

# Religion

## Ask what is a government's God-given task?

A discussion is taking place in our nation regarding its future. We are not the only ones talking about it. The Soviet Union and Yugoslavia are other examples of nations in discussion about their future. Every human being in the world lives under the jurisdiction of some kind of governing authority. Nobody can escape living under some kind of

political structure. Politics and religion are often considered to be such controversial topics that they are off limits in the barbershop or the beauty salon. The future of our nation should be a topic of conversation among us all.

One of the questions that needs to be considered in discussing the future of Canada is: what is the job

of government, what should we expect it to do for us?

Part of our struggle in political discussions is that we indeed ask ourselves too often: what can we expect the government to do for us? Asking what the government can do for us is not a bad question, but even before we ask what can the government do for us, we have to ask what is the government's God-given task?

When I live in Canada, I am thankful that I have the freedom to state my convictions about what I believe the task of government is. Not everybody shares my convictions about the government, that doesn't mean I can't say what I believe. My convictions about the government are part of my view of life.

A very wide-spread and important view of life in Canada today -- which I disagree with by the way -- is that human beings are autonomous individuals. This belief in human autonomy comes out in the words of the Humanist Manifesto: "Religious humanists regard the universe as self existing and not created.... But we can discover no divine purpose or providence for human species. No diety will save us; we must save ourselves." People have the freedom in Canada to believe that and live that out. Is there room for people who don't share that view of life?

My view of life says there is a God over me who has put His law-Word to the creation He made. My view of life says a diety will have to save us; that diety is the Lord Jesus Christ who upholds His Word of freedom over me. My view of life tells me that God created the government for our good.

The apostle Paul in talking about the governing authorities in Romans 13 says about our political officials: "For he is God's servant to do you good." My view of life shaped by the Bible tells me what good is. Good for me is to have room to love God above all and my neighbour as myself. I believe that God gave the government the task to see that I have that room. I as a Christian need to have that kind of room and so do others need to have that kind of room.

What happens when the prevailing view of life is that human beings are autonomous individuals is that they no longer have any authority over them. They are their own authority. Autonomous simply means: a law unto one's self. When people believe they are a law unto themselves, they go against the way

### Our future

By PAUL D. STADT  
PASTOR, GEORGETOWN  
REFORMED CHURCH

God made us. Eventually people will find a law or a person of some kind to rule over them.

We are giving that job to the government. We expect more and more from the government. We expect the government to control education, we expect the government to look after the environment. We expect the government to look after our children while we work. We expect the government to provide the means to make a living. We have come to expect the government to do almost everything for us. The government becomes our diety, our God.

We load way to much on the government. Our government is weighed down with much more than it can handle. We blame the government when it doesn't do what we want.

I am not advocating a 'laissez faire' government -- a government is best that governs least. I am saying let people take responsibility for their lives and don't leave everything to the government to hand out all our wants and wishes from the cradle to the grave. God has given the government to stand beside the family and not over it. God has given the task to the governing officials to stand by the work force, to stand by marriages and the arts.

Let us not force the government to take over what isn't its legitimate responsibility. Let's ask ourselves how we can shape this beautiful land of ours, so there is room for all to live in peace and love.

### Community Calendar

#### Monte Carlo Night

Georgetown Knights of Columbus presents Monte Carlo Night on Friday, April 26, 7:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at Holy Cross Hall. Admission \$10 per person (\$5 play dollars and snack included) with all proceeds for disabled wash-room and Birthright. For info and tickets call Bob Smith, 877-6325 or George Miehm, 877-2697.

#### Stress management

A stress management workshop will be held in Georgetown Friday, April 26, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The course is \$50 per person, and it is facilitated

by Marilyn Belleghem, who is a specialist in personal relationships and human potential, with 27 years experience as a professional development consultant, counsellor and teacher. For more information, call Anne Sidebottom, community relations co-ordinator for the North Halton Association for the Developmentally Handicapped at 877-5557.

#### Disciplining your kids

Barbara Coloroso will be speaking about Discipline: Kids are worth it, at Acton High School of Thurs. May 2 at 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. The presentation will focus on proven strategies for teaching young people how to be responsible for their own behaviour and learning. Tickets are \$5 so contact your child's school or Acton High School at 853-2920.

### Urgent Reminder

Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital in conjunction with Tidy Car wishes to remind coupon holders to validate their coupons before April 30.

The funds from the proceeds are being used to allow our hospital to purchase urgently needed equipment for the Emergency Department.

The \$35 coupon will purchase three separate services which have a value of \$70 and also allow significant discounts on Tidy Car's interior and exterior packages.

The coupon gives you an incredible savings towards many automobile cleaning and detailing services as well as making a substantial contribution to a much needed "Lifepak 5."

Additional coupons are available at the hospital and Tidy Car.

### DIRECTORY OF HALTON HILLS Churches & Temples

#### MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

Corner of Maple & Guelph, 877-6665

Pastor: Bruce Scott  
Youth Pastor: Rob Grainger

**SUNDAY:**  
9:30 Family Teaching Ministry (for all ages)  
11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Worship Service

**WEEKDAY EVENTS**  
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

#### CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR

Anglican Church of Canada

537 Main St. Glen Williams (Mountain & 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!*

#### NORVAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

9:45 A.M.

Minister: Rev. Mary Campbell  
B.A. M.DIV.

*Nursery Available*

#### Halton Gospel Temple

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

**SERVICES**  
11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.  
**FAMILY LIFE SEMINAR**  
Everyone Welcome!

with  
**JOHN BERSCHE**

Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty.

*II Corinthians 3:17*

#### ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH

Georgetown & Glen Williams  
11 Guelph St. Main St., G.W.  
PHONE 877-2531

Minister: Rev. Nancy Knox  
Minister of Christian Education: Karen Wigston

Sunday Service At  
9:30 Glen Williams  
11:00 Georgetown

*Nursery & Sunday School Available*  
Communion Service 9:00 a.m. First Sunday of each month in Georgetown.

**SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES!**  
You Are Welcome!

#### Christian Reformed Church

Trafalgar Rd.

**SUNDAY 10:00 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.**  
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 and 41

Ladies' Coffee Break Tues. 9:30 a.m.  
(Sept. through May)

#### ST. ANDREWS UNITED CHURCH

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"

#### ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Winston Churchill, South of Hwy. 7  
Norval

Rev. Richard Ruggle, MA, B.h.  
877-3404

Service at 10:30 a.m.

**All Are Welcome!**

#### St. George's Anglican Church

60 Guelph St., 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.

Sunday Services  
8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday School/Nursery 9:00 a.m.  
Thursdays 10:00 a.m.

#### Knox Presbyterian Church

Corner Main & Church, Georgetown

10:00 a.m. - Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. - Morning Workshop

Junior Congregation  
Nursery Facilities

Peter Barrow, B.D., Minister



Barbara Halsall of POWER dropped by Limehouse School, Wednesday to talk to the students about the environment and how it relates to them. The students are currently involved in a study unit on the environment and Halsall was invited to speak. TED BROWN Halton Hills Weekend