

A NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF GOD - CANADA



United News Canada

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The National Council meets in Toronto



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KEEPING OUR VISION

BY GLEN WHITE • CALGARY

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, A DETERMINED long distance swimmer – veteran of many difficult challenges around the world – undertook the dreaded 21-mile Catalina Island swim. The waters off the foggy California coast were unusually frigid, with violently changing currents, and numerous sharks.

Florence Chadwick plunged into the Pacific waters and labored for 16 hours in dense fog, against the shifting, bone-chilling waters. She could hear the crash of shotguns driving off the ever-present sharks as she toiled, one stroke after another. Finally, exhausted and sick of heart, she asked to be pulled into the rescue boat. About that time the depressing fog lifted and she saw the goal – a mere one-half mile away.

In a frank discussion after her swim, Ms. Chadwick confided it wasn't the danger of sharks, the treacherous and turbulent waters, nor the exhaustion that defeated her. It was that the vision of her goal had disappeared. Somewhere, in those 16 hours, the trials had become the focus instead of the goal.

Some weeks later, Florence Chadwick again strode into the Pacific in a second attempt at the Catalina Island swim. The conditions were remarkably similar, the distance no shorter, and the dull thud of the shotgun blasts was a reminder of the vigilant efforts of her rescue boat crew. The water conditions hadn't changed since her first attempt, and the fog once again shrouded the channel in a heavy, grey blanket.

However, this time the outcome was different. She met all challenges and trials, bested any records to date – including the top male records by a

very wide margin. She scrambled out of the demanding Pacific waters onto the beach of Catalina Island to the cheers of those assembled.

Florence Chadwick, recaptured the vision of victory. First, she envisioned conquering collective trials and circumstances; and secondly, walking onto the beach of Catalina Island a winner! This picture kept the flame of hope alive and fired her motivation.

The violence and tragedy of the terrorist attacks on the United States still cast a long shadow on our daily lives. These recent events raise troubling questions for us, and can cause us, too, to lose sight of our vision. Is this the beginning of Jacob's trouble? How far will the U.S. go to crush global terrorism coalitions? How safe is air travel? Will we be exposed to bio-terrorism?

As worrisome as they are, world events are the sharks, the violent currents and the fog that obscures the future. They really have nothing to do with the vision that God the Father and the Christ have revealed to us and for us. These are the Satanic distractions trying to cloud or dissipate our vision and motivation.

In remaining dedicated and motivated to our present calling, each of us must develop our own vivid, personal vision. No matter how thick the fog or strong the currents, we stay our course. For any of us to be distracted now, so close to our goal, would be tragic.

The flame of God's magnificent vision burns brightly, and it always lights the way. -UNC

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NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETS IN TORONTO

SUBMITTED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL



THE CANADIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL MET Thursday night, November 29 through Sunday morning, December 1, 2001 in Toronto. Members flying in from the West were happily greeted with mild temperatures and green grass. This was quite a contrast to the meetings held last December in Penticton.

Meetings on Thursday evening began at 7:30 and lasted three hours. Festival Coordinators were asked to give a brief description of observations from the Feast of Tabernacles. As usual, Ed van Pelt had prepared charts to help everyone see growth in the various areas of the Church and work. Among other comparisons, the charts show which media outreach methods bring in subscribers and why people have been

removed from our subscription list. An ongoing difficulty is people moving and not giving their new address to the National Office. (The *Good News* is mailed to the old address and Canada Post sends it back to the office and requires us to pay the postage for its return. So the Church loses a subscriber and pays twice for the postage!)

The brainstorming session is a time set aside to discuss items individual Council members think are important for the Council to consider. This time issues concerning another *Reader's Digest* ad, encouragement for members to become involved in "good works" projects, changing the current Council composition, and a definition for "salaried" and "non-salaried" Council members were brought up and assigned to committees for further discussion.

On Friday, the Council met for the first time in the new National Office. Eric Livermore gave his final report on the Office Relocation. The Livermores were then presented with a token of appreciation from the Council for the time and effort they expended in locating a new office facility. Since this office will be used to do God's work, Richard Pinelli was asked to offer a prayer for the dedication of the office.

Above: The National Council meets in Toronto.

Below Left: Canadian Operations Manager, Anthony Wasilkoff, (left) presents Eric and Carol Livermore with a gift in appreciation for their work on a task force for the office relocation.

Photos by Rainer Salomaa



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NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETS IN TORONTO

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**“ARTHUR DAVID,
UCG-CANADA’S
LEGAL COUNCIL,
WAS INVITED
TO THE FRIDAY
AFTERNOON
MEETING.”**

The Council broke into the four committees (Ethics/Finance, Governance, Pastoral, and Strategic Planning) for meetings for the rest of the morning. During the afternoon, committee reports were given and the Council had time to ask questions and give suggestions to the committees.

David Palmer gave a presentation on Media Outreach. “Media outreach is how a person comes in contact [with the Church] in the first place,” he said. “Preaching the gospel is what happens afterward.” He mentioned that when we look at media, we must look at the cost of the advertisement plus the cost of sending out the product. Mr. Palmer then related several ideas the Media Committee and Operations Manager are considering as media outreach.

Arthur David, UCG-Canada’s legal council, was invited to the Friday afternoon meeting.

His input is very valuable to help us better understand the legal aspects and implications of our By-laws. Mr. David was able to answer several questions from the Council. At the end of the day, he complimented the Council and Operations Manager on how well things are running.

Each year, Council must approve the Strategic Plan, Operations Plan and Budget to be sent to National Conference. It must also approve the Agenda for the Annual National Conference meeting in March. These were all reviewed and approved during the Friday afternoon and Sunday morning sessions.

The last item on the agenda was unfinished business. During this time, the Council discussed the idea of outreach and is in favour of community service and outreach projects. -UNC

OPEN HOUSE SABBATH IN TORONTO

BY LINDA WASILKOFF • TORONTO

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NATIONAL Council meetings, the Toronto congregation held an Open House. Because the hall is almost at maximum capacity, letters of invitation were

not sent to subscribers. However, members were encouraged to invite interested friends to attend the service to hear guest speakers Richard Pinelli and Rainer Salomaa.



In anticipation of a larger-than-normal crowd, an overflow room was set up. It was a good thing, as a record 145 were in attendance that day. At least two of those were in attendance for the first time.

Two very moving split sermons were delivered. Rainer Salomaa gave the first one: “Obadiah: Prophecies for Our Time.” Richard Pinelli then spoke on how “The Goodness of God Leads Us to Repentance.” -UNC

Left: Mr. Glen White of Calgary leads hymns during the Toronto Open House Sabbath. (Photo by Ed van Pelt)

A SLIGHT EDGE: THE ELDERS' CONFERENCE IN TORONTO

BY GEORGE CARTER • OTTAWA



Left: Richard Pinelli, Director of Ministerial Services in the United States.

Photo by Rainer Salomaa

WE WERE PRIVILEGED THIS YEAR TO HAVE Mr. Richard Pinelli, Director of Ministerial Services in the United States, conduct various sessions of the Elders' Conference here in Canada. (Mr. Pinelli attended the meetings at the invitation of Chairman Rainer Salomaa.) He began by briefly reviewing our history (including seven years which he and his wife, Mary, had spent in Canada) our progress, and plans for the future.

Anyone who takes the floor at these conferences is likely to find himself in the "hot seat," so to speak, and we appreciated the calm, considerate way in which Mr. Pinelli handled the many questions which were raised – and his lively sense of humour as ministers and guests bantered back and forth. Our guests remarked on the openness of questions and answers. One guest said that was the first time, in her long history with various groups, that she had ever felt free to raise a question herself. Of particular interest to many was the news, from the U.S. Ministerial Director, that increasing effort was to be directed toward French translation of our literature.

In the following sessions, conducted on Sunday and Monday, December 1st and 2nd, Mr. Pinelli handed out a lot of educational material developed by a number of ministers with various areas of expertise. He reviewed this with us, and said that more was in the pipeline. Our focus in the ministry of the Church today is on education and in pursuit of this goal, all of the ABC classes will eventually be taped and placed in church libraries. This is something that congregations around the world have asked for, and it shows the hunger our people have for the meat of the Word. A good foundation has been laid, but we must go on to maturity.

What we are trying to do in UCG is to gain "a slight edge." What does that mean? It means putting in a little bit of extra effort to reach a new level of competence. It means putting in a little bit of extra study, a little more prayer, a little more focusing of our time and effort toward reaching the goal that is set before us. It is that little bit more, Mr. Pinelli suggested, that makes all the difference.

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“WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO IN UCG IS TO GAIN ‘A SLIGHT EDGE.’”

A SLIGHT EDGE: ELDERS' CONFERENCE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

**“YOU ARE NOT
OUT TO BEAT
THE WORLD,
BUT JUST TO BE
A LITTLE BIT
BETTER EACH
TIME.”**

Our differences, as individuals, are much smaller than most people imagine. It is like the photo-finish in a race – the win is provided by the slimmest of margins, almost negligible (almost), but it provides the win! We do not need to be twice as good as the rest.

And quite often, because you have taken that slight advantage to begin with, it puts you in a forward position for the next effort. It can give you a better perspective, a more realistic goal, because you realize that it takes only a little bit more. You are not out to beat the world, but just to be a little bit better each time.

We do not try to do it alone – that would be foolishness – but we do have a great benefactor who will help us if only we will ask. A remarkable little book made it to the best-seller list this last year, remarkable in that it is based on an obscure passage buried in the genealogical tables of I Chronicles (4:10). It is the short, focused prayer of an otherwise unknown man, Jabez. He cried to God saying, “Oh that You would bless me and enlarge my border, and that Your hand might be with me, and You would keep me from evil so that it might not hurt me!”

Mr. Pinelli, noting the brevity of this prayer, said that it was only necessary for us to focus our attention and apply the principles: A) to seek our Father’s blessing first; B) to ask that He might enlarge our sphere of influence for good in this world, that the Church might indeed fulfill the commission He has given us; and C) that He

might protect us from evil in every quarter.

Having urged us to do a little bit more, Mr. Pinelli, in his inimitable way, proceeded to give us some more to do! The following highly condensed sessions dealt with Practical Preaching, Christ-Centered Servant Leadership, and Finishing the Race.

By way of encouragement, the U.S. Ministerial Director told us that several ministers from CGCF and the Remnant Church are expected to be credentialed shortly. The Church have been working with these men for about two years now. Together with others being considered for ordination, we should have 30 new ministers in United in 2002, and that will bring the total up to 448 worldwide.

Apart from this, a program has been developed for Leadership Training, not always leading to ordination, but aimed at developing various skills in individuals serving the Church. We will begin to implement it shortly, and our Financial Plan is made to cover the hiring of three people a year, so long as the budget allows.

Overall, the Church is showing healthy signs of stabilizing after the trauma of the past few years, and it is growing considerably. We will continue to explore options and develop methods of enhancing the work of the Church. Meanwhile, our flagship publication, the *Good News* magazine, is poised to break the half million mark in the near future. Not bad for just six years! -UNC

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Grandparents Jerry and Jean Jantzen wish to welcome their 26th grandchild, Abigayle Emma Jean, born September 28, 2001. Abigayle weighed in at 8 lbs, 4 oz., and is a sister for Kaleb, Isaiah and Zach. -UNC

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A TORONTO BABY BOOM

BY PATRICIA ROMEO • TORONTO

THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF DAVE AND Tracy Mercer, Dan and Julie Morasse, and Murray and Lissa Palmatier, Toronto is experiencing a small population explosion – a “baby boom!” Since the inception of the Toronto congregation of the United Church of God in 1995, these three couples have been, and will be responsible for a near five per cent increase in church growth.

In honour of our three newest infant arrivals, a small celebration was held after the Sabbath service of December 1, 2001. Seventeen day-old Jacob Morasse was present for his first service that week, along with brother, Jordan (four years old), and sister, Josie (two years old) by his side. Landon Palmatier arrived exactly one week too late for the party, but just in time to surprise mom and dad, and two year-old sister Katelyn. Baby Mercer (cousin to Katelyn and Landon) was scheduled to arrive in January.

Following services, each of the couples responsible for our “baby boom” was presented with a card and gift certificate by Pastor Anthony Wasilkoff, on behalf of the congregation. All were then invited to share in a luncheon which included hot hors d’ouvres, sandwiches, vegetables, cheese, crackers and a



Front Row: Jordan Morasse.

Back Row: (L-R) Daniel Morasse, Josie Morasse, Julie Morasse (holding newborn Jacob), Katelyn Palmatier, Murray Palmatier, Lissa Palmatier and Tracy Mercer. Absent: Dave Mercer.

wide assortment of desserts. Two large cakes were cut by the parents and shared amidst fellowship and congratulations. Leonilda Caputo, a baker by profession, was responsible for the beautiful cakes, in the shapes of pink and blue baby booties and a white baby dress.

Though the celebration was intended to be a surprise, Lissa Palmatier became suspicious when she saw the decorations, and had to assume that the baby blue and pink balloons were not in honour of our visiting Canadian Council members, or our guest speakers, Rainer Salomaa and Richard Pinelli. Little Jordan, Josie and Katelyn were also pleased with the decorations, as each of them were able to take a balloon home.

The Toronto congregation is thrilled by its little population explosion, and prays that God’s Spirit will guide and bless these parents as they raise their families in the understanding and living of God’s way. -UNC

TORONTO'S BABY BOOM STATISTICS • 2001-02				
NAME	BORN	WEIGHT	LENGTH	CAREER RECORD
Jacob Daniel Morasse	Nov 14/01	7 lbs/4 oz	20"	Born after Breakfast
Landon Joshua Palmatier	Dec 8/01	7 lbs/11 oz	21"	Born before Bedtime
Baby Mercer ... (at press time, Baby Mercer had not yet arrived!)				

MADE IN CANADA

NATIONAL OFFICE RELOCATES

BY KEVIN FORD • TORONTO



The new Canadian National Office in Halton Hills, northwest of Toronto.

(Photo by Ed van Pelt)

SINCE NOVEMBER 1996, WHEN IT relocated from the tiny suite it initially occupied on the floor above, the National Office served the Canadian brethren from a sixth floor suite on Toronto's Islington Avenue. Although the rent was modest by the standards of Canada's largest city, the dramatic growth in the *Good News* mailing list over the ensuing years (necessitating the constant moving of large amounts of literature up and down six floors), made the suite an increasingly unsatisfactory location, and with the expiry of the lease approaching, a move was being considered.

By last summer, however, no obvious alternative had been found, so with just a few months still to go on the five-year lease, the Canadian Council appointed Eric Livermore, a member from the Ottawa area, as a "task force" to find new premises. Eric, whose wife, Carol, is a member of the Canadian Council, soon found a firm with its own buildings located in a semi-rural location in Halton Hills, northwest of Toronto. The firm, Fishburn Building Sciences Group Inc., had 2,400 square feet of surplus office space which had just become vacant, and was being offered for less than half the rent currently being paid in

Toronto. After extensive reviews by Eric Livermore, Operations Manager Anthony Wasilkoff, the office staff, and by several Council members, the decision was made to go ahead with a three-year lease, commencing October 15, 2001.

The move was a hectic experience for the office staff, who also had to cope with the extra work involved with the Fall Festival, but all hurdles were overcome and the relocation took place during the final week of October.

The new premises consist of two separate sections – a main floor area, where the Fishburn staff also have offices, and a larger basement area, originally designed as living accommodation for the building's owner, which includes such homey refinements as a fireplace and wood beams. It was decided to use the main floor area for reception and as office space for Ed van Pelt, Kevin Ford and Linda Wasilkoff. The basement area houses the mailing operations and offices for Anthony Wasilkoff, Wayne Lue and George Carter. Although the main floor is shared with the landlord's staff, they have proved themselves very friendly and co-operative, and the arrangement has so far worked well.

The relocation to an out-of-town location has necessitated a reorganization of some office functions, such as mail pickup and delivery, and banking, but there is the compensation of looking forward to hot summer days when staff members can take lunch breaks on the sun deck or stroll through landscaped grounds to the miniature lake.

The new premises have already hosted some of the November 2001 meetings of the Canadian National Council, and open houses have been held to introduce the facilities to the Toronto church. We believe that God has blessed our efforts to find a suitable location for the conduct of His Work in Canada in these end times, and look forward to the challenge of preaching the Gospel of God's soon-coming Kingdom to this great nation! -UNC

OBITUARY: CHARLES PERCIVAL HOUSE HILLARD

BY DESMOND BURKE • PENTICTON

CHARLES PERCIVAL HOUSE HILLARD DIED November 1, 2001. He was 97.

Friends and relatives gathered to pay their respects to a man they knew and loved as a husband, a father, a grandfather, and a highly-respected friend and man of his word.

Charles was born in Portsmouth, England, February 2, 1904. When he was seven years old, his father brought him and his brother to Canada. There is a poem that many of us may have read in years gone by entitled, *The Road Not Taken*. We have all, at least once in our lives, pondered the question, "What if?"

Charles' father had booked passage to Canada for himself and his two sons on the maiden voyage of the famous and ill-fated *Titanic*. Circumstances, unknown to us, caused him to change his plans and take an earlier sailing. This was, for Charles Hillard, the road not taken! How happy we all are for the guiding hand of Almighty God in protecting him from that trip.

Charles Hillard was a man who loved life and consistently chose the good things of life! He learned to love the Creator God and revered the word of God deeply. His long life is a testimony to the great respect he had for the ways of God as outlined in the Holy Scriptures. He was a long time member of the Church of God!

He is survived by his wife, Cassie (Berg) Hillard of Penticton; two daughters, Linda (Larry) Halverson, Parksville, B.C., and Judi (Orville) Thomas, Grande Prairie, Alberta; son, Larry (Gerry) Berg, Seattle, Washington;



son-in-law Elmer & (Hildy) Bergman of Winnipeg, Manitoba. He was predeceased by Bea Bergman. Also surviving are 10 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Imperial Oil Company employed Charles for 46 happy and fulfilling years. On retirement he and his wife traveled extensively, making some 21 trips to Hawaii over the years.

Music was one of Charles' passions. The pieces chosen for the memorial service were *Jerusalem* and *The Holy City*, both pieces which Charles himself had sung on occasions in the past.

Desmond Burke conducted the service on November 6, 2001. -UNC

“CHARLES’ FATHER HAD BOOKED PASSAGE TO CANADA ... ON THE MAIDEN VOYAGE OF THE FAMOUS AND ILL-FATED *TITANIC*.”

NEW CANADIAN CHURCH PASTOR

PROFILE OF GRAEMME & LYNN MARSHALL



Lynn and Graemme Marshall.

Graemme Marshall, a native of Western Australia, was employed as a Bank officer for seven years. Then, shortly after being called into the Church in 1962, he left Australia for Ambassador College in Bricket Wood. It

there he met his wife-to-be, Lynn Johnstone, another Australian from Warwick, Queensland. Both Graemme and Lynn consider it a privilege to have had personal contact and marriage counselling with the Armstrongs when on a visit to the Bricket Wood Campus. Indeed, Mrs Loma Armstrong told Graemme and Lynn they were in her view already engaged – a pronouncement to which they had no objection!

At Graduation in 1966, they were married in the college Music Hall and then returned to Australia via Zurich, Interlaken, Geneva, Rome, Jerusalem and Athens. Their Australian landfall was Sydney, where Graemme, newly ordained as a local elder, was employed as a ministerial trainee. Lynn was the receptionist in the Church's Sydney office, which was then the Australian headquarters of the church.

A little over a year later, Graemme and Lynn were transferred to establish the church in Auckland, New Zealand. Soon after an office also opened and Graemme was Regional Director for seven years for the rapidly-growing work in New Zealand and the South Pacific. Their son, Brad, and daughter, Tania, are both honorary Kiwis, having been born in Auckland.

Returning to Australia in 1974, Graemme and Lynn served in various pastoral responsibilities including a year's sabbatical at Pasadena. Then, in 1984 they were transferred to pastor Calgary, Alberta. A transfer back to

Australia took place in 1992. It was there, in a stand against the false doctrines being promulgated by former church leaders, that Graemme became the first minister in Australia to resign, in May of 1995. He then shepherded the small group of faithful UCG members in both Brisbane and Melbourne through the early weeks and months of the new beginning for God's people.

Over UCG's seven years, the Marshalls played a major part in the life of the United Church of God - Australia. Graemme obtained and organized the first Feast site, in Noosa, where he was festival coordinator every year except one, when he and Lynn kept the Feast in Hobart. He has been a member of the National Council, Pastoral Committee Chairman, member of the Media Committee and, at an international level, a writer and editorial reviewer for UCG-IA.

Graemme acknowledges Lynn as a valuable part of his ministry. (Lynn's late mother, Nettie Johnstone, was one of the earliest members of the Church in Australia.) Lynn's life-long love and skill with horses resulted in her becoming a certified equestrian coach and dressage judge, both in Australia and Canada. Another strong interest is floral art, and Lynn's skill in this area has inspired other ladies in the Church. Lynn was also an invaluable contributor to the success of the Australia-wide waiting room program, calling over 850 medical offices throughout Australia.

Graemme and Lynn now look forward to renewing ties with Canada and Canadian friends. Both their children live on the North American continent: Brad and his wife, Carmen, Ambassador College graduates, live in Denver, Colorado. And Tania, a UCG member, is completing a Master's program at the University of Calgary.

Now with the pastoring challenge of Ottawa and Montreal, Graemme is taking up a French language course to gain a reasonable proficiency for serving French-speaking members and people. -UNC

THE BETTER TRAVEL PLAN

BY ANTHONY WASILKOFF • OPERATIONS MANAGER

AT THIS TIME OF YEAR, WE COME ACROSS many advertisements urging us to take a winter vacation in a warmer climate. We are enticed to venture to California, Arizona or Florida for a few weeks' reprieve from the ravages of winter. Pictures of Mexico, Portugal and Spain beckon the weather-weary Canadian to enjoy all the amenities that those balmy regions have to offer. One of the principal amenities is a more favorable exchange rate for the ever faltering Canadian dollar!

When the potential traveler wonders about the costs involved, the real figures are often hidden by the use of the preposition "from." But then it doesn't really matter because the promoters encourage the travelling public to "go now and pay later." It is so easy. All we have to do is use a major credit card and then hope we can handle the 18 per cent interest rate that we will be charged until the amount is finally paid off. As a result, a high price tag becomes ever higher!

How different is God's approach toward travel and associated costs as evidenced by His instructions related to the observance of the Feast of Tabernacles. Our loving Creator has given us the annual Fall Festival as a vacation with Him. We experience more than a week of educational and spiritual learning. We meet different people in various venues. We travel to different parts of the country and different parts of the world. The opportunity for broadening our horizons on many levels is vast.

But what about the finances? How do we pay for all this? The principle God employs is just the opposite one the world offers. It is not at all "go now, pay later." Instead it is "save now and go later." That makes far more sense to the fiscally-responsible person.

According to the directives given in the Bible, the believer is to save 10 per cent of his or her income for the expenses to be incurred in observing the annual Holy Days. Deuteronomy 14:22-25 states:



**“HOW DIFFERENT
IS GOD’S
APPROACH TO
TRAVEL....”**

“You shall truly tithe all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year. ...[T]hat you may learn to fear the LORD your God always. But if the journey is too long for you ... then you shall exchange it for money, take the money in your hand, and go to the place which the LORD your God chooses.”

Thousands of adherents of the Holy Days have followed this savings plan for decades. The Festival tithe is deposited in a separate account and is used exclusively to observe each of the seven festivals. Of course, the bulk of this expense occurs celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles.

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THE BETTER TRAVEL PLAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

“THROUGH THE YEARS WE HAVE HEARD OF INSPIRING ACCOUNTS OF PEOPLE ... WHO FOUND WAYS TO SAVE ... FOR THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES.”

The Church asks Festival attendee to donate 10 per cent of their festival tithe amount in order for the costs of planning and maintaining each Feast site to be met. We have customarily used the term “tithe of a tithe” for this amount.

Several months have transpired since the Feast of Tabernacles in 2001. How much Festival tithe have you saved up to now? Have you chosen to diligently set aside 10 per cent from each income source for future Festival use? Probably you have. And if you have, you will be blessed accordingly.

You will be able to meet all of your festival costs and you may even have something extra to help others with. Often, many faithful Festival tithe savers find that they accumulate more than they require for their own needs. They then kindly help those less fortunate than themselves. Such generosity and kindness is greatly admired and appreciated. Most of all, God notices and is pleased.

What if your income is limited and you are pretty sure you won't be able to save enough to observe the Festivals? Should you bother saving anything at all? Absolutely! God's directive to us is that we should save 10 per cent from our income sources no matter how great or how small. Each of us must do our part. The principle is, “He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least, is unjust also in much” (Luke 16:10).

Through the years we have heard of inspiring accounts of people in dire circumstances who found ways to save up for the Feast of Tabernacles. They collected pop bottles, picked berries, delivered newspapers and did various odd jobs. All the monies earned from these secondary sources were then deposited into their festival account. When the Feast arrived, these individuals had (with God's blessing)

been able to save up a significant amount!

The Church wishes to help those in financial distress to attend the Holy Days. The principle the Church follows is to help people help themselves. Those who have clearly done their part are assisted as much as the budget will allow. Those who have not done their part cannot be helped because merit is a necessary and qualifying factor.

More than once I have been asked why it seems that some folks don't appear to save appropriately in order to keep the Feast. The question is sometimes framed: “How is it that they have the funds to buy material goods and possessions that are even better than mine but they don't seem to have the funds to set aside to keep the Feast?”



That is a fair question. It would seem that this matter has to do with priorities. We devote our financial resources to those things that are important to us. That is why God directs us to save a tithe for the functioning of the church and an additional tithe so that we can observe the Feast. If He didn't actually direct humans to do that, humans would tend *not* to do so.

The Spring Holy Days are about two months away. The Fall Holy Days are about eight months away. There is still time left to save for those wonderful occasions in accordance to God's saving plan. The intent of our Creator is that we can rejoice at His festivals and do so without going into debt. His design is that instead of “going now and paying later,” we “save now and feast later.” God's ways are superior and they really do work. How wonderful are the Holy Days and how wonderful is the financial plan to observe them. -UNC

WOMEN OF COURAGE

BY ROBERT BERENDT • EDMONTON



THE BOOK OF HEBREWS HAS A CHAPTER that acknowledges the great faith and courage of the people of God. This is Hebrews 11. In this chapter we read of some of the brave men – and women – whom God compliments. Often, we do not recognize the courage that women have shown in the scriptures. During the ministry of Jesus, there were many courageous women who served with bravery. Here is just a glimpse of an event that inspires me every time I read it.

Mark 15:40-41 describes the crowd of people who were witness to the cruel death of Jesus Christ. It says there were many women who came up with Him to Jerusalem. (The distance from Galilee to Jerusalem is about 100 miles one way.) Here was a large group of women who walked – the favourite mode of travel – with Christ and His disciples the 100 miles from Galilee to Jerusalem and

back again. This they did about three times each year. It took enormous dedication to be a follower of Jesus. His life had been in danger for quite a long time. To be present at His death was an act of love and courage.

Life under Roman rule was not pleasant for the Jews in Jesus' lifetime. Romans were the conquerors and had little respect or liking for the Jewish people. The feeling was mutual as the Jews considered the Romans pagan and unclean. Judea was a dangerous place to be, and the danger was especially real when Jesus was being put to death.

Mark 15:40 says the women stood quite far away just as Jesus died. He died of a brutal spear thrust into His side. No doubt the soldiers moved the crowds back. John 19:25-27 explains that among Jesus' last words

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WOMEN OF COURAGE

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**“CONSIDER THE
COURAGE IT
WOULD TAKE TO
GO INTO A GARDEN
FULL OF SOLDIERS
WHO WERE
ON GUARD.”**

were instructions to John and His mother, Mary. It wasn't safe for anyone to stand that close to the condemned, which John and Mary must have done in order to hear Christ's words. He was near the end of His battle. He had little breath left and His voice would have been little more than a whisper. Mary Magdalene, Jesus' mother, Jesus' Aunt Mary, and the disciple John must have been almost next to His feet in order to hear Him speak. The soldiers were still present and in control of the area. The danger was intense. The unseen power of Satan was also part of the scene. One can only marvel at these courageous women.

The book of Mark also tells us about the faithful and brave women staying with Jesus' friends until the body was hastily buried (Mark 15:47). Jesus' mother was one of those women – and every mother can imagine the pain she must have suffered during this horrendous event.

It seems the women noticed something about the wrapping that was not completed during the burial of Jesus Christ. This was most likely due to the approaching Sabbath and the lack of preparation time. The women, including Jesus' mother, prepared the necessary spices. They then observed the Sabbaths, and at the first opportunity they went to the burial site very early Sunday morning. John 20:1 says it was still dark. We cannot be sure where the women spent the night, but the walk would have taken some time. They may have walked for an hour at a dangerous time for women to be outside. No doubt they had to fight back dread of what they

would have to do. The task before them would take all the courage they could muster. They seemed to show no fear. Their only thought was to do this important job. It was a work of love.

The story in Mark 16 is remarkable. Consider the courage it would take to go into a garden full of soldiers who were on guard. Consider the strong hearts that would have been able to unwrap the corpse and anoint it with the spice mixture and then rewrap the body. These women were not strangers just doing a job, they were the closest women in the life of Jesus Christ. John 20:11 expresses just a little of the extreme sorrow that was felt. The weeping had been going on for three days and nights.

Later in history, the Apostle Paul (then Saul of Tarsus) was responsible for some great acts of courage from Jesus' followers during his persecution of the Church before he was converted. There can be no doubt that Paul, too, was impressed and understood that in God's sight there is no difference between male and female when it comes to expressing faith and holding fast to Jesus Christ. Women had also suffered persecution for their belief in Jesus. Perhaps that was in Paul's mind when he wrote in the Galatians 3:28, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

The Book of Life before the throne of Almighty God does not have a special section for men and another for women. You will find all the chosen and faithful together on the same page! -UNC

Words to Live By

COMPILED BY
ERNIE MCBRATNEY

Diligence delivers dividends.

Repentance is change from the inside.

Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down without walls.

A person without self-discipline is unable to control his own destiny.

People should use their experiences to help and comfort others.

We are a product of time and chance. Sometimes, no matter how careful we are, accidents can and will happen.



Abased himself, not as the son of the morning
 A king of kings who served obediently, gave us all
 a warning:
 He will come quickly.

Of the seed of David, good keeper of his flock,
 Who set his aim for His law, and stayed locked.
 The scorn a king had conquered is to endure the
 impossible.
 Full of the Holy Spirit, merciful and inexhaustible.
 The enemy oft tested Him when His body was
 depleted.
 Even still, his quest was completed.

Within the pages of the book, is infinite truth and
 wisdom,
 Exemplars for our profit, training for the Kingdom.
 Take heed, the time is close to prepare and embark.
 Else we be as those outside of the ark.

I feel such a flawed creature as me,
 Is not deserving of a great destiny.
 You know me, El Shaddai.
 You make my heart keep each beat.
 Every wisp of air you lend to me.
 You grant us a gift of a golden tomorrow.
 I will emulate your way despite my (stubborn)
 bone's marrow.

All living things reflect your mastery.
 You have planned for me a purpose to fulfill,
 I will, incline my ear to you, to be rebuked.
 That I may perfect my imperfections and remain
 astute.
 Whether I fall in a pit, there is always a breach of
 light.
 Your mighty arm pulls me from the depths of
 deception and carnal delights.
 All your words are the music of my heart.
 Though the path is long, it is shortened by the love
 you impart.
 Yes, ever since our humble start.

When I hunger, you cause crops to grow,
 And when I thirst, once more, the waters flow.
 I forsake my sins, You erase my mistakes.
 Let me forget hate and the froward way.
 Your laws are the haven from the harmful days.
 Let me regard the lives of the widow, the poor,
 orphan and oppressed.
 Make you likeness in me, I am yours to sow, mold,
 maintain and manifest.

You are part of me Eternal One, by spirit mind and
 the setting sun.
 My sights are set you hold my walk at mast.
 Keep me poised Father, I will hold fast.
 Bless me with the humility of Moses and David's
 admittance of flaw.
 Let me bask in the light that is Your law.
 For when I rely on my own rules, I am but a fool.
 God the Lord, lead me, be my shepherd,
 Teach me the way I should go, guide me to my
 utmost goal.
 Now my life is in your hands Lord, in You I trust.
 Truly I am comforted that I am dust.

EU TO ARAFAT: DISMANTLE HAMAS AND ISLAMIC JIHAD

JERUSALEM: (*The Jerusalem Post*) - European Union foreign ministers recently met in Brussels and declared Hamas and Islamic Jihad terror networks.

The EU ministers’ declaration also said that Chairman Yasser Arafat’s Palestinian Authority must expend all efforts to dismantle these two organizations.

The ministers’ statement warned Arafat that he must arrest and try all those connected to Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

A demand was also made for the PA-controlled Arabic language media to call for an end to armed violence against Israel.

French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine said his fellow foreign ministers in the 15-nation European Union would call on Arafat “to dismantle terrorist organizations.”

A statement, to be issued later today, would be the EU’s first such appeal to Arafat.

However, Vedrine said the Europeans were not siding with Israel. The EU statement would also urge the Israeli government to halt military operations against the Palestinians in retaliation for bomb attacks.

(Editors Note: The Church of God has taught for a number of years that Biblical prophecy indicates that a United Europe will eventually become influential in Middle Eastern affairs.)

EUROPE NEVER THE SAME AGAIN

LONDON: (*The Guardian*) - Nothing on this scale – with the economic and political potential to transform an entire continent – has ever been attempted before. As of January 1st, 2002, 300 million people in 12 European countries gave up their national currencies and use just one single one.

On E-Day the new year was toasted from Calais to Salerno and Vienna to Estoril in Portugal. Euro banknotes and coins come into circulation in the largest cash changeover the world has ever seen.

By February 28, francs, marks, guilders, drachmas, escudos, pesetas, lire, schillings and punts are gone, kept as mementoes or dumped into shredders, incinerators and the dustbin of monetary history.

With a staggering 50 billion coins and 14.5 billion in banknotes entering circulation in a logistical operation of unprecedented size and complexity, the dangers – of fraud, disenchantment and sheer chaos – over the first several months are huge.

Yet understandable worries about practicalities should not mask the significance of this extraordinary, momentous leap in the dark. In the two years since Euroland’s independent states surrendered their right to devalue money or set interest rates – the most important attributes of national economic sovereignty – the euro has remained an abstraction of accounting and financial markets for most people.

But now that this “virtual” currency has become a real one, argues Pedro Solbes, commissioner for monetary affairs, “citizens will hold a piece of Europe in their hands every day.”

Wim Duisenberg, the Dutch president of the European Central Bank, agrees: “It will, I believe, help to change the way in which we think about one another as Europeans. The euro is more than just a currency. It is a symbol of European integration in every sense of the word.”

E-Day’s origins lie in the ashes of the Second World War, and the revolutionary idea that reconciled enemies would pool parts of their sovereignty so that conflict between them would no longer be possible.

But one thing is clear: Europe will never be the same again.

CANADA NEEDS A REVOLUTION

KINGSTON, ON: (*Whig-Standard*) - The reference to Canada’s need for a revolution was printed in the Canadian publication REPORT magazine. According to the article, Military chaplains are now forbidden to mention Jesus Christ, the Lord’s Prayer or any Christian formula (such as Father, Son and Holy Spirit) in public services for our soldiers heading overseas on peacekeeping missions. The decision, needless to say, was made by the army’s chaplain-general. The report did not reveal his Christian denomination but in any case, the mere mention of Jesus or Christianity, he fears, would distress Muslims. -UNC