

# YORKDEX

Percentage change in number of York students from 1977-78 to 1987-88%: +48.3%  
 Percentage change in number of full-time academic staff in last 10 years: +10.3%  
 Number of York students seeking an undergraduate or graduate business degree: 4,426  
 Number of York students seeking an undergraduate or graduate Social Work degree: 275  
 Percentage of female students at York: 59.6%  
 Percentage of female students in the education in-service programme: 77.7%  
 Percentage of female students in the Faculty of Science: 35.1%  
 Percentage of female students in the Faculty of Arts: 56.1%  
 Percentage of female Faculty of Arts students majoring in Psychology: 75%

Percentage of female Faculty of Arts students majoring in Political Science: 37.3%  
 Percentage of female Faculty of Arts students majoring in English: 69%  
 Percentage of female Faculty of Arts students majoring in Computer Science: 25.8%  
 Subjects in which greatest number of Fine Arts students major: Visual Arts (462)  
 Subject in which fewest number of Fine Arts students major: Dance (120)  
 Total number of students in the Faculty of Arts: 1,428  
 Percentage of York undergraduates from Metro Toronto: 54.3%  
 Percentage of York undergraduates from outside Ontario: 6.1%

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God. With proper guidance, I would be made a "true" Christian. Martin attempted to take me under his wing for this particular aspect of my growth, but I failed to see the necessity.

As I put the question to my self-proclaimed teacher, how can one develop as a Christian if one is not a Christian to begin with? Although Martin never fully addressed this question, the answer was staring me in the face all the time.

Being a Christian is of little importance when one first becomes involved with the Church of Christ. In fact, it is only those who are ignorant of scripture who are seduced by this deviant organization.

Re-education begins by stressing the urgency of salvation: "If Christ comes down to earth tomorrow, where will you stand? Will you be one of God's children? You need to repent your sins now, and be baptized, otherwise you will suffer eternal damnation."

While this statement is biblically correct, it fails to recognize that when Jesus offered everlasting life in Heaven to everyone who believed in Him, He intended it to be a gift to believers — not a threat to non-believers. Jesus is, after all, a loving God, not an intimidating one.

Once a novice in the Church of

Christ is threatened into believing that he needs salvation, he is given instructions on how to achieve it. Included in these steps are:

1. Mandatory Baptism into the Christian faith.
2. Daily Bible readings.
3. Mandatory attendance to Sunday service and weekly Bible talks.
4. An obligation to spend all available social time exclusively with Church of Christ members.

Even my best friend Bill was not considered acceptable company by the Church of Christ. This sentiment was based on the belief that Church of Christ members are "perfect" Christians, and that no other church follows the Bible as closely.

These and other rules are not formally recorded in Church of Christ doctrine, particularly since the Bible clearly states that if "you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God had raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9) This does not necessarily mean that those who fall victim to this religious sect will not be persecuted if they fail to follow the lifestyle prescribed by the Church of Christ, even despite the fact that many of these lifestyle practices are not essential to one's salvation.

For my perspective, as long as one truly believes in the Christian faith, he/she will instinctively feel com-

pelled to do services for the lord. But to force someone to walk on the Path of the Lord until they discover that they have no other lifestyle to return to, only eliminates the capability of moral choice. To the Church of Christ, this is an acceptable loss.

To them, the ends justifies the means and they will do everything in their power to bring about their ultimate goal — turning people to Christianity.

The problem with this type of approach is that it misinterprets Christ's instructions to His followers — to spread the Word of God. The Church of Christ feels that it gives them a license to harass, intimidate and threaten those who are not prepared to receive the "good news" which they are trying to bring.

I, myself, was not prepared for the tremendous commitment required and I am still trying to cast out the angry feelings which I have for this manipulative group of domineering egotists. Together with hypocrites such as Jimmy Bakker and Jimmy Swaggart, it is not surprising that hordes of people have ignored or turned away from Christianity.

If anything, I possess a growing belief in the quote from Woody Allen's film *Hannah and her Sisters*: "If Jesus was to come down to earth and see what was going on in His name, He would never stop throwing up."

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