Religion-

Integrity in leadership questioned

By JIM RYAN **Herald Special** Fourth Sunday of Easter John 10:11-18 April 21, 1991

If the government of B.C. ever wants some new conflict of interest guidelines, let me suggest the following:

Victor Turner, an anthropologist, has studied the Ndembu people of northwestern Zambia for many years, and has developed a philosophical view of ritual based on his reasearch.

One of the rituals of the Ndembu, presented in his book, The Ritual Process, is the ritual surrounding the accession of new man to the position of tribal chief.

Any man who would be chief must undergo a ritual death and burial. The idea is that private citizen Q is buried with his personal and family interests. The burial is symbolic, so neither citizen Q nor his personal interests are permanently interred.

When citizen Q is dug up a few hours later he rises a new man, a big man, who will judge the affairs of his people with fairness

Bible Digest

"And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as the little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3-4

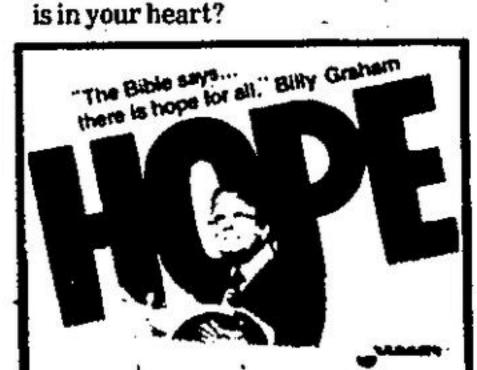
Humility is a trademark of people who are changed by the grace of God. Pride keeps us from God. Humility before Him draws us near to Him.

"What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?" Psalm 116:12

You can't outgive God. He is the greatest giver of all time and eternity. Thank Him for His goodness to you.

"As in water face unswereth to face, so the heart of man to man," Proverbs 27:19

What's on the inside of a man will eventually be seen on the outside of man. Does your countenance reflect that the Lord



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Religion and Reality

Jim Ryan

and disinterest.

How about this as the new "Conflict of Interest Ritual" for all public officials.

What would have happened if Bill Vanderzalm had been ritually buried by an army of Fantasy his bulldozers Gardens theme park? Maybe nothing. Perhaps we should forget the ritual part.

The topic is integrity in leader-

AN EASY QUESTION

Are the following leaders willing to die for their followers, or willing to have their followers die for them? (In a democracy, to die, for a leader, is to lose an election. There are many ways to die. Ted Kennedy has tried a few of them. Miraculously, he's been revivified each time. For a citizen, to die is to be fleeced. There are many ways to be fleeced. For a citizen, to die also means to die. This is also true for both the leaders and citizens of non-democratic countries.)

1. The Manchester Guardian reported last month that the Emir of Kuwait has an army of U.S. Engineers, four hundred workers in all, restoring goldplated bathroom fixtures in his

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new Bayan Palace, fixtures that run hot and cold water, while the people of Kuwait City have no water at all.

2. The Washington Post noted that Mulroney burned Bush on Bush's trip to Ottawa last month. Mulroney had proposed a summit for world leaders to discuss resistence to the sale of weapons to post-war Middle East countries. Mulroney proposed two steps: that all arms sales to the Middle East be disclosed; and that all arms sales be halted at a future date. The Post reported, "Bush demurred".

3. This past March was the third anniversary of Saddam Hussein's chemical attack on the Kurdish town of Halabja, where an estimated 5,000 people were killed. A letter from, five British M.P.'s to the Guardian notes the hypocrisy of a Conservative government that wouldn't sign a motion in Parliament on the first anniversary of the attack opposing the attack because same government was supporting Hussein financially and militarily. They say, "In view of its record, no reliance can be placed on the British government to defend the rights of the Kurdish people..."

A FINAL NOTE FROM **HUGO YOUNG**

Mr. Young is a columnist for . the Manchester Guardian who supported the war in the Gulf. In the most recent Guardian (April 14), he writes:

"One must sometimes give statesmen the benefit of the doubt. Never again, however, at least as far as American policy in the Middle East is concerned.

Since his congressional oration, Bush has left the moral high ground forever. (The world) is

not safer, for the Kurds, or anyone else."

Mr. Young believes that Mr. Bush's call for a new, better ordered world was a fiction.

I believe in the beauty of fiction, but Hugo Young doesn't mean fiction in that sense. He means Mr. Bush lied to us all. (We bought it.)

Why this interest in the integrity of leaders?

Because this Sunday's gospel is about the difference between the the leader leader with, and The first without, integrity. leader is called the Good Shepherd; the second leader is called the Hired Hand.

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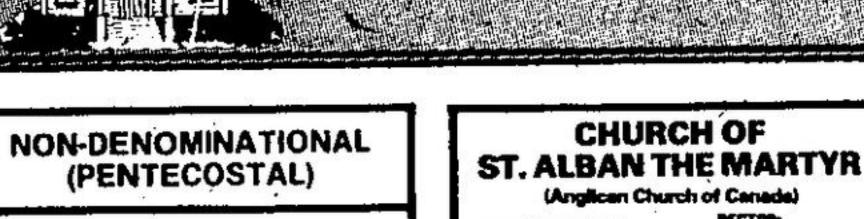
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