

# Columnist Attends Services In Moscow

(This is another in a series of articles by the author of America's most popular human relations column.)  
MOSCOW—This was the day to remember. A Catholic, a Protestant, an atheist and a Jew went to mass together—in Moscow.

Dr. Thomas Nicholas, a tourist from Buffalo, Wyo.; Stewart Cameron of Washington, D.C., who works for NBC; my Russian interpreter, Eleonora Trafemolva, and Ann Landers went arm in arm to Sunday morning mass, celebrated by Father Louis Dion. There are about 3,000 Roman Catholics in Moscow, a city of 5,500,000, and one Roman Catholic church, St. Louis d'France. The mass we attended was not held in the church. We went instead to the American exhibition grounds where a TV showroom was set aside as the place for Catholic worship.

Father Dion is a softspoken 44-year-old priest from Worcester, Mass. "I'm not here to serve the Soviet citizens," he explained. "Father Bronitski does that. I serve only the embassy staff, newspaper people and tourists."  
"Usually I celebrate mass at my apartment but so many Catholics have come to Moscow in connection with the exhibition my apartment won't hold them all."

**PRIEST IS POPULAR**  
Father Dion is enormously popular with Catholic Americans. "He's the only link to religion our children have in Russia," said Joan Hallet, a young mother of three whose husband is with the American Embassy.

American tourists frequently phone the embassy in search of a priest. Father Dion is always on call. He invites one and all, regardless of faith, to visit him at

his apartment which is complete with an altar.

When I invited Eleonora, my interpreter, to attend mass, she accepted eagerly. I was surprised. She had told me earlier she didn't believe in God and had never attended a religious service.

"Are you sure you won't get into trouble?" I asked.  
"I'm not going to pray. I'm going to observe," was her response.

Eleonora is a 22-year-old blonde. She has smoky grey eyes, gleaming teeth and a good figure—an unlikely combination in a Russian girl, judging by the women I saw. She is a senior in the institute of Foreign Languages and a member of the Komsomol (the Soviet youth organization). Eleonora youth organization (the Soviet youth organization) is worthy of membership in the Communist party. "There are only 3,000,000 party members," she told me proudly. "Not just ANYONE can be a Communist, you know."

By 9 o'clock, 150 women and children had packed the TV showroom. There were only 100 folding chairs, so many stood. Father Dion, wearing emerald green vestments faced his flock and announced, "Worshippers will be excused from kneeling this morning because the floors are not very clean." (Nearly everyone knelt anyway.)

Leonard Baun of Collingwood, N.J., assisted at the altar.

**MOVING SERVICE**  
The services in this makeshift chapel were immensely moving. The worshippers seemed to pray with a fervor which one does not often see among Sunday morning church-goers in the States.

Perhaps all who prayed that morning were especially mindful, as I was, of the thousands of miles which separated us from our loved ones. Each of us, in his own way, asked a Higher Power to return us safely to home and family. The earnestness of prayer that morning demonstrated dramatically the need to seek strength outside ourselves. And it demonstrated, too, that we seem to pray with deeper conviction when we want something.

At the solemn moment of consecration when Father Dion raised the host on high, a stillness fell over the kneeling worshippers and every head was bowed. After the gospel, Father Dion delivered a brief sermon on "Love the Greatest Force of All."

At the conclusion of the mass, I waited until everyone had left; then I introduced myself and asked Father Dion if he could spare a few moments to tell me about freedom of worship in Russia. He invited me to ride in his car to the apartment where he was saying another mass in half an hour. The others in our party followed in a separate car, which was just as well because Eleonora's presence would have hampered Father Dion considerably.

Landers Second Take  
He told me the Communist authorities now permit open worship but religion is ridiculed and attacked in the Soviet press as "a

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# Woman's World

MAXINE NURMI, Woman's Editor

## Special Offerings Will Be Taken Now

Religion in America  
By LOUIS CASSELL  
UPI Staff Writer

Protestant churches will seek a few crumbs from America's Thanksgiving table next week for hungry children, widows and old people in other lands.

Across the nation, special offerings will be taken up at Thanksgiving week services for the annual "Share Our Surplus" (S. O. S.) appeal of Church World Service.

Church World Service is the overseas relief agency of the National Council of Churches. The money raised through "S. O. S." offerings is used to distribute food year-round to some 20,000,000 destitute people in 25 countries.

The 1959 goal is \$865,210 — a fraction of what Americans will spend on their Thanksgiving feast.

**Other Groups Help**  
Every dollar contributed sends more than 300 pounds of food abroad.

The same charity bargain is available through several other religious agencies, including Catholic Relief Services, the United Jewish Appeal, and Lutheran World Service, which conduct their fund drives at other times of the year.

These agencies recently received a rude reminder that their food distribution programs are made possible, not by America's concern for the hungry abroad, but by Congress' solicitude for the American farmer.

On October 13, the Agriculture Department abruptly cut off deliveries of surplus powdered milk — hitherto available to the

**Summerville Club Plans For Bazaar**  
Summerville (Special) — The Three Links Club meeting was held in the home of Mrs. John Tuck.

The meeting was brought to order by the chairman, Sibyl Wyland. The minutes of the previous meeting were read by secretary, Ruth Rollins.

Under order of old business the bazaar to be held Dec. 4, was discussed and final plans were made. A list of committees and chairmen were read. The chairmen of each committee solicited pies, cakes, sandwiches, and candy for their booths.

It was announced that the December meeting would be held in the Odd Fellows hall in Summerville, with a Christmas party and secret pals to be revealed. A card was signed to be sent to Ada Craig who is ill.

Refreshments were served by Edith Tuck, Anna Park, Amanda Killian, and Gladys Sanderson. There were 18 members present.

relief agencies in great quantities and a key item in the whole feeding program.

The department explained that commercial sales of dried milk have been so good lately it hasn't been necessary for the government to support prices through large purchases.

**Church Leaders Protest**  
When church leaders protested that the action would deprive millions of children of a daily milk ration, they were told that the law authorizes humanitarian gifts of U. S. farm surpluses only when there is no way of selling them.

The International Cooperation Administration has indicated that it may relieve the situation temporarily by allocating foreign aid funds for commercial market purchase of dried milk to be distributed abroad by voluntary relief agencies.

But even if this happens, and even if the Agriculture Department later resumes price-support buying of dried milk, the religious agencies are now clearly on notice that their charitable operations carry a perilously low priority in the government's scheme of things.

## Baptist Church Plans Service

The public is cordially invited to attend the Thanksgiving morning service at the First Baptist Church. The Rev. Victor Zachary will be speaking. A vocal solo "Thanks to God for My Redeemer" will be sung by Paul Knutz, the choir director of the church. The service will start at 10 o'clock and last for an hour. The high school young people are leaving Friday afternoon to spend the weekend at Baker. The annual Fall Youth Rally of the Blue Mt. Baptist Youth is being held at the Calvary Baptist church in Baker.

## Soroptimist Club To Approve AFS

Local Soroptimist Club members held their regular luncheon meeting Thursday at the Presbyterian church, Raema Lawrence, president, presided over the session. During the business, members discussed and decided to approve the American Foreign Service (AFS) organization for this community. They also set their rummage sale for Jan. 16, in the Odd Fellows hall.

## Gifts For Veterans Being Accepted Now

Persons wishing to donate Christmas gifts for the Veterans hospital at Portland, should do so before Dec. 1. Mrs. Laura Fine, rehabilitation chairman for the American Legion Auxiliary, announces that such gifts may be left at the Palmer Printing Co.

## LOCAL EVENTS

Zion Lutheran Church will observe Thanksgiving Day with services at 9 a.m. The Rev. E. W. Kasten will speak and the choir will sing special numbers.

Soroptimist Club will meet Friday at 12 noon at the Sacajawea, in place of Thursday.

Hope Chapter 13, OES, will meet Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the Masonic hall.

Odd Fellows Lodge 16, La Grande will meet Friday at 8 p.m. in their hall.

Past President club of the LS of B of LF and E will meet in the home of Mrs. Lyle Fihn, 906 Penn Avenue, Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Past Matrons of Eastern Star

## Elizabeth McLaren Dies Here Tuesday

Elizabeth May McLaren, 78, a housewife from Ontario, died in the home of her daughter, Mrs. Ed Landers, Tuesday, following an extended illness.

Funeral services will be held at the Olsen Funeral Home, Burns, Saturday at 2 p.m. Burial will be in the Masonic cemetery at Burns.

Mrs. McLaren was born at Lodge Pole, Nebr. May 6, 1881, and had been a resident of Malheur and Harney Counties for 50 years. Survivors are the widower, Will McLaren, Ontario; three daughters, Mrs. Jack Esposito, Enterprise, Mrs. Ed Landers, La Grande, and Mrs. Adeline Jones, Juntura; three of 12 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

will meet Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the Masonic temple.  
Celebrating a birthday today is Joy Ham.  
Roper N. Makin, sonarman third class, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nolan Makin of Lostine, returned to Long Beach, Calif., Nov. 13, aboard the destroyer USS Lyman K. Swenson after a five-month tour of duty with the U.S. Seventh Fleet

### The Wheel

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Salad • Relish Dish • Tomato Juice  
ROAST TURKEY, \$2.00  
BAKED HAM, \$2.25  
Green Beans  
Sweet Potatoes  
TOP SIRLOIN STEAK, \$2.75  
Dinner Rolls • Strawberry Preserves  
Coffee  
Pumpkin Pie or Sherbet  
Children's Plate (except steak), \$1.00

(Price of Entree Determines price of complete dinner)

Noon 'til 8 P.M.  
Children Welcome!!

## VFW Auxiliary Plans Party

The VFW Auxiliary met recently with 13 members present. Florence Kingsley, president, presided over the meeting.

The women met Thursday evening in the home of Mrs. Kingsley, and worked on afghans for the veteran's hospital.

A Christmas party was planned for Dec. 15, at 6:30 p.m. with final details announced later. The auxiliary also voted to buy the TB seals and to pay the post for fuel.

Members voted to buy some new folding chairs for their hall and some material to make uniforms for those who desire them. Ella Zumwalt received the prize for the evening.

Refreshments of cake and coffee were served the post and auxiliary members at the close of the meetings. The women were reminded to bring Christmas gifts for the gift table at Camp White, to the next meeting Dec. 1. Also a gift for the adopted veteran.

## 4-H Club News

Mt. Glenn Homemakers, 4-H club, held their sixth business meeting at the Speckhart home. Following the regular business meeting, a guest Linda Elmer, gave a talk on the Junior Dollar dinner.

Playing of a game followed the business session. The meeting was then adjourned.

The Clover Leaf Circle 4-H Horse club met at the home of Verl Anderson on Monday.

The club will be having a Christmas skating party on Dec. 21.

The workbooks for the coming year were given to the members.

Next meeting will be at the home of Susan Scott on Dec. 7.

Union County 4-H Junior leaders met at the home of Ruth Hoxie, their new president. There were 10 boys and three girls in attendance.

They planned their program for the coming year and set a meeting once a month, with the 4-H leaders association.

The next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 16, and will be a Christmas party with gift exchange.

Their first project is to take part in the 4-H bake sale to be held at Bohnenkamps, Saturday from 10 until 3 p.m.

## Womens Service Club Holds Meet

ELGIN (Special)—The Womens Service Club met at Snyders Cafe for a noon luncheon. President Hazel Moore presided over the business meeting. About 15 women were present. Mrs. Merleida Stringham and Mrs. Dorothea Lea Davis were appointed on the nominating committee.

It was suggested they meet with the Chamber of Commerce and discuss having a Christmas dinner as was done several years ago. The calendars the club is having this year will be ready for distribution about the middle of December, reported the secretary, Dory Lyman.



Courtesy of The New York Historical Society, New York City, Robert L. Stuart Collection

# Thanksgiving Day will be a happier, more meaningful day...



for a "thank-you visit" to your Church or Synagogue

It's a story we all know and love—the first Pilgrim Thanksgiving. The excitement in their little homes must have been pretty much as it is today—the tantalizing smells of roast turkey and pumpkin pie—the bustle and rush of eager children—it must have been a wonderful day!

But before the Pilgrims sat down to their feast they observed the true meaning of Thanksgiving. They all gathered together in their meetinghouse to give thanks for the good they had received, for survival through a long year of hardship, and to

pray for the strength and courage to keep their faith in this strange, new land.

This Thanksgiving, why not take your family to your house of worship. A quiet hour of prayer and thanks will make your holiday so much more meaningful.

Wherever you are... whatever your beliefs may be... take time to offer your words of thanks... just as the Pilgrims did more than 300 years ago.

Find the strength for your life...  
WORSHIP TOGETHER THIS WEEK

Contributed to Religion In American Life, Inc. by

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