

# Religion Page

## 'Who's needs should church serve?' Unionville pastor asks

The church did not meet our need," was the reason a young couple gave for leaving to 'shop around.' Hearing this, some might immediately jump to the conclusion that the church was at fault and had failed in its ministry. (Incidentally, that's the only exercise some people get — jumping to conclusions).

But, in all fairness, can we so conclude? Perhaps, the church did fail, but before such a judgement can be made we need to ask this qualifying question, "Was the need not met a need the church should have met?" In other words, should a local church try to meet everybody's expressed needs? Seemingly, a lot of people have this idea regarding the responsibility of a church. This 'supermarket' concept reasons that unless a church stocks everybody's special brand of activity or interest, then the church is deficient and it's time to 'shop around.'

Perhaps this is their democratic prerogative, but is this 'supermarket' concept valid? I suggest not for the following reasons:

- Experience sadly teaches that needs sometimes turn out to be nothing more than whims, fads and, or, love of novelty. If a church tries to cater to this, it will find itself competing with Hollywood and the entertainment world. This will prove futile in the extreme since the

world will always 'knock spots' off us when it comes to entertainment.

- "One man's meat is another man's poison." This is true even with Christians. One day it will be different, but whilst we are in the "body of humiliation" and know the conflict of the two natures, it is unrealistic to think we can please everyone. Indeed, to try is to please nobody.

- While the church is closely identified and related to the Kingdom of God, there is a distinction between the two. The church should not be expected to shoulder the responsibilities assigned to the individual, the family and the State.

- The supreme and primary objective of the church is the glory of God. Scripture states this repeatedly, (e.g. Eph. 3:21). Certainly, churches have the responsibility to minister to the needs of people, but that ministry is to be governed by Scripture. After all, whose church is it? Who is the head of the church? (see Eph. 1:22-23, 4:15 and 5:23). Scripture then, not people, should dictate the program and ministries of the

*By Ray Reed*  
Pastor, Unionville Baptist

church as it reaches out to meet the needs of people.

Here, it seems to me we get to the very crux of the crisis we are facing today in evangelical circles. A subtle form of humanism has infiltrated our ranks. In so many ways our perspective is man-centered and experience-based.

We have been brainwashed into thinking that God's function is to serve man and subsequently we have reduced true Christianity into a scheme of things in which, "God becomes the Aladdin lamp who does the bidding of everyone who will accept His Son and sign a card." As the late A.W. Tozer wrote, "Peace of mind, happiness, prosperity, social acceptance, publicity, success in sports, business, the entertainment field, and perchance to occasionally sit at the same banquet table with a

celebrity — all this on earth and heaven at last. Certainly no insurance company can offer half as much."

Scripture says that "By their faith you will know them" (Mat. 7:20). Fruit takes time to develop but it's the only true test. The fruit of this quasi-Christianity that we are currently seeing harvested on national T.V. speaks for itself.

What then is the purpose of a church that is God centered and scripturally based? A survey of the Scripture would seem to confirm the following features as basic:

- Biblical preaching
- Scriptural church government
- The ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper
- Spiritual life evidenced by (a) Worship (b) Holiness of life (c) Brotherly love (d) Evangelism and good works.



Rev. D. Franklin Irwin

## Speech on growth

Rev. D. Franklin Irwin, a veteran missionary to Far East nations since 1951, will speak at the annual Missions Conference of Unionville Alliance Church.

Founded in 1887, The Christian and Missionary Alliance is an evangelical denomination with over 10,000 churches and an inclusive membership of almost two million people in 51 countries. The Philippines has 1,164 organized churches and over 86,000 baptized believers.

The public is cordially invited to hear Rev. Irwin speak at Unionville Alliance Church Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. and Sunday evening at 6:30 p.m. at Unionville Public School, 300 Main St., Unionville.

## More Church Focus

### St. Justin, Martyr

Is your Wedding Anniversary in May? You are invited to come to an anniversary Mass being offered for you Saturday, May 9 at 5 p.m.

St. Justin, Martyr is located in St. Matthews Separate School, 75 Waterbridge Lane, Unionville.

### Bethesda Lutheran

The Summer Worship Service schedule has family worship beginning and Sunday School beginning at 10 a.m.

Bethesda Lutheran is located at 20 Union St., Unionville.

**MCCORMACK MEMORIAL CHURCH**  
PASTOR: REV. W. GAWA  
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School  
Balanced Living  
11:00 a.m. - Mother  
7:00 p.m. - Marriage  
Special Mother's Day Music

NURSERY SUPERVISION AND JUNIOR CHURCH PROVIDED  
VIVIAN RD.  
#48  
#48

**BETHEL ASSEMBLY** (Pentecostal)  
Hwy. #18, north of Hwy. #17  
RINGWOOD  
Rev. Howard Minaker  
Call 640-5555  
LORD'S DAY  
9:45 a.m. - Christian Education  
11:00 a.m. - Worship Service  
7:00 p.m. - Evening Service  
Saturday, 7:30 p.m.  
COFFEE HOUSE  
ALL ROADS LEAD TO BETHEL  
JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY TO HEAVEN

**BLOOMINGTON CHRISTIAN GOSPEL CHURCH**  
Sun. May 10th, 1987  
Rev. Bryan Coker  
9:45 A.M. - Sunday School  
11:00 A.M. - Morning Worship  
7:00 P.M. - Evening Service  
Wed. 8:00 P.M. - Bible Study

**MEMORIAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
Sun. May 10th, 1987  
Pastor Calvin Stone  
Main-Stouffer

10 a.m. - Sunday School  
Wed. 7:30 P.M. - Prayer Meeting  
11 a.m. - Morning Worship

**HEISE HILL BRETHREN IN CHRIST CHURCH**  
Gormley, Ontario  
Rev. Marlin K. Ressler  
Pastor  
Phone: 887-5489  
Sunday, May 10th, 1987

Christian Education Hour 10:00 a.m.  
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Service 7:00 p.m.  
WEDNESDAY MAY 13th  
Hour of Power 7:45 p.m.

YOU ARE WELCOME AT HEISE HILL

## Come to Church

**WIDEMAN MENNONITE CHURCH**  
Hwy. 48-North of Major Mackenzie  
Phone 640-1227  
Pastor James R. Shantz  
Sun., May 10th, 1987  
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. - Worship Hour  
7:00 p.m. - Monthly Hymn Sing  
Featuring Rockway Mennonite Collegiate Choir

**BAKER HILL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
On Hwy 48  
2 mi. north of Hwy 47  
Pastor Dana Struve  
9:50 - Sunday School  
11:00 A.M. - Morning Worship  
WEDNESDAY  
8:00 p.m. Prayer & Bible Study Services  
ALL ARE WELCOME

**PARKVIEW VILLAGE**  
70 Ninth Line South  
Stouffville  
Regular Services discontinued until Fall.  
Keep watching for Special Events.  
May 10th - 3:30 P.M.  
Rockway Mennonite Collegiate Choir

**THE ANGLICAN PARISH of CHRIST CHURCH**  
254 Sunset Blvd.  
Rev. Paul D. Scuse  
640-1461  
Sun. May 10, 1987  
8:00 A.M. & 10:00 A.M.  
HOLY COMMUNION

**ST. MARK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
345 GLAD PARK AVE.  
STOUFFVILLE  
640-6665  
SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE  
Saturday 5 p.m.  
Sunday 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

**STOUFFVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH** (a Fellowship Church)  
76 Main St. West  
Sun. May 10th, 1987  
9:50 A.M. Sunday School All Ages (Nursery available)  
11:00 A.M. Morning Worship  
6:50 P.M. Warm Fellowship Service  
Wednesday  
8:00 P.M. Prayer Meeting at Church.  
For information call 640-2911  
A WARM WELCOME AT EVERY SERVICE

**ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
101 Main S.E.  
640-3151  
Minister Rev. Herb Gale  
Sunday, May 10th, 1987  
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School and Adult Bible Study  
11 a.m. Morning - Worship  
Nursery supervision and Junior Church provided.

**STOUFFVILLE MISSIONARY CHURCH**  
159 Main Street East 640-3911  
Pastor: Rev. James Clubine  
Assoc. Pastors: Douglas Gray, Charles Mashinter  
Sunday, May 10th, 1987  
9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Sunday School  
Hours and Morning Worship Services  
6:30 p.m. - Evening Service  
WEDNESDAY  
7:00 p.m. - Girls' & Boys' Club Programs  
7:15 p.m. - Adult Prayer & Bible study  
7:30 p.m. - Youth and Adult Bible study  
"You're Always Welcome at the Missionary Church"

**STOUFFVILLE UNITED CHURCH**  
34 Church St. N.  
640-1163  
Sun. May 10th, 1987  
11 A.M. - Worship Service  
Church School Program For All Ages Including Infant Care  
REV. JANET CAWLEY

**SPRINGVALE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Gormley-Stouffville Rd.  
At Kennedy Rd.  
Pastor Rev. Robt. Flemming  
Asst Pastor - Mark Rodgers  
887-5651  
9:45 a.m. - Bible School  
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship  
6:00 p.m. - Evening Service  
AWANA Presentation  
WED. 7:00 P.M.  
Adult Prayer & Bible Study  
FRI. 7:00 P.M.  
"Youth Alive"

NURSERY PROGRAM AVAILABLE

**stouffville pentecostal church**  
460 MAIN ST., STOUFFVILLE  
ONT. 640-5696

9:45 a.m.  
9:45 a.m. Christian Education  
11 a.m. Morning Worship  
6:00 p.m. Evening Rally  
Rev. Craig E. Pitts