

Religion:

# The same sufferings

By Dr. Gordon C. Smyth



"I thought I had everything. Why have I nothing?" Many people are in this bind. The author of the Book of Job had his leading character put it this way, "Has not man a hard service upon earth?"

It appeared so. There Job sat, afflicted by disease, bereft of family and fortune - reduced to cursing the day of his birth.

But Job really had a priceless possession. This was integrity. In all his troubles he fought to keep an awareness of his environment. He kept fighting to somehow relate his experience to nature and to nature's God.

At length he was able to rejoice in the beauty and harmony of the world. It was enough for him to know that the dark mystery enclosed and, in part, disclosed a bright and shining miracle.

We can learn much from the Book of Job. We can learn more from the Gospel. Jesus seemed to have nothing. He appeared to the world an itinerant teacher and healer.

But it was a small world in which he moved for a three-year ministry. Caesar in Rome never heard of him. Then, when he was put to death, it was like a common criminal. But countless millions of men and women have found life's maximum and ultimate in him.

The story of "the rich young ruler" is significant. Something about Jesus attracted him and prompted him to ask, "What do I still lack?" The question, as well as its source, is familiar. Many who experience such

soul-searching have the benefits of an affluent society, are by no means up in years, and have no dark stain on their conscience. However, they feel keenly that something basic is missing in their lives.

They talk as if there were no hope. The beast within us is going to produce nuclear catastrophe. Technology is making nonentities of us. Automation means that our talents and energy will be unwanted. The rumor has reached us that God has died. Time has taken its toll of loved ones. This is the talk.

What brand of hope is missing in your life? I mentioned some brands earlier. They indicate that the worst sufferings of our generation are of an emotional, psychological and spiritual nature. They are responsible for many folk having such a hard service on earth. So, take Jesus at his word. "Go," as the Master urges, and then, "come, follow me."

Maybe you should "go" with your doubt to a clergyman. Maybe you should "go" join or form a fellowship of those who know what loneliness is like. Maybe you should "go" and clear up some family misunderstanding which is poisoning your mind. Maybe you should "go", having regarded college as a preparation to serve in those parts of the world which have scarcely heard words like "technology" and "automation". Maybe you should "go" to the Gospels and find that God never wearies of man-

kind. Then, "come", as the Lord of life invites, "follow" me."

Professor C.S. Lewis outlined lucid and well-reasoned theological answers to the perennial question of why a loving God allows his creatures to hurt and to be hurt. They were frankly in the abstract.

But in 1961 his adored wife died a lingering death from cancer. "Letters to Malcolm" refer to the terrible days of his wife's illness, the anxiety which gripped his soul, making it hard for C.S. Lewis to pray.

"Anxieties are afflictions, not sins," he writes. "Like all afflictions, they are, if we can so take them, our share in the Passion of Christ". He himself learned to accept them that way. In one of his final "Letters to Malcolm", Dr. Lewis muses that "most of the real good that has been done to me in this life has involved suffering."

In saying this, he was more than saying that hope deferred need not be hope unfulfilled.

**K OF C "150" CLUB WINNERS**

The winners of the Knights of Columbus "150" Club draw held on August 8, 1981 were Alex Oakley, Mellie Pennett, Mary McNamee, Carl McGlade, and Laura Smith.

Winners in the Knights of Columbus "150" Club draw which took place August 15, 1981 were: Kerry Ryan, Allan McNamee, Marie Traynor, Ann Scott and Rose Ryan.



## Scorrar wins again

Winner of the **Glen Tay Block Race** last Thursday was once again former Perth resident Doug Scorrar (at right), who crossed the finish line with a time of 48:01. He is shown here with second place finisher Bob Tapping, of the Ottawa Kinsmen Harriers, who finished with a time of 49:16. Jack Wilson, who donates the winning trophy is in the centre of the photo. The first woman across the finish line was Eva Sisk, of Ottawa, at 55:06. About 125 runners took part in the annual 9.6 mile run, which is sponsored by the Perth Legion.

## Calendar of events

- Smorgasbord by Auspices of St. James Anglican Church Parish Guild, Thursday, September 17, 5 p.m.-7 p.m. Adults \$5, under 10, \$2. St. James Hall, Perth.
  - Puppeteers presenting a show about the handicapped, Thursday, August 13, 10 a.m. St. Paul's United Church auditorium. Free admission.
  - Hopetown Memorial Service, August 16, 2:30 p.m. Guest speaker is Rev. Condie. In event of rain, service will be held in the church.
  - McMartin House: Friendship dinner, Lanark Lodge, noon, Thursday, August 13, \$2. Boat ride from Gananogue, Tuesday, August 18. Boat - \$6, Bus - \$4. 267-5531 or 267-5941 for information or reservations.
  - Perth ALAnon and Alateen family groups, St. James Parish Hall, Thursdays, 8:30.
  - Merrickville and District Agricultural Fair, Steam Show, August 14, 15, 16. Exhibit Hall open 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Adults, \$2. 12-15 years, \$1, under 12 free.
  - Peach Social sponsored by Perth Rotary Club, Band Shell, August 20, 7 p.m. \$5/family.
  - Lionettes 1st annual Harvest Moon Ball, October 17. Tickets from any Lionette. Music: Don Cochrane & Sweet Clover.
  - Afternoon and evening classes in ceramics. "Something New". 267-6032.
  - Memorial Service, White's Cemetery, Poland, August 23, 3 p.m.
  - Annual meeting of Dalhousie Lake Association Inc. Saturday, August 22, 2 p.m., Municipal Hall, McDonalds Corners. Election of Officers.
- THE ABOVE INFORMATION HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM PAID ADS APPEARING ELSEWHERE IN THE PAPER.

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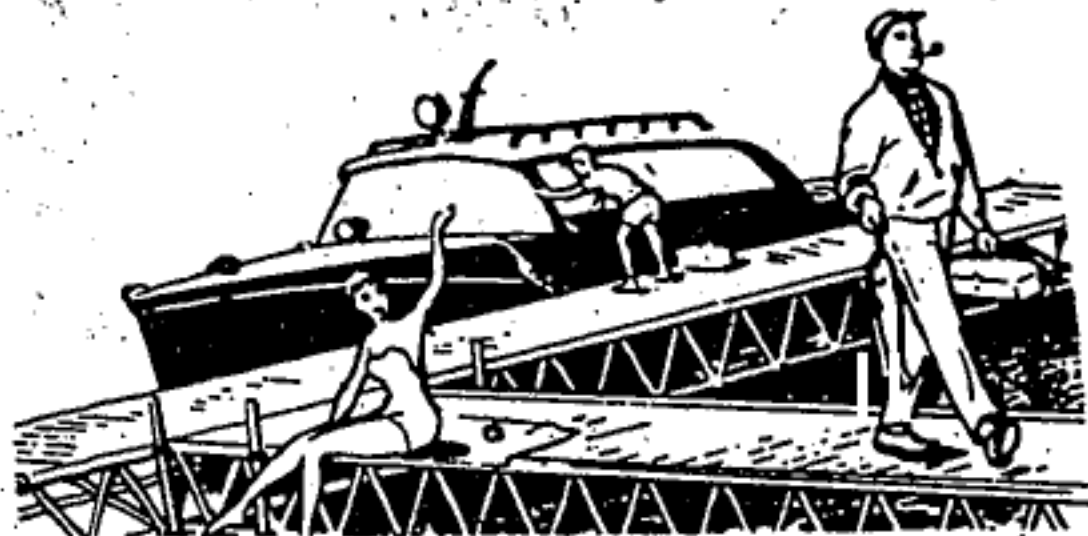


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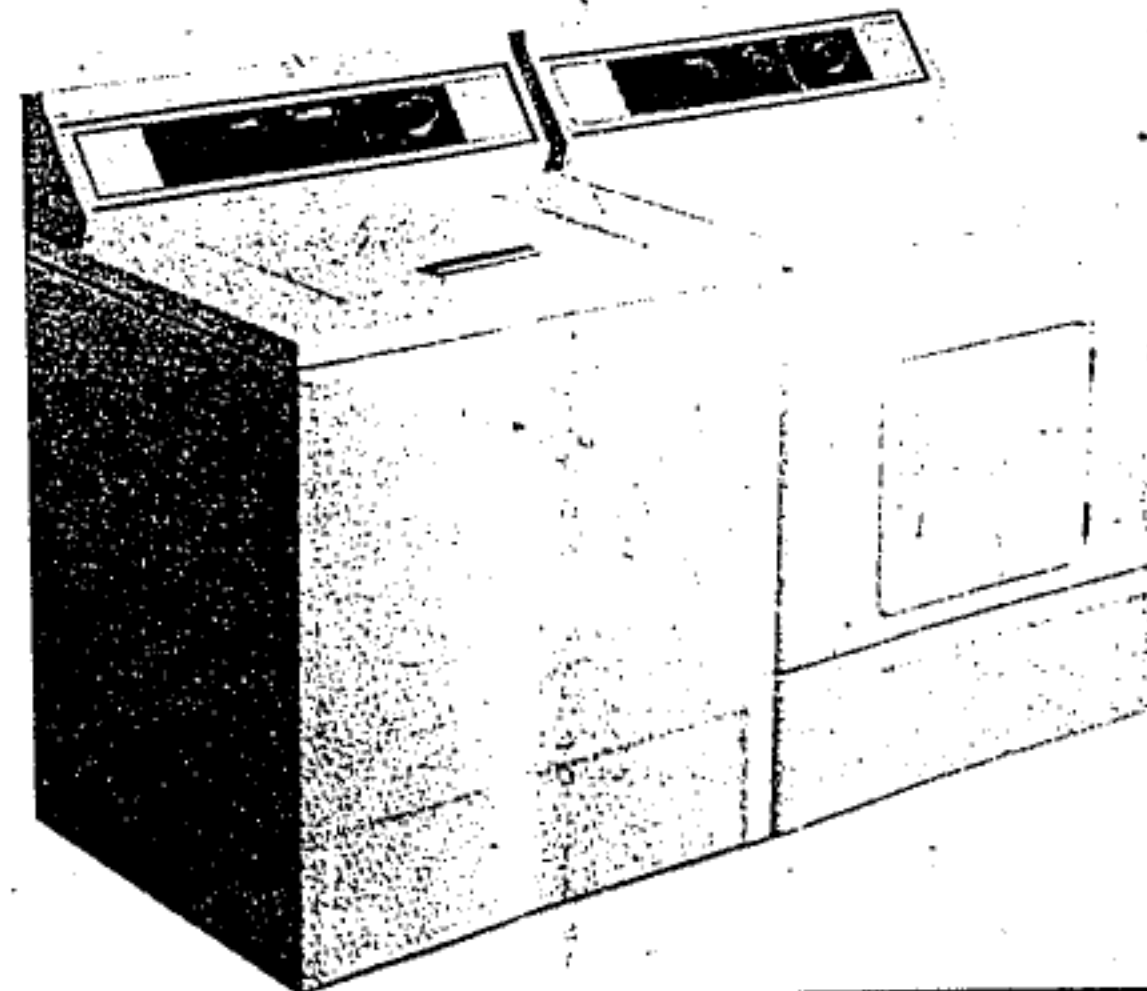
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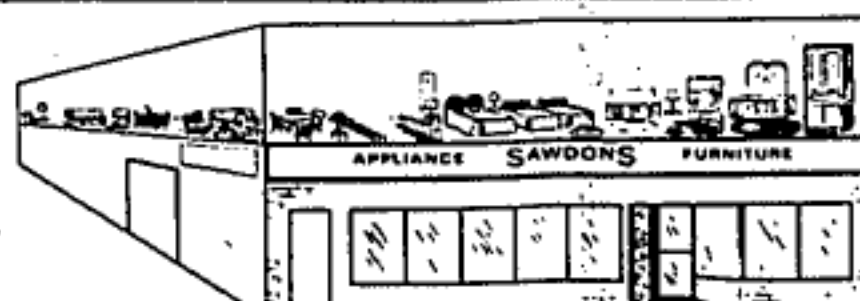
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