



Receives cheque

Canon Ramsay Armitage of Maple, right, receives a \$500 cheque on behalf of the Canadian Bible Society and the ladies of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Maple, from Mrs. Eileen Brice. Also shown are Julie and Susan Clarke who participated in the recent fund-raising walkathon and Rev. Stan Snowden of Maple United Church.

MP visits our frozen north

By **BARNEY DANSON**
MP-York North

My recent trip to the Arctic took me to towns, settlements and bases to within a few hundred miles of the North Pole and gives some perspective on the vastness and diversity of our country.

Great expanses of water, ice and tundra which can be ruggedly inhospitable in terrain and climate and at the same time breathtakingly beautiful.

Sparsely inhabited by tough yet tender native people and adventurous, hospitable newcomers from the south.

Native people, caught between the attachment to their traditional lifestyle with all its serenity but also cruel harshness, and the lifestyle of the white man's society which brings the benefits of health and education while having a devastating impact on their culture.

Living in an area of rich resources which, when exploited, can disrupt the ecological balance, further removing them from their traditional life yet providing them with few of the economic benefits.

In the past they hunted and fished for food, clothing and shelter. The physically weak did not survive and even the strong perished when conditions were too severe, or the fish,

mammals and animals on which they depended did not follow expected patterns.

Yet that was their lifestyle where self-reliance and group reliance was paramount. From the moment they found a cash or barter market for their furs the patterns changed.

When arctic fox was in demand they would prosper until it was overhunted or the whims of the fashion market changed.

By then factory-made shirts or dresses became part of their lifestyle. Rifles replaced harpoons, tinned foods became staples in their diets and now snowmobiles have virtually replaced dog teams and southern-style buildings with central heating replacing the igloo and the tent.

Odd skills lost, if not forgotten, and "progress" has left them bewildered, caught between two lifestyles but not fully comfortable in either.

People of exquisite tenderness, hospitality, intelligence and humour confused and helpless with the inroad of "civilization" yet unable to turn back.

Some fighting desperately to retain their culture, others drifting in a tide of desperation, while others are remarkably adjusting to change.

The whites in the north

are another unique breed who find it compelling. They love its outdoors, endure its long days of total light and total darkness, its challenges and opportunities. The frontier spirit and hospitality are in evidence everywhere.

It is a life that is both invigorating and exhilarating but basically transient. Some are there to simply exploit with little concern for the environment and its native people.

Most have an attachment both to the people and environment and are conscious of the problems involved. There is no single or easy answer. As much as some would wish, resource exploitation, sovereignty and defence

requirements are not likely to cease.

A fine balance and great sensitivity is essential and these native people must be consulted and listened to with respect.

While my direct concerns related to the roles of the Department of National Defence, I cannot operate with blinkers.

Our DEW line radar air defence systems, communications, search and rescue, emergency assistance, arctic training exercises, sovereignty patrols, ice and pollution reconnaissance, mapping and charting, airfield and road construction and a variety of other jobs keep the military busy.

From the churches

Prayer is a necessary

By **E. L. ANDERSON**
Richmond Hill
Seventh-day
Adventist Church

Prayer is no longer an experiment with me, it is a necessity. I no longer wonder if God can hear, I know He hears.

I know that when I ask according to His will, the answer starts immediately on its way and will be for my best good.

Someone might suggest that an apparent answer to prayer could be due to chance or just coincidence.

This reasoning some even carry over and attribute to chance, the beginnings of this earth.

A person can believe what he or she wishes on the whole matter concerning the existence of God and communicating with Him.

Eastern Star officers installed

Patricia Hall of Richmond Hill and Robert Rickward of Oak Ridges were installed as Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron of the Order of the Eastern Star, Richmond Hill Chapter, recently.

Alex Dawson, Past Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of Ontario, and his wife, Mary, who is Grand Representative to the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, were in attendance.

Olive Avery, the Associate Grand Matron of Ontario, arrived later to wish the new Corps of Officers a productive year.

It will not change the fact that we are here and the earth is here, and that calls for the existence of a Creator.

The next step is to be aware that God cares about what He has created. Despite man's alienation from God, the Scriptures declare that, "God so loved the world, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish but have everlasting life."

Prayer with confession of sin and asking of forgiveness, re-establishes communication with God. Too often, we ignore God and so communion is broken.

"He that turneth his ear away from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination," the Lord says in Proverbs 28:9.

It is man in turning from God and His word that breaks off the relationship that he can have with his Maker.

The Lord will never turn His ear away from hearing anyone who cries out to Him. I like the statement in the little volume STEPS TO CHRIST by E. G. White, that says, "Prayer is the opening of the heart to

God as to a friend."

That definition makes it personal and real.

God will understand the most simple language if it comes from a heart that is sincere.

So, as to a friend, we tell Him all our problems and our difficulties, and as a friend, He understands and gives the sympathy and help that we need.



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