

# Forgiveness is a way of life — not a once-in-a-lifetime event

"Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

Any of us, young and old, who participate in church services regularly intone this "request" as part of the Lord's Prayer. It is clearly implied that God is asked to forgive us of our sins, failure, mistakes to the extent that we are prepared to forgive those who sin against us.

In the Gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 18, Peter asks Jesus how many times should he forgive a brother who has sinned against him. Jesus' answer is followed by "the parable of the unmerciful servant". The story is one of a man who is forgiven by his master of a great debt, then soon after throws into debtor's prison another man who owed him a few dollars.

The parable, of course, concerns you and me. Notwithstanding the massive debt which was cancelled for us by the suffering and death of the Son of God, we can find ourselves categorically refusing to forgive the "penny ante" sins and offences of those around us who have hurt us, or wronged us, or disappointed us.

Sometimes our willingness to forgive someone who has wronged us or hurt us in some way, depends on him not on us. We do not see our for-

**Clergy Corner**  
with DAVID CUMMINGS

giveness as an action, but essentially a reaction. We would be upset for someone to suggest we could initiate the process of reconciliation.

But even worse than "conditional" forgiveness is no forgiveness. "I would never forgive him for what he did to me." In some families, family members can be estranged for years because this attitude prevails sometimes even the impending death of one of the parties is not enough to bring about forgiveness and reconciliation.

God says to each of us "I have forgiven you at great personal expense and I want you to choose to forgive one another from the heart. I want you to follow the example of my Son and I want your motive to be your desire to obey and please me because I have forgiven you." Scripture is clear, moreover, that if we want to play by the "old rules" God will

hold us accountable in the same way as we hold others accountable.

Now you may think I'm going overboard on all this. But let me tell you a story I heard from another Christian Leader:

A young girl was attending a college football game and was literally deafened in one ear because a fan who had too much to drink blew an air horn right in her ear. She remained deaf in that ear for a number of years, all the while seething with bitterness and resentment toward the boy who had done this to her.

Later she became a Christian and in due time heard some teaching on the subject of forgiveness and realized that God understood her resentment but wanted her to confess it as sin and forgive the boy with the air horn. As you might have guessed, her deaf ear popped the moment she did so and her hearing in that ear returned immediately!

Is there someone in your life you need to forgive today?

David Cummings is pastor at Covenant Life Christian Church, Campbellville and is chairman of the local ministerial association.



Photo by JOHN WARREN

## Tooling around

A new program at the Senior Citizens' Recreation Centre has attracted a lot of interest and has participants tooling to their hearts' content. It's a leather craft program the runs each Thursday.

## Seniors are taking advantage of Elderhostel learning opportunities

Last year Elderhostel Canada accommodated 19,000 senior citizens who chose from a variety of locations throughout the country and a large selection of learning opportunities.

At an average cost of \$300 a week, not including transportation, seniors are provided with accommodation, meals and educational programs to suit numerous interests. Sessions also take in some local attractions.

Course outlines are published quarterly and are available at Milton Public Library. For more information write to Elderhostel Canada, 33 Prince Arthur Ave. Suite 3000, Toronto, Ont. M5R 1B2.



## Get a Lube, Oil and Filter. FREE.

When you meet your new Top Guns in Milton.

Bill Keith is your new Top Gun in Milton. Bill and his staff are trained experts ready to tackle the toughest under-the-car problems. And right now they are offering a **FREE** Lube, Oil & Filter with any purchase over \$50. Just present the coupon below at the time of purchase.

Bill and his Top Guns offer:

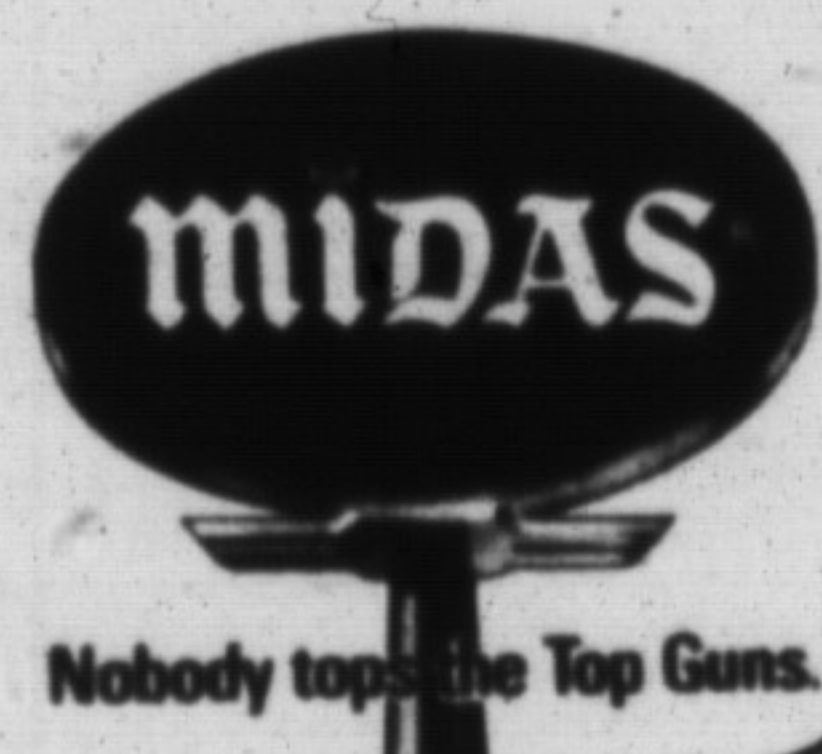
- Exhaust system repairs
- Brake repairs
- Suspension repairs
- Front end service and wheel alignment

And, while the work is being completed, Bill can arrange a ride to your home or office within Milton.

For a **FREE** Lube, Oil & Filter, present this coupon at Bill Keith's Midas shop at:

420 Steeles Ave. East, Milton  
876-4663

With any purchase of \$50 or more. This offer expires March 31, 1990.



Nobody tops the Top Guns.

# FABRICLAND'S

## BUY 1 at Our Reg. Price GET

# 2 free!

### SALE ON SELECTED MERCHANDISE

**Special Selection!**  
**CHALLIS PRINTS & SOLIDS**  
115cm wide, 100% rayon & blends. Our Reg. 9.98 m

**Special Selection!**  
**NOVELTY SPORTSWEAR**  
150cm wide, assorted contents. Our Reg. 9.98 m

**Special Selection!**  
**SEABREEZE LINEN-LOOK**  
Solids & Prints. 150cm wide, assorted contents. Our Reg. 8.98 m

**Special Selection!**  
**Extra W-I-D-E 100% COTTON PRINTS**  
150cm wide. Our Reg. 9.98 m

OUR ENTIRE IN-STORE STOCK OF

**BUTTERICK**  
Patterns

BUY 1 at Our Reg. Price. GET

**Special Selection!**  
**PRINTED T-SHIRT KNITS**  
150cm wide, polyester cotton blend. Our Reg. 12.98 m

**Special Selection!**  
**Extra W-I-D-E 100% COTTON TWILL**  
150cm wide. Our Reg. 8.98 m

**2 free!**

**Special Selection!**  
**'CANTEEN' BOTTOMWEIGHTS**  
115cm wide, polyester cotton blend. Our Reg. 7.98 m

**Special Selection!**  
**'MICHIGAN' CORDUROY**  
115cm wide, 100% cotton. Our Reg. 7.98 m

**HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:**  
When you buy one full metre of selected, in-stock fabric at our reg. price, get the next two absolutely **FREE!** (multiples of three only)

**Special Selection!**  
**'NIGHT MAGIC' ROBEWEAR**  
135cm - 150cm wide, assorted contents. Our Reg. 7.98 m

Sale in effect Feb. 5-20/90, or while quantities last. Look for the red sale tags. Most items available in all stores. Please Note: in some locations some items may be sold at a price lower than our regular chain-store price, in order to match selected competitors' regular prices. Where this 'competitive pricing' occurs, the advertised savings will be off our regular chain-store price.

547 Main St. E.  
Milton  
878-0931

**FABRICLAND**  
CANADA'S LARGEST FASHION FABRIC DISTRIBUTOR

The Best in Selection and Price Anywhere