Religion and Life

By Very Rev. George C. Pidgeon, D.D., L.L.D.
First Moderator of the United Church of Canada
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Years ago a Christian Endeavor convention was being held in Ottawa. The chief speaker was the Very Reverend George Munro Grant, principal of Queen's University. Sitting near him on the train to Ottawa was a business man reading a newspaper account of the convention.

"This is all wrong!" the business man exclaimed. "Think of the cost of such gatherings! The money these youngsters are wasting should be taken to feed the poor." The Principal looked up from his book and replied: "Why, I have just been reading where a very famous man said that very thing." "Good!" the practical man exploded. "Who was it?" It was Judas Iscariot," said Dr. Grant, and showed him John's account of the tribute paid to Jesus by Mary of Bethany shortly before the Crucifixion, and Judas' criticism of it.

Now Lent has begun and Mary's dramatic action may start out meditations on the privilege of this sacred period.

The Alabaster Jar

Jesus is on His way to Jerusalem and a dinner in His honor is being given in the house of one Simon, of whom nothing else is known. Characteristically, Martha served, and Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead, is one of the guests. Mary, his sister, is an utterly impractical girl. In Luke's famous story (Luke 10:38-42) we read that once, when Jesus visited their home, Mary forgot that their guest was hungry in the sheer joy of listening to His teaching. Here, while Martha is busy, Mary takes her own way of honoring her Friend. She had brought an alabaster jar of pure nard, very costly and, stealing up behind the guests as they reclined at the table, she broke the jar and poured the contents over Jesus' head. This was the costliest tribute she could bring, and Jesus welcomed it. When the sorrows of the world were taking hold of His spirit, Jesus found comfort in the poetic as against the practical, in the exceptional as against the ordinary, and in the original as against the conventional. The inventiveness of love was never more strikingly displayed than in Mary's tribute, and it called forth a fitting response. The spirit that delighted in the beauty of the lilies of the field found satisfaction and heart-healing in that inventive love which opened a new way from soul to soul. Mary's act was a surprise to everyone, and because it was unexpected, it could never be forgotten.

In this period of devotion may we not offer tokens of our love to Jesus personally? Someone has written of two of the courtiers of Alexander the Great, describing one as lover of the King and the other as lover of Alexander. The loyalty of the one was for the occupant of the kingly office; the devotion of the other was for Alexander personally. Some of the followers of the Masters were lovers of the Christ, but Mary was a lover of Jesus. To Him she owed everything. To let Him know her gratitude, to pour upon His head a symbol of what she believed He merited was her only desire. It was a service of the heart rather than of the head. She never asked: Is it wise? She never gave a thought to the impression her act would make on the minds of others. Jesus was worthy of so much more than could ever be offered to Him that the most precious thing available looked paltry in the light of His deserts. It was the outpouring of the heart of the Redeemed at the feet of the Redeemer.

Precious Praise

Jesus said, "A man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." Jesus cared for the poor and chose the poor for His friends, but He knew that the heart had to be fed as well as the body and welcomed this service from heart to heart.

How can we pay tribute to Him in this fashion?

That our praise is precious to the heart of God is one of Robert Browning's favorite thoughts. In his poem, "The Boy and the Angel" he describes a lad toiling at the trade by which his bread was earned, and praising God as he labored. A monk listening said—"Well done! I doubt not thou art heard, my son." But the lad wished to praise God in the Pope's great way as at Easter he praised God from Peter's dome. So he left his work to achieve greatness, but God in heaven missed "the voice of His delight." God said: "Clearer loves sound other ways; I miss my little human praise." He sent Gabriel to serve and sing in the lad's place and the angel was honored in obeying.

Christ wants the love of His redeemed ones. Express what you feel in the perfection of the service you offer. Every choir and worshipper who offers Christ the best music they can produce, every architect and painter who beautifies the sanctuary, churchmembers who keep the house of prayer as well furnished and well cared for as their means and ability will allow are all following Mary's example in expressing to the Lord Jesus personally the love we feel. Nothing can be too good or too precious for Him who at this season bought us with His blood.

Love Starved Dies

Love must be fed in our ordinary human relationships. A minister in a long pastorate often has to deal with difficulties in the family. In this writer's experience, the two worst cases of the broken home were due, not to marital infidelity but to the neglect of the attentions and personal consideration by which love had been won, and insistence on the practical alone. Love was starved and died and no human power could bring it back to life. There are thousands of ways by which love can be expressed but genuine love has the inventiveness of genius in finding original ways of manifesting itself and insisting that the presence and answering devotion of its object is indispensable to the lover's fullness of life.

"Love is life's end! An end but never ending:
All joys, all sweets, all happiness awarding;
Love is life's wealth (ne'er spent but ever spending)
More rich by giving, taking by discarding;
Love's life's reward, rewarded in rewarding;
Then from thy wretched heart fond care remove:
Ah! Shouldst thou live but once love's sweets to prove
Thou wilt not love to live unless thou live to love."

(Spenser)

Card Of Thanks

Mrs. Joseph Wilfred Gallant wish to thank Father Robin and the Legion, and all others who helped in her recent sad bereavement and sudden death of her husband.

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of our dear Mother,

MRS. GEORGE L. PUBLICOVER
North Rustico

who passed away

February 17th, 1950.

Not today but every day
In silence do we remember.

Inserted by Her Family.

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of John A. MacLean who passed away February 19th, 1950.

Somewhere back of the sunset
Where loveliness never dies
He lives in a land of glory
Mid the blue and the gold of the skies.

And we who have known and loved you
Whose passing has brought sad tears,
Will cherish your memory always,
To brighten the passing years.

Inserted by Wife and Family.

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of Mrs. Margaret Matthews, who died Feb. 18th, 1928.

Today as I look at your picture, dear Mother,
Your nature I never forget,
For it was so good and so true
That I never will forget.

Inserted by son Chester.

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Island Odds And Ends

Amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Act which became operative a year ago made it easier for wage-earners to qualify for benefits, but restricted the period during which the more lenient regulations remain in effect to the months of January, February and March of each year. The new policy was introduced to give recognition to the increased hazard of winter unemployment in a country like Canada where weather plays such an important part in curtailing activity in many industries.

The more generous terms of the amended act, has increased the number of claimants considerably during the peak months of unemployment, and the Charlottetown office has been paying 1700 claimants for several weeks. These claimants are located in every part of King's and Queen's Counties, the territory under the administration of the Charlottetown Office.

Prince County is administered by the National Employment Office in Summerside.

Roughly 900 of the claims being paid weekly by the Charlottetown office are country or rural claims, the remaining 800 are those of people living in, or close to, the city. The weekly total of all claims is in the vicinity of $20,000 or about $80,000 each month.

Each year the Province as a whole draws from the Unemployment Insurance Fund roughly three times as much as its wage earners and employers contribute. This unusually favorable situation is due to the high percentage of seasonable unemployment, which develops each year on the Island.

At the peak of employment in the summer, and early autumn, about 8,000 insurance stamps are in possession of workers are bringing in revenue to the fund, from the area under the Charlottetown office jurisdiction. The average book possibly returns 70c weekly, so that the 8,000 books turn over to the fund $5,600.00 each week. But even in the summer months the claimants average about three hundred per week, and the average weekly payment to these is at least ten dollars, or a total of $3,000.00. It can be seen that for a few months the Unemployment Insurance fund receives more than it pays out in benefits.

But in November the number of claimants increases, and continues to increase sharply until February, and the demands on the fund remain high until April, a period of six months. In this same six months during which claims total from $15,000 to $20,000 week after week, the revenue drops because fewer people are employed, to perhaps only about 6,000. These 6,000 contribute perhaps $4,200.00 weekly, whereas the total benefits paid during the same period range from approximately $12,000 to $20,000. The figures are roughly estimated.

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They are sufficiently accurate nevertheless to show that for almost half the year, the total money paid out in Unemployment Insurance claims far exceeds the amount contributed by Island employees and employers. If the same lop-sided demands on the fund prevailed all over Canada, it would very soon become exhausted. Fortunately those who framed the Act had the benefit of studying the history of similar acts which had been in operation in England, and the United States and knew what they were doing. They knew that the industrial provinces would not be as much affected by seasonal unemployment as the agricultural areas and that losses in one part of Canada would be offset by gains in another part of the country.

They know also that a depression period like that of the 1930's would exhaust the fund in three to four years. With this knowledge always to the forefront care is taken to keep the fund healthy, and to protect it for the benefit of those who own it, the wage earners of Canada.

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Charlottetown curlers who will represent the Island at the Briar Cup Dominion finals at Halifax early in March, will be skipped by Frank Acorn, proprietor of the well-known taxi business.

Frank is a son of the late "Ed" Acorn, who was known all over the Province, and in many parts of the Maritimes for his love of sport, and his generous aid to all good causes. Horsemen, hockey lovers, boxing followers, ballplayers, all knew Ed, because, at one time or another he had given them not only moral but financial support.

His son Frank is as wholeheartedly a sport follower as his well-liked father, and has an especially wide acquaintance among Maritime horsemen. He has a great competitive trio behind him for the quest of curling honors at Halifax, in Johnny Squarebriggs, Bill McNeil and "Mel" Jenkins.

The team will be meeting the best curlers in Canada, but their friends are confident they will give a good account of themselves.

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CENTRAL GUARDIAN

This column is reserved for news of local interest, but advertising of a newsy nature may be inserted at five cents a word, strictly payable in advance.

CRASWELL for Photos.

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FOR LAUGHS see "The Operation" at the Parkdale concert. Five nights opening next week!

KINSMEN SKATE, Recce Band, Thursday night. Admission 50 cents.

HEAR THE SWEET SOPRANO of Maureen Blake and the mellow baritone of Roy Smallman at the Baptist Men's Variety Concert, Thursday. Get your tickets now!

600 BLOOD DONORS needed at Charlottetown Clinics at Red Cross Headquarters, Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 27th and 28th between 2—4 and 6—10 p.m.

HEAR DICK TURPIN'S humorous songs and readings at the Baptist Men's Variety Concert, Thursday. Be sure of a seat!

SCHEDULED FLIGHTS daily to Summerside and Moncton Phone Maritime Central Airways Limited, 2061 or 540.

TONIGHT AT 8.30. P.W.C. Auditorium—Robertson Memorial Lecture by Monseigneur Ferdinand Vandry, Laval University. Public cordially invited.

GIVE YOURSELF a credit for life—be a blood donor at clinics at Red Cross Headquarters, Charlottetown, Feb. 27th and 28th between 2—4 and 6—10 p.m.

CITY POLICE COURT — At the Stipendiary Magistrate's Court Saturday, the only case to be heard was that of a man charged with being drunk and incapable who was sentenced to 20 days in jail.

Lenten Meditations

OVERCOMING THE WORLD
(The London Times)

The Christian religion originated in a series of historical events. In his creed the Christian not only declares his belief in God the Father Almighty; he recalls also the name of a particular Roman procurator who was responsible for a particular execution.

Had Jesus of Nazareth turned aside from his journey to Jerusalem, had he not "suffered under Pontius Pilate," had there been no Good Friday and no Easter, there would have been no Christian missionaries proclaiming a God of love, and winning men of almost every nation to the allegiance of the crucified Messiah. Had he not been lifted up on the cross he would not have begun to draw all men to him.

Yet these events in history are, for the Christian, more than historical events. Through them God's nature was revealed; but, more than that, through them God himself took the initiative to overcome men's sin and to win their love. The cross remains the eternal focusing point of God's love. The resurrection remains the eternal proclamation of his victory over evil.

The victory of Christ was and is shared by his followers; both those who knew the blessedness of having seen and believed, and their successors who experience the equal blessedness of not having seen and yet having believed.

"This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." The words of the Epistle for the First Sunday after Easter recall words spoken by Jesus himself before he left the upper chamber to meet his betrayers. "In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

"Who is he that overcometh the world," says the Epistle, "but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God." That belief—fantastic though it seemed to almost all who first heard it uttered—did indeed overcome the world. The Roman Empire at first disregarded it; then endeavoured to suppress it; and finally came to terms with it. The Empire collapsed, but the faith remained; and through it there was created the new civilizaton of the Middle Ages.

Nineteen centuries after St John wrote, the Prime Minister of a modern democracy, summoning his peoples to a supreme effort, declared that upon the issue of the battle before them depended the whole future of Christian civilization.

There can be no Christian civilization without Christian belief. Pilate's question remains: "What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?" It must be answered by individuals, though the answer of individuals profoundly affects the communities in which they form a part. For belief is like heaven; it never stops working.

Strange But True

By F.H. MacArthur

A Japanese lady of other days walked ten paces behind her husband. This custom is still observed in parts of Japan, but is dying out due to changing social conditions in that country. . . . The Japanese word for chopsticks is hashi . . . What is the meaning of the word quadroon? Quadroon refers to a person who is one-quarter Negro and three-quarters white. . . . Dr. Philip Thomson, a research engineer of Westinghouse Company, has produced a microphone that is able to pick up the language of the insect world. . . . The noises heard over your radio and commonly referred to as static, results from natural electrical discharges. They are heard more frequently during daylight hours and give more trouble in summer than in winter. . . . Christianity has not yet embraced within its fold the followers of Toaism who number 310,926,000 souls. . . . The Bible has been translated into 835 languages, a climb of 72 languages since 1804. . . . The gaming tables of Monte Carlo are patronized by people from every section of the globe, except the natives of Monaco, in which Monte Carlo is situated. . . . The now popular game of bowling originated in the Low Countries. . . . Nancy Hanks, a famous American trotter, was named for the mother of Abraham Lincoln. In 1892 Nancy Hanks broke the trotting record of her rival Sunal, 2:08 1-4, by a mile in 2:04 in October, 1892.

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The Moscow Art Theater is said to be the most distinguished stock company in the world. . . . There are more than 3,150,359 persons living in the rural districts of Texas. This state also boasts the largest number of farms, 460,39° to be exact. . . . Twenty-two of the 48 states have names of Indian origin. . . . At the present rate of growth, New York and London, England will in the year 2,000, have a combined population in their metropolitan areas of 56,000,000. . . . The most delicate of sensitive scales in the world — micro-balance — were made by a Swedish manufacturer of scientific instruments. These tiny scales will only weigh 0.1 gram or a little more than 0.0035 ounces and is sensitive to one millioneth of a milligram or to 0.000000000035 ounce. . . . What President never occupied the White House? George Washington. He died in 1799, before the famous building had been completed. The site of the White H— was originally a farm owned by Davy Burns, a Scotchman: and Washington had quite a time of it getting the Scot to sell his property. An underground passage exists between the Mansion and the House and the House and Senate Buildings and the Library of Congress; but the Capital and White House are not connected in this way. . . . Owls should never be killed because they are among the farmers best friends, destroying great numbers of farm pests, particularly field mice. . . . The Canadian prairie has some mighty big wheat fields but none as large as the one farmed by Thomas Campbell Farming Corporation of Hardin, Montana. This huge field — 200,000 acres — is leased by Mr. Campbell through the Interior Dept. at Washington and is part of two Indian Reservations. In 1922 over 1,000,000 bushels of wheat were raised on 40,-500 acres — a section of the big field. . . . By knowing something about weeds, a farmer may be helping to judge the quality of his soil. For instance, wild carrot and ox-eye daisy grow only on soils that are poor. Sheep sorrel indicates acid land which needs lime to sweeten it. Moss shows that the land needs drainage. Dark green foliage and large sized plants indicate abundant nitrogenous food in the soil, while yellowish foliage and stringy growth shows lack of this plant building material. . . . Blackberry bushes should be kept away from wheat-fields as they harbor a rust that attacks wheat. . . . Sugar beets are a great crop-yield stimulator, and other crops following sugar beets yield 50 to 80 per cent above their normal yield. If crows persist in pulling up your corn, Mr. Farmer, dip the seed in tar pitch before sowing; the crows will not eat it.

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Wax Beans, 6 tins	$1	Plum Jam, lge. jar	41c
Plums, 6 tins	$1	Bulk Macaroni, 2 lbs.	29c
Pork & Beans, 6 tins	$1	Cheese, 1 lb. baby roll	53c
Vegetable Soup, 9 tins	$1	Kraft Dinner, 2 pkgs.	29c
Sardines in Oil 5 tins	47c	Y. E. Beans, bag	20c
Pilchards, 5 tins	$1	Pitted Dates, 5 lbs.	$1
Mackerel, 5 tins	$1	Dried Apples, lb.	33c
Dog & Cat Food, 5 tins	25c	Seedless Raisins, 5 lbs.	$1
Fresh Filled COOKIES, Lb.	33c	Delicious Hot Chowder? CLAMS, whole & clean, 2 tins	57c

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BREAKFAST BACON, lb. 53c

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*Team No. 7 shown in Division 4 belongs to DIVISION FIVE

OPENING CAMPAIGN SUPPER--Y.M.C.A. TONIGHT--6.00 P.M.--ALL WORKERS PLEASE ATTEND!