

A NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF GOD - CANADA



United News Canada

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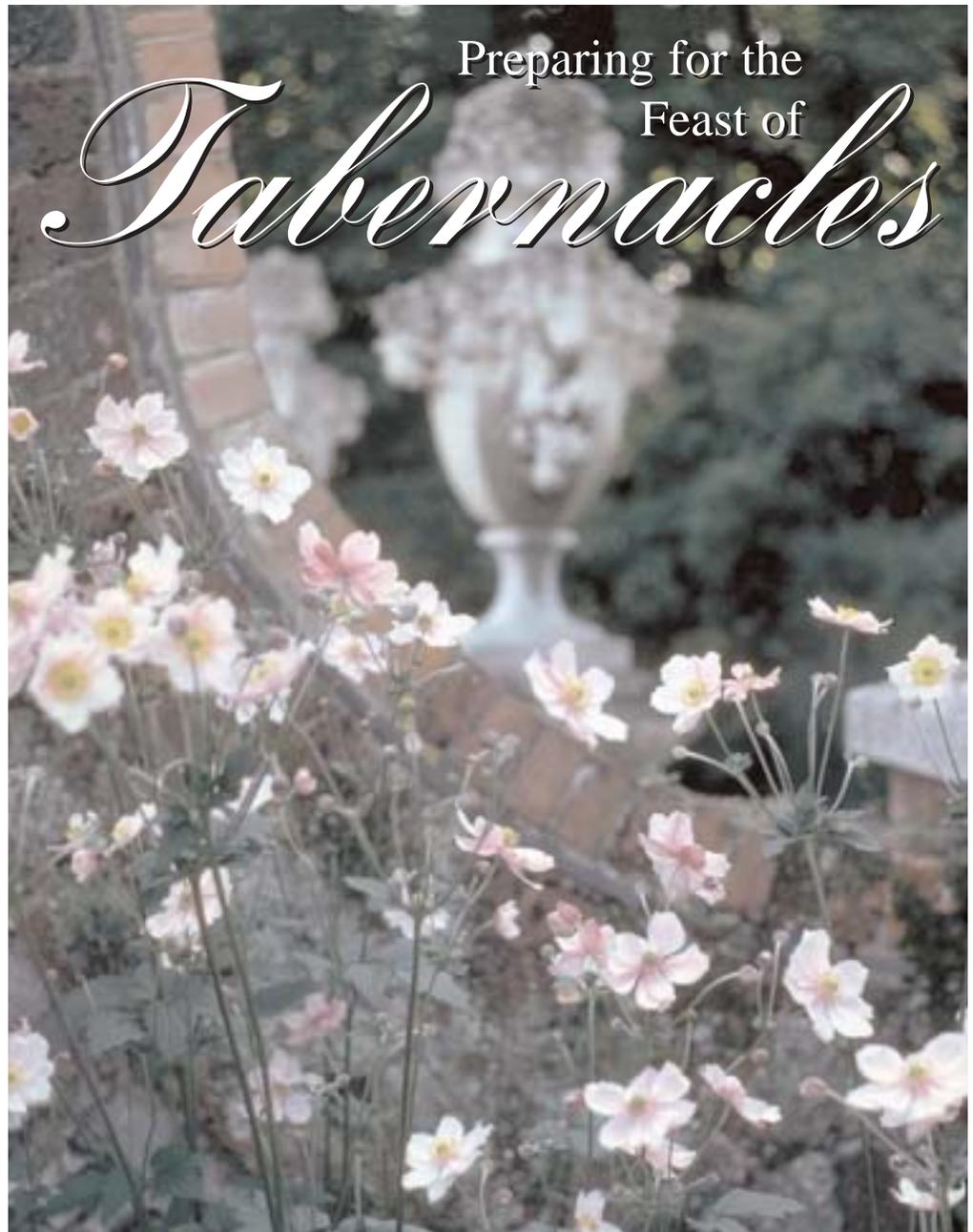
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The True "Spirit" of Tabernacles • The Law of the Kingdom
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Security that Lasts

BY RAINER SALOMAA • EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In early July, an American panel of the Ninth Circuit Court, a very liberal appellate jurisdiction in San Francisco, ruled that the term “under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance was unconstitutional. Congress had introduced this phrase in 1954 when Eisenhower was president. The crusade to eliminate these words was initiated in 1996 by Michael Newdow, a lawyer and an emergency room doctor. He had bought some soap, and glanced at the words IN GOD WE TRUST on the coins that he received in change. He said to himself, “This is offensive. I don’t trust in God.” His aim has been to surgically separate faith from any action of government.

The ruling is a continuation of the church-versus-state controversy. This is just one more attempt to eliminate the name of God from the public eye. There have been cases since 1971 that – for instance – ban prayer at school graduations and even student-led invocations at public high-school football games.

To show how ridiculous things are becoming, I heard a quip about a high school commencement where all the graduates filed in solemnly. The mothers were softly crying. The fathers were sitting there proudly. Dignitaries gave polite speeches getting mild applause, but it wasn’t till at the end that a lone graduating senior got up to the podium, stood there in silence, and then sneezed. Immediately, the graduating class all stood up and in unison said, “God Bless You!” After that, everyone got up and applauded with gusto. They had found a way to legally invoke God’s name.

Since the Pledge of Allegiance and

The Lord’s Prayer are not allowed in most public schools anymore, because the word “God” is mentioned, a kid in Arizona wrote this “NEW School Prayer:”

*Now I sit me down in school
Where praying is against the rule
For this great nation under God
Finds mention of Him very odd.*

*If Scripture now the class recites,
It violates the Bill of Rights.
And anytime my head I bow
Becomes a Federal matter now.*

*Our hair can be purple, orange or green,
That’s no offense; it’s a freedom scene.
The law is specific, the law is precise.
Prayers spoken aloud are a serious vice.*

*For praying in a public hall
Might offend someone with no faith at all.
In silence alone we must meditate,
God’s name is prohibited by the state.*

*We’re allowed to cuss and dress like freaks,
And pierce our noses, tongues and cheeks.
They’ve outlawed guns, but FIRST the Bible.
To quote the Good Book makes me liable.*

*We can elect a pregnant Senior Queen,
And the ‘unwed daddy,’ our Senior King.
It’s “inappropriate” to teach right from wrong,
We’re taught that such “judgments” do not belong.*

*We can get our condoms and birth controls,
Study witchcraft, vampires and totem poles.
But the Ten Commandments are not allowed,
No word of God must reach this crowd.*

*It’s scary here I must confess,
When chaos reigns the school’s a mess.
So, Lord, this silent plea I make:
Should I be shot; My soul please take!*

Amen.

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Preparing for the Feast of Tabernacles

BY GRAEMME MARSHALL • OTTAWA



Size and Numbers

Our small number at weekly services is multiplied at the Feast for eight days. At sites chosen by the Church as appropriate for a Festival convention we are exposed to many more people. Some we know, many are strangers. Being in a group larger than your local area gives a wonderful sense of belonging to a greater cause. At home you can become insular – narrowed to your part of the world. The greater numbers at a Feast give you a sense of being part of a much larger work. The Feast is also the opportunity to meet new members or renew acquaintances from past years. This, too, is limited in weekly Church activity.

“The greater numbers at a Feast give you a sense of being part of a much larger work.”

All year long we attend weekly Sabbath services, but once a year leave our homes for a holiday destination to stay in a motel or apartment for eight days. The simple reason is because God commands it and Scripture tells it is to both “fear God and rejoice.” The contrast between weekly services and our once-a-year festival helps us appreciate the benefit God intends.

Festival has “Atmosphere”

Many people in an auditorium all worshipping together provides a “high” – an arena-like atmosphere that excites, lifts and carries on for the year to come. A greater gathering of spirit-led people for a specific God-ordained purpose gives a Festival boost.

Weekly Services

The biblical admonition for regular assembly (Hebrews 10:25) is for good reason. We soon learn by Christian experience that weekly instruction at Church is of great spiritual benefit. It provides weekly reinforcement. After a difficult week, Friday sunset marking the Sabbath is most welcome. Fellowship with people of like minds is a renewal and reinforces our living faith in God’s Way of life. Weekly services provide the opportunity for serving in the local Church and learning to cooperate and work together. Weekly services also involve efforts to make the Gospel available to the world.

Now contrast that to our eight-day Festival, where a convention-like setting provides opportunities beyond those available at regular Church services.

Different Speakers

In the “atmosphere” of a Feast, listening to a different perspective can move you to heed the sermon’s message. You may have heard the same thing from your local pastor at regular services, yet in a Festival atmosphere you are emotionally more receptive and likely to take notice. This atmosphere can move you also to make personal commitments to change, do better, try harder – to make new resolutions.



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Preparing for the Feast of Tabernacles

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“A large convention group can set an example that’s more noticeable than in a smaller Church area.”

Theme Focus

The Feast theme is concentrated on the World Tomorrow and Last Great Day resurrection whereas weekly services are more directed to practical Christian living.

Feast Group Example

A large convention group can set an example that’s more noticeable than in a smaller Church area. Activities are an example. The public see a large group of people including children who act differently to the usual crowd display. They see examples of courtesy, responsiveness and appreciation without foul language, smoking, drunks or disorderly behaviour. They most likely see people helping each other. Motel and accommodation managers find members’ behaviour, helpfulness and courtesy over a period of eight days exceptional. They’ll discover people who are not demanding.

Appropriate Gift-Giving Time

A good way to help counteract the pagan festivities of Christmas is to provide Festival gifts for your family. This can help offset peer pressure from school, friends or neighbours when that “jolly pagan” season rolls around. Eight days is also a gift to family. For a whole week parents can have quality time with their children or extended family members.

Anticipation for the Feast is built by planning. So, what things can help brighten the Feast for others?

Before Going...

Find out who won’t be there due to ill health, handicap or age. Note their address and during the Feast send best wishes, a card, flowers, something to show they’re not forgotten at home.

Consider “poorer” members and set aside some “widow’s mite gift” for them during the Feast. It might be help with a meal, a contribution to lodging, or an activity charge.

At the Feast

- Resolve to do a Random Act of Kindness daily. Open a door with a smile and let someone else go first.
- Say a daily positive. Pray about it. Look for something good in others and praise them for it, whether a stranger or Feast-goer.
- Sit in a different place through the eight days. As we tend to sit in the same spot, moving around brings you in contact with others you might not get to meet.
- Visit a cemetery! Really. Think of the dead and what the Last Great Day will mean for those deceased.

Deuteronomy 14:23-36 tells us the underlying spiritual reason is to “learn to fear God.” This is different to weekly services because at the Feast our lifestyle is of a “sojourner” – of a temporary nature. We must provide for temporary living away from our home. This takes money and is why God singled out the saving of a particular tithe to ensure we could pay to go “up to the Feast.”

God also instructs our use of our Feast money. This allows us to not feel we are squandering monies or taking from other yearly needs by splurging, if able, for a wonderful eight days. Financially blessed members give of their money to help others and to assist with festival costs. The way members share their money at the Feast is a unique generosity in a world that reflects covetousness and greed. Saving Festival funds through the year requires acts of faith and trust in God to provide. Living faith means trusting God for favour in taking off vacation time from school, exams, work, career or a family situation not agreeable with your religious commitment.

That trust is amply rewarded by God’s gift of Tabernacles. -UNC

The True “Spirit” of Tabernacles

BY DAVID PALMER • VANCOUVER

Every year we attend the Feast of Tabernacles with great enthusiasm and in accordance with God’s command. We listen to inspiring messages, enjoy good food and fellowship with old friends and new. This is as it should be. God wants us to enjoy ourselves to the fullest as we celebrate with Him (Deuteronomy 14:22-26).

But there is a powerful statement regarding the Feast we should not overlook: “Learn to fear the LORD our God always” (Deuteronomy 14:23).

How often at the fall Festival, when we are getting together with friends or taking in the variety of activities, do we pause and reflect on the real spiritual meaning of the Feast and why we attend every year?

Sometimes we forget that everything God created is but a clay model of God’s real world. He is the Master Potter. We are the clay! The spiritual realm is true reality. The physical is just a reflection of that reality. We are but a shadow.

Remember what the apostle Paul told the Church at Rome: “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead” (Romans 1:20).

God is molding a new heaven, a new earth – and a new you! The Feast of Tabernacles is a very important ingredient to that overall plan!

In a subtle way God gave us spiritual insight into the Holy Days, including the Feast of Tabernacles. God said, “And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. According to all that I show you, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall you make it” (Exodus 25:8-9).

Israel was to construct a physical sanctuary, and God tabernacled among His people.

Then in the New Testament writings of the



apostle John we read, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word was made (built) flesh, and dwelt (tabernacled) among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (John 1:1,14).

Unlike the physical sanctuary of ancient Israel, the new sanctuary was built of flesh. Notice what Christ told His disciples: “If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him” (John 14:23).

The word *abode* can be literally translated to mean “dwelling place,” the place where God lives, where He tabernacles.

So while the Festival is a wonderful time for friends, fellowship and fun activities, it is also a time to reflect on the words of our personal Savior.

“Israel was to construct a physical sanctuary, and God tabernacled among His people.”

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The True “Spirit” of Tabernacles

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“Jesus Christ is the true Tabernacle of God, the focus of the Feast.”

We read in John’s gospel that the Jews demanded a sign of authority from Jesus after He had cleared the temple of the moneychangers. Jesus’ answer surprised them. Notice: “Then answered the Jews and said unto him, ‘What sign do you show unto us, seeing that you do these things?’ Jesus answered and said unto them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’ Then said the Jews, ‘Forty and six years was this temple in building, and will you rear it up in three days?’ But he spoke of the temple of his body” (John 2:18-21).

Jesus Christ is the true Tabernacle of God, the focus of the Feast. The location is merely “the place where God shall choose to place His name.” God is there in spirit, but the Feast of Tabernacles is not about a building or a location.

One of the things we need to recognize when we prepare each year to attend the Feast is that we are on a spiritual journey, not just a physical one!

Notice these powerful analogies in the book of Hebrews: “Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; a minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man” (Hebrews 8:1-2). “But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building” (Hebrews 9:11).

The tabernacle is Jesus Christ, and by analogy the Church which is called the Body of Christ. “Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house. For this man (Jesus) was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who has builded the

house has more honour than the house. [Jesus is the contractor, the builder.] For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God. And Moses truly was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; But Christ as a son over his own house; (tabernacle) whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end” (Hebrews 3:1-6).

The apostle Peter explains it this way: “You also, as living stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:5).

Peter also wrote: “Yes I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle [this body] to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ has showed me. [Referring to the death he would face.] Moreover I will endeavour that you may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance” (2 Peter 1:13-15).

But while our bodies may be likened to temporary booths, God intends the structure to become permanent. “For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” (2 Corinthians 5:1).

In his earlier letter to Corinth, Paul wrote “What? Know you not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which you have of God, and you are not your own? For you are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

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The Law of the Kingdom

BY GEORGE CARTER • OTTAWA

The Bible talks a lot about government, the right kind and the wrong kind. We should understand this in view of our calling, which is summarized essentially in one verse in Revelation, but we will take two for the context: “And they sang a new song saying: Worthy are you (the Lamb of God) to take the scroll and open its seals, for He was slain, and by your blood did ransom men for God, from every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and has made them a Kingdom, and priests to our God, and they shall reign on earth” (Revelation 5:9, 10, RSV).

It is simple to understand, although profound in its application. God is the Great King and Ruler of the Universe. His children will by nature become kings and priests, ruling under Christ for a thousand years.

God will not give that authority to proud, self-serving men. Those whom God calls must be converted, changed and, in fact, reconstituted before they are ever given such authority on earth. All who are converted and attain the resurrection will come together in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

Keep in mind that the millennial rule of Christ is temporary. It will last only one thousand years! We should go into it knowing:

- 1) The very temporary nature of man and of this earth; and
- 2) The very eternal nature of God’s law of love.

When I was in the navy, working on aircraft carriers, my job was to keep aircraft flying. To

do this one needs to understand how the engines provide thrust, and the wings provide lift. Two things apply: Newton’s Third Law of Motion (every force has an equal and opposite reaction) and the physical laws governing



vacuum (in this case pressure differences caused by the acceleration of air or gas through a restricted space). It doesn’t matter whether you understand the application to flight; what matters is that we realize that there are laws governing these

matters. We cannot see the laws, but we can see the results and rely on them. We know that without them nothing would work. The same applies to spiritual laws.

King David understood this, and discussed it in Psalm 19. The first six verses explain how the reality of God’s Law is clearly discerned in the physical creation, upheld by the power of God. The next four verses describe the spiritual aspects of the Law which, when understood and applied, enhance interpersonal relationships between man and man, and man and God. David then asks that God would give him the ability to see properly, and to be kept even from presumptuous sins.

It is interesting to note that close to 70 per cent of the Bible relates to governance in some way or another. God inspired the Holy Scriptures to be written by men of practical experience. Moses, who wrote the first five books of the Bible, was ruler over Israel when God formed that nation out of a group of slaves after He delivered them from Egypt. Moses had been

“It is interesting to note that close to 70 per cent of the Bible relates to governance...”

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The Law of the Kingdom

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“Since God is love...why would anyone imagine doing away with the Law?”

taught first in the household of Pharaoh, as a son in that house, and as a pharaoh in his own right. And then God gave him a somewhat contrary training up on the hillsides with the sheep for 40 years!

After Moses, Joshua became governor of Israel, and the record is written in the book bearing his name. Although Israel was a theocracy, the priesthood did not rule. The priesthood was subject to Joshua and the law of the land. Joshua, in turn, attended at the Tabernacle and continued to be taught – instructed in the Word of God – season by season as the Feasts came around, and Sabbath by Sabbath.

After Joshua came the Judges, who operated in much the same way, governing Israel. But over time the people increasingly began “doing their own thing.”

The Law was diluted and authority diminished. The common people came to recognize the fact, because it was they who suffered most at the hands of judges, priests and the rich men of the land who bent the Law to serve themselves. And so the people cried out for a king, much to Samuel’s dismay.

God gave them kings – first of all Saul, and then David and Solomon, as well as many other succeeding kings. We read the records of their doings in 1st and 2nd Kings, and 1st and 2nd Chronicles. (Originally, both books of Samuel were counted together with both books of Kings as The Book of Kingdoms.)

Two of these kings, David and Solomon, wrote four more books of the Bible – Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon.

Later, when the ten tribes of Israel went into captivity they were dispersed, but following Judah’s captivity they returned to the land under Nehemiah, whom Artaxerxes appointed as Governor. Records of this time under Gentile kings are found in the books of

Ezra and Nehemiah.

Esther is also concerned with this time in history. The book chronicles the Queen’s intervention on behalf of her Jewish people. Ultimately, this led to the birth of Christ, who was the legal heir to the throne of David of the House of Judah. He came preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God, into which we are called. Daniel, while he yet served in the Babylonian Court, gave detailed prophecies regarding the coming of The King and the times of His return! Daniel also gave us some good illustrations of the contrary ways of Gentile rulership.

And what of the prophets? They were not kings, governors or rulers, but they were sent to the governments of the nations, to the kings in particular, but also to the priests, the leaders who were leading the people astray. They were sent to straighten things up, to warn what was coming down, and to deliver God’s Word to the kings and priests. They were thrown in jail for their efforts, thrown out of town, or perversely executed for their word.

Jesus Christ, quoting from Deuteronomy (which He did often), said that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4). Our Father wants us to be completed, to become perfect. The law of God helps steer us to that. The Law must yet be written in the minds and on the hearts of mankind (Hebrews 8:10; Jeremiah 31:33). Again, it says, in their minds and on their hearts. This is not merely intellectual, but emotional and loving. The two cardinal principles of God’s Law are love – love of God and love of fellow man.

Since God is love (1 John 4:8), why would anyone imagine doing away with the Law? Shall we do away with love? The saints are called to help administer God’s Law of Love, as rulers on this earth for a thousand years. -UNC

Your Holy Day Offering Envelope

BY EDWIN VAN PELT • NATIONAL OFFICE

A significant portion of the Church's income is from Holy Day Offering (HDO) donations. A large number of people give only HDOs during the year. There are a variety of reasons for this: they may be retired; or they may be attending with us only on a Holy Day. We currently have over 500 people who have made various kinds of donations this year and that means each one has a donation record. The Days of Unleavened Bread create a spike in the number of new donation records that are created. A significant number of new records are also created from HDOs for the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day.

How is this tied in with your HDO envelopes? What can you do to make the processing of the HDO easier?

The reason we have different types of donation envelopes is to make it simpler to identify the type of donation. That's why the red envelopes should be used only for HDOs.

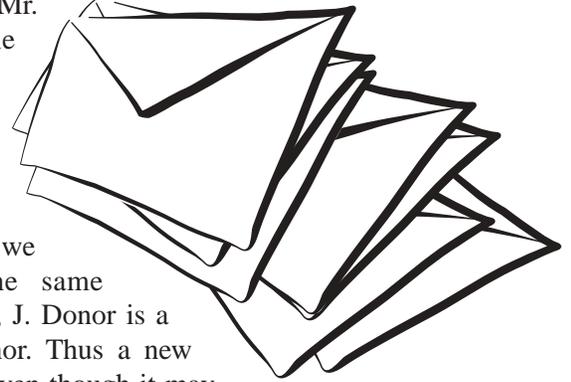
Most donors will receive two sets of HDO envelopes during the year. One set is for the spring Holy Days and the other set is for the fall Holy Days. These envelopes have a label on the back. Printed on the label is your index number – each donor has a unique one – along with your name and address as it appears on our database. The index number is what is used to retrieve your donation file from the computer.

Let's look at a few examples of the most common problems faced in processing the HDO and updating the records.

We sent HDO envelopes to John Q. Donor. But Mr. Donor, for whatever reason, does not use the envelopes we sent. At the Holy Day services he picks up an HDO envelope from an usher. He wants to make a donation – and that is certainly appreciated – but he writes J. Donor on the envelope, along with his address. He does not include his index number.

The offering arrives at the office and we

notice the envelope does not have an address label. (All the envelopes without labels are separated for further handling.) Searching the database to find his index number, we find a John Q. Donor on file, and the address matches the one Mr. Donor wrote on the envelope. But the question is how do we know J. Donor and John Q. Donor are one and the same? Even though the address is the same, we cannot assume it's the same person. For all we know, J. Donor is a relative of John Q. Donor. Thus a new donor record is created even though it may be for the same person.



Another example is a variation of the same scenario. Once again, Mr. Donor wrote John Q. Donor on the envelope along with his address. There is no index number on the envelope. The database is searched but the address we have is different than the one on the envelope. Did Mr. Donor move? Or is it a different John Q. Donor? No changes are made to our database unless we are notified so once again, a new donor record is created. This, too, may be for the same person.

In either case, since a new donor record is created the donor receives a new donor letter offering *The Good News* magazine and other publications.

Another problem involves using someone else's HDO envelope. The name on the label is crossed out and another name is written on the envelope but the index number has not been changed. This type of envelope needs special handling as well. If the label is altered it means searching through nearly 20,000 names in our database in order to find the correct index number for the name written on the envelope.

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Your Holy Day Offering Envelope

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“While a single envelope by itself may not take long to check, a large number...take considerably longer.”

It takes quite a bit of time to check all these things. While a single envelope by itself may not take long to check, a large number of envelopes take considerably longer.

Here's how you can help: Whenever possible please use the Holy Day Offering envelopes that are sent to you. The label on the envelope has all the information needed to access your donation file quickly and efficiently. If you didn't receive any envelopes but would like to be credited for your donation, be sure to put your donation in an HDO envelope. HDO envelopes are available from an usher at Holy Day services. Clearly print your index number along with your name and address on the back of the envelope in the box below "Festival Location." Your name and address should match our database for faster processing. Seal the envelope after you put your donation inside. The contents of an unsealed envelope can fall out, so it's important to seal the envelope.

If you are a first-time donor please follow the same instructions above. It should also be indicated on the back of the envelope if you do not wish to receive a receipt.

Cheques, money orders or travellers' cheques are more secure than cash and coin. Cash should not be sent through the mail.

By following these steps it will help speed the processing of the HDO. Your help is greatly appreciated.

On the subject of appreciation, during the fall Festival season we have a large number of visitors from other countries especially the United States. We are very grateful for the offerings that have been left for use here in Canada over the years. They have helped us a great deal in spreading the Gospel of God's coming Kingdom to Canadians. -UNC



Wedding Announcement

Neil Robert DeLong, son of Mr. and Mrs. Larry DeLong, and Amber Marie Bruce, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Bruce, were married on July 28, 2002.

The maid of honour was Hanna Clark and the best man was Eric DeLong. The ceremony was performed by Larry DeLong and was held at the Kate Andrews Courtyard in Coaldale, Alberta. -UNC

Listen to the Whisper

BY ERNIE MCBRATNEY • VANCOUVER

A young and successful executive is driving a bit too fast down a neighbourhood street. He watches for kids darting out from between parked cars and slows down when he thinks he sees something. As his car passes no children appear. Instead a brick smashes into his side door! He slams on the brakes and drives back to the spot where the brick was thrown.

The angry driver jumps out of the car, grabs the nearest kid and pushes him up against a parked car shouting, "What was that all about? Just what do you think you are doing? That's a new car and that brick you threw is going to cost me a lot of money. Why did you do it?"

The young boy is apologetic. "Please, Mister. Please, I'm sorry. I didn't know what else to do. I threw the brick because no one else would stop."

With tears dripping down his face, the youth points to a spot just around a parked car. "It's my brother. He rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair and I can't lift him up." Now sobbing, the boy asks the stunned executive,

"Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair. He's hurt and too heavy for me."

Moved beyond words, the driver tries to swallow the lump in his throat. He lifts the boy back into the wheelchair. He takes his handkerchief and wipes the fresh scrapes and cuts.

Too shook up for words the man simply watches the boy push his wheelchair-bound brother toward home.

It is a long walk back to his new car. The damage is noticeable – but he never repairs it – he keeps the dent to remind him of this message:

Don't go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention. God whispers to our souls and speaks to our hearts. Sometimes when we don't have time to listen he has to throw a brick at us. Listen to the whisper ... or wait for the brick. -UNC



Graduation

Jolene Lizzette Drewniak, 18, graduated from Steinbach Regional Secondary School in Manitoba. She received a major in marketing and business with a minor in music, which includes intermediate choirs and bands. She was in an Honour Chamber Choir and an Honour Jazz Ensemble, which took part in many competitions, even performing at a festival in Ottawa.

Concerning her school experience, she says, "My friends were what kept me going sometimes. All the memories we share I will never forget. School taught me to live in a difficult world and to work hard. My parents

were a great support, and out of all, God was the one beside me, helping me to do what I love. I earned a great amount of strength throughout the times where God guided me and helped me make choices, which were big ones. Although these tough choices came along, I have built character and am thankful for the love of loved ones and the advice throughout the past twelve years." -UNC



Member Profile: John & Olga Hrenyk

BY ROBERT BERENDT • EDMONTON



John and Olga Hrenyk are celebrating their 53rd wedding anniversary this year. They were married in 1949, and had a family of two girls and seven boys.

John and Olga live on a farm near Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. John has a long history of Sabbath keeping but when he first met Olga, she was a determined Baptist. Olga tried to “convert” John, but in the process also became a Sabbath keeper. Their lives have been full and rich in many ways.

Both John and Olga have remained faithful to God’s way of life during their marriage. Although all of God’s people have stories to tell, some seem to stand out for certain reasons. John Thomas Hrenyk’s family history is remarkable as he traces his family roots back to early Sabbath keepers.

John’s father, Thomas Hrenyk, was an SDA and became part of the Church of God Seventh Day. In 1936, John Kiesz of the Church of God Seventh Day, came to the Prince Albert area to hold a campaign. He stayed with Thomas Hrenyk for three months and campaigned in the area. John Kiesz taught the Millennium and that Christ was in the grave for three days and three nights. Thomas Hrenyk accepted this belief and became part of the Church of God Seventh Day. Quite a few relatives of the Hrenyk family also followed the teachings of John Kiesz.

Thomas Hrenyk had 11 children and attended a small church of Sabbath keepers. In 1937 A.N. Dugger arrived and did follow-up work in Prince Albert for about two weeks. As time passed, A.N. Dugger began to believe that the headquarters of the church should be in Jerusalem and he moved to Jerusalem in 1938-39. He encouraged others to join him in Jerusalem. Thomas Hrenyk and three of his children moved to Jerusalem about 1950. A.N. Dugger published *The Zion Reporter* and *Judah 70* from Jerusalem.

The Hrenyk family in Jerusalem attended the Dugger assemblies. A.N. Dugger taught that Christ would come at this time. John and Olga

were encouraged to move to Jerusalem also, but Olga refused and the family stayed in Canada.

In 1950-51 John and Olga first heard Mr. H.W. Armstrong on a radio station from Texas. John Kiesz actually attended the Feast of Tabernacles for a few years with Mr. Armstrong around 1947-48. John Kiesz began attending with the Radio Church of God, but left some time later.

Although John and Olga did not move to Jerusalem, John did visit his father and family members in Israel in 1987-88. Thomas Hrenyk died around 1996 at age 93. John Thomas Hrenyk was the firstborn son and joined the Radio Church of God, while the rest of his siblings remained with the Seventh Day Adventist church. John and Olga started attending in Saskatoon in 1965, and were baptized in 1972.

Dugger and Dodd published a book entitled *A History of the True Religion*, which describes the start of the Church of God Seventh Day. It states that a call was made to many countries for prayers to God in the choice of men to lead His church. After meeting in Salem, West Virginia, 140 names of ministers were gathered. In the list of ministers on page 304, Elder Herbert Armstrong of Oregon is named.

John and Olga Hrenyk can trace their roots back a long way in the history of the Church. This couple has shown strength and determination in following God. Now, as the years have taken their toll, health has become a factor. Distances are harder to manage, but nevertheless, John and Olga, along with two of their grown children, attend the United Church of God in Saskatoon whenever they are able to. In the coming months we will have Sabbath meetings in their home near Prince Albert and we hope and pray that God will bless the efforts to once again start a live and vibrant Church there.

In this couple we find fulfilled the meaning of Proverbs 16:31, “The silver-haired head is a crown of glory, if it is found in the way of righteousness.” —UNC

“John and Olga can trace their roots back a long way in the history of the Church.”

50th Wedding Anniversary

On June 17, 2002, Ron and Janet Kelly entered an elite group. Many people have been married for 50 years, but very few to the same person in this day and age. The Ottawa Church offered their heartiest congratulations to them both and presented a cake, flowers and a gift.

Eight children were born to their marriage – five girls and three boys. On asking what marriage has meant, they answered that 50 years together signifies the many blessings God extended to them during a happy marriage in which they shared the trials and tribulations normal to everyday living.

To young couples planning marriage, their

advice is to get to know your intended partner well. Loving a person means sharing your life, being able to laugh and cry together and learning to give and take.

They commented that their 50 years together has seemed but a short time. On June 29th all the family were together celebrating – the first time they had all been together in over 25 years.

—Lynn Marshall



Ron and Janet Kelly, on their 50th anniversary.
—Photo by Lynn Marshall

Obituary

Rose Schwartz, 69, of Prince George, B.C., died peacefully June 27, 2002 after a long courageous battle with heart disease.

Rose was a long time member of the Worldwide Church of God, but had not been attending for some six years.

Rose is survived by her five children—Gerald, Tom (with his wife Katie), Norman (with his wife Shelly), Kenneth and Karen (with her husband Louie), as well as eight adoring grandchildren.

Her husband Jim predeceased her by 14 years.

Rose loved life and lived it to the fullest. She will be greatly missed.

— Shelly Schwartz



Vancouver Island Celebrations

STORY & PHOTOS BY JOE SHEPERD

“[Mr. Gibson]
... is 101 years
young...”



On the Sabbaths of July 13th and 20th, the Victoria church held special services in celebration of happy milestones for two church couples.

Ken and Margaret Kerr celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on July 12th. At services on July 13th, a gift of gorgeous flowers was presented to Ken and Margaret. (Unfortunately Margaret cannot attend due to an ongoing health situation.) A very special card accompanied the flowers. After services, a full and finely prepared dinner was served and enjoyed by all brethren. Following the meal, an outstanding large cake was brought in by Mr. Weber, who is a baker by profession, and it was a work of real art. Enough of it survived for Ken to take home for Margaret to savour.

The following Sabbath, a second celebration was occasioned for our most senior members on the Island, Ernest and Helen Gibson. Their 60th anniversary was on July 23rd. We were privileged to share it with them on the Sabbath of July 20th, with services at their home in Comox. “Gib,” as he is affectionately known, is 101 years young and no longer travels long distances well, so services are held at their home four or five times a year.

(Gib is the last surviving member of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police. He also served in the Canadian Army during WWII, as a mechanic and inspector of military equipment, to ensure dependability of function for our troops.)

Beautiful flowers were presented, with special cards from the Victoria and Vancouver churches. After services, a great dinner was followed by a repeat performance of Mr. Weber in presenting a large and beautifully decorated cake.

During the festivities, Gib put his arm around his wife and sang a truly wonderful love song to her. Later on, he was noticed sneaking a kiss or two with Helen.

It was a truly joyous two Sabbaths for both couples, as well as all the brethren. We felt privileged to be able to worship our great God together at both these special times. We do look forward to Gib’s 102nd birthday next summer. -UNC



Top, Left: Ernest “Gib” and Helen Gibson marking 60 years of marriage.

Above: Margaret and Ken Kerr, Sr., celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary.

—Photos by Joe Sheperd

Announcements

NEWS OF THE CANADIAN BROTHERS

Birth Announcement

Paul and Coreen Wasilkoff of Cincinnati, OH are pleased to announce the arrival of their first child, Logan Andrew Wasilkoff. Logan was born on April 27 weighing in at 9 lbs., 3.2 oz. and measuring 22-1/2”.



Logan Andrew Wasilkoff

Words to Live By

COMPILED BY ERNIE MCBRATNEY

Think all you speak, but do not speak all that you think.

We always admire the other fellow more after we have tried to do his job.

Gossips are the spies of life.

A perfectionist is one who takes great pains and gives them to other people.

There is a place for everything. Just keep everything in its place.

To many people, the ideal occupation is one that doesn't keep them occupied.

Worrying often gives a small thing a big shadow.

Sympathy is two hearts tugging at one load.

People decide their habits and their habits decide their future.

We can learn something from the canary. It never sings a depressing song.

No joy is complete unless it is shared.

Good deeds don't get lost in space. They return some time, some place.

Recipes Wanted for Cookbook

A Reminder to All Chefs

The deadline for recipes in the Calgary congregation's Days of Unleavened Bread Cookbook is almost here. Please send your recipes to Dellavh@attcanada.ca without delay. All recipes must be received by September 13, 2002.

A Reminder to All Who Eat

Watch for a pre-order form for the Calgary congregation's Days of Unleavened Bread Cookbook in the next *United News Canada*. With over 200 pages there will be many recipes for bread, cookies, desserts, appetizers and Night to be Much Observed menu ideas. -UNC

Fishing Weekend at Dore Lake

BY ADELINE SANOY • NORTH BATTLEFORD



Above: Cardsharks (L-R) Robert Berendt, Margaret Fix, Ann Bendall and Peter Sanoy enjoy a game of cribbage.

Right: Ashley Davies from Edmonton enjoys her lunch after services.

Far Right: "Did I tell you about the one that got away?" Peter Sanoy, of North Battleford, visits with Bob and Peter Korneluk of Saskatoon.

— photos by Adeline Sanoy

The North Battleford, Edmonton and Saskatoon brethren congregated at Dore Lake, Saskatchewan, on the weekend of July 13-14 for our annual "Fishing" Weekend. Some of the brethren were able to arrive a day or two early and stay a bit



longer to enjoy the beauty of the area – and a bit more fishing.

Saskatchewan has a day of free fishing; no license required annually, so we take advantage of this extra bonus.

The area is rich with wildlife, with songs of many birds and numerous animal sightings. One group went out for a boat ride and encountered a black bear swimming from one island to another in the lake. Apparently he was quite anxious to get to shore and away from his human onlookers.

Peter and I saw a bear loping out of the woods and toward the highway, a few miles east of Green Lake. He saw the truck heading toward him about the same time Peter started to slow down. The bruin turned an about-face and headed back for the bush, at a much faster clip.

Sabbath Services were held in a local hall, with an attendance of 29. Some of the brethren drive up to Dore Lake just to take in Sabbath Services. A potluck lunch followed services with much fine food and fellowship.

Later in the evening, most of the people gathered at the cabin of Boyd and Donna Yahn for a potluck BBQ and fish fry. That evening, and most of the night, we were treated to a light display, some thunder and a shower! Unfortunately the wind came up and the fishing was cut short due to rough water. Oh, well, we can try fishing again next year. -UNC



Edmonton Teens Enjoy White Water Rafting

BY CATHY BERENDT • EDMONTON

Eighteen of us from Edmonton headed to Kananaskis Country on Sunday, May 26 for a white water rafting trip. For some, this would be their first white water rafting experience and they were not sure what to expect. The day turned out to be sunny, with no indication of the three feet of snow dumped a week earlier!

We were first prepped on safety (in the event someone fell out of the raft) before we began our excursion down the Kananaskis River. With our wet suits and helmets, we piled into three rafts. As we began, our guides casually pointed out the tubes in our rafts used to bail out water. These tubes looked like large syringes that could be improvised as water guns... Needless to say, it was quickly determined that an all-out battle of water was inevitable.

Our guides taught us how to paddle forwards and backwards – and sometimes just to hold on as we went through rapids. Each rapid was named and a couple of them held our raft in one spot. One of the rapids was called “The Giant’s Green Tongue” which was one long rapid that lifted us up and smacked us back down.

As we approached a calmer area, and as the least suspecting were enjoying the beautiful scenery, the all-out water fight began! Everyone got soaked. As we were well acquainted with water by now, our guides stopped at a spot where we could jump in and float down the rapids – for 10 seconds at the most! Even with wet suits and boots, this water was cold – skin numbing, blood freezing, heart stopping cold-d-d. Surface ice was still present in the shaded backwaters!

We survived, even though it took a while for my feet to come back to life, and everyone had a wonderful time! The rapids were classified as 2-3 for starters. **NEXT TIME WILL BE THE CHALLENGE!!** -UNC



Top: Bracing for the next big wave in Kananaskis Country, Alberta.

Above: (Back row) Paul Scott, Lisa Scott, Robert Berendt, Janelle Berendt, Dan Berendt, Jennifer Berendt, Morgan Willard, Craig Hine, Chris Hine, Keith Koshman. (Front row) Cathy Berendt, Becky Willard, Kimberley Berendt, Rick Berendt, Stephanie Berendt, Andrea Berendt, Elsa Koshman, Leonard Hine.

United News Canada

Toronto Camp-Out

BY JUDY READ • TORONTO



Above: McGregor Point sunset.
(Photo by Ed van Pelt)

Far Right: Campers enjoying the sunset on the beach.
(Photo by Gary Ridi)

For the third year in a row, the Toronto congregation has been blessed with the opportunity to host a camp-out at McGregor Point Park. During the July 1st long weekend, we hosted nearly 40 UCG members, two of whom came all the way from Indiana to join us for Canada Day!

McGregor Point Park, renowned for its sunsets, is nestled in the deep woods along the picturesque shoreline of Lake Huron. It is about 72 km (45 miles) west of Toronto.

Most campers arrived early on Friday afternoon and the weekend was already shaping up to be a successful one. There were no planned activities which – for most of the Toronto congregation – was a welcome chance to relax and simply enjoy God’s miraculous creation. No matter what the weekend held in store, there was always the guarantee of a blazing fire after sundown and meaningful fellowship.

On Sabbath morning we awoke to clear blue skies and perfect weather that lasted the rest of the weekend. Early Sabbath afternoon, we

congregated in one of the group sites for an interactive Bible Study on John III, conducted by Mr. Wasilkoff. As always, we had a lively and instructive discussion. There is something inherently more profound about studying God’s Word while in the midst of His nature. It is both humbling and inspiring!

Just before dusk on Saturday evening, most of the group hiked down to the lake to catch the last falling rays of sunlight. The sunset was breathtaking.

Perhaps one of the highlights of the camp-out was our fireside sing-a-long lead by son and father pair, Jim and Garry Lucas. Even though most of us can’t boast of their musical talent, it certainly didn’t deter us from belting out such campfire classics as “Land of the Silverbirch” and “Michael Row the Boat Ashore.” I, for one, can tell you I am definitely incapable of doing such a round! Fortunately I was saved from more embarrassment by some hooligan raccoons who were snacking on some leftovers in the campsites. Whew! (Who knew raccoons were capable of opening latched coolers full of goodies?)

Sunday was an activity-filled day for most campers. McGregor Point Park has seemingly endless hiking, discovery and bike trails. While all the trails wind their way through swamps

—continued on page 19



Sabbath Services on the Farm

BY GARY RIDI • TORONTO

On June 15, Melvin and Esther Martin and family hosted Sabbath Services on their farm. There was also plenty of room for anyone who was adventurous enough to camp for the weekend. Although it did rain, the spirits of the brethren were not dampened. Fellowship was a high priority.

Richard Dubler spoke and encouraged us to have vision even in hardships. He recommended a book written by Victor Frankl entitled *Man's Search for Meaning*. It is the story of Mr. Frankl's ability to survive a concentration camp during World War II. He kept his focus hopeful and retained his freedom of choice, even if it was how he would react in the situation he was in.

Garry Lucas, who spoke about our value to God and to each other, gave the sermon. Although God does not need us, He chooses to work with us regardless of our backgrounds and experiences. It is not what we have done that is of value, it is what He has done within us. We therefore must do our part since we were bought for a price and now belong to Him (I Corinthians 6:20). A picture tells a thousand words and so did the picture Garry Lucas painted for us. He described rough precious stones rubbing together until, over time, they become smooth and quite beautiful. We are like these precious stones as we work and fellowship together. Our rough edges are ground down and our interaction with each other helps us to

become more refined, usable – all for the glorifying of God.

After the service, we enjoyed a potluck meal in the new addition to the Martin family woodworking shop. Melvin, Walter, Owen and Ezra all helped to build the new addition. The women were not left out as Esther and Rebekah also got involved when time permitted. Solid raised panel and French doors are their specialty. Trying to meet the needs of a booming business can be challenging and that requires the help of the whole family. It was a nice break for the Martins not to have to drive to Toronto for services that day which normally takes them over two hours each way.

Some of our campers travelled quite a distance. Joe and Shirley Baumgaertner and their two sons and dog came from Buffalo, New York, while others drove up from Toronto.

After our meal we went outside to have our picture taken under a magnificent rainbow that stretched across the evening sky – a fitting end to a wonderful day. Opportunities to fellowship are always something to cherish. -UNC



A rainbow provides a fitting end to a peaceful Sabbath on the Martin farm in Ontario.

— photos by Gary Ridi

Toronto Camp-Out

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

and gorgeous shorelines, there are trails suited to all types of experience levels and tastes. Sunday was also the ideal day for others to lounge on the beach and play frisbee! Still others went to the lovely town of Port Elgin and spent the day window shopping and gazing at the sailboats drifting in the harbour.

We ended the day with a midnight countdown to Canada Day. The holiday was brought in with plenty of love and laughter.

We had an amazing time experiencing the outdoors and spending quality time with one another without time constraints or the hustle and bustle of everyday life!

Special thanks goes to resident organizer, Edwin van Pelt, for making this year's camp-out another great success! -UNC

Be Hearty in Approbation and Lavish in Praise

BY LYNNE BROSCAK • EDMONTON

“Being appreciated is one of the strongest needs in a human being.”

Be hearty in your approbation and lavish in your praise.” This expression is emphasized in the book, *How To Win Friends and Influence People* by Dale Carnegie. This book has been one of the most widely-acclaimed pieces of motivational literature in the world. The book was first published in 1937 and is still in print today.

Originally, the book was intended to assist businessmen and women to learn how to speak in public and sell. But it was soon discovered that the principles were beneficial to people from all walks of life. It teaches people how to communicate and foster positive relationships. In one of the surveys Mr. Carnegie conducted he asked people what their main concern in life was. Most said their first concern was health and their second was human relations. So he realized people needed guidance to getting along with others. He established courses to meet those needs. The Dale Carnegie Courses and Seminars are still taught today even though Mr. Carnegie died in 1955.

“Be hearty in your approbation and lavish in your praise,” put in today’s vernacular is, “Be unrestrained in your appreciation and generous in your praise.” Being appreciated is one of the strongest needs in a human being. Being appreciated makes one feel accepted. In a sermon at the Feast one year, a minister

admonished us to tell three people that we appreciate them and to give each of them one of the three pieces of blue ribbon we had received when we came to services that morning. This was to be done before services the next day. What a wonderful thing to do! People who had never expected to receive one blue ribbon received many ribbons. There were tears of joy, hugging and laughing.

When Jesus called someone “you good and faithful servant,” wasn’t He showing appreciation for that person? It costs so little and does wonders for a person to be told their efforts or acts or words are appreciated, yes, even prayers. Mr. Carnegie cited many incidents of the power of appreciation and how it encourages people to go on to accomplish many things.

Well, our God is in the process of accomplishing a great work right now. In fact, it is the greatest work in the world. This tired old world depends on God’s work for its survival and it doesn’t even know it. We are part of that work – God’s work. One component of our job is to get along with people so we can set examples that will reflect God’s love and goodness.

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Be Hearty in Approbation and Lavish in Praise

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We are not all sermon givers, nor can we stand on the street corner announcing future events. But when we are able, we can give tithes and offerings. We can also keep God's Sabbath, the Holy Days and we can all pray for God's work. We can also emulate Christ and His Father through our daily contact with people in our circle of influence. How we deal with people can help or hinder God's work.

It's so important that we get along in our respective Church areas, that we should be unrestrained in our appreciation and generous in our praise! There needs to be a spirit of oneness, harmony, joy and kinship. God isn't going to bring new people into a Church area where there is dissension, strife or division. This can greatly hinder God's work.

Another way we can be "unrestrained in our appreciation" is to let people know we accept them. Being accepted is another basic need that is very strong in human beings. One of the simplest ways of showing you accept someone just as a person, is to smile at the person. A smile is so important. Have you ever watched someone's face light up when you smile at them? I remember one time I was driving the car somewhere and my granddaughter was in the back seat. She had not had the best of days and was feeling somewhat gloomy. I looked at her through the rear view mirror and saw her sad little face. She happened to glance up into the mirror as I was looking at her. I gave her a big, loving smile. She seemed a little taken aback but then I could see the tension drain from her face, her eyes light up and she just had to smile back. What a transformation!

Praise is a powerful motivator: "Be generous in your praise!"

Ken Blanchard, in his book, *The One Minute Manager*, advises catching a person doing something right and then sincerely praise the person for one minute. But we need to remember that praise is not flattery. Flattery results in resentment. Praise must, at all times, be sincere and honest. Praise makes people

feel important and people want to be important. It, too, is a basic human need. When you praise people for doing something right, it helps them feel good about themselves. This reflects God's love.

Philippians 4:8 tells us to meditate on anything praiseworthy. But don't stop there, take it one step further and do it. Praise the person who is praiseworthy not just think about it. In Proverbs 31:28, in reference to the virtuous wife, God says, "Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:"

Offering sincere praise can do so much to encourage people. We all like to be appreciated, to receive approval and know we are accepted as a person. Praise reinforces those basic human needs. Never be afraid of praising someone. You will be amazed at the positive results.

These are only a few ideas of how we can "Win Friends and Influence People." We can take these ideas and apply them to doing God's work by being His ambassadors and setting right examples for all who come in contact with us. This includes our families and our Church families. We need to provide a safe, accepting, and peaceable environment for new people being called, to come into our congregations.

There is much work to do, so let us be doing God's work in whatever way we can, and letting God's love show through each of us. -UNC

"Praise is a powerful motivator."



Security that Lasts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2



It is such a shame that at a time in history when the world has become so security conscious, the highest courts in the land are striking out the mention of the One

who is the ultimate source of security.

We have seen incredible things over the last year – the terrorist attack in New York, the war in Afghanistan, the collapse of Enron and now World Com. So many have seen their wealth stripped away, but the thinking has been that in armies and money we trust. God takes a back seat.

There is such a demand for security that even the computer colossus, Microsoft, views it as a threat to its continuing success if it does not help to provide it. Their plans are to design a system to control and protect personal and corporate information using new software and special security chips. They say, “It’s one of the most technically complex things ever attempted on the PC.” They plan to use high-level encryption to seal data so that snoops and thieves are thwarted. The system, named Palladium, won’t allow unauthorized programs to run, preventing viruses from trashing computers.

This will all be done for the sake of security, just like major changes have taken place over the last year to improve security at many public places, including airports.

Governments have to balance issues of freedom versus security. We tolerate security cameras, alarms, searches, high insurance premiums, heavy military budgets because we like to feel safe, but do you know what? The

security that human solutions offer is miniscule in comparison to what our Creator gives. He offers us true, lasting security.

Christ was tested on a security issue when Satan took him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you,’ and, ‘In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’” Christ’s answer was, “You shall not tempt the Lord your God.” (Matthew 4:5-7)

He tells us that to find lasting security we must put God first in our lives, not on a back burner for a just-in-case religion. Notice what He stated in Luke 9:23-26, “Then He said to them all, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father’s, and of the holy angels.’”

Solomon had insights on lasting security when he wrote, “Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death” (Proverbs 11:4). “The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but deliverance is of the LORD” (Proverbs 21:31).

The writer of Psalm 32 was inspired to write, “No king is saved by the multitude of an army; a mighty man is not delivered by great strength. A horse is a vain hope for safety; neither shall it deliver any by its great strength. Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His mercy, to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine” (Psalm 32:16-19).

“We have seen incredible things over the last year...”

The True “Spirit” of Tabernacles

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Of course we love the physical things at the Feast (Deuteronomy 14:22-26), but let us also recognize that Jesus Christ is the true spirit of the Feast. Paul writes, “Now therefore you are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together grows unto an holy temple in the Lord: in whom you also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God” (Ephesians 2:19-22).

We need to realize that without thousands who have lived and died “in Christ,” the building would be nothing more than a foundation. It is God’s intention, however, to have a complete building, a beautiful new perfectly built tabernacle. He is molding, polishing, refining, those whom He has called, getting them prepared.

Jesus gave us an interesting parable recorded in Mark’s gospel account: “For the Son of Man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.” The man who took the journey is Jesus Christ, and we are to be faithful servants to the true tabernacle, the house that Jesus built with His own blood! “Watch ye therefore: for you know not when the master of the house comes, at even, or at midnight, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch” (Mark 13-34-37).

We don’t know when Christ is coming back, but we do know that when He does He will reclaim the house/tabernacle that belongs to Him – His Church! So this year when you observe the Feast, enjoy good food, fine wine, good friends and lots of activity, or “whatever your soul desires.” However, keep in mind that there is a spirit to the Feast of Tabernacles, and that spirit is the spirit of Jesus Christ. -UNC

“He is molding,
polishing,
refining, those
whom He has
called...”

Security that Lasts

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Thinking of the times to come, we need to heed God’s word spoken through His servant Zephaniah when he wrote, “Gather yourselves together, yes, gather together, O undesirable nation, before the decree is issued, or the day passes like chaff, before the LORD’S fierce anger comes upon you, before the day of the LORD’S anger comes upon you! Seek the LORD, all you meek of the earth, who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek humility. It may be that you will be hidden in the day of the LORD’S anger” (Zephaniah 2:1-3).

In God, we must trust! -UNC



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Family Portrait

A survey issued at the turn of the 21st century, entitled “Portrait of Families in Canada,” points to a dramatic increase in what Statistics Canada calls empty-nesters, single mothers, working moms and common-law couples.

According to the government document, the face of Canadian families is being transformed into a “new society.”

Throughout the last few decades, there have been significant increases in the number of common-law unions and lone-parent families; in the incidence of divorce and remarriage; and in the proportion of women in families, especially those with children, employed in the work force.” At the same time, both marriage and birth rates have fallen sharply, as has the size of the average family.

Families are much smaller, many are touched by unemployment, a growing number of families headed by single parents are living below the poverty level, and even the number of families considered to be middle-income earners has shrunk, says the report.

The proportion of Canada’s population living in a family setting has dropped to 83 per cent from 87 per cent within the past 10 years. And while most families are still headed by married couples, that proportion is also down to 77 per cent from 83 per cent.

The 56-page report, which outlines these changes and others, is having an impact on government policies. For example Revenue Canada now treats common-law couples the same as married couples. Increases in single-parent families – most headed by women many with low incomes – were behind the establishment of a federal pilot project to help get single mothers off welfare, all of which is an added burden to the taxpayer. The report also noted:

- 44 per cent of elderly women, many of them widows, live alone and outside any family setting.
- 38 per cent of married couples don’t have children at home (up 34 per cent from 1981), with two-thirds being empty-nesters (up 58-percent from a decade earlier).
- The number of lone-parent families, about 80 per cent headed by women, more than doubled.
- Average family size declined to 3.1 persons, from 3.7 persons.

New Age “Spirituality”

(The Quest Continues)

“Canadians are God’s children. We act like strangers in our own land without feeling at home anywhere else.” That rather poignant quote from Canadian writer Peter C. Newman was included in one of the myriad of articles he writes for various

magazines and newspapers showing Canada’s fascination with New Age Spirituality.

In an issue of *MacLean’s*, the country’s national magazine, Newman wrote, “Organized religion is dying. A recent poll indicates less than one-quarter of Canadian adults attend church, even though eight out of ten profess a belief in God.” Newman then quotes futurist John Naisbitt as predicting the entire world is on the verge of a massive return to spirituality.

Later in his article Newman writes, “The escape from the confines of predigested doctrine, to a disjointed, but compelling new outlook on life and death is what the New Age movement is all about. The problem with such a hang-loose philosophy is that it is open to exploitation by self-proclaimed prophets, weird cults, and charlatans, some advocating rituals that could not be described in a family magazine.... It is a quest for universal wisdom, knowledge of the mind, body, soul and cosmos all in one.”

New Age Spirituality has become North America’s latest obsession, as devotees of all ages, male and female, from all walks of life begin the search for the meaning of life. That search can take on countless shapes, including computer hackers who log onto the New Age Forum for an electronic update on crystals and tarot cards. -UNC