



Dorine and Alan Doner recently returned to Canada after 25 years of missionary service in Nigeria. The couple, raised in the Gormley area, received numerous gifts, plaques and awards from the Nigerian people before they left. Above is one of the gifts, an Aba ada, which means a 'big gown.'

## Missionary couple return from Nigeria

By Keith Bolender

After 25 years, Allan and Dorine Doner's 'adventure' in Nigeria has come to an end. The Doners have just completed a quarter-century of missionary work in the African country to come home to Gormley where they were born and raised. And in the 25 years, they've been back in Canada about six times, the last one in 1976.

Allan, who has a business background, said he talked to friends who had been to Nigeria, "and we decided to give it a try." After that, they applied to the Missionary Church of Canada and were then sent out.

Nigeria, in the north west 'hump' of Africa, has been an amazing experience for the Doners, according to Allan.

"It's been a wonderful opportunity, one I'd do again in a second. It has been an adventure to learn about such a totally different way of life there," he said.

However, there were a few definite reasons for their leaving. Like any developing country, Nigeria is presently trying to find itself, through nationalistic trends.

As Allan noted, the missionary organization in Nigeria is slowly being turned over to the established churches there, "it seems to be the shape of things to come."

Regardless of this trend, Allan feels that "the missionary work isn't finished. Others will be welcomed there."

And like a lot of African countries, Nigeria is a military dictatorship, but it works, according to Allan.

"I know it sounds horrible, but if it's a good dictator, then the government will work, that's what Nigeria has."

During his 25 years there, Allan claimed not to have felt any anti-white, or anti-church sentiments. "They certainly don't like what's happening in South Africa, but it is quite a distance away and it doesn't affect them as it does other countries. The people know who controls Nigeria, the Nigerians, not the small minority of whites."

The country is also going through industrialization, "everyone is turning away from farming and going to the factories, which makes for an acute shortage of food now, something they've never had before," Allan pointed out.

The Doners have three children, two born in Nigeria. Dale, 22, was born in the Missionary Hospital there, Marilyn, 12 born in Tunjan Magajija, and Donna, born in not quite an exotic place; Newmarket.

Allan, who will be moving out to Kitchener soon to work at the Bethen publishing house, had mixed feeling about his missionary work.

"One always feels you haven't accomplished enough, but we felt we wanted our children to grow up in Canada."

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### Church Services

**GOODWOOD, ONTARIO**  
3rd Line & 47 Hwy.  
LORD'S DAY  
Breaking Bread 9:30  
Sunday School and Bible Class 11:30 a.m.  
GOSPEL Meeting 7 p.m.  
Mon. — Bible Study 8 p.m.  
Thurs. — Prayer 8 p.m.  
ALL WELCOME

**STOUFFVILLE MISSIONARY CHURCH**  
159 Main St. E.  
John Hamilton — Minister  
Jim Clubine — Associate Minister  
Sunday, July 30th, 1978  
9:45 a.m. — Family Sunday School. Bus service available.  
11:00 a.m. — Morning Worship Service  
7:00 p.m. — Film — "He Leadeth Me." The true story of singer Ken Medema.  
Wednesday, August 2nd  
7:30 p.m. — Family Night. Prayer and Bible Study for Children, Youth and Adults.  
Friday, August 4th  
7:00 p.m. — Junior High's.  
"You're always welcome at the Missionary Church"

**GORMLEY MISSIONARY CHURCH**  
Rev. Cecil Rosenberger  
Sunday, July 30, 1978  
9:50 a.m. — Family Sunday School  
11 a.m. — Speaker - Ken Kepler  
7:30 p.m. — Speaker Rev. D.I. Jeffrey  
Wed. 8:00 p.m. — Prayer Service

**UNIONVILLE GOSPEL HALL**  
2nd Street at Hwy. 7  
LORD'S DAY  
Breaking Bread 9:30  
Sunday School and Bible Class 11:30 a.m.  
GOSPEL Meeting 7 p.m.  
Wed. Prayer — Bible Study 8 p.m.  
All Heartily Welcome

**BAKER HILL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Pastor James Shantz  
Sunday, July 30th, 1978  
9:50 a.m. — Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. — Morning Worship  
Wed. 8 p.m. — Prayer Meeting  
Everyone Welcome

**BLOOMINGTON CHRISTIAN GOSPEL CHURCH**  
Rev. C.W. Sorley  
Sunday, July 30, 1978  
9:45 — Sunday School  
11:00 — Morning Worship  
Wed. 8 p.m. — Prayer — Bible Study.

**STOUFFVILLE BAPTIST**  
76 Main St. W.  
Sunday, July 30, 1978  
10 a.m. — Bible School  
11 a.m. — The Certainty of Life after Death.  
7 p.m. — "Give me this mountain!"  
Wed. at 8 — Bible Study and Prayer.  
Daily Vacation Bible School Mon. Aug. 14 through Fri. Aug. 18.  
Dr. W.S. Whitcombe, Interim pastor.

**SPRINGVALE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Gormley-Stouffville Rd. At 6th Conc. (Kennedy Rd.)  
Rev. Tom Hamilton  
Sunday, July 30, 1978  
10:00 a.m. — Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. & 7 p.m. — Worship services  
Wed. 7-8.5 p.m. — Family Night — Skyforce Children's Program

**STOUFFVILLE UNITED CHURCH**  
Minister  
Rev. J.L. Carder  
B.A., B.D.  
Combined Summer Services at 10:00 a.m. with St. James Presbyterian at the United Church. Rev. Ted Green in charge Jr. congregation.  
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**ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Rev. Ted Green  
640-4195  
Thurs. July 27 — Fellowship Evening at 7 p.m. Singing, Films.  
Sun. July 30 — Morning Worship 10 a.m. in Stouffville United Church "A Friendly Family Church"

**ALTONA MISSIONARY CHURCH**  
Pastor - R. Kennedy  
Sunday, July 30, 1978  
10 a.m. — Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. — Morning Worship  
7:30 p.m. — Evening Service.  
Wed. 8:00 — Prayer Meeting.

**CHRIST CHURCH ANGLICAN**  
154 Sunset 640-1461  
Rector:  
Rev. W.F. Edney  
297-1634  
Sunday, July 30, TRINITY X  
9:30 a.m. — Holy Communion, Rev. W.F. Edney  
NURSERY SERVICES PROVIDED.  
Regular Worship Services each Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

## School system blurs right and wrong

By Rev. John Hamilton, Stouffville Missionary Church

Roughly one thousand years before Christ an ancient writer raised a question that deeply troubled him, "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" People were seeing moral and other standards deteriorate to the point where they did not know what they should do.

That old question is again being raised. Truths and institutions, which have long been held as foundational, are being attacked and seem to be in danger of crumbling.

The home is one of these institutions that is suffering greatly. According to some statistics, one out of four marriages can be expected to end in divorce. This can have tragic consequences for all concerned — especially the children.

Our educational system, although never perfect, was based upon the enduring Judeo-Christian tradition. Secular humanistic philosophy is now firmly entrenched. Former values, which were based upon the absolutes of Scripture, have been replaced by concepts which blur the distinctions between right and wrong.

If our educational system has been eroded in this manner, no wonder our society at large is going in the direction it is. To many, what is right and what is wrong depends either on their own feelings or upon what the majority is doing. Relativism becomes the order of the day once absolutes disappear.

In view of what is happening, there are various attitudes which may be held and courses of action which may be taken. One is the attitude of pessimism which says things are so bad that there is nothing anyone can do which will be effective.

There is also the attitude of criticism which lashes out at both individuals and institutions bemoaning the terrible state of affairs without offering any alternatives.

Other individuals develop a "ghetto" mentality. They withdraw more and more from society, refusing to take an active part in either school, community or national affairs.

The question raised by the ancient biblical writer implies that there is something that can be done. Each of us ought to have a part in it.

First, we need to set an example by being the kind of people we ought to be. This can only begin to happen by a personal commitment of our lives to Jesus Christ and experience what our fathers called "conversion". We can do little good in calling for national righteousness if we are dishonest in our business and immoral in our conduct.

Second, we can pray. God is sovereign. However He has ordained that many of His purposes will be fulfilled only as His people pray.

Third, we need to get involved in a more active way. Each of us can write letters to appropriate officials concerning important issues. There are also valuable contributions to be made by Christians on local councils, school boards as well as in the provincial and federal governments.

Jesus said that Christians were to be the salt of the earth. Salt is of no use unless it is applied where it is needed.

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