

# St. Paul's minister likes lots of variety in his reading

"Sometimes I feel guilty when I look at all the books I own," said Reverend Robert Hyde of St. Paul's United Church.

books are the tools of my trade." Indeed, many of the books Rev. Hyde mentioned during our lengthy conversation were related to theology.

He is currently reading *Turning the World Upside Down* by Lois Wilson, the first woman moderator of the United Church of Canada.

cal. She discusses her theological and philosophical positions regarding global issues and she talks about her experience as one of the presidents in the Geneva-based World Council of Churches.

"She writes from a feminist perspective and at times her feminist stance becomes repetitive, but it is interesting to study what Ms Wilson has added to the church, especially during this time when the church is in such a state of flux."

"The present United Church moderator, Sang Chul Lee, has also written his autobiography, *The Wanderer*, which I've read."

"He's a man in his 60s, very congenial and humorous. He's a non-conformist and has always been concerned with oppressed peoples."

#### On a reserve

Reverend Hyde's first pastoral charge was in Saskatchewan on a native reserve where some Sioux were descendants of Sitting Bull.

"Frank Turner talks about Sitting Bull in *Across the Medicine Line*. I admired Sitting Bull's dedication to his people, his persistence and courage. He was seen as anti-American, a resister."

A book that provided Rev. Hyde with an authentic native perspective was *Black Elk Speaks*.

A Sioux medicine man from South Dakota shared with author John G. Neihardt his recollections of ancient ceremonies.

Reverend Hyde started *Hanta Yo*, an 1100-page book, a year ago and goes back to it from time to time. It took Ruth Beebe Hill 25 years to write this novel, based on a Sioux tribe in the midwestern United States during the early 1800s.

#### Cultural flavour

"The author wanted to give it an authentic cultural flavour so she translated her words into the Sioux language, then back into English. It tends to drag. I'm halfway through it."

When Rev. Hyde was a teenager,

## Who's Reading What?

with ESTHER CALDWELL

he admired Dr. Tom Dooley, who wrote *The Night They Burned the Mountain, Deliver Us from Evil* and *The Edge of Tomorrow*.

"During the 1950s, Dr. Dooley set up clinics in the back countries of Laos, Cambodia and Viet-Nam. I was really impressed with his dedication. He left a prestigious job to work as a missionary. I was also intrigued by his organizational abilities."

Reverend Hyde comes from a family of funeral directors and he himself is a licensed funeral director. Two books he frequently refers to when helping other deal with the terminally ill and the grieving were written by Stephen Levine.

"*Meetings at the Edge* contains records of interviews with the grieving and dying, while *Who Dies?* is an investigation into the dying process."

"He writes from an Eastern religion perspective and he talks about faith and one's relationship to God. Levine has developed skills to work with the dying and he teaches meditations to help people through difficult times."

#### Avid genealogist

Reverend Hyde is an avid genealogist. He has been working on the Hyde family for years.

Sir Henry Craik's two-volume *The Life of Edward, Earl of Clarendon* provided him with insight on one of his ancestors.

The Earl, otherwise known as Edward Hyde, lived in the 1600s during the reign of Charles I.

He spent many years in exile with the king's young son, who returned later as Charles II.

For a time, the Earl was the most powerful man in Charles II's court.

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