

Grandfathers are there to be enjoyed

By JIM RYAN
Herald Special

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Luke 5:1-11
Feb. 9, 1992

I've been reading Iron John by Robert Bly, the American poet. It's stirring up a lot of stuff.

(Check out the metaphor. Metaphors are important in Bly's book. My life is either a soup, or a pond heavy with algae, or a walled-in city courtyard littered with dry leaves and yellowed newspapers.)

It's a book about myths and male society, initiation rites and rites of passage. He keeps talking about older men teaching younger men what it means to be human and, specifically, male.

One thing that has been stirred up for me as I read the book was a desire to see my grandfather. So, during the recent Air Canada/Canadian Airlines ticket-price war, I bought a ticket for a week in Edmonton in March.

I haven't been out to see him for years.

He's 87 now, and living in a seniors' residence.

Bly's book reminded me of the



Religion and Reality
by
Jim Ryan

role grandpa took in my life, especially during my adolescence.

Grandpa took it as his task to question the education I was getting in the 60s from teachers, newspapers, books, records and T.V. The views I was picking up were contrary to many of his views.

On one occasion, noted for me by my grandmother, grandpa couldn't leave a discussion alone, even after the 11:00 p.m. news was over and he had changed into his pyjamas. He came back out of the bedroom to continue my education.

In those days, I went out every summer to help out in the music store. We'd talk while he taught me how to pack musical instruments.

We talked everywhere: in the car, in the garden, in the living

room after supper, in his aluminum boat when we went fishing.

I thought a lot of his views were racist and narrow. (He didn't like Indians or the French. He did like the British Empire.)

He thought my views were weak and wrongheaded. ("No," he said, "We're not created equal. That's foolishness.")

He thought my heroes were fools. ("What does John Lennon hope to accomplish lying around in a hotel bed talking to the press? And what's this about Lennon not wearing leather shoes?")

Grandpa was a self-made man. He was also what was called a self-taught man. He didn't like academics. ("They're too high and mighty.")

I once sent him a sweatshirt with the logo printed on it, University of Hard Knox.

He didn't want me to be walked on. (I remember with pride telling him how I stood my ground one day when we went fishing. I was holding the boat near the boat launch while he parked the car and the boat trailer. An adult yelled at me to get out of the way. "Grandpa, I told him to wait his turn!")

Grandpa had an idea for the Revolution which I thought was bound to happen. ("When the Revolution takes place, the first action is to gain control of the

T.V. stations. That way you can get the people on your side.")

He also said he didn't mind The Mothers of Invention. (My grandmother got angry with him for that. "He's just trying to get on your good side." She said this to me while the Mothers sang, "I want to die; I want to die...") Grandpa didn't like Bob Dylan's voice.

He also told me about a life that seemed very unlike my own. He told me about being humiliated in

the schoolyard when his pants were pulled down; ("I was the new immigrant.") about living in a shack with a dirt floor; (I was never sure if this was really true.) about selling newspapers, working in the bank, and then on the ranch skinning mules; about playing sax all over Northern Alberta in dance halls during the Depression; about how a man paid for a piano during the Depression by building him a fireplace.

It'll be great to see him again.

Bible Digest

"His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." Matthew 25:21

It's going to be a wonderful day when we hear the Lord voice His approval about our faithfulness. "Be not weary in well-doing." Keep going for the Lord.

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." John 1:14

The greatest miracle recorded in history was when God became a man to become the Saviour of the world. "Thank you Jesus for your love for us."

"Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land." Zephaniah 1:18

Money or influence cannot buy a reprieve from God's judgement. Only a heart commitment to the Lord can save us from the judgement upon our lives. Do you know the Lord?

"O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good; for his mercy endureth forever." Psalm 136:1

Thank the Lord for His goodness. He loves you with an everlasting love.

"The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him." Nahum 1:7

Give your troubles to the Lord. He cares about you.

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." I Corinthians 13:13

Being a recipient and channel of God's love is the greatest blessing of life. Accept God's love for you and pass it on to others.

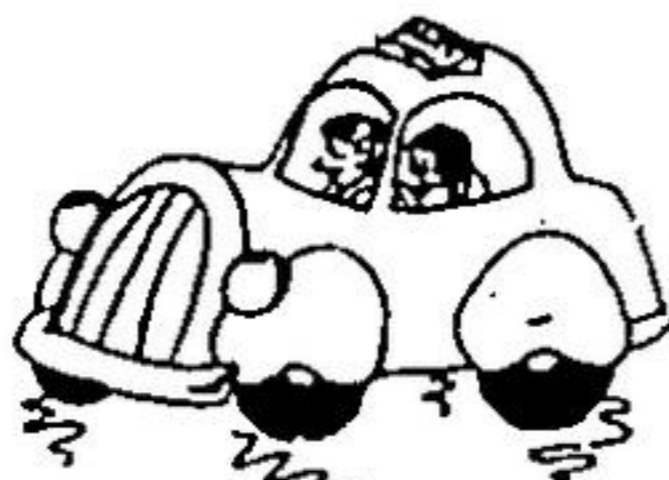
"But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; How that they told 'ou there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts." Jude 17-18

Don't be discouraged, faithful Christian. We must expect opposition from the enemy when we seek to really make a difference for the Lord.

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St. Alban's The Martyr Anglican Church
537 Main St., Glen Williams 877-8323
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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
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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.

THE SALVATION ARMY

Acton Salvation Army, 114 Mill St. E., Acton 853-1140
Sunday Services: Worship 11:00 a.m., Evening Praise 7 p.m.
Sunday School 9:45 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
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