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AN Easter Message

By
Rev. David A. Dyer,
Free Methodist
Church
Richmond Hill

As we think of the message of the Easter Season, we recognize that two of the greatest events of history took place during that one momentous weekend, so many years ago. Those two events, the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ are deeply significant to us, historically, theologically, and spiritually.

The Easter Story is historically significant. God sent His Son into history, and at a point in time Jesus Christ died, and three days later He rose again. These are facts of history. They are also deeply significant, for the acts of history brought about world changing results. Historically, the world will never be the same again. God revealed Himself to man in Jesus Christ, and because of these acts, life has taken on a different meaning. Christ's death was no fairy tale to be lightly read and easily forgotten, but a significant act in history when God revealed himself to man in love.

The Easter Story is also theologically significant. It is thrilling to realize that at this season all who follow the Christian faith, whether Protestant, Roman Catholic or Orthodox, accept the basic Biblical truth that Jesus died for us and rose again. When Paul writes in Romans 5:8 "But God commended His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners Christ died for us," he made a statement that is as true today as it was then. We all accept the fact of God's love, but Easter tells us that this love caused God to provide an answer to man's greatest and most troublesome problem — sin. God's answer is seen in Calvary. And, although there may be differences of opinion, at some points, at the point of God's love for us at Calvary, the Christian Church is in basic agreement. Some may suggest here, however, that the real significance of Christ's coming was His life, not His death. That, in His example He showed us how to live. But Jesus made it very plain that His mission was to die for a lost and sinful world. Jesus says in John 12:27 - "Shall I say, Father save me from this hour? But, for this cause came I to this hour." Again in Mark 10:45 Jesus says, "The Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many." An example is of little value if the means are not given to follow the example. Jesus had to do more than say "do good." He had to provide the way that we could "be good." It is of little use for an athlete to say to a person who has lost the use of his arms and legs "here is how you play the game of hockey (or football, etc.)." To the person who cannot walk such a demonstration is worse than futile, it is depressing. But if the athlete could somehow bring strength into the helpless limbs of the individual, then example would be of great benefit. Thus Jesus had to provide more than example, he had to provide wholeness to the person. Calvary became the answer, and what an answer it was.

But more than this, the Easter Story is spiritually significant. The ordinary person at the Easter Season — the mother in the home, the business man at the office, or the teen searching for direction in life asks, "But what does the Easter Story say to me, today?" Really, it is in the life of the individual that the Easter Message becomes meaningful. The Death and resurrection of Christ is of great importance and meaning to every individual who will open his life to this truth.

Tilting At Windmills

Keith Spicer, Ottawa's Commissioner of Official Languages, has been reporting to Parliament and the press at some length lately on the state of bilingualism in Canada and the federal civil service.

It is regrettable that Mr. Spicer, who is obviously sincere in his efforts to be of service to Quebec, is actually presenting a biased approach to the factual situation that in the North American continent the language predominantly spoken is English.

If Mr. Spicer really wants to help the Quebecois, he should be expending his time, talent and energy to assist them to become

Many words are closely associated with the reality of the Death and resurrection of Christ, as it relates to us, now. There is the word FORGIVENESS. As Jesus died on the cross he spoke the words "Father forgive them for they know not what they are doing." And since then, because He died for us, He has been speaking the word of forgiveness to everyone that comes seeking Him.

There is the word PEACE. Paul says, "being justified (or made right with God) by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Jesus promised peace when He said "My peace I give unto you, not as the world giveth give I unto you, let not your heart be troubled." Thus, those who accept Christ's love into their lives also know the reality of His peace.

There is the word LIFE. This was one of Christ's favorite words. How people today search for life and meaning, yet forget that Jesus said, "I am come that you might have life, and that you might have it more abundantly." John 3:16 tells us that because Christ came and died we can receive His abundant life, and that because he rose from the dead we can be assured of life for evermore. There is a quality of life that one witnesses in the lives of those who have met Jesus Christ, and live in Him. It is a life of purpose, strength and joy. It is not dependent upon external things or activities, but upon an inner relationship. It is "life in Him."

There is the word VICTORY. The resurrection speaks of the power of God over every problem that we can face. Paul tells us (Romans 8:37-39) that in all things we are more than conquerors through Christ. The power of the Living Christ is available to make us victorious today, and in all of life's tomorrows. We need not fear the future, Christ has conquered.

Finally, there is the word HOPE. We live in a day when so many express hopelessness. Poverty, pollution, over population, war, hate, selfishness (on an individual and national level), all tend to make people skeptical of the future. But if ever an event in history expresses hope for our day, it is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We cannot see the answers in ourselves, but we can trust Him. We can know of a certainty that His abundant power is still shattering the stones of defeat and despair that people find themselves entombed by. The songwriter has written:

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone,
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
just because He lives.
The Cross and the empty tomb express a glorious hope for the Christian.

Yes, the Easter Message is deeply meaningful to us. But before we can benefit by its reality, we must accept Him as our Risen Saviour and Lord. Something that happened over 19 Centuries ago must be more than history or even dogma, it must be experienced in our lives. Then it becomes a joyful truth, and a living relationship. Our lives are changed by what He did for us, and our lives are blessed by what He, the Living Christ, is able to do in us as we open our lives to Him and let Him touch us at the point of our need. Let us at this glorious Easter Season place our confidence and hope in the Living Christ.

fluent in English, so they may break out of the narrow confines of the Quebec borders and travel anywhere on this English North American Continent from Labrador to Florida on the east and from Mexico to Alaska on the west and not only understand but be understood by everyone.

In addition, by becoming fluent in English, they will have equal opportunity within the federal civil service.

The alternative, of course, is to convert the entire population of the North American Continent to Francophones, which seems to be akin to tilting at windmills.



(Photo by Susan Samila)

Rail Commuters Show Appreciation

York Region commuters of last week showed their appreciation to Robert Silcox, Chairman of the GO North Committee and former chairman of the King Township planning board. Here riders taking the new Barrie-Metro CN rail transit service at Maple Station unfurled a streamer saying Thanks, BOB! When the first commuter train arrived at Union Station a golden spike was presented in

a small ceremony to Silcox by John Medcof of Mount Albert, another rail transit booster. The GO North Committee was one of the major citizen groups which worked successfully here to bring about better commuter service between Metro and York Region. At left Donald Deacon MLA, York Centre of Unionville waits for the train to ride to his office at Queen's Park.

Letters to the Editors

WANTS PUBLIC APOLOGY

Dear Mr. Editor—
I would say that Mayor William Lazenby should make a public apology to all senior citizens for his comments at the York Regional Council meeting at which he said that senior citizens who live in their own homes were a tax burden and should be thrown out and go to senior citizens apartments.

Richmond Hill does not lose one cent on the \$150, that any one over 65 years of age can get off their taxes if they wish. The Ontario Government pays this to the municipality and at the death of the owner or the sale of the property it is given back.

He says he was misquoted but members of the York Regional council who heard him say these things said he was not misquoted.

MRS. ELDA McLEOD,
120 Arnold Crescent,
Richmond Hill.

SENIOR CITIZENS DESERVE DECENT, COMFORTABLE RETIREMENT

Dear Mr. Editor—
On April 3, your paper carried a story headed, "Aged in Big Houses Tax Burden — Lazenby." Mayor William Lazenby said, in response to a question by Councillor Bob Adams of Markham that "in essence," he was saying that because senior citizens who "ramble" around in three-or-four bedroom houses are a tax burden, they should be "thrown out" of their homes and forced to live in senior citizens housing. Because, in Mayor Lazenby's opinion, the aged "didn't need their houses any more when there were only a couple of them occupying a large residence," then they should "relinquish what could be a valuable piece of real estate."

My immediate question is — Why pick on senior citizens, most of whom have paid their dues to society and have worked and saved to provide for themselves an honorable, decent, and comfortable retirement? It's no fault of theirs that inflation has overtaken the savings that they accumulated with the conviction that such savings would provide for all their needs, while maintaining for them the independence of outside assistance that, I think, most of us cherish. Is it possible that politicians, in pursuit of the almighty buck, see the aged as easy targets, unable to speak effectively for their human rights and dignity, and therefore more vulnerable than others to the kind of attack that Mayor Lazenby is apparently willing to launch? In fact, has Mayor Lazenby given any guarantees that, when he has reached the age of retirement, he will immediately give up HIS home and retire to the nearest available senior citizens home? Or would he exempt himself because he might be able to claim the means to remain in his home, despite the fact that he might have more space than he thinks others should have?

Please understand, Mr. Editor, that I am not knocking senior citizen housing. Such housing serves a very useful purpose. It provides an alternative for those of our senior citizens who wish to choose it. What I AM saying is that the use of such housing should be from choice, the kind of choice that Mr. Lazenby's proposal would seek to remove. I am also saying that no good public purpose is served by Mr. Lazenby's

suggestion that we should meddle with the rights of people to own and enjoy their homes, whatever the size of the home. Let all people decide for themselves when they will dispose of their homes — such a decision (oftentimes painful) should not be imposed at the whimsy of some tax-hungry, local politician. Surely, Mr. Lazenby did not think that his opinion in this matter would win him votes?

Finally, I must say that I am in no small way puzzled by the value attitude that prompted Mr. Lazenby's objection to the City of Brampton's resolution to provide additional tax assistance to those of our senior citizens who find themselves beleaguered by inflation's effect upon their incomes. Does Mr. Lazenby really feel that, in their sunset years, our senior citizens deserve only to borrow words from T.S. Eliot, "A heap of broken images, where the sun beats, And the dead tree gives no shelter, the cricket no relief, And the dry stone no sound of water?"

I am certain that, without straining himself, Mr. Lazenby can think of a number of Richmond Hill senior citizens who deserve better than that. Why would he wish to dispossess them of that which they cherish, and which they have earned?

JACK WILSON,
89 Bedford Park Avenue,
Richmond Hill.

BASEBALL IN THE PHILIPPINES

Dear Mr. Editor—
I was very surprised to read the cruel statements in regard to the senior citizens of Richmond Hill, (Liberal April 4) and said to have been made by Mayor William Lazenby.

Now sir, if these senior citizens of Richmond Hill had persuaded the Richmond Hill Town Council to pay their expenses to a baseball game in the Philippines, as a certain mayor of Richmond Hill did not so long ago, well, then I say that Mayor Lazenby would have every right to criticize the financial immorality of these senior citizens who accepted such an expense paid trip. I believe this trip of our mayor cost the taxpayers about \$1,500.00. Mayor Lazenby, people who live in glass houses should not throw stones.

JAMES ROSS,
R.R. 2,
Richmond Hill

NO INTENTION OF GIVING UP HOME

Dear Mr. Editor—
I have just read with considerable shock and disgust the remarks made by Mayor William Lazenby concerning senior citizens becoming a "Tax Burden" and his suggestion that they cease to "ramble" around their homes and hie forthwith to homes for the aged, or senior citizens housing.

I own a three bedroom home in Richmond Hill, fully paid for, and this is what I have worked hard for all my life. In the opinion of Mr. Lazenby I should sacrifice the home that I have worked so hard for, and be put out to pasture in a home.

I have news for Mr. Lazenby. I have no intention of giving up my home because I may, in Lazenby's opinion, become a "tax burden". I have never asked, nor do I ever expect to ask, any tax

concessions from the Town of Richmond Hill. To me, the remarks of Mr. Lazenby are heartless and irresponsible and I am quite sure that they do not reflect the feelings of the citizens of Richmond Hill, or the opinions of the rest of our Town council.

A public apology is due to the senior citizens, and should be made by Mr. Lazenby at once.

WILLIAM HAWKINS,
431 Balkan Road,
Richmond Hill.

INCINERATE SENIORS?

Dear Mr. Editor—
I am writing to you with regard to the unmitigated gall of one William Lazenby in his assessment of the senior citizens of Richmond Hill. I wonder if his parents are still alive and what price they must have in their son's stand with regard to the elderly residents. But of course their lot would be different because he would be more than able to keep them in the lap of luxury provided by his more than adequate subsidies, which he receives from us — the taxpayers of Richmond Hill.

Oh yes, you are our servant — or maybe you have forgotten that unfortunately for Richmond Hill, you were elected to the office of mayor and are paid a huge subsidy or supplement by us, the taxpayers.

With reference to Mr. Lazenby's visit to Germany last year and his remarks about the wonderful garbage incinerators in that country: are the senior citizens ever going to have a new building constructed for their use, or is he going to solve the problem of the unwanted elderly by construction of one of his wonderful garbage incinerators?

It has been suggested he deserves a second chance as his comments may have been off-handed, but an individual with the same mentality as a certain little moustached corporal is not worthy of a second chance.

The elderly homeowners who raised their families during the depression and in many cases, such as ours, lost everything through no fault of their own, had the guts to start again from scratch and skimp and save and eventually own their own homes and build this town from a village of 1,200 to almost 40,000 today.

as they are physically able, and they should be exempt from education taxes after having paid them for their own children's education and their children's children and now the children of other people, including the Lazenbys.

Those folks who are reaping the benefits of the subsidies and supplements are mainly those who were not physically able to provide for their old age, or those who didn't give a damn and spent it as they got it.

It would be senseless to demand a public apology or retraction of the mayor's words, as any display of contrition on his part would be empty and meaningless mumbo jumbo. However, I believe there is an election due this fall when the voters will be able to show how they feel.

Has this "big toad in a small puddle" forgotten that old age is the inevitable end for all of us? Also that as he sows, so shall he reap, and he has certainly sown some noxious weeds. May he have a bountiful harvest!

If the town is able to subsidize the senior citizens' apartments for people that have been brought in from all over the country and elsewhere, who have never contributed one cent in taxes or helped to build this town in any way, why can't they do some small thing for the real Richmond Hill elderly?

MRS. KAY SEYMOUR,
22 Hillside Drive,
Richmond Hill.

APPLAUDS ICE SHOW

Dear Mr. Editor—
I had the privilege of being a spectator at the ice show, "Magical Mystery Tour" presented by the Bond Lake Skating Club. I wish to convey my appreciation of a lovely entertaining afternoon.

I am not going to attempt to pick out any individuals as being the best in the show, but I would predict that we have many skating champions in this group.

My heart goes out to the "wee tots" whom I think excelled themselves in their efforts and enthusiasm. The young lady who wound up the show by skating almost the entire rink looking for the gentleman she had to present a bouquet to I consider better than anything our comedian friend, Eddie Shack, has put on.

In closing my main appreciation and worthy thanks must go to the teachers and tutors who spend so much time and work teaching these youngsters.

May I add that my niece, Leanna McIntyre, was one of the performers in this lovely show.

I do again extend my appreciation to everyone in their endeavors and hard work in putting on a good show. Thank you.

HUGH MCINTYRE,
1276 Islington Avenue,
Apt. 1101,
Islington.

That Easter Dawn

The fairest dawn, to bless men's eyes;
Was on that day, of thankful praise,
When Christ arose, from Death's dark lair,
To bring these wondrous, Easter Days!

There is a murmur, in the treetops;
A soft sighing, by the breeze,
A gentle swaying, of Spring flowers—
Perchance they see, what no man sees!

Perhaps, just ere the rosy dawning,
Of that first, blessed, Easter Day,
They behold the white-robed angel,
Who swiftly rolled the stone away!

Then they espay the gracious Master
Rise, in triumph from the grave;
"He is the Lord of Life and Death;
Believe in Him, and He will save!"

Sad Mary, and the other mourners,
Steal, with rare spices, to His tomb;
But, "He is risen; He is risen;"
They cry, with joy, and shed their gloom!

Glad birds rejoice and sing His praises;
Seeds sprout, which slept the Winter, long;
For 'tis the joyous Easter Season;
All nature joins, o'er thankful song!
MARY HONEY BROWN,
160 Essex Avenue,
Richmond Hill.

In the Spotlight

By DIANA COOK

"She Stoops To Conquer" Drama Club Production

When Oliver Goldsmith's "She Stoops To Conquer" was first performed before an 18th Century audience, it achieved the rare feat of making "No woman blush and no man yawn." Today, some two hundred years later, it is as popular as ever. This year, the Richmond Hill High School Drama Club will present "She Stoops To Conquer" as its 17th annual production. The play is to be performed in the school auditorium at 51 Wright Street, from April 17-20. Tickets, which cost \$2.00 per adult and \$1.00 per student, are available at the school, from students, or by telephoning 884-1355.

Under the direction of Roy Clifton, the actors have been rehearsing steadily over the past few months. During this time, they learn not only their lines and stage movements, but are made familiar with the customs and personalities of 18th Century England, so as to more fully understand and master their roles.

The cast of eight includes Heather Mann as Mrs. Hardcastle; Scott Veitch, Mr. Hardcastle; Richard Baker, Tony Lumpkin, Maxine Watters, Kate Hardcastle; David Phillips, Young Marlow; Dominic Caruso, Hastings; Martha Buell, Constance Neville, and Bryan Brooker as Sir Charles Marlow.

"She Stoops To Conquer" rests on the idea of misunderstanding, and the kind of misunderstanding which involves a whole code of social behaviour, making it a sort of inverted comedy of manners. Everyone, that is, behaves as he should behave were only the circumstances what he thought them.

Two young gentlemen are misdirected to a private house with the information that it is an inn, while that very private house was their real reason for coming into the neighborhood. This situation still diverts us because in the proper hand, such a situation always will.

In the past Mr. Clifton and the drama club have earned a good reputation for their presentations, the variety of plays performed ranging from Sophocles' "Oedipus the King" to Pinter's "The Birthday Party". This year's production, will, I'm sure, be of the same high calibre as its predecessors.



Two of the principals of Oliver Goldsmith's timeless classic share an intimate moment in this scene from Richmond Hill High School's production of "She Stoops To Conquer". (Left to right) Maxine Watters as Kate Hardcastle, and Ina Schneider as the maid.

Aimone Defends Schools Director

This article is written by former School Trustee Louise Aimone of Thornhill. Mrs. Aimone served as a trustee (Town of Markham) on the York County Board of Education for 11 years — Editor.

Now that the students are back in the secondary schools of York County and the dust seems to have settled for the moment, I would like to comment on two things that are of great concern to me — and in my opinion, should be of concern to a great many people: be they parents, teachers or

taxpayers. I would hope that in confining my remarks to two items, I might be helpful in promoting some greater understanding and would not in any way further enflame the situation.

One thing of concern to me is the almost complete misunderstanding of the term "pupil-teacher ratio" and its significance. I say "almost complete" because, as I see it, the amount of discussion around this term lately has at least laid to rest the previously commonly held misconception that a P/T ratio of 20 to 1, for example, would mean that there would

be 20 students in a class with one teacher. I am sure that all teachers and trustees welcome this partial understanding of the term. However, what I do find distressing is that the understanding seems to stop there in so many cases.

Pupil-teacher ratio is a formula for establishing the number of jobs there will be and does not in itself determine how many students each teacher will have in a class. It is a contributing factor, of course, in that it does determine how many people will be employed for the various jobs that go into the (Continued on page 12)