

# The future as seen through shoes

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Dec. 22, 1991

## HUGH AND HIS NEW SHOES

Life is full of significant moments. I had one of them last week.

When I walked into the house after work, I noticed that the young fellow was wearing his first pair of running shoes. I noticed them immediately, even before taking off my coat. (They're not Nike; they're Fisher Price.)

The young fellow has been walking for over a month, but this was different. I was more excited by these new shoes than I had been by his first steps.

### A DAYDREAM

I saw before me an Imelda Marcos-closet full of shoes from infant to adult sizes, lined up in rows: brogues, desert boots, slippers, sandals, runners of every kind, and cowboy, rubber, hiking and winter boots.

What does it mean...

1. The young fellow is becoming a real person. (Coincidentally, the wearing of the shoes was followed the next day by him greeting me at the door with my name, Dada.)

2. He'll need shoes for the journey, because although someday he'll "...walk in flowers...", there'll be many more when he'll "...walk on stones..."



Religion  
and  
Reality  
by  
Jim Ryan

3. He'll have a public life. His walking now is mostly private; but one day he'll walk in public. One day his tread will be measured by others: is it steady or hesitant; is it light or heavy; is it self-possessed and confident or fearful and anxious.

Today he's known by others as our son; but one day he'll be known as himself, without any reference to us, his mother and father.

He walks in our shadow now, but one day we'll walk in his shadow.

### JOHN JUMPS IN UTERO

The stories of great men and women always begin in childhood. We learn about their parents and the circumstances of their birth.

Medieval saints' lives often begin before birth. Hugh of St. Victor for example, is reported to

have preached the gospel while in his mother's womb. Surely a sign of sanctity.

The suggestion is that the marks of greatness in men and women can be seen in their beginnings.

John the Baptist is noted for pointing to Christ. He's the one who Mark reports as saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie." (Another reference to shoes!)

In Luke's gospel, we go even further back to the origins of Christ. Here the foetus of John the Baptist points to the one who will bear Christ.

(In this Sunday's gospel reading, the foetal John jumps and dances before Mary, the same way King David jumped and danced before the Ark of the Covenant.)

### JUMPING INTO CHRISTMAS

This Sunday's reading is a transition from Advent to the Christmas season proper. We turn from our own preparations, and from the one who prepared the way for Christ, to consider once again, the significant moment we call Christmas. If John the Baptist gives us a clue as to how we are to behave before the Christ-child, we should be jumping with delight.

# Christmas, a time for giving

By CHRISTINE WILLIAMSON  
Herald Special

The most wonderful time of the year...

People caring, people sharing, gifts, toys, candies, turkey, pudding and cakes. Carols and songs. Decorations, Christmas trees, Santa Claus. Loved ones that are away from home, who phone or make their way back for that one special day.

"Happy holidays" or "Seasons Greetings", it says on the cards. So we plan and prepare for that one perfect day. It gives us joy to give to our family and friends; to reach out with food or toys for those in need. It's the time of year for giving of our love and gifts. It's good to be able to pick that special present for the ones you care about.

Our true roots of Christmas are not "Happy Holidays" or Seasons Greetings", but a faith that God

sent His Son as a baby into this world to save and help us. With the birth of Jesus, came a new beginning.

Let our thoughts go back to the time of the wisemen, the shepherds, the angels and the stars, Mary and Joseph, a place called Bethlehem, the stable and manger.

Let our thoughts go back to the time of the first gifts, to the words of the angels, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For into you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord."

What will this Christmas mean to you... Baking, shopping, gifts, family and friends. I hope so because these are good; but when Christmas morning rolls into afternoon, and the gifts are opened, our family and guests have

gone home; then its nice to know there is more.

More than our planning for that perfect day. More, than gifts, toys and dinner. More than even our family and friends.

So much more because...  
Christmas is "Fear not"  
Christmas is "Good tidings"  
Christmas is a Saviour.



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## Bible Digest

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Galatians 6:7-8

What you sow you reap. What are you sowing?

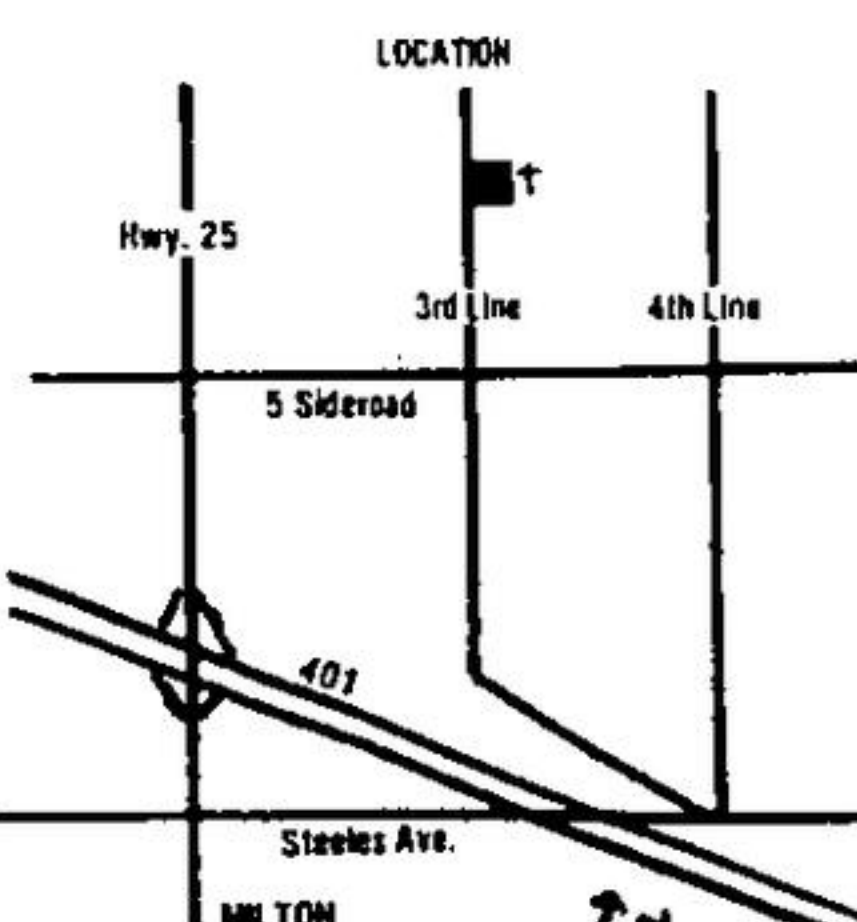
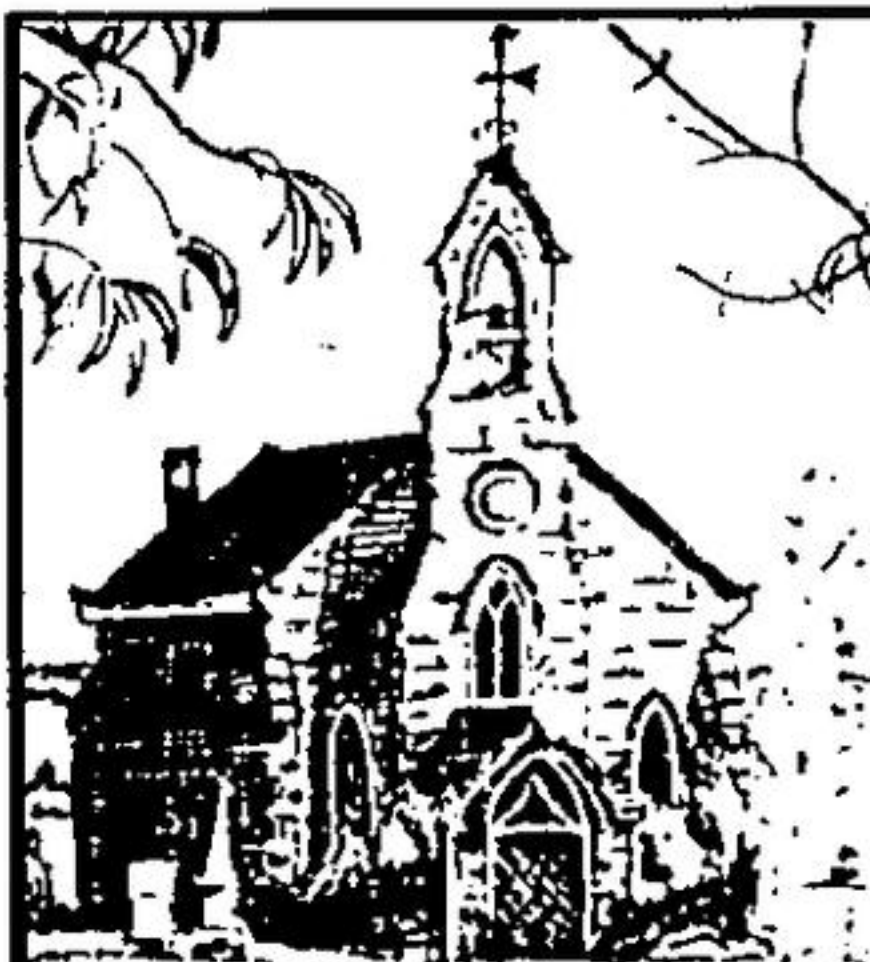
"In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came unto him, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live." Isaiah 38:1

Is your house in order? Put your trust in the Lord before it is too late.

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Sunday School - Sunday, 9:30 a.m.  
Nursery Available During Service  
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Carol And Lesson Service - Dec. 24 - 7:30 p.m.  
Communion Service - January 5, 1991 - 9:30 a.m.

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Sunday School 10:30 a.m.  
St. Alban's The Martyr Anglican Church -  
537 Main St., Glen Williams ..... 877-8323  
Service Times: Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
St. George's Anglican Church  
60 Guelph St., Georgetown ..... 877-8044  
Service Times: Sunday 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m.  
Thursday 10:00 a.m. - Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

**BAPTIST**  
Acton Baptist Church, 8 Mill St. E., Acton ..... 853-0690  
Worship 11:00 a.m.; Christian Education 9:45 a.m.  
Maple Avenue Baptist Church, 177 Maple Ave., Georgetown... 873-9211  
Worship 11:00 a.m.; Family Bible Hour 9:30 a.m.;  
Coffee Fellowship 10:30 a.m.; Evening Praise 6:30 p.m.  
Mountainview Baptist Church, 1 Mountainview Rd. S.,  
Georgetown ..... 873-2184  
Worship and Children's Program 11:00 a.m.  
Location of LOVE IN CHRIST FOODBANK - Open Wed. mornings

**CHRISTIAN & MISSIONARY ALLIANCE**  
Georgetown Alliance Church, Main St. S., Georgetown ..... 873-0249  
Service Times: Sunday 11:00 a.m.; Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

**LUTHERAN**  
Immanuel Lutheran, Windsor & Carole Sts., Georgetown ..... 877-1172  
Worship 11:00 a.m.; Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

**PRESBYTERIAN**  
Knox Presbyterian Church, Church & Main Sts., Georgetown . 877-7585  
Worship 11:00 a.m.; Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

**UNITED**  
St. Andrew's United Church, 89 Mountainview Rd. S.  
Georgetown ..... 877-4482  
Worship 9:45 a.m.  
St. John's United Church, 11 Guelph St., Georgetown ..... 877-2531  
Worship 11:00 a.m.; Sunday School 11:00 a.m.  
St. John's United Church, Main St., Glen Williams ..... 877-2531  
Worship 9:30 a.m.

**St. Alban The Martyr Anglican Church**  
537 Main St., Glen Williams  
DATES TO REMEMBER:  
ADVENT SERVICES  
December 22nd:  
8:00 a.m. Holy Communion BCP  
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist BCP  
7:00 p.m. Festival of Lights & 9 Lessons & Carols

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Windsor Rd. & Carole St.  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.  
Rev. Fritz Schmitt, Pastor  
873-0264

**St. John's United Church**  
11 Guelph St., Georgetown  
DECEMBER 24th SERVICES  
7:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Family Service  
11:00 p.m. - Communion Service

**NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH**  
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3:00 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.  
Thursday, Dec. 19 - 8:00 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.  
Saturday, Dec. 21 - 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon  
1:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.  
Monday, Dec. 23 - 7:00 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.  
**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**  
CHRISTMAS EVE  
Tuesday, Dec. 24 - 5:00 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.  
12:00 Midnight  
CHRISTMAS DAY  
Wednesday, Dec. 25 - 10:00 A.M. & 12:00 Noon  
(There is no Mass in the evening on Christmas Day anywhere in the Diocese of Hamilton)  
**NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE**  
Tuesday, Dec. 31 - 5:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, Jan. 01 - 8:00 A.M.; 10:00 A.M. & 12:00 Noon  
May Christ be born again in your hearts and may His peace reign in your home and family.