



United News Canada

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Do any Canadians live in igloos? No. Not even in the far north arctic regions. This one pictured was built for training purposes. See page 6 to read of Newfoundland member Ellsworth Stanley's "Far North Challenges" while teaching at Sachs Harbour, NWT.

Photos courtesy Ellsworth Stanley



November advertisement responses





OFFICE UPDATE

PRESENTED TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
JUNE 1, 2008

Reader's Digest November 2007 advertisement has passed the 4,000 mark.

At June 2/08 responses were 4003.

Cost per response: \$8.34

Response rate: Better than 0.457%

Current April 2008 advertisement: 1421 responses

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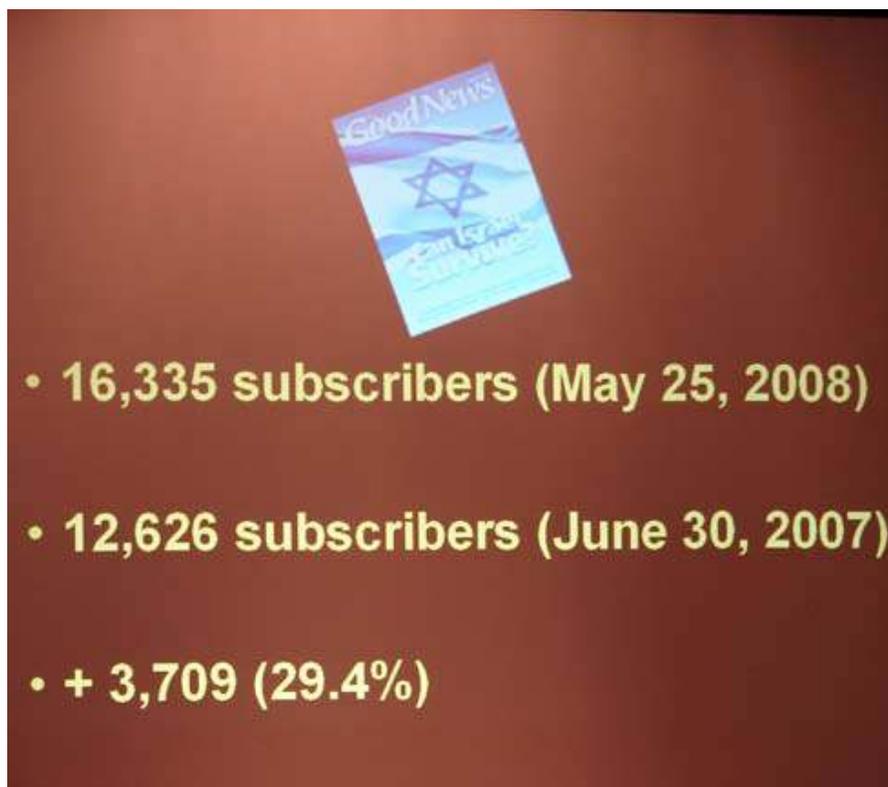


Beyond Today TV

* *We have now been on television for 104 weeks -- exactly two years -- coast to coast across Canada.*

* *Average responses year 1: 33.9*

* *Average responses year 2: 39.2*



Media Update -- Three major efforts

Beyond Today television program

Reader's Digest advertisements

Internet advertising - *google ads*.

PERSONAL -- FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL.

Greetings everyone. Summer has finally arrived after a late spring in many parts of Canada. It is interesting that the Passover was later than normal this year. Some areas were hit by winter weather during Passover and Unleavened Bread. In Calgary, where I attended, we were hit with a major snowfall during Passover evening. Some were not able to make it and had to take the second Passover a month later. When my wife and I were driving to services on the Sabbath after the Passover, radio reports were saying that there were about 300 reported accidents in the city since the storm had started. On the First Day of Unleavened Bread some got snowed in and were not able to get out of their driveways. There were some American congregations in the mid-west who had to cancel services

because of snow storms.

I have often wondered if the seasons of the year do not more accurately follow the calendar which God gave to Israel, commonly called the Hebrew calendar. Jim Franks gave an interesting PowerPoint message on the topic of the Hebrew calendar on a recent trip to Toronto. It was recorded and is available on DVD through the National Office.

The Canadian National Council, as well as the Media and Ministerial Services Teams recently held meetings in Winnipeg. This was the first time that we have gone back there since March, 2001. The brethren were extremely hospitable and some were keen to sit in on the council meetings as observers. Dr. Ian Simons and his wife Mariana did an excellent job in taking care

of the arrangements. Please continue to pray for Dr. Simons as he undergoes cancer treatment, requesting that our Awesome God would be merciful to him, his family and the Winnipeg church, which they are so much a part of and where they are needed. Linda Wasilkoff's report of the council meetings is below. We appreciate her hard work and diligence as our secretary.

Warm Regards, Rainer Salomaa



WINNIPEG NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

The summer meeting of the National Council was held on Sunday and Monday, June 1-2 in Winnipeg. Quite a few church members, along with their pastor, Herb Teitgen, sat in on the meetings. Prior to this, the Media and Ministerial Services Teams met on Thursday and Friday. The council members attended Sabbath services. After the service, everyone enjoyed a delightful time of fellowship and a catered Chinese meal.

Since this was the first meeting of this fiscal year, the Council Code of Ethics and Council Member Job Description were read. New council member, Patrick Read, was welcomed to his first meeting and was asked to give a short ice breaker. Following that, Herb Teitgen talked about the rewards and challenges of serving a Canadian congregation while living in the U.S.

A PowerPoint presentation from the National Office contained various graphs depicting our growth patterns. Graemme Marshall reported on personal correspondence questions which he has received, as well as questions asked by new contacts. The Media Team PowerPoint presentation showed statistics from the *Beyond Today* television program and the results of the recent *Reader's Digest* ads. Council was informed of future plans for the rest of the year.

Next, the Ministerial Services Team reported that leadership development is still an important issue for the church. Canada is tapping into some of the

programs of the U.S. There will also be a ministerial conference later this year for all Canadian elders, as well as a Western Canada leadership workshop weekend in Calgary on June 21-22. Each pastor gave an update on how the spring festival season went in the areas for which he was responsible. The trends are positive.

Larry DeLong was asked to give his impressions of this year's General Conference of Elders, since this is the first time that he has attended one of them. He said that it is difficult to justify the personal expense to attend until you actually are there, just the same as if a person tried to describe the Feast of Tabernacles to someone who had not attended one. The interaction, instruction and spirit of unity were highlights. Robert Berendt then gave an update on the most recent Council of Elders meeting.

The National Office was asked to do a study regarding the potential need to move from the current office space. The council reviewed the study and referred it to the Strategic Planning/Finance Committee for further discussion. Next on the agenda was a discussion regarding the new Strategic Plan and Operation Plan that UCGIA just approved.

The question as to whether Canada should model next year's yearly plan after these was also referred to the committee.

Monday began with a report from the Strategic Planning/Finance Committee. They submitted a resolution for ratification

of expenditures to keep the charitable purposes ratio to acceptable CRA guidelines. The committee will continue to work on the Strategic Plan for 2008-2009 to have it ready for council approval during the September teleconference. The committee also worked on strategies for the National Office to use for finding new office space.

The Governance Committee presented a proposal to amend the policy on establishing new churches and Bible Study groups. A motion was passed to accept the amended document. An Elder Appeal Policy for Canada was approved by council. Refinements to the lay member nominations process were also discussed.

As a part of council education, Robert Berendt was asked to cover the topic of "Masterful Meetings." He gave a short summary from an all-day seminar during the last Council of Elders meetings in which Michael Wilkinson had talked about how to make meetings more productive.

The regular session ended with a short brainstorming session. Following that, the council went into executive session where they discussed designated funds and reserves. The annual review of the Director of Operations was also conducted.

Linda Wasilkoff

Council Secretary

PATRICK READ – NEW NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER

Patrick Read and his wife, JoAnne, attended their first National Council meeting in Winnipeg this June.

Patrick was born in Kitchener, Ontario, was married in 1972 and he and JoAnne have two adult married children and two grand-children. Patrick first read *The Plain Truth* magazine in 1985 and came to the Church in 1988.

He has worked in Guelph, Ontario for eighteen years and works for a company that makes snow plows and trailers. He is a supervisor for courier and warehousing. His focus in God's Church is to serve the brethren. He has done this through youth activities, and being an usher and deacon in the Church. Here is some personal background from him.

My wife Jo-Anne was born and raised in Pembroke, where her father was in the army. She spent a short time in California and then returned to the Kitchener area. We first met at a mutual friend's home and realized that we lived a block apart from each other. A year and a half later we were engaged and married one year after that. We remained in the Kitchener area until 1988 when we moved to a small town called Ethel where we currently reside. What was your first contact with the

Truth?

PR: My first contact was actually through a former member of the Worldwide Church of God, who worked at the same place as I did. Around the same time I started reading *The Plain Truth* and then spent the next two years trying to keep the Sabbath and being obedient to God by having Bible studies with this former member. It became clear that we did not see eye to eye in our understanding of God's word that centered on keeping the Sabbath and the Holy days. How did the break up of the Church affect you?

PR: It was perhaps the hardest thing that we had to go through. Not only did it have a tremendous impact on us, but also on our children who were not attending at the time. Even though they did not attend, they were concerned that their stable home life would change because we were leaving church. They had to come to realize that the truth was the truth and that in time they would realize that we hadn't changed, the organization that we attended had.

How has this affected many old friendships?

PR: Greatly. Though it has been hard, God has provided us with many new friends in the faith. It is still difficult to try to

understand how those whom we had grown to love had seemingly decided to leave the very thing that they had claimed to believe in. What I try to keep in mind is that it isn't over yet. Therefore it still remains a possibility that they may some day come back to where they belong.

How do you see your own personal strengths and gifts from God's Holy Spirit?

PR: I try to keep in mind the fact that God is in charge. As Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." It is only through His power that I have any strength, and gifts to do what is necessary to serve the brethren. After all, that is really what it is all about. We have to have the same love for each other as God has for us, and through that love we will be able to help and support each other. I pray daily for that strength and help to maintain my journey towards His Kingdom.

UNC



Above is pictured Council Chairman Rainer Salomaa leading a National Council session at the recent Winnipeg meetings.

At left is the Oceana Chinese Restaurant sign outside the entrance to their banquet room. The Winnipeg congregation has used this venue for several years.

Above photo courtesy Edwin van Pelt

FAR NORTH CHALLENGES

Life in the far north of Canada is an adventure and a challenge. When I retired from teaching in Newfoundland and Labrador in 1998, after eight years at university and thirty years teaching, I was not prepared for retirement. I had too much time on my hands and too much energy. I needed a challenge and when I saw an advertisement for teachers in Canada's Northwest Territories I faxed my resumé. The rest unfolded into a wonderfully rewarding experience. I taught for two years in the town of Fort Good Hope on the south shore of the mighty Mackenzie River. Watching the Mackenzie break up in the spring was quite an experience, as huge blocks of river ice tumbled and rolled north on their way to the Mackenzie Delta near Inuvik. The ice would move with a deafening roar. It would take two weeks for the ice to clear, leaving trees, stumps and shore debris to follow in its wake.

For the past two years I have been living in the most northern hamlet of the Northwest Territories. The tiny hamlet of Sachs Harbour is on the south-western corner of Banks Island in the Beaufort Sea. The closest town is Uluhaktok, on Victoria Island, which is an hour by plane to the south east. The nearest major town is Inuvik, one and a half hours south by plane. It has a population of a little over 3,000. In Sachs Harbour there are about 110 souls. They are mostly Inuvialuit along with about 10 non-Inuit. We have no resident doctor. We have a well-equipped nursing station. The R.C.M.P. visit us once every 6-8 weeks, or if there is an emergency.

The main industries are hunting and fishing. Many sport hunters come here from all over the world to hunt polar bears and muskoxen and to fish. There are several local guides that take them on the land to hunt. The local hunters hunt the arctic white fox, seals and an occasional walrus. Last summer they brought in a huge walrus that weighed well over 1,500 pounds.

Banks Island is home to the world's largest herd of musk ox in the world. There are more than 40,000 in the northern part of the island near Aulavik National Park. The musk oxen are the main source of fresh meat for the local residents. These bison-like animals are hunted year round, but a major harvest is held in January or February. About 400 are harvested for local and commercial use. The meat is packaged and sent out to be sold. Most of the "wool"

is taken and shipped out for processing. It is much warmer than sheep's wool and softer than cashmere. It is knit into high-end woollen garments in places such as Peru. Some residents also process the "wool" and knit it into mitts, scarves and socks etc. The wool is called Qiviuk. (It is pronounced Kive-e-it.) The sweaters start at \$1200 and the scarves at \$200 in high-end stores.

Life well above the Arctic Circle has its challenges. Living in the same latitude as Baffin Island and Greenland brings occasional blizzards and wind chills as low as -66C. Our houses are constructed 2-3 feet off the ground on the permafrost, so we have no underground pipes. We have our water delivered by a water truck. Each house has a large water tank and a septic tank. We receive regular water delivery and the septic system is pumped out at the same time to prevent freezing. Our power source is diesel-electric, and runs very efficiently. Keeping the heavy equipment running in the extreme cold is a major operation. Sachs Harbour has one general store that sells grocery items, clothes and some hardware. A large barge comes up the Mackenzie River in early August bringing heavy equipment and supplies for the hamlet and store. Perishable foods are flown in by plane. We get two flights per week from Inuvik. This makes the cost of living very high. Milk can cost you \$4.43 per litre; cabbage is \$4.23 per kg; broccoli \$8.69 per kg; potatoes \$14.99 for 5 lbs; grape juice is \$16.89 for 1.5 litres. Rent is \$1500 per month for a three bedroom apartment with heat and light included. However apartments are hard to find. The high cost of food can be off-set by taking advantage of the local fish and game.

Summer weather usually begins in June and ends mid-September to mid-October. We generally lose the sun around November 15 and don't see it anymore until the last week in January. By December 21 we go to work in the dark and return home in the dark. In late April and early May begins 24 hours of daylight. Keeping the Sabbath is very different here. When the Sabbath ends the sun is still shining brightly. During the winter the sun never rises. I have been in the habit of taking a 24 hour period from Friday evening until Saturday evening. I try to have it coincide with the sunset times in Alberta, just south of us.

Isolation has not been a big problem since I can keep in contact with the

Church through the internet. I was able to enjoy the live cybercast of the Feast of Tabernacles from Jekyll Island and Bend-Redmond, this fall. Then too, the Church office in Toronto sent me sermon CDs and DVDs for Sabbaths and Holydays. Mr. David Smith, our Newfoundland and Labrador elder, keeps me up to date with the local congregation in St. John's.

I am kept quite busy teaching Kindergarten to Grade Three. I have 10 students that range in age from 5 to 8 years old. They are a joy to teach! They are all Inuit and are all related in some way. It's like an extended family. There are four kindergarten, two Grade Ones, three Grade Twos and one Grade Three. We recently received XC-ski equipment for all the students, so we ski at least twice a week during our physical education classes. It is sunny and not too cold in April and May, ideal conditions for skiing. The average temperature is -16C. During the cold dark winter period it has gone down as low as -66C with the wind chill factor.

Life is very quiet here in Sachs Harbour. There are no cars, just a few trucks. There is time to read and socialize. I have only one channel to watch on my TV. I get the APTN network which keeps me well informed about the local culture.

We have a major celebration in August each year - the Whitefox Jamboree. There is a lot of feasting, dancing and games. Throughout the year, the recreation coordinator has games and activities for all ages in the school gym.

I have been taking a traditional sewing class for the past two years. The local elders teach the class. Last year I sewed by hand a pair of muskrat slippers. I learned how to wash, dry and stretch the hides. With help I was able to make my own pattern and cut out each piece and sew it together. This past year I made a cover for my parka. The people here use a cover when they go hunting. Mine has a hood and a large front pocket. Some others sewed seal skin mitts and boots.

I have truly enjoyed my time spent here in the far north at "The top of the world." Everyday has brought new experiences and challenges. We have many people come through here doing scientific studies. This year being International Polar Year, there is a lot of interest in this region. Various people are studying the fish, soil erosion, global warming etc. We have had an ice-breaker Q - Who do the people say they are



off the coast doing research on the polar ice. All the students from the school were able to go on a field trip on the research ship in August and November. Living in Canada's far north has been the thrill of a lifetime!

L. Ellsworth Stanley – NL

descended from?

ES: From what I have been able to gather they really don't know who they are descended from. There is a major genetic study underway to find out this mystery. They are seeking links through language similarities with peoples across the Bering Strait into Siberia. Some Dene people south of us are worried that these findings may adversely affect their land claims.

Q - To what extent have modern foods affected them?

ES: There has been a sharp rise in diabetes among these people.

Q - Is being a small community any problem with inter-marriage?

ES: I don't think it is a major problem as the residents of Sachs Harbour are very mobile. They have many connections to the

mainland and the islands nearby.

Q - Does anyone live in igloos?

ES: No one lives in igloos. That one I was pictured with was constructed in Uluhaktok. Some of the elders used it to do their drum dancing. It is roomier inside than it looks. I was there for teacher in-service.

Q - Are the people experiencing any climate change or pollution effect?

ES: The ice is not as heavy and the old ice doesn't stay around as long. The permafrost is melting, causing lots of soil erosion along the bluffs. There also seems to be more salmon and cod around the island. Johnson's Point has some chemical pollution. It has been used for oil exploration; it will be cleaned up by 2010.

Q - What do you do on Sabbaths?

ES: I go for a walk along the shore or back over the rolling hills. I listen to sermons on CD or DVD. I do extra Bible study, read, and call my wife. I have a special meal. I listen to music over the internet from my favourite radio station back in Newfoundland and Labrador. Sometimes I watch the sermons from the Church web site.

Q - Do you plan to continue working there?

ES: No. I have decided to retire in St. John's. I enjoy hiking, gardening and reading. I may do some volunteer work for the Autism Society of Newfoundland and Labrador.



Above pictures show children in Sachs Harbour, North West Territories, taught by Ellsworth Stanley during his far north arctic teaching opportunity.

WAS JESUS CHRIST REALLY RESURRECTED?

Part one deals with Christ's personal testimony. Part two in the next issue will cover other eye witnesses who corroborated the events of Christ's testimony.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is central to Christian belief and to the Christian hope. Christians believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, because the Old and the New Testament teach it, because Christ promised it and because His apostles confirm it in the New Testament writings. Contrariwise, atheists, agnostics and others assert that the resurrection is a fable concocted by Jesus' followers, as their attachment to Jesus' memory was so strong that they all "agreed" to create a new religion in His name, based on lies and deceit.

Was Jesus Christ a self-deluded charlatan? Did Jesus Christ cunningly deceive His many followers with promises that were impossible to fulfill? Most important, did His followers react to His "unfulfilled" promise of a personal resurrection by "reciprocating" with a vigorous attempt at elevating Him to a divine plane?

A sensible and objective mind would have no problem replying, "Certainly not!" Yet, shockingly, the rigid mental set of the enemies of Christianity would reply affirmatively. The reason for their baffling unwillingness to accept the obvious is primarily because accepting Christ's resurrection would devastate a belief system that they have been defending for years and that would transform their thinking and their lives beyond what they are willing to allow.

This article is not an exhaustive attempt at listing all the reasons that have been offered through the centuries on behalf of the truth of Christ's resurrection. The focus of this work will be to present simple, sensible and obvious arguments which point forcefully to the undeniable reality that Jesus Christ died and rose again, and that His disciples witnessed the event and testified "truthfully" to it, in spite of the dangers inherent in their testimony.

PEOPLE DON'T DIE FOR CHARLATANS AND DECEIVERS

Those who have read the Gospel accounts know that the disciples were called out of their occupations, their communities and their future. Because they abandoned their secure jobs, they most probably caused their families confusion, and

concern for following a "young" man who promised them positions of power and rulership in a "future" Kingdom. Those great promises, though, were contingent upon an astonishing event: Jesus' future death and resurrection (but through most of Christ's ministry, the disciples did not even realize He would be killed). This, of course, may have been hard to believe at first but, in time, it became obvious to the disciples of Jesus that anything was possible for someone who had resurrected the dead before their very eyes.

If Jesus had died and had stayed in the tomb, as unbelievers insist happened, the psychological consequences on the disciples would have been undeniably devastating. They would have felt let down, lied to, deceived and manipulated. Their egos would have been dramatically deflated; they would have become the focus of ridicule by family, friends and others. All of the above would have led to understandable anger at the one who had played games with their minds, had lied to them callously for three and one half years, and who was the cause of all the derision they had to bear. Believing that such a disillusioned, betrayed and angry bunch would intentionally pass around false information meant to "elevate" the "deceiver" and the "charlatan" to the divine plane is the ultimate folly. Angry and bitter people do not elevate a despised enemy--they tear him down. In fact some even end up venting their anger at anything remotely connected to him and to his memory. Furthermore, some would besmirch the man's name for years to come and would do anything and everything possible to get back at the person, even if the only thing they could attack was his memory. Believing that all of them would react otherwise and that they would "harmoniously" persist in dedicating their lives to celebrating a liar is nothing short of incongruous and bizarre.

But the disciples were neither disillusioned nor angry. In fact they acted and talked like people who had received a powerful confirmation that their hopes and dreams were based on a totally firm foundation. They were filled with zeal and excitement, the like of which they had never exhibited before, and the reason was that they had witnessed the seemingly impossible. After three days and three nights, the dead corpse of their beloved leader had come

out of a "sealed" and "guarded" tomb, alive and brimming with vitality -- just as he had promised, on more than one occasion. Furthermore, Jesus exhibited "supernatural" powers, as walking through walls, which only a "supernatural" being could do.

In view of the above, unbelievers' treasured rationalization that Jesus' disciples concocted the story of Jesus' resurrection, even though he had "lied" to them, had used them, had manipulated them, and had "betrayed" them, is nothing short of foolish and irrational.

TRUTH IS FUNDAMENTAL

From its inception, Christianity was sown in truth, was framed in truth and was based on absolute truth. Most opponents of Christ seem to have little awareness of how strong and how foundational truth was to the Christian message from its very inception. Jesus Christ firmly emphasized its critical importance, and His disciples continued to do the same for decades to come. Neither Christ nor His disciples would lie, because doing so was untenable and dangerous to their eternal destiny. Lying meant eternal consequences and such possibility alone would have prevented any manipulation of facts. Now let's look at the evidence in detail.

IT STARTED WITH JESUS CHRIST

The critical importance of truth received strong emphasis with Jesus Christ. Jesus taught his disciples the necessity of being "truthful," if they were to enter the Kingdom of God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matthew 19:17). Jesus Christ taught, protected and defended the value and sacredness of the Ten Commandments. The Ninth Commandment was "Thou Shalt Not Bear False Witness" (Exodus 20:16).

Jesus also insisted that lying was evidence of the presence of an evil spirit who opposed truth. He told His persecutors that this being was working in them and that they served his purposes. *"You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies"* (John 8: 44).

Thus Jesus Christ was the incarnation of truth; He preached its necessity and value, and labeled lies as issuing from the father of lies, Satan. To validate

Jesus Resurrection continued...

this reality He not only preached it – He died and did not compromise with it. TRUTHFUL UNTO DEATH

Jesus was captured and was brought to the religious leaders in Jerusalem to be interrogated. The accusations were serious enough to merit death. “And those who had laid hold of Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled.” But Peter followed Him at a distance to the high priest’s courtyard. And he went in and sat with the servants to see the end. Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. But at last two false witnesses came forward and said, “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.’” And the high priest arose and said to Him, “Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?” But Jesus kept silent (Matthew 26: 57-63).

“Jesus kept silent.” This was his opportunity for a charlatan to hastily lie his way out of a very dangerous situation, but

he stayed silent and said nothing. He was going to fulfill His destiny and did not lie. Actually, He then went on to make things worse for himself by confirming some of the accusations. And the high priest answered and said to Him, “I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!” Jesus said to him, “It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.” Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, “He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! What do you think?” They answered and said, “He is deserving of death.” Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands, saying, “Prophesy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?” (Luke 22:64).

Jesus Christ had a mission to accomplish, and in spite of the verbal and physical abuse He remained undaunted, firm and truthful. This is the same man who had promised to His disciples that death would not have defeated Him; He would

have been resurrected after being dead in a tomb three days and three nights. ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again’” (Luke 24:7).

As He had promised, Jesus Christ was resurrected the third day, and death had no power over Him. He did fulfill His promise and He fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament as well. Furthermore, he set the example for his disciples to follow: Truth must be upheld, even if it will lead to death – and the transformed disciples faithfully followed His example.

Michael Caputo – Toronto



Photo shows the world’s view of Jesus Christ. A statue in a cemetery in New Brunswick.



Bronze sculpture of a family fishing together. It stands outside the entrance to the Focus on the Family Welcome Centre, in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

PARENTING AND FAMILY

“Virtually all Canadians agree that parents should take equal responsibility for raising children and for carrying out household duties. The ongoing problem documented by our survey is the fact that many males are not coming through, and in the process are putting extra weight on the shoulders of their female partners. Mothers who are employed outside the home are feeling particularly strained. Their numbers are significant: the 60% of mothers who are currently in the labour force (versus about 30% in 1961) include about 65% of mothers with children under six and 60% with children under the age of two...It’s no laughing matter: many mothers continue to be stressed out. It’s time to give the problem high priority, by way of improving life for women, children and our society as a whole” (The Vanier Institute of the Family, page 96, Professor Reginald W. Bibby, Ph.D, University of Lethbridge, 30 years monitoring social trends of Canada, Officer of the Order of Canada).

He says high priority! And that has been the preaching and teaching of God’s Church for many years. Professor Bibby also gives this survey conclusion in his *The BOOMER Factor*, page 167:

PROJECT CANADA FAST FACTS

- The 2005 survey found that 80% of Canadians agreed with the statement, “Discipline in most homes is not strict enough.” Gallup’s figure for the same term in 1955 – 81%.
- Think we are getting harder on young people? In 2005, 54% of people across the country maintained that we need to have a “curfew in this community for young people under the age of 16, unless they are out with their parents.” Gallup’s figure for 1955 – also 81%.

The *United Church of God* promotes concern for healthy families. In the *United News of March/April 2005* we published, *Setting Limits for your Child – Maintaining the Balance*. In the November 2005 edition we published, *Our Children and Sabbath Services*. And our booklet, *Making Life Work* covers *Child Rearing: Building the Right Foundation*, from page 9.

There are other voices and authors concerned with family breakdown in our generation. One of these has been Dr. James Dobson, who has authored numerous books on children and

family. His intriguing titles are: *Dare To Discipline*, *Love Must Be Tough*, *Parenting Isn’t For Cowards*, and *Children at Risk*.

In November 2007, Lynn and I were visiting our son in Denver, Colorado and at the same time took the opportunity to visit the Focus on the Family Welcome Centre in Colorado Springs. They often have helpful, free information on family and marriage. On this occasion they were celebrating their 30 years of work from when Dr. Dobson first began his Focus on the Family radio broadcasts. They had a free CD to celebrate 2007 and on it included an old interview done in the spring of 1977. It had great insight into family breakdown at the time. It is interesting that in 1977 he was concerned about family breakdown to the point of believing America could not survive. In our Church history Herbert Armstrong

an opportunity. The burden of my heart is the family. This burden gets a little heavier every year because the family is under greater and greater stress at this time. The family is just disintegrating across the country. We were aware of that 5, 6, 7 years ago (1970’s) but much more so now (1977). There are many forces. *I am even becoming to wonder if we are going to make it and survive because I believe that the future of a nation depends on the stability of the individual family unit.* It can’t be any stronger than the people who are out there taking care of their children and building self esteem in them and disciplining them and teaching them about the God that we love, and that involves stability for a society because people are paying taxes and they are meeting their financial obligations and it just produces long-term stability. But when you undermine the family,



was similarly alarmed at the prophetic moral trends and believed they reflected an end time through the 1970’s and ‘80’s. All of this was some 30 years ago. We offer some of James Dobson’s comments of 30 years ago as an encouragement to continue to stand for values, positive boundaries and family togetherness.

“There is a time when your children are receptive to your teaching – they want to know what is right and what is wrong, what is black and white, what does God want, what is sin; what does He expect of me. There is a time when they are listening to that. God gave us an opportunity to instill those values into our children. I knew back then what I wanted to say to families. It is why I left academia. It all began with “Dare to Discipline.” My books at that time were all well received and I had a radio program starting on 100 stations the next month. I believe I had been given a ministry and

when you shake that foundation, you necessarily shake everything that sits on that foundation and everything rests there – our government, our institutions, our way of life, our children, our God. Everything rests on the stability of the ground floor and it really concerns me when I see so many forces moving underneath it, to weaken it, to threaten its future. When you do that, you threaten the whole super-structure.

Authority is under attack at all levels in our society. The very mention of the word authority is rejected by so many people; the moment you say it, in fact. I think there are people who think you are referring to harshness and oppression and meanness and anger, whether in a business or a home. I believe in authority. I believe it is the foundation of the home, not with an iron fist, not a slap across the child’s mouth, but authority in the sense of respect for leadership and it bothers

Parenting continued...

me that authority is being so devastated.

When I hear the word obedience, it is extremely important that a child learn to obey his parent. The parent must direct him with love, you can't just have the 'iron-fisted' approach I was talking about, but it is important for a child to learn to obey, simply because that sets the tone, it provides the foundation for his later obedience for God. You take a little child and teach him systematically from the earliest moments of childhood to exercise extreme self-will, to grab what he wants when he wants it. If you teach him that he has no allegiance to any form of authority and you really put him on his own when he is 3, 4 years of age and he learns to mock authority, to laugh at authority, to run when he is called and to defy authority, he is most unlikely at the age of accountability to turn his face to God and say "Here am I Lord, send me." You learn to yield to the benevolent



loving authority of God by first learning to yield to the benevolent loving authority of your parents. That is the foundation.

Interviewer: Now I watched a program the other night on animals and I was fascinated to see a mother bear chase her little cubs up a tree and that mother just growled, just woofed a couple of times when there was danger and without the second woof those little cubs went up a tree and they stayed up the tree until another woof and down they came.

James Dobson: "I wish it was that easy in our case."

Interviewer: I noticed though, in the training, every once in a while the mother would go "plop" across the ears to the little guys as they were playing and they got the idea what it meant. Now that was an animal.

James Dobson: "Isn't it interesting that the mother bear hadn't heard that that would destroy the little bears' whole being and that it would ruin them for life."

Interviewer: I was fascinated – you don't have a bear in your home – you have a little monster, his name is Siggy. James Dobson: "We have a little dachshund, his name is Sigmund Freud. He is a little fellow, without question the most hardheaded animal that ever lived. Dachshunds are all difficult to train – that is just part of the breed – if there are any vets here tonight I am sure you would agree that dachshunds and shepherds both seem to have a strong will, but Siggy is unbelievable. The first year we had him I was concerned about him. I thought he was a little bit slow. The second year I was convinced he was mentally retarded. Now I know that that little dog knew exactly what I wanted, but he just doesn't choose to give it to me. He is content to just trot through life watering and sniffing and doing things that dogs do best. He does not do tricks, he does not contribute anything to the family; he is worthless, we love him but he is particularly disinterested in any self-improvement program. He has a very strong will and it is an interesting relationship with Siggy's challenge of my authority. And there have been several occasions where we have had some unbelievable battles. I mean I am embarrassed about the whole thing until this day. It's as if he has said, "I don't think you are tough enough to make me do what you say to do" and it may seem like I am humanizing the behaviour of a little dog, but animals are like that. There is a time when he challenged my authority and just as sure as a little dog will do that, a child is much more inclined to do the same thing – not because he hates you but because there is security in knowing where the defined limits are. Are you really tough enough to lead, and little children care about that issue of who is toughest. I don't know why it is, but they care about that. There is a hierarchy if you know anything about kids, there is a hierarchy in any group – there is one child who is on top, Queen B or King B and it works its way down from there and there is one little fellow down at the bottom who is pecked by everyone else. Children

establish that. I want to share something else. Shirley and I a year ago did a very noble thing – we invited all of the girls in our daughter's 5th grade class to a slumber party in our house. I'm not ever going to do that again! But those girls came in about 5 o'clock one night and they left at 11 o'clock the next morning and they didn't sleep all that time, nor did I. But in being with them just that short period of time I could identify at 11 o'clock the next morning where every child fell in the hierarchy. There was one girl that everything she suggested everyone else said "Let's do it." And when she said something that was funny, everyone laughed and it worked its way down. There was a little girl on the bottom and what she said I thought was as clever and as funny as the one on the top, but if she suggested that the group do something that was the death knell to that idea. Children care about that. Whenever a child moves into a new neighborhood or a new school he often has to fight either verbally or physically to establish himself or he can take last place and work himself up. That's the way children are. And for that reason they care about the issue of who is equipped to lead on the adult level, and that is why if you are a bus driver or a Bible school teacher or a school teacher in the public schools or a grand-parent or a boy scout leader or a mother or a father, if you lead children, about the third day somebody will say how tough are you and you have to either say I can lead or you collapse. And if you collapse you will never forget it, nor will the child."

Graemme & Lynn Marshall

On the left on page 10: Prince Charles pictured with James and Shirley Dobson. Photo courtesy of Focus on the Family
Above picture: A Dachshund dog courtesy Photo.com

THE SEASONS OF LIFE - AS WE AGE

LIFE STAGES – as expressed by a 72 year-old US philanthropist at a 2007 convention.

“One of life’s great ironies is that time crawls when we are young and flies as we age. When children are very young, a ride from the airport to Disneyland lasts forever. It takes an eternity for holidays and summer vacations to arrive – birthdays too. Until the 21st which had always been far distant in the unimaginable future, and then, slowly at first, the clock begins to accelerate.

The 30th birthday seemed to arrive inexplicably soon after the 25th -- the 40th came altogether unexpectedly and was less than a hearty welcome. The ten years between 30 and 40 – the decade of watching children’s transformation from toddlers to teens, and often of arduous climbing of corporate and entrepreneurial ladders, all passed like 3 or 4 years.

After age 40 I began linking time to the season – there was a blur of time from winter skiing to spring cleaning and onto summer months, scientific meetings and fall commitments. I lived in short swallows of breath, climbing mountains, weathering unexpected storms, enjoying experience in growth, and feeling that six months raced by like a week.

After 50 I realized from very personal experience that time appears to race with the years because we understand how precious and rare it is. We appreciate our remaining portion as if it were pure oxygen escaping from a beautiful balloon that can never be refilled.

Many people live in the past, wishing they could put the clock in reverse, largely to undo mistakes. But, most people live in the future, wishing for and worrying about what they want to have and to do, but can’t, instead of enjoying what they have, and doing what they can do, but don’t. They put happiness and fulfillment on hold. We can’t re-live yesterday and must not waste today by living in a fantasy of tomorrow. Only the actions we take here and now can create tomorrow’s real promise. We will not have this day or moment to enjoy again. In our life’s journey we must remember that success is a process, NOT a destination – let alone a summit. That is why we can all be thankful that we have chosen to take the high road in our profession, which I refer to as the road best (less) traveled.

To visualize the road best (less) traveled you must understand that it is not what you have that counts – not your money, position or real estate – what counts is what you do with what you have. No-one can reasonably claim that the choices are easy.

I trust I will never forget Scott Peck’s great book whose opening line is three words – “Life Is Difficult.” No doubt it has always been difficult, but some stretches are more difficult than others, and as a society and country we have all known far easier periods.

Economic security, and security of all kinds, seems to be disappearing. All of this is true and most of it is rightfully worrying, but at the same time the opportunities for personal growth and success are unparalleled. Our society’s current condition reminds me of another first line – one you have often heard, by Charles Dickens: “It was the best of times...it was the worst of times.” It could easily serve to summarize our own times – it is the worst of times as measured by some aspects of our national life, especially in the face of global terrorism and the poisoning of our environment. But age brings perspective, and perspective can offer the refreshing appreciation that things are not quite as bleak as they appear. This is not the first appearance of the worst of times, even in America. A short poem reminds me of the importance of adaptability in life as we move from 2007 into a fresh new year of 2008.

“I do not ask to walk smooth paths nor bear an easy load
I pray for strength and fortitude
to climb the rock-strewn road
Give me such courage I can
scale the hardest peaks alone
And transform every stumbling
block into a stepping stone.”

The best way to adapt to change and lead a successful life and to treat stumbling blocks in your path as stepping-stones to success, is to view crises as opportunities and to view stresses as normal.

Successful individuals develop mental toughness, commonly called resiliency or strength of character. Research has proved that adversities and failures in our lives, if adapted to and viewed as normal corrective feedback, can help us get back on target. They serve to develop in us an immunity against anxiety, depression

and the adverse responses to stress.”

Christ instructed His people on spiritual priorities by teaching: “Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don’t get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes” (Matthew 6:34, The Message).

The apostle Paul was later inspired to write: “Brethren, I count not myself yet to have laid hold: but one thing I do, forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before, I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:13-14 American Standard Version).

It is encouraging advice to help us in the stages of life as they unfold. Some final wisdom from Moses, the man of God:

“The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by strength they are fourscore years, yet their pride is labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. Who knows the power of Your anger? And as Your fear is, so is Your wrath. So teach us to number our days, so that we may bring a heart of wisdom”

(Psalm 90:10-12 MKJV).

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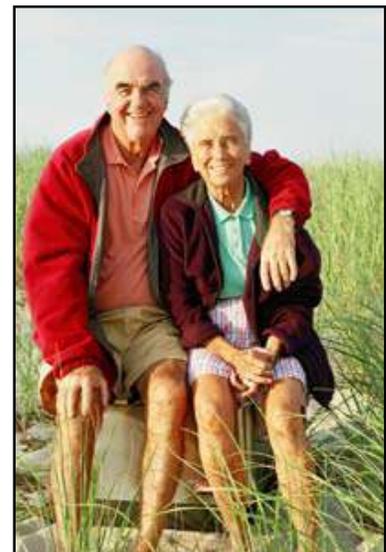


Photo.com

MONTREAL MEMBER HONoured BY COMMUNITY

On March 8, Beverly Hebert received community recognition with an *International Woman of the Year Award*. The following explains how this came about.

Q – The International Woman of the Year award, is this for Quebec, or your region of Quebec?

A - I believe this award is given across Canada, but in Quebec it is always held on March 8th. The award for the Yamaska & Brome Missisquoi Counties was given to 3 people. The one from the Bedford area of Brome Missisquoi is where my husband and I live. I was the only English-speaking woman this year.

Q – How did the award come about?

A - The certificate I received from the House of Commons for the International Woman of the year is for the Brome Missisquoi Bedford region. The award was for helping to better our community in various ways. I volunteer for the Yamaska Literacy council and I tutor adults to learn to read and write English. I have been doing this for several years. I teach English adults to read and write English. These are usually adults who never finished school or who fell through the cracks in the school system. Some of them just want to learn to read well enough to be able to write the exam for their driver's license. Others want to learn to read because they are now parents and they want to be able to read bed-time stories to their kids.

I volunteer at the local library and have developed and set up the Reading & Writing Clubs in English and French, the Kids' Summer Reading Program, and the Kids' Club to encourage reading throughout the school year. I also organized Story Time which happens once every month.

There are several reasons for nomination for the award and being given it. I feel it was given because I also work with the elderly, shut-ins and handicapped as part of my homecare job. I work with kids in Youth Protection for my other job, and I volunteer at the Women's Centre (which is an education and referral centre). I also work with the teenagers, teaching them life skills, such as sewing. The girls sewed their own graduation dresses and did a good job, too. I teach them cooking and helped them to learn to crochet and they made a blanket and donated it to St. Justine's Children's Hospital in Montreal. So they were also learning to give back to their

community. I also set up some workshops for the Townshippers Association for the age 55+ group and hosted six sessions of educational evenings after the Feast.

Q - What is the Townshippers Association?

A - The Townshippers Association is an organization that helps the English community in our area. It is based in



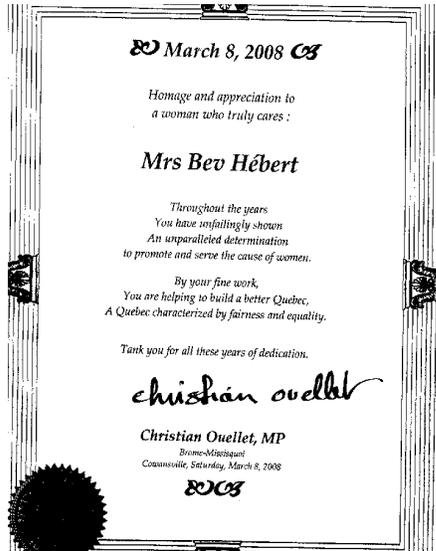
Lennoxville (the other side of Sherbrooke and they have an office in Cowansville). They promote services in English and offer referrals, educational services and generally help with whatever is needed. They give out scholarships and encourage education of all ages. The workshops I did were called "Now's the Time." There were six sessions of two hours each and they were aimed at the 50-plus age group, English speaking. I had to decide on topics, find speakers, do scheduling, and the same type of thing as organizing a conference. The topics were *Living Alone After the Loss of a Mate*, either because of death or divorce; *Planning an Estate; Settling an Estate; Technology for Technoplegics; Non-Violent Communication; and Researching your Family History*. It was a challenge and lots of fun. I met some incredible people and learned a lot.

So having been involved in the community has brought me this very pleasant surprise. I also received a plaque of recognition from the Coalition of Women in the Yamaska & Missisquoi County, and got a gift Certificate for a massage and two tickets to the live theatre in Lac Brome. This was presented at a dinner on March 8th in Cowansville,

with 150 people in attendance. It was a really nice surprise to say the least!

Q – Homecare job is doing what? And kids in youth protection are kids from what circumstances?

A - I do Home Care Services for the Coop du Pays Des Vergers. This means I go into the homes of the elderly or handicapped and help with whatever they need. Some



need their homes cleaned, some need someone to do their shopping or to take them to appointments, and some just really need a visit because they are very lonesome. Sometimes I'm just there to observe, or to help them transfer from their bed to wheelchair. For some I cook a meal and sit and visit with them while they eat. Then I clean up. I usually work Tuesdays to Thursdays and in the summer I work Fridays as well.

The other job is with kids in youth protection in a Group Home because of a court order, but some are there on a voluntary basis. The majority are from divorced or troubled homes, some have drug problems, some have anger management problems, and some have no parents. Each one is different. Some are there only for a month or so while some are there for much longer.

Beve Hebert
Stanbridge East, Quebec

(Photo: Taken on May 1st when giving out Certificates of Thanks to all the Volunteers at the Avante Women's Centre in Bedford.)

SECOND SESSION EXPERIENCES OF THE SIX WEEK PASTORAL TRAINING PROGRAM - CINCINNATI

CINCINNATI, Ohio

March 11-19, 2008

Attending the second session of the six-week pastoral training program with my husband, Michael, was an opportunity that I will cherish. There were couples from Zambia, Mexico, Australia, Italy, Peru, and different areas in the United States such as, Illinois, Kansas, New Jersey, Texas, Oklahoma, Montana, and Kentucky. A special bond began as we shared nine intense days of classes, meals and activities together.

The days began early, classes were held at the Home Office from 8:30am – 5:00pm daily except on the Sabbath. Ministerial services worked endlessly to ensure everyone’s needs were met. Clyde Kilough, Richard Pinelli, Jim Franks, Gary Antion, Dave Johnson, Joel & Marjolaine Meeker, Dave & Pam Myers, Dave Register, Doug Horchak, Lyle Welty, and Richard Kennebeck presented valuable information. The very last session, Mr. Kilough read some personal stories written by veteran husband/wife ministerial teams on the *Benefits and Blessings of the Ministry*. The following are some excerpts from the handout:

“Having a job where we are only asked to help people – never to deceive, harm or

take from them. To give them knowledge and information that has been given to us. To deal with them only in truth. To share with others the experiences of life with God involved directly. To watch from a front row seat as God and Christ teach and change people and children and see them grow in Godly character. Indeed, it is a privilege to serve God’s people and be a part of their lives.”

On the Thursday afternoon the women had the unique opportunity to meet at the Kilough’s home with Dee Kilough and Mary Pinelli to share personal stories, brainstorm, and discuss *Embracing Your Role as a Minister’s Wife*. One afternoon we met in the ABC lecture hall for a group Q&A session with Mrs. Pinelli.

The church is making a tremendous effort to educate and train the ministry, and better equip them to deal with the unique challenges and stresses of this age. It is rewarding to be a part of something greater than oneself, to share and learn with a group of people giving their lives to serving the mission of God’s church - to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God in all the world, make disciples in all nations and care for those disciples. It truly requires teamwork and

vision to accomplish these goals and it was evident that everyone was working diligently to that end.

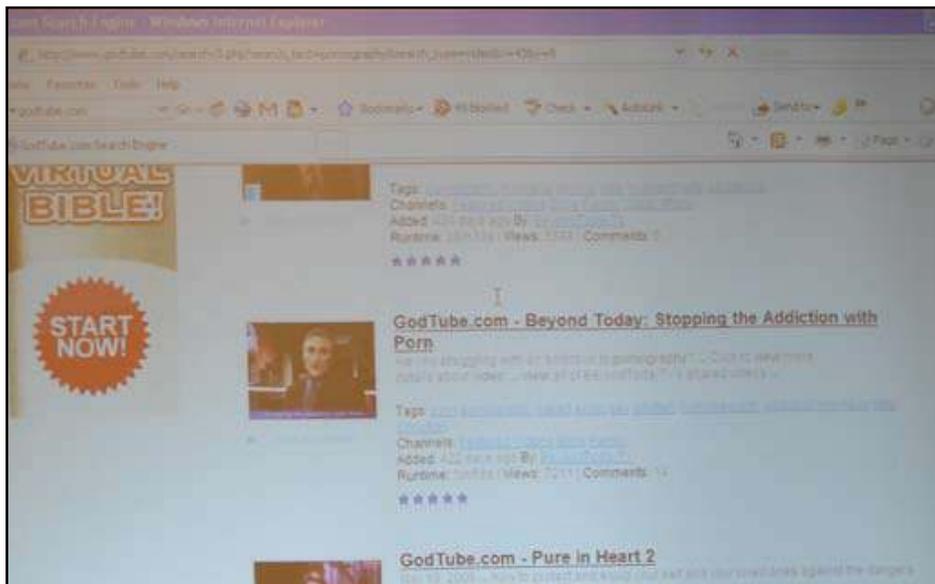
The home office team was truly gracious in every way and we felt welcomed and cared for. It was a privilege to be invited to these sessions. We learned that it takes hard work and a serving heart, servant leadership to accomplish part of the mission of the church, to care for its membership.

We also recognize and appreciate the dedication and sacrifice the veterans of God’s church have made for us. It is now our duty to pass on this precious truth to our children and the youth in the church.

We are to serve the brethren, to be a light in this darkening world, and as we have heard many times – pass on the baton.

Angie Erickson

Prince George



INTERNET ADVERTISING

At left and centre is our UCG Beyond Today TV program Stopping the Addiction with Pornography.

This program is featured on the Internet site: Godtube.

It carries links to our other programs, booklets and other literature.

HELPING – or AIDING and ABETTING?

**“You, therefore, who teach another,
do you not teach yourself...”
Romans 2:21**

I was confident about a Catholic statuette, but missed the situation in my own case. Has this ever happened to you? Here is how it came about.

It was the non-churchgoing wife of my close friend in the church, John (not his real name), who offered a Catholic statuette to my mother. I had met John’s wife only once, but on a few occasions I spoke to her on the phone. Even though I am young enough to be her son, she and I enjoyed a few pleasant conversations before she would hand over the phone to her husband. Although she did not know my mother, nor ever spoke to her, in time she found out that my mother was Catholic.

One day John’s non-Catholic wife offered my mother a Catholic statuette, which had come into her possession some time ago. This would necessitate that my friend would be bringing it to church and I would take it from him and take it home to my mother. I declined to take the statuette to my mother because I reasoned that although an idol is nothing I didn’t want to dishonour God by having John and I, both church members, become the instruments through which the object was delivered. Without doubting my decision I explained to his wife that I did not feel comfortable passing the statuette to my mother. It was no big deal, so we all forgot about it.

Months later, while on the phone with John, I interrupted our conversation in order to briefly speak to my mother. When I came back to the phone I explained to him that I had reminded my mother of a radio program that was about to start. I mentioned that the half-hour program had recently advanced its time slot by thirty minutes and since my mother had been used to the old time for a long time she now found herself tuning in too late or missing the program altogether. I told him that many times after having missed the program my mother would mention her disappointment, so I made an effort to remind her as often as I could. The program she listened to was the recital of Catholic prayers that are

repeated and counted on a string of beads called a rosary. My friend commented that reminding my mother of the program was equivalent to promoting wrong worship. I replied that I was only reminding my mother of the time and not promoting the recital of the rosary. I felt confident that my reasoning was judicious. His comment however, remained in the back of my mind.

Two weeks later while on the phone with another friend, a former church member, I interrupted our conversation for the same reason and he too pointed out that I was promoting wrong worship. I answered him in like manner but I now began feeling a bit concerned with my point of view. I became concerned but not quite convinced that I was doing something wrong. After all, I reasoned, my mother had listened to the program long before I needed to remind her of the time change. I was simply reminding her of the time. No?

In order to put an end to this difference of opinion I decided to get the advice of a long-time church member. I was rather confident that he would see it in the same manner I did. I believed he would clearly see that I never initiated my mother to listen to the program. I was simply taking into consideration my elderly mother forgetting about the new time slot. He too has an elderly parent, therefore he would see my point. Well he did not.

I had now been praying many days about the situation and I mentioned to God that I wanted to do the right thing. However since I did not get the answer I was expecting and since I didn’t think I was entirely wrong I decided to speak to our local pastor. I was sure he would understand the situation with my elderly mother. However, during our conversation I fully realized I was wrong. I now recognized that I was aiding and abetting man-made customs rather than being a help to my elderly mother. I had forgotten about my experience and clear position a few months earlier with regards to the statuette.

I made up my mind to stop but I didn’t want to disappoint and hurt my mother. The next two days my mother remembered the program herself. In the meantime I prayed and mentioned to God that I would no longer remind my mother about

the program but I was concerned about her being hurt with my decision. On the third day I explained to my mother that the rosary is a Catholic tradition which does not originate from the Bible, and since it is not biblical, I would no longer remind her when the program aired on the radio.

The hurt and disappointment never materialized! In fact, although my mother had been listening to the program regularly, including the previous day, she simply stopped that day. What is amazing is that this all happened about a year ago. Since that time my mother has listened to the program only once and that occurred only because the radio happened to be tuned to that station at the time the program aired.

Looking back, I am thankful that God removed an enormous burden from my mother and freed me from unwittingly assisting a wrong custom she no longer misses.

Some scriptures that came to my mind from this experience are:

Romans 2: 1 & 21

Luke 6:41-42

Proverbs 3:11-12

Hebrews 12:11

Achille Vitale – Montreal

I HAVE REASON TO HOPE

When I entered a Laval, Montreal hospital about fifteen years ago, I did not realize then that when I would eventually leave I would no longer be able to walk normally. My right hip was disintegrating; my lymphatic system seriously harmed; my right knee needed surgery; my skeletal structure had sustained serious harm, and I had a scar on my lungs. I no longer had a colon and I was facing both leg amputations. These were some of the serious problems I was forced to deal with. I wondered what hope could I have for a normal life. I could no longer function normally, and all this because the physicians admitted privately that there had been some serious treatment mistakes. I lost more than fifteen years of my formerly active and vigorous life.

Today I approach everything very differently and live on a 24/7 basis and my sleep patterns have changed. Basically my day begins with (if my health allows it) waking up and rushing to do my Bible study; addressing my stoma concerns (a surgically created opening after the removal of an intestine); eating, praying, then everything else that needs to be done each day. Necessity dictates that I monitor my health constantly. For example, the longer I stand, the swelling in my feet, ankles and legs dramatically increases and my right hip becomes very painful. This necessitates resting often in order to decrease swelling and pain.

Going to Sabbath services involves preparing days in advance. For example, I cannot eat for 24 hours before services as taking care of my stoma is a 24/7 concern. Despite all these health problems and their concern I have reason to hope. Here is why.

I keep a positive approach by considering the *How*, *Why*, and *What* of what Jesus Christ learned through the things that He suffered (Hebrews 2:10, 18). I have learned much from what I have, and am living through. I have come to understand that trials, troubles, and problems can destroy, or build and strengthen, all depending on how I view them. My learning depends on my attitude towards the trials God allows me to go through (Romans 8:18, 28; Galatians 4:19).

* I can have hope because God has never abandoned me (Hebrews 13:5, 8), just as He did not with Joseph in prison.
* I have hope because I can trust God (Philippians 1:6) and know that He cares

about me and my physical family, my spiritual brethren and their families (1 Peter 5:7).

* I have hope because God has not let me go through what would overwhelm or destroy me (1 Corinthians 10:13).

* I have reason to hope because God has helped with my health. My immune system has been strengthened and my bone density is very good and I no longer face leg amputations. When I was dying in hospital, I believe God prevented my death. I know God will heal me sometime. As I examine what I have lived through I have come to understand and see that God has used some of what I have experienced to protect me from heresy. I was in hospital during the time of the trouble in God's Church. This is encouraging and causes me to have hope because I see the purpose of the *why* for the duration of our trials, troubles and problems.

* I have hope because the problems have enabled me to be able to understand, serve and help my family and spiritual brethren and others in ways that I would have been unable to do had I not experienced such things (2 Corinthians 1:4).

* I have reason to hope in God because I understand that God has a purpose for me. I can and do have hope because I trust God and know that he hears my prayers. This is my focus and I remain in it.

* I have hope because I watch my spiritual diet. I pray every day; I study every day; and I meditate and fast regularly. I work on building and maintaining a right relationship with God and work on staying close to God every day.

* I have hope because I see God working things out. I pray about this and God gives me the eyes to see this.

* I have hope because I try to fellowship with the brethren as much as I can. This may be infrequent but it is despite snow in winter or heat in summer. And in my years after baptism I have hardly ever missed a Feast of Tabernacles. Although on disability through my physical handicaps, I always look to God for help in everything.

Because I maintain this focus I have hope. If I don't do this, how can I have hope?

We are in good company with the prophet Jeremiah in how he felt during the last days of Jerusalem.

"I'll never forget the trouble, the utter lostness, the taste of ashes, the poison I've swallowed. I remember it all--oh, how well I remember-- the feeling of hitting the bottom. But there's one other thing I remember, and remembering, I keep a grip on hope: GOD's loyal love couldn't have run out, his merciful love couldn't have dried up. They're created new every morning. How great your faithfulness! I'm sticking with GOD (I say it over and over). He's all I've got left."

(Lamentations 3:19-24, The Message).

Michael Drienovsky – Montreal

Michael with his mother in healthier times. Bottom is a recent picture taken at Sabbath services.





VANCOUVER HOSTS World News and Prophecy SEMINAR - Darris McNeely pictured above.

The same presentation followed in Penticton, pictured to the right.



VANCOUVER HOSTS World News and Prophecy SEMINAR

April 5th was a special Sabbath for the Vancouver BC congregation. With visiting brethren from Vancouver Island and Sedro Wooley, Washington, as well as some first-time visitors, an attendance of 112 were given insights into biblical prophecy in a day-long World News and Prophecy Seminar. Invitation letters were sent to a large number of individuals on our UCG subscriber list. A number of those were able to attend, including one couple who drove over six hours each way to attend the seminar.

Darris McNeely, editor of UCG's World News and Prophecy magazine, and host of the Beyond Today television program, and Robin Webber, a senior writer for WNP, presented the seminar.

The morning Sabbath service began with Darris McNeely's presentation "The Purpose of Prophecy." The second presentation "A Heart Towards Prophecy" was given by Robin Webber.

The afternoon seminar sessions included the topics "The Coming King of the

South," "Mark of the Beast," and "Wars of Religion: An Ancient Scourge Reborn."

With wonderful messages, great food and fellowship, members of three congregations and their guests likened it to a Feast day. There was no doubt in anyone's mind that this special Sabbath certainly had God's blessing.

David Palmer

PENTICTON HOSTS WNP Seminar

Following the Vancouver seminar, Penticton presented the World News & Prophecy sessions to fifty-seven people on Sunday, April 6. Attendees came from as far away as Calgary, Grand Forks, Cherryville, Kelowna and Keremeos. Seventeen new people responded to newspaper advertisements placed in Merritt, Princeton, Osoyoos and Omak, WA as well as from the existing Good News mailing list. An

exhaustive literature table provided Good News magazines and booklets in French, Spanish and German, as well as English. Fastest disappearing booklets were: God's Holy Day Plan, The New Covenant: Does It Abolish Gods Law, and interestingly, all German literature disappeared too!

Robin Webber began by presenting *A Heart Towards Prophecy* ..., stressing the importance for all to develop the right heart as we study prophecy. Darris McNeely then presented a power point presentation examining the rich history involved with *The Coming King of the South*.

James Ludvigson

YOUNG AMBASSADORS OF TORONTO

YOUNG AMBASSADORS ACTIVE IN TORONTO CHURCH

The Young Ambassadors of the Toronto congregation hosted a Seniors' social on March 29th, as well as a Mothers' Day/ Youth Day social on May 10th. Young Ambassadors was formed with the purpose of increasing youth involvement in the congregation, developing leadership skills, and providing an opportunity for young people to do activities together.

On March 29th, the YA hosted an annual social to honour our seniors. It began with a wonderful potluck. We surprised our seniors with a small Lora Secord gift for each of them. We had help from preschoolers to present the gifts. There was entertainment after the meal, which included a piano solo, a skit, hymns, songs, jokes, stories, and Bible trivia. Nobody went home empty-handed. Everyone received a Seniors' social bookmark that was designed and created by one of the

young adults. After the Sabbath, we held a very successful fundraiser for the Mothers' Day social and other charitable activities. I was concerned whether the day would run smoothly, but at the end of the social I knew that God had blessed our efforts.

The Mothers' Day/Youth day social was held on May 10th. The YA had the responsibility to prepare for and do some of the service itself. Some of our responsibilities included setup and cleanup, kitchen, information table, sound system, song leading and accompaniment. Even with all this extra responsibility, the mothers were not forgotten. Fourteen young adults contributed the singing and accompanying of the song "Who Can Find a Virtuous Woman" for special music. After the service, we had special finger foods and a tribute to the mothers. Several younger and older YA read poems to let the mothers know how they are appreciated. At the end of the day, each mother went home with a Lora Secord snack and a personalized tea cup—specially

painted by several of the young adults.

The Young Ambassadors program is wonderful for our congregation. We let them know how they are appreciated through our various programs and activities. It also brings the young people together despite our greatly varied interests. The YA is an excellent way for the young people to display the talents that they have and to discover talents and skills that they wouldn't have dreamed of having. Essentially the YA is a training ground for potential future leaders of God's work. We are looking forward to many more fun activities throughout the next year and beyond.

Rebecca Martin



At left Penny Aviles reads a poem as a tribute to Mothers with the following words:

I LOVE YOU

*MOTHERS HAVE A SPECIAL WAY
OF SAYING "I LOVE YOU"
A LOVE THAT GOD HAS GIVEN
THEM
A LOVE THAT WILL HOLD TRUE
FOR MOTHERS SACRIFICE SO
MUCH PROVIDING FOR THE HOME
CREATING AN ATMOSPHERE
THAT REFLECTS GOD'S LOVE
ALONE.*

Daniel Disanto reads a tribute to mothers similarly in the next picture.

At left the group picture shows the Young Adults presenting special music singing, "Who Can Find a Virtuous Woman"

Photos for the activities were taken by Amy van Zant, Robbie Guzman and Ezra Martin.



GREETINGS FROM THE FLOOD ZONE

Here is a brief account of what took place in our Oromocto, New Brunswick area recently. In May, this Fredericton area was hit by flooding that exceeded anything on record. Our home had over five feet of water in the basement, despite the fact that, 12 years ago, I had raised our house six feet on a new foundation. The high water caused the concrete floor to heave and crack due to the hydraulic pressure of the water under it. Our dryer and washer, which were off the floor to a height of three feet, were covered two feet by the water. We had our pump, hot water heater, in-home vacuum, air conditioner, blower motor, wood stove all damaged by the water. Our electrical panel was flooded and had to be moved upstairs at considerable cost. Our front and back porches, which are part of our living area, both settled into the ground a few inches. They are supported by concrete columns that sit on 24 inch square concrete footings buried four to six feet in the ground. Both these porches are now visibly leaning downwards.

Our woodshed also decided that it wanted to float away, which it did, and then promptly navigated itself into the back of

our house where it remained till the water went down. Our driveway was washed out, our mail box literally rammed down by curious boaters, beehive knocked over by wash from boaters, and our computer ruined by an electrical spike thanks to the power company. Boaters, including government vessels, all seemed to be enjoying boating about in our yards. As home owners, we were not impressed, as a lot of peripheral damage was caused by the wash from these boats.

Now, as if this wasn't enough, the robins have taken up residence in their nests. With impeccable timing, one nest was built on top of my trailer wheel just before I got to it to use for clean up; the other was built in the low branches of a spruce tree, which of course just happens to be next to my shed door. These robins will not allow me to use my trailer or go near my shed door! The audacity of these birds is beyond measure. Suffice it to say that I did not use my trailer for clean up, nor did I make further attempts to use my shed. I assume I will be able to use my trailer and shed once they decide to depart with their young.

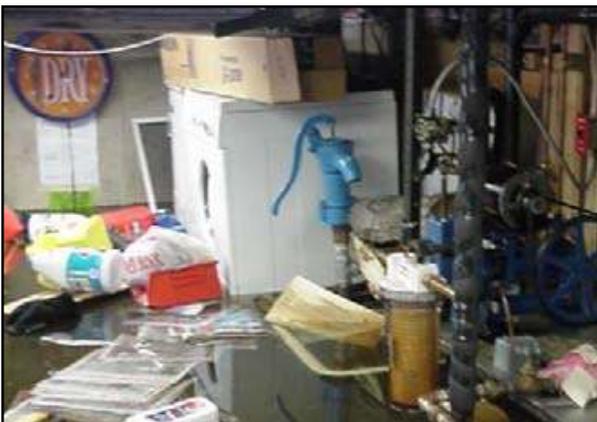
As well as all this, the muskrats get

very annoyed when I disturb them while working about the yard. They left the river during the flood and moved in around us. I have been showing them the "door" so to speak. I think they have hard feelings towards me now. They are odd-looking little creatures that waddle as they walk.

Things are now beginning to get back to normal. The 'powers that be' said they will look after us flood victims better this time as compared to the flood of 2005. In 2005, they covered 10% of our costs incurred due to the flood. What they will do this time is the big question. Overall, the flooding here was destructive through the entire river valley, causing serious damage to roadways, properties as well as serious soil erosion. We had to leave our home for about seventeen days because of the flood. Now if God will hold back on His rain, we shall be fine.

I hope this gives a bit of a picture of what happened here during our 'flood.' Warm regards to all brethren.

Dave and Linda Bartlett



Pictures show back shed and back step floodwaters.

In the basement the waters reached six feet - half way up the refrigerator.

Road at the front, and letter box which later became pushed over by boat traffic.

MAPLE SYRUP DAY

TORONTO CHURCH ENJOYS MAPLE SYRUP DAY

Sunday March 30, 2008 was a cool, sunny day, just perfect weather for a good maple sap run. Around twenty-five people made the long drive out to the Martin farm at Desboro, southern Ontario, for the annual maple syrup social. Everyone was treated to fresh pancakes and maple syrup on arrival at the farm house. Then everyone climbed aboard the hay wagon for the ride out to the sugar bush to watch maple syrup being harvested.

Once in the woods everyone enjoyed watching the process of boiling down the maple sap to make the maple syrup. The afternoon's activities also included making

(and eating) maple taffy, and eating a lunch of hamburgers and hotdogs. Several people also enjoyed rides on a snowmobile. After several hours in the woods enjoying great fellowship and watching the maple syrup being made, everyone got back on the hay wagon to enjoy a ride back to the farm house.

Some maple syrup facts: Maple syrup is made from the sap of the maple tree because the sap has a sugar content of about 3%. When it is boiled down, 66% of the sugar becomes maple syrup. The reason that maple syrup is 66% sugar is because that is the point at which there is a high enough sugar content to keep it naturally preserved. Any sugar content higher than that and the syrup will be saturated and

the sugar will separate from the syrup. The Martin sugar bush has approximately 2,200 trees tapped and we made 1730 liters of syrup this year. Attached pictures show brethren eating the pancakes in the house, being out in the woods, the hay wagon ride and the snowmobile rides.

Walter Martin





Pictures on left page show families arriving at the farm house for breakfast. Little Joshua Ridi poses on a snowmobile and later in the barn with the cattle. Members were transported by trailer from the farm house out to the maple orchard. Above pictures show the maple syrup hut and a picture taken from the roof of the hut as brethren gathered over lunch. Bottom right shows Mazilyn Forbes taking a spin on a snowmobile. Pictures courtesy of Walter Martin.

BERTHA GIBSON Obituary

Bertha Alice Drake Gibson died February 18, 2008 at Stillwaters Private Hospital in Kelowna, BC. Bertha was born on January 30th, 1913 in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. She was predeceased by her husband Roy in June, 1988, and also by one brother and three sisters.

Bertha arrived in Dawson City with her mother in 1937 to start her nursing career at the Dawson City Hospital after completion of her nursing training in Halifax, NS. Bertha married Roy Gibson in September 1937 at Granville, Yukon. While on a short holiday in Vancouver, Bertha took very ill, preventing them from

returning to the north, so after Roy spent some time working at the shipyards they were able to build a home at Silver Sands, (Maderia Park) on the Sunshine Coast where they started a logging business with Jack and Blanche MacNeal (Gibson MacNeal Logging). In 1962 they moved to Prince George, BC where Roy and Jack MacNeal started Staghorn Lumber Mill while Bertha nursed at the Prince George Hospital. The call of the north was very strong and in 1965 they returned to Dawson City where Bertha worked at the hospital while Roy worked at Clinton Creek. Roy and Bertha worked their own small gold mine on Sulphur Creek on their days off and eventually became full time miners

until Roy's health failed in 1983. They moved to Westbank, BC until 2001 when Bertha moved into Stillwaters Nursing Home where she resided until her death.

Bertha was a long time member of the Worldwide Church of God and was a founding member of the *United Church of God* in Kelowna. She always had a pleasant smile and an easy-going way about her. Even in her old age, she still had good eyesight and hearing. May she rest in peace until the resurrection from the dead!

Rainer Salomaa - Calgary



At left: Bertha Gibson.



To the right: Sally Fisher.

SALLY FISHER Obituary

A servant of Jesus Christ and a member of God's church who was baptized in 1990 in Kelowna, Sally Fisher died on April 4, 2008 at the age of 92. For the past five years, she resided at the Trinity Care Centre in Penticton, BC.

Sally was predeceased by her first husband Cal Harris, and her second husband Clifford "Bud" Fisher in 1992. Sally is lovingly remembered, and sadly missed by her five stepchildren, as well as thirty grandchildren, nieces, nephews, great niece and nephews. She will also be missed by her five sisters.

Sally was born on March 21, 1916 in Siberia, immigrated to Mexico at ten years of age, and then when her father suddenly

died, the family moved to Saskatchewan in 1926. She had a love for life and wasn't happy unless she was helping someone. Sally spent 30 years living in the Yukon, experiencing more of life's challenges. She worked as a cook at the Mayo Hospital in the Yukon, and took her job to heart and cooked to the best of her ability to help the patients get well.

Sally was an avid crotchetier and made many Afghans for her loved ones. She had a wealth of stories collected over the years that she freely shared, and her sense of humour, witty sayings and feistiness kept everyone she knew and loved laughing. Her caring and giving way touched many people's lives and will be sadly missed and

fondly remembered by her family and friends.

She always had a ready smile. Her mind stayed sharp until right near the end. She was a big woman for her small stature, standing tall for her God, her friends, for righteousness. She never became a bitter person in spite of nature taking away her strength and vitality. To visit her was to be inspired. To know her was a blessing. To not have her any longer is a loss. May she shine like a bright star in God's kingdom forever and ever.

Sue Ranchie - Kelowna

SASKATOON NIGHT TO BE MUCH OBSERVED DINNER

Being a small congregation, we were able to all be together for the Night to Be Observed. We gathered together at the Masonic Lodge where we hold services each week.

Everyone enjoyed a catered meal of beef, chicken, potatoes, vegetables, and salads. We brought along our own unleavened

bread and desserts.

Al Levitt read some scriptures showing the meaning of the night and why we keep it.

The food and fellowship were great as it lead into the 2008 Days of Unleavened Bread.

Darlene Buck

(Photos next page -- Dorothy Kostyna)

NEW BRUNSWICK UNLEAVENED BREAD

Unleavened Bread in Sussex, New Brunswick was attended by brethren from the Acadian coast, to Nova Scotia, to Oromocto, Nauwigewauk and St. John.

Sussex is a central location set in a picturesque dairy farming valley. Church services were held at the usual Sabbath location at the Fairway Motel.

The last day of Unleavened Bread was held in Moncton. Pastor Graemme Marshall and wife Lynn took the opportunity to spend Passover and Unleavened Bread with the Maritime brethren.



The Sabbath after Passover, a number of the Maritime members stayed behind at the Motel for a restaurant meal to celebrate the Night To Be Much Observed. To the right are pictured our three Nova Scotia brethren. At left is Larry Craig from Halifax, with Gary and Maria Brown from Sheet Harbour.



SASKATOON DINNER EVENING

Ladies pictured above from left to right: Back row - Darlene Buck, Meagan Buettner, MaryAnne Braaten, Irene Holowach, Annette Wall, and Dorothy Kostyna. Front row - Melva Passer and Joey Levitt.

Men pictured from left to right: Gordon Jonsson, Al Kostyna, Robert Jonsson, Jerry Buck, Bill Wall, John Holowach, Stan Braaten, and Al Levitt.

Hi friends, A good name, one that stands for fairness and good sportsmanship, is of great value.

Clyde and Dee Kilough

Last Man

“Nice guys finish last,” stated the sportsman Leo Durocher. In sports where people strive to win at any cost, fairness, decency and the qualities of character that we cherish are lost.

We often hear of great athletes who cheated through the use of performance-enhancing drugs. In time, we lose interest in sports because the character is lacking.

Recently a star athlete returned all of her medals and admitted she had lied to the world about drug use. What a shame and pity. She did finish first in her races, but she was not a “nice guy.” Now she is finishing last and suffering for that wrong choice.

Deuteronomy 25:13-16 clearly reveals the distaste God has for dishonesty—those who deal thus are an abomination to Him.

But those who are honest and show the character often referred to as good sportsmanship are winners in God’s book.

Leo Durocher was wrong—ultimately, nice guys don’t finish last.

Further Reading:

The Olympic Ideal.

View at <http://www.gnmagazine.org/issues/gn30/olympic.htm>



(Photo.com pictures)

