

A NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF GOD - CANADA



United News Canada

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Contents...

Fear Religion?	2
Feast Reports	3
A Day of Firsts	9
A Mountain Potluck	10
Dore Lake Campout	10
Announcements	11
Camp Heritage - 2K	13
Toronto Church Photos	15
McGillvary Creek Camp	16
Canadian Office Update	18
Financial Reports	20
Words/Facts	22
World News Watch	24

Festival 2000

KELOWNA • MONT SAINTE ANNE • SEE PAGES 3 & 7

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Cover Photos: Jerry Janzen

DO I PRACTICE FEAR RELIGION?

BY RAINER SALOMAA • EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

HAS ANYONE EVER ACCUSED YOU of practicing fear religion? I remember that accusation thrown at me. Of course no one wants to say that his or her religion is based on fear. We like to feel that it is based on our love for God and a love for His truth.

Yet, as we look around the world today, so many people have so many fears in their lives. There is a fear of death, of having an accident, of losing a job, of speaking in public, of financial ruin or even a fear of what others might think of us.

Medical literature lists hundreds of fears or phobias that people suffer, including such fears as acrophobia (heights), aerophobia (flying), agoraphobia (open spaces), ailurophobia (cats), anthropophobia (people), aquaphobia (water), claustrophobia (closed spaces), dementophobia (insanity), mikrophobia (germs), murophobia (mice), nyctophobia (darkness), ochlophobia (crowds), ornithophobia (birds), phonophobia (speaking aloud), pyrophobia (fire), trichophobia (hair) and xenophobia (strangers).

The scriptures show that there can even be man-devised fear in religion. Isaiah wrote, "Therefore the LORD said: 'Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men'" (Isaiah 29:13).

Being imperfect, there is no doubt that almost everyone has fears and anxieties. If we were perfect, our fears would vanish. God says, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears

has not been made perfect in love" (1 John 4:18).

What He gives his children is not the spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7).

David asks, "The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalms 27:1).

Christ was perfect. He did not have any unhealthy fear, but scriptures do show that He "... was heard in that he feared" (Hebrews 5:7).

Christ pointed the way to put all of our fears in proper focus when He said, "And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!" (Luke 12:4-5).

The reason why I am writing about this topic is that the Feast of Tabernacles is now over for this year. We have learned, I hope, some valuable lessons by assembling before God at this yearly convocation. One lesson that we are to learn each year is to learn to fear God. Here is what God asks of us in Deuteronomy 14:23: "And you shall eat before the LORD your God, in the place where He chooses to make His name abide, the tithes of your grain and your new wine and your oil, of the firstborn of your herds and your flocks, that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always."

continued on page 8

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CLIMBING TO THE LIGHT

BY JEAN JANTZEN • PHOTOS: JERRY JANTZEN



Neil Escasinas, 16, leads hymns during Youth Day.

*Do you hear the people sing
Lost in the valley of the night?
It is the music of a people
Who are climbing to the light.*

*For the wretched of the earth
There is a flame that never dies.
Even the darkest night will end
And the sun will rise.*

*They will live again in freedom
In the garden of the Lord.
They will walk behind the plough-share,
They will put away the sword.
The chain will be broken
And all men will have their reward.*

*Will you join in our crusade?
Who will be strong and stand with me?
Somewhere beyond the barricade
Is there a world you long to see?
Do you hear the people sing?
Say, do you hear the distant drums?
It is the future that they bring
When tomorrow comes!*

Tomorrow comes!

“Do you recognize the lyrics from the finale of the musical *Les Miserables*?” Dennis Luker asked the brethren on the Last Great Day. Will we too, join in to sing a similar song? These passionate words should echo our own emo-

tions as we are catapulted back into the ring for the final round of the fight of the faithful.

Blue skies and balmy autumn weather greeted 508 enthusiastic Feast goers in Kelowna, British Columbia for the Feast of Tabernacles 2000.

Kelowna is a spectacular city on the shores of Lake Okanagan, a lake that is 90 miles long, 750 feet deep and is fed by mountain streams. Earlier peoples believed a legendary snake-like monster, “Ogopogo,” lived in the lake and was a frightening foe.

Burk McNair’s opening night message encouraged battle-worn brethren weary from a world gone mad, as he emphasized the importance of keeping the Feast and keeping our eyes focused on the heavenly city.

Following were eight days of thought-provoking messages that armed us once again with the spiritual strength to fight not a legendary monster, but a real live fighting-mad serpent – the devil. We listened to exceptional special music, and were invited to take part in action-packed activities geared for both the young and the young at heart.

continued on page 4

**“BURK MCNAIR’S
OPENING NIGHT
MESSAGE
ENCOURAGED
BATTLE-WORN
BRETHREN WEARY
FROM A WORLD
GONE MAD...”**

CLIMBING TO THE LIGHT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3



Children prepare for Festival lessons.

Children looked forward to specially prepared festival lessons that illustrated the plan of God. Many teens took this opportunity to serve as big brother or sister to younger children in these fun-filled activities. Artwork by the youngsters picturing the World Tomorrow was later displayed for all to enjoy.

Youth day was a special event during the Feast. We have some wonderful new talent in the Church of God in Canada. Neil Escasinas, 16, set a fine example for Canadian youth as he led the brethren through the opening songs. (Neil's family arrived from the Philippines just

four months ago to settle in Vancouver.) "I've always loved music," said Neil. "I like to feel the song." When asked how he managed to do such a fine job Neil said, "I prayed before going on stage. I never pictured myself doing it without God's help and then I focused on what I was doing."

Then his brother Rex Escasinas 18, offered an inspiring opening prayer. He too looked to God. "I prayed twice before I went on stage asking God that I would pray not according to what I want but what He wanted me to say," he said. "That helped a lot – otherwise I would have been stammering."

Edward Rands, 18, who resides in Penticton, said leading songs on Youth day was a great opportunity to overcome fear of public speaking. "It helps me to have courage to do things I fear," he said.

One hundred and three attended the senior's luncheon hosted by Dennis Luker. "Seniors' roles as the fathers and mothers of the Church are much appreciated and esteemed by God," said Mr. Luker in his heartfelt message of encouragement.

continued on page 5

“MANY TEENS TOOK THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE AS BIG BROTHER OR SISTER...”



Richard Kmodras (centre) with Lorne and June Davies at the Seniors' Luncheon.

Chelsey Petersen, 13, from Calgary, Alberta sang and Michelle Kmodras, 11, of Vancouver played piano for this luncheon, delighting seniors with their lively performance of “Consider Yourself.” Both girls participated in the festival choir, and say although their music takes a lot of time, they made many new friends. Megan Mickelsen from Spokane also sang at the luncheon. She performed “The Dream Lives On.”

Special festival music is a large part of the Feast. Our heartfelt thanks to choir director Richard Kmodras who worked overtime this year, as did his wife, Jana, who is a violinist. We heard many inspiring choir selections such as *Lift Up Your Heads*, *King All Glorious*, and *Streets of Gold* (performed twice by popular request). There were also many solo vocal performances by the church’s wealth of talented brethren. “[Richard’s] main objective is to make the best out of the performers,” said Jim Petersen.

As usual, the audience warmed to the children’s choir who also did a great job of singing *Shaking up the World* and *Sing, Shout, Clap*.

Music was truly a family affair this year. The Petersen sisters and Mel and Marge Christianson from Calgary, Alberta, performed special music. Angela Jantzen and eight of her 11 children from Nanaimo, B.C., also performed an inspiring song entitled *One Day*, a piece written by Angela.

And then we had the privilege of listening to a 14-member Korthuis family perform as a group, and as part of the festival choir. With this addition, the choir was an overwhelming success. Both Mama and Papa of this large clan came from musical family backgrounds. Bernita plays hymns for her Church congregation in Seattle. They have a son Roger, his wife Diane and two daughters Kristen and Chelsey, a son Kevin, a daughter Heidi, husband Martin Arendsen and his two sons Robert and Bastian (from Holland), another son Barry and wife Sandy, and daughter Cheryl and husband Herm



Ensing. Maybe there is a saying that says, “A family who sings together stays together.”

Korthuis family singers.

It was the need for special music in the Netherlands two years ago (when they performed four times) that inspired the Korthuis family to set their goal: “Why don’t we get some songs together and involve the children and sing at the feast?” Their next project is to perform *When You Believe* from the *Prince of Egypt* soundtrack. “It could take some time since we will be learning to sing some of it in Hebrew,” they said. Their involvement at all Feast activities and sharing their musical talent was certainly an inspiration for the brethren.

Twenty-one young adults took part in an interactive seminar entitled “Making Wise Decisions” presented by Jonathon Pinelli. Later they enjoyed an evening of goofy bowling.

Family day was held at Scandia Golf and Games where several hundred children and their parents spent a leisurely afternoon playing miniature golf and an exciting array of arcade, table and pool games. Other brethren relaxed, ate pizza, fellowshipped, and watched the performance of a life-size electronic monkey band.

**“MUSIC WAS TRULY
A FAMILY AFFAIR
THIS YEAR.”**

continued on page 6

CLIMBING TO THE LIGHT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

“THIS YEAR WE WERE TRULY BLESSED AS WE WERE ABLE TO ATTEND TWO FEAST SITES.”



Congratulations were given to our teens from the Zone Bowling staff, who were thrilled with 42 positive, energetic, responsible and fun-filled teens who let their lights shine during the evening.

Once again, young and old kicked up their heels on a crowded dance floor at the family dance. The dance featured the entertaining Shakewood Annie, professional DJ's who delighted everyone with their costume changes, innovative dances and wide-ranging singing style.

This year we were truly blessed as we were able to attend two Feast sites. For six days we rejoiced in Kelowna, and then had the opportunity to drive the spectacular serpentine route to Vernon, 25 miles north. Here we continued to rejoice and praise God on the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day.

And as we enter the time when we must all return to the battlefield, we too offer our heart-

felt yearnings with Abraham, when he says he is waiting for the city (a city with streets of gold) that has real foundations – the city planned and built by God (Hebrews 11).

So as we all work toward our heavenly goal, let's remember the words from Mr. Salomaa's sermon, "Help make people around you grow. It is not a chain of command, but a network of love." It will take that kind of love to obtain the freedom that is voiced in the finale of *Les Miserables*. Let's continue our "climb to the light!"! -UNC

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

"I think it's mostly fun and I can learn about God and can meet new friends, but mostly just have fun."

Michelle Kmodras 11, Richmond, BC

"It pictures a time I look forward to when this will be reality, not just a rehearsal."

Jonathon Pinelli, Cincinnati

"Celebrate God's return."

Megan Mickelson 11, Spokane

"It looks like the place where God placed his name."

Glen Rogers, North Battleford

"We are lost and now we are found."

Shirley Rogers, North Battleford

"To celebrate God's Feast."

Sam Bendall, 9

"To learn God's plan."

Kendra Lund, 11

"To practice when God comes."

Emma Roumanas, 8

"Because God commands it."

Drew Yahn, 16

"Important to have friends in the church."

Bastian Arendson, 12, Holland

"Pictures God's plan."

Jon and Beverly Lafferty, Coeur d'Lane

A FESTIVAL OF COLOUR IN MONT SAINTE ANNE, QUEBEC

BY ANTHONY WASILKOFF • FESTIVAL COORDINATOR

BEAUTIFUL FALL COLOURS GREETED THE more than 350 brethren at the new festival site in Mont Sainte Anne, Quebec. “The coloured postcards do not do the area justice,” said Ava Stephenson of the Edmonton congregation. God answered the prayers of the brethren for good weather for all the outdoor activities.

A whale-watching excursion was attended by 168 brethren. The group was thrilled to see several whales including blue whales, the largest animals in the world. The whale watching tour operator told the group that we were very lucky since there had been only one other sighting of blue whales this year and that was the day before! The group also saw beluga, minke and fin whales.

A higher attendance than anticipated necessitated setting up an overflow room down the hall from the auditorium. The messages were also piped to 17 brethren in Newfoundland, so in reality, there were two overflow rooms!

Festival messages pointed out the contrast between today’s world and the vision of the true happiness of the World Tomorrow. One unique sermon was presented by Fred Kellers. He invited the audience to give him their favorite World Tomorrow verses and built his sermon around them. The Young Adult’s seminar and Teen Bible study were both well attended.



The Feast started out on a high note with a dance, sponsored by the New England congregations. A bilingual DJ provided a wide variety of music for all age groups. There were ample “snacks” of vegetables, cheese, chocolate, and even homemade cookies served throughout the evening.

Almost ten per cent of the congregation served in the choir. Musical talent was also displayed during a two-hour variety night. During this evening, the audience was treated to French lessons taught by “dancing elephants,” Newfoundland humor and dancing, and a darling rendition of “Davie Crockett” by a five-year-old who had hiccups. The evening ended with a rousing rendition of “Celebrate” where the audience was requested to join in on the chorus, “Celebrate the Feast! Come on!” The tune was heard being hummed by many throughout the remainder of the feast.

The children added to the festival by their artwork depicting the World Tomorrow. After services on Family Day, each child received a stuffed animal to “adopt.”

Paul Suckling addresses Feastgoers in Mont Sainte Anne, Quebec.

“ALMOST 10 PER CENT OF THE CONGREGATION SERVED IN THE CHOIR.”

continued on page 8

A FESTIVAL OF COLOUR IN MONT SAINTE ANNE, QUEBEC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

**“THE BRETHREN
ALSO MADE AN
IMPACT ON THE
LOCAL RESIDENTS.”**



Other activities included a seniors' brunch with entertainment by Mr. and Mrs. Gary Densmore. The teens went on an excursion to the spectacular local waterfalls that can be viewed from suspension bridges. Young adults and singles took the tram up to the top of Mont Sainte Anne and were treated to a view of the St. Lawrence River and surrounding area.

Many Feastgoers ran into each other while touring historic old Quebec City and the many other interesting sites in the area. A first-time Feast attendee said the Feast was “the most enjoyable and spiritually filled time of my life. What did I do all my life before this? Thank God for calling us.”

The brethren also made an impact on the local residents. Staff at both Val des Neiges and Montmorency commented on how polite everyone was. As a result, they bent over backward to accommodate us. One of the staff even brought in a teapot from home for one couple to use during their stay there. It was a most wonderful and inspiring festival! -UNC

DO I PRACTICE FEAR RELIGION?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

If we properly understand godly fear, we can see that it is a very healthy thing. It is a blessing. It prolongs our days (Proverbs 10:27). It gives us riches, honour and life (Proverbs 22:4). Solomon wrote that Godly fear gives confidence, is a fountain of life, and turns us away from the snares of death (Proverbs 14:26-27).

Also, it gives wisdom (Proverbs 1:7; 9:10-11; 14:16). Job said, “...Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, And to depart from evil is understanding” (Job 28:28).

The fear of God is associated with obedience (Deuteronomy 5:29; 6:1-2; Exodus 20:19-20). It will help keep us from sinning.

So, back to the question, “Do I practice fear religion?” Yes, if I fear God, but no, I don't lead a life of fear. I know that the fear of God will produce wonderfully positive results, including having my name written in the book of life (Malachi 3:16-17). The Feast of Tabernacles is a great reminder to never lose our fear for God. -UNC

THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS BEGAN WITH A burst of sunshine in Sussex, New Brunswick, as 12 of God's people assembled for the morning, and 17 for the afternoon services at the Amsterdam Inn.

Our pastor, Mr. George Carter, travelled from Ontario to conduct both services and to perform two "firsts" providing cause for joy and thankfulness. In addition, there were other "firsts."

For the first time, a sound system, provided by the Church, is now permanently available to enhance the effectiveness of the speaking.

For the first time, we have a beautiful and large podium constructed by Mr. Bill Wetmore. This delightful addition will prevent much "chasing" after notes and Bibles which occurs when using the small podium provided by the hotel.

More importantly, a landmark first for the area was the ordination, conducted by Mr. Carter, assisted by Mr. Bill Wetmore and Mr. John Howard, of Mr. Gary Steeves to the office of deacon. Mr. Steeves has been the host for the Sussex group since its beginning. He, his wife, June, daughter, Virginia, and June's mother Mrs. Claire Wanamaker, have faithfully poured their energy and possessions into serving the brethren.

The brethren wholeheartedly agreed with Mr. Carter that Mr. Steeves has, and will fulfill the responsibility that his ordination places upon him.

Various delicious items, including enticingly delicious pies, made the noon meal a highlight of the Feast day.

Another joyful event occurred with the first baptism performed in New Brunswick since the United Church of God Canada, was formed. Mr. Don Gross, and his wife, Tina, were baptized between services in the "Bridal Suite" – fitting and symbolic, considering their future with Christ. When asked afterward how she felt, Tina expressed it perfectly: "Great!"

The Grosses live in Caribou, Maine, and have been driving over 200 miles each way for services, almost every week for the past year. They have been searching continuously since 1995 for a church that preaches the Truth, and believe that they have found where it is being taught most fully.

They have three daughters who exhibit youthful exuberance, adding much delight for the congregation as they display long-forgotten (for most of us) energy and playfulness. Bridget is only five months; Brianna is five, and Brittany is 10.

Don and Tina's dedication, and the girls' endurance in sitting so long, has been an inspiring example for those of us living close to the meeting hall.

The afternoon service added another spiritual feast, with a sermonette by Mr. Steeves, and the second part of Mr. Carter's sermon discussing aspects and the meaning of Trumpets in the Old and New Testaments. -UNC

**"...[A] LANDMARK
FIRST FOR THE
AREA WAS THE
ORDINATION... OF
MR. GARY STEEVES,
TO THE OFFICE
OF DEACON."**



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A MOUNTAIN POTLUCK

BY ERNIE MCBRATNEY • VANCOUVER

**“THE DAVIES LIVE
IN A LOVELY HOME
ON THE SIDE OF A
MOUNTAIN...”**

HAZELAND I, AFTER A LONG ALBION FERRY wait, wrong turns, and delays, finally arrived at Lorne and June Davies’ new home in Maple Ridge in Vancouver, B.C. It was well worth the effort. It was a beautiful sunny Sunday during the long weekend, and as we drove higher and higher we were rewarded with a magnificent view of the country below. The Davies live in a lovely home on the side of a mountain surrounded by a government forest reserve.

The Vancouver and Abbotsford brethren gathered together for a day of fellowship and a potluck meal. We made short work of a large table of food and desserts, and then shared a huge birthday cake for Lorne Davies’ 70th birthday. Joy Michielsen led us in the Happy Birthday song.

Some brethren enjoyed a house tour, while others played ping pong and noisy happy children played in the fabulous swimming pool in the middle of a huge expanse of green lawn.



Bill Vanderraad gave a tour of the forest of old growth adjoining the Davies’ acreage, explaining various plants and edible berries. We hoped to run across small wild creatures, but we had no such luck.

God certainly blessed us with a beautiful day and fellowship for all of us to enjoy. -UNC

DORE LAKE CAMPOUT

BY ADELINE SANNOY • SASKATCHEWAN



BRETHREN FROM THE EDMONTON, NORTH Battleford and Saskatoon churches gathered at Dore Lake on the weekend of July 8th and 9th for what has become a weekend of fishing, watersports and fellowship. This event has become an annual affair and begins officially on Friday evening with a Bible Study. Sabbath services were held in Mount Carmel Hall with 30 in attendance. On Sabbath evening Mr. Berendt conducted a Bible Study followed by a sing along.

continued on page 11

Drew Yahn (left) and Bob Korneluk in a nose-to-nose Star Wars competition.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY: 55 YEARS

BY BILL BERGEN • PENTICTON

ESTHER AND I FIRST MET IN 1944, WHEN I advertised for an assistant in my radio and electronics repair shop in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

She was the only applicant for the job. It was wartime and help was scarce. Esther had with her a recommendation from her former employer at a wartime radio/radar assembly plant in Ajax, Ontario. Her recommendation said she was a competent employee as a wiring and assembly operator of radar equipment.

I hired Esther on a trial basis, and she proved to be quite efficient at installing parts and soldering connections in radios as required.

After some months I asked her if she would like to go to a movie with me, and she agreed. This led to more dating as we got to know each other. (I believe that it was sort of love at first sight on my part.) I liked her very much.

One night I proposed to her after walking her home to the rooming house where she was staying. She said yes.

After several months Esther left my employ and went to her family home on the farm near Hepburn, Saskatchewan. I had asked her father and mother for her hand in marriage, and they agreed.

We had a very nice family wedding, performed in the Mennonite Brethren Church, in the town of Hepburn.

We had a week-long honeymoon at

DORE LAKE CAMPOUT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Sunday morning started out a bit foggy, but people were able to get out on the lake for some fishing. Some of the Brethren were able to stay on for a day or two, while others left for home on Sunday.



Waskesui Lake, then moved into two rooms of a private home. In 1946 we built our first small house in Saskatoon. Our first child, a daughter, was born in 1947.

We have six children, and six grandchildren. God has richly blessed us and our family.

We have resided in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and also Penticton, Burnaby, New Westminster, Abbotsford, and now again in Penticton, B.C.

Dore Lake is located east and north of Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan in a forested area. This area is a home to deer, moose, bear, and even a few skunks. The morning comes alive with the singing of birds and scolding of squirrels. For those who so desire there are mushrooms, blueberries, saskatoons and cranberries to harvest, each in their own season. -UNC

Bill and Esther Bergen at their 55th wedding anniversary celebration, on June 28, 2000.

GLADYS ESTELLE DAWE

Gladys Dawe of Penticton, British Columbia died on Labour Day, September 4, 2000. Outdoor memorial services were held for her in the Penticton Rose Garden on September 11. Mr. Bob Berendt gave a eulogy and Mr. Rainer Salomaa conducted the service.

Gladys was born on December 5, 1927 in Scarborough, Ontario. She was the youngest of three girls. She worked as a switchboard operator for Bell Telephone, assembled bomb tails during the war, helped her family operate a 24-hour truck stop in Northern Ontario, and worked as a secretary for her husband's company. When she was widowed at age 47, she went to work for Alpha Dairy in Calgary. At age 58, she moved to the Okanagan and retired.

She has been a member of United since the church began in Penticton. She was a pillar in the church.

Gladys leaves behind her only daughter Diane Bagno and a granddaughter, Angel Lee.

JORDAN CHRISTOPHER ALLEN HOFER

On Friday, July 28, 2000 at approximately 3:00 p.m., four year old Jordan Christopher Allen Hofer (born on March 11, 1996) died following a car accident in Maple, Ontario.

His big brother Matthew, 8, survived with minor injuries. His two friends were severely injured. Jorie loved his babysitters, Jan Hartridge of Winnipeg and Mary Qaquish of Maple, Ontario. Jorie was looking forward to attending Junior Kindergarten in the fall in his new home in Toronto.

Left to grieve are his parents, Monica (Laberger) and Isaac Hofer, his big brother, Matthew, grandparents Dave and Sarah Hofer, many aunts, uncles, cousins and second cousins from the Hofer and Laberger families.

Funeral services were held in Winnipeg.



Gladys Estelle Dawe, Penticton, B.C.

“GLADYS...
ASSEMBLED BOMB
TAILS DURING
THE WAR...”

PRAYER UPDATE

Last year after the Feast, *United News Canada* ran an article on some of the trials various members were facing. One member is Dennis Morgan, who was paralyzed in 1998 in a work-related accident. He was counseling for baptism but was too weak to be put in the water.

He wants to thank the brethren for their prayers because he was baptized this year a week before Atonement at St Joseph's Rehab Hospital in Bellingham. A hydraulically operated bed lowered him into the warm water – which he said was a treat. He also quit taking all medication, as prescribed drugs caused him to become diabetic and he had to take insulin.

“I put my health into God's hands and let Him take care of it,” he said. “And wouldn't you know it, my blood sugar went back to normal.”

—Jean Jantzen



ABOUT SIX HOURS DRIVE FROM ST. Catherines, Ontario, lies Camp Heritage. It is one of several Boy Scout camps set around Lake Courage in Farmington, Pennsylvania. For one week in mid-August, it served as a United Youth Camp.

This year, I, and about a dozen other Canadians in multiple vans, drove down to attend this camp. Most of the people who asked about our “daring trek across the Northern frontier” were surprised to find out that they had spent more time travelling than we had. In fact, it’s the nearest camp for anyone living in Eastern Canada since the only Canadian camp is in Alberta, which is two time zones away from Ontario.

This trip was our third in a row, but it has more to do with the camp itself than its proximity or the varieties of high-caffeine sodas in the States. It’s a trip I look forward to more and more, and one that I think as many people as possible should participate in.

This year, as it does every year, the trip to Camp Heritage began very early in the morning. Then, in no time at all we were at the border and were asked something like, “What kind of group is this anyway?”

Much later on, as we woke up from our six-hour sleep – interrupted only when necessary by rest stops – our first signs of camp were the ramps for runaway trucks that appear periodically on some very high hills.

(If we had decided to arrive the day before camp officially started, we would have spent the first night in the guesthouses, along with the rest of the early-bird campers and attempted to form a waiting list for the bathroom. These guesthouses were where the staff, including several Canadians, stayed during the rest of the week.)

At this point on the trip I realized my sleeping bag had been left behind. Thankfully I managed to borrow one because as much as I enjoy it, I’m willing to take the camping experience only so far.

The first thing we did after settling in was the swimming test. While jumping into cold water and trying not to bump into other swimmers may not sound like fun, it was over quickly and soon after we were off to discover who our tent partners would be. Already a chance to bond with someone new presented itself.

The tents themselves were fairly nice unless you got a “leaker.” There were two cots with pads on them on top of a wooden platform, all covered by a green tarp over a pole frame. Naturally my tent attracted a steady flow of spiders but we cleared them out every night. (Except for the one that leapt at me and then disappeared without a trace. We don’t know where he went.)

A dorm latrine and sink and a shower house that we shared with nearby dorms filled the rest of our life necessities. I found myself getting

**“...[A]S MUCH AS
I ENJOY IT, I’M
WILLING TO TAKE
THE CAMPING
EXPERIENCE
ONLY SO FAR.”**

continued on page 14



up earlier and earlier and to colder and colder temperatures in order to beat the others to the shower house. (Unfortunately an evening shower never occurred to me.) As far as our meals go, they were great and I can't emphasize enough how constant and puzzling the supply of dinner rolls, ice-cream sandwiches and pink juice were, and how fondly they now remind me of camp.

**“WHAT I FOUND
REALLY SPECIAL
ABOUT ... CAMP
HERITAGE ... [WAS]
THE CEASELESS
ENCOURAGEMENT
...”**

The activities at Camp Heritage made the experience such fun. We went sailing at the waterfront, where we tried not to get blown over, and then canoeing, where we had to tip for something called “swamping.” Then there were team sports like volleyball, basketball, and softball. There was also riflery where we get to score our targets and a climbing (ropes) course. Various classes included etiquette where we were taught how to introduce someone or how a man should escort a lady. We took swing-dancing and line-dancing lessons with our brother dorm so thankfully we didn't have to adopt a gender according to height. Finally came campus improvement, where we cleaned our lodge.

There was also an open activity night, which included bonus activities like tennis and archery, two dances – which everybody liked “just because” – a brother/sister dorm bonfire with a Bible study, and even a night out on the town for the counselors.

What I found really special about the activities at Camp Heritage were the challenges they provided which we then overcame. Secondly, there was the ceaseless encouragement we

gave everyone even when we were playing against each other. It's something that can't be found anywhere else.

Another part of our daily lives was our Christian Living classes that we took with our brother dorm. They were usually interactive and this year each of the seven ministers at the camp taught a different aspect of “The Zone” to every dorm. (This is the term commonly used to describe what the environment of the camp is meant to be and how the campers are to act.) We also met with our dorm twice daily on the picnic tables to talk and say our prayers. Our dorm even had the idea of volunteers coming up with an inspirational scripture of the day.

Everywhere we walked we sang and there was a volunteer choir that sang for church services on Saturday, as well as various performers at dinnertime. Another anticipated activity on Saturday were the Sabbath notes which campers and staff alike wrote to people that they've met. Each dorm had a box with a slot and on Saturday the letters were distributed. Of course some of us didn't finish everyone's note – despite a note-cramming session the night before – and prayed that they all understood.

By the end of the week, it was nice to have had only one day of rain and minimal camper injuries, as well as not having my batteries melt in my flashlight like they once did on a hot day in '99.

I was also happy to have helped raise both the American and Canadian flags, and very happy, as the middle person, not to have ever dropped them. We also had one of the Canadians sing “Oh Canada” for lowering one day.

A major accomplishment of Camp Heritage itself this year is that it's being certified by the American Camping Association (ACA) as a national camp. In fact, we scored 100 per cent, the highest score of any United camp of our

continued on page 15

TORONTO CHURCH EVENTS

PHOTOS FROM THE TORONTO CONGREGATION



Photo by Ryan Rahel

TORONTO CHURCH CELEBRATES 5TH ANNIVERSARY

Founding members pose with cake on June 11.

From Left: Mr. & Mrs. Pat Read, Mr. & Mrs. Rick Dubler, Mr. & Mrs. Gary Ridi, Mr. & Mrs. Kenroy Allen.

Note: Ed van Pelt is not in photo.

YOUTH SERVICE DAY

On June 24, Teens performed various duties at services, including: ushering, piano playing, special music, song leading, opening prayer and serving coffee/tea and juice.



TORONTO HONOURS GRADUATES

(Back row) Chris Heykoop, Ryan Rahel, Victor Caputo. (Front row) Heather Rahel, Amber St. Thomas. The Graduates were honoured on July 15.



CAMP HERITAGE - 2K

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

size. And I'm not surprised because we went about straightening every towel around our tents.

Naturally, there were Canadian jokes, which were put to us as genuine inquiries, but that's all right. Some examples were: "Do you have computers/running water in

Canada?" "Don't ya'll say 'aboot'?" And, my favourite: "Do you know Susie from Canada?"

When I arrived home from Camp Heritage I really felt just how much I missed it and the people, and what a positive and boosting experience it can be to be around people who are

basically good and caring. Camp is a place that we go away to, to be with those people who believe the same as we do. It's living in less than luxury, but still enjoying it. Camp gives us the opportunity to build our own self-confidence and relationships that will last, as well as to grow and learn spiritually. -UNC

McGILLVARY CREEK YOUTH CAMP

BY JOLENE DREWNIK AND GLEN WHITE



MCGILLVARY CREEK YOUTH CAMP, located in the majesty of the Canadian Rocky Mountains just north of Coleman, Alberta, was a highlight of the summer for 26 teen campers. Campers and staff from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba as well as Washington, Idaho and Montana came to fellowship and have fun, but most of all to learn more about God's way of life and how to better prepare for the future that God is promising His people. Campers arrived with smiling faces and anticipations of making new friendships that last a life time.

The comments from the campers about the activities were exciting but did not compare with the positive comments about the Christian Living classes that all campers experienced each morning after breakfast. Campers found it a privilege to gather with other teens our own age and understand the subjects that puzzle, confuse, and scare the kids of our generation. It was inspirational, informative and – without a doubt – the one activity that we will all use every day of our lives.

Our primary Christian Living subject was the seven proofs of God's existence. This subject was discussed over a period of five days. The depths of the creation versus the evolutionary myths were discussed and we were given some working knowledge so we

wouldn't be led astray on the subject. The major focus was on the myriad proofs of God's reality in the creation, design, sustaining of laws, as well as answered prayer and prophecy.

During campfire times we examined the 7,000-year plan of God, highlighting the major time divisions and how they related to the Annual Holy Days. We were also tested on the material discussed. After these classes were finished we all left camp with much more knowledge than when we arrived. This knowledge will certainly be foundational in motivating us to improve our Christian lives.

Every day we woke up to the stimulating chill of the mountain air. When the sun finally flooded our valley, there was the realization of just how cool these high altitude mountains can become: there was a crisp layer of snowy frost each morning.

After struggling into our clothing, we sleepily made our journey to the kitchen for breakfast. After Christian Living, the day's schedule started. Activities included hiking, canoeing, mountain biking, archery, orienteering and also a half day at the shooting range. One of the newest additions to the schedule this year was survival education and then putting what we learned into practice. We learned how to build emergency shelters (which we slept in overnight), and built fires with wet materials among other things.

We experienced all these different activities in preparation for the "Septathlon" (a combination of all events) that was held on Friday. This was an all day event that tested the campers' spirit in teamwork, attitude toward each other and how we displayed a Christian attitude. As we demonstrated those skills acquired in all activities, our primary rule was the "no knock policy" which kept negativism from spoiling our efforts. At the end of the day the three teams, their times and points were counted up and the winning team was announced the next evening.

continued on page 17

"OUR PRIMARY CHRISTIAN LIVING SUBJECT WAS THE SEVEN PROOFS OF GOD'S EXISTENCE."

On the first day of camp, we plunged our unconditioned bodies into the vast outdoors when the activity staff took us for a hike up to the crest of Turtle Mountain. (This mountain is the same that created the Frank slide in the early 1900's.) The ridgeline revealed an awesome view of the sprawling and magnificent creation of God. Many of us took in these views for the first time.

After a hard, tiring yet fulfilling week, campers, staff, parents and visitors gathered in a beautiful area of the forest for Sabbath services. Wildflowers were arranged and set on the podium. God gave us another beautiful day to celebrate Him and His wonderful creation. The senior boys practiced and sang one of the more stirring hymns for special music. Drew Yahn served as song leader and guided the service.

The sermon by Mr. White was an eye opener that made us all see just how important our future goals are to the work we will inherit in the Kingdom of God. God needs many different positions filled, whether it be a builder, doctor, teacher, carpenter, rancher, fisherman or a minister, all jobs that are necessary to establish a community. In this case it will be a Godly community, beginning with rebuilding Jerusalem.

After services a brunch was supplied by the kitchen staff (who again outdid themselves) and created a feast campers rarely expect in a wilderness camp. After dinner everyone gathered in the classroom trailer where skits were performed by the individual cabin groups. The theme used was that of a Biblical story demonstrating a fruit of the Holy Spirit. These were



done very well and the added humor gave everyone a real chance to laugh. This was also an important activity because it took preparation and hard work. Most of all, the skits helped us remember, in a fun way, some of the key lessons in the history.

As the days went by, we realized that God had blessed us with not only sunny skies and the gift of learning, but that He does look after His people as he promises. Illness was brief when someone was sick. Protection was there at all times delivering us from accidents and potential major problems. Deliverance from difficult situations were daily, which left us all more than humbled with gratitude.

In the words of Mr. Glen White, Camp Director, this is the most fulfilling, and successful year we have experienced thus far. Each year, depth and understanding is added. The staff performed with outstanding dedication and skill. A special thanks to our U.S. brethren who joined us as staff and campers. We do well together.

The coming generation of Christians, as we experienced it this week, are an outstanding group of young people. Teachable, creative, and growing in trust. Is it just possible that we are experiencing Malachi 4:6? A number of people feel this is so.

The momentary sadness of parting was lessened by the knowledge that more of us would be communicating by email, computerized chat rooms, meeting at the Feast of Tabernacles and of course, making plans for a return to camp next year. Our collective thanks to God for this wonderful week. -UNC

**“AS THE DAYS
WENT BY, WE
REALIZED THAT
GOD HAD BLESSED
US WITH ...
SUNNY SKIES
AND THE GIFT
OF LEARNING...”**



MEMBER INPUT

THE UNITED CHURCH OF GOD - CANADA has had its Bylaws in place for a few years now. As time goes on, there is a need for some fine-tuning of the original documents to make them more workable.

The process for changing the existing Bylaws is somewhat tedious to ensure that each change is really for the better. The Amendment Committee is formed of volunteers from various church areas who work to see that all proposed amendments are in keeping with the existing documents. They also coordinate sending the proposed amendments through the proper steps in a timely and decent order.

One step for the amendment process is to inform the church membership of all proposed amendments. This year there have been two amendments proposed. Please take time to read through them both. If you have any comments regarding either of these, either positive or negative, please send them by mid-January to:

Dr. Dennis B. Kerrighan
11 Lupine Crt. SE
Medicine Hat, AB T1B 2K2

Comments will be compiled and included with the Proposed Amendments when they are sent to the National Conference for balloting.

**“THE PROCESS FOR
CHANGING THE
EXISTING BYLAWS IS
SOMEWHAT TEDIOUS
TO ENSURE THAT
EACH CHANGE
IS REALLY FOR
THE BETTER.”**

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS 2001

Bylaw 8.3\ Number and Qualifications of Council Members

Change 8.3.2 to 8.3.3 and add the following as 8.3.2:

2 Change in Status

In the event that a lay person becomes ordained or a non-salaried elder becomes a salaried elder, or a salaried elder becomes a non-salaried elder, he would still serve on the Council for the duration of his term. This would apply even if more than one such event occurs. In that event, in the interest of continuity and effectiveness, the number of lay members (2), non-salaried elders (2) and salaried elders (5) would be permitted to vary as circumstances required. This would be considered an exceptional circumstance, which in no way nullifies the required, above proportion. Upon completion of the term(s) of the individual(s), the required proportion of mem-

bers must again be established.

Submitted by the National Council

STATEMENT OF JUSTIFICATION: This would allow better continuity for the Council. It would enable the council member to accept greater or lesser church responsibility without having to resign from the Council.

Bylaw 9.1.1 (6)

Replace “Chairman” with “council as led by the chairperson.” The Bylaw would then read (change in bold):

6 Submit to an annual review by the **Council as led by the chairperson.**

Submitted by the National Council

STATEMENT OF JUSTIFICATION: This would ensure that the whole Council has input in this review rather than just one person.

MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

WHEN THE CANADIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL was formed, it was their desire to always have input from church membership. Thus, two members of the Council are to be laymembers.

This coming March the National Conference must select a laymember to serve a term of three years on the National Council. The Bylaws have been set up to give each baptized member of an established church congregation input on this.

Sometime in January, each congregation will ballot for one person from that congregation to be considered for this term. If you are a baptized member of United Church of God - Canada and are part of an official congregation, you will be asked to choose one person from your congregation whom you believe would be best able to serve as a Council mem-

ber. Keep in mind that all council members have equal say on all business items. The person you choose should be someone you believe to be of high integrity and wisdom. He/she would need to be able to attend all Council meetings and preferably have access to the Internet to make communication easier.

The pastor of your congregation will forward the name of the person chosen from your church area to the National Office. All the names will be put on a ballot and the National Conference will choose one of them to be on the National Council.

Thus far, there have been a total of six laymembers who have sat on the Council. All have contributed in their special, unique way.

*Linda Wasilkoff,
Secretary of the National Council*

COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE

THE BYLAWS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF God - Canada require the National Council to meet once every three months. For two hours on Monday evening, September 18 the Council conducted its third meeting of the year via teleconference. Chairman, Rainer Salomaa, guided these proceedings.

One of the responsibilities of the Council is to be sure that the church remains on sound financial footing. The Operations Manager gave an update on the current financial picture. The good news is that the income of the church continues to be above the amount budgeted for. However, there have been unexpected, and hence unbudgeted, necessary expenses that have prohibited building up our reserves.

The Council then reviewed a proposed

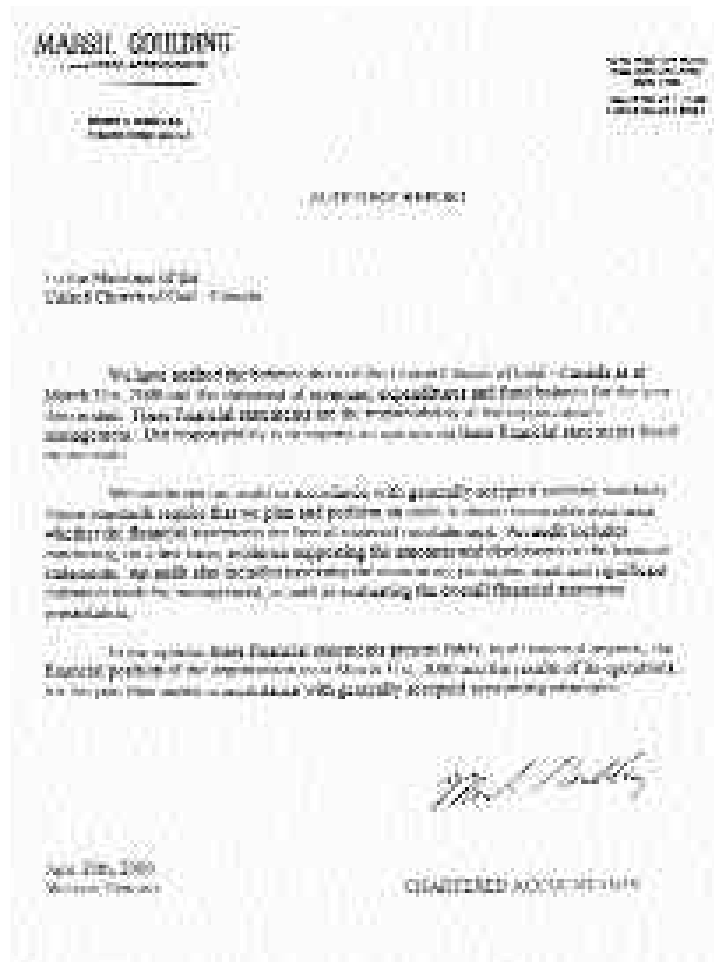
amendment to the Bylaws and agreed to the technical changes the Amendment Committee advocated. Following this, the Council appointed Lynne Broschak of Edmonton to be the alternate for the Amendment Committee. This committee is composed exclusively of people who are neither on the church payroll nor members of the National Council. It reviews each proposed amendment to make sure there are no conflicts with the existing Bylaws. The Council greatly appreciates the accomplishments of these dedicated individuals.

David Palmer gave a Media Committee perspective on some of the tests being done in local church areas. A more detailed presentation will be made during the in-person meetings scheduled for December.

**“THIS COMING
MARCH THE
NATIONAL
CONFERENCE
MUST SELECT A
LAYMEMBER TO
SERVE A TERM OF
THREE YEARS
ON THE
NATIONAL
COUNCIL.”**

AUDITOR'S REPORT

COMPILED BY MARSH, GOULDING • CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



Balance Sheet
As at March 31st, 2000

Assets	2000	1999
Current Assets		
Cash on hand and in bank	\$ 12,490	\$ 27,060
Local Church coin boxes	9,500	9,750
Goods and Services tax receivable	8,511	5,521
Prepaid expenses and deposits	4,073	6,758
	56,574	49,109
Capital Assets - (None)	41,068	41,284
	\$ 97,642	\$ 90,393
Liabilities and Fund Balance		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 84,969	\$ 51,253
Fund Balance	12,673	39,140
	\$ 97,642	\$ 90,393

Statement of Income, Expenditures and Fund Balance
For the year ended March 31st, 2000

Account	2000	1999
Income		
Members and others	\$ 441,148	\$ 398,100
Income from investments (after tax)	107,798	204,425
Interest	1,079	1,299
Gifts and fund receipts	1,000	13,758
	551,025	617,582
Expenditures		
Administrative services	207,779	212,021
Taxes	28,877	31,291
Administrative expenses	48,891	51,199
Interest on loans	11,218	78,894
Transfer payments	14,033	78,894
General maintenance	27,914	27,228
Other and general	9,201	14,548
Depreciation	4,611	26,737
Expenses	24,294	26,110
Advertising	21,397	24,276
Restructured debt	11,202	6,718
Gift money	66,227	20,240
Church supplies	16,376	12,241
Gifts and donations	1,286	11,231
Other	20,220	27,717
Reimbursements	10,208	17,786
Transfer	4,079	1,223
Non-refundable capital contributions - (None)	1,112	891
Investment - (None)	1,627	11,111
	504,816	571,726
	50,209	45,866
Income/Expenditures in excess/short		
	46,809	45,866
Fund Balance at beginning of year	39,140	39,140
Fund Balance at end of year	\$ 85,949	\$ 85,006

AUDITOR'S REPORT

COMPILED BY MARSH, GOULDING • CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

UNITED CHURCH OF GOD - CANADA

Notes to the Financial Statements

March 31, 2009

1. The United Church of God - Canada, was incorporated under federal law in June 1986, 1986 as a corporation without share capital. It is registered as a charitable organization for non-profits with provisions of the Income Tax Act, Canada. Its purpose is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God in Canada and elsewhere, to help churches in Canada and elsewhere and to care for their members.

2. Significant Accounting Policy

(a) Revenue Recognition

Tithes and offerings are recognized as revenue when received.

The Church is affiliated with the United Church of God, An International Association, and receives a subsidy from this organization which is recognized as revenue when it is received.

(b) Capital Assets

Capital assets are stated in cost and are amortized over a period which reflects their useful lives. The following rates of amortization are applied using the declining balance method.

Office furniture and equipment	=	20%
Church equipment	=	30%
Computer equipment	=	30%
Computer software	=	100%
Leasehold improvements	=	30%

3. Capital Assets

The following is a schedule of capital assets:

	2008		2009	
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Cost	Accumulated Amortization
Office furniture and equipment	\$ 15,411	\$ 7,205	\$ 14,813	\$ 7,149
Church equipment	23,120	13,310	20,277	11,463
Computer equipment	15,000	12,217	17,340	11,219
Computer software	4,748	4,748	1,258	1,254
Leasehold improvements	2,180	1,118	1,798	879
	\$ 59,759	\$ 47,598	\$ 55,526	\$ 31,974
Net Book Value	\$ 12,161		\$ 23,554	

UNITED CHURCH OF GOD - CANADA

Notes to the Financial Statements

March 31, 2009

4. Related Party Transactions

During the year, the Church received subsidies from the United Church of God, An International Association. The Church is affiliated with this organization.

5. Subsequent Events

In compliance with the Canadian provisions of the provisions of the Canadian Income Tax Act, the Church has provided a schedule of its capital assets.

6. Cash Concentrations

(a) Cash concentrations are held in a bank account at the present time which is held in the name of the United Church of God - Canada. The bank account is held in the name of the United Church of God - Canada. The bank account is held in the name of the United Church of God - Canada. The bank account is held in the name of the United Church of God - Canada.

March 31, 2008	\$ 1,000
March 31, 2009	\$ 1,000
	\$ 1,000

(b) The Church has provided a schedule of its capital assets. The schedule is held in the name of the United Church of God - Canada. The schedule is held in the name of the United Church of God - Canada.

March 31, 2008	\$ 1,000
March 31, 2009	\$ 1,000

SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT WORDS

BY ERNIE MCBRATNEY • VANCOUVER



**“MORE THAN
HALF OF THE
WORLD’S BOOKS...
ARE IN ENGLISH.”**

WE LIVE IN A WORLD OF WORDS. WITHOUT doubt, words are the lifeblood of all modern societies.

The English language is the international language of technology, science, diplomacy and business. About 350 million speak and write English while another 350 million use it as a second language. More than half of the world’s books and 80 per cent of computer text are in English. It thus behooves us in the twenty-first century to express ourselves in clear, concise English, as it is a key factor for success.

So why does writing matter in an age of constant talking? Consider the following:

DID YOU KNOW?

- More information has been produced in the past 50 years than in the previous 5,000 years.
- There are more than 100 million volumes in the Library of Congress.
- Writings produced double every five years.
- 50,000 books are published in the United States every year.
- 10,000 magazines currently published every year. (USA)
- 7,000 scientific studies are written daily worldwide.

WHY USE WORDS?

Some important reasons why we should continue to use words:

- 1) Mend fences.
- 2) Share a story.
- 3) Create contracts and legal documents.
- 4) Report scientific and technological findings.
- 5) Make guarantees that people can trust.
- 6) Sell products.
- 7) Make a resume.
- 8) Persuade someone to love us.
- 9) Protect our reputation.
- 10) Express our feelings.
- 11) Biographical information.
- 12) Entertain others.
- 13) Help others through power of prose.
- 14) Publish our opinions.
- 15) Communicate electronically.
- 16) Record minutes of a meeting.
- 17) Acknowledge milestones such as births, weddings, and deaths.

I love to write but I keep in mind the power of the pen and the responsibility that goes with it. So that’s why I read *The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Writing Well* before turning to the Bible for inspiration and knowledge.

I wanted to share this with you to encourage you to write for *United News Canada*. Writing is a skill that is acquired through study and practice. You can learn to write well – and even enjoy it (like me)! -UNC

UNITED NEWS CANADA

NOW ON-LINE

BY RUTH KERR • CALGARY

UNITED NEWS CANADA NOW HAS ITS OWN website.

Effective immediately, members can download the html version of *United News Canada* at www.unitednewscanada.org.

“This new website gives the publication a lot more room to grow,” says Ken Kerr, Jr. who maintains the site. “From now on, we’ll be able to post more colour pictures with the html versions.”

Kerr adds that the website will have a link to the *United News Canada* archive. Members can view each issue, starting with this one, as a colour pdf file or an html version. (Most of the older issues have been archived as html versions, but without pictures.)

The new website also gives the publication a higher profile. Kerr says the domain name is great advertising for the publication. “It should show up well on search engines,” he says.

The site will be able to count visitors to the page. Kerr says the same technology that is used on www.ucg.ca will be employed.

“We will be able to determine how long people are on the website, what they are looking at, and which country they are in when they visit, along with many other factors,” says Kerr.

The site has been up and running since the beginning of November.



View *United News Canada* on the web!
www.unitednewscanada.org



Words to Live By

COMPILED BY ERNIE MCBRATNEY

Patience is the ability to count down before you blast off.

Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul.

Change is often desirable, frequently necessary and always inevitable.

A habit, if not resisted, soon becomes a necessity.

The reason history repeats itself is that people weren't listening the first time.

No one has so big a house that he does not need a good neighbour.

Some times you have to be silent in order to be heard.

Prayer doesn't need proof. It needs practice.

You can't do much about your ancestors, but you can influence your descendants enormously.

Worry never robs tomorrow of its sorrow; it only saps today of its strength.

Praise follows him who flees from it, but flees from him who follows it.

The shortest way to do many things is to do one at a time.

EXPRESSION “SISTER CHURCHES” CLARIFIED BY VATICAN

“There exists a single Church of Christ, which subsists in the Catholic Church”

ROME: (ZENIT)- The expression “sister Churches” can be used in the “proper sense” only “for those ecclesial communities that have kept the valid episcopate and valid Eucharist,” the Vatican said.

In order to clarify the terms and give greater efficacy to the ecumenical dialogue with other Christian denominations, the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith wrote a “note” of clarification on the expression “sister Churches.”

The text has been sent along with a cover letter to agencies of the Roman Curia, and to the presidents of bishops’ conferences and Eastern synods.

The note is dated June 30 and was published October 28 by the Italian edition of the semi-official Vatican newspaper *L’Osservatore Romano*.

It states that in the ecumenical dialogue the expression “sister Churches” has become the common name “to express the objective bond that exists between the Church of Rome and the Orthodox Churches.”

However, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith warns against the error of believing that the expression “sister Churches” implies “that in reality the one Church of Christ might not exist.” The congregation also made this clarification in Number 17 of the recent “Dominus Iesus” declaration.

There exists a single Church of Christ, which subsists in the Catholic Church, governed by the Successor of Peter and by the Bishops in communion with him.

Because of this, the Vatican note clarifies that, in its proper sense, the expression “sister Churches” is not accurate when it

refers to “the relation of the Catholic Church on one hand and the Anglican Communion and the non-Catholic ecclesial Communities on the other.”

This was also clarified in the same number of “Dominus Iesus” which states: “the ecclesial communities which have not preserved the valid Episcopate and the genuine and integral substance of the Eucharistic mystery, are not Churches in the proper sense; however, those who are baptized in these communities are, by Baptism, incorporated in Christ and thus are in a certain communion, albeit imperfect, with the Church.”

In the accompanying letter, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, explained that the note was “approved by the Holy Father John Paul II in the audience of June 9, 2000,” and its instructions must be considered as “authoritative and binding.”

“It must always be clear when the expression ‘sister Churches’ is used in this proper sense that the universal Church, one, holy, catholic and apostolic is not sister but mother of all the particular Churches,” the document clarifies.

RABBIS PUT OFF DEBATE ON TEMPLE MOUNT

JERUSALEM (AP) -- Israel’s top rabbis have put off discussion of a proposal to build a synagogue at one of the most sensitive spots in the Middle East – the Temple Mount in the Old City of Jerusalem.

The hill where the holy Jewish temples once stood is now the site of the Dome of the Rock shrine and Al Aqsa Mosque, the third-holiest site in Islam.

The mufti of Jerusalem, Ikrema Sabri, who is the senior Islamic official in the holy city, warned that building a synagogue on the hill would set the region and the whole world ablaze, and start a war “that only God knows where it would lead.”

The Chief Rabbinical Council appointed a committee to study all the aspects of the issue while protecting the historic and religious rights of Jews on the Temple Mount, said council spokesman Shaika Rosenfeld. He said the council repeated its earlier ruling that Jews are not allowed to enter the Temple Mount.

Sabri, the mufti, called on the council to reject the proposal, not just delay the debate. He said the hill is Islamic and “is not subject to negotiations.”

VATICAN CALLS FOR INTERNATIONAL STATUTE FOR JERUSALEM

NEW YORK: (INM/ZT) - The Vatican reiterated its belief that peace in Jerusalem will require approval of a guaranteed international statute to govern the holy places.

Before a special committee of the General Assembly in November, the Vatican’s permanent observer at the United Nations reiterated the solution to the question of Jerusalem.

Archbishop Renato Martino presented his proposal during a meeting to study the activities of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

The archbishop expressed the Vatican’s “grave concern” over the recent outbreak of violence in many areas of the region.

The definitive solution to the Mideast conflict must include the question of the city of Jerusalem, the archbishop said.

“In light of the recent violence, the Holy See renews its consistent call for an internationally guaranteed statute to safeguard the sites sacred to Jews, Christians and Muslims,” he said. “The proper recognition of the spiritual patrimony of the three monotheistic religions, under international guarantees, must be a part of the negotiation process which will bring peace to the region.”