

PLAN WITH THE PASTOR Canada, a mosaic of communities, languages and cultures held together for 125 years by principles and values, founded upon Judeo-Christian ethics, is probably facing more sociological



changes in the next ten years than it has in the past ninety.

The recent trend away from absolutes to relative thinking and acceptance of diverse values, has left us with a generation of angry, frustrated citizens who tend to view life as helpless. This negative picture of Canadian society of course does not speak for everyone, for there are a number of leaders in the political, educational, law enforcement, religious systems and business sectors of our land who believe and continue to fight for values that will enhance life.

A good example is the VIP (Values, Influence and Peers) program grade 6 students recently completed. It is a preventative program that responds to the current moral and ethical needs of young people. Regularly Canadian businesses offer courses to their personnel on principles of living. Churches are becoming more diversified, providing practical training and counselling for the hurting of our society. Still there remains a need for communities all across our land to raise up and establish standards.

Recently during the Supreme Court ruling on obscenity, we were reminded that the standards local communities establish, to a large extent dictate that which can be enforced by law.

It is time for the solid citizens of this land to become vocal and re-establish the time honoured and tested Biblical values and morals that formed this nation. Values of strength and integrity that could be counted upon. We live in an era where half of all Canadian marriages end in divorce. With continuing compassion and concern for the hurting let us shoulder the responsibilities that will help prevent these tragedies. Parents need to model and teach on how to relate with others. As public witness of a wedding, every person is committed to the success of it, so come out of isolation and become involved in the lives of others. The church must play a key roll in not only premarital counselling, but regular follow up. Our children need to realize marriage can be happy, it is a covenant and life time commitment.

We need to raise our viewing and reading standards, to protest films etc., that degrade or dehumanize women and children, to praise and support wholesome videos that teach character qualities which enhance peace and caring for life. Pornography must not be tolerated. We can vote with our dollars and make an impact on our community. We may not clean up the whole nation, but we can begin at home. Think of the poor of our land, do we value them or perceive them as burdens? Think of those hurting teens whose sexual standards have caused pain, disease

and psychological wounds from which many will never escape. Safe sex is not the most responsible approach. We need to teach again the values of virginity and monogamy to ensure health and happiness. The abortion controversy continues to torment not only the legislators and those who have experienced freedom of choosing to relieve themselves of the responsibility for their actions, but also all of us. As human life is devalued, our society increasingly becomes dangerous to live in. The selfish, undisciplined and fearful attitudes that are often at the

roots of the one who sees abortion as the only alternative, can be helped if society will provide concrete help, care and leadership in the hour of their crisis. Canada, a multitude of communities, will be as strong as you and I choose to make her. Together we make the difference, set the standards and change the course of history for generations to come. The first step is choosing a standard that can be counted on and will not change. I suggest the Bible and its principles are all that will endure and guide us through life's hurts and joys.



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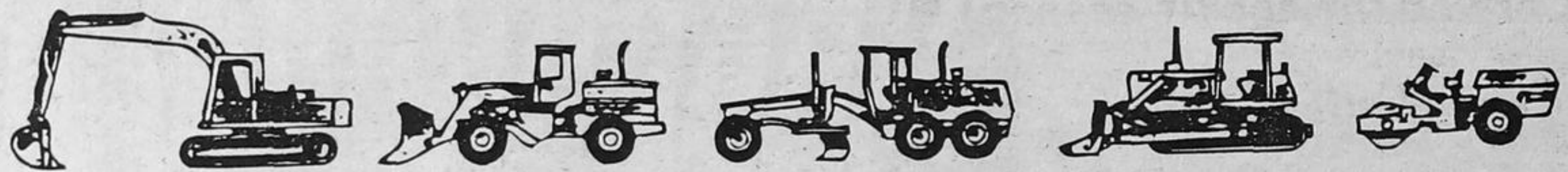
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