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Facts and Faith

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

1900 years ago there was a man who eagerly longed for a better world. His country was politically enslaved. The people of his country were taxed to the hilt and knew severe economic suffering. Religion had reached an all time low.

Nicodemus believed in the coming of the Kingdom of God. He looked for a mighty deliverer who would free his nation and set things right. His observation of Jesus led him to believe that He might possibly be the Promised One. He therefore decided to talk to Jesus about the Kingdom. He came to our Lord one night to discuss this situation and to see if Christ could do anything about it. He looked for a new world in the midst of tyranny, oppression, selfishness.

He is not unlike millions of people in the world today. In every area of life there are those who want peace, and earnestly hope that war with all its destruction can be averted. Sane and sensible people everywhere are hoping that this coming year, some of our great social and economic problems can be solved. We are looking for social reformation in our culture.

But the answer to our's and Nicodemus' search for a "bright new world" is not just a matter of social reformation. Something much more radical is necessary. We need spiritual regeneration. The world we hope for, the peace we pray for, the life we really want to live, cannot be ours without a change of heart. There can be no new year, until we have a new life from God.

So the words of Jesus, "ye must be born anew" still have the relevance today. No matter who we are, or what we have done, the basic need of all of us, is for inner renewal by the power of God. If high moral character could bring about a change in our society it would have done so long ago. Nicodemus was a man of high spiritual life and outlook. Yet our Lord pointed out to him the need for an inner transformation of heart if he was to share in the life of the Kingdom.

There are people in the world today who advocate in a rather facile way, that all we need to do is practice the Sermon on the Mount and the Golden Rule and the worlds ills will be eradicated. Of course this is true, but it doesn't go far enough. It fails to reckon with the fact that man is morally and spiritually unable to reach the standard set for using Christ's teaching, apart from power from God. It is ridiculous to ask 25 cycle voltage to do something which only 60 cycle can perform. It is just as ridiculous to ask a person who is unregenerated by the power of God, to live for the glory of God.

How then can we find this power? According to Jesus there must be spiritual conception. The only way to new life and a new society is for man to be born from above. Spiritual life comes from God who is Spirit. Like begats like. To be born of the flesh is to be of the flesh. No matter how much the ego of man may be refined, cultured or civilized, if untouched by the Spirit of God, it remains essentially the same. There must be a new beginning. The Spirit of God must come into our lives, and there work His transforming miracle, making us new creatures in Christ. Our self-centeredness must be destroyed, by Him whose right it is to reign Lord of Life.

This new beginning is necessary if we are to be new people contributing to a new world. Without this, we build upon quicksand. Christ says, "Behold I make all things new. Can He start with you?"

Over Hill, Over Dale

by Cicely Thomson

Now that the scattered tissue papers and gay ribbons have disappeared for another eleven months . . . now that the joyous carols of the season are sung . . . now that the gay ornaments on the tree have their hours almost numbered before they too go into the dark for nearly another year . . . now in fact, that Christmas is behind us, it is time to look at the New Year and the resolutions that are part of the beginning of another year.

Every paper and magazine carries stories on New Year's resolutions. Approached from every angle. Written in every vein. Covering every field of human endeavor from "I will remember to show my wife some little attention every day" to "I will lose twenty pounds".

New Year's resolutions are wonderful. We are inspired by our own high purposes and our neighbours even higher confessed resolutions.

But we live in a northern land. It is rather bleak at times. We are missing to a certain extent in our home and community life an oil that makes the wheels go more smoothly. We are a people with very little laughter. Or song.

Both seem to be associated with "light living" (in this country). And with liquor. A group of adults singing at a party "can only mean one thing". If someone laughs out loud in the street cold eyes turn to look at the offender. And of course if anyone sings out loud on a wonderful spring day for the sheer joy of living . . .

It is so contradictory. Because everyone wants to go to movies and plays and musicals in which singing abounds and at which they can laugh to their heart's content. Also to go to games in which they no longer participate but at which they can shout and cheer. They go home feeling good. For these things release them from their problems and the minor troubles that spend 365 days a year besetting us poor civilized creatures.

What happened to our laughter? Men laughed and sang in the good old days — of David who with praises from his heart that pouring from his lips helped him through his own troubles and have inspired hundreds of generations after him — or Will Shakespeare who would have no truck with those who only smiled. The Elizabethans laughed a lot, they sang too, rollicking songs, love songs, religious songs.

Did Oliver Cromwell knock the laughter out of England so that it never even came to English Canada? Will our new Canadians who come from countries where laughter is a part of the way of life change Canada's expression from the thin-lipped smile of the self-righteous to the open laugh of "one who loves his fellow men"?

Children laugh. The fat baby in play waves his legs with their rosy dimpled knees as he laughs his delight . . . the toddler as the castle of blocks, piled high with much effort and concentration, is flung to the floor, laughs with glee . . . the children in the play-yard at school laugh and shout and run in their play. And the young parents, as their new baby grasps a finger in its tiny hand, express their joy in laughter as together they look fondly on this new creature.

We see laughter as an expression of love. And love is what makes the world go round. And where did we lose it? It isn't because we try too hard at this business of living; trying hard does not stifle laughter (look at the first pictures of Hilary and Tensing on the summit of Everest, faces alight with joy, laughter in their eyes and on their lips). It must be the love of life and the joy of living we have lost in our materialistic pursuit of happiness.

Happiness is something we are being taught to look for, as the result of material possessions, as a gift on a platter from other people . . . we have forgotten that it is something inside us, that when we reach after it it vanishes. We cannot store it up, we cannot put it off until another day. We must express joy and feel happiness; and the laughter of love and the laughter of delight, and the shout of laughter for a feat accomplished are expressions of happiness.

What's more it's catching. A yawn and a laugh are both infectious. That's why I'm only making one resolution this year.

I'm going to try and laugh at least twice as often every day as I did last year.

Happy New Year

Loudly, the New Year is ushered in Amid shouts and other kinds of din, — Let nothing blind us to its import. There are things better than such sport. The good will, Christmas left behind May stay imprisoned in every mind, — And this is the wish, I make so clear On this great day. Happy New Year!
 — Elizabeth Dale Kelson

Recipe for a Happy New Year

Take twelve fine, full-grown months; see that these are thoroughly free from all old memories of bitterness, rancour, hate and jealousy, cleanse them completely from every clinging spite; pick off all specks of pettiness and littleness; in short, see that these months are freed from all the past — have them as fresh and clean as when they first came from the great storehouse of Time.

Cut these months into thirty or thirty-one equal parts. Do not attempt to make up the whole batch at one time (so many persons spoil the entire lot in this way), but prepare one day at a time, as follows:

Into each day put equal parts of faith, patience courage, work (some people omit this ingredient and so spoil the flavour of the rest), hope, fidelity, liberality, kindness, rest (leaving this out is like leaving oil out of the salad — don't do it!), prayer, meditation, and one well-selected resolution. Put in about a teaspoonful of good spirits, a dash of fun, a sprinkling of play and a heaping cupful of good humour.

Pour love into the whole and mix with a vim. Cook thoroughly in fervent heat; garnish with a few smiles, and a sprig of joy; then serve with quietness, unselfishness, and cheerfulness.

1959 Resolution Suggested

At the closing meeting of this year's York Central District High School Board, the 1958 chairman, Harry W. R. Sayers, said he regretted the fact that not one ratepayer had attended a session of the board during the past year.

Trustee Stewart Rumble said, "apathy such as this can be blamed on lack of interest — or the belief that the board is doing its work well, therefore need not be visited."

Unfortunately, such is the case ward most board meetings, whether they are serving the high school or public school population. Just to point out ignorance is not always bliss; one ember of this year's high school board did that a ratepayer he met recently as under the impression that the Richmond Hill Public School Board ran the High School Board!

Since this is the time of the year

Resolutions are made — we are suggesting that the ratepayer who is concerned about his taxes (which unfortunately, but necessarily, are rising because of added school costs) make it his or her public duty to attend at least one or two meetings of the District High School Board in 1959 — to find out just why this rise in school taxes is necessary.

If the visitor does not come away from these meetings with a better knowledge of school affairs — and a great sympathy for the business and professional men who give so many hours of their time during the year to run the district high schools' affairs — we'll be surprised indeed.

January 5, 1959, is the date set for the board's inaugural meeting in the Library of the Thornhill High School. The time is 8 p.m.

New Year's Greetings

Today is the beginning of a New Year. And, as is customary with all things new and still untried, we greet this day with mingled feelings: partly with joy, partly with seriousness.

It is a big responsibility for every one of us — to greet this New Year and to do with it what we will during the next 365 days.

Much has already been written and said about the old year, 1958, and it is now time to think of 1959 — and the people who will be living in it and shaping it for future posterity.

Are we going to be disinterested bystanders — or are we going to help put the New Year across, one hundred per cent.

And this brings us to the reason

this editorial was written — simply for the purpose of extending best wishes to those who play such quiet, effective roles in our lives, the lives of our children, and in our communities — our school teachers.

Henry Adams said, "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops".

We not only wish these dedicated men and women in our midst a successful year in 1959 — but we will go one step further and ask that communities in general resolve to give our teachers their conscientious and interested support throughout the New Year . . . our children; as well as we too, will benefit from this resolve.

Big Day For York Farmers

One of the first agricultural meetings to be held in the New Year will be the annual meeting of the York County Soil and Crop Improvement Association which meets in the Town Hall at Newmarket on Wednesday, January 7th, commencing at 10:30 a.m. The guest speakers this year are Dr. B. C. Mathews of the Soils Dept. of the O. A. C., Guelph, speaking on "Soil Management" and Dr. W. E. Tossell of the Field Husbandry Dept., also of the O. A. C. discussing "New Developments in Hay and Pasture Management." Both of these men have proven very popular speakers at former meetings and always welcome questions from the audience. The quiz panel in the morning session should be as usual, stir up some animated discussion centring around the subject "Time is Money."

Door prizes for those present on time include some for "first timers" and loads of first timers. Then at noon, everyone is served a tasty lunch in lightening time, at the expense of the Association.

This is one of the largest organizations in the county with a paid-up membership of close to four hundred farmers. It is unique in at least two respects — first, the fact that in the past seven years there has been an average attendance of 373 at the annual meeting and secondly that it starts right on time, runs on schedule and adjourns by 4 p.m.

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DONCASTER
 Correspondent
 David Barbour
 Henderson Ave.
 Phone AV. 5-5205
 Birthday greetings are in order
 for Pamela Morrison of Spruce-
 wood Ave., who was 12 on Sun-
 day, December 20.
 Birthday wishes are extended
 to Gloria Gain, 26 Henderson
 Ave., who was seven years old
 on Monday, December 29.
 The Doncaster Community Lad-
 dies Club again remembered the
 elderly residents and less for-
 tunate families with Christmas
 baskets and toys.
 The 2nd Thornhill Scout band
 will resume practice on January
 7 and the first troop meeting will
 be on Thursday, January 8.
 Mrs. O. Donnell and daughter
 of 3 Henderson Ave., are home
 from the hospital.
 Mrs. Hudema and son of Clarke
 Ave., are home from the hospital.
 Mr. and Mrs. J. Barbour, 24
 Henderson Ave., and daughters
 spent two days with relatives in
 Hamilton. They left on Thursday,
 December 25, and returned on
 Saturday, December 27.
 Mr. and Mrs. K. Steele of Lin-
 dsay and family are visiting with
 the Perrault family, on Clarke
 Ave. The Steeles, who are former
 residents of Doncaster, arrived
 on Sunday, December 28 and
 returned on Monday, December
 29.
 A man never gets so rich that
 he can afford to lose a friend.

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The Devil's
Hairpin
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 Starring
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 Produced and Directed by CORNEL WILDE

Wednesday, Thursday, January 7, 8
**"I'M BOLD
 and
 SCHEMING
 and
 SOMETIMES
 I THINK I'M
 NOT QUITE
 NICE!"**
 She stole the man
 her sister loved!
 Tremendous
 as its Earthquake!
 Spectacular
 as its Tidal Wave!
 Exciting as its
 Tribal Warfare!
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 Winning
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**GREEN
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REGINALD OWEN • GLADYS COOPER
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