev. Campbell realizes goal

By KARYN MCGILVRAY  
Herald Special

The two congregations at Norval Presbyterian and Union Presbyterian Church have something in common. They both support Reverent Mary Campbell, the new minister in Norval.

The congregations voted unanimously for Rev. Campbell after hearing her preach for the first time. According to church law, she was called and chosen by the people of God in Norval to be the new minister at the Norval churches.

She began her regular work in Norval on June 3. Rev. Campbell moved to the community from Toronto on July 23.

Rev. Campbell said she has wanted to be a minister since the age of 18, but at that time the leaders of the church told her she couldn't become a minister because of her sex.

After surviving a heart attack several years later, Rev. Campbell was more determined than ever to fulfill her lifelong ambition.

The Reverend explained she did a lot of thinking about what she would do after her recovery. She decided the most important thing in life to her was, "God's love and God's people." "I wanted to help the people of God," added Rev. Campbell. Her decision made, she

studied to be a minister.

It is different for some parishioners to have a female as a religious leader, Rev. Campbell said. She would like to find out the needs of the community, especially those of her congregations.

"There is potential for community services (in Norval and the surrounding area for her churches)," said the Reverend.

Rev. Campbell expressed great concern about the youth of today and their problems.

Before moving to Norval, she worked at Covenant House in Toronto for a year.

Covenant House is a shelter for youth runaways. "There are 10 to 20 thousand youths on the streets of Toronto and there are no signs of how to solve the problem," Rev. Campbell said.

"All of the cultures in Canada are a human resource, if we learn to work and share together, rather than separate," Rev. Campbell said.

She has also lived in a student housing complex where 63 nations were being represented. "Staying in student housing has made me understand the need to appreciate different cultures because of the diversity in Canada," Rev. Campbell said.

Rev. Campbell was also a cartoonist before joining the church.

She drew for a year with Rocket

Robin Hood until the company went bankrupt.

The next career stop for Rev. Campbell was as a fashion designer for Levi Straus (famous for jean wear) and she worked in this field for eight years until she became ill.

To become a minister Rev. Campbell studied at York University. There she attained a B.A. in religious studies. She achieved a place on the Dean's Honor List and a scholarship to go to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel.

Being in Israel helped Rev. Campbell understand Judaic roots as Christianity is linked to Judaism, she said.

Also, she found that being taught by Rabbis about Christianity was "interesting." Aside from studying, Rev. Campbell had the opportunity to travel with her son David, now 20, to Greece, Crete and Cyprus.

Upon returning to Toronto, Rev. Campbell went to the University of Toronto to obtain her Masters of Divinity at Knox College.

Since moving to Norval, both of her congregations have given her house warming parties.

The excitement in her voice revealed that she is bubbling over with joy about being in Norval. "The people have been incredibly kind and good to me," she enthused.



Rev. Mary Campbell

### Clergy Comment

## Remarkable person to visit

By DAVID CALDWELL  
Pastor, Mountainview Baptist Church

I met David Mensah at the University of Toronto while we were both students there a few years ago and I have never met a more remarkable person.

He speaks with such passion, conviction, and clarity that it's hard to believe he has a PhD!

Most others with his training have long since lost the ability to speak intelligibly to the person on the street. He has shared the platform with such renowned speakers as David Suzuki and Stephen Lewis and received the standing ovation of thousands.

Halton Hills is privileged to have this man share with us just a month before he returns to Africa where he will run the development project he has founded.

David's background is a bit unusual! His father was a Witch Doctor in northern Ghana, West Africa. David grew up in a very spiritual home - though a

spirituality that was both very powerful and very frightening.

As a young man David was changed from within by an encounter with the Creator God.

As a result, he became a castaway orphan and nearly starved to death as a homeless youth on the street in Africa. Finally, a good Muslim, or is that a good Samaritan, took him in, fed him and clothed him. He then introduced him to a Christian who virtually adopted him.

He helped David pursue school and athletics and David worked hard at both. David began to run races - and win them! He eventually became the 800 metre champion for all Africa and was slated to run in the Olympics.

The national pride of Ghana in David, their native son, led his father to reconsider and again take pride in his son.

There is much more to David's story, but it will have to wait until his second talk on: Friday, October 4, 7:30 p.m. at Mountainview Baptist Church (Mountainview Rd.

south of Hwy. 7 one block north of Delrex Blvd). He would rather speak on more important themes, but I have asked him to share his life story on Friday night because I have learned so much through it. I'm sure you will too.

On Saturday he will speak at 7:00 p.m. On Sunday David Mensah will speak at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

All these meetings are designed for the community at large and everyone will be made welcome.

This is the first in a series of 'Life-issues' seminars for Halton Hills.

For further information on the meetings, call David Caldwell 873-2184 or Laura Ellison 873-1328.

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## Bible Digest

"And he answered, Fear not; for they that be with us are more than they that be with them." 2 Kings 6:16.

When as a child of God you feel that you are outnumbered, remember this verse. God is on your side and He and His army far outnumber the enemy. God will take care of you.

"And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into a high mountain apart." Matthew 17:1.

Peter, James and John would have missed a blessing if they had not followed Jesus. I wonder how many blessings we have missed by not spending time with Him? Take time to read the Bible and pray.

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