



United News Canada

News of the United Church of God - Canada

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Camp Heritage tent area where campers stayed for a week. To the right is a view of the nearby lake where water activities were conducted.

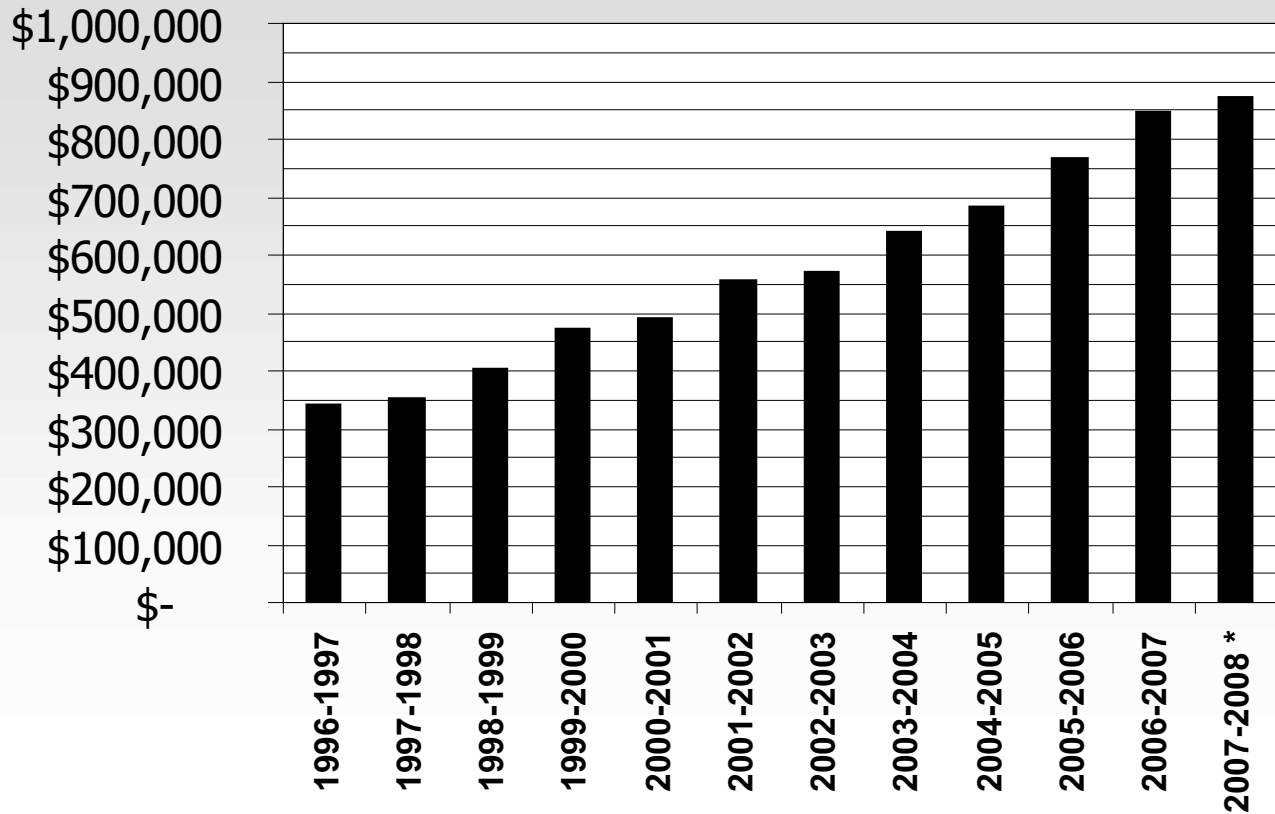
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Jim Franks, Operation Manager for Ministerial Services, Cincinnati, gave several presentations before the Canadian National Council, Media and Ministerial Services Team members. He is pictured here standing at the left during one of his presentations.



1st TITHE/OFFERING INCOME



Statistics are current to December 9, 2007.

All charts are courtesy of Edwin van Pelt - Toronto office.

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NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS - Toronto, November 27-30, 2007

The last meeting of the National Council was held in the National Office November 27–30. Jim Franks from the Home Office attended the first portion of the meetings as a special guest.

On Tuesday evening reports from all the feast sites were given. Graemme Marshall gave a short update on *United News – Canada* and David Palmer gave a report on behalf of the Media Team. Media continues to monitor, among other things, the *Beyond Today* television responses and weighing the cost versus results of different possible broadcast times.

A PowerPoint presentation by Edwin van Pelt showed an update on the *Readers Digest* ad response rate. As a result of this ad, we have added subscribers from every province at a much better cost per response rate than anticipated.

On Wednesday morning Jim Franks gave a presentation on “*The Importance of Sound Doctrine.*” In his presentation, he gave a brief history of how and why *United* was started. There are only fourteen couples who could provide a first hand account of the full story of the beginning of *UCG*. He emphasized that *United’s* beginning was not driven by government or rebellion, but the preservation of doctrine. Our documents were purposely written in such a way as to make it very difficult to change any doctrine.

Mr. Franks said, “*To have sound doctrine you have to start with scripture. How this should translate to us on a practical level is that our Sabbath service messages must be doctrinally*

sound. It is better to have no speakers than allow personal ideas and ‘pet’ material to be spread – it spreads like a cancer and causes difficult problems.” Mr. Franks then reviewed scriptures, showing how doctrine was established in the New Testament and how ministers are warned to protect congregations from false doctrine. He showed how doctrine proceeds from teaching to understanding. Doctrine, he said, is more than statements of facts – there are explanations that must go along.

Mr. Franks stated that about 150 of our elders were involved in writing our Fundamental Beliefs booklet. These fundamental beliefs came from what Mr. Armstrong had written in 1938 and 1946, with two additions by UCG (tithing and the return of Christ).

In conclusion Mr. Franks said, “We would prefer to not have a message (at church) than have one that is heretical. We must teach this to all. This is what began UCG and, if we don’t protect it, shame on us. It requires our diligence.”

The Council was able to get input from Mr. Franks on what term to use for non-salaried elders. The U.S. has chosen to use the term “elder.” They were advised against using any “title” which could be associated or confused with a salaried position because of legal ramifications. There is a difficulty in some areas in that the term “elder” can be misunderstood. On the other hand, the term “minister” can be mistaken for someone in a government position. Mr. Franks pointed out that the

term “elder” is the term that is extensively and consistently used in all our documents.

On Wednesday afternoon the Council reviewed and approved the Operations Plan for 2008-2009. This will be presented to the National Conference for their approval next March.

The Finance Committee discussed a “crisis budget.” While this has no specific numbers as yet, they looked at what and where costs could be cut in a budget crisis situation.

The 2008-2009 Budget was approved to be sent to the National Conference for their ratification next March. Robert Berendt on behalf of the Governance Committee made recommendations for amendments to some existing policies. Amendments to the Member Appeal and the Mileage Reimbursement policies were adopted. Other policies had some minor edits made to them.

Each year the Council must approve the agenda for the National Conference annual meeting. The agenda for the March 2008 meeting was approved. The meetings concluded late on Thursday afternoon with discussion and brainstorming.

Linda Wasilkoff

National Council Secretary

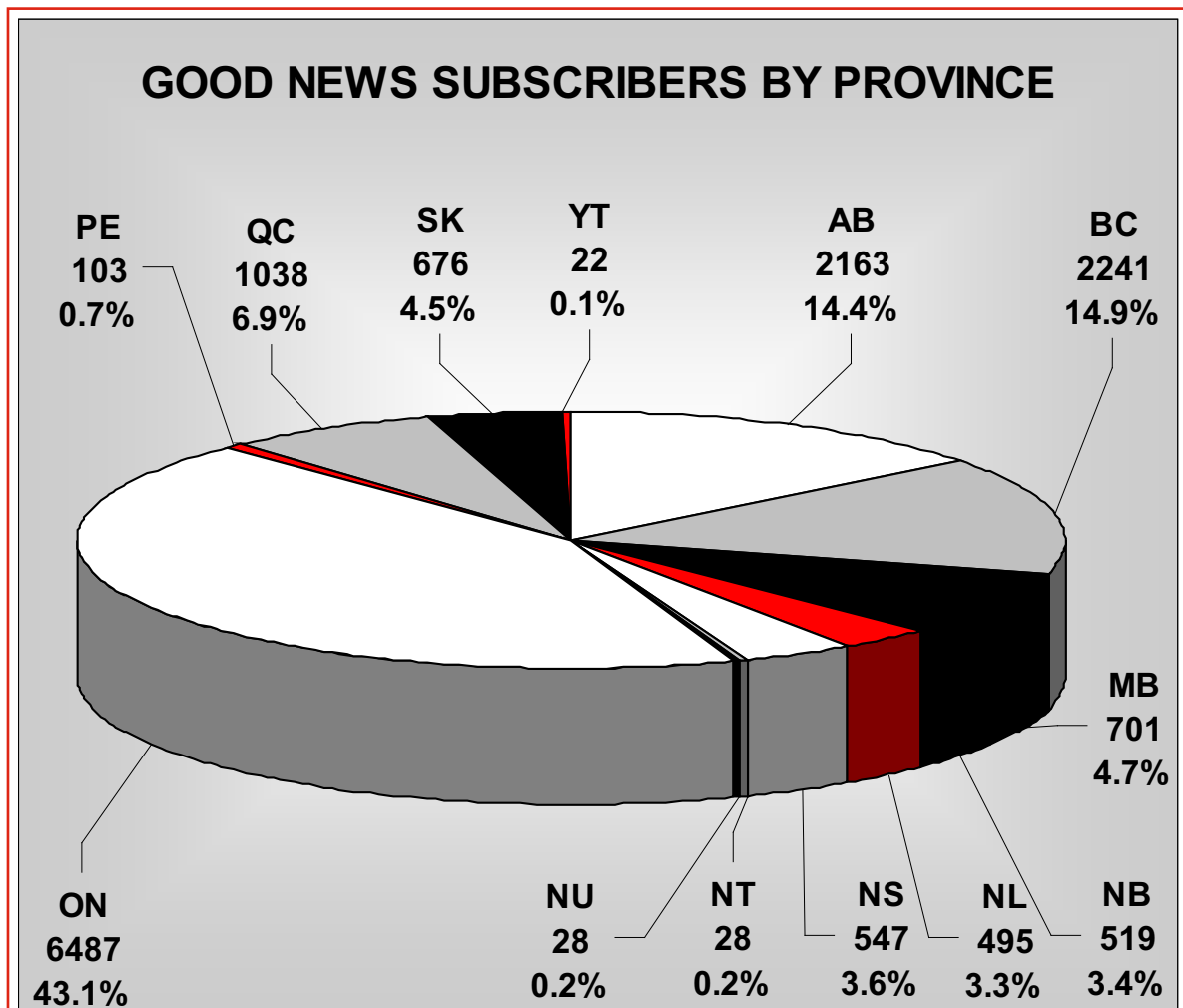


TOTAL GOOD NEWS SUBSCRIBERS

As of DECEMBER 12, 2007: 15,179

WAITING ROOMS INCLUDED IN TOTAL: 1,663

% INCREASE IN SUBSCRIBERS
SINCE APRIL 1, 2007: 28.7



An Exciting Week at Camp Heritage

I had the incredible opportunity this summer of going to Camp Heritage in Pennsylvania as an activity instructor for Media/Communications, and for a dance class. This was my first time at an American camp. We began our journey as five brave and proud Canadians - Owen, Ezra and Rebecca Martin, Mark Caldarelli and I. We were "lucky" enough to be stuck at the border for an hour since we were told that we needed a work permit. They thought that we would get paid even though we assured them that it was volunteer work. After "begging for mercy," they let us go with a warning. As we were approaching the campsite, I knew that memories of that week would be treasured.

There were three "staffers" working for Media/Communications, which was a new activity. It involved gathering pictures for a slideshow that was shown on Saturday night; short radio commercials

promoting different aspects of the camp; and short articles for Heritage Herald, the first newspaper. I was in charge of the latter and sent campers as field reporters to interview individuals about various subjects. This class also allowed them to use their creativity in order to write poems or fiction. Although some campers quickly linked journalism with school, the final product was pleasing. The campers were enthusiastic and respectful in class and I thought that it was odd to be called "Miss Marianne" by campers one or two years younger. This was a new experience for me and I had a foretaste of what being a teacher involves. As Christians, we are to be lights of the world, and to teach others as well as serve one another.

This year at camp, I offered my help and dedication to produce a newspaper, and I am satisfied with the results. So was this week forgettable? Absolutely not! Residing

temporarily in a Godly environment where individuals of the same faith could spend time together and form lasting bonds was so enriching. The outside influences were at a minimum and I really felt that I was in the Kingdom for a week. I believe that being in nature among God's creation is the most effective way to connect with our Creator. Our church is blessed with such youth activities as camps and I hope to return next year for Heritage 2008!

Marianne Connell
Montreal, Quebec



Above left: Ten enthusiastic Canadian campers and staff members pictured during their last dance.

Above right: A group of campers and staff relaxing in the dining hall.

At left: Pastor Dave Myers leading choir members in a practice for Sabbath special music.

CAMP HERITAGE, PENNSYLVANIA

Between playing kayak hockey, building fires, sports, riflery and archery, the best part of camp was the “Zone,”

The zone is the phrase used for the atmosphere created by the camp setting. Camp is a unique opportunity to be with church people for twenty-four hours a day. It is an opportunity to build a network of friends who believe the same things and face similar challenges. At camp we are sheltered from outside influences. We are taught God’s way through Life Skills and daily Christian Living classes.

One of my favorite activities was wilderness skills. We were taught how to build fires without using matches. Later, we learned

how to build tents using a tarp and rope. The water activities of water polo and kayaking were amazing because the water was unbelievably warm. On Wednesday, the older campers went white-water rafting. I didn’t fall out and our raft almost never got stuck, but I had fun anyway.

At the end of the week we had lots of dirty clothes, good memories and new friends.

Rebecca Martin - Owen Sound, Ontario

Rebecca at left with Marianne at right with Dave Myers Camp Director.

Photos are courtesy of Marianne Connell.



EZRA’S HERITAGE EXPERIENCE

Ezra Martin from Owen Sound, Ontario, attended '07 Camp Heritage as a staff member. Here is his humorous write up.

What’s the best thing about a United Youth Corp camp? It’s without a doubt that the friendships and memories made will grow over the years. They will last a lifetime because they are built in the Zone; a Godly place where there is no fear of torment, ridicule or putdown; and where the Ten Commandments play a key role in everyone’s behavior. And it’s where God’s food laws and Sabbath are easy to keep.

What was the best thing about my UCG youth camp in the USA? The right to bear arms, of course! Because I enjoyed immensely being part of the riflery and marksmanship staff. It was a strange thing for me at first to be called “Mr. Ezra.”

The first day of classes we found a two-foot long rat snake on our ammunition blocks. When we took it out to the back of the building it promptly slithered through a hole back inside the building.

Mr. Dave Myers instructed the first riflery class, having taught it for many years. He had all the rules of the range,

workings of a firearm, the three rules of gun safety, the prone position, and the mechanics of marksmanship all neatly memorized. He also had a “yamunition cus your all sweet potatoes” joke.

My supervisors let me into the routine gently. First, I filled ammunition blocks. After a day or so of learning the routine, I ran the range for a few classes. This consisted of the introduction, then yelling FIRE at will - it’s best if there’s no Will in the group! - watching for safety infractions; and helping campers with marksmanship. After a few days I gave the introduction as well. It’s good that I had a ‘cheat sheet’ because I didn’t remember anything once I was in front of the class. Between my ill fated attempts at jokes, bored yawns from the class and thumb twiddling, it seemed to me to go no better than flying a lead kite. Though it probably went better in reality than it did in my imagination. After the second or third attempt I was more comfortable and the campers were engaged. By the end of camp I was ready for another week.

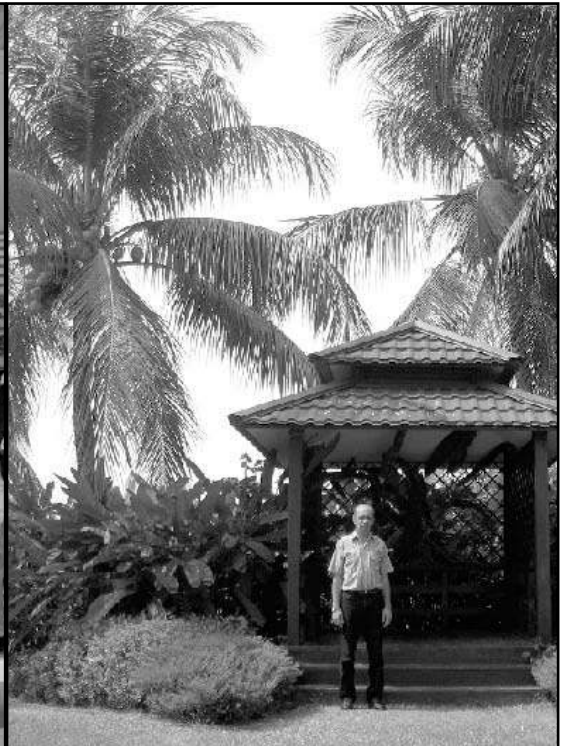
One of the best parts of assisting the Activity Staff is an amount of freedom. This means being able to go to any Christian living class we choose. We were given two free

periods per day off, which didn’t include free time after meals and evenings. So there was a lot of personal time to do things such as join a dorm in some activity, or even up team numbers in a sport, or simply take a nap. Or, in my case, to shoot some targets and gain some riflery credibility by shooting a “double nickel,” the highest score possible of 55 which is 5 bullets in the bull’s eye. I shot a double nickel in my last free class on the Friday afternoon.

The best part of camp was not the activities, fun as they are. As I said earlier, hands down it’s the friendships, time spent in the Zone with people creating bonds that bring you back year after year. Whether it’s laughing around a campfire, socializing after dinner, or at the dance doing some two-step, swing, salsa or the cha-cha slide.

So while camp is over for ‘07, there’s the Feast and the Louisville Winter Weekend to build upon. At all these events good memories are made, lessons learnt and character built forever.

Ezra Martin – Owen Sound



Top left is Singapore Festival group. At right elder Larry DeLong stands in a tropical garden.

At left is the men's choir from eleven nations.

Bottom left shows the different levels of accomodation with their balcony garden view from the balconies.





Top left is a view of downtown Singapore. At right, Amber DeLong pauses in her watching of turtles in a garden pool.

At left Maureen DeLong sings for special music.

Below scenes show Singapore modern architecture in their Arts Theatre alongside a view of high density residential apartment living.



THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

Fall is fun, fall is great
Cause we get to celebrate at the
feast of Tabernacles.

Pack my suitcase,
Pack it well

Fold my clothes,
Shut the case

Load the van,
Get ready, and go!

On the road,
Can't wait to get there

See our chalet,
See my new room

Go to church for 8 days
pray and sing and play

Lots of friends to meet,
Lots of gifts to give

So happy to be together,
Such a joyful time

When I leave I am excited about
the world tomorrow

The End



A POEM by eight year-old Alana Read who attended the 2007 Collingwood Feast with her parents.

They live just outside of Listowel, Ontario and attend Toronto congregation.



A Hindu temple and a Monitor lizard are part of the Singapore environs. At right elder Larry DeLong is on his knees as he prepares a power point presentation.

ATTRIBUTES of LITTLE CHILDREN

The disciples asked: Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven?

Jesus replied, *“Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the Kingdom of heaven”* (Matthew 18:3).

On a Sabbath in June, 2007, the Ottawa congregation had a blessing of children ceremony for our youngest attendee, who was then six months old.

Our pastor asked the congregation to describe the attributes of little children. The following is a list of attributes that several members contributed.

Innocence

When they are born they are pure, without sin, have no malice in their hearts.

Trust

Children trust very easily, which is why they are often targets for lots of danger in the world today. Our daughter Jaden is a true example of trust; when she is at the top of the stairs she runs towards us because she knows and trusts us to catch her.

Unconditional Love

Love without conditions, they loved us no matter what. When we have to discipline them they come back and love us as we love them unconditionally.

Willing Obedience

Most of the time children at a certain age are ready and willing to obey. They want to please their parents, they are cheerful and don't grumble or complain.

Honesty

Children are very honest and sometimes don't hold back their feelings. In this they can be very blunt.

Openness

A lot of times children are very open and candid with their thoughts and feelings.

Imitative

Children absorb everything, our daughter Jaden pretends to be on the phone and she is laughing and talking just like she sees us do, and it is really quite entertaining to watch. At other times I hear our other children playing and I hear one scolding the other and it sounds just like something I have said with just the right tone and expression.

Easy to Teach

Children want to learn and experience things. When set boundaries, and they know what they are and what we expect from them, the teaching comes a lot easier.

Humility

Little children are very quick to say they are sorry if they have done something

wrong. And when something is done wrong to them they do not hold grudges against other people.

Ability to Live in the Present

If you watch a child with their parents they are able to enjoy every moment, ask questions and just be in the present.

A few months ago my niece was riding her bike along a country road and a deer came in front of her, so she stopped. Along came a baby deer fawn which went right to my niece and licked her hand. What an example of trust.

Everybody wants to grow up and that's good. But in growing up, we often just become more clever at deceiving, cheating, and hurting one another. Jesus would not agree with the evil tricks grown-ups sometimes play on one another. So He said, *“Therefore whoever humbles himself as this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven”* (Matthew 18:4)

People become great in God's sight as they sincerely and unpretentiously look away from self to revere Him.

Julie Morasse – Ottawa



REJOICE EACH DAY

“The LORD’s unfailing love and mercy still continue, Fresh as the morning, as sure as the sunrise”
(Lamentations 3:22-23).

As I stepped out on my patio to enjoy a coffee before I prepared breakfast, I saw in the eastern sky a most glorious sunrise with orange, red, and yellow all intermingled. “Why was I in such a hurry to start my day’s tasks?” I asked myself.

I sat down and watched the morning unfold. I noticed two squirrels playing

under the bird feeder and heard the singing of the birds, also rejoicing in the new morning. I looked about me and I saw behind the shed a mother black bear and her cubs going off into the bush. I knew I was truly blessed to be surrounded by this day.

We all have difficulties at times with health, finances, etc., but on that day I learned that if I start each day with thanksgiving, I more often experience happiness and joy as I proceed through the day.

So, I am thankful and assured that

God will be with me and guide me in each day He has made.

Psalms 5:3 speaks to this: *“My voice will come to you in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I send my prayer to you, and keep watch”* (Bible in Basic English).

Verna Ewanowich - Kelowna



CHARITIES SEMINAR

On Wednesday, November 7, five members of the UCG National Office headed out to Scarborough, on the east side of Toronto, for the annual Church and Charity Law seminar to be presented by the Carters law firm. The office personnel have been attending these all-day seminars for several years in order to stay up-to-date on developing trends in the law as it relates to the Church. After an update on the latest legislation affecting charities, the topic of Proactive Legal Audits was explained. These are a lawyer-led review of a charity’s key documents and operations to determine whether it is in compliance with the law and so minimize the risk of liability for the charity and its directors and officers.

The next presentation, Fair Play in Action, focused on the ways in which a charity should handle problems of discipline within its organization, such as instances of un-Christian conduct by a member or leader. Next on the agenda was Lessons Learned from Restructuring, given by a member of the Catholic clergy, followed by three presentations of a more technical nature, dealing with donation tax shelters,

special kinds of gifts sometimes offered to charities, and the need for policies on the acceptance of gifts to ensure proper compliance with the law.

After the lunch break, the topic of Employee Safety and Ministry-Related Injury was discussed, an area which has been the subject of increased legislation in recent years for both profit and non-profit organizations. The importance of a church carefully tailoring its policies to address its particular situation was emphasized. This was followed by a presentation on How to Prepare and Conduct Board Meetings, and highlighted common pitfalls that charities can fall into. This was followed by Faith and Charity in a Regulatory World, showing how churches can best reconcile their mission objectives with the need to satisfy government regulations. The final presentation was by an official of the Canada Revenue Agency, detailing the ways in which the government agency seeks to ensure that charities comply with the law.

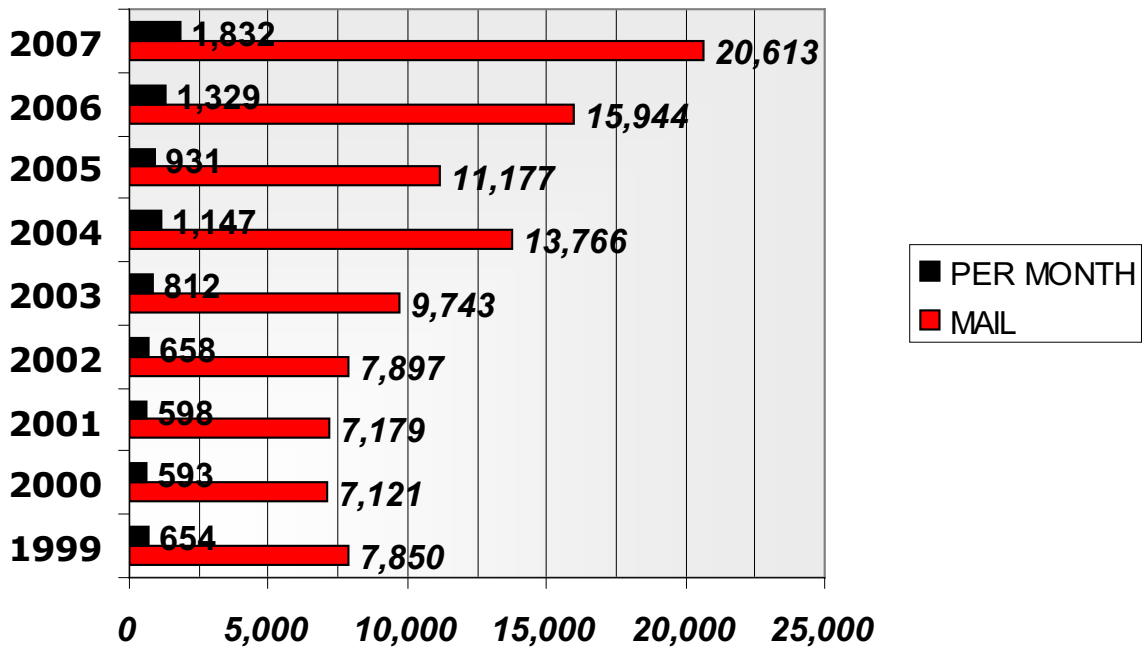
Both the Church and its members (through the ability to obtain tax relief on tithes and offerings) benefit from the Church’s registration as a charitable organization.

Not unnaturally, though, the government considers that it has the right to closely monitor charities to ensure that only bona-fide organizations and their members are allowed these advantages. The law relating to charities becomes more involved and complex with each passing year. It seems inevitable that the National Office staff will have to continue attending these seminars in future years to ensure that we are conducting our affairs “decently and in order”, and “rendering unto Caesar the things that are Caesar’s”!

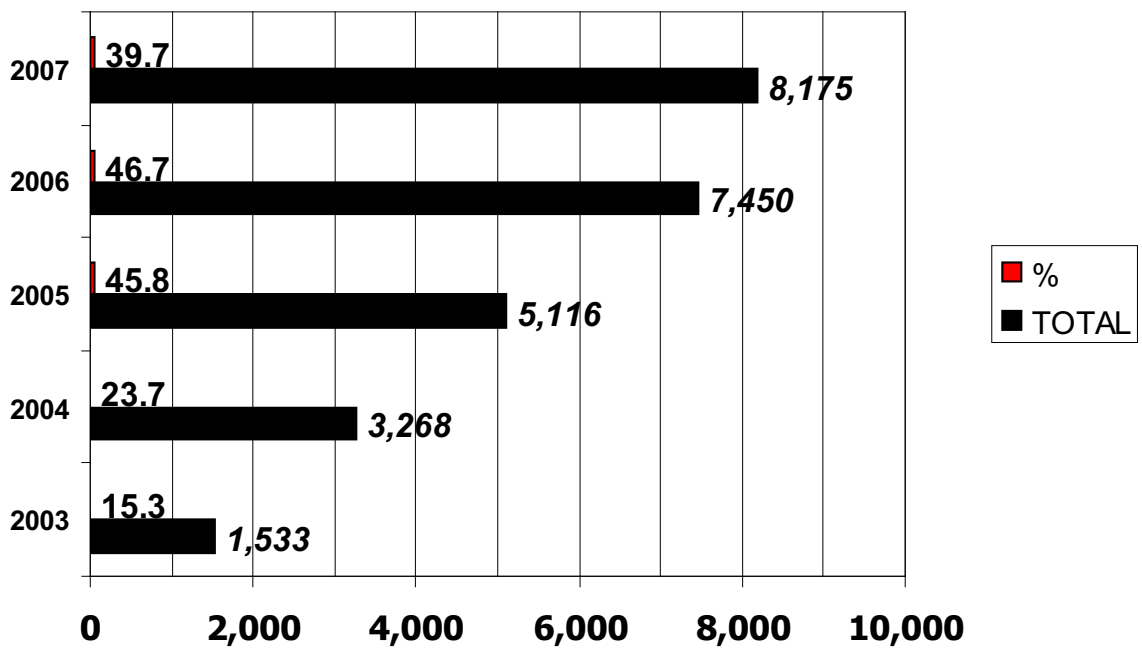
Kevin Ford

National Office, Toronto

INCOMING MAIL FROM ALL SOURCES



INTERNET MAIL



NEW FESTIVAL OF TABERNACLES LOCATION – MIDLAND, ONTARIO.

Midland and the Southern Georgian Bay area is known as the “Gateway to the 30,000 Islands”. Midland is one of Ontario’s historically significant resort destinations dating back to Samuel de Champlain’s exploration of Georgian Bay in 1615. The Southern Georgian Bay area provides recreational waterfronts, Georgian Bay cruise operations, sandy beach areas, hotels and country inns. Most recently the town of Midland was awarded “Winner” of the Communities in Bloom (towns under 20,000 population) contest.

Close to the Greater Toronto Area, Midland is easily accessible via Highway 400 to Highway 93, or to Highway 12. It is 140 kilometres from Toronto and around a 90-minute drive. Towns close to Midland include Elmvale (which has a well-known zoo) and Penetanguishene (where past Festival boat cruises originated).

The 2008 Festival will be observed at The Best Western Highland Inn & Conference Centre, a premier full-service hotel in the Southern Georgian Bay area. The hotel recently received the prestigious

Director’s Award from Best Western International. CAA/AAA awarded the Highland Inn a Three-Diamond Rating. The hotel offers 122 recently renovated guest rooms with a variety of suites. It has an enclosed Garden Atrium tropical garden featuring trees and lush foliage and a heated pool with hot tub and sauna. Two restaurants are on site.

UNC

Below middle and right pictures show the Hotel’s ballroom stage and the lower atrium area.



FEAST EXPERIENCE 2007

As I was approaching Jamaica from the air, I could see the beautiful aqua blue sea, the beaches, and the beautiful tropical green foliage. At that time I could only think of what a great experience this Feast of Tabernacles was going to be. I was excited to be able to attend a feast in a very different location to Canada; to experience a very different climate and a different culture, but yet, with our Jamaican brethren, the same faith.

When I arrived at the airport, I was quickly reminded of what I had read about Jamaica a few days prior to my departure. Jamaica is a poor country. Other problems in Jamaica, like corruption and crime, are the same as other places in the world except they seem to be quite severe there in the Caribbean.

I believe we were blessed, because just a few weeks before the feast, there was an election. Apparently, just prior to an election, it is not a good time to be in Jamaica with a lot of political murders, sometimes just based on the color clothing you are wearing, as it can signify

adherence to a particular political party.

Although Jamaica is very poor, it has an unbelievable amount of potential. The lowest monthly average temperature is about 24C. The vegetation is most remarkable and it quickly reminded me of British Columbia. Everything is dense with plants, flowers and trees surrounded by a beautiful warm ocean. The ocean temperature maintains a warm temperature ranging from the low of 70F to mid 80F depending on the season.

In Jamaica, the average annual income is only about \$3,400. One thing that I noticed is that the price of gasoline is practically the same as here in Canada. One Canadian dollar was worth about 60 Jamaican dollars, and their gas price was between J\$55-J\$59 a liter, so approximately a Canadian dollar per liter. Have you ever thought of paying \$10 a liter here in Canada? That’s what it would be like looking at a very similar ratio.

Culture in Jamaica is quite different from ours here in Canada. Their way of thinking is very different; perhaps poverty has a huge role to play in this, but it seems money is very common in their thinking.

If you go to Jamaica, you’ll notice that for every service that is offered to you, you’ll be asked to give a tip, and they are not afraid to ask either, as it is part of their way of life.

On our way to the Dunn’s River falls, our tour guide told us about what we were seeing in the countryside. Most houses were half-built. And the reason for this is that in Jamaica, the interest rates are so high that people can’t borrow money. They build their homes in phases based on the amount of money they have saved up. It can take them between 5 years and 25 years to finish their homes.

This feast was amazing. It may have only been my second, but it clearly showed me what the feast represents. I was amazed at how God’s culture can be spread all over the globe.

Today, we are small in number, but soon in the millennium, the people of God will inhabit this beautiful planet called earth. I’m really looking forward to the 2008 Feast of Tabernacles.

Gabriel Vautour

Ottawa

FROM A WOMAN'S PERSPECTIVE

Interview with Mrs. Dee Kilough, Cincinnati

UNC: The Women's Task Force, what is its intent?

DK: The Women's Education Task Force is a diverse group of women members who share a passion for God's way and women's issues, and have experiences and backgrounds we feel will be helpful in bringing needed and useful education to the women of the church. The following are some of the demographics these women represent: young professional, single, married (with children in the home and empty nesters), widowed, single mother, divorced, working mother, retired, international perspectives, rural, urban, and living with serious chronic illness (of self or immediate family member), etc. At our first meeting we crafted a mission statement, which is: **To promote the understanding and practical application of women's role as defined by God's word.** We are primarily a resource group and come under the Education Task Force and ministerial services.

UNC: From a woman's perspective what one thing would you wish for United right now?

DK: Wonderful things are happening in our church every day. In traveling all over the world, we are so privileged to hear the stories of people's lives and how God has worked with them and is ever present in their lives. I have met incredible women, and love to hear their struggles and triumphs as faithful women of God in the 21st century. The stories are often the same in shared experiences regardless of nationality (children, marriage, grandkids, conversion, widowhood, loneliness, time management, money struggles, etc.), and their courage and faith are immensely inspiring, as they are really stories of a shared vision, and God's grace and faithfulness toward us. I think as women we tend to get too easily bogged down in negative things, tiredness, work, or just the busyness and crush of life, and fail to see all of the interventions and help God is giving to the Church and His people every day. When this happens, we often run into issues of faith and trust in God and with each other. We lose sight of the vision and mission God has given us. This leads me into what I wish for.

My mother put what I wish for all of us,

in a beautiful way, that has had a wonderful and deep impact on my life. During her final illness she told me, with great joy and conviction, "I get it now, I really do. This life, our walk with God, all of it, it's really all about submission (she told me her definition of submission is faith in God, followed by action) and grace. This awareness has led me to so much peace and gratitude." So, what I would wish for and love to see is that dual attitude of submission and grace. The submission of faith and response to God, His word, and the calling He has given us, and the attitude and awareness of the receiving of His pardon and of our gift of graciousness and love back to others. They really do go 'hand-in-glove'.

I think for those working hard to stay in that attitude, happy, wonderful things would naturally follow. Things like a giant feeling of awe, gratitude and awareness for God's great love and grace for all He has done and is doing for us. I think this awe and awareness would lead us to even more wonderful things, such as a greater focus, submission and faith in God as to why we are here, in this church, now. We would feel much more joyful, appreciative and energized for God's service; and it would help us to appropriately address trust issues with each other, leading us to greater love and compassion for one another. I like to think of the amazing impact we can have as women if we carry this attitude and awareness with us. To be able to encourage and give the gift and understanding of this attitude to our children, marriages, families and friends would be a tremendous service to God and the church. Women's issues such as modesty, childrearing, marriage, etc. would become clearer. I like to meditate on how things would change in United (or any other place for that matter), if our minds were always thinking of all the ramifications an attitude of submission and grace would bring. I once read that the most contagious thing known to man is mood. Think of the effect we would have on each other if we brought that mood of submission and love to church every week, or in our interactions with each other. I've written the words 'submission and grace - action and love' at the top of many of my scripture stories. This concept and approach has brought me a deeper understanding and greater peace in my life. I would wish it for everyone.

UNC: Can you explain more on modesty,

on the why?

DK: I think the biggest mistake people make in approaching this topic is the approach that modesty is a thing—a physical action. I feel that instead it's much more of an attitude and approach that presents itself in our actions. I believe the core of personal modesty is actually an issue of graciousness. A woman who has thought deeply of these things would always want to extend graciousness to others. It ties back in a very meaningful way to the attitude of submission and grace discussed above. I think this type of graciousness is a natural result of that type of approach toward others. Extending grace to others through modesty is an act of compassion and kindness, and in a Christian setting is an indication of a woman who accepts God's presence in her life, one who has a strong sense of propriety, love and consideration for her brothers. It is certainly an act of spiritual maturity. So the why of it, to me, is that we are extended the utmost grace and love from God, and He intends we further extend these things to each other.

I love the Scripture in Psalm 16 that states the boundaries God has placed around us are pleasant places. We need to trust these God-given boundaries when it comes to things like modesty issues. I often think of the verse in Luke 3:51 where it states that Mary *'kept all these sayings in her heart'*. I feel we need to do this and encourage each other to 'keep and ponder' the why's of modesty in our minds and heart as well. This will help us with our own questions and help us to guide and mentor our younger women with questions as well. My husband has an aunt he deeply admires. One of the things he respects immensely about her is her unspoken sense of modesty. He said he noticed that every time she leans over, she automatically places her hand on the top of her chest, over her blouse or shirt. He thinks it a beautiful gesture of modesty that's an act of concern for others and submission to God - a small display of love that always touches him.

I think it is a tremendous privilege and gift from God to be called as a woman in this century. We are able to look at the history of all women in differing societies and see what God intended for us, where mistakes were made, triumphs were had, and faith and submission to God made a difference. We can then use this knowledge to make a tremendous impact in a world very much

needing proper role models in most areas applicable to women. Modesty, coupled with the attitude of graciousness, is one of those areas, and a very important one, I believe, because it indicates a woman of great beauty and integrity on the inside. UNC: You mentioned about referring to Scriptures on Sabbath before going to Church. Could you touch on how this would help Sabbath observance for lonely members?

DK: A number of years ago, I started writing what I call 'scripture stories' for myself. These are usually index cards with multiple passages of scripture written on them that vary with what is going on at specific times in my life – what I'm doing, working on, and/or what challenges I'm facing at the time. They have served as reminders, encouragement and faith builders over the years. I have a certain set I read for years on Sabbath mornings in preparation for church and being with people of God. As a wife of a minister, I always worried I might say or do something that would hurt a member and as a result perhaps damage their faith or trust, so I would read passages from Ephesians, Philippians, I Corinthians, Thessalonians, etc. to have God remind me of the mindset He expects of me and I expect of myself.

One important thing that came from these studies was the realization we have a number of members who are never touched in any meaningful way (and sometimes not at all) during the week. The only time they are ever touched is on the Sabbath. I think it's very important to make it a point of being aware of who those people are in our congregations and give them a hug, or a squeeze or pat on the arm (whatever is appropriate for your situation) every week without fail. These are gifts of love and compassion we can give to each other that can't have a value placed on them.

UNC: Being the wife of the President –has your former job helped you in this role?

DK: I've had several jobs over the years since college graduation in 1974. By far the one that most prepared me for what I'm doing now was my 30+ years in service to God's people as a minister's wife. I learned (and am still learning) patience, developed a great deal more faith and understanding than I began with, gained a great love and appreciation for all of God's people, learned empathy, the pitfalls of judging

people, how to give without expecting things in return, to really listen, how to deal with years-long trials, humility, and great respect and awe for what God is doing for the world and in our lives, and how much He cares for all of us. These things had nothing to do with what came next - integration systems, data analysis, strategic planning, or labor law - but everything to do with how to be successful in them.

When we were first married, I thought (simplistically I realized later!) God wanted me to be in constant service to the church, as a minister's wife, and I really gave myself to that, but financial concerns dictated I had to change my thinking. With great mental turmoil, I went back into the workforce fulltime in the early 90's, unsure if this was abandoning our church area and my duties and if it was pleasing to God. Was there another way? I'd asked for that, but no escape avenues were forthcoming. However, as always with God, "all things work to the good" (though, not necessarily always right away or in the way I thought it should!). My jobs prior to moving to Cincinnati were mostly working in various aspects of Human Resources; first for a technology integration company, then in a hospital system. I worked primarily in training, strategic planning and organizational development and employee relations. Before embarking down this path in the early 90's, I asked God to please bless me with a job that would in some way benefit the church and my husband's responsibilities, and He answered me in an interesting way! It's a long story, but I actually ended up with a job I didn't apply for (communication mix-up between the employer and the temp agency), which six months later turned from a coordinator in the training department into a human resources position. By the late 90's I was in my third job I hadn't applied for and just decided to trust God and 'go with the flow'!

Some of these jobs had pretty tough learning curves, with the resultant stress, but they gave me a wealth of information I've been able to pass on to the church. I was forced into a lot of writing and public speaking before large groups (pretty scary at the time), but these assignments have given me much more confidence and skills to deal with a variety of people. I'm a naturally shy person, more quiet and slightly introverted by nature, and I needed to be pushed (actually, I think it was more shoved!) to develop

social and people skills I didn't have.

I thank God for those experiences, because without them I don't think I would have been nearly as prepared to serve in the way I do now. I think we forget sometimes that only God truly sees our lives on the aggregate, and He knows that our experiences (church and life, good and bad) will create a sum total of what He wants us to learn and do, and will result in better service to Him and His people. In sparing us some of these very life-intrusive, difficult things, we just wouldn't have the growth we need. It is such an incredible gift to be called by God at this time, to be a woman in His service (I don't mean my specific service right now, but our collective church service). I don't know what will come next, but when this time of service ends, it will be interesting to see what else is waiting! What members are going through now in their church experience makes their vision broader which often they don't realize until later.

UNC



WHEN A SPOUSE DIES

Ken Kerr Snr.

ON BECOMING A WIDOWER

My wife Margaret suffered from Crohn's Disease for 35 years and I was used to her getting sick. In 1987 I came home from work one evening and found her laying on the couch crying with pain. The doctor said if she lives for the next 48 hours she will probably have 10 years. Everyone thought she would die but she fooled them all. The doctor proclaimed it a miracle. He said six months to a year before she could do anything, but six weeks later she was cooking, cleaning and working in the garden. I got the feeling she was indestructible. She had many problems over the next 19 years but I expected she would live well into her 70's and 80's.

She always rallied so when we went to the hospital I wasn't really that worried. But this time it was more serious. After days of treatment I asked if I could sit with my wife. The nurse said, 'The doctor is with her now and will come and see you as soon as he has examined her.' In about 30 minutes the doctor came out and took us into a little room and said, 'Your wife is a very ill and has little chance for survival.' Right then I knew she wasn't coming back and I knew I was about to lose the love of my life of 45 years. The nurse called us and we went and held her until she died with great sobs racking my body as I said goodbye.

It was April 21, 2007. The next few days I was walking around as if in a trance. I just couldn't believe or accept the fact she was gone. I would wake up and expect to find her there next to me, or else I would think I have to go to hospital to see her, but then the cold harsh reality would set in that she was actually gone.

There were many things to take care of in funeral arrangements, a memorial service, seeing to the pension plan and a host of little details. The ministers and deacons arranged everything and we had a memorial service on the next Sabbath. Old friends came from far away, all five of our children came.

But, soon after the service everyone had to get back to their own lives and jobs and I was ALONE! Alone for the first time in my forty-five years of marriage. I turned to God in prayer and read, and re-read the following scriptures which were a great comfort: 2 Thessalonians 4:13-17; 1 Corinthians 15:35-58; and Revelation 20:4-6. What we are privileged to know and understand in God's Church

is tremendous in that I know I will see her again. One of the last things she said to me was, 'Whatever God has in store for me I am ready to accept.'

It was hard for me because I was personally afraid I would be unable to look after myself because I had never cooked in my life! But with patience I am learning to cook nourishing meals. The nights are the hardest, but between watching old movies and reading I manage to keep going.

It has been a very difficult transition from being married to being single. No longer do I get praise when I fix something or build something for her. No longer when I am working outside do I have her come out with a drink and a snack. No longer do I see her smiling face if I look up when she used to work in her flower garden or her greenhouse. No longer when I come in tired and hungry is there a lunch or a hot supper waiting for me. And no longer are there those sweet hugs and kisses but only emptiness and loneliness. I do not feel sorry for myself but I do miss her so. Two scriptures give me consolation: Isaiah 57:1-2 and Psalms 116:15. I know she is sleeping and I know she is not in pain or suffering any more and I know I will see her again in a glorified body and hopefully be with her for all eternity in God's Family.

Having now experienced what I have, I believe I could offer some advice to people who try to comfort those who are going through this difficult time of losing a mate.

1. Listen to the person in their grief. The person desperately needs to have some one who will listen. Don't talk about your mother or your aunt who died five years ago. The person is hurting - they need to talk. Maybe you will be told the same story five or six times but resist the urge to say Yes, you already told me - as that may really hurt the person deeply. The night my wife died one lady from the church just sat and listened. She will be my lifelong friend.

2. Do hug the person and let them know you are there for them. I went into the library about three weeks after my wife's death and one librarian came up to me and said, Ken I am so sorry - and she just hugged me and would not let me go, and I cried like a baby. But it was good for me. I

felt loved. I felt that this woman understood.

3. Never say, Oh never mind, you will marry again. That is actually very hurtful. It's almost as my wife didn't really matter, just get on with your life as if she never existed.

4. Never say, Oh if only I had known. I have this wonderful cure for what she had and she would be here today. This is an very insensitive thing to say and more common than you might think.

Everyone grieves in a different way. No one's relationship is exactly the same. Some people may get through it in six months, others may take 2 to 5 years. Some may never get over it. But grief must go on and have its full end and run its natural course.

There are four stages that a grieving person passes through and I guess I am in stages two and three. Stage one is shock and numbness - you can't really believe this is happening. It's all a bad nightmare from which you will awake. Stage two is emotional turmoil - What am I going to do? How am I going to go on without her? Will it be possible to dispose of things of hers that meant so much, pictures and clothes. Then stage three is emptiness. This is where I am now mostly. My life is so empty without her. Later at stage four comes acceptance. I haven't reached there yet and may not for some time. But I am able to serve more and help my pastor and church elder in our area. My Bible Study and prayer has taken on new meaning

The old adage that you wait at least a year before you make any plans is a sound one and I'm glad to listen to that advice. My parting advice to husbands and wives is to love each other, be kind to one another, spend time with each other and above all make time for God together. I really miss the conversations we had every morning discussing the Scriptures.

Two scriptures worth always remembering are James 4:14 and verse 15; 'Come now, those saying, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city and spend a year there, and we will trade and will make a profit, who do not know of the morrow. For what is your life? For it is a vapor, which appears for a little time, and then disappears.'

“Instead you ought to say, If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.”

But praise God for the resurrection.

Death is sobering.

Ken Kerr – Vancouver Island

Death is permanent.



POST FEAST DINNER

On the evening of October 27, UCG members in Prince George gathered at the home of John and Collette Erickson to share feast memories, video presentations, pictures, and to fellowship. Also with us for the evening was our pastor, Rainer Salomaa, from Calgary.

The evening helped strengthen local church friendships, as many of the members had transferred to various US festival sites.

Pictured here are Prince George deacon, John Erickson, with daughter, Synnove Teetaert from Lethbridge, Alberta, and grandson, Malachi Cartwright of Prince George, as they pat a friendly Alaskan moose.



Angie Erickson

Prince George

QUOTE:

“In life, anything worthwhile comes with a price.

Paying the price means paying our dues in time, sweat, tears and discipline.

Author Jim Rohn points out that we all must suffer from one of two pains -- the pain of discipline or the pain of regret.

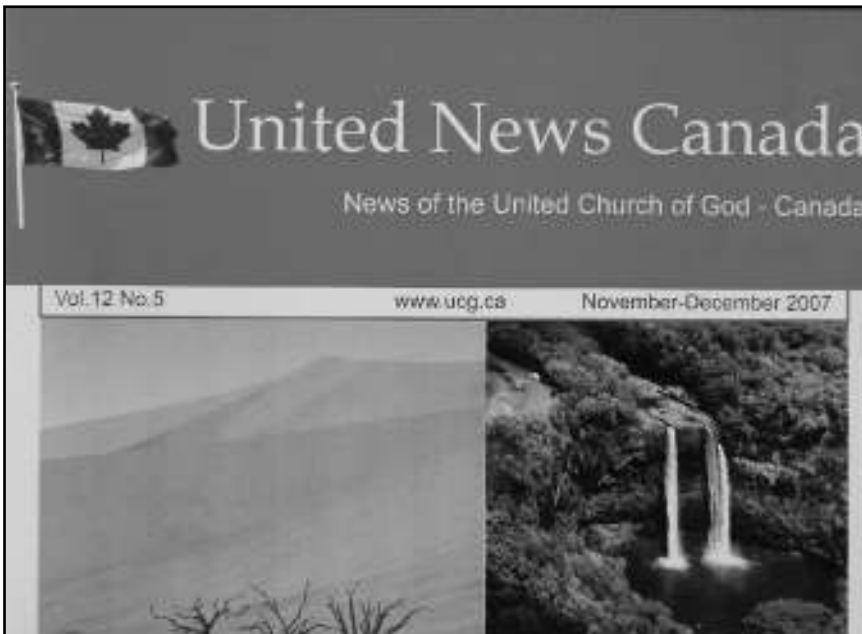
We must suffer the pain of discipline to achieve what we want or the pain of regret at not achieving it.

The difference is that the pain of discipline weighs ounces, while the pain of regret weighs tons.

All it takes to shift that weight is some discipline and commitment now.”



105 French language subscribers across Canada



674 copies

Some go to:

**United States
Australia
Bahamas
England
Sweden**



**554 copies
of United News
UCGIA**

1,940 copies



The following table shows a comparison between the first 39 weeks of airing the program in Canada and the **second 39 weeks**.

	Weeks 1-39	Weeks 40-78	Difference	Percent
Total responses	1,198	1,519	+321	+26.8%
Highest responses	61	88	+27	+44.3%
Average per week	30.7	38.9	+8.2	+26.7%

The following table shows the 10 programs with the highest responses.

Week	Date	Title	Lit *	TOTAL
46	April 1, 2007	Christians Who Don't Keep Easter	HH	88
47	April 8, 2007	The Easter Charade	HH	66
60	July 8, 2007	The Next Superpower (2)	WP	62
30	December 30, 2006	Christmas: Mirth or Myth?	HH	61
61	July 15, 2007	A Place Called Hell (2)	HL	59
41	February 24, 2007	Displaying the Ten Commandments (2)	TC	59
39	February 10, 2007	Islam & Christianity: Clash of Faiths	ME	57
74	October 14, 2007	The Horsemen of Revelation (2)	RV	55
68	September 2, 2007	Beyond the Grave	AD	54
25	November 5, 2006	The Coming King of the South	ME	52

A number beside the title indicates that the program aired more than once.

* - Lit indicates the literature offered on the program. HH = *Holidays or Holy Days: Does it Matter Which Days We Keep*; WP = *World News & Prophecy*; HL = *Heaven & Hell: What Does The Bible Really Teach*; TC = *The Ten Commandments*; ME = *The Middle East in Bible Prophecy*; RV = *The Book of Revelation Unveiled*; AD = *What Happens After Death?*

The cost per response has dropped 21.1% from weeks 1-39 to weeks 40-78 and the cost per subscription has dropped 10.1% for the same period.

Beyond Today has been on the air for a year and a half across Canada.

The results to date have been very positive.

We look forward in the coming year as God blesses these efforts.



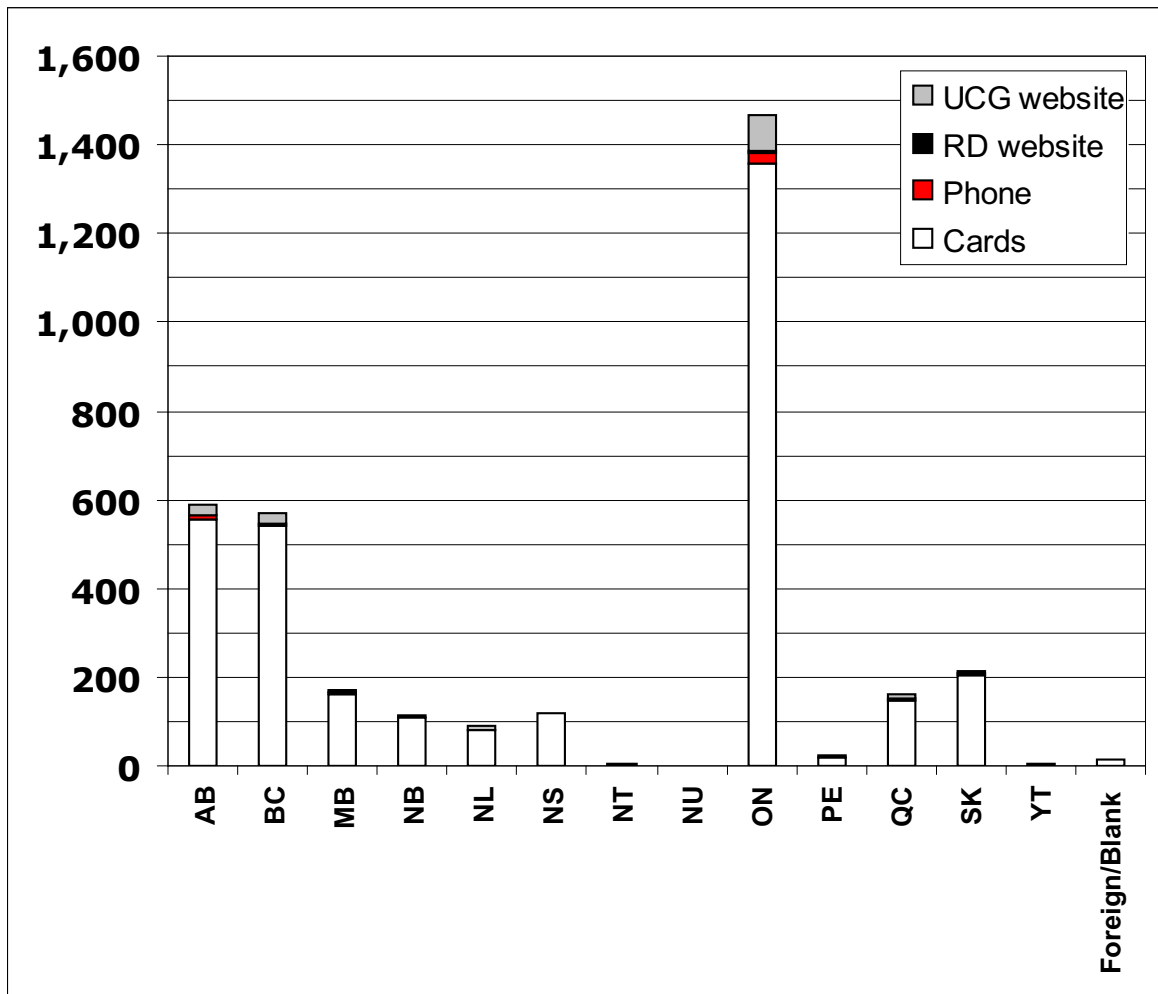
Here is an update on the Beyond Today television program.

78 programs have been aired.

There have been 2,717 responses to the program.

This has averaged 34.9 responses per week.

**Reader's Digest Responses by Province
(At December 13, over 3,600 responses at 0.409%)**



Citizenship – the Benefits

Many years ago when I moved to Canada with my husband, I was granted a “Landed Immigrant” card to allow me to stay in the country. Then I had to choose whether to apply for Canadian citizenship or retain my U.S. citizenship. It was an issue of looking at the pros and cons of the benefits each would have. At that time, I could not have dual citizenship but by retaining my U.S. citizenship our children could have dual citizenship – that was the deciding factor for us. Now the rules have changed and I could attain dual citizenship so we again need to reconsider benefits of my becoming a Canadian citizen.

The United Church of God has recognized that the body of Christ is a spiritual organization rather than a corporate one. We realize that only God can make the distinction of who is or is not converted, because only he can see the heart of the individual. We realize that using a particular name doesn’t make our church any better than the others. That means that we do not belittle other Church of God groups lest we are speaking evil of God’s efforts.

We have to live in a physical world and abide by the laws of the land. In order for the church to issue charitable receipts for donations, it had to be incorporated in accordance with the rules of the land. That means that we are both a spiritual organization and a corporate entity. In a sense, we then can have dual citizenship – spiritual and corporate. But, are there any benefits to that dual citizenship? We all know the benefits of being a part of the spiritual body. Sometimes, it is less obvious as to why we should become a member of the corporate body – especially when we have had some undesirable things happen when we were members of other churches!

What are the advantages of membership?

One requirement for the Church to become incorporated in Canada is to have Bylaws. That is actually a safeguard for the church and people who donate to the organization. The Bylaws spell out the rules under which the Church will (must) operate. One section of our Bylaws enables members of the church to ballot and select other member(s) from their congregation to potentially become a member of the National Council. These “members” are corporate members as defined by our Bylaws. Otherwise the church could have

anyone come in claiming to be a member and casting a ballot. This could potentially undermine the process. We could even have people serving on Council who do not believe in our Fundamental Beliefs!

The Council is charged with forming policies. These are the guidelines as to how the church will conduct itself. Some of these policies, of necessity, only cover corporate members. An example is the Member Appeal Policy. This policy gives members a method for seeking help when they believe they have been wrongly treated, and is mandated by the Bylaws.

Did you know that the official policy of UCGIA is that someone who is not a member may not have any speaking assignments? This is done to protect the congregation.

Why the membership application form?

Some are intimidated by the membership form, thinking that because they have to sign the form it obligates them to something. It may seem intimidating because it was put together using legal language so that the church would be in compliance with existing Privacy legislation.

When you read what is being signed, it is asking for permission to store your name and information on our database and giving the Church permission to give this information to the Home Office (Cincinnati) occasionally so that they have the information as needed. This is to protect this database with a backup copy in case of emergencies.

Advantages of membership

So, what are the disadvantages of membership? None that I can think of! It is reversible – anyone can request to be removed from the membership any time. It doesn’t leave your contributions open to scrutiny – only a few people have access to that information whether you are a “member” or a “donor”. There are no additional requirements at all – you don’t even have to ballot for lay member selection if you do not wish to do so.

There are advantages for the corporation. It assists in planning to know how many committed “members” there are and where. This allows us to make plans as to where we should place pastors, where the next church congregation(s) should be. It also assists in projecting income for the coming year.

There are also advantages for the

“member”. Perhaps the most significant is that you are more committed to the organization (not that you would stay committed if the organization chose to change its beliefs!). You can be more excited with the announcements regarding preaching the gospel and church growth. More tangible advantages are:

- Automatic *Good News* renewal
- Automatic receiving of new booklets and other magazines
- Advantages provided by policies of the church applying to “members”
- Greater involvement emotionally in the “church”
- Opportunity to ballot for lay member selection
- Opportunity to be selected to be put on ballot for council
- Potential speaking and leadership training

The first four of the advantages apply to all. The next two apply to those who wish to take advantage of them. The last applies to some. Leadership training could be learning how to serve in the local congregation more effectively.

So now, if you haven’t already done so, this is the time to consider asking for one of those membership forms. Read it over, consider the pros and cons and decide if you wish to become a “member” of the corporation. You have nothing to lose!

Linda Wasilkoff

National Council Secretary

An official membership form
can be obtained from
your local pastor.

VANCOUVER CELEBRATES A POST-FEAST FEAST.

Sabbath services in Vancouver on November 3rd became a feast delight. Glyn Davies gave a unique presentation on *VEGETATION IN THE BIBLE*. It was a sermon lesson in Bible botany.

Using Power Point, Glyn spoke about trees, mustard, garlic, melons, gourds, frankincense and myrrh, ebony, pomegranate, dates, olives, grapes, flowers and more! Our senses were stimulated from hearing and seeing.

Then following services a special table displayed many of the items discussed in the message and the congregation had an opportunity to taste some of the many delights of scripture.

David Palmer

Vancouver



Wedding – Ford and Voorwinden

Rosaleen Ford of Oakville and Joseph Voorwinden of Trenton were married on the seventh of October, 2007 at the Bakers Island Community Centre at the Canadian Forces Base in Trenton, Ontario.

Kevin Ford, father of the bride, is employed by the UCG Canadian Office, and the couple now reside in Trenton, Ontario.

Rose and Joe were very thankful to have so many church members in attendance, and especially wish to thank those who drove so far to share in their special day.

Today @ This is the way...

Hi, friends, The word 'free' attracts our attention, but in this world it also produces a lot of skepticism.

Clyde and Dee Kilough

It's Free!

Some believe nothing in life is free. How mistaken they are! The air we breathe, the paths we walk upon, the friends we have and the attitude we exhibit all come with no price tag. Furthermore, each of us is capable of giving something to someone else that is free, whether it is our time, our ears or something else the person needs.

John Bunyon noted: "You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you."

God tells us to do charitable deeds in secret, so that He may reward us openly (Matthew 6:1-4). Yet, we too often chafe at the seeming lack of appreciation from a receiver of our gifts.

There is something exhilarating about giving—really giving— anonymously. It develops a character trait in us that pleases God. We can all cancel the belief that nothing is free—when we give or do something for another that costs them nothing. We have that power.

Further reading: *The Eighth Commandment: Practice Giving Rather Than Getting.*

Online at www.gnmagazine.org/booklets/TC/eighthcommandment.htm

Today @ This is the way...

Hello to all, All living things are incredible, and humans most of all.

Clyde and Dee Kilough

The \$20 Lesson

A well-known speaker started off his seminar by holding up a \$20 bill. He asked the 200 people in attendance, "Who would like this \$20 bill?" Hands started going up. He said, "I am going to give this \$20 to one of you, but first, let me do this." He proceeded to crumple the bill up. He then asked, "Who still wants it?" Still the hands were up in the air. "Well," he replied, "What if I do this?" And he dropped it on the ground and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked it up, now all crumpled and dirty.

"Now who still wants it?" Still the hands went into the air.

"My friends, you have all learned a very valuable lesson. No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did

not decrease in value. It was still worth \$20. Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled and ground into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way. We feel as though we are worthless."

Beyond our value in the business world, we have an intrinsic worth far greater. King David praised God in Psalm 139:14: "I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well." King David understood his value because he knew who made him.

Further reading: *What Is Your Destiny?*

Online at www.gnmagazine.org/booklets/WD/

