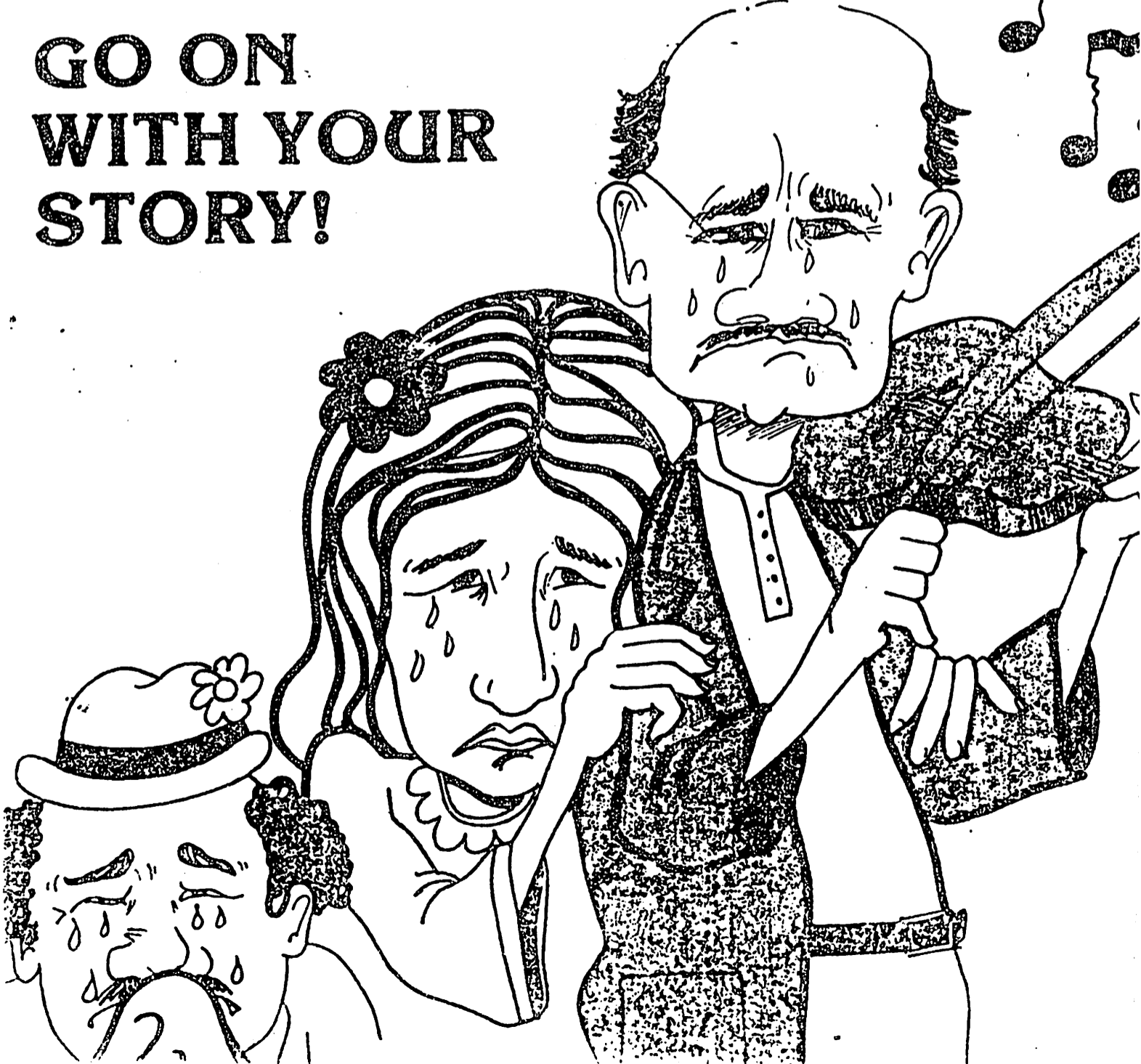


Edwin OCTOBER, 1990.

PLEASE!
DO

PAROLE
BOARD

GO ON
WITH YOUR
STORY!



EDITORIAL

Hi guys. Well another month has passed and so has summer. This month we have no articles from any of the groups, so we only have a small paper. There is a lot of unused talent that is never used here. If you have any poem or anything of interest we will publish it for you. If you have any complaints, which I'm sure you do then by all means do send them to us in the library.

I will be leaving before the end of the month, and I would like to thank you for all the help you have given me. The paper is small due to lack of material to print. I would also like to say thank you to all of you that have contributed in the past.

This month there was no articles from any of the groups. You guys have free advertising and should use it to your group's advantage and let everyone know what goes on in your group. Don't be shy, give it a try.

THANK YOU

EDMUND RICHARD

LOBSTER SALE

The inmate population here would like to thank JOHN CUDMORE for his help in making the sale more enjoyable for everyone.

THANK YOU

INMATE COMMITTEE

Hi guys. This is your INMATE COMMITTEE trying to keep you up to date on all that is happening. The tournaments for the weekend of OCT. 6, 7, 8, THANKSGIVING DAY will start on Friday and end on Monday. The prizes are \$30.00 for 1st place and \$20.00 for 2nd. The tournaments held in the gym and horseshoes are all to be trophies.

The POOL-ROOM seems to be the place to take out your anger. There are a lot of cues being broken and beyond repair. I think that with this being our POOL-ROOM we would want to take better care of our own equipment, so we could play whenever we want to instead of having to wait for the cues to be repaired. We are not a bunch of kids that should have to be told what to do and how to do it. If you see someone mis-using the cues or tables just ask them to take it easy and leave it at that.

The noise in "B" dorm is still going strong. It seems that the guys that make the noise don't know the meaning of the word that is RESPECT.

The T-SHIRT sale is a big success and it is hoped that we can have a head band sale very soon. Also there could be a SWEAT-PANT sale. I would like to thank all the guys that supported me as CHAIRMAN of the INMATE COMMITTEE.

THANK YOU


INMATE COMMITTEE

THE GOD OF NEW BEGINNINGS

Chaplain Bernie Archer, Westmorland Institution; July 22, 1990

Scripture Lesson: Exodus 3:1-12 [GNB] p. 64

Text: Exodus 3:11 But Moses said to God, "I am nobody. How can I go to the king and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

I want to begin by painting a picture for you. Actually, it is a scene on a big poster that I used to have on the wall of the study back in the church Edmonton.

The picture is a lonely beech, and there is a hull of a wrecked ship there on the shore. The wooden ribs of that hull are sticking up out of the water and sand. The shore line curls into the distance on the right side of the picture. The last rays of the sun that has already set are barely visible in the grey evening sky. At the top on the left side of that picture above the ruins of the old ship are these words:

"DO NOT BE AFRAID THAT YOUR LIFE WILL END;
RATHER BE AFRAID THAT IT MAY NEVER HAVE A
BEGINNING!"

I know that right now I am talking to some men who are haunted inside that they may be like that old wrecked ship, washed up on the shore and going nowhere. With all my heart, I do not believe that this has to be true for a single one of you.

The Bible Lesson that I have just read to you from Exodus is about a man many years older than any of us here. In this lesson we have another picture. Here is an eighty year old man, out in the desert, who has spent the last 40 years of his life tending dumb sheep. Let me tell you how he got there. This man, Moses, was a criminal. He had taken the law into his own hands and murdered an Egyptian. (Let's not argue whether he was justified or not.) He broke the law and then became a fugitive. And here we find him, out in the middle of nowhere, and going nowhere. Nobody else knows where this man is, but God does.

As we look at this man, the last thing we would ever expect him to become is a leader who would be known all over the world for centuries. This man has his age against him. He is over the hill. He has found security tending these silly, mindless sheep who simply go along with everything he decides. This man once failed and ran away. Once a man starts solving his problems by running away from them, he usually can't stop that process.

However, all of this was turned around one day when this man had a spiritual encounter with God. For Moses, it happened when he saw that burning bush. And in particular, he noticed that the bush didn't fall and crumble into dead ashes. Instead it kept burning steadily. That peaked his curiosity. Perhaps Moses was attracted to this phenomenon because it was so unlike what his own life had been. As a young man, he was burning with ambition to do something for God and his people. But he stubbed his toe against the reality of this hard world and that fire went out.

The bush was saying to Moses: "The difference between my flame and your little flicker that went out is that is that I am tapped into God and his unlimited resources. Perhaps that is the difference between you and me, Moses, and why you have ended up here in the desert going nowhere."

Years before I became a chaplain I heard all those foreboding stories about what happened to men when they went to prison. In prison they spent their time perfecting their criminal behavior. There in those prisons they meet other offenders who later help them in their unlawful behavior.

I don't doubt that much of that is true; but does it always have to be like that? Now and then we see a man come out of prison and his prison experience a much better man than when we went in. Occasionally this man allows himself to become a real tool in the hands of God, to be used to help other men and women, and to make this world just a little better place for their having been here. So it brings me to the place where I want to ask you: What have you learned that God could use if you will cooperate with him?

In the Bible story God tells Moses that he has seen the cruel bondage that his people suffer and he wants to do something about

it. I am certain that God also sees "his people" right here in Westmorland who are under the cruel bondage of their sinful habits and addictions. Who can God use to help them any better than you if you have found victory over those same problems?

I like to believe that every man and woman comes into this world with a particular mission from God. Each life has a meaning and a message if we will turn that life over to God so he can straighten out the garbled mess we sometimes make of that message. And some of God's people are those youngsters out there who are flirting with disaster as they experiment with evil.

One of the most meaningful ETAs I have ever taken out was with three men to talk with a group of kids at a Teen Camp in Nova Scotia. Each of those three men spoke about the particular area of his offense, and what it had done to his life. It was a very moving experience. Those teenagers could hardly control their emotions when they publically thanked these men who had levelled with them about their problems.

Around here I often hear a man say that he is feeling some heat from this or that source. Perhaps some of the heat is a burning bush where God is trying to break through to that person. Perhaps that person is you, and God is trying to draw you into an encounter with himself. An encounter that will change your life and give it an altogether new direction and meaning.

I close with those words that once used to hang on my wall back in Edmonton, but will forever hang in my memory:

**"DO NOT BE AFRAID THAT YOUR LIFE WILL END;
RATHER BE AFRAID THAT IT MAY NEVER HAVE A
BEGINNING!"**

Let us pray together now:

Lord God, and our Heavenly Father, you are from eternity to eternity; and that surely is a long time. During all of that time you have seen many things come and go. Beginnings are a never ending process with You. Please be gracious to these men and show them that they also can have a new beginning if they will just surrender themselves to your will for their life. Give to each of them a vision of what the future could hold for them as they dedicate themselves to doing what is right in obedience to you. Amen.