

# Religion

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## God has a plan to change the world

By **DOREEN PALMER**

Because many church people have not read and studied the scriptures, they have not understood the reason for Jesus' crucifixion - His claim to be the Son of God (5) Jesus was saying God was His father who had impregnated Mary's womb, not

Joseph. He also claimed to be God (6) Our Christmas carol 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' explains that he is 'incarnate deity.' He is the King, the Messiah, "the mighty God, the everlasting Father" (7) who will set up a real kingdom on earth (8)

When we grasp the fact that He is the Messiah whose kingdom will be complete when He returns with the raptured saints, (9) then we can understand how essential it is to be birthed into that kingdom family. Earthly kings rule by external laws; Jesus rules from within (10) by changing hearts. Earthly kings use force to get obedience; Jesus' followers obey because they love Him!

Jesus' followers have been looking for His return ever since He left, but Jesus told us how we can know when the time is close at hand, just as we can discern when summer is approaching by the budding of the tree leaves. (11) As we read and watch the news today, the signs Jesus mentioned are evident.

In 1948, the State of Israel was formed. This is a sign of His soon return because of the number of Old Testament prophecies that the Jews would return to Israel, (12) and that the desert would "blossom as the rose." (13) Israel has turned its desert sands into productive agricultural land, so that it literally does bloom like a rose!

As war looms over Israel, as famines and earthquakes increase and nations rise against nations, as the gospel moves across the world by television, we hold our breath knowing Jesus' return is near (14)

### Hope for Tomorrow



As worldwide political and economic confusion increases, the stage is being set for a world ruler. The Bible predicts such a ruler. He is called the "antichrist" (15) because he will be 'against the Christ,' the true Messiah. This "beast" (16) will

be very popular at first, (17) but later will demand worship of himself and kill those who refuse (18) Following this tribulation period, Jesus will return with His church - those who were removed before these frightening times (19) - and will set up His earthly rule.

Jesus' kingdom was initiated the day He rode the donkey into Jerusalem, (20) and will be established when He returns with His saints to rule the earth, (21) when all hearts are truly His!

God has a plan to save His world. The Christian message

holds great hope for believers, but untold horror for those who continue in sin (22)

*KJV - Jn 3:3; Rev 22:18-19; Jn 4:25-26; Heb 1:8; Jn 19:7; 10:30; Is 9:6; Rev 11:15; 21:1-4; Lk 17:21; Mt 24:32-33; Is 43:5-6; 35:1; Mt 24:3-14; 1 Jn 2:18; Rev 13:14; 13:3; 13:15; 3:10; Mt 21:1-9; Jude 14; Rev 21:8*

(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.)

### United Church wants talks on crisis in Gulf

The United Church of Canada's Toronto Conference is mobilizing support for a negotiated settlement of the Gulf crisis. Church members will send postcards to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and External Affairs minister Joe Clark calling on them to "declare Canada's absolute commitment to a negotiated resolution of the Gulf crisis." The postcards also appeal for Canada to remain committed to the use of sanctions, rather than military action.

In a letter to the Conference's 350 congregations, President Rev. Dr. David McKane says it is "imperative that we give sanctions time to work. It is critical that we not be drawn into armed aggression out of frustration or political expediency."

"It would be tragic if people were to die either because of our indifference or our inability to think of other ways of conducting the affairs of the world," writes McKane. "Such an atrocity must be resisted in every way possible."

## Christmas services crowded

Churches in Halton Hills report capacity and overflow attendance for Christmas masses and services over the three day holiday period including Sunday.

Christmas eve services, always popular, were filled to overflowing at several churches while others reported good turnouts on Christmas day.

Halton Gospel Temple in Georgetown also reports a very good turnout for their Christmas eve service. About 250 people came to the 7 p.m. service for the musical Come and Behold Him. The musical was performed by the adult choir, with children miming the manger scene, Pastor David Tapley said.

Video shots taken ahead of time were incorporated into the performance, for a unique approach, he said. Each year the church tries to do something a little different and this year was a success, he said.

Acton's St. Alban's Anglican Church and Evangel Pentecostal Tabernacle both reported good turnouts to their Christmas eve services.

"We had a very good turnout at our Christmas carol service Christmas eve," said Reverend Claude West. This is his first Christmas in Acton, so he can't compare it to previous years.

The family mass on Christmas eve at St. Joseph's Church in Acton had standing room only and masses at 9 p.m. and midnight also found the church crowded. Holy Cross Church, Georgetown, was also crowded for Christmas masses.

The Week End was unable to contact all the churches before

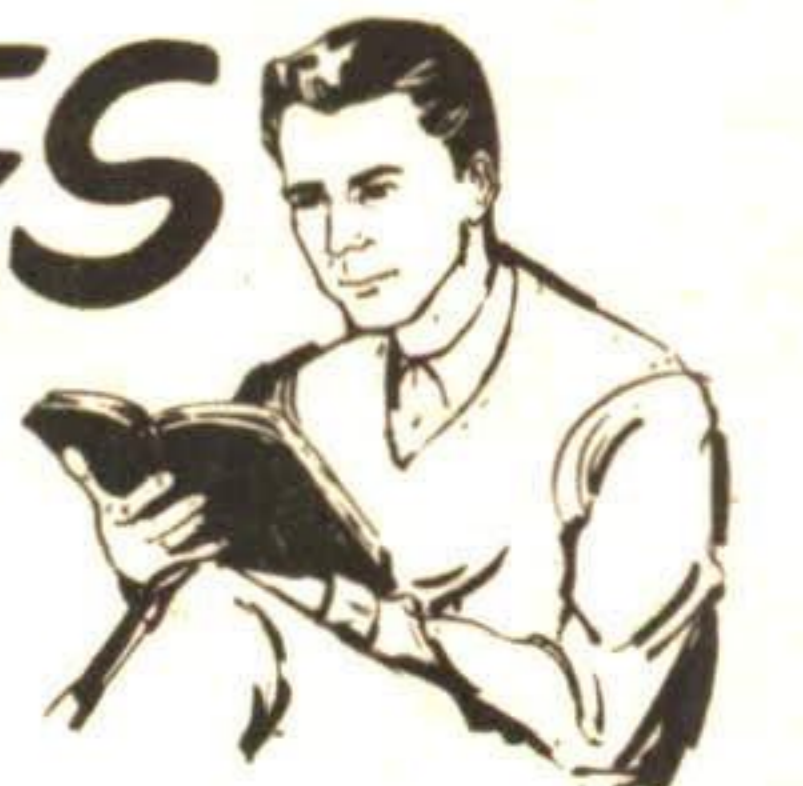
press time but members of the different congregations all reported the same story. The religious significance of Christmas was not lost in Halton Hills and area.

**Halton Support Services is looking for mature individuals who are interested in contract positions, working 4-15 hours/week teaching life skills to children with developmental handicaps. Instruction takes place in the child's home. If you are 18 or older, call 416-849-8000 for more information. Free information**

Information about cancer can be obtained free of charge by calling the Cancer Information Service at 1-800-263-6750.

## TWO MINUTES

WITH THE BIBLE  
 BY CORNELIUS R. STAM PRES.  
 BEREAN BIBLE SOCIETY



### "DEAD FAITH"

Nothing in the Bible is stated more clearly or with greater emphasis than the blessed Pauline revelation of justification by grace, through faith, *without works*.

Romans 4:5: "To him that worketh not, but believeth...his faith is counted for righteousness." Ephesians 2:8, 9: "For by grace are ye saved, through faith... it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast." Titus 3:5: "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us."

Yet James states, just as clearly that "faith, if it hath not works is dead, being alone" (Jas. 2:17). He challenges professing believers: "Show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith BY my works" (Ver. 18), and declares that "by works a man is justified and not by faith only" (Ver. 24), since "faith without works is dead" (Ver. 20).

Some have imagined a contradiction here, while actually there is none. There is a dispensational distinction, for to Paul had been committed "the dispensation of the grace of God" (Eph. 3:1, 2). His was "the preaching of the cross" (1 Cor. 1:18), offering sal-

vation by grace, through faith alone, to all who would trust Christ as Saviour.

James, on the other hand, was an apostle of the kingdom, proclaiming the kingdom rights of Christ and offering a changed way of life on earth which had already been experienced by the disciples in Judaea (Acts 2:44-47; 4:32-35).

Hence with James the emphasis is on works, *not* because good works can save or even help to save, but because *true* faith inevitably bears fruit and we can judge true faith only by the fruit it bears. Our Lord said: "By their fruits ye shall know them." Hence James' epistle abounds with such phraseology as, "ye see," "show me," "I will show you," etc.

What we must be careful to remember is that according to *both* Paul and James, faith comes first, then good works. Faith is the root, good works the fruit. The absence of fruit indicates that the root is dead, that while there may be an intellectual assent, there is no true heart faith, and "without faith it is impossible to please God" (Heb. 11:6).

The source of justification is grace; the basis, Calvary; the means, faith; and the evidence, works. Think this through; accept God's grace and trust the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord. He will cause you to produce good fruit.

### DIRECTORY OF HALTON HILLS

## Churches & Temples

<p><b>MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH</b>                  Corner of Maple &amp; Guelph, 877-6665                  Pastor: Bruce Scott                  Youth Pastor: Rob Grainger  <b>SUNDAY:</b>                  9:30 Family Teaching Ministry (for all ages)                  11 a.m. &amp; 6:30 p.m. Worship Service  <b>WEEKDAY EVENTS</b>                  Tues. 7:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting                  Wed. 9:30 a.m. Coffee Hour                  7:00 p.m. Youth Group                  Fri. 7:00 p.m. Youth Rec Night (Acton H.S.)                  8:00 p.m. Youth Choir</p>	<p><b>Christian Reformed Church</b>                  Trafalgar Rd.  <b>SUNDAY 10:00 A.M. &amp; 6:00 P.M.</b>                  Rev. P. Stadt                  "LISTEN TO THE BACK TO GOD HOUR"                  7:30 A.M. Hamilton CHAM 820                  7:30 P.M. Burlington FM 108                  9:00 P.M. Guelph CJOY 1460 and Mon.-Fri. Faith 20                  5:30 A.M. Global TV Ch. 6-41                  ...                  Ladies' Coffee Break Tues. 9:15 a.m. (Sept. through May)</p>	<p><b>St. George's Anglican Church</b>                  60 Guelph Street, Georgetown - 877-8044                  Rector:                  Rev. Thomas M.S. Kingston, B.A., B.Th.                  Pastoral Archdeacon:                  Ven. John H. McMulkin, B.A., S.T.B., D.D.                  Director of Music:                  Mr. Robert MacLennan, B.A. Mus.                  ...                  Sunday Services                  8:00 a.m. &amp; 10:00 a.m.                  Sunday School 9:00 a.m.                  Thursdays 10:00 a.m.</p>
<p><b>CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR</b>                  Anglican Church of Canada                  537 Main St. Glen Williams (Mountain &amp; Main Sts.)                  416-877-8323                  Rector: Rev. Carol A. Skidmore, L.Th.                  ...                  Sunday Services: 8 am, 10:30 am                  Church School/Nursery: 10:30 am                  Come join us - a warm welcome awaits you!</p>	<p><b>ST. ANDREWS UNITED CHURCH</b>                  Minister:                  Rev. Joe Smiley                  B.A., M.Div.                  89 Mountainview                  877-4482                  9:45 a.m.                  - Morning Worship                  - Sunday School                  - Nursery Facilities                  "Building Tomorrow's Church Today"</p>	<p><b>Mountainview Baptist Church</b>                  102 Mountainview Rd. S.                  Pastor: David Caldwell                  Church: 877-5854                  Home: 873-2184                  "How to find Christ at Christmas"                  Sunday School 10 a.m.                  Worship Service 11 a.m.                  Nursery &amp; Junior Church during service                  Christ Welcomes You</p>
<p><b>Knox Presbyterian Church</b>                  Corner Main &amp; Church, Georgetown                  10:00 a.m. - Sunday School                  11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship                  Junior Congregation                  Nursery Facilities                  Peter Barrow, B.D., Minister</p>	<p><b>ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH</b>                  Winston Churchill, South of Hwy. 7, Norval                  Rev. Richard Ruggle, MA, B.h., 877-3404                  Service at 10:30 a.m.                  Sunday, Dec. 23 -                  Service of Lessons and Carols 10:30 a.m.                  Christmas Eve - Candlelight Eucharist 11 p.m.                  All Are Welcome!</p>	<p><b>Halton Gospel Temple</b>                  Phone (416) 877-2759                  Highway 7 West of Trafalgar Rd., Georgetown                  Affiliated with P.A.O.C.                  Pastor Rev. David Tapley,                  Youth Pastor Rev. Dale Reddekopp  <b>SUNDAY SERVICES</b>                  9:45 a.m. Christian Education                  11:00 a.m. FAMILY WORSHIP                  6:30 P.M. Evening Praise                  Tuesday 10:00 a.m. Ladies coffee Hour                  Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Family Night                  Friday 7:30 p.m. Youth Alive</p>