



More rumblings from below

Reagan's twisted version of christianity

by BARRY PARKINSON
Brunswickan Staff

I was on a Calgary roof-top one day and suddenly this thought caught me in the back of the brain - Ronald Wilson Reagan is a ... "christian"! Staggering under the weight of this revelation, I almost fell to my death.

Before we continue, let me define the central term here. Note the quotes around the word "christian"; also note the lower-case "c". In this article, the word "christian" refers to someone who claims a belief in Christianity, but doesn't seem to either understand, or live, that belief.

Now I'm not going to second-guess Reagan's spirituality; or anyone's else's for that matter. It would seem though that the President

could take a few lessons from the saints...but then, he is a busy man.

No, that's no excuse. Mr. Reagan's version of "christianity" is too twisted and he is in too powerful an office to ignore the fact that his theology/world view is gaining approval.

What is spreading is a kind of throw-back to a Norman Rockwell idea. It is a world of WASPs sitting down to Sunday dinner; where there is no crime, or violence, or drug abuse (or need for drug abuse), or unemployment. no one clamoring for equal rights. A world with no Vietnams, no Castros, no dissent. Dad works at the office; Mom's baking, her famous apple pie; Buddy plays football on Saturdays then goes with his friends for hot

chocolate; Sis is a home-coming queen with a straight A average. Everyone is at church on Sunday.

Oh, what a lovely world!...if it's to your tastes. And if people want it, fine. But don't push it on the rest of us Mr. Reagan - 'cos there is crime, an' violence an' all the rest, and some of us recognize this. Some of us can't accept that luke-warm semi-consciousness that blanks out all those unpleasanties.

This doesn't mean that these things should be promoted, or that life's not worth the genes it's printed on. It does mean, however, that we have to be aware of the many different aspects of our existence if we're ever going to understand what goes on in the world.

Nobody should go to bed hungry

by MIKE MacKINNON
Senior Editorial Advisor

Since last Wednesday was World Food Day, I thought it appropriate to look at the present situation regarding world hunger and to also dispel some of the myths surrounding this issue.

In 1974 the nations of the world pledged that by 1985 nobody "should go to bed hungry." We are preparing to enter 1986 and yet in the past ten years 5 million children in Africa alone died of malnutrition. How is it when nations such as Canada contribute so generously, that we are still faced with the crisis?

Perhaps the following information (taken from the fall issue of the Global Village Voice) can shed some light on this problem:

MYTH: People are hungry because there is not enough food.

FACT: There is more than enough food today for every man, woman and child. The real problem is food distribution and access for the poor.

MYTH: There is not enough land on which to grow food.

FACT: Holland has 1,117 people per square mile yet feeds its own people. The real reason is that hunger depends more on access rural peasants have to land and a small farmer's control of the land.

MYTH: Growing more food by using the latest technology will solve the problem.

FACT: The use of new technology (fertilizers, pesticides, machines, and new seeds - the Green Revolution) benefits those who already have money, land and political influence. The real problem is that these are not affordable for poor farmers.

MYTH: Big farms are necessary to solve the food problem.

FACT: A World Bank study of farming in 40 countries found large farms were less efficient than small farms, produced less per hectare and employed fewer people.

MYTH: Food production must be increased even at the risk of damaging the environment.

FACT: There are many efficient alternatives to industrial farming methods. The real

culprit is intensive, single crop farming that exhausts the soil. Cash crops on industrial farms are the culprits here.

MYTH: Each country should grow what it can sell best on the international market.

FACT: It is dangerous for a country to rely on one or two agricultural products to pay for its imports. It makes countries too dependent on those who fix the price on the international market.

MYTH: Hunger is a contest between the poor world and the rich world.

FACT: The eradication of hunger is not a threat to the well-being of people in the industrialized nations. The elimination of hunger worldwide is a matter of justice. In fact, any increase in the South's buying power will be of great advantage to the North in increased trade.

A year has passed since the situation in Ethiopia first came to our attention. The problem still exists despite the efforts of nations and individuals. Perhaps it is time to come up with some long term solutions.

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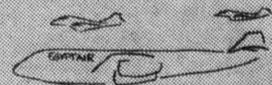
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