



## God's blessing takes wing

Rev. Les Stahlke, founder of the Edmonton-based Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots (LAMP) is taking wing on his ministering trips through northern Alberta these days in a new float-equipped Cessna 185 worth \$80,000. Donations from Wings of Hope, a St. Louis-based humanitarian

organization, and Leo and Marjorie Zellent of Edmonton made getting the plane possible. "When you're counting on God's blessing, it's sure nice to get confirmation God has more plans for you. It's a lot more than a pile of cold aluminum . . . it has a lot of spiritual significance," said Rev. Stahlke.

## Author wants cults 'labelled'

By ELSA REMPEL

Mind-bending religious cults are a Pandora's box legislators are afraid to touch, says Montreal author Josh Freed.

"Their fear, justifiably, is if cults are restricted, the same law could turn on organized religions or political groups," he added.

The free-lance journalist — whose book *Moonwebs* details the mind-control techniques of Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church and subsequent de-programming of a young follower — wants an honest-labelling law for cults.

"Just as contents of cans are labelled, so should religious groups be forced to identify their motives."

The Moonies' lure is the promise of a pleasant weekend in the country for a "creative community project."

"There is no hint that its sole objective is to recruit disciples through intensive psychotherapy."

When Mr. Freed's expose on the

Moonies was published in the Montreal Star three years ago, he said the cult tried to discredit him by distributing defamatory statements about him.

"They sent pamphlets to radio stations, calling the stories a pack of lies."

But what troubled the author even more was the hundreds of calls he received from distraught Canadian and American parents who wanted their children de-programmed. Even now he continues to refer callers to Montreal's cult information centre.

"I'm not a de-programming centre," he sighed. "It's an obsessive and emotionally-draining subject and I want to get away from it."

His weariness is not that of a crusader. "The book was written to expose and to educate people to the dangers of mind control," he said, equating it to the brainwashing of American prisoners in Korea.

"All religious groups use it to some extent. Even clerics from organized religions have admitted to me they could see elements of this in their own churches."

"Cults use these same elements but they're so exaggerated they assault the personality and disassemble the mind." The frightening irony, he added, is that 60 per cent of the Moonies are of above average intelligence.

Mr. Freed believes the New York-based Unification Church is more concerned now with consolidating its multi-million-dollar empire than recruiting. "But I don't see its membership dwindling."

As for Rev. Moon, the author said he was planning to conduct a 10,000-couple summer wedding in New York.

"Many of his followers are in the United States illegally so it probably means he'll be mating aliens with citizens."

## Church Calendar

**A RETREAT WITH** Karen Pascal at the Central Lutheran Church, 10927 94th St., April 10 through April 12. Karen, a professional artist, is creative producer of the television program 100 Huntley Street. For information call 422-4869, 458-8018, 469-1971 or 478-9440.

**SENIOR'S ALIVE!** The Challenge to the Religious Community, province-wide conference on this theme is planned for June 11 and 12 at the U of A Conference Centre (Lister Hall). Early registration is advised. The conference will provide an opportunity for study and discussion of various aspects and implications of aging and spiritual well-being, under the guidance of Rev. Thomas C. Cook Jr., and Dr. David Skelton. Conference sponsored by the Edmonton Interfaith Committee on Religion and Gerontology. For further information write Pastoral Care Dept., Box 307, Edmonton, T5J 2J7, or

call the Pastoral Care Office, 973-2361.

**20th ANNUAL MEETING** of Catholic Social Services will be held on Friday at 11:45 a.m., St. Andrews Centre.

**LAMAR & TERESA BOSCHMAN'S** ministry has taken them from conducting music conferences and ministering in church services to performing in concert halls and on radio and television. Hear them Monday at Faith Cathedral, 15641 96th Ave., 7:30 p.m.

**EDMONTON SEPARATED AND DIVORCED CATHOLIC GROUP**, co-sponsored by the Catholic Social Services, promotes self-help through a series of programs and encounters designed to assist people in the transition from married to single life. Open to all interested persons, the group's regular meetings are held every second Wednesday evening at 7:30 at St. John's School, 10231 120th St. For

further information, call Catholic Social Services, 424-0651.

**TRINITY SOUND:** Gary and Doreen Kerychuk sing gospel music Sunday at Faith Cathedral, 15641 96th Ave., at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.

**WESTMONT CHRISTIAN COUNCIL** presents a Pot Luck Supper at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, 11533 135th St. on April 5. Co-hosts are Kirk United Church and Westminster United Church. The subject is "Rehabilitation — Attitudes" with speaker Dr. James Vargo.

**LENTEN RELECTION SERIES** on social action at St. Michael Resurrection Church, 106th Avenue and 50th Street, continues Wednesday with the subject Alcoholism: Its effect on the individual. There will be a film presentation and Stuart Lindrop will speak on the subject.

## Host of Man Alive program

# Faith's exciting era intrigues Bonisteel

TORONTO (CP) — No, Roy Bonisteel, host of CBC-TV's *Man Alive*, is not a priest, a minister or a rabbi — as letters from his viewers often address him.

Nor does he happen to agree with the, ahem, less kind writers who have called him everything from a "lustful old man" (after a recent show on male sexuality) to a "dirty, lying Communist bastard," (following a program on torture in Chile.) The latter comes from a rambling diatribe, which was signed off, incongruously, "Peace be with you at Christmas."

Bonisteel is, however, a journalist — he'll mark his 30th year in broadcasting this fall — a farmer, husband and father of three grown children and a self-avowed television nut.

And now he has added best-selling author to his list with *In Search of Man Alive*, a chronicle of the highlights — some poignant, others comical — of his television career.

*Man Alive* is scheduled to go into its 15th season, making it one of the longest-running shows in the country — a remarkable feat for a program that deals largely with religious matters.

After so many years on prime time, there are few Canadians who haven't seen his face or heard his name, although many can't place him right off. He has been confused with personalities ranging from pro football player Russ Jackson to fellow-broadcaster Gordon Sinclair, and he admits he once signed an autograph as The Friendly Giant, but people he meets



Roy Bonisteel

during his frequent travels just know they've seen that craggy face and the distinctive shock of white hair somewhere.

"People want to tell you how a particular program has affected them. A lot of them see me as a sort of father confessor."

He has interviewed the celebrated — Germaine Greer, Mother Teresa, Malcolm Muggeridge, Hans Kung, the Berrigan brothers, the radical American priests. But often the most touching programs involve the heroic struggles of average people — a young girl dying of cancer or a family's fight for its mentally retarded son.

Bonisteel says *Man Alive* is first of all a current affairs program, although it concerns itself with morals and ethics. Despite what some might think, it is not sponsored by the

churches and has criticized them.

"We like to speak to things that concern people individually — to help them cope with their grief or suffering, bring some meaning into their lives," says Bonisteel, 50.

"Our mandate is so broad — almost anything can have a religious overtone. A program on the environment, for example, reminds us of our responsibility to the next generation.

"And because we've been around for so many years, we've built up an integrity and we can get into sensitive areas that others might not be able to."

He believes he picked an exciting time to do a program about religion. Since the show started in 1967, "God lived, died and was born again."

"When we first started in the '60s, it was a time of ferment — not just in the church, but in all institutions.

"Suddenly the church moved to the front page of the newspapers out of the back-page ghettoes. Time (magazine) said God was dead; John Lennon said the Beatles were more popular than Jesus Christ.

But since the late 1970s, there has been a shift to the right with the dramatic rise of the fundamentalist born-again Christian movement — something that concerns Bonisteel.

"A fundamental faith is fine. I admire the zeal, the tenacity. But what bothers me is when these people try to ram it down my throat or my kids' throats."

## Pastor a preacher of 'historic Bible'

By JANICE WLASICHUK

WINNIPEG (CP) — Pastor Herbert Barber, a veteran television evangelist, seems to slip right into his role when he complains about the direction Christianity has gone in the last 100 years.

Barber, a big man with a deep, commanding drawl, says that over the years many churchmen have departed from the Christian heritage and adopted a new theological stance.

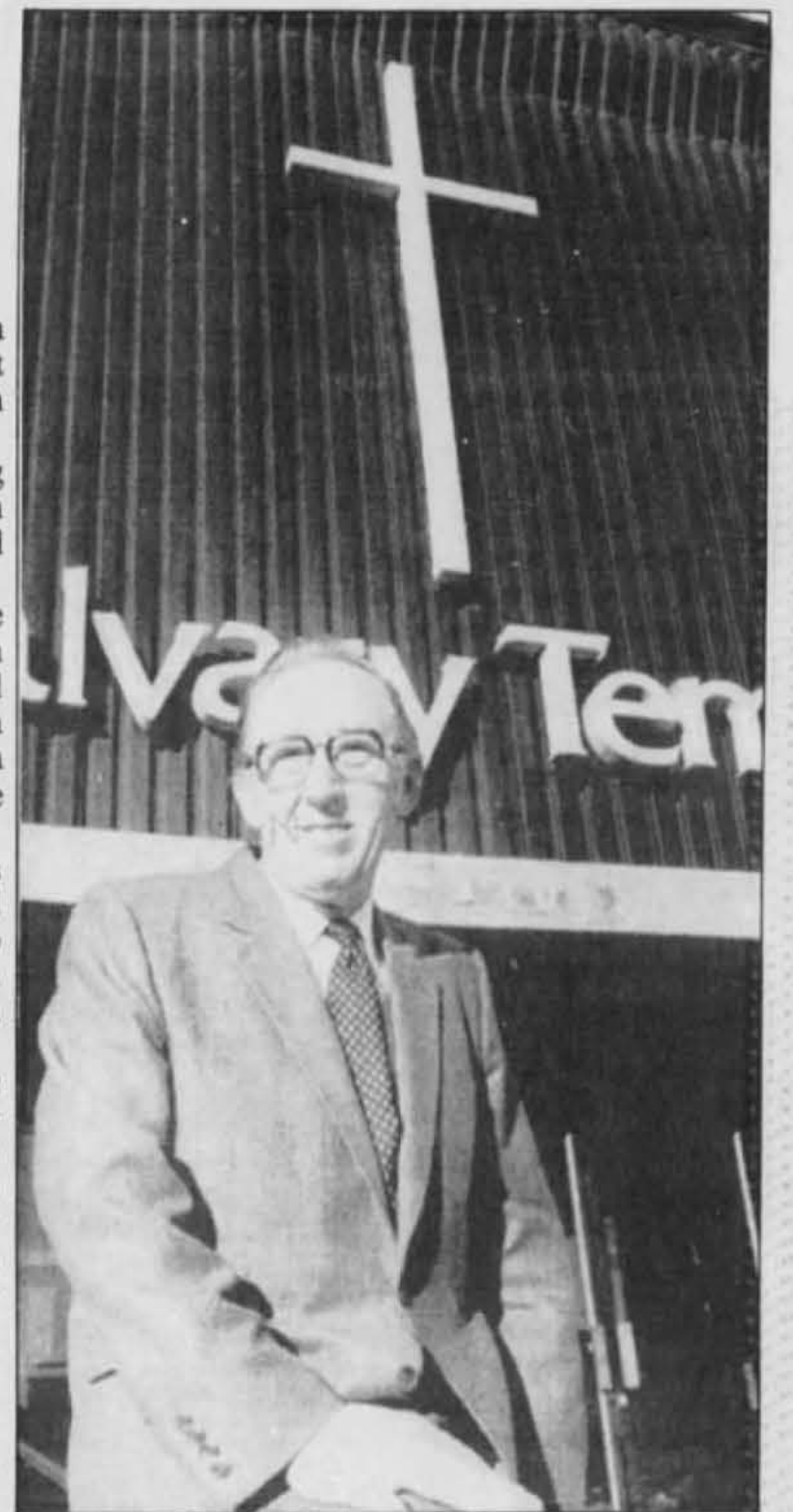
"It's a whole mental stance, a whole philosophical approach in education, in religion, in science, in society. And that philosophical approach adapted to religion has resulted in a rejection of the final authority of scripture and a questioning of the deity of Jesus Christ, of the fundamental doctrines of the Christian Church."

"The majority of them do not preach that a man must be born again in order to be a Christian and to enter heaven. The majority teach that you try to live by your conscience, try to live by the Golden Rule, be good to your neighbor, be a good citizen and you are a good Christian.

"That is not the position of either the Presbyterian Church or the Methodist Church or the Congregational Church, which were the three churches that went together in 1925 to make the United Church of Canada. I know because my ancestors preached in these churches and I have copies of their sermons and I know that they preached in the Methodist Church what I am preaching today in the Pentecostal Church."

Barber said he wants to be a spokesman for what he called the historic Bible.

"I'm preaching that apart from saving faith in Jesus Christ, men and women, regardless of how cultured they may be, are not Christians," he said.



Pastor Herbert Barber

Whenever we think of the Kingdom of Heaven it's usually in terms of a beautiful place that we shall have to wait until after death to experience. Yet, as we turn to the Lord's Prayer we find that it clearly asks that the Kingdom come to earth. Jesus also said: "The Kingdom of God is within you." Luke 17:21

Perhaps He meant that we have it within our power to create the heavenly states of love, peace and forgiveness which will not only add to our joy in this life but be carried over into the time beyond.

It's certainly true that in Heaven there's no place for the criticism, gossiping and back-biting which, let's face it, does exist among some staunch, church-going Christians.

People are all different, and it's not always easy to harmonize personalities, but it should be the aim of every professing Christian to put forth a supreme effort towards harmony, even with the most difficult of those we encounter in day to day life.

Whenever we give way to condemnation and express harsh, unloving attitudes we inevitably

hinder the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven into our lives.

It's the place where prayers are answered. As we faithfully try to cultivate its atmosphere by more charitable, understanding attitudes, it's quite likely we shall find our prayers have more power, and the mental and physical ills arising from tension will disappear.

Pray for the Kingdom of Heaven to come into your life, here and now, not only in the time beyond. Then do everything possible to express the loving attitudes which will attract and hold it in your sphere of activity.

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**A MAN WRITES:** I have learned enough about Christian life to know that prayer shouldn't be all asking for blessings. It should include praise, thanksgiving and intercession for others. I'm better at praying for others than I am for myself. I have needs — spiritual, material and health, and would like to know how I can make my prayers more effective in these areas.

**ANSWER:** The Bible is filled with many

promises concerning personal well-being, but so often we don't really claim them. We don't generate enough faith or focus our thoughts on the need with sufficient spiritual discipline.

Luke 11:9 says: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."

Matthew 6:33 reminds us: "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Philippians 4:19 promises: "My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

John 6:35 contains another wonderful promise: "I am the bread of life; he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth in me shall never thirst."

**ANOTHER READER SAYS:** A while ago I began to read the Bible daily and have a period of prayer. I suppose it's doing me some good, but I don't feel it. I would like to be aware of God's presence. I keep on with my devotions in the belief that some day I will really know He is with me.

**ANSWER:** Although you may not have a special awareness of it, He is with you now. Prayer and Bible reading are always beneficial even

though you may not experience a change of feeling at first.

**A WOMAN WRITES:** I have a lot of unhappiness in my past, but my life is satisfying now and I have much to be thankful for. I could be so much happier if I could get rid of those guilty memories. I go along for weeks and am all right, and then they bother me again. I am a Christian, or think I am (at least I go to church regularly) but at these times it doesn't help.

**ANSWER:** I hope you will immediately set out to learn what it means to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour. Make that definite commitment in which your past, present and future are entrusted to Him. First comes repentance, turning to Him in faith and then He takes away your burden of guilt.

You must be willing to let it go. The Lord always forgives when we are repentant but often we cling to our guilt and won't let it go.

Free copies of *Where to Look in the Bible, and Getting More Out of Your Bible*, are available by writing to Phyllis Mitchell, c/o Community Relations Dept., The Journal, Box 2421, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2S6. Please enclose a long stamped, addressed envelope with your request.



Phyllis Mitchell