

A NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF GOD - CANADA



# United News Canada

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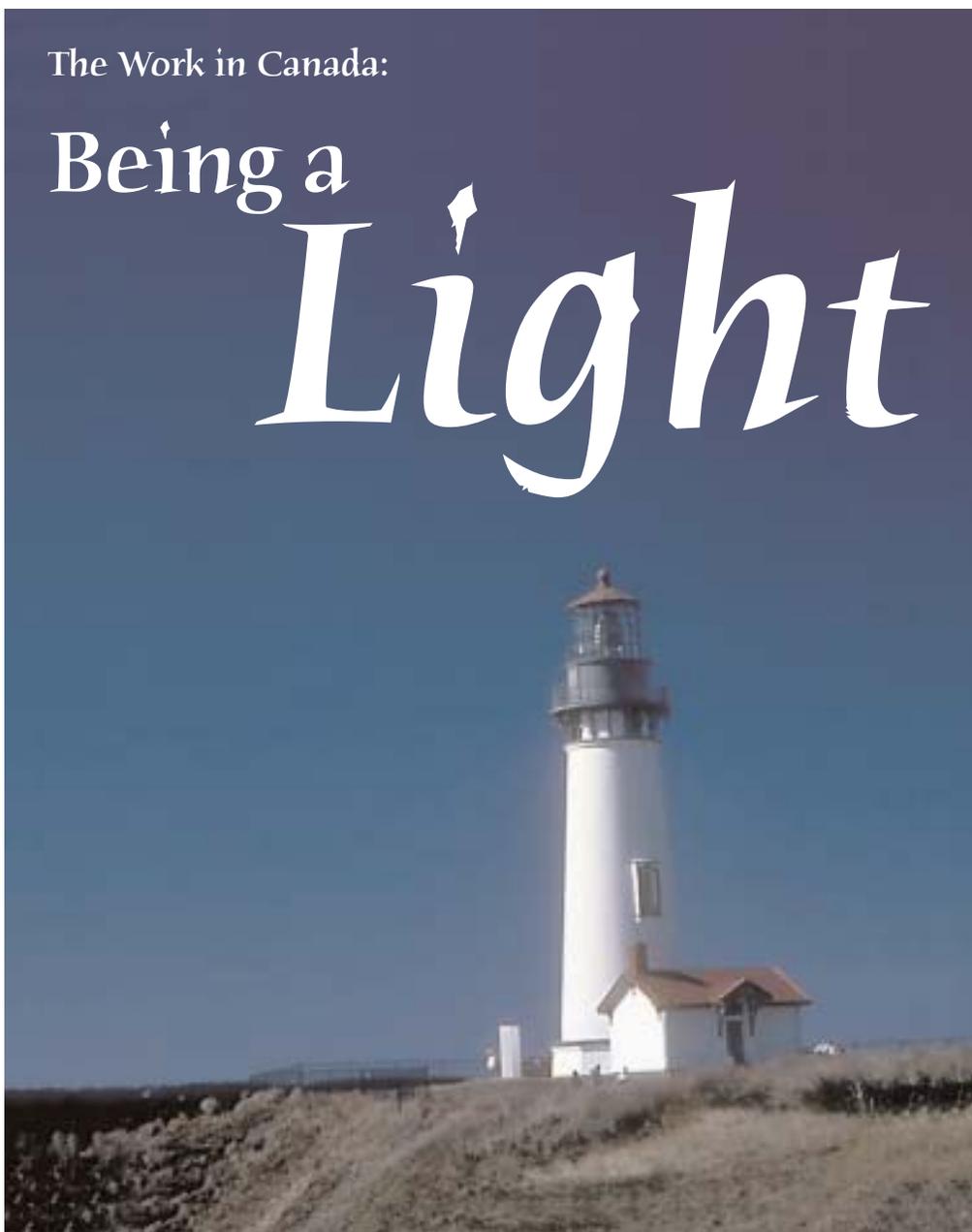
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The Work in Canada:

# Being a Light



National Council Meetings • Impressions of the GCE  
Elders Credentialed • Pentecost in New Brunswick

# Flight of the Monarch

BY RUTH KERR • ASSISTANT EDITOR

Of the many miracles that occur in the natural world, one of the most amazing involves the monarch butterfly. While the metamorphosis from larva to butterfly is remarkable in itself, it pales in comparison to the other great miracle these butterflies participate in each year.

The monarchs are striking in appearance with their fiery orange and black markings. But they are frail creatures. They have flimsy wings and tiny bodies. They fly-dance in the air with no discernable purpose. Their diet consists solely of milkweed. Were it not for the nearly 3,000 miles they migrate each year, these butterflies would seem ordinary indeed.

It is astonishing to consider the migratory path of the monarch. Each August, the butterflies leave eastern Canada and the U.S. to make their way to a winter nesting site in the Transvolcanic mountains of central Mexico. Every single year these creatures make the journey to the same 50-square-mile piece of real estate.

If that weren't amazing in itself, consider the following:

- The butterflies cannot travel too early in the day when the air is cold and damp, nor can they fly at night.
- The butterflies are highly susceptible to winds and inclement weather.
- The butterflies are vulnerable to predators such as birds and mice.

The monarchs' migratory path is long and perilous. Once-in-a-

lifetime trips generally are. For the butterflies never leave Mexico once they arrive, and no butterfly ever makes the trip twice. Yet a new generation of monarchs make their way to Mexico each year, just as though they've personally made the trip a thousand times. Even if a butterfly is knocked off course by wind, it knows how to get back to the migratory route.

This was designed by God, of course, who planned the migration and was careful to provide the monarchs with places to rest and feed during their journey. Not only has the Creator given each butterfly the innate ability and desire to fulfill its destiny, He has given them the means to do so.

As humans, we are frail like the butterfly. We can withstand only so much grief, only so much tribulation, only so much illness and injury. Not only does God recognize this, He *plans* for it. He gives us shelter, He feeds us, He leads us back on course. He gives us everything we need to fulfill our destiny.

If God would take such care of a floppy insect that measures less than three square inches, how much more would He do for His begotten children? If God designed the butterflies' route with such detail, how much more preparation has He put into your destiny?

The monarch butterfly is a minor part of creation. But if God has so painstakingly cared for just one insect, just think of how much more He cares for you. -UNC

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# National Council Meetings

BY RAINER SALOMAA • EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



The Canadian National Council held another set of face-to-face meetings from May 28 to June 1 in picturesque Elora, located about an hour's drive outside of Toronto. Council member Rick Dubler and his wife Grace made arrangements for the Council to meet at the Elora Mill Inn, one of Ontario's last remaining five-storey grist mills that has been converted to a hotel. It is located on the edge of the Grand River at the head of the Elora Gorge and was a very restful setting.

Seven of our nine Council members were present. George Carter attended some meetings in order to pass on the baton to his replacement, David Palmer. Council acknowledged George's dedication and service during his term and presented both he and his wife with a card and gifts.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved. We referred to some quotes from a book entitled, *Governing Boards* by Cyril O. Houle, which is a publication of the National Center for Nonprofit Boards. There is a section that deals with written records. The author says that board members have only a limited amount of time to give to the board and that the best way to achieve goals is to define functions and relationships clearly in writing.

Written records should include the constitution, bylaws, policies and minutes. The council has a capable secretary, Linda Wasilkoff, who does an excellent job of keeping our records.

We were blessed to have the president of United Church of God-IA, Mr. Roy Holladay, and his wife, Norma, as our guests during these meetings. It was their first visit to Canada, not counting a brief border crossing a long time ago. The trip coincided with their 40th wedding anniversary. We took up a collection and gave the Holladays a gift for their anniversary. The council had a chance to hear him give an explanation on the history of our governing documents, to ask him questions throughout the course of the meetings, and to hear him give a sermon in Toronto before 143 attendees on the subject of God's weapons.

We heard office updates from Anthony Wasilkoff and Ed van Pelt, with encouraging statistics showing record attendances for the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread. Also, each of the church pastors present had a chance to report on their areas. The overall trend has been growth in the churches.

L-R: Linda Wasilkoff, Anthony Wasilkoff, Roy Holladay, Norma Holladay, Eric Livermore and Carol Livermore at the Toronto Council Meetings.

—Photo by Ed van Pelt

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# National Council Meetings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3



UCG-IA Chairman, Roy Holladay, gives the sermon at Sabbath Services in Toronto on May 31.

—Photo by Ed van Pelt

Paul Wasilkoff, our Webmaster, gave us a detailed report of our Home Page, citing statistics on monthly visits, the geography of visits, referrals from other sites and search engines, literature generated, publications ordered as well as an overview of web site advertising. He concluded with goals of new layouts, utilities and programming upgrades.

David Palmer gave us a media update. He talked about the meeting that had taken place in Toronto on February 9-10. (See *United News Canada*, May-June 2003, page 10.) His report touched on piggy-backing off the radio programs produced in the United States, internet advertising,

using video clips on our Home Page, print advertising, waiting room call and mail programs, brochure and newsstand programs and gift copy cards.

There were the usual committee meetings and reports, with proposals for some recommended amendments to a few of our Bylaws. We also spent time as a governing board in giving a yearly performance review of our Operations Manager, since it is one of the requirements of our governing documents.

The board recognizes that our Operations Manager wears so many different hats. Besides pastoring local congregations, managing the national office, developing an annual operations plan, overseeing media, the ministry, the office staff, planning budgets, corresponding, dealing with legal issues, he has recently been chosen to be a member of the Council of Elders. To help alleviate some of the pressures, the board felt that he could off-load the work of media onto David Palmer, who is in charge of the media advisory committee that reports to the National Office. Also, it was felt that more of the work of ministerial services could be delegated to the Ministerial Services Team that was formed by Gary Antion, who had followed the example of Ministerial Services in the United States.

Our meetings concluded early Sunday afternoon, relieved that Air Canada was still flying, since some of us had return flights scheduled. We were certainly reminded of what precarious times we live in, with constant news reports of SARS (especially in the Toronto area) as well as Mad Cow Disease, the threat of West Nile Virus and the potential bankruptcy of our national airline during troubled economic times. It makes us pray, "Thy kingdom come!" -UNC

# Impressions of the GCE

BY DAVID PALMER • VANCOUVER



Council of Elder  
Chairman Clyde  
Kilough and President  
Roy Holladay join  
international  
representatives at the  
General Council of  
Elders held in  
Cincinnati, May, 2003).

—Photo by  
Janet Treadway

There was a sense of something special about to happen as we drove into Cincinnati on that warm spring day in May. And something very special did happen indeed. I was about to attend the General Conference of Elders (GCE) for the first time, an experience very much like attending the Feast of Tabernacles.

Over the past couple of years I've had the privilege of working with several fellow elders in the U.S., especially in media-related areas of God's work, but until I attended the GCE at the home office I had not met many of those face to face. What a tremendous feeling to spend time with individuals I had been in touch with by email or telephone. The GCE gave me an opportunity to get to know many of these men, as well as dozens of other elders, including those from various different countries of the world.

The first day of the conference, with the theme this year of "Maximizing Your Ministry" was set aside as "International," which simply means those elders who represent the UCG in countries outside the U.S. had a chance to hold a day-long

session presided over by the chairman of the Council of Elders, Clyde Kilough. International representatives from countries around the world, as well as U.S. elders who represent other countries, had a chance to discuss the many facets of God's work in areas such as Ghana, South Africa, Latin America, Australia, New Zealand, Britain and several other countries, including Canada.

Next day the agenda involved media reports from around the world, giving me an opportunity to discuss several of the outreach programs we've had in Canada over the last five years including our current campaign in *Alive* magazine.

On the Sabbath, we heard from two elders, André van Belkum, from South Africa, and Aaron Dean, a member of the council of Elders.

On Sunday and Monday elders had the opportunity to take in a variety of seminars ranging from upgrading computer skills to improving speaking ability and counselling techniques.

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# Two Elders Credentialed

SUBMITTED BY MINISTERIAL SERVICES

“UCG Canada is pleased to announce that [two Canadian elders] are now...officially recognized...”

We are pleased to announce that during the past year the Council of Elders of UCG-IA recognized the credentials of two Canadian elders. UCG Canada is pleased to announce that Mr. Bruce Bird, of Saskatchewan, and Mr. Garry Lucas, of Ontario, are now officially recognized elders of UCG.

Both Garry and Emmy Lucas were born in Holland. They emigrated to Canada where they were called into the Church of God. He was ordained an elder in 1977. They live in Barrie and began attending the UCG congregation in Toronto about two years ago. They also have a son and daughter-in-law attending UCG.

Bruce and Donna Bird have been attending with the Saskatoon congregation for about two years. To do this they must drive two hours from Tisdale where they live. Mr. Bird was ordained in 1988 and served as an elder in the Prince Albert and Tisdale areas. He is the first resident elder UCG has in Saskatchewan! There are cheers in the Prairies! -UNC



Mr. Bruce Bird of Saskatchewan (above), and Mr. Gary Lucas of Ontario (left).

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## Impressions of the GCE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

The warm friendships and hospitality shown will always leave a lasting impression, especially the wonderful hospitality of Gary and Barbara Antion, who allowed me the opportunity to stay in their home while at the conference, and of course those of us from Canada were also on hand when our Operations Manager, Tony Wasilkoff, was selected as one of the

International representatives to the Council.

There is no doubt in my mind that each year the renewing of unity, the renewing of acquaintances, and wonderful camaraderie of gathering Elders and wives together from around the world at the GCE is inspired by God. Now I look forward to next year! -UNC

# Pentecost in New Brunswick

BY GEORGE CARTER • TORONTO

The Air Canada liquidation threat was barely over when Ed van Pelt and George Carter hopped aboard a plane from Toronto to Saint John, New Brunswick. They were met by Gary Steeves, our deacon in Sussex, and transported to the Amsterdam Inn where services are held. The tulips were still brilliantly in blossom.

Sabbath services the following morning had 23 people in attendance. Mr. van Pelt spoke about various aspects of idolatry and their consequences *vis-à-vis* the first two commandments. Our calling to become “fishers of men” was Mr. Carter’s topic, and he compared the former and latter miracles which Jesus performed in that regard, showing the new emphasis which our Lord gave on the last occasion He was with His disciples before His ascension into Heaven.

In the afternoon there was a picnic in Jones Mill Park. Many of the local men and women reminisced about the old days when so many of the pioneering families in these parts were tied to the mill – because the famous Jones brothers owned all the timber rights on the land which these people cleared to build their homes and farms. In those days the land was covered in old-growth forests, and some of the trees were truly gigantic.

Pentecost Sunday dawned bright and beautiful, and Ed and George went for an early morning walk to enjoy the old town and the pleasant surrounding hills with their many dairy farms and cud-chewing cattle. The incredible variety of greens reflected in the trees, bushes, and grassland was marvellous indeed.

At morning services, the offertory message was given by Robert Raven who spoke about the commandment to love one another. Offertory music was composed and played by Kevin Ford in



absentia (by tape, that is). Ed van Pelt then gave a sermon on the subject of discouragement, some of its causes, and how to overcome it. We then had an abundant pot-luck lunch, and Messrs Steeves and Carter were left to contend with the natural inclination to drowsiness brought on by contented stomachs. Neither man fell asleep during his presentation! Mr. Steeves spoke about the harvests of the land and Firstfruits, whilst Mr. Carter gave the concluding sermon on the meaning of Pentecost.

Ed and George left New Brunswick on election day, and before sunset that evening the Province had re-elected the old government by a narrow margin.

Looking forward to the Fall Feasts, we realize that the earnest of the Spirit which we now have is intended to grow in us, and prepare us to help solve mankind’s problems in the world yet ahead, under the direction of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. The concluding scripture for the day was 1 Thessalonians 4:17 and 18, “Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

“Therefore comfort one another with these words.” -UNC

Sabbath picnic at  
Jones Mill Park.

—Photo by Ed van Pelt.

# What's In a Name?

BY ROBERT BERENDT • EDMONTON

“I am continually impressed with the marvelous way in which human life was designed.”

I remember when my father would tell me about his family, and the dignity and pride that he reflected. His reminiscences reminded me of a poem written by Edgar A. Guest entitled, “Your Name”. Here are two verses from that poem.

*You got it from your father. Twas the best he had to give,*

*And right gladly he bestowed it - it is yours the while you live.*

*You may lose the watch he gave you and another you may claim,*

*But remember, when you're tempted, to be careful of his name.*

*It was fair the day you got it and a worthy name to wear.*

*When he took it from his father, there was no dishonour there;*

*Through the years he proudly wore it, to his father he was true,*

*And that name was clean and spotless when he passed it on to you.*

I remember an incident when I was 16 years old. I was allowed to use the family car to go to a dance in another town. My father trusted me and I tried to keep that trust. Through a series of problems I was not able to come home until the next morning. Even worse, we had no telephone so I could not let anyone know about the delay.

That night, after the dance, my friends and I rode around in the car, singing our favourite songs before I drove them all home. Tire problems and poor planning caused us to drop off the last girl early in the morning, after her father had already left for work. We were pretty nervous and when I returned home with the car, my father was up and waiting for me. I told him about the tire trouble and having to drive one boy about 30 miles. I was very

concerned that he would ground me – and I deserved to be grounded for the worry I must have caused him. You can imagine my immediate sputtering explanation when he informed me that the girl's father had already stopped by our house on his way to work to inquire about his daughter, who had told her dad she would be with us that night. My father waited a moment and then said: “Son, I told Louie that if his daughter was with my son, she would come to no harm and he need not worry.”

Forty-eight years have passed since that morning, but I still get a little choked up thinking he trusted me so. I tried never to let him down in that trust. I carried my father's name! I realized that his reputation and the whole reputation of the family also rested on the shoulders of each of his six children – me included. We children were not perfect, but each one of felt the responsibility of being a member of the family.

I am continually impressed with the marvelous way in which human life was designed. Our Creator, who is known as our Heavenly Father, created us to need up to 25 years to fully mature and we are to be part of a family during that time (being part of the family does not end when maturity is reached). We learn great lessons of life, none greater than the one about the responsibilities we carry. We are to learn to honour our parents and through that to honour our Heavenly Parent. There is a reason Christ expressed God as the Father. It signifies family.

We read in the scriptures that God the Father calls and chooses His people at this time (John 6:44). There is joy in heaven when one sinner repents (Luke 15:7). God the Father is the author and finisher of our faith through Christ (Hebrews 12:2). We are to become holy and without blame before Him (Ephesians 1:4).

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# What's In a Name?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

God the Father is directly involved in our salvation. It is He who writes your name in His Book of Life. All the heavenly angels are witnesses to this momentous event! God the Father has taken upon Himself the responsibility for your eternal life or death. That ought to show us how vital is it that we honour our Father. Revelation 22:4 states: "They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads." God's reputation – all that He stands for and is – becomes the responsibility of His children. Jesus Christ glorified His Father and we, too, are to glorify Him.

God the Father was able to proclaim that Jesus "is My Son in whom I am well pleased." All the angels in heaven worshipped Christ and stood in awe of what He had accomplished. God was also able to identify Job as a man who would never curse His name (Job 1:11, 21, Job 2:9,10). We can see that it was not only a curse from the lips that is implied, but to embarrass God before all the angels and the demon world. God trusted Job to uphold God's reputation. God also called Abraham His friend (James 2:23); Moses was spoken to as a friend (Exodus 33:11); David was a man after God's own heart (I Samuel 13:14), and Jesus Christ called His disciples friends (John 15:15).

Being called and chosen is a great honour and responsibility. It means that the blood of Christ has been applied to our sins through baptism. It means God has reached out His hand to help us climb the mountain that life inevitably gives to all who would follow Christ. God has placed His name (reputation) on the calling of humans. It is "in His name" and "for His name" that all things are done. In John 17:6-12, Jesus prays that we should be kept through the Father's name.

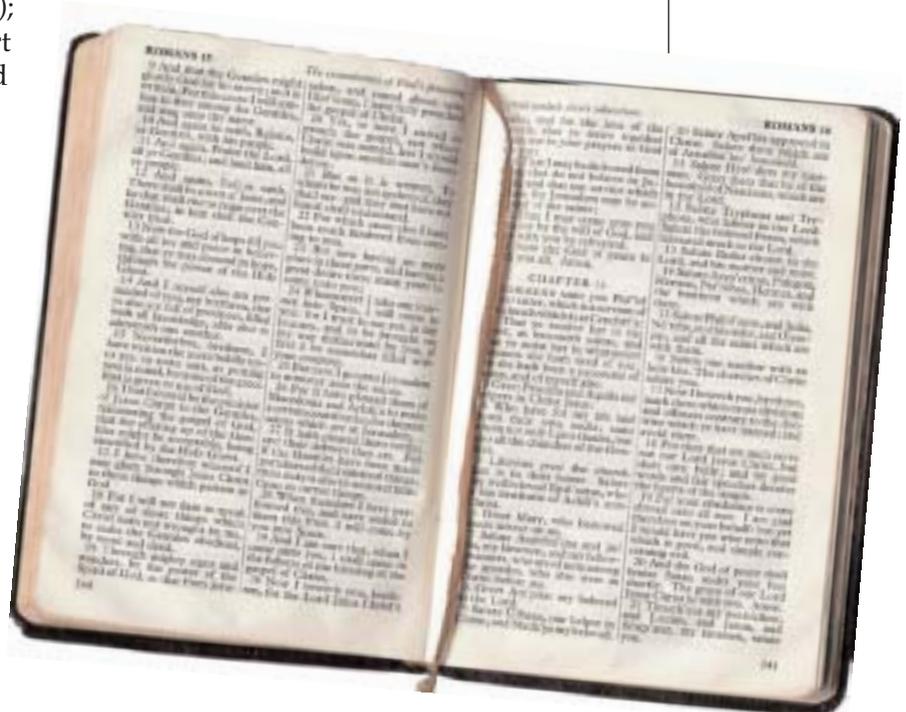
Humans are known by angels and

demons as the chosen ones of God. They are His chosen vessels, jewels, holy nation and all the other adjectives that describe those in whom God has begun the work of redemption. God puts all that He is on the line for His children. In that way, we as parents can clearly identify with God. We too bear the glory or shame of our children. We are ever hopeful towards our children. We are supportive and there to help, yet we know they must learn to stand on their own two feet and make the correct and appropriate choices in their lives. We are to teach by word and example. Jesus Christ did this for us. He was the express image of God the Father (Hebrews 1:3).

There is no greater honour roll that a human can be named upon, than to have God call him or her at this time. The Book of Life was started from the foundation of this earth (Ephesians 1:4). The first name entered may have been Abel, and a more recent name may have been yours. When one reads the words of God it is too much at times. Our minds simply develop a circuit

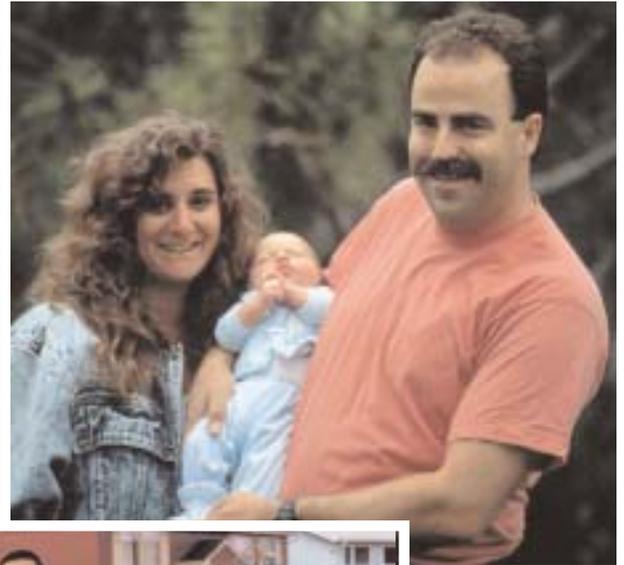
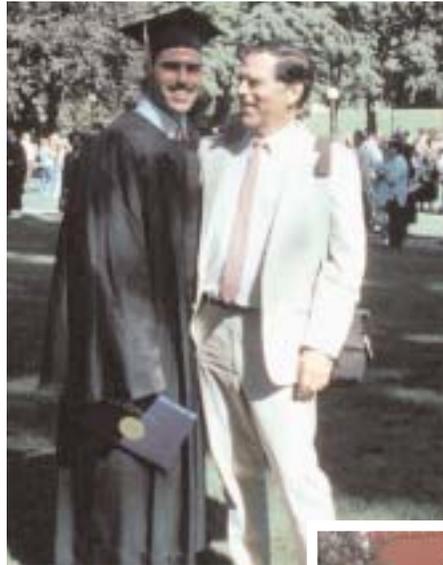
"It is [God] who writes your name in His Book of Life."

—continued on page 11



# There is Praise

POETRY BY DAN STRATHERN • EDMONTON



There is praise for the man who goes  
out into space  
To challenge a frontier unknown  
There is praise for the man who sets  
out with a goal  
To reach the North Pole on his own.

There is praise for the man who seeks  
riches and wealth  
To the uttermost ends of the earth  
But where is the praise for the family man?  
Who puts coals on his family's hearth.

A hero is someone who goes out into the fight  
To perform the ultimate deed;  
A hero is someone who answers the call  
Whenever his country is in need.

A hero is the champion who comes galloping  
forth  
Whenever the downtrodden plead  
But the real hero's the one who keeps plodding  
along  
Because he has children to feed.

The world always has time for the gallant it  
seems  
Whose thirst for adventure assuage  
They worship the star whose immaculate face  
Appears daily on every front page.

They devour every word every scrap of  
verbiage  
From the present most popular sage  
But none ever considers the family man  
Who works hard for his menial wage.

My father was never the shining white knight  
Who responded to each such occasion  
Who was always out there in full battle gear  
When an enemy threatened invasion.

But the "home front" was where all his battles  
were fought  
And therein lay his patriotic persuasion  
He strove on till he died, teaching us to survive  
And be the real strength and backbone of  
our nation. -UNC

# Poet's Corner

POETRY BY CUYLER HARDER •  
CALGARY

## What is My Home? (Definition Poem)

What is my home?  
My Salvation  
My Food  
My Health  
My Freedom  
My Shelter  
My Love  
My Life  
This is my home.

## Spring & Summer (Haiku)

Trees, Green Leaves, Grass, Dirt  
Rain, Puddles, Sprinklers, Water  
Thunderstorm, Lightning

*Editor's Note: Cuyler is 12 years old  
and attends the UCG-Calgary  
congregation. -UNC*

# Words to Live By

COMPILED BY ERNIE MCBRATNEY

A gift from the heart lasts forever.

True friendship is like good health. The value of it is seldom known until it is lost.

There may be a beautiful valley over the hill, but you have to climb the hill to see it.

The only food that doesn't go up in price is food for thought.

Worry is like a rocking chair. It'll give you something to do, but it won't get you anywhere.

If it is large or small, do it right or not at all.

No one has ever been bored by someone giving them a compliment.

When troubles grow, your character shows.

When looking at faults, use a mirror, not a telescope.

If you don't have time to do it right, you may have to find time to do it over.

Life is like a bath. A wrong turn can leave you in hot water. -UNC

# What's In a Name?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

break because of the tremendous import that it carries. In Revelation 3:12 we read: "He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name." Many will disagree with the destiny of humans because of the enormity that is implied.

It is enough to know that we do have a responsibility to carry, and that God gives us all the help we need. The load is light and a joy when rightly understood. We need not walk in fear and

trepidation, but rather in confidence and boldness due to His intervention.

Carry that honour in an appropriate manner. Being called a Christian places some responsibility on us all. Our Heavenly Father believes in us, and He and His Son live in us through His Holy Spirit. It is because of the forgiving and healing sacrifice of Jesus Christ that we can believe in ourselves. It is vital to know who you are. The choices you make in life will be reflected in that concept. What is in a name? In the case of sons of God - much more than we realize.

Glorify your Father in Heaven and in due time, He will glorify you (Romans 8:30). -UNC

# World News Watch *"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." (Matt. 24:42)*

COMPILED BY DAVID PALMER • VANCOUVER

## Unkillable Superbugs

Half of the most infectious bacteria strain -- the cause of everything from ear infections to fatal pneumonia and meningitis -- will be resistant to antibiotics just over a year from now according to doctors.

The researchers say their findings show the need to regulate and reduce the number of antibiotic prescriptions and find new ways of treating drug-resistant bacteria. They are also calling for more vaccine research.

In the early stages of a superbug world, a child's ear infection might take a \$120 prescription for cephixime, which kills resistant bacteria, instead of a \$19 bottle of Amoxil, says Dr. Allison McGeer, an infectious disease expert at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto.

Health care costs would soar: Mount Sinai estimates that switching to new super-antibiotics would cost \$750,000 a year just in one hospital. And the next stage gets scarier. Patients with severe respiratory infections would spend a long time sick, and some would likely die, because first one then another drug would prove ineffective, allowing infection to spread and worsen. A man in the Oshawa, Ontario area died in a Toronto hospital this spring, when drugs wouldn't touch his E. coli infection. (CanWest News)

## Kid Photos on the Web

Dozens of money-making Web sites have recently been created by parents who post photos they have taken of their adolescent daughters (as young as age 6)

frolicking in frilly clothing or swimwear, according to a May New York Daily News report. The sites are operated like pornography businesses, with some free teaser photos, but with \$30-a-month "members" getting access to the photo archive and "personal" messages from the "model." Some sites operate chat rooms where members discuss the girls in great detail. One "typical" site has 3,000 daily users, and another had 32 million page views in nine months. The parents say they are helping their daughters with modeling careers or with future college expenses. [New York Daily News]

## Parents Do Little About Kids' Faith Training

Most parents believe that they are primarily responsible for the spiritual development of their children, but few of them spend time interacting with their youngsters on religious matters. According to the latest study from the Barna Research Group (BRG), close to nine of 10 parents of children under 13 -- 85 per cent -- believe they have the primary responsibility for teaching their children about religious beliefs and spiritual issues.

But related research revealed that a majority of parents do not spend any time during a typical week discussing spiritual matters or studying religious materials with their children. Although about two out of three parents of children under 12 attend religious services at least once a month and generally take their children with them, most are willing to let their church provide all of their

youngsters' spiritual training.

Released in May 2003, the survey of 1,010 adults found that parents typically have no plan for the spiritual development of their children, do not consider it a priority, have little or no training in how to nurture a child's faith, have no related standards or goals that they are seeking to satisfy, and experience no accountability for their efforts.

"[Children] are one of the most significant and fertile mission fields, yet the very people who claim responsibility for ... [their] spiritual growth ... are doing little about it beyond dropping their kids off at church," said BRG president George Barna. "Churches could help more by being increasingly proactive in preparing parents to handle that responsibility wisely.

## Education Priorities

Several weeks ago we received a copy of a letter, which aptly describes the antics and actions of many of our youth in this reckless world of abandon...but the content of the letter was not written about today's youth.

"The children of today love luxury. They have bad manners, they show disrespect for adults and love to talk rather than work or exercise. They contradict their parents, chatter in front of company, gobble down their food at the table, and intimidate their teachers." (This was written by Socrates, approximately 380 B.C.)

*Editor's note: King Solomon was right. "There is nothing new under the sun!"* -UNC