

Religion and Life

By Very Rev. George C. Pidgeon, D.D., LL.D.
First Moderator of the United Church of Canada
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NO DISTINCTIONS IN BIBLE TEACHING

Many years ago, Sir John A. Macdonald was criticized in the House of Commons for some remarks which were described as offensive to the United States. In reply Sir John acknowledged that he had compared conditions in Canada with those in the United States, and as a result of the comparison, he was of the opinion that the United States was free.

Now, after all those years, we find the race issue arising in Canada and causing a deep cleavage in certain communities. Great questions of this type are a real challenge to the Christian Church, and it is interesting to watch the Church's reactions.

In beginning any discussion of this subject we must note that this is dealt with men as men, and refused to recognize any artificial distinctions between them. St. Paul, first of the great interpreters of Jesus, affirmed the Christian position for all time in these words: "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female."

The differences between the sexes passed by—"ye all are one in Christ Jesus." St. Paul was here replying to men who had raised the issue of race and creed in an acute form, and his affirmation is definite and final for the Christian Church.

This question was brought before the Evanston meeting of the World Council of Churches by two addresses in which the findings of a Commission on this subject were set forth. Dr. B. J. Marsden of the Dutch Reformed Church of South Africa made it clear that he does not accept the principle of "apartheid" or "separate development" advocated by the whites in S. Africa and dealt sharply with the arguments advanced in its support. The Commission under his leadership sought the thinking of 14 leading theologians of Europe on this subject. They all agree that we can find no justification in the Bible for a segregated church based on race and ethnic origin.

Dr. B. E. Mays, president of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, traced the commission's research on the problem of race relations through the Old and New Testaments, ancient and modern church history and the findings of modern science.

In the Old Testament, he said, "the lines of separation are drawn only along religious and not racial lines. When we turn to the New Testament it is equally clear that separateness was on the basis of religion and culture and not on the grounds of race or ethnic origins. . . . Nowhere in the early church do we find distinctions or race. In the mediaeval church . . . the basis of membership was faith, not race, Christ, not color, creedal acceptance, and not nationality. . . . Available scientific knowledge provides no basis for believing that the groups of mankind differ in their innate capacity for intellectual and emotional development."

Dr. Mays then asked this question: "If the church can find no support in science for ethnic and racial tension, none in the Bible for segregation based on race or color, none in the practices of the ancient and mediaeval church,

and no basis for it in Christian theology, the question naturally arises: How can segregation and discrimination in the Church be justified? What can the churches do to put themselves in line with the Gospel, the practices of the ancient and mediaeval church and in line with the findings of modern science?"

Answers given by the churches in Evanston were clear and unequivocal. For example, Rev. John J. Davidson, president of Davidson College (N.C.), said in commenting on the recent U. S. Supreme Court decision declaring segregation in public schools unconstitutional: "The attitude of our churches in the south, where the problems must be worked out, has been tremendously inspiring. I know of no church in the south which has not acted in complete approval of the position of the Supreme Court. I think the ecumenical spirit of our age has had a part in this understanding of our churches."

Alan Paton, author of Cry the Beloved Country, told the visitors that "the Christian Church has three duties in respect to race: (1) that of witnessing within the church and to the world that Christ came to all men; (2) that of judging a duty of condemning every injustice in matters of race; and (3) that of awakening its own members to their responsibilities as Christians in the world, and strengthening them in every effort that they make for justice and for peace."

All the men that we have quoted are in close personal contact with the problem. They are not theorists judging others from afar. They know the difficulties involved, and the price that has often to be paid for consistency in the practice of these principles. Yet the above is their understanding of the Christian position.

The World Council, which received this report and listened to these addresses, said: "The calling of the church is to witness within itself to the Kingship of Christ and the unity of His people in Him, transcending all diversity. . . . their calling requires Christians to witness to the Kingship of Christ and the unity of all mankind, and to strive through social and political action to secure for all men justice, freedom, and peace as a foretaste of that Kingdom into

which the faithful shall be gathered. . . . The churches have this two-fold duty, to obey and to proclaim that word of judgment, to repent and call to repentance. It is their task to challenge the conscience of society."

It is well for us to keep in mind this word: "The problems of race, difficult as they are, insoluble as they sometimes appear to be, provide for Christians an opportunity for obedience. . . . If Christian obedience leads to suffering, that is part of the price."

THREE DUTIES

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THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Milk Producers and Vendors Association will be held in the library of the office of the Experimental Farm, Tuesday evening, November 30th, at 8. Signed Percy G. Gay, Secretary.

CARD PARTY — A delightful card party was held on Saturday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Hogg, Summerside. The ladies first prize was won by Mrs. Hogg and the gents high score by Mr. Willard Stewart. Delightful refreshments were served by the hostess. — S.

RETURN HOME — Miss Dorothy Smith and Miss Ada Jackman of Summerside, have returned home after spending a two weeks holiday in Toronto where they were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jackman and Miss Doris Jackman. They also visited Buffalo and Niagara Falls before returning home. — S.

MONTHLY MEETING — The monthly meeting of the Women's Association of the Trinity Church on Nov. 25 with the president in the chair.

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Island Sailor Sports Beard After Trip



Only seven men returned to Halifax with beards when the Patrol Vessel HMCS Labrador arrived back after her 18,000-mile trip around the North American Continent. Shown are three of them. From left to right are AB. James Somers, Charlottetown, P. E. I., AB. John Newstead, Guelph, Ontario and AB. Edward Beck, Hamilton, Ontario.

The meeting opened by singing hymn 346. The worship period was taken by the Princess Ann Group. Mrs. Moore read the scripture, Mrs. Pickard read the lesson and led in prayer. Hymn 376 was sung. Mrs. MacLaren pianist gave her report, it was decided to give the usual fifty dollars to the W. M. S., also ten dollars to the janitor. The meeting closed by the benediction Lunch was served by the Princess

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Ann group. They also held a sale of fancy work and home cooking and a neat sum was made that further advanced their funds.

ISLAND GRILL, Queen Street Dial 5228. Serving full course dinners. Specializing Chinese dish.

TRAVELLING In Europe on \$3.00 A Day slide talk and demonstration by Frances E. Johnston, Art Centre, November 29th and 30th, 8.00 p.m. Silver collection.

Personals

Friends of Miss Shirley Bernard will be sorry to hear that she is still a patient in the Prince Edward Island Hospital, all wish her a speedy recovery.

IN MEMORIAM

In memory of
ALBERT J. CUDMORE
who passed away
November 28th, 1942.
The years roll on but memory never dies.
Ever Remembered by Wife and Family.



1929 * * 1954

LIGURIAN PLAYERS

"LADY OF FATIMA"

Marian Year and Silver Jubilee Production
A Play in 2 Acts
12 Scenes

Holy Redeemer Community Centre
WED. - THURS. - FRI.
December 1 - 2 - 3

Curtain 8:15
Admission 50c
The Show That Thrilled Broadway.

ATTENTION

CHARLOTTETOWN AND VICINITY

All wishing to purchase tickets for the Fireman's Ball, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, at Montague, please contact LLOYD MOORE, Queen St. Meat Market or LES GILLESPIE at F. R. MacLAINE, LTD.

NOTICE

TO
THE RESIDENTS
OF
QUEEN'S COUNTY

As one of your Federal representatives it is my desire to be as well informed as possible on matters having to do with Federal Government, especially as to the way in which such matters apply to the people of Queens County.

To further this purpose and for the convenience of persons having problems connected with Federal Government administration which they wish to bring to my attention before the next session of parliament, I will be at the places shown below at the times indicated.

I would like to meet as many electors as possible. I can also be reached by mail either at Beaton's Mills R.R.1 or at the House of Commons, Ottawa.

ANGUS MacLEAN.

Bagnall's Mill Office, Hunter River,
Nov. 30th—9:00 A.M. to 12 Noon

Office of the North Rustico Canning Co.,
North Rustico,
Nov. 30th—2:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. and
7:30 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

MacPhail's Store, New Haven,
Dec. 1st—9:00 A.M. to 12 Noon.

Frank Myers' Home, Crapaud,
Dec. 1st—2:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. and
7:30 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

Wiley Gibson's Home, Marshfield,
Dec. 2nd—9:00 A.M. to 12 Noon

W. L. MacLeod's General Store, Mt. Stewart,
Dec. 2nd—2:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. and
7:30 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

J. J. MacDonald's Home, Glenfinnan,
Dec. 3rd—9:00 A.M. to 12 Noon

Everett McDougall's Home, Vernon,
Dec. 3rd—2 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. and
7:30 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

Frank Ramsay's Home, New London,
Dec. 4th—2:00 P.M. to 6 P.M. and
7:30 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

At My Own Home, Lewis,
Dec. 11th—4:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.

MacLean and MacKinnon's Law Office.
Royal Bank Building, Ch'town.,
Dec. 18th—2:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.



EVERYONE OUGHT TO GET IN ON THIS!

"Our Christmas Club Cheque means a merrier Christmas for us!"



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 2. Ask for Christmas Club Coupon Book for your plan at any branch of The Canadian Bank of Commerce.
 3. Simply make a small deposit to start—and *once every second week*.
- At the end of fifty weeks (25 deposits), you'll get a cheque next November, in good time for Christmas—or whatever you wish.



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Here's your Christmas Club Coupon Book. Hand it to teller with each deposit. He detaches coupon, stamps stub—which acts as your receipt—and hands book back to you. No deposit slips to fill out—no waiting in line while your pass-book is made up. You'll find it wonderfully simple!



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