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FACTS and FAITH

A Weekly Comment On
Christian Life And Action
— By Calvin H. Chambers —



A Better World Needs Better People

Is a better world possible? Should the Christian be stirred by community and world conditions, seeking to do something about them? Is there any way in which mankind can find the road to a better world? Does the Bible have anything to say about this urgent and perplexing problem?

In the days of Jesus, a learned scribe put a question to Him concerning this problem. He asked, "Which is the greatest commandment?" He was earnestly hoping for a new and better world. He felt that if men knew that way, and walked in it, a door would be opened to a better world. He had been taught by the rabbis that there were three hundred and sixty-five prohibitions and two hundred and forty-eight positive commands, which if obeyed, would bring the Kingdom of God to earth. He wanted Christ to "boil down" all of them so that he might do the most important and thus make his contribution toward the realization of a better world.

Jesus answered the question by turning him to the Book of Deuteronomy, and quoted the great verse, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy strength and with all thy soul and with all thy mind. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." The conditions which Jesus laid down for the attainment of a better world were threefold. Love for God. Love for neighbor. Love for self. We would not have a better place to live in, where we are rightly related to all three.

A right relationship to God is of primary importance. So often men have attempted to create a better world, but have lost sight of God and their need for Him. There are many who believe in God intellectually who have not permitted Him to invade their lives with His love and grace. There are those who give lip service to God as they serve the gods of this world.

Before we can be rightly related to God, we must acknowledge that we have not given Him the first place in our lives. We have not loved Him with our whole being. We have all been, to a greater or lesser degree, prodigal sons. Like the wayward boy in Christ's story, we have to come to ourselves and say, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and in thy sight and am no more worthy to be called thy son." We must be willing to come back to the God we have pushed out of our lives by our selfish and thoughtless living.

When we come to God, humbly conscious of our need for a new relationship with Him, we find that His grace is big enough to blot out all the wrong of the past. We discover that the love which He demonstrated in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, makes it possible for us to live in a new relationship with Him. The Bible calls this "reconciliation." Now we love God, because we realize how much He has done for us through Christ. As the Apostle John puts it in his epistle, "We love Him, because He first loved us." This coming to God, receiving His forgiveness and grace through Christ, is the first step we must take toward realizing a better life and a better world.

When we yield to the love of God in Christ, He makes it possible for us to love our neighbor. What is neighborliness? Is it just a matter of being on friendly terms with the man next door? Who is my neighbor? He is 'everybody.' He is 'the family next door'—yes, but more than that. He is the teacher, the Chinese laundryman, the Negro porter, the Jewish shopkeeper, the German carpenter! But our neighborhood is not limited, even by these boundaries. The whole world is our neighborhood. This includes the teeming millions in India, the hungry barefooted children of Asia, the old people suffering in the refugee camps in Palestine, the people of Brazil, Poland, Ethiopia, Japan, God has made of one blood all nations.

lons to dwell on the face of the earth. His love goes out to all. If God takes hold of your life through Christ, He gives you power to love your fellowman in a dynamic and practical way.

Then, we must also have a proper love of self. It is true, that "we must not think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think." Neither must we think of ourselves less than what God thinks of us. The only way we can truly know and love ourselves is in the light of God. A mirror can tell you many things about yourself, but they are all external. Your friends and relatives knew a lot about you, but even they may not know all your secrets, longings, hopes and dreams.

Only God has the truest knowledge of us. He alone sees the deepest recesses of our inner life. He knows us. And who are we? We are people whom He has created in His own image. We are not just bone, muscle and cell. We are creatures with whom He wants to have fellowship.

But our selfishness, our sin has marred that fellowship. When we learn this we are tempted to hate and despise ourselves. We may even try to run away from ourselves, and forget who we really are. The cross of Christ is God's call to stand still and face ourselves. At the cross we learn what our sin does to divine love. It

crucifies it. But God's love is greater than our sin. The cross tells us that the love of God is so great, that it is willing to accept us and forgive us, no matter who we are, or what we have done in life. When we accept that love, we gain a new sense of self respect, and human dignity. We can begin to love ourselves without conceit, because we know that God has redeemed us. We are of infinite worth to Him.

If a King should stoop down, pick up a penny out of the gutter, wash it, and put it back into circulation, this would reveal something of its worth. The Bible teaches that God, the King of heaven, has stooped down in Jesus Christ, and wants to lift us up, clean us up, and fit us for life. This invests human existence with infinite meaning.

This kind of love will make a new and better person out of anyone. It is only as we have better people, that we can have a better world. A person who opens his life up to the love of God in Christ, will begin to love God in a personal way. This will lead to the love of one's neighbor and oneself. Love—the love of God in and through you, is the road to a better world.



Over Hill, Over Dale

by Cicely Thomson

We are about to add a public building to Richmond Hill. Not only will it be the kind of building that will serve the needs of the town into the foreseeable future, but incidentally it will be contributing to winter employment in the building trade.

At the same time we will be adding to our own "civic square" as the new public library building will be erected to the west of the present municipal hall, with a shady lane leading to a parking lot at the rear, and shade trees along the street that a "whoop and a holler" saved from damage when some bulldozing was going on.

Both our library board, under the chairmanship of first Gordon MacLaren and lately Mrs. Robert Johnston, and the town council have approved drawings that will give us adequate library space, keyed to a projected 25,000 population. Miss Katherine Ball, chairman of the building committee used to good effect her experience in library work, and knowledge gained at conventions across the continent.

The first step in the acquiring of an adequate building for the size of the town was the action last year by the council of deeding to the library board the land which they are now to use, known to older residents as the site of the "tennis courts" which up until 10 years ago were the scene of much spring and summer activity. The foresighted action of the council in earmarking this land to the west of the firehall gave the board the chance to begin their planning, in such a way as to keep the financial load for the taxpayers as low as possible. Provincial grants on the land alone will total \$10,000 over a period of three years, while in addition to the \$50,000 given by council from the number two account will bring in another provincial grant of \$10,000.

The next step towards the building meant much visiting of comparable libraries . . . in all nine were studied from Etobicoke to Hamilton . . . and the choosing of an architect. After interviews with several who specialized in library work, Philip R. Brock, assistant to the late Arthur Eadie, considered one of the most outstanding architects in library work on the continent was selected. Mr. Brock has just completed the Oshawa library and also is connected with the George Locke library at Yonge and Lawrence in Toronto.

For us he has designed a building that will harmonize with the new section and renovated municipal hall. The ground level entrance to the yellow brick building with its large areas of glass will be on the north side with a spacious covered patio leading to it. Outside the area to the south will be attractively landscaped where a children's hour can be held outdoors away from the street, while to the north and east will be the shade trees.

Once we are inside, we can either go up four or five steps to the main library room or down to a lecture hall. The adult section and the children's room on the upper level, both with picture windows, are served by a common L-shaped desk overlooking the entire main floor. This will mean that the present library staff will not need to be greatly increased.

In the past year we doubled our circulation and are now averaging about 5,000 books a month which will bring us up to 60,000 for the year! At the approved rate of 2 1/2 books per capita, right now we should be having 25,000 on our shelves. When our chief librarian, Mrs. Irma Kadela, who of course attends all board meetings, was appointed last year there were 6,000 altogether on the shelves with several hundred in the stacks. In one year 1,850 new books have been added.

Let's return to the new building: behind the children's section which is to the left of the entry is a story room; behind the adult section is a workroom and office. From the story room a stairway leads down to an exit at the south side.

If we go down the few steps from the entry to the lower level we come to the 52 by 28 foot lecture room on the left of the stairway, which will accommodate 150 people. Across the hall is a large stacking section that alone will hold 14,000 books. The staff lounge (19 by 13) and the washrooms are also on this level.

A lecture room has deliberately been included in the plans to help meet the need of the town for activity space. A certain group that has always held the needs and growth of the library dear to their hearts, who indeed saved carefully and gathered money through two world wars to insure the growth of that library, who were largely responsible for the delightful library rooms we now have, in short, the Women's Institute will have first call on the new lecture hall.

The board also hopes that groups such as the senior citizens club will use the space, and that the canvas club, which has its shows at present in the library, will have their meetings and "gallery" in the lecture room. Mrs. Kadela is provisionally planning puppetry there too for the young fry.

The architect, the committee, and the board have planned well for the town, and with municipal blessing are giving us a building that not only will be most attractive to the eye, but will also go a long way to serve our needs for many years.

Richmond Hill's Drainage Problem

Turning back the pages of "The Liberal" files we came across the heading "Council Takes Initial Step In Solution of the Drainage Problem". The date of the issue is July 11th, 1957, and the story goes on to say: "Richmond Hill Town Council Monday night took the initial step in what is hoped will be a permanent solution to the contentious Beverley Acres drainage problem. Council passed a by-law requesting the Ontario Water Resources Commission to undertake the box drain project. The project will include the deepening of a waterway in Markham Township to provide an adequate outlet and will require Municipal Board approval."

This is September 1958, and the Beverley Acres flood problem is with us still. In actual fact it is very little closer to solution than it was a year ago. The by-law authorizing the drainage work has not yet had the approval of the Water Resources Commission.

It is little wonder that Mayor Tomlin and members of council confess frustration and are concerned over the long delay. There is real reason for concern and a definite need for a speeding up of the machinery of taking care of such necessary works in growing communities.

Even when Water Resources Commission approval is received there are a great many legal steps to be taken before the needed construction work can be started. Approval must be obtained from the Ontario Municipal Board, and this often is a long drawn-

out procedure. When approval is obtained expropriation proceedings will have to be taken for permission to enter on lands in Markham Township.

An important matter still to be decided is how the project is to be financed. The estimated cost is in the neighbourhood of a quarter of a million dollars and the question is who is to pay for it. Some have suggested that as the drainage problem is the direct result of the residential and commercial development the entire cost should be borne by the properties benefitting from it. Many contend that the solution to the drainage problem should have been a condition of the original sub-division agreement. A more likely solution is that a portion of the cost will be assessed as a direct charge against all lands benefitting directly or indirectly from the project, and a part spread as a levy over the whole town. The manner in which the quarter million dollar cost of this large drainage project will be paid by Richmond Hill taxpayers is a decision which members of Richmond Hill council should make soon.

We agree that the existing flood conditions are deplorable and it is important that corrective steps be taken as quickly as possible. It is important too, how the work is going to be paid for, because a quarter of a million dollars with interest charges over a period of years represents a very considerable addition to the tax bill.

York County Loses Distinguished Citizen

Citizens of York County felt a special loss in the passing last week of Hon. George S. Henry, a former Premier of the province. A native son of the county he was born in King Township and over a long period of years served his fellow-citizens faithfully and well as township councillor, reeve, warden, member of the legislature, cabinet minister and premier.

In 1903 he entered public life as a councillor in the Township of York and served continuously until his retirement in 1943 at the age of seventy-two. He never suffered personal defeat at the polls. He entered the Ontario Legislature in 1913 representing the riding of East York which for a number of years included Richmond Hill and Markham Township.

Mr. Henry was named Minister of Agriculture in the Hearst administration in 1918. In 1919 he was urged to contest his party's leadership but chose instead to support Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, who won the premiership in 1923. The Minister of Public Works and Highways in that government was Hon. G. S. Henry. In 1930 he became Premier when Mr. Ferguson was named Canada's High Commissioner to London. Those were the days when Mitchell F. Hepburn's political star was rising and George S. as he was popularly known was subjected to severe and sometimes many thought unfair, political criticism. His government went down to defeat but he was re-elected in East York and

continued as leader until 1936 when he was succeeded by Hon. Earl Rowe.

He was Warden of York County in 1909 and was this county's oldest surviving warden. He took an active interest in many movements for the benefit of the county and was largely instrumental in creating the Toronto and York Roads Commission. He was one of the earliest advocates of some kind of Metropolitan administration for suburban municipalities.

A successful farmer and breeder of Holstein cattle Mr. Henry was one of the organizers of the Farmers' Dairy and served as its president from 1909 to 1923.

The late Mr. Henry will be remembered as a kindly and conscientious man who served well his day and generation. He took a personal interest in his constituency and constituents and although we never belonged to his political party we found him always friendly, co-operative, anxious and willing to help in any way to promote the interest of York County and its people.

York County has lost an outstanding citizen and "The Liberal" joins with his host of friends in extending sympathy to the bereaved family. Pat Henry, a son, lived in Richmond Hill for several years and now is resident in Toronto. George W., another son lives at Todmorden and two daughters Mrs. Clare Locke and Mrs. George M. Clemons live in Toronto.

What Is So Rare?

What is so rare as the sight of several hundred newspaper editors sitting en masse at a buzz session (during which THEY make speak THEIR piece, for a change); or dining at a leisurely, relaxed pace; or listening to a talk, or hearing an orchestra play, or a singer sing — and not having to take down notes (unless they really wanted to) to make up a story before the paper goes to press on Wednesday afternoon?

This memorable occasion came about last week when the 39th Annual Conference of the Canadian National Weekly Newspaper Association was held in the King Edward Hotel, Toronto, and editors and families came from Vancouver and Newfoundland, and points in between, to fill the corridors, halls and rooms of the hotel with the murmurings of more than 450 delegates. Officially welcomed Thursday

morning by Mayor Nathan Phillips, the conference members were entertained at a government dinner in the crystal ballroom that evening at which time the Honorable James Allan, representing Ontario's premier the Honorable Leslie Frost, said, "I almost envy the members of this association — A group that has a great deal to do with the molding of public opinion across Canada is seated here in this room."

It was this writer's first CWNA conference, and we hope it will not be our last, for from the first strains of "O Canada", at that opening session, our heart swelled with pride in the knowledge that these men and women representing the weekly press across Canada, truly symbolize those glorious words, "WE STAND ON GUARD FOR THEE" — and we were part of that group.

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Miss Margaret Robinson Passes

Residents of Richmond Hill were shocked to learn of the sudden passing of Miss Margaret Robinson on September 2nd, just one day prior to her moving to take up residence in Toronto. Together with Miss J. Doran, Miss Robinson had lived at the fine home, with its spacious lawns and gardens, 66 Richmond Street, for the past seventeen years.
Born in Aurora, Miss Robinson was the daughter of the late Mr. C. C. Robinson and Jane Macleod, and was the last of a family of four.
Her great grandfather, Capt. Macleod donated the land which became the site of St. John's Anglican Church (Yonge St. at Jefferson).
Miss Robinson was a member of St. Mary's Anglican Church, always an ardent worker in the Women's Auxiliary, Red Cross and other organizations.
Services were conducted at Wright and Taylor's Funeral Home by the Rev. J. F. O'Neill, assisted by the Rev. Arthur Chote, former Rector of the church, with interment taking place in Richmond Hill Cemetery on September 5th. Friends and relatives attending the services included Mrs. Charles Baldwin, Miss Edith Baldwin, Mrs. Victor Moorehouse, and Miss Jane Graham of Toronto. Lady Beverley Robinson and her daughter Mrs. J. Sutherland of Grimsby.
Mr. W. S. Pocknell, Mr. A. Hewitt, Dr. Walter Mason, Mr. R. D. Little, Mr. Ken Ruffman, and Mr. J. V. Lepper were the pallbearers.

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