



Lorna's Take...

## Canadians on Guard

By Lorna Dueck, host of "Listen Up"

The best equipped Canadian for the challenges of life is one who has taken time to know God and His words in the Bible...

It was arriving at the scene of a horrifying murder of a mother, killed by a drunken husband, that launched Sir Leonard Tilley into public life. Once immersed in politics, he worried that the British colonies would fall under the influences of what he deemed as rowdy, unsuitable American life. With great dedication, he helped write the British North America Act and entered into negotiations for the new Canadian Confederation.

On day two of discussions about what to call the United Canada, Sir Leonard practised his morning routine of asking God to direct his decisions. That day, he read Psalm 72, discovering the concept of God's dominion over a land, and decided those were the principles on which this "Dominion of Canada" should be founded.<sup>1</sup> It was on that premise, our first prime minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, laid his hand on the Bible to be sworn into office in 1867. To this day, every prime minister has done the same, making the visible acknowledgement that the rule of God is the ideal model for how nation builders care for this land.

Our heritage of faith is a national treasure and contains jewels few of us realize. For example, millions of Canadians today can trace their belonging in this country to the immigration scheme that the Salvation Army prayed into existence in 1905 as they worked as an army "interested in one war only, the one against the powers of darkness and the sin which ruins people."

Another outstanding Canadian philanthropist was Elizabeth McMaster, who founded The Hospital For Sick Children in Toronto because of a call from God. Elizabeth took on the task because "she was led by the Spirit of God to found the hospital and, that having accepted the work as from God, could never resign it."

I could go on with the stories of historic Christians at work to build our land, but today is pressing for new guards of the faith to step forward with God-inspired solutions to the needs of 2004 and beyond. It's time for all of us to rise to the challenge by prioritizing our communion with God through Bible study and prayer, for it is in knowing Him and His Word that launches us out as a people who stand on guard for Canada. ☩



<sup>1</sup> *Canada, Portraits of Faith*, edited by Michael Clarke, Published by Reel to Real Ministries