

Let's keep Christ in Christmas

DEAR EDITOR:

Amid the hectic activity of this time of year, there emerges the seasonal challenge to keep Christ in Christmas.

This annual reminder invites Christians to make Christ the real reason for the holiday season. This might seem like a simple request, but is difficult to personally measure. How do I know if I'm truly keeping Christ in my Christmas?

Is it a matter of limiting the number of gifts we purchase and wrap, or the number of parties we attend? I believe the question invites us to go beyond just the gifts and glitter and ask some questions that go directly to our hearts.

May I suggest that one way of measuring how you're keeping Christ in your Christmas is to ask yourself: Do I keep Christ in my Christianity? Some say they're a good church member of a particular denomination, but can you say you're a good Christian? There shouldn't be a difference, but at times in our lives, there is. Some may have active memberships in their church, but lack civil relationships with family members,

friends or neighbours.

How then, can I measure if Christ is in my Christianity? One way to answer this question is to reflect on how we respect others. A lack of respect for others is evident in our lives when we choose to judge others because of what they have done or failed to do rather than respecting who they truly are.

In other words, we choose to only see the sin and not the sinner. In that first Christmas, we recall that the innkeeper could find no room in his inn for the Christ child to be born. May I suggest that when we judge or hold grudges of others we continue to be like that innkeeper and refuse to welcome the birth of Christ's love to be born in our hearts.

It's by seeking forgiveness from those we have injured and forgiving those who have injured us that we say yes to Christ's presence in our Christianity and thus in our Christmas. Remembering that the gift of that first Christmas was Jesus, who came to this earth to forgive.

Christ's presence is also kept alive in our Christianity when

we adopt an attitude of gratitude for each other, displayed in words of kindness and affirmation. By choosing to be grateful for another, we reflect God's greatness, and when we choose to belittle another through our harmful words we choose to be little.

The challenge to keep Christ in Christmas, although honourable, remains only simple pious words if we continue to remain in judgment of others or hold grudges. Let's attempt to put Christ into Christmas by following the example of the true gift of every Christmas, Jesus Christ.

May we make little steps toward reconciling with those whom we have judged or those who have judged us and make our Christianity a way of life — not just a label. Like the Magi, let's seek to honour Christ this Christmas by giving Him the gifts of our forgiving and grateful presence toward each other. In this way, we keep Christ present in our Christianity and in our Christmas.

**FATHER MARK CURTIS
MILTON**

Care received at hospital was terrific

DEAR EDITOR:

My wife came home recently from Milton District Hospital after having gone through emergency care as a result of a ruptured appendix.

Although some may feel compelled to write a letter when they're dissatisfied with the health-care system, we wanted to write a letter of praise and thanksgiving for the excellent care we received in Milton.

This included everyone from the surgeon who immediately responded to our initial phone call and visit — and arranged for a battery of tests, so

within 24 hours he not only provided an accurate diagnosis but even stayed extra hours to perform the surgery — to our family doctor, who went out of his way to assist with the surgery.

Professional and compassionate care was received from the staff in emergency and on the ward, and the warm smile and kind words from the lady offering TV sets was greatly appreciated.

We were overwhelmed by the loving, considerate, personal care provided. Thank you.

**BILL AND GRACE KOENE
MILTON**

Turner's 'for the people' speech growing old

DEAR EDITOR:

I for one have had enough of Garth Turner's 'I represent the people of Milton, not the Conservative party' speech.

We have a representative democracy Mr. Turner, and not a direct democracy. We expect our representatives to vote, not necessarily according to wishes, but to exercise initiative in the force of

changing circumstances.

I suggest Mr. Turner, that you run as an independent in the next election and see just how many of the people of Milton still want you to represent them.

**BOB HAND
MILTON**

Town may get combined post office and customs building

'Time Capsules' are gems of information extracted from past issues of The Champion and other publications in order to provide a window into Milton's past. Explanatory comment is sometimes provided to place the situation in context.

February 1909

In the House of Commons on Thursday Mr. Henderson brought up the question of the erection of the much-needed post office building in Milton, promised by Dr. Harrison in the event of his election. The answer of the Minister of Public Works was less encouraging than that of the Minister of Customs when asked by Mr. Henderson to make Milton a customs port in the fulfillment of a similar promise, but there may be reason to hope that next year we may get a combined post office and customs building.

Governor Archie McGibbon of the jail has sold his farm in Nassagaweya, on which there is one of the finest stone houses in the county, to Messrs. D. Robertson and Co., who have also bought Peter Campbell's farm on the mountain. C.H. Turner has sold his farm in Trafalgar, a little east of Milton to Hugh Rodney and has bought Henry Robinson's farm of 200 acres at Omagh of which he will take possession on April 1st.

Milton's unemployed have been making the reading room of the Public Library their headquarters this winter, monopolizing the daily papers and disturbing the regular readers by their noisy discussions. Small boys too are in the habit of invading the reading room and making themselves obnoxious. Though the reading room is free it is not designed to be a loafing place and its frequenters are expected to be quiet and orderly. The chief constable may surprise the disturbers some of these days.

March 1909

George Andrew conducted W.C. Forrest's auction sale of farm stock etc. at Mr. Forrest's farm on the base line last Friday. Good prices were

**Milton
Time
Capsules**



realized, cows going as high as \$60 each and a two-year-old colt at \$140. The total receipts were about \$2,400. Mr. Forrest was well satisfied.

Mr. and Mrs. A.C. McBride suffered a sad bereavement on Tuesday with the loss of their only child — a bright little boy aged five years. He was attacked by diphtheria last week and it was hoped that he would recover until heart weakness set in, shortly before his death. Mr. and Mrs. McBride have been in Milton only a few months, since Mr. McBride's appointment as local agent of the Farmers' Bank, but they have made a great many friends here in town who deeply sympathize with them.

The entertainment, "Scenes in a Union Depot," at the town hall on Friday evening, under the management of Miss Luella Z. Drake and the auspices of the Public Library, was a great success. About forty of the young people of the town took part in it. They had only four days in which to get up their parts and four rehearsals, but the manner in which they acquitted themselves was most creditable to them and to Miss Drake.

Milton has grown considerably within the last few years but a big increase in population is looked for this year on account of the two big industries which will be in full blast before the end of the year. Building operations on a number of dwellings will begin as soon as spring opens, five, it is said on Martin Street alone. Later in the season a good many houses must be built for factory hands.

This material is assembled on behalf of the Milton Historical Society by Jim Dills, who can be reached at jdills@idirect.com.

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