

# Religion

## Christ is the important word in 'Christmas'

By DOREEN PALMER

Some today would put an "X" through the "Christ" in "Christmas," and call it "Xmas." Yet even such people know, deep within their hearts, there must be more to life than giving and receiving gifts and going to parties.

After the recent earthquake in San Francisco, a newspaper article stated that the Lord's Prayer was no longer allowed in their schools - with one exception - during an earthquake! When the chips are down and humans become helpless, they look to a power higher than their own to save them.

The Christ of the Christian faith is "the only God." (1) If we believe Him to be the "God with us," the Immanuel of the New Testament (2) foretold in the Old Testament (3), we cannot possibly see Him as the god of other faiths.

He was born to a virgin because His Father was not a human.

Jesus lived as a man for 33 years, was crucified because He

### Hope for Tomorrow



claimed to be God in the flesh (4), rose from the dead on the third day (5), and is alive forevermore (6). Jesus said that even if One were to come back from the dead, some people would still not believe (7). Even though some will never believe, 2,000 years later the Christian church is alive and well. Jesus said it always would be alive and well! (8)

The reason many don't believe

in the Christ of Christmas is because they don't know Him. They may have been introduced to Him, but it takes more than an introduction to know someone intimately. We must spend time on our knees if we are to become intimate with Jesus Christ.

Jesus' conception in Mary's womb was a miracle, and His conception into the heart of a consenting person is likewise a miracle. Both births are by the same Holy Spirit. (9)

After birth, a loving parent would never leave a small baby unattended, or else it would die. The same is true of a spiritual child, he must be given spiritual food or he too will die. The food he requires is called "the Bread of life" and "the living Water" - the Word of God and the power of His Spirit.

The Apostle Paul knew the determination required if we are to grow spiritually. He wrote:

"My determined purpose is that I may know Him - that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders

of His person more strongly and more clearly. And that I may in the same way come to know the power outflowing from His resurrection which it exerts over believers." (10)

Again Paul writes: "If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God." (11)

If we name ourselves by the name of Christian, we must choose this day to be determined to pursue the truth as given in the Bible. If we don't, we are really joining the league of those who would put an "X" through His name.

To which group do you choose to belong? I, like Joshua of old, will say, "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." (12) My Lord is the "Christ" of Christmas!  
NIV - I Tim 1:16-17; Mt 1:23; Is 7:14; Mt 26:63-66; 28:6; Rev 1:18; Lk 16:31; Mt 16:18; Gal 4:4-6  
Amplified V - Ph'p 3:10-11  
NIV - Heb 10:26-27; Josh 24:15

(Doreen Palmer is a freelance writer and member of Halton Hills Outreach Faith Ministry 877-4853. She and her husband attend Faith Gospel Tabernacle, Hwy. 7 at Creditview Rd.)

### Queen's Park . . .

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enough faith in their ideas to put up matching money to their own. The past two years have seen over 50 new businesses in Halton Hills and Milton. These ranged from drapery shops to cafes and a pest control agency. If the north of Halton Region is to be more than a bedroom community for Toronto then this type of activity is going to need more help and constant attention.

This week I talked about special grants which the government has provided to expand services and accommodate special services. This type of help is not the major example of the Provincial government's impact on services in the riding.

In my next Queen's Park Report, I would like to talk about this part of the relationship between Halton North and the Provincial Government.

## TWO MINUTES

WITH THE BIBLE

BY CORNELIUS R. STAM PRES.  
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### A CLEAR CONSCIENCE

With the knowledge of good and evil man came into the possession of conscience. A sense of blameworthiness smote him when he committed, or even contemplated committing, evil. This has been so ever since.

The Bible tells us that even the most ungodly and benighted heathen "show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the meanwhile accusing or else excusing one another" (Rom. 2:15).

It is true that man's conscience can be violated so often that it becomes calloused or, as St. Paul puts it: "seared with a hot iron" (I Tim. 4:2), but events or incidents can take place which suddenly awaken the conscience and make it sensitive again.

Many a person has indulged in "the pleasures of sin" more and more freely until, suddenly, his sin has found him out and his conscience has caught up with him to condemn him day and night and make life itself unbearable.

The Bible teaches that all men outside of Christ are, to some degree, troubled by guilty consciences and certainly most are "through fear of death...all their lifetime subject to bondage" (Heb. 2:15). But it also teaches that "Christ died for our sins" so that our penalty having been paid, we might be delivered from a guilty conscience.

Sincere and intelligent believers in Christ, having been "once purged," have "no more conscience of sins" (Heb. 9:14; 10:1, 2). They are, to be sure, conscious of their sins, but they are no longer tortured by a forever-condemning conscience, for they know that the penalty for all their sins, from the cradle to the coffin, was fully met by Christ at Calvary.

This is not to imply that even a sincere believer may not be troubled about offending the One who paid for his sins, but he knows that the judgment for these sins is past. Thus he earnestly seeks, like Paul, "to have always a conscience void of offence toward God and toward man" (Acts 24:16).

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Sunday, December 31  
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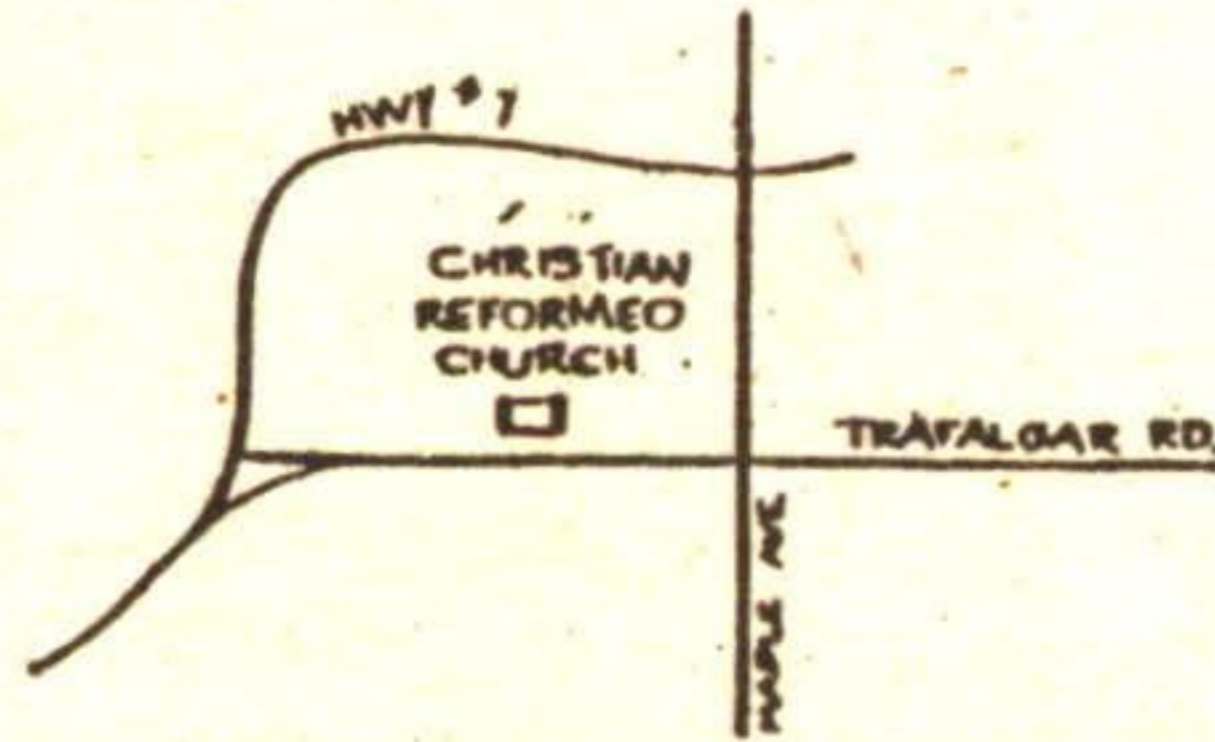
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