

# Religion and Life

By Very Rev. George O. Pidgeon, D.D., LL.D.  
First Moderator of the United Church of Canada  
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## FOOD FOR THE MIND

Over the air the other day came days: How much of the wicked-ness from which we suffer is due to reading? Years ago a clever lad grew up in quiet corner of Peel County. He fed his imagination on the stories of Jesse James and his gang. When he was working in the fields, he used every idle moment in this way—he would stand behind a tree with a revolver in hand and try how quickly he could spring out, plant a bullet in some distant object, and spring back to cover. He became a dangerous criminal who often defied arrest, and the young officer who finally caught him took a risk from which most men would shrink. His cleverness could not save him from the crash in which his career of crime ended, but his story illustrates the truth that one's mental food governs his moral character.

At the opposite extreme, take the case of two pioneer missionaries to the cannibals of the South Seas—John Geddie of our Maritime Provinces and John G. Paton of Scotland. The parents of both dedicated them from infancy to world evangelism, but never told their sons about it. Instead they fed the minds of the youths as they grew with literature which magnified the missionary's calling and dwelt on the results of his work, while in prayer they pleaded with God to call them in His own time and way. In due time the divine call came, and parents and sons together praised the Lord. Their spiritual food shaped their life purpose and their destiny.

The Bible itself insists on the place which divine truth has in the upbuilding of character. What strong food is to the full-grown man, the doctrines of grace are to character. Every business man knows the difference between the man whose dealings are governed by moral principles, universal and eternal in their bearing, and the man whose conduct is directed by the exigencies of the moment. The truths of Scripture, absorbed and assimilated, become principles and ideals, and the characters that we admire without reservation are those whose principles are immovable as the everlasting hills and whose life-purpose is to embody their ideals in action and to reproduce them in those whom they teach and lead.

We are faced by a world-wide movement whose driving force is hate and whose means of conquest are falsehood, hypocrisy, cruelty and violence. Everything that Jesus lived and died for they despise and condemn. Except in one respect. A recent writer has asked: "Who are the Communists?" and answers: "The Communists are that part of mankind which has received the power to live or die—"

# THE CENTRAL GUARDIAN

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**SPRINGTOWN W. I.**

The regular monthly meeting of the Springtown W. I. was held on December 3rd at the home of Mrs. D. S. MacPhee with the president in the chair. The meeting opened by singing the Institute Ode followed by the Creed. Roll call was answered by six members paying dues, and exchange of Christmas gifts. It was moved and seconded that 34 cents secretary's expense be paid. The minutes were read and approved. Correspondence was read by the secretary, and discussion of same took place. It was decided to pay \$3.00 for the hire of an organ for the Christmas concert. It was moved and seconded to remember four shut-ins at Christmas with a treat. \$8.68 was taken in on cards, \$2.40 on capsules. Mrs. Ralph Thompson invited the Institute for the next meeting. It was decided to meet to put the ollocloth down in the cloak room. The meeting adjourned, and lunch was served by the hostess, assisted by members present.

To bear witness—for its faith." He adds: "It is this power that is the 'secret weapon of Communism.' But that is the demand that Jesus has always made of His followers. He said: 'If anyone would come after me, let him renounce self, and take up his cross and follow me.' The devil cannot be fought with fire. Jesus turned away from the methods and agencies which the Messiah was expected to use and committed His life to winning the world by love. Down through the centuries His sacrifice and His victories have been celebrated in song and story and those who feed their minds and fire their imagination with the truth that inspired Him and the records of what that truth moved Him to suffer and achieve will repeat His triumphs until the world is won."

# Strange But True

By F. M. MacArthur

The electric company which makes "Mazda" lights didn't coin the word. They borrowed the name from the great Persian sun-god and fire-god, and a very appropriate name it is for an electric globe. The first Christian hymn we know of was written by Clement of Alexandria (220 A.D.). It was styled after the old Jewish synagogue tunes, a kind of "catchy" air that took the peoples' fancy. The Romans and Greeks took up the idea but gave their hymns a somewhat grave and serious setting.

In the 4th century christian hymns were sung in Asia Minor in old Methodist style, with the clapping of hands and stamping feet when the singers' hearts overflowed with emotion. The early christians frowned on instrument music because it was generally associated with orgies and pagan feasts and wickedness in general. It was not until about 300 A. D. that the churches began using organs.

Certain snails in Cuba and Haiti climb trees. They are all colors of the rainbow and so numerous that they are often taken for flowers. China is a land of many curious customs and strange beliefs. Let me tell you the story of 70-year-old Chan Kwal who climbs a hill near Hong Kong every evening to call home his 1,000 ghosts which he says live in his "hotel of the dead."

When Ernest Sheldon, of Puntnam, Conn. lay dying he requested that his folk set up for his tombstone the old iron anvil over which he'd worked for 58 years as a smith. So Ernest Sheldon is the first dead man in history to have an anvil for his tombstone. The library book you take home to read never, never gets a fumigating.

**Branch "A" St. Paul's W.A. Annual Meeting**  
The annual meeting of St. Paul's, Branch A, was held in the Parish Hall on December 4th with the president, Mrs. F. T. Rodd, in the chair. Twenty-five members were present. After a devotional period, the reports of the officers were read, showing a most successful year. The nominating committee brought in a new slate of officers for the ensuing year: president, Mrs. Harry Miller; vice-president, Mrs. C. H. Coles; 2nd vice-president, Mrs. Harry Matheson; recording secretary, Mrs. B. P. Moore; treasurer, Miss Helen Waterford; Dorcas secretary, Mrs. J. A. Bentley; corresponding secretary, Miss Maude Haslam; Prayer Partner, Mrs. Walter Matheson; Living Message, Miss Lilla Coles; cent-a-week, Miss A. Lewis; Thank Offering, Miss A. Horne; Educational secretary, Mrs. Hemming; assistant Educational secretary, Miss McMillan; social service, Mrs. Rodd. The Rector, Canon J. T. Ibbott, was guest speaker and complimented the Branch on their splendid reports. Lovely refreshments were then served.

**TIME CENTRE**  
The Royal Observatory at Greenwich, England, was established by Charles II in 1675.

**IN MEMORIAM**  
In loving memory of Gaston Dupuis who was killed December 7, 1950.  
Just beyond the sunset,  
When we that way have trod,  
We'll see his face, and clasp his hand  
In the Beautiful Hills of God.  
Remembered by sister-in-law,  
Mrs. Ernest Carr.

**IN MEMORIAM**  
In loving memory of Mrs. George S. McKenna, who died December 8th, 1949.  
Sweet memories will linger forever  
Time cannot change them it is true  
Years that may come cannot sever  
Our loving remembrance of you.  
Lovingly Remembered by Husband  
and Family.

**IN MEMORIAM**  
In loving memory of Mrs. Ernest Baker.  
Always remembered by Father-in-law and Mother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Baker.



**Address and Presentation**  
On Saturday evening, November 29, the residents of Fairview and Rocky Point school districts more or less serenaded the home of Mr. Allison MacMillan and while they were welcome, it did seem strange to the host, why so many chose to call on the same evening. However, after the guests were assembled, Mr. Keith Taylor called the gathering to order, explaining the nature of the call, namely that of recognizing the efforts of Mr. MacMillan in promoting and working strenuously for the installation of electric power in the above named districts. He then called on Mr. Brent Currie who read an appropriate address while Mr. Chesley MacDougall made the presentation of a beautiful wrist watch. Mr. MacMillan, while still surprised, fittingly replied.  
Mr. E. A. Currie, in his own inimitable way, spoke of the benefits of electrification and in a general way of the part played in getting it to the various districts. He was followed by Mrs. White, who concurring with the sentiments of the previous speaker.  
A lively sing-song with Mrs. Burdett at the piano was enjoyed by all, and the evening passed all too quickly.  
A delectable lunch was served by the ladies of the districts, after which all departed, having spent a very pleasant and enjoyable evening.  
The following is the address.  
Mr. Allison E. MacMillan Fairview.  
Dear Allison:  
Many times we have enjoyed social evenings of various kinds in your home and very often we have been indebted to both you and your good wife, but tonight we have come for a special reason to honour you for your efforts in bringing electric power to this community.  
It was our intention to do this long before now, but winter and your ill health can at least be used as an excuse for our delay. We are very glad that you are feeling so much better, and hope that a long time to come, you will enjoy good health and again be able to take a leading part in improvements to our country life.  
In two World Wars you have taken your part in fighting through to victory, and in this campaign, to a very important, the struggle for electric power; you have sacrificed much time and effort.  
When many of us thought it was impossible to get enough customers or that we would not get power for a long time, and with some dropping out, it was at times a very discouraging project. But never faltering in your efforts, you were mainly responsible for bringing this most wonderful of all improvements to these districts, and we believe that many of the neighbouring communities realize that you were the originator and pursuer of the idea many years back, and are grateful for the convenience and comfort it has brought to them.  
For a year we have enjoyed electric power—tonight and every night our homes are illuminated at the touch of a switch; water is supplied automatically, and we enjoy endless other uses from power about the farm and in the home. To do without electric power now would be unthinkable to most of us.  
So tonight in these few faltering words, we would like to tell you how much we appreciate what you have done and to present to you this small token of what we really feel, but cannot express.  
Brent Currie  
Chesley MacDougall  
J. K. Taylor.  
Committee.

**SEA VIEW W.I. Annual Meeting**  
The annual meeting of Sea View W.I. was held at the home of Mrs. Eddie Murphy with the president, in the chair. The meeting opened by singing the Ode followed by the Creed in unison. Roll call was answered by twelve members paying fees.  
Minutes of the last meeting and last annual meeting were read, approved and signed.  
The president gave a splendid report outlining the work carried on during the year and giving some helpful suggestions for another year. This was followed by the report of the secretary. Receipts for year were \$538.98, expenditures \$473.87 leaving a balance on hand of \$60.20.  
New committees were then appointed as follows: Mrs. Lorne Campbell, Mrs. Earle Mackay, and Mrs. Fred Donald; school committee, Mrs. Reg. Mountain, and Mrs. Eddie Murphy.  
Mrs. J. E. Campbell took the chair for the election of officers president, Mrs. Lester Duggan; vice president, Mrs. J. E. Murphy; secretary treasurer, Mrs. Charles Adams; auditors, re-elected; directors, Mrs. J. E. Cousins, Mrs. Fred Donald, Mrs. Eddie Murphy; press secretary, Mrs. Earle MacKay; committee to make out programmes for coming year, Mrs. Fred Donald.

**KEEP THESE IN MIND!**  
Some of the early signs of cancer are:  
A lump in the breast.  
Unnatural bleeding from a body opening.  
A sore that does not heal, particularly of the skin, face, mouth or lips.  
Any persistent change in bowel habits—such as diarrhoea or constipation.  
Many Canadians are enjoying life today because they found that early cancer can be cured.  
Keep these danger signals in mind and see your doctor if one appears.

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**IN MEMORIAM**  
In fond and loving memory of a dear husband and father, Gaston Dupuis, who was killed December 7, 1950.  
We shall always cherish fond memories,  
And your loving cheerful ways,  
Your smile had won you many friends  
I those happy bygone days,  
Lovingly remembered by wife,  
Edith, and son Bryan.

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In loving memory of Mrs. George S. McKenna, who died December 8th, 1949.  
Sweet memories will linger forever  
Time cannot change them it is true  
Years that may come cannot sever  
Our loving remembrance of you.  
Lovingly Remembered by Husband  
and Family.

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In loving memory of Mrs. Ernest Baker.  
Always remembered by Father-in-law and Mother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Baker.

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