

Castor clerics critical of TV types

By Ann Davelaar
and Kim Curran

Castor clergymen have faulted TV preachers for everything from too much commercialism to narrowly interpreting the bible.

They had been asked for reaction to January's "Sidewalk Talk" column in which associate editor Mark Van Dusen accused electronic evangelists of being nothing more than high-pressure salesmen.

One area minister said he was annoyed and skeptical; another complained about the money angle. Here are the other comments:

Reverend James Paul, Baptist minister of Kenmore and Russell, looks at the programs in a positive light. He feels that if his parishioners are watching them, it can only benefit their religious attitude. He regards the Canadian programs, such as 100 Huntley Street, as excellent viewing. But he also feels the large majority of the

programs are American-dominated and may not always hit home. Since all major denominations watch the same shows, it is the best way to bring them together, he says.

Father Andre Parent, O.F.M., of the Catholic Church in Russell, had mixed reactions on the subject. He doesn't believe many people view the shows, but feels those who do, may become confused about faith. He sees the programs as positive if they help to regain faith and keep people on the right road. He also sees them as a useful resource for the handicapped and the aged. The programs are designed with all Christians in mind and he sees them as a good way to judge the other side of the fence, since all denominations are represented.

Father Robert Huneault, of St. Jacques Catholic Church in Embrun, says TV Evangelism places too much stress on commercialism and competition.

Reverend Michael A. Minvielle, Roman Catholic priest in Metcalfe says some of the evangelistic preachers are teaching reliable things, but "personally, I don't talk about it in church."

"The so-called miracles onstage I don't appreciate. There are certainly miracles, but not that many. I'm afraid of the money

angle in it. It has to be beyond reason now; there are too many."

Reverend Ron Pattison, Anglican minister in Greely, says he's annoyed and skeptical about the methods used by these preachers. He says there are important aspects which TV evangelism does not stress enough, such as human rights, dignity, social justice and reaching out beyond one's own needs. Shut-ins could get spiritual sustenance from these programs, but they should not be a substitute for personal involvement in the community.

"I hesitate to condemn them outright, but I'm a little scared of them" says Reverend Pattison.

"It's not a question of banning television evangelism. It's the most powerful method for promoters of certain values, such as conversion, repentance, prayer and faith in God. But it's a form of propaganda which presents difficulties."

Father Huneault has several strong objections to TV Evangelism. He feels they are popularity contests which play on sentimentalism. He says they do not stress the family and the sacraments enough. In his opinion, television sermons are based on too narrow an interpretation of the bible and the preachers leave something to be desired in the model they present to the public.

Visiting

With Dorothy Marquette

Mrs. Paul Parlee, of Powassan, visited a few days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Cherry.

Mr. and Mrs. William Robinson, of Winchester, were luncheon guests of the former's sister, Mrs. Asa Sullivan.

Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Honey visited the former's twin sister, Mr. and Mrs. John White, of Ottawa.

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Bateman, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Palfrey, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Box, of Cornwall, and Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Leadbetter, of Ottawa, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Loucks.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Kinkaid have returned from a month's vacation in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hay and Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Hay and Christopher spent a few days in Calgary where they attended the wedding of the former's daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Parry, Gwyneth and David and Mr. Glendon Loucks, of Ottawa, and Mrs. V. Gates, of Winchester, were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Loucks.

Mrs. James Cox, of Ottawa, Mr. and Mrs. Terry Cox, Katie and James, of Kitchener, visited Mrs. Donald McLaren.

Mrs. Willis Carscadden, of St. Catharines, was a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Carscadden.

Miss Florence and Miss Dorothy Marquette were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Greer, of Chesterville.

Meditorial

By Rev. Jim Paul

An interesting story has come to light from one Lutheran Church in Rochester, New York, Rev. Gary Carrier, the pastor of the Lutheran Church of Peace has just held a "no excuse Sunday" for those who had used every excuse in the book. "We had cots for those who were tired" explained Pastor Carrier, "blankets or fans for those who claimed the church was too cold or hot, hypocrite score-cards for those who claimed there were too many hypocrites at worship, aspirin for those with headaches, poinsettias on the altar for those who only worship at Christmas and Easter lilies for those who worship at Easter." Attendance rose 50 per cent that day, said Carrier. For a "no excuse Sunday" to work in Canada, many Pastors would also have to redecorate the church to look like an ice hockey arena so

that many of our hockey families could be in attendance.

It's a sad commentary on our society when a "no excuse Sunday" has to be held at all. Maybe some of the blame should fall at the door-step of the local church for not worshipping the Lord Jesus as a present and living Savior. However, much of the blame for poor church attendance falls squarely on man's shoulders. God speaks to this problem in Hebrews 10:25 saying, "forsake not the assembling of yourselves together, as the habit of some is". Our Creator knew that some of his creatures would habitually forsake corporate worship. Where do you stand on this subject of church attendance? I trust you will not wait until Easter or Christmas or a "no excuse Sunday" before you are found in God's house.

Horticulture Society

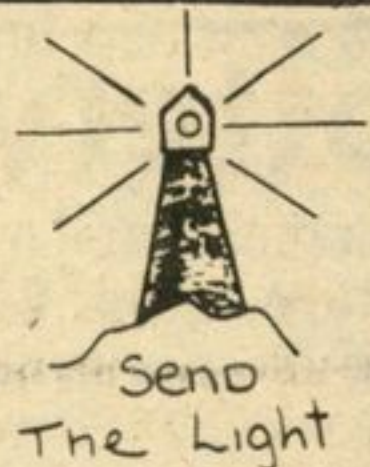
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Thank You

Thank you very much, all of Russell Village, for the sympathy and respect you showed on the death of my wife Germaine. My family and I are thankful for the 20 years she passed among us.

Roland A. Perras
R.R. 3, Russell

Castor Valley Baptist Church



Minister—Rev. James Paul, ph. 821-2144
Meeting in the Russell Public School
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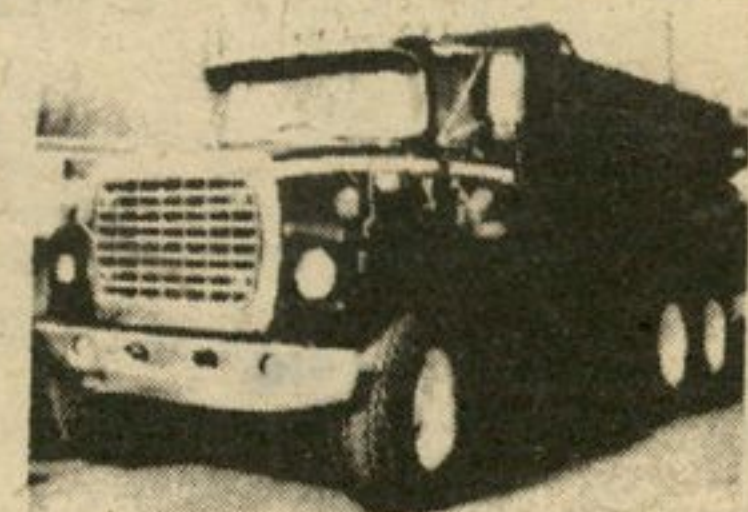
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