



United News Canada

News of the United Church of God - Canada

Vol.12 No.4

www.ucg.ca

July-October 2007

Learn how your life will be acutely affected by events in the volatile Middle East!

The Middle East in Bible Prophecy

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The above banner highlights the Reader's Digest advertisement being displayed across Canada. It is due on newsstands in September: see page 15 for more details.

Below are pictured some adventurous Edmonton white-water rafters: see more on back page.





Office Update

Internet Mail

**Daily average: 25.8
– over 1 per hour**

United News Canada

Is published by United Church of God - Canada,
P.O. Box 144, Station D, Etobicoke, On M9A 4X1

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United News Canada is automatically sent to all members
of United Church of God - Canada, and is free to all who
request it.

Subscriptions are provided by the voluntary contributions of
its members and co-workers. Donations to help share our free
publications are gratefully accepted and are tax-deductible.

For a free subscription write to the address above.

Or phone 1-800-338-7779.

Email: canadian_office@ucg.org

Websites:

English www.ucg.ca

French www.revuebnc.ca

The on-line version is available at

www.unitednewscanada.org

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Website: www.ucg.org

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Canada Post Publications Agreement #1487159





Office Update

- Total *Good News* subscribers as of May 30:

12,248

Including

1,443 waiting rooms

At July 25th we have 12,914 Good News subscribers.



Office Update

- Increase over last year:

- 4,992

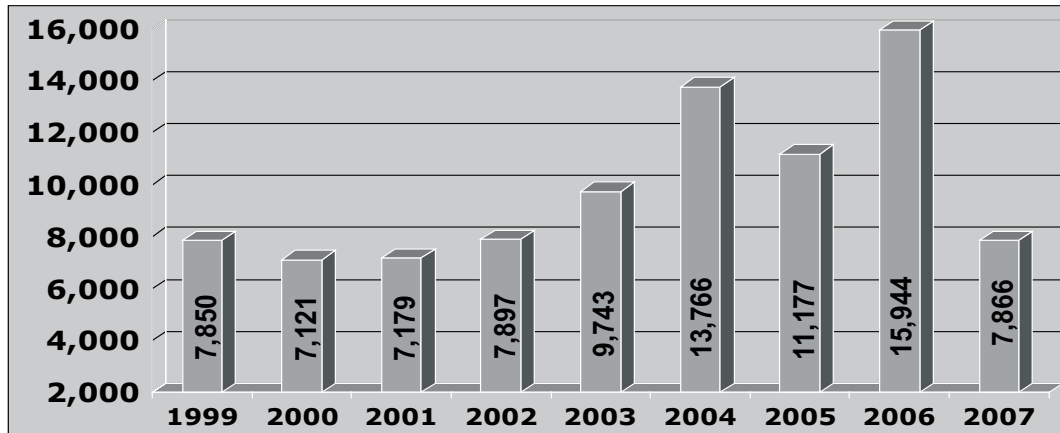
- 68.7%



Office Update

Total Mail Received

Up to May 30, 2007



At July 25th the total mail received was **10,169** pieces.

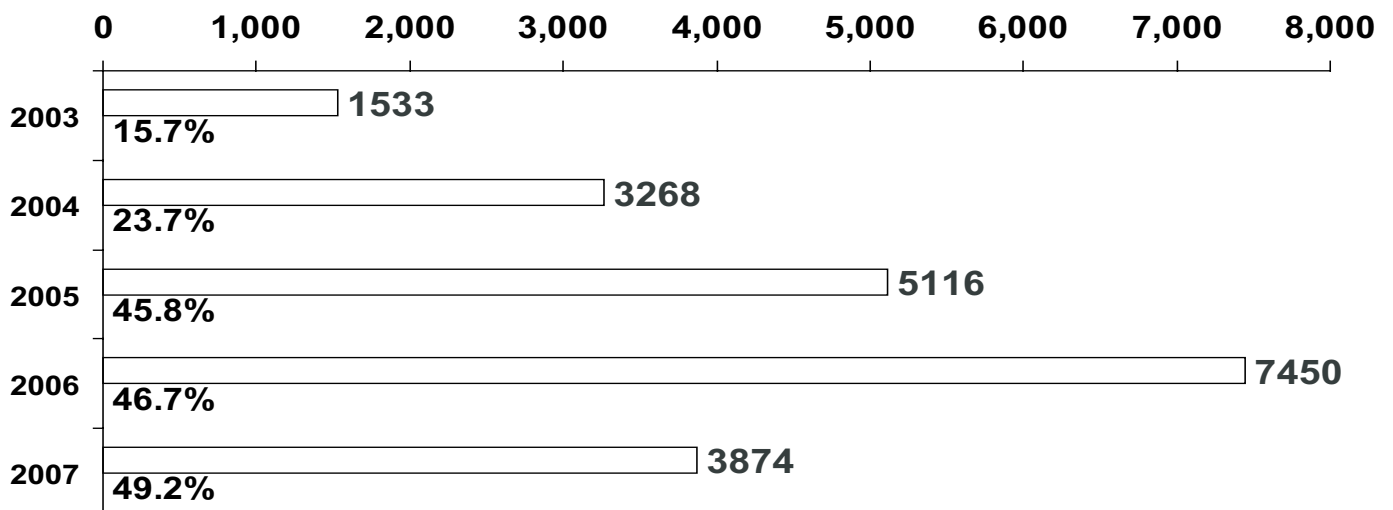


Office Update

Internet Mail Received

Showing the amount and the percent of the total mail.

Up to May 30, 2007



COUNCIL MEETS IN ABBOTSFORD

The most recent National Council meeting was held in Abbotsford starting the evening of June 5 and ending on the afternoon of June 7. Tuesday evening began with the usual adoption of previous minutes, reading of the Council Code of Ethics and Job Description. This was followed by a National Office update. David Palmer gave a Media Team update and Robert Berendt reported on the work of the Ministerial Services Team.

The Council heard reports of the spring Holy Days across Canada. Robert Berendt shared his impressions of the May Council of Elders' meeting he attended. His three-year term on the COE begins in July. There was a short discussion regarding the work load of our council committees.

David Campbell finished off his three-year term on the National Council at the end of March. He was asked to give some parting comments to the Council. He shared the strategies he used during his Council term and gave some parting suggestions to help new members. The Council presented him a pen as a token of appreciation for his involvement.

Policies Approved

Wednesday was a productive day as several policies were adopted. They were:

- * Miscellaneous Expense Reimbursement
- * Festival Fundraising
- * Festival Merchandizing
- * Literature Sent to Former Members/ Associates

In addition to the new policies, some existing policies were updated or amended, including:

- * Handling Employee Complaints
- * Hiring and Firing Employees
- * Feast Transfer for Salaried Employees
- * Vacation Time for Employees

The Council also approved forms for use whenever there is an individual attending services who has been accused of or convicted of a sexual abuse offense.

Annual Reviews

On Thursday the Council conducted the annual review of the Director of Operations.

A Council Self-Evaluation occurred to enable all to evaluate whether or not all areas of Council responsibility are being fulfilled. Dr. Ian Simons was assigned to the Strategic Planning/Finance Committee.

Procedure for Dealing with Conflict

A procedure for dealing with conflict in congregations had been assigned to the Ministerial Services Team. After much input, they presented their completed

document which the Council approved. All pastors will have copies of this procedure available to give to members involved in conflict with another member.

Reader's Digest Ad

The Director of Operations presented a request to use a portion of a bequest left to the church for a *Reader's Digest* ad. The Council approved the request.

A great deal of business was accomplished during this meeting and the last item on the agenda, a brainstorming session, was also productive. Items of discussion included: How can we build more enthusiasm in the membership? How can we be more effective? What major trends will affect the church?

Linda Wasilkoff
Council Secretary



AS IT WAS IN THE DAYS OF NOAH

“But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be”

(Matthew 24:37 NKJ throughout)

Looking for signs of the return of Christ to this earth and the induction of God's Kingdom is not new. The disciples and New Testament writers also desired to know the signs of the times, signs that His return would be imminent. “*Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”*” (Matthew 24:3). The disciples were looking for a specific time-table, but that's not what Jesus gave them. He simply delivered an overview. And in fact made it clear that no one knows the day, or the hour of His return, not even the angels, but the Father only (Matthew 24:36). Even the apostle Paul thought Christ would return during his ministry. “Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and *we shall be changed.*” (1 Corinthians 15:51-52).

For almost two thousand years the Church of God has anticipated the return of the Saviour, the King of Kings, Jesus of Nazareth. Each year we begin the fall Festival season observing the *Feast of Trumpets*, the day that represents not only Christ's second coming but also the resurrection of the saints, both those who died in Christ, and those who are still alive.

But while we recognize that no individual or group of individuals can determine the time frame for the return of Christ, Jesus did give us one sign that was very telling: “*And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even so will it be in the day when the*

Son of Man is revealed” (Luke 17:26-30).

So, on one hand we cannot know the exact timing of His return, yet we are also given a ‘blueprint.’ The end of the age, Christ tells us, will be *AS IT WAS IN THE DAYS OF NOAH!* Can we determine what the world was like several thousand years ago, at the time when God revealed to Noah He was about to bring a worldwide flood on the earth, then commissioned Noah to build an ark? (Genesis 6:4-22).

We are aware that world events on a massive scale will have a direct effect on the dramatic end of the age, and the return of Christ at the sound of the last trumpet, but Jesus also wanted us to recognize that we need to watch our spiritual lives daily, and compared the world of our day to the time of Noah.

What was the world like in Noah's day? And what can we learn from the lesson of the flood as we observe the fall festival known as “*the blowing of trumpets?*” (Leviticus 23:24). *Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the Lord said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.” But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. And God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth”* (Genesis 6: 5-8, 11-13).

God saw that wickedness was great, and that man's thoughts were evil (worldly), without concern for His laws. Today we read our headlines, watch our nightly television news, and what do we see? A world very similar to that described in Genesis.

Notice, Noah was warned! “By faith Noah, *being divinely warned of things not yet seen*, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith (Hebrews 11:7).

We are warned! Do we heed the warning?

Do we have the kind of faith that Noah had? Are we willing to build our spiritual ark in the midst of the spiritual wilderness of this world? These are questions we need to assimilate in our minds as we observe the Feast of Trumpets, a special holy day that represents the end of a horrifying event on the earth called the great tribulation, a time when Christ returns and cuts short the war that would destroy the human race.

If the end of the world will be as it was in the days of Noah what do we learn from the story of the flood? It's end was decisive. God through Noah's preaching gave the pre-flood world 120 years. How long will God allow the gospel to be preached today, before this world experiences His wrath? The prophet Isaiah compares the time of Noah to the time of the end, “So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, And His glory from the rising of the sun; *When the enemy comes in like a flood, ...* (Isaiah 59:19).

The apostle Peter made comparison to the days of Noah and the end time. He refers to scoffers in the last days scorning the idea of the return of Christ, saying these people are ignorant of the fact that the earth was destroyed by a flood (2 Peter 3:3-4). But Peter also reminds us that God is very patient. “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3: 9).

The apostle Paul may have desired to have Christ return during his time; however, he was also inspired to tell the church at Thessalonica, “But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night” (1 Thessalonians 5:1-2).

God revealed to Noah what he was going to do. Paul made it clear to those in his day, and the warning message is still relevant for us today. “But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all children of light and children of the day. We are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober (aware of what is happening around us) (1Thessalonians 5:4-6).

As we observe God's special holy days, including the Feast of Trumpets, let us recognize the importance of watching, not only world events, but keeping watch on

Continued on page 7

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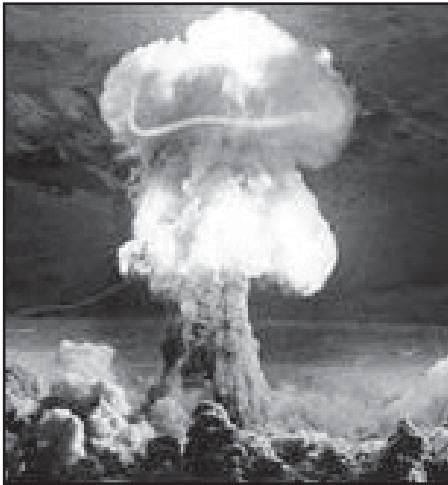
our spiritual connection to Jesus Christ and His Father in heaven. *“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house (the Church He built) and gave authority to his servants, and to each one his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. Watch therefore: for you do not know when the master of the house is coming (The*

owner who bought and paid for it with His own blood) *in the evening, at midnight, or at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning. Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping (involved in the day-to-day routine of this world). And what I say to you I say unto all, Watch (Mark 13:32-37).*

The Feast of Trumpets, the holy day that looks forward to the return of Christ, is also a time for us to reflect and recognize that history is being repeated: ***“But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming***

of the Son of Man be” (Matthew 24:37). We are living *“In the days of Noah.”* When the time of trouble comes, like a flood signaling Christ’s return at the sound of that last trumpet, let’s hope and pray that we will all be allowed to get aboard the ark!

David Palmer - Vancouver



“And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” Isaiah 2:4 MKJV.



Courtesy photo.com

**LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE
- A FESTIVAL OPPORTUNITY**

“Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand -- shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God, our generous Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16, The Message).

The Feast of Tabernacles provides us with an eight-day opportunity to show a positive Christian example to others. This can be toward people in the community of your Feast site, or to each other as brethren. Perhaps you might help this year to make someone else’s Feast their ‘best ever.’

The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation

This foundation started in 1955 and has a focus on doing some *random act of kindness* for people. Here are some stories from their website that can encourage you to do something similar for God’s people (as well as others), during this year’s 2007 Feast.

Adopt a person who is having a bad day and take the time to show them how good it feels to perform an anonymous act of kindness.

It seems kindness does more for me than the person I have shown my simple kindness to.

I was feeling very sad, and someone came up to me and cheered me up. You might think that this is a very boring

story, but you’d be surprised how much better you can feel when you know that someone cares about you enough to try and make you feel happy.

While in the parking lot of a large bulk-item store, I saw a woman who was pushing a half-full shopping cart while pulling on a full, almost overflowing cart. I asked her if I could help. She wasn’t too sure that I wouldn’t run off with her cart, but did let me help her. I pushed the full cart and followed her to her car. She was thankful and I was happy that I got to be helpful!

Here are some suggestions on how you might serve others by random acts of kindness at the Feast this year.

- * SMILE broadly at one person at least each day.
- * Say something positive and nice to someone when you see the need to give a compliment.
- * Greet those you don’t personally know.
- * Help those who seem on their own; invite them to share a meal or an activity.
- * Help the auditorium ushers and cleaners by picking up any litter you see and putting it in a waste bin.
- * Willingly offer help to any elderly, handicapped, or other person who seems to be in need of assistance.
- * Act on your ideas as they come to mind.

Participate in the spirit of the Feast by being motivated to do a ‘random act of kindness’ for someone else.

“So then, as often as we have the chance, we should do good to everyone, and especially to those who belong to our family in the faith (Galatians 6:10 Good News Bible).

Resolve to be an encouraging person, and to love one another warmly as Christians.

Graemme Marshall - Ottawa



(Courtesy photo.com)



The smiles of children set an example for us all!



UCG PRESIDENT VISITS OTTAWA, CANADA

For the Sabbath of May 19, President Clyde Kilough and his wife Dee traveled from the Cincinnati Home Office to Ottawa for a church visit with the UCG Ottawa congregation. A number of Montreal members made a 2-3 hour drive to attend as well.

Forty-seven people gathered for this special Sabbath. For the first three hymns of the service an ensemble of singers, from Ottawa and Montreal congregations, provided added volume. Accompanying them on an electric keyboard was Miss Marianne Connell from Montreal, and Mr. Jon Curtis from Lake Placid, New York, was our lone saxophonist.

A sumptuous pot-luck and desserts, including a presentation black forest cake, were enjoyed after services. Prior to the potluck Mrs. Kilough graciously cut the cake, following a presentation to the Kiloughs of a Canadian Mountie on a horse; a bottle of maple syrup; and two books by one of Canada's most widely-read authors, Farley Mowat – *The Dog That Wouldn't Be* and *The Boat that Wouldn't Float*.

In Mr. Kilough's update and announcements the following topics were covered: He explained how as a senior at Ambassador College, Big Sandy in 1974, he heard Mr. Leslie McCullough at a student Forum ask whether any would be interested in serving in Canada. From a meeting afterwards a seed was sown to volunteer for a Canadian assignment. It happened that Dee, his wife-to-be, had a grandmother who had temporarily emigrated from Scotland to Saskatchewan before moving to the U.S. And so she was keen to see Canada from this family interest. They were posted to Edmonton for two years, Winnipeg for three, and then Yorkton for two. The assignment of seven years was a wonderful experience and an adjustment for someone who had never been further north than Texas at the time. Their children were born in Canada.

Church members have the same spirit everywhere and it is a highlight to visit congregations around the world. Meeting God's people with the same spirit is energizing. As a group we are too limited of ourselves to have an impact upon the world, but it is God's Work. The flow of information available to members is one of United's strengths.

He explained how the membership in Zambia had recently doubled in attendance to well over 200, in several congregations scattered around the country. He plans to visit the congregations in Zambia and Malawi in August, as it has been many years since they have had a visitor from the Home Office. Oftentimes members in some of these developing countries are living the tribulation in their daily lives due to the struggle to survive, and they need our prayers and support.

Relocation of the Home Office: God has blessed us with increasing growth and the need to do more. It is always a step in faith. Anything we do these days is a step in faith. The whole plan of God requires us to be visionary and a faith-based people. This opportunity comes at the right time for UCG to be able to position ourselves for future growth. Media has had a 36% budget increase and responses will come. We are looking at a 'door' being open to prepare for the future, as God wills. It will still be three years before it happens.

God's plan requires us to be 'visionary.' In the prayer outline given by Christ in Matthew 6:8, we are told to daily pray, "Your Kingdom Come." This is visionary. Mr. Herbert Armstrong was visionary. When the World Tomorrow first went on the air even the big cities had only three television stations to compete with one another. Today there are scores of stations available with cable, and many competing religious programs. We have found that the Internet is the most cost effective, but Internet searchers also have a short attention span.

When United started in '95 we were concerned about how we could go to the world when we were so small. We didn't anticipate the impact of the Internet at that time. Two examples of recent times: Mr. David Baker, who oversees the work in Asia, has been corresponding with two individuals living in Pakistan. Not long ago a man in Myanmar (formerly Burma) e-mailed questions to us about a Beyond Today program he had seen on the Internet. These two examples show the power of the Internet to reach throughout the whole world and provide a means for God to bring people to us. Mr. Kilough concluded his remarks by saying that no matter what we do for people to come to God's church, it takes God's miracle of a calling to change them. We have to sow

the seed – but it remains God who calls.

**

Mr. Kilough's sermon focused on how God's culture for the Kingdom should be reflected in the culture of God's church today. The sermon was taped to be made available for congregations across Canada. The following is a summary of his presentation.

God's Church Should Reflect God's Culture.

It isn't correct to influence the church by bringing in our personal cultural opinions. We have to have the skill to separate cultural prejudices from seeking the Truth. This creates a NEW culture based on Truth.

We have a unique calling; called to be different; to be something we have never been.

What should the culture of the church be? God calls us to adopt His culture so we have to be careful we don't pull the culture of society around us into His church.

Can Satan use our differences to pry us apart? He has in the past.

What kind of culture will be in God's Kingdom? God is not going to take the best of each nation on earth, but establish a new culture. No people, nor any nation, on earth today represents the culture of the Kingdom of God. The culture of God's church should be the culture of the Kingdom of God for the future. We are called to represent that Kingdom. The culture of the Kingdom of God is the culture we must reflect in the Church today.

In the World of Tomorrow, nations will not be allowed to return to their past cultures. We will demand a new way of thinking. They will be required to conform to become 'one nation under God.' God's Way is the only true way to unity. It is a culture of 'overcoming and changing.'

Continued over page

Continued from page 9

God's church is pledged to give up the old way and take on being a 'new creation' (2 Corinthians 5:14-20). As in the words of our hymn on page 44, "I have held back my feet from the ways of this world," (O How Love I Thy Law! - Psalm 119:97-104).

Never allow the culture of this world to carry over into the church. One of the greatest threats to our future will be the culture of this world coming into God's church.

We are called to represent the Kingdom of God. Therefore, the culture that we know will be in the Kingdom, a culture identified by the fruits of the spirit, should be the culture of the Church today. We are called to represent that Kingdom.

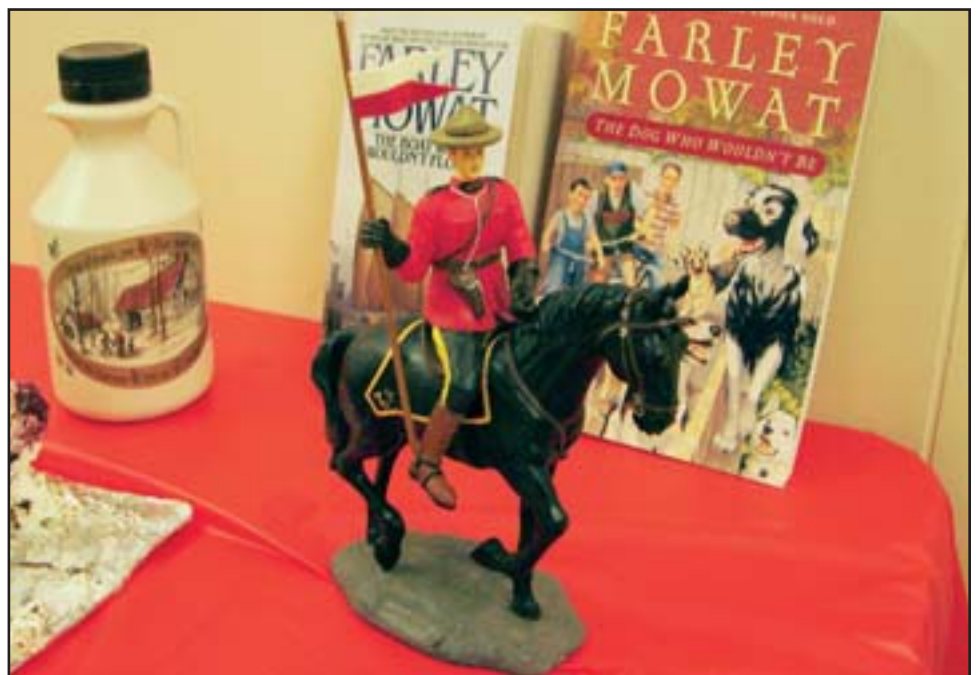
UNC



UCG President Clyde Kilough speaking to Ottawa and Montreal Church members on the Sabbath of May 19, 2007.

Church brethren were pleased to make a presentation to the Kiloughs for taking time out from a busy Cincinnati schedule to spend time with us all.

A Canadian Mountie, a flask of maple syrup, and two books by Canadian raconteur and author, Farley Mowat.



Feast of Tabernacles 2007

**Activity Schedule
Collingwood, Ontario**

WED. SEPT. 26	<i>FOT-1</i> THURS. SEPT. 27	<i>FOT-2</i> FRI. SEPT. 28	<i>FOT-3</i> SAT. SEPT. 29	<i>FOT-4</i> SUN. SEPT. 30	<i>FOT-5</i> MON. OCT. 1	<i>FOT-6</i> TUES. OCT. 2	<i>FOT-7</i> WED. OCT. 3	<i>LGD</i> THURS. OCT. 4
		<u>SERVICE</u> 10:00	11:00 AM Seniors Brunch	<u>SERVICE</u> 10:00 Youth Lessons	<u>SERVICE</u> 10:00	<u>SERVICE</u> 10:00	<u>SERVICE</u> 10:00 Youth Lessons	<u>SERVICE</u> 10:00
3:00 PM Set-up Crew Auditorium	<u>SERVICE</u> 2:30		<u>SERVICE</u> 2:30	2:00 PM Teen Outing	2:00 PM Family Picnic	2:30 PM Boat Cruise & Luncheon	12:30 PM Staff reports to be handed to coordinator	12:30 PM LGD Buffet Luncheon <u>SERVICE</u> 2:30
3:30 PM Staff Meeting								
<u>SERVICE</u> 7:30	7:30 PM Singles Seminar & 9:00 PM Get Together	7:30 PM Young Adult Bible Study		6:00 PM Fall Harvest Dinner & Dance	7:30 PM Variety Fun Show		7:30 PM Teen Bible Study	
Sunset 7:12 pm		Sunset 7:09 pm					Sunset 6:59 pm	

Location of Services:

Georgian Manor Resort & Country Club, 10 Vacation Inn Drive (just off HWY 26), Collingwood, Ontario, Canada.

- A Special Seniors Brunch with a seasoned speaker.
- A Fun Filled Variety Show for all ages.
- A Variety of Teen and Young Adult activities.
- Singles Get Together and Seminar.
- Family Picnic

Variety Show: Please make your plans to participate in our annual talent and fun show.

Planned activities include the following:

- Scenic Luncheon Boat Cruise on gorgeous Georgian Bay.
- Fall Harvest Dinner and Dance in the main ballroom.

Choir: Anyone interested in joining the Collingwood choir or possibly participating in vocal or instrumental special music, please contact Kevin Ford at 1 – 800 – 338 – 7779 or e-mail at kevin_ford@ucg.ca

Festival Co-ordinator:

Dennis Horlick

Pastoral Seminar: Session Three

The third and final session of the pastoral sessions held at the Home Office in Cincinnati began on a beautiful sunny Tuesday morning, March 15th, much different than the cold and snow that greeted the participants when the first session began in mid-January.

After introductory greetings from Seminar organizer Richard Pinelli, UCG Operations Manager for Ministerial Services, Jim Franks, began by introducing the topic of "Preparing the Gospel and Preparing a People, Balancing the Two."

Once again the sessions included a variety of topics related to the many facets of pastoring congregations. We looked at several aspects of legal concerns for the ministry, a presentation by UCG lawyer Larry Darden. When someone says "It's all Greek to me," chances are Ken Graham will know what it means. Mr. Graham took us through the basics of using Greek text as an asset to getting greater understanding of New Testament scripture in its original form.

UCG President Clyde Kilough went through in great detail the purpose for "Church Governance," and why an organized body of Christ is much better prepared to follow the biblical command to preach the gospel and make disciples. In a similar session Jim Franks dealt with "Sabbath Issues."

Other topics included 'Creating an Environment for Growth,' presented by Bill Bradford; a session on 'Grief Counseling' from Gary Antion; and 'Dealing with the Spirit World' by Richard Pinelli.

The last few sessions gave all of us the opportunity to sit in on an ABC class conducted by Darris McNeely, editor of the publication World News and Prophecy. Mr. McNeely went through an extensive session on "Early Church History" and "The Seven Churches of Revelation."

But it was not all work and no play: We also managed to take in a Cincinnati Reds baseball game. (The Reds won! for those interested.....)

As in the previous sessions, the goodbyes were tough. We had enjoyed the

seminar sessions together, ate together, fellowshiped together and developed close friendships. But this time goodbye was a little more emotional. Following sessions one and two, we knew we would be back. This time it was different. An emotional closing prayer by Richard Pinelli even brought a few tears as warm handshakes and hugs were exchanged before each individual finally left and headed home.

David Palmer - Vancouver



P.S.

David Palmer has thoroughly discussed the topics covered in the third session of the Pastoral Training Program. In looking back at the three training sessions that were held at the Home Office, it is amazing how much information we received on so many important areas of the ministry.

We appreciate the leadership of Richard Pinelli in working with President Clyde

Kilough and the ministerial team headed by Jim Franks to develop such a valuable tool for those entering the ministry. We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge those ministers and their wives who came from their church areas to also instruct us during the three sessions.

As we continue to serve the brethren we will no doubt remember the jewels of

knowledge, understanding and wisdom that we received. Thank you for inviting the two Canucks. We appreciate it immensely.

Dennis Horlick - Toronto

This is the Way - from the UCG web page

Broken Laws, Broken Dreams

Some friends on a ski trip decided to ignore the warning sign and ski out of bounds. It didn't seem like that big of a deal—until one ran into a hidden rock and was injured for life! He broke his neck. A full year of therapy brought some movement back, but only a little. Ignoring the danger sign changed his life and destroyed his dreams.

Why did this tragedy happen? The answer is that good rules designed for safety were broken. The world is filled with sorrow and pain because even greater laws are broken—those that are given by

God. The Ten Commandments, if obeyed, will give us much happiness and peace of mind. God, our loving Father, pleads with us in Deuteronomy 5:29: "Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!"

Strive to take to heart the importance of keeping God's laws and show respect for man's laws. They are there for our good. Learn from the errors of others so your dreams will not be broken.

Further reading: [The Ten Commandments](#)
-- Online at www.ucg.org/booklets/TC/



A PERSPECTIVE ON CHURCH ERAS

(Mr. Roy Hickford visited Ottawa UCG congregation over the Pentecost weekend. On the Sabbath before, he spoke on the subject below. Mr. Hickford's involvement with God's Church is detailed below).

Christ was not taken by 'surprise' at the spiritual condition of the churches He described in Revelation chapters two and three. After all, in His earthly ministry he had already warned the disciples through the parable of 'tares and wheat.' Some sixty to seventy years after that parable He is again warning through the apostle John that this 'mixture' is causing dangerous endemic problems as described for each of the Churches in Asia Minor. It is therefore hardly surprising that after some sixty to seventy years after the raising up of this present end-time era of God's Church, that we would have encountered the 'apostasy' events of 1995, and the fallout and splintering that has since occurred.

The verses of Revelation chapters 2 and 3 have several levels of understanding. Here are five for the reader's interest.

- 1) The churches were seven literal congregations in the cities named that received a letter inspired from Christ, the Head of the Church.
- 2) The descriptions picture seven *attitudes* that exist in the overall Church of God today.
- 3) These *attitudes* can also be in any one congregation of God's Church.
- 4) They can also be *individual attitudes* that many of us go through in our Christian lives.
- 5) They are characteristics that *roughly* picture different historic periods of Church history.

Here are some observations about this last point of historical Church eras. If we examine the verses we can see every word and phrase has meaning when referring to the ancient cities, but also seems to be mirrored at a later time in history. Here is just a very small smattering of these parallels:

There was a man named Peter of Bruys in 1103, who was probably the start of the Thyatira era. There were small groups of people and it often looked like they would hardly survive. The members in this age lived in southern France, the very centre of the textile industry of Europe, and it was the cloth merchants who carried the truth across Europe. This echoes back to Lydia of Acts 16:14, who was a 'seller of purple cloth from the city of Thyatira.'

Revelation 2.18 mentions flames of fire. Dante Alighieri was writing his *Inferno* on hell at this time. Books and Bibles were burned. It was a time of the first burning of 'heretics' against the Catholic faith. Up until this time burning had been a civil penalty for sorcery. Some histories indicate Peter of Bruys was burned at the stake after twenty years of development in this Church era.

In the Waldensian valleys Peter Waldo emerged in 1161 and stood for God's Truth. The greater "second works" indicated in Revelation 2:19 now started to come true. History records that they made several translations of the Bible and had an influence on Calvin. The ministry and membership could recite much of the Bible by heart. They had colleges, and schools, and a significant publishing work. They produced articles and booklets, copied by hand, and distributed them *free* – as we do. It had a significant impact on the world. In the 1600's they had a hymnal based on the Psalms, the Sabbath and Holydays – indicating the same beliefs as we have today.

In Revelation 3:7 we come to the Philadelphia era and the word literally means 'brotherly love.' It might refer to the love for our elder brother, Jesus Christ. G. G. Rupert was a pioneer of the Church of God who published many books and was well known in his day. He ended his work for God in 1926 just as Mr. Herbert Armstrong was beginning. He wrote that verse 10, '...keep you from the hour of trial..', meant: "When the Philadelphian era comes there will be a great falling away inside the church." Added to this comes the warning in verse 11: 'let no man take your crown.' It is a big warning to not let the actions or teachings of others affect our salvation. The reference to "true" refers to truth speaking, or truth loving. Interestingly, so many of the publications were *The Plain Truth* about This or That.

Verse twelve states a reward as being a 'Pillar' in the Temple. This is a historic reference to the ancient city of Philadelphia that endured constant earthquakes. Over the past forty years we have had many 'earthquakes, traumas and tremors.' The eventual reward for withstanding them is to be a stable pillar and no more earthquakes!

Chapter three describes Laodicea, a city of affluence and riches. Historically there seems to have been a real problem with the ministry in this city. Verse 14 warns the condition of both ministers and members is, 'neither hot nor cold', which was no

doubt a reference to their lukewarm water supply in the ancient city. But today it may be a reference to clear foundational truths and doctrines devalued by 'grey' errors. Persecution of Laodicea seems to be all internal, from within rather than from the outside. Much like us today, at least so far. Laodicea inherits the Truth from Philadelphia and perhaps takes it for granted, or worse, they see themselves as 'more spiritual', thinking they have a deeper understanding of God's Way.

In the messages of Revelation 2 and 3, we have Christ's warnings that we need to 'see' and 'hear' what His admonitions are. In them is our spiritual safety.

Mr. Hickford first heard the World Tomorrow when he was 16 years old in Sudbury, England. He graduated from Ambassador College, Bricket Wood in 1973 and was sent to serve in the Auckland, New Zealand office. He transferred to the Australian office in 1975 to oversee media and publishing. In 1980 he commenced a commercial career and became CEO of the biggest magazine publisher in Australia. In 1995 he assisted with the formation of UCG-Australia. In recent years he has been active on the UCG-Australia Media and Publishing and Policy and Planning committees. He has presented sermons and slide presentations to God's Church for some 34 years. Now retired, he was in Ottawa on a travel tour of North America.

Extra Notes:

Much of this historic material is found in Lectures given at Ambassador College. Some is used by Darris McNeely during his seminars on Revelation 2 & 3, as well as the presentation on Early Church History, presented at ABC.

A sample of lecture notes follows:
Ambassador College Church History
Lecture 14 - Peter De Bruys/Arnold of Brescia/Henri the Deacon.

Continued on page 14

I. PETER DE BRUYS - EARLY 1100's A.D.

Possibly beginning of Thyatira Era

Active in S. France in the beginning of the 12th century

Rev 2:19 There to be a first work that would be eclipsed by a later work

Ministry lasted 20 years.

Burned at the stake in c.1125 - some say 1139

Reference book: Dictionary of Sects and Heresies.

Ambassador College Church History Lecture 16

I. WALDENSIANS:

Reference book: Gilly's Vadois

1. Church not new group. Dated before the time of Waldo

"Indeed it cannot be doubted that before the days of Valdo, Peter de Bruys and Henry condemned the error of the Catholic church ... and sought to return to the pure doctrine of the Holy Scriptures. Nor is it improbable that Peter sowed the seeds of his doctrine in his native valley and left followers there ...

UNC

Remains of an aqueduct pipe from a bathhouse in Laodicea that transported their lukewarm water.



Remains of a theater at Ephesus.



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The publishers of The Good News have produced an astounding, eye-opening book, *The Middle East in Bible Prophecy* that will help you better understand the troubled history of the Middle East—and its tumultuous future. Request your FREE copy today!

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WORK EXPERIENCE IN AFGHANISTAN

INTERVIEW WITH MR. RANDY FREEZE - KANDAHAR

Randy Freeze, of Saint John, New Brunswick, was unable to obtain regular employment, and so took advantage of a civilian job at the Canadian Forces Nato Base in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Randy is a welder and is employed welding armour plate to the Canadian Forces vehicles. Here is a summary of his experiences.

April 16th e-mail.

I am in Kandahar right now at the huge Nato base over here. This is a very good experience for me to have the chance to travel the world on someone else's dime. It's a very dangerous country and very unstable, but the compound that I am on is as safe as any. It's interesting to see how the military works and how everyone is getting along so well. It's like one big family here. Too bad we all never met under different circumstances. As for the *United News - Canada* interview, please send me the questions. I may have to do them when I'm on my leave. I'll have to check my contract because we had to sign some documents about talking to any form of media. Please send me the questions and I'll ask my boss to check them over.

Later e-mail:

I am working as a civilian but all in all, things are going really well. It's been a hard week due to all the activity here and getting settled and acclimatized, but things are starting to get better. Sorry it has taken me so long to get back to you, but things have been very busy here and I'm just starting to get over the Kandahar cough from all the dust. Everyone gets it for the first month or two, here on the ground. Things are still going really well. The job is great and I'm starting to think about staying another term maybe if there isn't much work at home. Hope you're doing well and please send my regards to everyone. **How did this opportunity come about for you to go to Afghanistan?**

I just saw the advertisement and applied over the Internet. I was in contact with this company two years ago but couldn't go to their other camp because I wanted

to be home for the birth of our daughter. **What have been the difficulties of employment in the Maritimes?**

The big thing is that the big construction jobs are just not available and there are too many people at times filling all the positions. It's hard to get a start in a trade when there just isn't the work available so that everyone is fully employed. **How have you found religious tolerance, especially the freedom to observe the Sabbath?**

I find it really good here. The main problem is that you don't have very much privacy. But there is a chapel that is open and it's not very busy on Saturdays, or through the week. In this environment there are all kinds of people with different backgrounds and the nice thing about being Canadian is that we are viewed as a multi-cultural nation. And after seeing how people live here, and in other places, we really take so much for granted the freedom of religion that we all share. **What was your travel experience in getting to Afghanistan?**

My itinerary took me from Toronto to Zurich. It was a nice flight, but boring, as I ended up traveling by myself as the rest of the group flew on a different airline. From Zurich I flew to Dubai, UAE and it was an amazing city. I am really looking forward to going back and spending more time there. All in all, the trip out here was good. We flew into Kandahar on a private charter. **Are you housed in dormitories with bunks, or in separate facilities?**

Well, we live in big tents with eight people to a tent. We do have curtains separating us so we do get some privacy, but it's not the same as being home and having an actual room. That is one thing I am looking forward to -- going home and sleeping in an actual bed instead of an army cot. All my tent mates are very nice and we all get along well. **Is the food provided local or normal Canadian cuisine?**

The food here is typical North American. Served cafeteria style, there is always lots to choose from and lots and lots of chicken. Another nice thing is that everything has to be labeled so there is no chance of eating pork or other unclean foods. This is a really big help. But there is everything from really healthy to not so healthy food. And lots of cakes and pies and ice cream. **What is your work routine and how many hours do you get for time off?**

We work 8 hour shifts and we work 6 days

a week.

What is your Sabbath routine, what are you able to do, and is there privacy for study and reflection?

Well, the one downside of being here is the lack of privacy. But I do find time to relax and spend time alone just to think. One thing about being here in a war zone, it really makes you realize just how bad the world is and how much we really do need God to intervene and help us. **Will there be other travel opportunities available before your return?**

I am taking my vacation back home in the Maritimes with my family. I'll be home for about a month and then I come back here. If I do stay for another six months I may visit some country like Spain, or some of the Asian area. We have a really great vacation bonus here with this company so it really helps seeing more of the world on someone else's money. **How do you keep in touch with your wife and children?**

Mainly over the computers. We have web cams and microphones, so it's really good to be able to talk to and see each other. I also get 35 minutes a week on the telephone. **What will this overseas assignment accomplish for you on return?**

This assignment will help me to get my hours to become a journeyman and it will also give me more experience to put on my resumé. Working here in support of the military should be a good thing to add, plus all the additional training I have received. We will have to wait and see, though.

UNC



NATO troops on patrol in Afghanistan
Internet News photo

MY GUIDE DOG

My name is Ron Muir and my wife Suzanne and I attend services in Toronto, Ontario. Actually there are three of us who attend the Toronto congregation; I am blind and I am led into services by my German Shepherd guide-dog.

When we attend services in Toronto and also at the Feast of Tabernacles last year in Collingwood, Ontario many people approached me and inquired about my dog. In this article I will attempt to answer and explain some of the questions and concerns that people expressed regarding my guide-dog.

Because I have had problems with people calling my dog in the past, I find it better if I do not tell people my dog's name. A guide-dog is professionally trained to provide a safe means of travel for someone who is blind and it is important for people to understand that whenever they see a dog in harness that means the dog is "working" and should not be distracted.

Guide-dogs are normally friendly but it is important that they do not become too sociable because it takes a lot of concentration for them to do their job properly and if that concentration is broken it can lead to placing both my dog and myself into a potentially dangerous situation. Even though it is very tempting to lean over and either talk to the dog or pet him please remember that he is in harness and has a job to do. His primary responsibility and concern is for the safety of his master. Also, please remember that a guide-dog should never be offered food.

Guide-dogs are allowed everywhere the general public is allowed. This includes stores, restaurants, office buildings, and all areas of public accommodation and transportation. There are civil and penal codes throughout Canada and the United States that protect the rights of accessibility for guide-dogs and their handlers.

We enjoy meeting people and I am always willing to share information about guide-dogs and the wonderful job they do in assisting me with my mobility. I hope this information is beneficial and helps to explain the reason why it is important for people not to distract my dog as it breaks his training and even though it is not intentional, it can cause severe problems for both my dog and me.

I hope to see many of you at the Feast in Collingwood again this year and Suzanne and I wish you a very

memorable and spiritually rewarding 2007 Feast of Tabernacles. Ron Muir

The following are some personal interview questions with Mr. Muir.

You have been married for how long?

On May 8th we celebrated our third wedding anniversary.

Have you always been blind, or is it a more recent difficulty?

I am currently 51 years old. I have been legally blind since age 22. I have a hereditary eye disease called "Retina Pigmentosis" (RP). It usually occurs in your early teens and gradually becomes worse as you get older. RP destroys the optic nerve which runs from the back of your eye to your brain and relays the message about what your eye is seeing. There is no treatment or cure for RP. I was 30 years old when I received my first guide-dog in 1986. I am currently on my third dog - all German Shepherds.

Does your dog need other exercise and care, and does your wife do this?

In order to obtain a guide-dog a person must complete a very demanding 28-day training program at a guide-dog school. During this program we are taught not only how to work and handle the dog in all types of situations but we also learn how to take proper care of our dogs. All grooming, hygiene, exercise, obedience, and general dog maintenance is the responsibility of the graduate. We must be able to care for our dogs in all areas in order to graduate from the guide-dog training program.

How do you spend most days?

My wife works all day; she is the office manager for our local United Way. I do most of the housework and some of the cooking. My dog and I go for a walk each morning which usually ends up at Tim Horton's for a cup of that addicting coffee. I spend most afternoons reading and studying God's Word. Taking care of my dog, doing the housework and some cooking and doing Bible study takes up the bulk of my day.

You use a computer, how does this work?

My computer has a "Document Reader" installed and my computer reads to me. I can access web-sites, do e-mails and enter other programs by using the keyboard instead of a mouse. The computer reads out loud each time I touch a key, it also reads my e-mail and web-sites.

How did you first discover God's truth?

This is an interesting story...when my first guide-dog "Cujo" retired in 1994 the

replacement dog I was given was named "Nero." I remembered studying about the Roman Empire in school and I knew that Nero was a Roman Emperor. When my classmates heard my dog's name their reaction sparked my interest and when I arrived back home I began to do some studying about Nero and the Roman Empire. I was never interested in the Bible before but I was led to begin reading it. I started attending a Wesleyan Methodist Church and after 7 months I learned about the Sabbath, so I stopped going and began to keep the Sabbath at home. Then I learned about the Holy Days and other truths but never made it to God's Church until I met Suzanne. I kept the Sabbath and Holy Days at home for seven years before finally making it to Church for Pentecost in 2003. God called me to Christ by giving me a guide-dog named "Nero".

UNC

Ron Muir pictured with his guide dog.



MICHAEL ERICKSON ORDAINED

In Calgary, on the Sabbath of May 19, Rainer Salomaa, assisted by elder Garry Poffenroth, ordained Michael Erickson from Prince George, BC into the ministry of Jesus Christ.

Michael Erickson was born on June 26, 1963 in Prince George where he currently resides. He married his wife, Angie, in 1987 and they have three children, Matthew (12), Ashley (10) and Sarah (5). Michael and Angie were provided the opportunity to attend the Leadership Workshop in Cincinnati in 2005 and found it to be a truly rewarding experience. Currently, he is a Senior Investment Advisor administering both corporate and personal assets.

Michael, along with others, has been serving for many years locally. He has also traveled often to conduct Sabbath and Holyday services in the Okanagan and in Grande Prairie, as well as to run the business office at the Kelowna feast site. Michael is the current chairman of the church's Amendment Committee in Canada. He has a passion for the outdoors and enjoys all the opportunities he has with his family; hunting, fishing or simply camping. He is the youngest in his family.

Parents, Wilfrid and Mary Erickson, are long time pioneers in the church of God, having been called in the early 1950's. They recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Michael's brother, John, is a deacon, active in the Prince George congregation.

Rainer Salomaa



SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN 50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Peter and Anne Korneluk celebrated their 50th anniversary in June/07. After services on June 23, family and friends gathered together in Korneluk's beautiful backyard for a barbeque to honor them on reaching this special milestone in their lives.

It was wonderful that Anne was able to be out in the yard for a good part of the evening to enjoy the great fellowship and food with everyone. Because of some health problems, Anne isn't always able to come out to services, so we all appreciated the opportunity to visit with her and Peter that evening.

Peter and Anne Korneluk have been long-time Sabbath keepers and church members. They moved from Yorkton to Saskatoon a number of years ago and have supported UCG strongly.

Their only son, Bob and his wife Kristen from Edmonton, were able to be home and spend a few days with them, which made the occasion even more special.

Brethren from North Battleford and Saskatoon, along with our elder from Tisdale, Bruce and Donna Bird, and Pastor Robert Berendt with his wife Valerie from Edmonton, and some family members made this a wonderful evening for all.

Darlene Buck - Saskatoon



BONNES NOUVELLES DELIVERED IN QUEBEC

For approximately two years I have been delivering fliers for UCG in the west end of Ottawa where I live. Because I very much enjoy walking as an exercise, I decided to help out by delivering our fliers from house to house and I must say that on beautiful mornings in spring, summer, and fall - come to think about it any time at all, even winter - it is quite enjoyable. Seeing how people landscape their homes adds to the enjoyment, for there are many beautiful homes and landscaped properties in the areas in which I deliver fliers. Except for a wildly barking shaggy head of a dog suddenly appearing in a window, the morning's quiet is only broken now and then by the sound of birds singing, and is quite enjoyable.

When our Toronto office mentioned that they had extra copies of the French version of *The Good News* (Bonnes Nouvelles), I decided to take the opportunity to deliver them in Quebec, as it is not far from my place of residence. It only requires that I drive down to the Champlain Bridge, and cross over into La Belle Province, about a 10 minute drive. Being my first time there to deliver the magazines, I decided to deliver them at a condominium complex made up of beautiful red-brick homes (which I had always admired when I drove by), adorned with warm brown-to-black wooden trim around the windows, doors, etc. The place was beautifully landscaped with common green areas in the back of the homes kept shorn and cleaned up by a landscape crew which were busily working away as I delivered the magazines. The front of all

the homes had beautifully large boxed-in containers of flowers next to the stairways which led up to the first landing of each home. All were individually planted, and hanging baskets of flowers decorated many of the archways and overhangs around the front of each house. It gave the whole area a somewhat European flavour.

Another nice feature for anyone delivering mail, was that all the mail boxes were thoughtfully placed at street level so that no one had to climb stairs in order to deliver mail. I commented to a slim, attractively athletic lady (probably in her sixties), with bike helmet, dressed in sports attire, just arriving home on her bike, how I appreciated the beauty of their environment. She commented that they did indeed love living in the area and that their neighbours were all very pleasant.

But for three magazines, I had delivered 77 of the 80 magazines which I had, in this one area alone. I was able to do it in under an hour because of the close proximity of each dwelling to its neighbour. A good day's work, as I had also delivered some of our English fliers already that morning on my side of the river in Ontario.

Because I very much enjoy walking, I will often make it a day's outing and just stop off for lunch somewhere, or for a break, along the way. It does make it a truly worthwhile and enjoyable experience each time I do this and I feel I am contributing in an important way to the witness for God's coming Kingdom. Even though the response may not be as great as I would like, I realize the witness itself is very important. However, I keep track of the

streets I have delivered to, and I'm always informed by our Toronto office about any responses, and each time one does come in, it adds that much more pleasure to the effort.

Of course not every place I visit is beautiful - some are rundown, and not well kept. And we know we live in a world where homes are often broken into and the crime rate runs rampant. But the pleasant lady mentioned above, who spoke with me on that lovely sunny afternoon, brought to mind the future destiny of every human being, when all will be able to say quite joyfully "that they do indeed love living in the area and that their neighbours are all very pleasant."

Isabelle Nicol

Ottawa

Photo courtesy Walter Hehle



July 7th. The Ottawa Church couldn't meet at their regular hall location because of another booking. This gave opportunity for a Bible bowl Bible study in the relaxed environment of a log cabin at Quarry Lakes.

Pictures show some members considering Bible bowl questions along with a silhouette of the lake outside.

OBITUARY – GEORGE WADE

George Lewis Wade - January 14, 1945
– July 3, 2007

The Calgary congregation of the United Church of God is saddened to announce the loss of a good friend and brother, George Lewis Wade. He leaves, to mourn, his loving wife of thirty-five years, Cathay (née Cook), his daughters Nichole (Jonn Baird), and Michelle (Chris Strauss), as well as his grandchildren William and Alexander Baird and Avalon Strauss. He also leaves his sister Patricia Wade and brother-in-law Norman Watts. Also mourning his passing are his sisters-in-law Linda Dalley, Ingrid (James Dodd), Debra (Patrick Wieshlow), and brother-in-law Angus Cook (Joanne Kelly), as well as several nieces, nephews, family in England, and many cherished friends.

George was born in England and emigrated to Canada at the age of twenty two following the death of his father. He eventually settled in Edmonton where he obtained a professional engineering degree from the University of Alberta. He applied worldwide for employment, but ended up in Newfoundland where he met a young woman, Cathay Cook, who became his wife. Together they returned to Edmonton where their two daughters, Nicole and Michelle, were born.

In early 1978 his employer AGT transferred him to Calgary. He later moved from AGT

to Nova Gas Transmission, and from there to IBM from where he retired three years ago. Recently, George and Cathay moved to an acreage in Strathmore, Alberta where he devoted much of his time designing and building their home, and discovering the excitement of working with nature.

George had a strong love of life and was artistic in his involvement with music, being self-taught on the classical guitar. In addition, he proved to be an accomplished artist. He continually tested his mettle by his choice of activities, which included outdoor sports such as winter backpacking, spelunking, and deep-sea diving. One of his latter accomplishments was to achieve a black belt in karate. He and Cathay traveled widely, spending time in Arizona, Hawaii, the Bahamas, and many other places on the continent. Of course, he also spent time in Newfoundland with Cathay's family and friends.

George was a true example of what a Christian should be: a loving husband, father and grandfather, and a man deeply devoted to his faith. Those who knew him well, knew him to be honorable and whose faith in God and love of his Church family found expression in his involvement with his brethren.

George fought his battle with cancer with determination and courage. When he realized the end was approaching his hope in the resurrection and his faith in

God was shown clearly in conversations with his friends shortly before his death. In one last conversation, Cathay asked him softly, "Are you afraid?" His response: an emphatic "Absolutely not!"

Family and friends gathered together July 3rd, 2007 to attend a memorial service in Strathmore. Garry Poffenroth, an elder in the Calgary congregation, conducted the service, and close friend John Emery delivered a moving eulogy. Marge Christianson sang George & Cathay's favorite hymn, *The Lord's My Shepherd*, and the service ended with a prayer given by pastor Rainer Salomaa. George Wade will be missed by all.

Anne Poffenroth – Calgary



EDMONTON WEDDING

Wayne Ward and Catherine Berendt were married on Sunday July 22, 2007. The wedding took place in Edmonton, Alberta. Robert Berendt (father of the bride) performed the ceremony. Cathy's two brothers, Richard and Daniel, walked her down the aisle with Carrie Cooper, sister of the bride, as the maid of honor. Dale Ward, brother of the groom, was the best man. Carolyn & Max Berendt, niece and nephew of the bride, were the flower girl and ring bearer. Stephanie Berendt, niece of the bride, sang a solo.

Family attended from Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, B.C. and California.

The couple will reside in Edmonton and are members of the Edmonton congregation.

Fern Berendt



Let's Hear It For The Heroes!

When the *Toronto Family Christian Club* members and visitors convened on April 21, for their eighth and final meeting of the season, the talk was all about heroes.

The evening began with a supper of pot-luck creations, offered by our heroes of the kitchen. Tables were beautifully dressed in sky-blue cloths, and accented with pink flowers, candles, and napkins. The buzz of fellowship was warm.

The ensuing meeting began with the Club Director, Dennis Horlick, introducing Kevin Ford as the Topics Moderator. Mr. Ford skillfully brought most of the attendees to their feet, to voice their definition of a hero, or to vigorously explain to the club whom they considered to be a hero in society, in history, in literature, in the Bible, and why.

After a short break, the Toastmaster introduced the three speakers for the evening.

The first speaker was Mrs. Renee Aviles with her topic of being "More Powerful Than Spears." The speech was based on the story of three missionaries to the Auca Indians of South America, who were murdered in the 1950s as they tried to teach them of Christ. The heroes of her speech were not just the men who had died, but also their wives and children who later bravely returned and successfully lived for years with the Aucas, converting the lifestyle of many of them.

The club then heard Nino Boezio relate the story of a movie called "Stan", to show

us how a person can be harmed, by being carried away with idolization of a hero. Become your own hero was the moral of his speech.

The last speech, labeled "Survivor," was given by David Pearson. Using the example of his daughter Carla's recent heroic and extremely painful experience in preparing for and completing a 26.2 mile marathon, he encouraged all to endure the rigors of their lifelong spiritual marathon to the very end; also showing how the encouragement of others on the sidelines can bring a new spurt of energy and make you a survivor, when you are hurting and wanting to give up.

The evening ended with a few comments and friendly evaluation of the event by Mr. Horlick.

The Family Christian Club has been a most successful vehicle for binding together its participants, and providing insight into the lives of one's brethren as you learn more about them.

Lillian Robinson

The Day of Pentecost in Toronto

The Toronto UCG congregation assembled for the High Holy Day of Pentecost on May 27 with the service well attended, including several visitors. It was a real treat to have Vancouver elder Lorne Davies, and his wife June join us having

come to Toronto on business that week. The congregational singing was especially hearty.

A sermonette was given by Mr. Jim Lucas showing that Christ can take small things like three loaves and fishes and mightily increase them, and if he takes notice of small things such as the widow's mite, He will do the same for our offering, no matter how small it might be. Our offering is a sacrifice and we must give it in a right attitude, as did the widow.

As the offering was being collected, two of our teens, Kristina and Justin

Archer, played an arrangement of a Welsh melody, "Let All Things Now Living," on the clarinet and piano. Later, the Toronto choir sang, "We Are The Church."

Mr. Dennis Horlick, the assistant pastor, delivered a sermon, showing that just as we need certain things for a healthy physical heart to enjoy life, we must work to have a healthy spiritual heart, in order to gain eternal life.

After the service everyone was invited to fellowship to partake of the very special finger food that had been contributed by each church family. The food tables were beautifully decorated, and almost 'groaning' under their varied and delicious contributions. No one went away hungry, physically or spiritually!

Lillian Robinson

Photos courtesy
Gary Haynes and Bill Dimovski



The Pleasures and Pains of Crossing the U.S-Canada Border

When I was transferred in August, 2003 from serving UCG members in South Dakota, Nebraska and Indiana to serving UCG members in North Dakota, Minnesota and Manitoba I had already become acquainted with a number of the members. My wife Anne (while she was alive), and I would travel from time to time to speak at some of the congregations in ND and MB to help out pastor Paul Luecke and also to visit our daughter Carla and son-in-law Tom Erickson who were part of the Fargo, ND congregation. I was used to traveling several hours from my home to the Sabbath services to serve congregations scattered over several states.

The big change in circumstances after moving to my new location in Moorhead, MN was crossing the border between the U.S. and Canada to be present at the Winnipeg Sabbath services. One never knows how long the line of cars will be at the border crossing, or how much time it will take to finally be given the OK to proceed north into Canada. Some border agents take an exceedingly long time with asking many probing questions about why I am going into Canada, and how long I am going to there, and if I am carrying weapons, or taking alcohol or tobacco or significant cash with me, just to name a few of the often asked questions They will ask the names of the friends with whom I plan to meet. Then there are the times when after passing through the check point, one is pulled over to either have one's car searched or have additional questions asked by the immigration authorities.

The members know that if I rush in at the last minute, or even later, that I have had one of those longer delays at the border crossing. I do appreciate that there is the effort to screen trouble-makers, criminals and terrorists and others up to no good. But, do I look that menacing!? I do have to admit that usually when it is my turn to appear at the window of the border agent, that I am sent through fairly quickly.

I really enjoy the members in the Winnipeg congregation. They are not only brothers and sisters in the faith, but dear friends as well. We have enjoyed many wonderful experiences together. Quite often, I am invited to stay overnight with some of the member families after the Sabbath service and fellowshiping. This has been a real pleasure to get to know them better and to

just have some fun times together.

Several times during the winter months, a Chinese food buffet meal is ordered at the Oceana Restaurant where we meet. Then we follow that with a night of games, listening to background music, conversations, fun and laughter. On one of those occasions last winter, we were also celebrating the engagement of a young couple. The evening sped by quickly and it came time to depart for home. It was after 9 pm already and the mall in which the restaurant is located had closed at about 9 pm. It was a cold night as we bundled up and headed to our cars.

As I walked to my car, I noticed something was wrong. There was an object dangling at the door. It was the handle assembly that had been accessed by prying on and breaking the exterior handle plastic housing. The thieves knew what they were doing and had gained entry by pulling the exposed linkage. They also gained entry to the trunk by hitting the under-dash trunk release button. They found and took a bag of my U.S. coins and a special key with a fish ornament my wife Anne had found and liked. My friends Scott and Gayle Hoefker from the Omaha, NE area had been visiting me for several days and made the trip with me to Winnipeg as well. The vandals had taken several of their bags with their clothing and other items.

Someone looked out across the parking lot and saw something. The vandals had thrown the Hoefkers' bags into the snowy parking lot along with loose items they had removed but did not want. Even with that recovery, it was found that they had stolen at least \$800 worth of their belongings. They took everything from slippers to jeans to shoe trees to sleepwear. Scott and Gayle had to take the loss because their Homeowner's Insurance had such a high deductible.

On top of that, they broke out the window of the truck of the young man we had honored that evening. They stole some special headrest speaker/monitors and also some belongings of his fiancée, including her passport. That created some real hassles for them in temporarily covering the window opening with something to be able to get to his parents' home and then dealing with the repairs and the loss with paying of the deductible. They were able to work out temporary authorization for her to get home to the States.

We learned that it was not a good idea to leave our vehicles unattended for as long as we did, especially after the closing time of the mall. Also, we should have taken turns in patrolling the parking lot where our cars were located to create some presence that might have inhibited the vandals. I learned that Winnipeg is a high crime area with a lot of auto thefts. We were thankful that our vehicles were not stolen on top of everything else. When I talked to the Winnipeg police to report the break-in and theft, the policeman said, "Welcome to Winnipeg!"

Scott, Gayle and I stayed overnight with Winnipeg members, Lloyd & Carol Syvret. They were such wonderful hosts and did a great job of soothing our frayed nerves and frustrations over the break-in incident.

Most of my experiences in heading north across the border into Canada have been pleasurable. I feel blessed to be able to serve such wonderful brethren and friends. I enjoy the travels through the prairies and also getting down to Killarney, MB from time to time to visit Ian and Mariana Simons, who host the video group there in their home, and the other brethren in that area. The local congregation is well cared for by the local leadership, the Hofers and Drewniaks. I have much to be thankful for. So, the few moments of pain are not really that significant when compared with the many moments of pleasure and enjoyment and encouragement.

Herb Teitgen, pastor Fargo & Bismarck, ND and Winnipeg, MB

Courtesy photo.com



Subscribers to *The Good News* magazine often write in, asking biblical questions. Here is a sample of a response from Personal Correspondence.

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your recent letter and questions about the difference between the calendar used to determine God's Holy Days and the calendar in common use today.

You are correct that the calendars are different. From the internal evidence of the Bible, we believe that today's Hebrew calendar is the same as the one used in Scriptures. Its calculations are based on the movements of the sun and the moon, whereas the calendar in common use today (the Gregorian calendar) is based solely on the movements of the sun. The result is that the number of days in a year, the number of days in a month and the number of months in a year are different in each calendar.

The following quotation illustrates just how accurate the Hebrew calendar is, as well as the need to make slight adjustments occasionally: "The calculation of the calendar was transmitted to the sages in an unbroken chain going back to Moses . . . According to the ancient calculations, the exact time between one new moon and the next is 29 days, 12 hours, and 793 chalekim 'parts of an hour' (the hour is divided into 1080 parts). In other words, one lunar month has 29.53059 days. It is interesting to note that according to NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration), the time between one new moon and the next is 29.530588 days.

Of course, NASA has at its disposal the most advanced and sophisticated telescopes and comput-

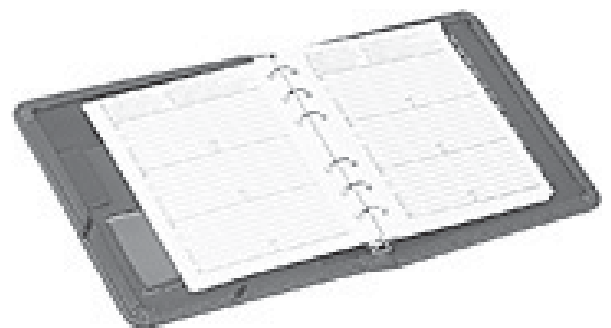
ers. Nevertheless, the difference between NASA's figures and that used by Hillel II, which originated more than 3000 years ago, is .000002 or two millionths of a day, calculated for the period one month" (*The Essence of the Holy Days—Insight from the Jewish Sages* by Avraham Yaakov Finkel, 1993, p. 141).

We produce a wallet-sized card that correlates the two calendars, showing when God's Holy Days occur on the calendar in common use. Would you like to have one? We also recommend our booklet that explains the purpose and meaning of the Holy Days. Ask for *God's Holy Day Plan—Hope for all Mankind*. The wallet-sized calendar comes as an insert in the booklet. We would be happy to send you a copy.

If we can be of further help, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Personal Correspondence
Department



Courtesy photo.com

WHITE WATER RAFTERS

The July long weekend saw some of the members from Edmonton camping in the Mount Robson area of Beautiful British Columbia. The sermon on the Sabbath entitled “Being Prepared for the Future” was given by Laurie Nyhus. Though we got a downpour during the sermon – perseverance was the name of the game and everyone grabbed a corner of a tarp, held it up, and services continued. The trip was organized in order for some brave souls to attack the white water of

the mighty Fraser river. Martin Jongerius of the Edmonton congregation of United organized the weekend. The water was flowing extra high and cold after a number of weeks of heavy rain and snow melt. The day was sunny and spirits were high when wetsuits were donned and into the raft they went for their exciting adventure on the rough water. There was everything anyone could’ve wanted??? Incredible waves of bone-chilling water breaking over the bow of the raft, a very steep portage around the Rearguard Falls and even a float in the

water alongside the raft for some of the braver souls. Everyone was just about exhausted but felt great after the exhilarating trip. This was extreme rafting at its best and plans are underway to make this an annual event. Hats off to the rafters!

Laurie Nyhus - Edmonton



Above:

The sermon and sabbath services continued undaunted despite the rain. Shelter was provided by a tarpaulin!

At top right is the adventurous rafting group.

Bottom right:

The strenuous work of portaging the raft around a waterfall.

