

gion and they don't go to church? How do they deal with the fact that there's all kinds in intercultural squabbling between ethnic groups? How do they deal with the fact that there are people who don't understand English in this country and who are Canadian citizens? And how do they deal with the political realities when they're seldom brought up in the classroom?

**Are the majority of born again Christians aware that many of their leaders are politically motivated?**

No. It's a well guarded secret and many born again Christians deny that their movement has any political connections at all. In the whole sphere of things the movement doesn't have political connections. It's not as though Jerry Falwell gets up and says "Today I'm going to give a lecture—a sermon on the bomb." It just seems to creep into their ideology. Many of these born again Christians are fine people who just believe in Christianity and in God. And they're taken aback when the subject gets pretty hot and political. They're taken aback when leaders make political comments, and when their leaders are involved in different political battles.

**In one portion of the book, you mention the rise of anti-Semitism was the largest since World War II. At the same time you mention that many of the born again Christians love Jews. That seems contradictory.**

Yes, it is. What happened was a number of Jewish leaders became pretty upset with Jerry Falwell's position on Jew, which is that Jews can make more money accidentally than anyone else can make on purpose. This attitude displays not only ignorance and bias, but a negative spirit towards Jews. Some of the leaders in the Jewish community in the United States got up in arms and were quite upset with Falwell, and said that there was an anti-Semitic or anti-Jewish element to Falwell and Falwell's ilk. At the same time Jerry Falwell said "I'm not anti-Semitic, I'm not anti-Jewish. I love the Jews. I go around kissing the ground the Jews walk on." Falwell likes the Jews because they are part of the prophecy of the end of the world. In the prophecy the battle of Armageddon is going to happen, between Christians and the anti-Christ. He believes the Russians may be the anti-Christ. He believes the end of the world is coming up and it's going to happen before the year 2000. According to scripture, in order for the battle to take place the Jews have regrouped in Israel, in their historic homeland. All the people who have been converted to Christianity will be saved in the battle and will be swept up into heaven in what Christians call the "rapture", while the battle is going on between the forces of good and evil. The Jews will somehow disappear or get slaughtered because they're not part of Christianity—not the right religion. And then Christ will come down to earth and rule for a thousand years. Now the difficulty is that a lot of Jewish people are interested in building Israel and helping Israel and they've formed a very uncomfortable alliance with people like Jerry Falwell on the basis that they both support Israel. However, in the long run it's not going to do the Jews any good to support a guy like Falwell, because what Falwell really wants is the destruction of everybody except the born-again Christians. Falwell is willing to work to that end. He wants the United States to build a bigger and a better nuclear arsenal. He wants to provoke a war with the Soviet Union. He's convinced because of the Biblical prophecy that the United States is going to win. One day my husband and I were watching Falwell on TV and he was talking about the kind of mail he got. A lot of the people who are Falwell's adherents, born again Christians who, like Falwell, are very anti-Jewish and are opposed to Falwell standing up for Israel. He said he's surprised at the number of nasty letters he gets from people who are anti-Jewish, which show the kind of adherents he actually has.

**What are your greatest concerns about the movement?**

The issues, the single political issues, that some of these born-again Christians are involved with. The nuclear question disturbed me quite a bit when I saw that they were basically in favour of nuclear war to fulfill a prophecy. It disturbed me that many of these born again Christians are activists in the pro-life cause, particularly here in the city, and that they couch their pro-life in Christian terms. By doing that they seem to represent all Christians. I don't believe all Christians feel that way. It also disturbed me that these people are generally against any

form of community organization or citizen action. They believe that God will take care of things—that you sit back and let things happen. It disturbed me to see a whole group of people who accepted their faith, accepted their situation and didn't want to fight any of society's injustices.

**What's your next project?**

I'm now working on a film with the National Film Board about 16 Canadian farmers who went to Nicaragua to give technical assistance to Nicaraguan farmers. They're still down there and we're making a documentary exploring Canadian aid to this particular country, what kind of aid the Canadian farmers are giving, and how they're

giving of themselves as volunteers. They're not volunteers with any social service organization. They're just farmers giving their personal expertise to a country that really needs help.

*Judith Haiven is co-producing an NFB documentary titled With Our Own Two Hands to be aired on Man Alive early next year. In the meantime Faith, Hope, No Charity is available at most major bookstores in Edmonton.*

