

Marriages are "arranged"

STOUFFVILLE — young girl has no say in Afghanistan's, less populated regions, a marriages are arranged. These and other cus-

toms of the land were explained when Carol Erb of the Stouffville Christian Blind Mission spoke during the morning and afternoon coffee hours, Jan. 12 at the Missionary Church. Actually, the "arrangement" works out very well, Carol said, although the advantages would seem to be more on the side of the prospective groom than the bride. Because a man must buy his mate "like a camel or a donkey," he's often forced to wait many years.

Carol said. This sometimes results in unions between 15-year-old girls and 45-year-old men.

It would seem that inflation is dropping there as here, however. "It's easier for a man to acquire a wife now," the speaker explained, "because the cost of a bride is lower."

For those who can afford it, multiple wives are permitted, she said.

A girl is not allowed to appear in public unless completely covered, Carol said. Her value increases if no man has seen her face.

Representatives of the Christian Blind Mission (International), spent nine years in Afghanistan. The Canadian headquarters, is located on the Stouffville-Gormley Road.

Because of political turmoil within that country, missionaries for the blind were forced to pull out, Carol said. In spite of this, many there are still being helped as they are in various parts of The Third World.



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