

# Too much emphasis on the Apocalypse, says priest

By Father Bill Le Grand

"And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth distress of nations in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, men fainting with fear and foreboding of what is coming on the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken..." (Luke 21:25, RSV).

We live in a confusing world at times...made more remarkably incomprehensible when writers address or avoid the Apocalyptic Message. "End Times" make extremists of many people, as they grap-

ple with its implication.

In a town on the Gaspé in Quebec, a visionary called Moise (Moses) gathered a whole community near a mountain to prepare for the end of the world.

They constructed buildings, preached the Gospel of doom to nearby farmers and "drew in the wagons for the end" which didn't begin. Moise is not unique. Whole heretical sects of neo-Christians have made a focus of End Times and Jesus' return. Some choose to have "an elect" and consign non-believers in their movement to an after-

state (following death) where God rejects them.

Even Christian writers within the Body of Christ can become obsessed by Apocalyptic times, making of Daniel, Revelations, and Jesus' warnings in the Gospels, a blueprint for some imminent disaster. Hal Lindsey, an otherwise reputable scholar of Biblical themes, has written a series of works on End times. Best known of the Rev'd Lindsey's works is "The Late Great Planet Earth."

After consigning the world to its satanic fulfillment, this writer describes plagues, wars, persecution, death and horror in the affairs of humankind, before Jesus returns to take home his people and condemns their enemies. Final grotesque battles also figure in his work.

Yet, Hal Lindsey and others make of Apocalyptic passages what is simply not there: a clear prophecy or declaration of what will happen. The numbers and accounts of events in apocalyptic literature is mostly restricted to one period: the first two centuries of the Church. Much material is allegorical, attempting to inform humankind of its potential

to destroy God's world (which becomes even more credible in our nuclear age).

On the other extreme, many leaders in the main-line churches fail to inform people that Jesus Christ will come again. Unintentionally, they avoid or reduce the apocalyptic message to the level of descriptive allegory. Not only do they ignore the need to be prepared for end times, but they eliminate the church teaching (based on scripture and the Nicene Creed) that "...he (Jesus Christ) shall come again with glory to judge both the quick (living) and the dead: whose Kingdom shall have no end."

In treating the Bible as an academic analysis, they fail to grasp the truth about Jesus' prophecies, as well as those of others.

In our Advent Season in the Christian Church, we recall how Jesus entered our world as a baby in a manger; we also anticipate a new Advent, the time when Jesus Christ will return.

Jesus predicted the destruction of Jerusalem, which happened after his death and resurrection. Never did our Lord Jesus leave us with "a timeline," although he indicated some signs which would point to the Second Advent. The re-establishment of Israel as a Jewish state, an increase in wars, natural disasters, a move away from the Apostolic message given to His church...these are things within our world we can discern as pointing to "End Times."

Jesus also declared that

he would come "like a thief in the night" and told us to be prepared for his Second Coming. Never did our Saviour suggest we form into "elects" and abandon our world. His warning was always one of being prepared.

Rather than concentrate on time lines, rather than attack the so-called evil secularism of our world, rather than deform the Gospel by drawing the shades on our world; you and I are called to live each day as if it were our last on Earth. With this perspective, we should witness to the essence of the Biblical Message: that God has loved as enough to claim us as His own, by grace. While there's still time, we can renew our efforts to draw people to Jesus Christ as

his ambassador.

There is much we can do by example as Christ's witnesses of a world which will experience the Second Advent tomorrow, next year, the next century...

We can reaffirm our faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour. We can develop a more regular prayer life, where we study God's word. We can strengthen ourselves and others by becoming active in fellowship and worship in the Christian Church of our choice.

Above all else, we can take assurance in the certainty of God's love: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16 RSV)

The apocalyptic message of the Bible has caused many to become withdrawn from the world, at many times, over the last 2,000 years. This can be destructive to the Body of Jesus Christ, which exists to proclaim Him to a confused, weary, and frightened world.

As Jesus ordained it, the apocalyptic message should cause us to inform the world by love and fellowship, that he continues to love and support us in this world, and will receive us by grace on our faith, in the world to come.

End times tell us that we should unpack our humanity, as did our Lord Jesus on the Cross, to touch others by His message of love.

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from  
June 28 to July 5

The Township of  
Terrace Bay is  
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## Social Evening

for all Senior Citizens

on June 19th, 1986  
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All Senior Citizens in Terrace Bay  
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Date	Time	Location
Tuesday	10:00 a.m. - 12 a.m.	Ministry of Natural Resources District Office Box 280, Highway 17 Terrace Bay, Ontario Telephone (807)825-3205
Tuesday	1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, Peninsula Building, 2 Gilbert Street, Marathon, Ontario. Telephone (807) 229-1153

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR REQUESTS CALL (COLLECT):

Bernie Schnieders or Al Speed  
Resident Geologist's Office  
Ministry of Northern Development and Mines  
P.O. Box 5000  
Thunder Bay, Ontario  
P7C 5G6  
(807) 475-1331



Ministry of  
Northern Development  
and Mines

René Fontaine  
Minister  
George Tough  
Deputy Minister

## Winnie's Scribbles

By Winnie Campbell

The United Church Ladies held their June meeting on Wednesday evening, with M. Smith presiding. The meeting was preceded with a pot luck supper.

The Rev. Sharyl Marriott Lowry said Grace. Slides were shown on the history of the women in the church since 1975 to the present days. The secretary read the minutes and the correspondence.

Thanks to all who helped at the Penny Auction at Birchwood in May. The President presented the Minister with a gift on behalf of the members. Following the meeting a Penny Auction was held,

and a lunch was enjoyed by all. The next meeting will be held on September 10.

Marlene Yates won the Afghan raffle put on by the Order of the Eastern Star.

The Anglican Church members held their supper on June 10 at Leblanc's restaurant with Chinese food, with 18 attending. Then it was on to the rectory for the meeting. The treasurer's report was read and all bills paid. Clothes left over from the yard sale will be sent up to the Salvation Army in Thunder Bay.

A letter from Bishop Peterson requesting donations for the people in the Solomon Islands was read. The members moved to send a good donation.

Hazel Bailey read the letter expressing a need for craft materials. Liz McKay offered to take up any supplies donated. Flo Bryson made reference to the let-

ter regarding the beautification of the Church grounds. Suggestions made were shrubs, a fence, and flowers.

Joan Leblanc expressed her thanks on behalf of the Handi Action Group for all those who made squares for the card party on May 16. Thanks to all who donated to the yard sale.

Meeting adjourned and coffee was served.

Mrs. S. Chicoine is visiting relations and friends. She hails from Florida. Get well Mr. Nesbitt and Mr. Wilson in hospital.

The Chimo meeting will be held on June 20. Pot luck lunch and birthdays will be held. The Home Bingo was won by Mrs. Mary Valentino, G. Birch and sister Mary.

Another one will start on July 1.

## Meeting

The May 21 forest fire to the east of Terrace Bay has resulted in what has been termed "a mess" behind the Terrace Heights subdivision, and a meeting will be held on June 25 to discuss the situation, Reeve Ollie Chapman explained.

She also noted at the regular Council meeting held on June 9 that the agenda for the June 25 session will also include a discussion on

the necessity of a fire-break in the area. Representatives from the Kimberly-Clark pulp mill and the district Ministry of Natural Resources office will be on hand at that meeting.

"There has been some cleaning of the bush behind the houses in the subdivision," Reeve Chapman explained. "K-C has a plan in mind as to what should be done back there."

The 250-hectare fire burned for the most part on K-C property, though a recent report from the MNR has pinpointed the source of the blaze at the Canadian Pacific Rail mainline.

The fire will be the main topic at a meeting of the local Emergency Measures Organization, scheduled for June 20, Reeve Chapman added. The meeting will be closed to the public, Councillor Peter Romanuk said.

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