

# What Are We?

Dear Campus Editor,

Leafing through an inventor's journal recently I read, "An idea might be considered to be the seed of an invention, though not the invention in itself. An invention is an idea that has been reduced to practice. It is much too easy to think of an idea as an invention, or to belittle the creativity and effort that is required to reduce the idea to practice: the actual making of the invention." /William Reefman, *The Lightbulb*, July/Aug. 1976, p. 21.

The Christian faith is also an idea; the obvious difficulty comes in translating it into workable form. Not long ago, at the Science Fiction Worldcon in Kansas City, I was discussing

SF and its presentation of Christianity with some members of the Science Fiction Research Association. Soon the discussion centered around Christianity as a redemptive concept. One person asked, "why can't we think of Christianity solely in terms of its social implications?" to which a lady immediately replied, "without the redemptive center you don't have anything left."

Ottawa University's Christian heritage, while interesting, is no substitute for contemporary faith. Even the term "community" is one presupposing identifiable boundaries. Can a redemptive community, the term so commonly used for a body of believers, even exist if it doesn't define itself? I would certainly be interested in knowing what students think the Ottawa University community

**is or should be. The catalog idea  
needs to become an invention.**

**Sincerely,  
Dr. Horton Presley**